



BEFORE THE MADURAI BENCH OF MADRAS HIGH COURT

DATED : 11.02.2022

CORAM :

THE HONOURABLE MR.JUSTICE G.K.ILANTHIRAIYAN

Crl.O.P(MD)No.2993 of 2022

and

Crl.M.P. (MD)Nos.2237 and 2238 of 2022

WEB COPY

Dharma Raj

... Petitioner/1st Accused

Vs.

1.The State represented by
The Inspector of Police,
Kollemcode Police Station,
Kanyakumari District.

... 1st respondent/Complainant

2.Gnanamuthan

... 2nd Respondent/De-facto Complainant

Prayer: This Criminal Original Petition is filed under Section 482 of Cr.P.C., to call for the records in respect of C.C.No.146 of 2014 on the file of the Judicial Magistrate No.II, Kuzhithurai and quash the same as against the petitioner.

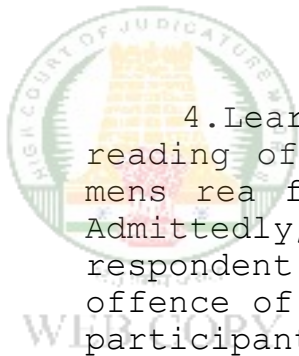
For Petitioner	: Mr.M.P.Senthil
For R-1	: Mr.R.M.Anbunithi
	Additional Public Prosecutor

O R D E R

This petition has been filed to quash the proceedings in C.C.No.146 of 2014 on the file of the learned Judicial Magistrate No.II, Kuzhithurai, thereby taken cognizance for the offences under Sections 294(b), 153A and 506(ii) of IPC, in Crime No.228 of 2012, as against the petitioner and others.

2.The case of the prosecution is that on 26.08.2012 at about 7.00 P.M., a prayer meeting held at the house of the second respondent. At that time, under the head of the petitioner all the accused came there by carrying iron rods and sticks. Objecting the prayer meeting, they scolded the second respondent with filthy language and threatened the participants with dire consequences.

3.Based on the complaint of the second respondent, the first respondent registered a FIR in Crime No.228 of 2012 for the offences punishable under Sections 147, 148, 294(b), 153A and 506(ii) of IPC against the petitioner and others. After investigation, the first respondent filed final report for the offences punishable under Sections 294(b), 153A and 506(ii) of IPC and the same was taken on file in C.C.No.146 of 2014 by the learned Judicial Magistrate No.II, Kuzhithurai.



4.Learned counsel for the petitioner submitted that a bare reading of the complaint clearly shows that absolutely there is no mens rea for the petitioner to commit the offence of 153A of IPC. Admittedly, the occurrence took place inside the house of the second respondent and as such, it is not a public place to attract the offence of 294(b) of IPC. Though in the FIR, it was stated that the participants were threatened, in the statements recorded under Section 161 of Cr.P.C., the witnesses for the occurrence have stated that the accused raised only slogans by gathering outside the house of the second respondent. Moreover, the allegations made in the complaint are bald in nature and no specific allegations are there against the petitioner. Hence he prayed to quash the same.

5.The learned Additional Public Prosecutor would submit that the trial has been commenced and some of the witnesses have been examined in this case.

6.Heard both sides and perused the materials available on record.

7.It is relevant to rely upon the judgment of the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India passed in **Crl.A.No.579 of 2019** dated **02.04.2019** in the case of **Devendra Prasad Singh Vs. State of Bihar & Anr.**, as follows:-

" 12.So far as the second ground is concerned, we are of the view that the High Court while hearing the application under Section 482 of the Cr.P.C. had no jurisdiction to appreciate the statement of the witnesses and record a finding that there were inconsistencies in their statements and, therefore, there was no prima facie case made out against respondent No.2. In our view, this could be done only in the trial while deciding the issues on the merits or/and by the Appellate Court while deciding the appeal arising out of the final order passed by the Trial Court but not in Section 482 Cr.P.C. proceedings.

13.In view of the foregoing discussion, we allow the appeal, set aside the impugned order and restore the aforementioned complaint case to its original file for being proceeded with on merits in accordance with law.

