

IN THE HIGH COURT OF PUNJAB & HARYANA AT CHANDIGARH

CRM-M-41851 of 2020 (O&M)

Date of decision : 19.4.2021

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Manpreet Singh and others

.....Petitioners

vs.

State of Punjab and another

.....Respondents

Coram: Hon'ble Mr. Justice H. S. Madaan

Present: Mr. Lokesh Vohra, Advocate for the petitioners.

Mr. J.S. Ghuman, Deputy Advocate General,
Punjab.

Ms. Suchi Sodhi, Advocate for respondent No.2.

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H. S. Madaan, J. (Oral)

Case taken up through video conferencing.

Petitioners – Manpreet Singh, Harvinder Kaur and Harpreet Singh, have brought the instant petition under Section 482 Cr.P.C being accused in FIR No. 0009 dated 4.9.2020, for offences under Sections 406, 498/A IPC, registered at Police Station Women, Ferozepur, for quashing of abovesaid FIR, alongwith consequential proceedings arising therefrom, on the basis of compromise, stated to have been effected between them and complainant Komal Kataria - arrayed as respondent No.2.

Briefly stated, facts of the case, as per the prosecution story are that, complainant – Komal Kataria d/o Paramjit Singh, residing

at Friends Colony, Zira, District Ferozepur, had submitted a written complaint to SSP Ferozepur, contending that she was married with Manpreet Singh as per Sikh religious rites in the year 2017. At that time her father had given sufficient dowry articles as per his capacity but after the marriage she was harassed by her husband Manpreet Singh and his family members in order to force her to bring more dowry articles and was ultimately turned out of the matrimonial home after giving beatings, retaining her Istridhan articles, though entrusted to the accused but were meant for her use. On the basis of that complaint, formal FIR was registered. The Investigation in the case started, during the course of which the matter was compromised vide written compromise dated 4.12.2020, copy of which has been placed on record as Annexure P-2.

The accused have approached this Court by way of filing the present petition seeking quashing of the FIR alongwith ancillary proceedings on the basis of compromise.

When the petition came up for hearing on 28.1.2021, respondent No. 1 - State of Punjab through State counsel, whereas respondent No.2 through Ms. Suchi Sodhi, Advocate, had put in appearance. Then in light of the contention that parties have since effected compromise, they were directed to put in appearance before the Illaqa Magistrate/Duty Magistrate, Ferozepur, to get their statements recorded with regard to compromise and the said Court was directed to send a report to this Court.

Report has been received from Chief Judicial Magistrate.

Ferozepur, in terms of which complainant Komal Kataria and accused, namely, Manpreet Singh, Harvinder Kaur and Harpreet Singh had appeared there and their statements were recorded, in terms of which they have admitted to have entered into a voluntary compromise, with free will, without any pressure, coercion or undue influence. Further complainant has stated that she has no objection if the FIR in question is quashed by this Court. There is nothing on record to doubt the genuineness of the compromise so arrived at between the parties. It has been reported that no accused has been declared proclaimed offender in the FIR in question. Alongwith the report copies of statement of the complainant and the accused party, have been annexed.

I have heard learned counsel for the petitioners, learned State counsel, learned counsel for respondent No.2, besides going through the record.

The case is at the stage of investigation. Keeping in view the fact that the dispute between the parties has been resolved amicably, which appears to have been arrived at between them voluntarily without any threat or coercion and in terms of ratio of the authority reported as **Kulwinder Singh and others vs. State of Punjab and others** 2007 (3) RCR (Criminal) 1052, where in para 28, it has been held as under :-

“The compromise, in a modern society, is the sine qua non of harmony and orderly behaviour. It is the soul of justice and if the power under Section 482

of the Cr.P.C. is used to enhance such a compromise which, in turn, enhances the social amity and reduces friction, then it truly is “*finest hour of justice*”. Disputes which have their genesis in a matrimonial discord, landlord-tenant matters, commercial transactions and other such matters can safely be dealt with by the Court by exercising its powers under Section 482 of the Cr.P.C. in the event of a compromise, but this is not to say that the power is limited to such cases. There can never be any such rigid rule to prescribe the exercise of such power, especially in the absence of any premonitions to forecast and predict eventualities which the cause of justice may throw up during the course of a litigation.”

The compromise is in interest of peace and tranquility in the society and for such like reasons this Court can quash the FIR and ancillary proceedings exercising power under Section 482 Cr.P.C., it appears to be a fit case to exercise such powers.

Accordingly, the petition is allowed and the abovesaid FIR alongwith ancillary proceedings are hereby quashed.

19.4.2021
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(H.S. Madaan)
Judge

Whether speaking / reasoned

Yes / No

Whether reportable

Yes / No