

**IN THE HIGH COURT OF PUNJAB AND HARYANA AT
CHANDIGARH**

CRM-M-17065-2020

Date of Decision: July 17, 2020.

MANINDERJIT SINGH

..... PETITIONER (s)

Versus

STATE OF PUNJAB

..... RESPONDENT (s)

CORAM:- HON'BLE MRS.JUSTICE LISA GILL

Present: Mr. Prashant Vashishth, Advocate for the petitioner.

Mr. A.A. Pathak, Addl. AG, Punjab.

LISA GILL, J.

This matter is being taken up for hearing through video conferencing due to the outbreak of pandemic, COVID-19.

Petitioner seeks bail pending trial in FIR No. 167, dated 23.10.2019 under Sections 376, 420, 384, 452 IPC, registered at Police Station Sadar Nakodar, Jalandhar Rural, District Jalandhar.

Learned counsel for the petitioner submits that the petitioner has been wrongly involved in the above said matter. In fact, the prosecutrix and all the material witnesses have not even supported the prosecution version. The petitioner, it is submitted, is not involved in any other criminal case and has been in custody since 17.12.2019. All the material witnesses including the Investigating Officer and the concerned Medical Officer stand examined and it is only formal witnesses who are yet to be examined. No head way is being made in the trial because of the outbreak of pandemic, COVID-19. It is thus, prayed that the present petition be allowed.

Learned counsel for the State, on instructions from ASI Sarwan Singh verifies that the prosecutrix and material witnesses have not supported the prosecution version. It is further verified that the petitioner is not involved in any other criminal case.

The petitioner is in custody since 17.12.2019. He is not involved in any other criminal case. Trial in this case is not likely to conclude in the near future. No useful purpose would be served by keeping the petitioner incarcerated any longer in the present facts and circumstances of this case.

Keeping in view the facts and circumstances of the case but without commenting upon or expressing any opinion on the merits thereof, this petition is allowed. The petitioner be released on bail pending trial subject to his furnishing requisite bail bonds and surety to the satisfaction of the learned Trial Court/concerned Duty Magistrate.

It is clarified that none of the observations made herein above shall be construed to be a reflection on the merits of the case. The same are solely confined for the purpose of decision of the present petition.

17.07.2020

Sunil

(LISA GILL)
JUDGE

Whether speaking/reasoned:	Yes/No
Whether reportable:	Yes/No