

109.

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

CRM-M-39179-2021

Date of Decision: 21.09.2021

KULDEEP SINGH

.... Petitioner

Versus

STATE OF PUNJAB

.... Respondent

CORAM: HON'BLE MS. JUSTICE JAISHREE THAKUR

Present:- Mr. Brahminder Singh Toor, Advocate, for the petitioner.

Mr. A.S.Gill, Senior DAG, Punjab.

JAISHREE THAKUR.J

This is a petition that has been filed under Section 438 Cr.P.C. for grant of anticipatory bail to the petitioner in case FIR No.125, dated 02.09.2021, registered under Sections 384/354-C/506 and 120-B of IPC and Section 67 of I.T. Act, at Police Station Sidhwan Bet, District Ludhiana.

In brief, the facts are that an FIR was registered at the behest of the complainant with the allegations that Kuldeep Singh (petitioner herein) and Jaskirat Singh in conspiracy with each other had put objectionable photographs on social media and demanded a ransom of Rs.5 lakhs from her. It is alleged that she had solemnized married with another person on 28.04.2021 and had got protection order from the High Court. As per the FIR, earlier when she was studying at Sidhwan Khurd in the year 2017, she met the petitioner-Kuldeep Singh, who was a Theatre Coach in the college. The petitioner somehow managed to get the mobile number of the

complainant and then started sending her messages but she did not reply. In December 2018, she had to go to Panjab University, Chandigarh in connection with some work as she got less marks in the exam. The petitioner came to know about the same and he contacted the complainant and asked her that he knew some persons in the University who could help her in re-evaluation. As she did not know anyone in the University, so she contacted the petitioner, who came in a Swift Car at Bus Stand, Chandigarh and then took her to the University. On the way back to the bus stand, the petitioner gave her cold drink, consequent to which, she fell unconscious. After a few days, the petitioner showed her objectionable nude photographs and thereafter, started blackmailing her and pressurizing her to make physical relationship, otherwise he would send photographs to her family members. It is alleged that under pressure, she developed physical relations with him. Subsequently, the complainant contracted marriage with another person but when the petitioner came to know about the marriage, he started giving threats to her that he would make her objectionable photographs public. The said photographs were then sent to another person, namely, Jaskirat Singh who sent her the objectionable photographs. There is also a demand of Rs.5 lakhs by both of them.

Learned counsel appearing on behalf of the petitioner would contend that all the allegations are false while contending that the petitioner herein has not sent those photographs.

I have heard learned counsel for the petitioner.

The plea taken by the petitioner that he was not the person who had transferred the photographs and it was Jaskirat Singh who had sent the same, cannot be believed in the light of the fact that it is Kuldeep Singh (present petitioner) who was the person who was in contact with the complainant and as per the allegations, he had taken nude photographs of the complainant when she came in contact with him in the year 2018 when she came to Chandigarh to get admission in Panjab University. It is the petitioner who allegedly had given cold drink with some substance in it, consequent to which, she had passed out with the photographs that were taken. Based on the photographs, it is alleged that the petitioner was threatening her and had developed physical relationship with her.

The allegations are serious and, therefore, the custodial interrogation of the petitioner would be required. Hence, the present petition seeking anticipatory bail, stands dismissed. Any observations made are purely for the purpose of deciding the bail petition and not an opinion on the merits of the case.

(JAISHREE THAKUR)
JUDGE

21.09.2021
sanjeev

Whether speaking/reasoned:	Yes/No
Whether Reportable:	Yes/No