

In the High Court of Punjab and Haryana at Chandigarh

CRM-M No. 32943 of 2020 (O&M)
Date of Decision: 24.3.2021

SaiPetitioner

Versus

State of PunjabRespondent

CORAM: HON'BLE MR. JUSTICE HARNARESH SINGH GILL

Present: Mr. M.S.Saini, Advocate
for the petitioner.

Mr. Sandeep Kumar, DAG, Punjab.

HARNARESH SINGH GILL, J. (ORAL)

CRM-31416-2020

The application is allowed as prayed for. Annexure P-4 is taken on record.

CRM-M-32943-2020

The petitioner seeks regular bail in FIR No. 34 dated 22.4.2016 under Section 396 IPC registered at Police Station Bullowal, District Hoshiarpur.

Learned counsel for the petitioner submits that the petitioner has not been named in the FIR and has been implicated in the present case on the basis of extra judicial confession, allegedly made by him before Kulwinder Singh, Ex-Sarpanch of the village. He further submits that the petitioner has no occasion to make the said alleged extra judicial confession before the Ex-Sarpanch and that too after six weeks of the alleged occurrence. He further submits that the similarly situated co-accused

Suleman has been granted regular bail by a Co-ordinate Bench of this Court

in **CRM-M-8191-2021** on **01.3.2021** and the petitioner has been in custody since the year 2016.

On the other hand, learned State counsel, assisted by ASI Inderjeet Singh, has opposed the bail application.

I have heard the learned counsel for the parties.

In the present case, co-accused Suleman has already been granted regular bail by a Co-ordinate Bench of this Court on 01.3.2021. The petitioner has been in custody for the last about four years. 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.

(HARNARESH SINGH GILL)
JUDGE

March 24, 2021
Gurpreet

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