

IN THE HIGH COURT OF PUNJAB & HARYANA AT
CHANDIGARH

CRM-M-13012-2022

Date of decision : 28.07.2022

Surjit Singh and others

... Petitioners

Versus

State of Punjab and another

... Respondents

CORAM: HON'BLE MR. JUSTICE VIKAS BAHL

Present: Mr.Vipan Kumar, Advocate
for the petitioners.

Mr.Sukhbeer Singh, AAG, Punjab.

Mr.Ravi Malhotra, Advocate
respondent no.2.

VIKAS BAHL, J.(ORAL)

This is a petition under Section 482 Cr.P.C. praying for quashing of FIR no.0014 dated 26.01.2020 registered under Sections 160, 427, 506, 148, 149 IPC at Police Station Adampur, District Jalandhar Rural and all other consequential proceedings arising therefrom on the basis of compromise.

On 18.04.2022, a coordinate Bench of this Court was pleased to pass the following order:-

“By filing this petition, quashing of FIR No. 14 dated 26.1.2020 registered under Sections 160, 427, 506, 148, 149 IPC at Police Station Adampur, District Jalandhar Rural and other consequential proceedings arising therefrom qua petitioners has been sought on the basis of compromise.

Notice of motion.

Mr. B.S. Sewak, Additional A.G. Punjab and Mr. Ravi Malhotra, Advocate accept notice on behalf of respondent No. 1

State and respondent No. 2 respectively.

Parties may appear before learned trial Court/Illaq Magistrate concerned on 30.5.2022 or any other date convenient to said Court and get their statements recorded with regard to compromise. The original compromise shall be produced before the said court. In the event of their statements being recorded, the Court will send copies of same to this Court before next date of hearing alongwith its report :

- i) regarding genuineness and voluntary nature of compromise ;*
- ii) whether all accused/petitioners are appearing before the Court or are on bail; and*
- iii) whether any other proceeding is pending against the accused/ petitioners.*

Adjourned to 28.7.2022.

(HARINDER SINGH SIDHU)
JUDGE

18.4.2022”

In pursuance to the said order, a report has been submitted by the Judicial Magistrate Ist Class, Jalandhar. The relevant portion of the said report is reproduced hereinbelow:-

“ Further, I have also examined the parties in person and I am of the opinion that the parties have entered into the compromise voluntarily and without any pressure or coercion from any quarter. As such, in view of the statements of the parties as well as after their examination in the court, I am of the view that compromise has been effected between the parties to the abovesaid FIR as per their free will and without any kind of pressure, threat or undue influence and same seems to be genuine. It is also submitted that all the accused persons are appearing in the Court and are on bail. It is also submitted that there is another FIR bearing No. 64/2021, pending against Manjot Singh, registered at P.S Adampur, in which the compromise has been effected and quashing petition is pending before Hon'ble High Court.

Report is submitted please.

Yours faithfully,

(Jaginder Singh),
Judicial Magistrate Ist Class,
Jalandhar /UID NO. PB00485”

A perusal of the above said report would show that the petitioners and respondent no.2 have appeared and have suffered statements with respect to the compromise, which have been found to be voluntary, genuine, and out of free will.

Learned counsel for the petitioners has submitted that the petitioners were not declared proclaimed offenders in the present case.

Learned State counsel has stated that he has no objection in case the FIR is quashed on the basis of compromise qua the petitioners.

Learned counsel for respondent no.2 has again reiterated that the matter has been settled and the said compromise is in the interest of all the persons and would help in bringing out peace and amity between the two parties.

This Court has heard the learned counsel for the parties and has perused the file.

After perusing the report submitted by the trial Court, this Court finds that the matter has been amicably settled between the petitioners and the complainant. Since the matter has been settled and the parties have decided to live in peace, this Court feels that in order to secure the ends of justice, the criminal proceedings deserve to be quashed.

As per the Full Bench judgment of this Court in “***Kulwinder Singh and others Vs State of Punjab***”, 2007 (3) RCR (Criminal) 1052, it is held that High Court has power under Section 482 Cr.P.C. to allow the compounding of non-compoundable offence and quash the prosecution where the High Court is of the opinion that the same is required to prevent the abuse of the process of law or otherwise to secure the ends of justice.

This power of quashing is not confined to matrimonial disputes alone.

Hon'ble the Apex Court in the case of “*Gian Singh Vs. State of Punjab and another*”, 2012 (4) RCR (Criminal) 543, had also observed that in order to secure the ends of justice or to prevent the abuse of process of Court, inherent power can be used by this Court to quash criminal proceedings in which a compromise has been effected. The relevant portion of para 57 of the said judgment is reproduced hereinbelow:-

“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.”

Keeping in view of the above said facts and circumstances, this petition is allowed and FIR no.0014 dated 26.01.2020 registered under Sections 160, 427, 506, 148, 149 IPC at Police Station Adampur, District Jalandhar Rural and all the subsequent proceedings emanating therefrom are ordered to be quashed, qua the petitioners.

July 28, 2022.

Davinder Kumar

**(VIKAS BAHL)
JUDGE**

Whether speaking / reasoned
Whether reportable

Yes/No
Yes/No