

IN THE HIGH COURT OF PUNJAB AND HARYANA
AT CHANDIGARH

268-2

CRM-M-44457-2021

Decided on : 30.05.2022

Lakhvir Singh @ Lakha and others

. . . Petitioners

Versus

State of Punjab and others

. . . Respondents

CORAM: HON'BLE MR. JUSTICE VIKAS BAHL

PRESENT: Mr. Sukhmeet Singh, Advocate
for the petitioners.

Mr. Sukhbeer Singh, AAG, Punjab.

Mr. Kulwinder Singh, Advocate
for respondents No. 2 to 6.

VIKAS BAHL, J. (Oral)

This is a petition under Section 482 Cr.P.C. for quashing of FIR No. 228 dated 09.12.2015 under Sections 323, 325, 341, 506, 148 and 149 of the Indian Penal Code, 1860 registered at Police Station Meharban, District Ludhiana (Annexure P-1) and all subsequent proceedings arising on the basis of the compromise.

On 10.05.2022, 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.228 dated 09.12.2015 registered under Sections 323, 325, 341, 506, 148, 149 of IPC at Police Station Meharban, District Ludhiana (Annexure P-1) 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 30.05.2022.

On asking of the Court, Mr. Sarabjit S. Cheema, AAG, Punjab appears and accepts notice on behalf of the respondent-State and Mr. Kulwinder Singh, Advocate appears on behalf of respondent Nos.2 to 6.

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 of the said order, a report has been submitted by the Judicial Magistrate 1st Class, Ludhiana to the Registrar Judicial of this Court. The relevant portion of the said report is reproduced hereinbelow:-

“The para-wise report is as under:

- 1. There are five accused persons namely Makhan Singh, Jarnail Singh, Happy @ Gurjot Singh, Angrej Singh @ Bobby and Lakhvir Singh @ Lakha, in the present case.*
- 2. No accused has been declared as a proclaimed offender.*
- 3. From the statements of the parties, it appears that compromise is genuine and voluntary and without any inducement, threat or pressure.*
- 4. Except the present FIR, no other FIR had been registered against the above said accused persons.*
- 5. There is one complainant and four victims in the present case, as per statement of the Investigating Officer.*
- 6. In view of the above said facts and circumstances as well as considering the statements made by parties, the compromise between the parties seems to be genuine, voluntary and without any coercion or undue influence. The photocopies of statements of parties as well as Investigating Officer of the present case so recorded, compromise produced by the parties and photocopies of their Aadhar Cards are also enclosed herewith for Your Honour's kind perusal. As such, the report as desired, is submitted herewith, please.”*

A perusal of the above report would show that it has been

stated that the statements of Complainant and other victims as well as the petitioners have been recorded in the case and they have stated that the matter has been compromised and they have no objection in case the FIR is quashed. It is further stated that the statement of the complainant and the other victims have been made voluntarily without any fear, coercion or pressure.

Learned counsel for the petitioners has submitted that none of the petitioner were declared proclaimed offender in the present case and are not involved in any other case.

Learned counsel for the State, as per instructions, has stated that the abovesaid facts are correct.

Learned counsel for respondents No. 2 to 6 has reiterated the factum of compromise and has prayed for quashing of FIR on the basis of the same.

This Court has heard the learned counsel for the parties and has perused the file. After perusing the report submitted by the trial Court as well reply submitted on behalf of the State, this Court finds that the matter has been amicably settled between the petitioners and the complainant and the present FIR having been compromised deserves to be quashed. 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. XXX---XXX”

In view of what has been discussed hereinabove, the petition is allowed and FIR No. 228 dated 09.12.2015 under Sections

323, 325, 341, 506, 148 and 149 of the Indian Penal Code,1860 registered at Police Station Meharban, District Ludhiana (Annexure P-2) and all subsequent proceedings arising on the basis of the compromise, are ordered to be quashed, qua the petitioners.

May 30th, 2022
Mehak

(VIKAS BAHL)
JUDGE

Whether reasoned/speaking?	Yes/No
Whether reportable?	Yes/No