

IN THE HIGH COURT OF PUNJAB & HARYANA AT
CHANDIGARH

CRM-M-34345-2022

Date of decision: 23.08.2022

Manjeet Singh

... Petitioner

Versus

U.T. Chandigarh and others

... Respondents

CORAM: HON'BLE MR. JUSTICE VIKAS BAHL

Present: Mr. Chandan Singh, Advocate for the petitioner.

Mr. V.S. Mahal, Addl. P.P., U.T., Chandigarh.

Mr. Divij Datt, Advocate for respondents No.2 and 3.

VIKAS BAHL, J. (ORAL)

This is a petition filed under Section 482 Cr.P.C. for quashing of FIR No.15 dated 23.02.2021 registered under Section 379 of the Indian Penal Code, 1860 at Police Station North, District Chandigarh (Annexure P-1) and subsequent proceedings arising therefrom on the basis of compromise.

On 04.08.2022, 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.15 dated 23.02.2021 registered under Section 379 of the Indian Penal Code, 1860 at Police Station North, District Chandigarh (Annexure P-1) and subsequent proceedings arising therefrom on the basis of compromise.

Notice of motion for 23.08.2022.

On advance notice, Mr. V. S. Mahal, Addl. P.P., UT, Chandigarh appears and accepts notice on behalf of the respondent-State and Mr. Divij Datt, Advocate appears on behalf of respondents No.2 and 3.

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.*

04.08.2022

(VIKAS BAHL)
JUDGE”

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

“2. Statement of Investigating Officer Sub Inspector Lakhvinder Singh was also recorded wherein he stated that in this case only one accused Manjeet Singh has been arrayed as accused and he has not been declared proclaimed offender. He further stated that as per his knowledge, accused Manjeet Singh is not involved in any other FIR and that this case was registered on the complainant of Sh. Bhagwan Singh and besides him, his son Diamond Singh is also a victim in this case.

3. In view of above statements, compromise as effected between the complainant and victim, named above, and petitioner-accused Manjeet Singh appears to be genuine and effected without any fear, pressure or undue influence. Only Manjeet Singh has been arrayed as accused in this case and he has not been declared proclaimed offender. Besides complainant Bhagwan Singh, there is one victim namely Diamond Singh is also there in the case. Copies of statements of parties are enclosed herewith for information and necessary action please.

Thanking you,

Yours Sincerely,

*(Dr. Aman Inder Singh)
Chief Judicial Magistrate,
Chandigarh (UID:HR0303)”*

A perusal of the above said report would show that the petitioner, complainant-respondent No.2-Bhagwan Singh and victim-respondent No.3-Diamond Singh have appeared and suffered statements with respect to the compromise, which have been found to be voluntary, genuine, and out of free will.

Learned counsel for the petitioner has further submitted that the petitioner was not declared proclaimed offender 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 petitioner.

Learned counsel for respondents No.2 and 3 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 petitioner 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.15 dated 23.02.2021 registered under Section 379 of the Indian Penal Code, 1860 at Police Station North, District Chandigarh (Annexure P-1) and all the subsequent proceedings emanating therefrom are ordered to be quashed, qua the petitioner.

August 23, 2022.
Ishwar Singh

(VIKAS BAHL)
JUDGE

Whether speaking / reasoned
Whether reportable

Yes/No
Yes/No