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IN THE HIGH COURT OF PUNJAB & HARYANA
AT CHANDIGARH

CRM-M-21056-2020 (O&M)
Date of Decision: 27.08.2020

Manpreet Singh @ Mani

..... Petitioner

Versus

State of Punjab

..... Respondent

CORAM: HON'BLE MR. JUSTICE SUDIP AHLUWALIA

Present: Mr. Mandeep Kumar Dhot, Advocate,
for the petitioner.

Ms. Monika Jalota, DAG, Punjab, assisted by
ASI Gian Singh.

SUDIP AHLUWALIA, J. (ORAL)
CRM-20782-2020:

Ld. Counsel for the applicant-petitioner is permitted to place on
record the Amended Main Petition along with the Annexures.

Application stands disposed off.

CRM-M-21056-2020:

The instant petition has been filed under Section 439 of the Code
of Criminal Procedure by the petitioner, seeking regular bail in case FIR No.97
dated 20.05.2020, under Sections 365 and 34 of the IPC (Sections 307, 376
and 384 of the IPC added later on), registered at Police Station City Dhuri,
District Sangrur.

2. The petitioner was originally named in the present FIR No.97
drawn up on 20.05.2020. The allegation against the petitioner made by the

complainant, who is a middle aged woman, was that she was intimate with him for a long time and on 18.05.2020, at around 3:00 pm, she was called by co-accused Ranbir to the railway crossing. At that time, the present petitioner asked the complainant to come with her money, ornaments, etc. as he wanted to get married to her on that very day, after which the complainant along with money and 2 *tolas* of gold ornaments went there. She was, thereafter, allegedly taken on a motorcycle by co-accused Ranbir and an unknown woman, to Amargarh and was subjected to physical beatings and threats by the accused persons and 4-5 others. Thereafter, she was allegedly pushed into the canal, but subsequently pulled back by co-accused Ranbir, who, then also dropped her at home and threatened to kill her, in case she disclosed the occurrence to anyone. It is significant that there was no allegation of any sexual offence having been committed against the complainant in the aforesaid FIR.

3. During investigation, however, the complainant made more damaging statements, which according to Ld. Counsel for the petitioner, have been motivatedly made only to deny bail to the petitioner and are *ex-facie* attempts at improving the original FIR and its allegations.

4. The petitioner by now has remained in detention for more than three months, since 25.05.2020, and challan against him has already been submitted. His further detention for the purpose of investigation is, therefore, not required.

5. As such, considering the over all circumstances and without commenting any further on the merits of the present case as a whole as also considering the fact that the trial is likely to take its own substantial time to complete on account of the ongoing COVID-19 Pandemic, the prayer of the

petitioner for releasing him on regular bail is allowed and he is ordered to be released on bail, subject to the appropriate terms and conditions to the satisfaction of the Ld. Trial Court/Duty Magistrate, concerned.

6. Disposed off.

27.08.2020

Apurva

**(SUDIP AHLUWALIA)
JUDGE**

1. Whether speaking/reasoned: Yes/No
2. Whether reportable: Yes/No