

***IN THE HIGH COURT OF JUDICATURE AT BOMBAY
CRIMINAL APPELLATE JURISDICTION***

***INTERIM APPLICATION NO. 936 OF 2021
IN
CRIMINAL APPEAL NO. 243 OF 2021***

Santosh Atmaram Mhatre	...Applicant
Versus	
The State of Maharashtra & Anr.	...Respondents

Mr. Gaurav Parkar for the Applicant

Ms. S. V. Sonawane, A.P.P for the Respondent No.1–State

None for the Respondent No. 2

CORAM : REVATI MOHITE DERE, J.
WEDNESDAY, 7th APRIL 2021

P.C. :

1 The office noting shows that the notice was served on the respondent No. 2 and that she has requested that an advocate from the Legal Aid Panel be appointed to espouse her cause.

2 Accordingly, Advocate Mr. Ratnesh Dube, who is on the Panel of the High Court Legal Services Committee, is appointed to espouse the cause of the respondent No. 2.

3 A copy of the aforesaid application is served by the learned counsel for the applicant, on the learned appointed advocate. He requests for a keep back, to go through the papers. Accordingly, the matter is kept back.

On Second Call

4 Heard learned counsel for the parties.

5 By this application, the applicant seeks suspension of his sentence and enlargement on bail, pending the hearing and final disposal of the appeal.

6 The applicant along with the co-accused, vide judgment and order dated 23rd September 2020, passed by the learned Extra Joint Additional District and Sessions Judge, Raigad, Alibag, in Special (POCSO) Case No. 11 of 2020, has been convicted and sentenced as under:

- for the offence punishable under Sections 11 r/w 12 of the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences Act, to suffer rigorous

imprisonment for 2 years and to pay fine of Rs.10,000/- each, in default of payment of fine, to undergo simple imprisonment for 1 month.

Out of the fine amount, the victim girl was to be given compensation under Section 357 of the Criminal Procedure Code.

7 It is not in dispute that the applicant was on bail pending trial and has not misused or abused the liberty granted to him. The applicant has deposited the fine amount as awarded by the trial Court. The appeal has been admitted vide order dated 17th March 2021. The sentence awarded is a short term sentence and the appeal is not likely to be heard in the immediate near future.

8 Considering the aforesaid, the application is allowed and the applicant's sentence is suspended and he is enlarged on bail, pending the hearing and final disposal of his appeal, on the following terms and conditions :

ORDER

- i) The applicant be enlarged on bail on furnishing P.R. Bond in the sum of Rs.15,000/- with one or two sureties in the like amount;

ii) The applicant shall report to the trial Court, once in four months on the day/date specified by the trial Court, till his appeal is finally disposed of;

iii) The applicant shall keep the trial Court informed of his current address and mobile contact number and/or change of residence or mobile details, if any, from time to time;

iv) If there are two consecutive defaults in appearing before the trial Court, the learned Judge shall make a report to the High Court and the prosecution would be at liberty to file an application seeking cancellation of applicant's bail.

9 The application is accordingly disposed of.

10 The High Court Legal Services Committee to pay the fees as per Rules, to Mr. Ratnesh Dube, learned appointed Advocate, who has espoused the cause of the respondent No. 2.

11 Copy of this order be forwarded to the High Court Legal Services Committee, for information and necessary action.

12 All concerned to act on the authenticated copy of this order.

REVATI MOHITE DERE, J.