

IN THE HIGH COURT OF PUNJAB AND HARYANA
AT CHANDIGARH

CRM-M-27007-2020

DATE OF DECISION: SEPTEMBER 14, 2020

RANJEET

...PETITIONER

VERSUS

STATE OF HARYANA

...RESPONDENT

CORAM: HON'BLE MR. JUSTICE MANOJ BAJAJ.

PRESENT: MR. NONISH KUMAR, ADVOCATE FOR THE PETITIONER.
KANWAR SANJIV KUMAR, AAG, HARYANA.

MANOJ BAJAJ, J.(ORAL)

Petitioner Ranjeet has filed this petition under Section 439 Cr.P.C. for grant of regular bail pending trial in case FIR No.421 dated 1.10.2019, under Sections 306 and 34 IPC, Police Station City Kaithal. The petitioner is in custody since his arrest on 1.10.2019.

The FIR was registered on the statement of Bala wife of Hawa Singh alleging that her daughter, namely, Jyoti aged about 19 years solemnized love marriage with Ranjeet son of Raj Kumar and after some time of marriage, disputes arose between her daughter and Ranjeet. Many a times, Panchayats were convened to resolve the dispute. On 29.9.2019, Jyoti came to meet her at home and told her that Ranjeet, Shakuntla (mother-in-law) and Manjeet (brother-in-law) gave beatings to her on suspicion of making wrong phone calls. On the same day, Ranjeet took Jyoti back to his home after having a quarrel with them. On 30.9.2019 at around 8.00 p.m., Ranjeet made a telephonic call to her and informed her of the beatings given to Jyoti. Thereafter at about 9.00 p.m., her son, namely, Dharmender came

to the house and informed her that Ranjeet, Shakuntla and Manjeet gave beatings to Jyoti and being fed-up from the routine beatings, Jyoti ended her life by hanging herself with Chunni. On these broad allegations, the present FIR was registered.

Learned counsel for the petitioner contends that the as per prosecution, the victim ended her life because of the beatings given by the petitioner and his family members. He further submits that the marriage between the petitioner and the victim was a love marriage and no injury was found on her body, except ligature mark. According to him, the victim ended her life voluntarily and therefore, in the given facts, the further custody of the petitioner may not be necessary as the investigation is complete. He submits that the trial of the case is likely to consume considerable time. He prays that the petitioner be released on regular bail during the pendency of the trial.

On the other hand, learned counsel for the State assisted by ASI Harpal Singh has opposed the prayer on the ground that the petitioner compelled the victim to end her life and it amounted to abetment. According to him, the trial has commenced and three witnesses have been examined by the prosecution, including the complainant. He does not dispute the fact that the co-accused of the petitioner has already been released on regular bail.

After hearing the learned counsel for the parties this Court is of the opinion that the investigation of the case is complete, but trial of the case is likely to consume considerable time in the wake of outbreak of global pandemic, namely, COVID-19 in the region as certain restrictions have been

imposed by State Government and District Administration in order to curb its spread, therefore, further custody of the petitioner may not be justified. The petitioner is presently confined in judicial custody and is not required for any useful purpose.

Resultantly, without meaning any expression of opinion on the merits of the case, it is ordered that the petitioner be released on regular bail in the above case, subject to his furnishing requisite bail bonds/surety bonds to the satisfaction of the trial Court concerned.

The petition is allowed.

September 14, 2020
Gulati

(MANOJ BAJAJ)
JUDGE

Whether Reportable : Yes/No

Whether Speaking/Reasoned : Yes/No