

IN THE HIGH COURT OF PUNJAB AND HARYANA
AT CHANDIGARH

208-3

CRM-M-20863-2020

Date of decision: 03.09.2020

Vinay Bhandari

.....Petitioner

versus

State of Punjab

....Respondent

CORAM: Hon'ble Mr. Justice Girish Agnihotri

Present: Mr. Ravi Malhotra, Advocate for the petitioner.

Mr. Sukhbeer Singh, Asstt. A.G., Punjab.

GIRISH AGNIHOTRI, J. (Oral)

The matter has been taken up through video-conferencing on account of restrictions due to outbreak of pandemic COVID-19.

Petitioner-Vinay Bhandari, stated to be aged 23 years, has filed the present petition *inter alia* praying for grant of regular bail in case FIR No.82 dated 02.06.2020, under Sections 324, 326, 341, 148 and 149 IPC, registered at Police Station Daresi, District Ludhiana.

Vide order dated 11.08.2020, the petitioner was granted interim bail till 03.09.2020 and directed to join investigation.

Learned counsel for the petitioner submits that the petitioner has been falsely implicated in this case. Learned counsel then submits that the co-accused, namely Ranjan Mattu, has been granted bail by this Court vide even order dated 03.09.2020 passed in *CRM-M No.17218 of 2020, titled as 'Ranjan Mattu Vs. State of Punjab'* and thus the petitioner seeks the similar relief as granted to the co-accused. Learned counsel, however,

submits that due to the present COVID-19 situation and also the fact that trial is likely to take some time, detention of the petitioner in jail is dangerous to his life, therefore, petitioner is entitled for regular bail.

Learned State counsel, on instructions from ASI Harbhajan Singh, submits that the challan has been presented and charges are yet to be framed.

Faced with the situation, learned counsel for the petitioner submits that due to the present COVID-19 situation and also the fact that trial is likely to take some time, detention of the petitioner in jail is dangerous to his life.

In view of the peculiar facts as noticed above, considering the existing situation due to COVID and the fact that trial is likely to take time, this Court deems it appropriate to release the petitioner on regular bail to the satisfaction of Chief Judicial Magistrate/Duty Magistrate concerned, subject to his furnishing bail bonds/surety bonds. However, it is made clear that anything observed herein shall not be construed as an expression on merits of the case.

The petition stands disposed of accordingly.

(GIRISH AGNIHOTRI)
JUDGE

03.09.2020

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Whether speaking/ reasoned:	Yes/No
Whether Reportable:	Yes/No