

IN THE HIGH COURT OF PUNJAB & HARYANA AT
CHANDIGARH

CRM-M-29103-2022
Date of decision : 22.08.2022

Harpreet Singh and another

... Petitioners

Versus

State of Haryana and another

... Respondents

CORAM: HON'BLE MR.JUSTICE VIKAS BAHL

Present: Mr.D.S. Virk, Advocate
for the petitioners.

Mr.Munish Sharma, AAG, Haryana.

Mr.M.S.Virk, Advocate
for respondent no.2.

VIKAS BAHL, J.(ORAL)

This is a petition under Section 482 Cr.P.C. for quashing of FIR no.111 dated 07.03.2020 registered under Section 67 of the Information Technology Act (Section 67-A of the Act added later on) at Police Station Kurukshetra University, District Kurukshetra and all other consequential proceedings arising therefrom on the basis of compromise.

On 12.07.2022, 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.111 dated 07.03.2020 registered under Section 67 of the Information Technology Act (Sections 67A of the Act added later on) at Police Station Kurukshetra University, District Kurukshetra 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 22.08.2022.

On asking of the Court, Mr. Praveen Bhadu, AAG, Haryana appears and accepts notice on behalf of the respondent-State and Mr. M.S. Virk, 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 one month.

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.*

12.07.2022”

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

“(iii) Whether the compromise is genuine, voluntary and without any coercion or undue influence?

In compliance of the aforesaid order, both the parties i.e. complainant-Gurjant Singh and accused persons-Harpreet Singh and Jaspal Singh appeared before the Court on 05.08.2022. Their statements were recorded, wherein they stated that they have compromised the matter voluntarily and now, there is no dispute between them and, therefore, FIR may be quashed. Both the parties were also asked if they have entered the aforementioned compromise voluntarily and without any influence or coercion, to which they answered in affirmative. It is further submitted that the compromise effected between the parties is genuine and valid.

(v) The trial Court is also directed to record the statement of the IO as to how many victims/complainants are there in the FIR.

As per the statement of the IO, there is only one victim/complainant, namely, Gurjant Singh in the present FIR.

Submitted by,

Dated: 12.08.2022

*(Harish Sabbarwal)
Judicial Magistrate Ist Class,
Kurukshetra.
UID No.HR0401 ”*

A perusal of the above said report would show that the petitioners and respondent no.2 (complainant) 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**

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.111 dated 07.03.2020 registered under Section 67 of the Information Technology Act (Section 67-A of the Act added later on) at Police Station Kurukshetra University, District Kurukshetra and all the subsequent proceedings emanating therefrom are ordered to be quashed, qua the petitioners.

(VIKAS BAHL)
JUDGE

August 22, 2022

Davinder Kumar