

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

210

CRM-M-No.33973 of 2021
Decided on 21.09.2021

Kuldeep Kumar @ Keepa

.....Petitioner

VERSUS

State of Punjab

.....Respondent

CORAM : HON'BLE MR. JUSTICE HARNARESH SINGH GILL

Present:- Ms.Satpreet Grewal Kapila, Advocate, for the petitioner.

Mr.Avtar Singh Sandhu, Addl.A.G.Punjab.

HARNARESH SINGH GILL, J. (Oral)

Case is taken up for hearing through video conferencing.

The petitioner seeks regular bail in FIR No.18 dated 27.04.2012 registered under Section 356 IPC and offences under Sections 382, 411 IPC (added lateron) at PS Chabhewal, District Hoshiarpur.

Learned counsel for the petitioner states that the petitioner absented from the Court proceedings while on bail and was later on declared proclaimed offender on 05.02.2014. Petitioner was arrested on 23.02.2021 and since then he is in custody. The co-accused of the petitioner namely Jagbir Singh @ Jaggi has been acquitted by the trial Court vide judgment dated 16.10.2017.

On the other hand, learned State counsel points out that three other cases are pending against the petitioner and he remained absconding for more than 7 years.

I have heard the learned counsel for the parties.

In the present case, earlier the petitioner was on bail and thereafter he absented from the Court proceedings and ultimately was declared a proclaimed offender on 05.02.2014. The petitioner was arrested

on 23.02.2021 and has been in custody for the last more than 8 months 11 days. The co-accused has already been acquitted vide judgment dated 16.10.2017. The trial will take time to conclude because of Covid-19 pandemic. No useful purpose would be served by keeping the petitioner behind the bars.

Without commenting anything on the merits of the case, the petition is allowed and the petitioner is ordered to be released on bail on his furnishing bail/surety bonds to the satisfaction of the trial Court/Duty Magistrate.

September 21, 2021
anil

(HARNARESH SINGH GILL)
JUDGE

<i>Whether speaking/reasoned :</i>	<i>Yes/No</i>
<i>Whether reportable</i>	<i>Yes/No</i>