

230 IN THE HIGH COURT OF PUNJAB & HARYANA
AT CHANDIGARH

CRM-M-12388-2022
Date of Decision: 01.12.2022

Daljit Kumar

..... Petitioner

Versus

State of Punjab and another

..... Respondents

CORAM: HON'BLE MR. JUSTICE HARSH BUNGER

Present: Mr. Simerjeet Singh Bedi, Advocate
for the petitioner.

Mr. Harjinder Singh, AAG, Punjab
for respondent No.1/State.

None for respondent No.2/complainant.

HARSH BUNGER J. (ORAL)

This petition has been filed for quashing of FIR No.54 dated 22.04.2017 (Annexure P-1), under Section 408 of the Indian Penal Code, registered at Police Station City Nawanshahr, District S.B.S. Nagar and all the consequent proceedings arising therefrom, on the basis of compromise dated 31.05.2017 (Annexure P-2) arrived at between the parties.

Vide order dated 25.03.2022, the trial Court/Illaq Magistrate was directed to record the statements of the parties with regard to the genuineness and validity of the compromise.

In compliance thereof, the Judicial Magistrate Ist Class, Shaheed Bhagat Singh Nagar, has submitted a consolidated report, vide letter dated 15.06.2022, which indicates that the parties appeared before the Magistrate and got recorded their respective statements with regard to the validity of the compromise. As per the report, the compromise arrived at

between the parties is genuine and without any pressure or coercion from any corner. Relevant extract of the said report is reproduced as under:

“ - x - x - x -

From the statement made by the parties, this court is satisfied that the complainant/respondent No.2 namely Gurdeep Singh has entered into compromise with the aforementioned accused/petitioner No.2 namely Daljit Kumar, voluntarily, without any inducement, coercion or pressure etc.

As per statement suffered by investigating officer namely ASI Sukhdev Singh, no. 258/SBS Nagar, PS City Nawanshahr and as per record, there are three persons arrayed as accused in this case, namely 1) Amanpreet Singh s/o Surjit Singh r/o Ucha Ladhana, PS Sadar Banga, District SBS Nagar 2) Daljit Kumar s/o Rakesh Kumar r/o Khatkar Khurd, PS City Banga, District SBS Nagar and 3) Puneet Bedi s/o Bhupinder Singh r/o village Saloh, PS City Nawanshahr, District SBS Nagar. Out of the aforesaid accused persons, the FIR of the present case i.e. FIR No.54 dated 22.04.2017 registered under Section 408 IPC at police station City Nawanshahr, District SBS Nagar has already been quashed in favor of accused persons namely Amanpreet Singh and Puneet Bedi by Hon'ble Punjab and Haryana High Court, Chandigarh vide order dated 04.12.2017 passed in CRM-M-40518-2017 and accordingly, these accused persons namely Amanpreet Singh and Puneet Bedi have been discharged by learned trial court of Ms. Aman Sharma, the then JMIC, SBS Nagar, in the present case. Accused Daljit Kumar is on bail and is appearing before learned trial court and no other criminal case is registered or pending against accused Daljit Kuamr, apart from the present case.

- x - x - x -”

A perusal of the said report would show that statements of the concerned persons have been recorded in the case, who have stated that the matter has been compromised and they have no objection in case the FIR in question is quashed. They have further stated that the said compromise arrived at between them is genuine, voluntary and without any pressure.

Learned State counsel does not raise any serious dispute regarding quashing of the FIR in question.

Today, neither respondent No.2 nor his Counsel is present, however, he has made statement before the Judicial Magistrate Ist Class, S.B.S. Nagar, whereby he has admitted the factum of compromise with the accused, voluntarily and without any undue influence or coercion.

I have heard the learned counsel for the parties and perused the file.

Hon'ble Apex Court in the case of ***“Gian Singh Vs. State of Punjab and another”***, 2012 (4) RCR (Criminal) 543 has held as under:-

“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. In what cases power to quash the criminal proceeding or complaint or F.I.R. may be exercised where the offender and victim have settled their dispute would depend on the facts and circumstances of each case and no

category can be prescribed. However, before exercise of such power, the High Court must have due regard to the nature and gravity of the crime. Heinous and serious offences of mental depravity or offences like murder, rape, dacoity, etc. cannot be fittingly quashed even though the victim or victim's family and the offender have settled the dispute. Such offences are not private in nature and have serious impact on society. Similarly, any compromise between the victim and offender in relation to the offences under special statutes like Prevention of Corruption Act or the offences committed by public servants while working in that capacity etc; cannot provide for any basis for quashing criminal proceedings involving such offences. But the criminal cases having overwhelmingly and pre-dominantly civil flavour stand on different footing for the purposes of quashing, particularly the offences arising from commercial, financial, mercantile, civil, partnership or such like transactions or the offences arising out of matrimony relating to dowry etc. or the family disputes where the wrong is basically private or personnel in nature and the parties have resolved their entire dispute. In this category of cases, High Court may quash criminal proceedings if in its view, because of the compromise between the offender and victim, the possibility of conviction is remote and bleak and continuation of criminal case would put accused to great oppression and prejudice and extreme injustice would be caused to him by not quashing the criminal case despite full and complete settlement and compromise with the victim. In other words, the High Court must consider whether it would be unfair or contrary to the interest of justice to continue with the criminal proceeding or continuation of the criminal proceeding would tantamount to abuse of process of

law despite settlement and compromise between the victim and wrongdoer and whether to secure the ends of justice, it is appropriate that criminal case is put to an end and if the answer to the above question(s) is in affirmative, the High Court shall be well within its jurisdiction to quash the criminal proceeding.”

In “***Shakuntala Sawhney Vs. Kaushalya Sawhney***”, 1979 (3) ***SCR 639, at P 642***, Hon'ble Supreme Court observed that the finest hour of Justice arises propitiously when parties, who fell apart, bury the hatchet and weave a sense of fellowship or reunion.

Considering the entire facts, compromise arrived at between the parties, statements of the parties recorded before the Illaqa Magistrate/Trial Court and also report dated 15.06.2022, submitted by the Judicial Magistrate Ist Class, Shaheed Bhagat Singh Nagar, since the parties have arrived at a compromise by amicably settling their disputes and have decided to live in peace, no useful purpose will be served in allowing the criminal proceedings to continue.

Further, in the light of the abovementioned judicial precedents, when the parties have entered into a compromise then continuation of the proceedings would be mere an abuse of process of the Court.

In order to prevent unnecessary continuation of criminal proceedings on the ground that there are bleak chances of conviction in the case, I am of the considered view that it would be in fitness of things to quash the proceedings on the basis of compromise and by quashing the FIR while accepting the prayer of the petitioner, would be securing the ends of justice.

Accordingly, this petition is allowed. FIR No.54 dated

registered at Police Station City Nawanshahr, District S.B.S. Nagar and all the consequent proceedings arising therefrom, are quashed qua the petitioner. However, the same would be subject to payment of costs of Rs.10,000/- to be deposited by the petitioner with the **“Poor Patients' Welfare Fund, PGIMER, Chandigarh”** and the said amount would be spent for the treatment of poor patients within the knowledge of its Medical Superintendent.

Needless to say that the parties shall remain bound by the terms of compromise and their statements made in the Court below.

All pending application(s), if any, shall stand disposed of.

01.12.2022

Apurva

(HARSH BUNGER)
JUDGE

1. Whether speaking/reasoned : Yes/No
2. Whether reportable : Yes/No