

IN THE HIGH COURT OF PUNJAB AND HARYANA AT  
CHANDIGARH

Criminal Misc.-M No.55245 of 2019  
Date of Decision: September 18, 2020

Jodh Singh

...Petitioner

Versus

State of Punjab

...Respondent

**CORAM: HON'BLE MR. JUSTICE MANOJ BAJAJ**

Present: Mr. K.D.S.Sodhi, Advocate,  
for the petitioner.

Mr. Ajay Pal Singh Gill, DAG, Punjab.

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**MANOJ BAJAJ, J.**

Petitioner-Jodh Singh has prayed for grant of regular bail in case FIR No. 212 dated 21.11.2017, registered under Sections 419, 420, 465, 467, 468, 404, 120-B IPC at Police Station Mehatpur, District Jalandhar. The petitioner is in custody since his arrest on 06.05.2019.

Learned counsel for the petitioner contends that the offences are triable by Magistrate and the co-accused of the petitioner are on bail. He has invited the attention of the Court to the order dated 12.09.2019 passed in CRM-M-38063 of 2019, whereby the co-accused were released on regular bail. It is pointed out that the parties have compromised the dispute and a separate petition for quashing of the FIR bearing CRM-M No. 31454 of 2019 is also pending.

On the other hand, learned State counsel, assisted by ASI Tirath

Singh, does not dispute this fact that co-accused of the petitioner have been released on regular bail and the petition for quashing is also pending.

Considering the above background, custody of the petitioner and the fact that the trial is likely to consume considerable time to conclude as the country continues to be in the throes of global pandemic, namely, COVID-19 and the State Government and District Administration have also imposed various restrictions to curb its spread, this Court does not find any reason to decline the prayer. The petitioner after his arrest on 06.05.2019, is presently confined in judicial custody, therefore, his further detention behind the bars may not be justified.

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

The petition is allowed.

**September 18, 2020**  
**ramesh**

**( MANOJ BAJAJ )**  
**JUDGE**

**Whether speaking/reasoned**  
**Whether Reportable:**

**Yes/No**  
**Yes/No**