

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

**CRM-M-4317-2022 (O&M)  
Date of decision: 01.08.2022**

Surjit Singh

...Petitioner

Versus

State of Punjab

...Respondent

**CORAM: HON'BLE MR. JUSTICE HARNARESH SINGH GILL**

Present:- Mr. Avtar Singh Bhatti, Advocate for the petitioner.

Mr. H.S. Multani, AAG Punjab.

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**HARNARESH SINGH GILL, J. (ORAL)**

Through this petition, the petitioner seeks regular bail in case bearing FIR No.277 dated 21.08.2011, registered under Sections 420, 419, 467, 468, 471, 120-B IPC, at Police Station Civil Line, District Amritsar City, Punjab.

Status report by way of affidavit dated 30.07.2022 of the Assistant Commissioner of Police, North, Amritsar City, submitted by the learned State counsel in the Court, is taken on record.

Learned counsel for the petitioner submits that at one point of time, the petitioner was granted regular bail but due to some un-avoidable circumstance, the petitioner absented himself from the Court proceedings on 17.12.2015. Resultantly, he was declared as a proclaimed offender on

20.05.2016 and was re-arrested on 20.06.2021, and since then he has been in custody. He further submits that so far as FIR No.351 dated 01.09.2009 is concerned, the petitioner is on bail in the said case. Co-accused, Surta Singh, has been acquitted by the learned trial Court.

Learned State counsel, while vehemently opposing the prayer for bail, submits that he absconded himself from the Court proceedings for a period of 06 years. However, he does not dispute the custody period of the petitioner and the fact that one co-accused, who faced the trial stands acquitted.

I have heard the learned counsel for the parties.

Being on regular bail, the petitioner absented and was declared a proclaimed offender, thereafter, he was re-arrested on 20.06.2021 and since then he has been in custody. One co-accused, who faced the trial, stands acquitted. Therefore, the conclusion of the trial would take time. Hence, no useful purpose would be served by keeping the petitioner behind the bars.

In view of the above, without commenting anything on the merits, lest it should prejudice the case of either side, the petition is allowed and the petitioner is ordered to be released on regular bail on his furnishing bail and surety bonds to the satisfaction of the learned trial Court/Duty Magistrate.

**(HARNARESH SINGH GILL)**  
**JUDGE**

**01.08.2022**  
*Mangal Singh*

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|----------------------------|--------|
| Whether reasoned/speaking? | Yes/No |
| Whether reportable?        | Yes/No |