

IN THE HIGH COURT OF PUNJAB AND HARYANA
AT CHANDIGARH

CRM-M-44859-2022

Date of decision : 19.12.2022

Sukhvir Singh @ Ginni and another

..... Petitioners

versus

State of Punjab and another

..... Respondents

CORAM : HON'BLE MR. JUSTICE PANKAJ JAIN

Present:- Mr. Paras Talwar, Advocate
for the petitioners.

Mr. Jaiteshwar Singh, AAG, Punjab.

Mr. Sidharth Sehgal, Advocate
for respondent No.2.

PANKAJ JAIN, J. (Oral)

By way of present petition, the petitioners are seeking quashing of FIR No.150 dated 14.09.2022, registered for offences punishable under Sections 420, 465, 467, 468, 471 and 120-B of IPC at Police Station Sirhind, District Fatehgarh Sahib on the basis of compromise deed dated 19.09.2022 (Annexure P-2).

2. On 27.09.2022, 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 seeking quashing of FIR No.0150 dated 14.09.2022, registered for offences punishable under Sections 420, 465, 467, 468, 471, 120-B of the Indian Penal Code, 1860 at Police Station Sirhind, District Fatehgarh Sahib and subsequent proceedings thereto, on the basis of compromise dated 19.09.2022 (Annexure P-2).

Ld. Counsel for the petitioners contends that

the parties have reconciled their differences. The offences alleged are purely of private nature.

Notice of motion for 19.12.2022.

On the asking of the Court, Mr. Arun Gupta, Assistant Advocate General, Punjab appears and accepts notice on behalf of respondent No.1-State.

Mr. Sidharth Sehgal, Advocate appears and accepts notice on behalf of respondent No.2 and admits the factum of there being a compromise between the parties.

In view of the above, the parties are directed to appear before learned Illaqa Magistrate/Duty Magistrate on 06.10.2022. On their doing so, the learned Illaqa Magistrate/Duty Magistrate 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 Illaqa Magistrate 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/Duty Magistrate 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 CJM, Fatehgarh Sahib dated 13.12.2022 has been received, which is taken on record. As per the report, the trial Court has recorded as follows:-

“xx xx xx

The parties have been identified by their respective counsel. From the above statements of both the parties so recorded by me, the report, as desired, is being submitted hereunder:-

- 1) As per the statements of parties and Investigating Officer SI Charanjit Singh, two persons namely Sukhvir Singh @ Ginni and Hardeep Singh @ Deep, arrayed as accused in the above noted FIR;
- 2) As per the statement of parties as well as Investigating Officer SI Charanjit Singh, no accused was/is declared as proclaimed offender in the above noted FIR;
- 3) As per the statement of the complainant namely Mewa Ram, he has voluntarily compromised the matter with the accused persons without any coercion or undue influence and the said compromise is genuine;
- 4) As per the joint statement of accused persons, except this case they are not involved in any other criminal case. Further, as per the statement of IO SI Charanjit Singh, accused are involved in any other case at P.S. Sirhind;
- 5) As per the statement of complainant Mewa Ram as well as Investigating Officer SI Charanjit Singh, there is only one complainant as well as victim namely Mewa Ram son of Ramji Dass.”

4. Mr. Sidharth Sehgal, 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.150 dated 14.09.2022, registered for offences punishable under Sections 420, 465, 467, 468, 471 and 120-B of IPC at Police Station Sirhind, District Fatehgarh Sahib and all proceedings arising therefrom, are, hereby, quashed qua the petitioners.

(PANKAJ JAIN)
JUDGE

19.12.2022
Dinesh

Whether speaking/reasoned Yes

Whether Reportable : No