8.Recently, the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India dealing in respect of the very same issue in **Crl.A.No.1572 of 2019** dated 17.10.2019 in the case of **Central Bureau of Investigation Vs. Arvind Khanna**, wherein, it has been held as follows:

"19. After perusing the impugned order and on hearing the submissions made by the learned senior counsels on both sides, we are of the view that the impugned order passed by



the High Court is not sustainable. In a petition filed under Section 482 of Cr.P.C., the High Court has recorded findings on several disputed facts and allowed the petition. Defence of the accused is to be tested after appreciating the evidence during trial. The very fact that the High Court, in this case, went into the most minute details, on the allegations made by the appellant-C.B.I., and the defence put-forth by the respondent, led us to a conclusion that the High Court has exceeded its power, while exercising its inherent jurisdiction under Section 482 Cr.P.C.

20. In our view, the assessment made by the High Court at this stage, when the matter has been taken cognizance by the Competent Court, is completely incorrect and uncalled for."

9. Further the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India also held in the order dated **02.12.2019** in **Crl.A.No.1817 of 2019** in the case of **M.Jayanthi Vs. K.R.Meenakshi & anr**, as follows:

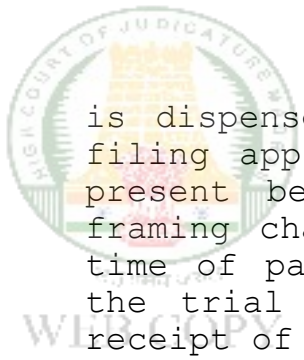
"9. It is too late in the day to seek reference to any authority for the proposition that while invoking the power under Section 482 Cr.P.C for quashing a complaint or a charge, the Court should not embark upon an enquiry into the validity of the evidence available. All that the Court should see is as to whether there are allegations in the complaint which form the basis for the ingredients that constitute certain offences complained of. The Court may also be entitled to see (i) whether the preconditions requisite for taking cognizance have been complied with or not; and (ii) whether the allegations contained in the complaint, even if accepted in entirety, would not constitute the offence alleged.

.....

13. A look at the complaint filed by the appellant would show that the appellant had incorporated the ingredients necessary for prosecuting the respondents for the offences alleged. The question whether the appellant will be able to prove the allegations in a manner known to law would arise only at a later stage....."

The above judgments are squarely applicable to this case and as such, the points raised by the petitioner cannot be considered by this Court under Section 482 Cr.P.C.

10. In view of the above discussion, this Court is not inclined to quash the proceedings in C.C.No.146 of 2014 on the file of the learned Judicial Magistrate No.II, Kuzhithurai. The petitioner is at liberty to raise all the grounds before the Trial Court. Considering the age of the petitioner, the personal appearance of the petitioner



is dispensed with and he shall be represented by a counsel after filing appropriate application. However, the petitioner shall be present before the Court at the time of furnishing of copies, framing charges, questioning under Section 313 Cr.P.C. and at the time of passing judgment. The Trial Court is directed to complete the trial within a period of six (6) months from the date of receipt of a copy of this order.

11. Accordingly, this Criminal Original Petition is dismissed. Consequently, connected miscellaneous petitions are closed.

Sd/-

Assistant Registrar

// True Copy //

/ /2022

Sub Assistant Registrar(CS)

Note: In view of the present lock down owing to COVID-19 pandemic, a web copy of the order may be utilized for official purposes, but, ensuring that the copy of the order that is presented is the correct copy, shall be the responsibility of the advocate/litigant concerned.

To

- 1.The Judicial Magistrate No.II,
Kuzhithurai.
- 2.The Inspector of Police,
Kollemcode Police Station,
Kanyakumari District.
- 3.The Additional Public Prosecutor,
Madurai Bench of Madras High Court,
Madurai.

Copy to

The Registrar (Judicial),
Madurai Bench of Madras High Court,
Madurai.

+1 CC to M/s.M.P.SENTHIL, Advocate (SR-5856[F] dated 14/02/2022)

Crl.O.P (MD) .No.2993 of 2022
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RS (04.03.2022) 4P-6C