

**IN THE HIGH COURT OF PUNJAB AND HARYANA
AT CHANDIGARH**

CRM-M-43707-2022

Date of decision : 13.12.2022

Sita Chaudhary and another

..... Petitioners

versus

State of Punjab and another

..... Respondents

CORAM : HON'BLE MR. JUSTICE PANKAJ JAIN

Present:- Mr. Harneet Singh Oberio, Advocate
for the petitioners.

Mr. Jaiteshwar Singh, AAG, Punjab.

Mr. Nishad Ahuja, Advocate
for respondent No.2.

PANKAJ JAIN, J. (Oral)

By way of present petition, the petitioners are seeking quashing of FIR No.70 dated 14.04.2022, registered for offences punishable under Sections 406 and 420 of IPC, at Police Station City Rajpura, Patiala on the basis of compromise/Settlement Agreement dated 05.09.2022 (Annexure P-8).

2. On 21.09.2022, the following order was passed:-

“The present petition has been moved invoking jurisdiction of this Court under Section 482 Cr.P.C. by the petitioners facing trial in FIR No.70 dated 14.04.2022, registered for offences punishable under Sections 406 and 420 of IPC at Police Station City Rajpura, Patiala.

Learned counsel for the petitioners contends that the matter already stands compromised vide settlement agreement dated 05.09.2022 (Annexure P-8).

Notice of motion for **13.12.2022.**

On the asking of the Court, Mr. Gurdarshan Singh Sidhu, AAG, Punjab, who is present in Court accepts notice on behalf of the respondent-State.

Mr. Nishad Ahuja, Advocate appears on behalf of respondent No.2 and admits the fact of there being compromise between the parties.

In view of the above, the parties are directed to appear before learned Illaqa Magistrate/trial Court on **05.10.2022**.

On their doing so, the learned Illaqa Magistrate/trial Court shall record their statements and furnish its report to this Court by the next date of hearing on the following aspects:-

1. Number of persons arrayed as accused in the FIR.
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 case 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.

A copy of the report be also sent to the Registrar Judicial of this Court.

Needless to say that in case for any reason the statements are not recorded on the aforesaid date, the learned Illaqa Magistrate/trial Court shall be at liberty to call the parties on any other date but not later than a week thereafter. ”

3. Pursuant to the aforesaid order, report from SDJM, Rajpura dated 26.10.2022 has been received, which is taken on record. As per the report, the trial Court has recorded as follows:-

“xx xx xx

(1) In view of statements of parties and that of Investigating Officer only two persons namely Sita Chaudhary wife of late Devinder Singh r/o H.No. 102, Panchsheel Park, New Delhi and Madhava Prasad son of late Pushkar Nath Dwivedi r/o A-11, Sector 39, Noida Uttar Pradesh are arrayed as accused in this FIR.

(ii) In this case none of the accused has been declared as proclaimed offender.

(iii) In view of statements of both the parties compromise arrived between them appears to be genuine, voluntary and without any coercion or undue influence.

(iv) In view of statements of parties and that of investigating officer, accused persons are not involved in any other case.

(v) So far as number of victim/complainants in this FIR is concerned, the Investigating Officer ASI Lakhwinder Singh-3209/Patiala, P.S.City Rajpura stated that in the present case/FIR there is one more complainant namely Madhuban Residential Welfare Society through its Secretary Rakesh Batta son of A.S.Batta r/o #162, Madhuban Colony, Rajapura Distt. Patiala.”

4. Mr. Nishad Ahuja, Advocate appears for respondent No.2 and admits the fact of parties having compromised and states that he has no objection in case the FIR and all proceedings subsequent thereto against the petitioners are quashed.

5. Learned State counsel has stated no objection in case the FIR is quashed based upon the compromise.

6. I have heard learned counsel for the parties and have carefully gone through the records of the case.

7. After considering judgment rendered by the Apex Court in **Gian Singh vs. State of Punjab and another, 2012(10) SCC 303, State of Madhya Pradesh vs. Laxmi Narayan and others (2019) 5 SCC 688, Kulwinder Singh & others Vs. State of Punjab & another, 2007 (3) RCR (Criminal) 1052 and Ram Gopal and another vs. State of Madhya Pradesh, 2021(4) R.C.R. (Criminal) 322 (Criminal Appeal No.1489 of 2012 decided on 29th of September, 2021)**, the proposition of law that emerges from the aforesaid decisions rendered by Apex Court and this Court is :

- (a) Power u/s 482 Cr.P.C. vested with this Court is not affected by Section 320 of the Code.
- (b) However, wider the power greater the caution.
- (c) The underlining principle while exercising such power is that it can be invoked to quash the proceedings recognizing compromise between the parties in the matters which are overwhelmingly and predominantly of civil character like commercial transactions or arising out of matrimonial relationship or family disputes.
- (d) The said power is not to be exercised in the prosecutions involving heinous and serious offences of mental depravity or offences like murder, rape, dacoity etc. as such offences are not private in nature and have a serious impact on society.
- (e) Section 482 Cr.P.C. casts duty upon the High Court to advance interest of justice as well. It is in recognition

of this duty casted upon the High Court, that Apex Court held that the High Court would not refuse to quash FIR under Section 307 merely because FIR finds mention thereof. High Court can assess nature of injuries sustained, whether such injuries inflicted on vital/delicate parts of the body/nature of weapons used etc.

- (f) Such exercise at the hands of High Court would be permissible only after the evidence is collected after investigation and chargesheet is filed/charges framed during the trial. Such exercise cannot be carried out while the matter is still under investigation.
- (g) While quashing FIR in non-compoundable offences even which are of private in nature, High Court is required to consider antecedents of the accused, conduct of the accused and whether he was absconding or whether he has managed the complainant to enter into a compromise.

8. Thus, keeping in view the aforesaid facts and circumstances, this Court is of the considered opinion that it is a fit case to exercise jurisdiction vested u/s 482 Cr.P.C. to quash the FIR as :-

- (i) The present matter does not fall within the exceptions as carved out in **Laxmi Narayan's** case (supra).
- (ii) The offences are of private nature.
- (iii) The parties have compromised.
- (iv) As per the report received the compromise is said to be voluntary in its nature.
- (v) Complainant/victim has entered into compromise on his own volition.

9. Consequently, the petition is allowed. FIR No.70 dated 14.04.2022, registered for offences punishable under Sections 406 and

420 of IPC, at Police Station City Rajpura, Patiala and all proceedings arising therefrom, are, hereby, quashed qua the petitioners.

(PANKAJ JAIN)
JUDGE

13.12.2022
Dinesh

Whether speaking/reasoned	Yes
Whether Reportable :	No