

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

CRM M-30218 of 2020 (O&M)

Date of Decision: September 29, 2020

Ravi KumarPetitioner
Versus
State of Punjab Respondent

CORAM : HON'BLE MR. JUSTICE FATEH DEEP SINGH

Present : Mr. Sahil Thakur, Advocate
for the petitioner.

Mr. S.P.S. Tinna, Addl. A.G. Punjab.

FATEH DEEP SINGH, J. (Oral)

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

Petitioner Ravi Kumar has come up before this Court in this first anticipatory bail application moved under Section 438 Cr.P.C. in FIR No. 227 dated 21.08.2020 registered under Section 294 of Indian Penal Code and Section 66-A of Information Technology Act, 2000 (Section 67 of IT Act added

later on) Police Station Rama Mandi, District Jalandhar.

The present case was got registered on the complaint of married women Ranjit Kaur on the allegations that the accused had worked at the construction of their house and had on the sly clicked her nude photographs through hidden camera. It is, subsequent, thereto, the accused started blackmailing the lady after going abroad and to force her to accede to illegal demands of the petitioner and to intimidate her sent the clips to the husband of the complainant and the others.

Mr. Sahil Thakur, learned counsel for the petitioner, *inter alia*, contends that the petitioner at the relevant time was residing abroad and the mobile from which the alleged clips were sent does not belong to the petitioner and has sought to displace the allegations reflecting him to be innocent.

Mr. S.P.S. Tinna, Addl. A.G. Punjab learned State counsel has opposed the bail on the grounds that while working as a labourer at the house of the complainant, the accused managed to click her nude photographs and, thereafter, tried to blackmail her and in view of the seriousness of the offence disentitles him to any bail.

It is admittedly not a case of consensual relationship and only solitary photographs of the lady have been clicked through hidden camera. The conduct of the petitioner in circulating these clips and threatening the complainant side are

matters of much concern. Such like nefarious activities need to be curbed with heavy hand as disturbing trends have set in on the social media. The custodial interrogation of the petitioner is very much essential.

Finding no merits, the application stands dismissed.

September 29, 2020
amit rana

(FATEH DEEP SINGH)
JUDGE

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