

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

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**CRM-M-37868-2021
Decided on : 16.12.2021**

Sukhdev Singh and others

. . . Petitioners

Versus

State of Punjab and another

. . . Respondents

CORAM: HON'BLE MR. JUSTICE VIKAS BAHL

PRESENT: Mr. B. B. S. Randhawa, Advocate
for the petitioners.

Mr. Sukhbeer Singh, AAG, Punjab.

Mr. M. S. Kathuria, Advocate
for respondent No. 2-complainant.

VIKAS BAHL, J. (Oral)

This is a petition under Section 482 Cr.P.C. for quashing of FIR No. 138 dated 20.11.2012 registered under Sections 323, 324, 148 and 149 of the Indian Penal Code, 1860 (Section 325 and 326 of IPC added later on) registered at Police Station Sadar Batala, Police District Batala (Annexure P-1) and all subsequent proceedings arising therefrom on the basis of the compromise deed dated 31.03.2021 (Annexure P-2).

When the matter came up before this Court on 14.09.2021, the following order was passed:-

“This is a petition filed under Section 482 of Cr.P.C. for quashing of FIR No.138 dated 20.11.2012 registered under Sections 323/324/148/149 of the Indian Penal Code, 1860 (Sections 325, 326 of IPC have been added later on) at Police Station Sadar Batala, Police District Batala (Annexure P-1) and all the subsequent proceedings arising therefrom on the basis of compromise dated 31.03.2021 (Annexure P-2).

Learned counsel for the petitioners has submitted that all

the persons concerned are party to the compromise. Notice of motion for 16.12.2021.

On asking of the Court, Mr. Karanbir Singh, AAG, Punjab, appears and accepts notice on behalf of the respondent-State and Mr. M.S. Kathuria, Advocate appears on behalf of respondent No.2.

The parties are directed to appear before the Illaqa Magistrate/trial Court for recording their statements qua compromise within a period of one month.

The Illaqa Magistrate/trial Court is directed to submit a report on or before the next date of hearing containing the following information:-

- 1. Number of persons arrayed as accused.*
- 2. Whether any accused is proclaimed offender?*
- 3. Whether the compromise is genuine, voluntary and without any coercion or undue influence?*
- 4. Whether the accused persons are involved in any other FIR or not?*
- 5. The trial Court is also directed to record the statement of the Investigating Officer as to how many victims/complainants are there in the FIR.”*

In pursuance of the said order, a report has been submitted by the Judicial Magistrate 1st Class, Batala to the Registrar General of this Court. The relevant portion of the said report is reproduced hereinbelow:-

“In compliance to the aforesaid order dated 14.09.2021 of Hon'ble Punjab and Haryana High Court, it is respectfully submitted that the point-wise report of undersigned is as follows:-

- i) As per record and as per the statement of ASI Dalbir Singh No. 1711/Batala, posted at P.P. Dyalgarh, recorded on 22.10.2021 who stated that he has brought the record of FIR No. 138 dated 20.11.2012, under*

Sections 323, 324, 148, 149 (Sections 325, 326 IPC added lateron) registered at Police Station Sadar Batala. He further stated that this FIR was registered against the three accused namely Sukhdev Singh son of Bishan Singh, Manpreet Singh alias Mannu son of Sukhdev Singh and Gurjit Kaur wife of Sukhdev Singh, all residents of village Udhowal, P.O. Khokhar Faujian, Tehsil Batala.

ii) Except the present FIR there was no other FIR against the abovesaid accused persons.

iii) Neither the complainant nor accused had been declared as proclaimed offenders nor any proclamation proceedings were pending against them in this FIR.

iv) In view of the statements got recorded by both the parties, this Court is satisfied that the compromise effected between them is genuine and is not the result of any pressure or coercion.

As such, report is submitted, accordingly, alongwith the statements for the kind perusal of your goodself, please.”

A perusal of the said report would show that it has been stated that the statements of the complainant as well as the accused have been recorded in the case and both have stated that the matter has been compromised and they have no objection in case the FIR is quashed. It is further stated that the statement of the complainant has been made voluntarily without any fear, coercion or pressure.

Learned counsel for the petitioners has submitted that none of the petitioners were declared proclaimed offender in the present case and are not involved in any other case. Learned counsel for the State, as per instructions, has stated that these facts are correct.

Learned counsel for respondent No. 2-complainant has reiterated the factum of compromise and has prayed for quashing of FIR on the basis of the same.

This Court has heard the learned counsel for the parties and has perused the file. After perusing the report submitted by the trial Court, this Court finds that the matter has been amicably settled between the petitioner and the complainant. Since the matter has been settled and the parties have decided to live in peace, this Court feels that in order to secure the ends of justice, the criminal proceedings deserve to be quashed.

As per the Full Bench judgment of this Court in ***“Kulwinder Singh and others Vs State of Punjab”***, 2007 (3) RCR (Criminal) 1052, it is held that High Court has power under Section 482 Cr.P.C. to allow the compounding of non-compoundable offence and quash the prosecution where the High Court is of the opinion that the same is required to prevent the abuse of the process of law or otherwise to secure the ends of justice. This power of quashing is not confined to matrimonial disputes alone.

Hon'ble the Apex Court in the case of ***“Gian Singh Vs. State of Punjab and another”***, 2012 (4) RCR (Criminal) 543, had also observed that in order to secure the ends of justice or to prevent the abuse of process of Court, inherent power can be used by this Court to quash criminal proceedings in which a compromise has been effected. The relevant portion of para 57 of the said judgment is reproduced hereinbelow:-

“57. The position that emerges from the above discussion can be summarised thus: the power of the High Court in quashing a criminal proceeding or FIR or complaint in exercise of its

inherent jurisdiction is distinct and different from the power given to a criminal court for compounding the offences under Section 320 of the Code. Inherent power is of wide plenitude with no statutory limitation but it has to be exercised in accord with the guideline engrafted in such power viz; (i) to secure the ends of justice or (ii) to prevent abuse of the process of any Court. XXX---XXX”

In view of what has been discussed hereinabove, the petition is allowed and FIR No. 138 dated 20.11.2012 registered under Sections 323, 324, 148 and 149 of the Indian Penal Code, 1860 (Section 325 and 326 of IPC added later on) registered at Police Station Sadar Batala, Police District Batala (Annexure P-1) and all subsequent proceedings arising therefrom on the basis of the compromise deed dated 31.03.2021 (Annexure P-2), are ordered to be quashed, qua the petitioners.

(VIKAS BAHL)
JUDGE

December 16th, 2021

Mehak

Whether reasoned/speaking?
Whether reportable?

Yes/No
Yes/No