

IN THE HIGH COURT OF PUNJAB & HARYANA AT
CHANDIGARH

CRM-M-22099-2022

Date of decision : 31.05.2022

Lachhman Singh and others

... Petitioners

Versus

State of Punjab and another

... Respondents

CORAM: HON'BLE MR. JUSTICE VIKAS BAHL

Present: Mr.Lakshay Bector, Advocate
for the petitioners.

Mr.M.S.Nagra, AAG, Punjab.

Mr.Saurav Kanojia, Advocate
for respondent no.2.

VIKAS BAHL, J.(ORAL)

This is a petition under Section 482 Cr.P.C. praying for quashing of FIR no.102 dated 29.06.2017 registered under Sections 457, 380 IPC (Sections 411 and 201 IPC added later on) at Police Station Hathur, District Ludhiana and all other consequential proceedings arising therefrom on the basis of compromise.

On 20.05.2022, this Court was pleased to pass the following order:-

“This is a petition filed under Section 482 Cr.P.C. for quashing of FIR No.102 dated 29.06.2017 registered under Sections 457, 380 of the Indian Penal Code, 1860 (Sections 411 and 201 of IPC have been added later on) at Police Station Hathur, District Ludhiana and all the subsequent proceedings arising therefrom on the basis of compromise.

Learned counsel for the petitioners has submitted that all

the persons concerned are party to the compromise.

Notice of motion for 31.05.2022.

On asking of the Court, Mr. Sarabjit S. Cheema, AAG, Punjab appears and accepts notice on behalf of the respondent-State and Mr. Saurav Kanojia, Advocate appears on behalf of respondent No.2.

The parties are directed to appear before the Illaqa Magistrate/trial Court for recording their statements qua compromise within a period of 10 days.

The Illaqa Magistrate/trial Court is directed to submit a report on or before the next date of hearing containing the following information:-

- 1. Number of persons arrayed as accused.*
- 2. Whether any accused is proclaimed offender?*
- 3. Whether the compromise is genuine, voluntary and without any coercion or undue influence?*
- 4. Whether the accused persons are involved in any other FIR or not?*
- 5. The trial Court is also directed to record the statement of the Investigating Officer as to how many victims/complainants are there in the FIR.”*

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

“I am satisfied with regard to the authenticity of the compromise and the fact that it has been arrived at without any kind of undue influence or pressure. The parties have placed on record their identity proofs which are correct as per original and copies of the same are attached herewith for your kind perusal and both the parties have been duly identified by their respective counsel.

It was assured before hand that the parties are giving their statements voluntarily without any pressure and I am satisfied that the compromise is genuine and voluntary and without any coercion or undue influence.

The report is submitted accordingly for your kind perusal.

Thanking you,

Yours Sincerely,

Encls: As above.

*(Tejinder Preet Kaur), PCS,
Judicial Magistrate Ist Class,
Jagraon(PB-0408)”*

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 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.”

In view of what has been discussed hereinabove, this petition is allowed and FIR no.102 dated 29.06.2017 registered under Sections 457, 380 IPC (Sections 411 and 201 IPC added later on) at Police Station Hathur, District Ludhiana and all the subsequent proceedings emanating therefrom are ordered to be quashed, qua the petitioners.

May 31, 2022.
Davinder Kumar

(VIKAS BAHL)
JUDGE

Whether speaking / reasoned
Whether reportable

Yes/No
Yes/No