

CRM-M-59497-2022

:1:

IN THE HIGH COURT OF PUNJAB AND HARYANA
AT CHANDIGARH

114

CRM-M-59497-2022

Date of Decision: December 20, 2022

Jagjeet

...Petitioner

Versus

State of Haryana

...Respondent

CORAM: HON'BLE MR. JUSTICE AMAN CHAUDHARY

Present:- Mr. Jasdev Singh Thind, Advocate
for the petitioner.

AMAN CHAUDHARY, J.

The present petition under Section 482 of the Cr.P.C. has been filed for quashing the impugned order dated 04.08.2021 (Annexure P-3), passed by Additional Chief Judicial Magistrate, Hisar whereby the petitioner has been erroneously declared as a proclaimed offender.

Learned counsel submits that petitioner was granted bail in FIR lodged against him. He was unable to appear before the trial Court on 01.02.2020 whereby warrants of arrest were issued against him and co-accused Parveen. The petitioner was declared proclaimed offender vide order dated 04.08.2021 (Annexure P-3). It is the submission that non-appearance of the petitioner was neither intentional nor wilful but for reasons beyond his control as he had suffered covid-19 and after long struggle with the said ailment, though, he revived but unfortunately suffered from Jaundice, for which he was under treatment in Rajasthan and Madhya Pradesh by an Ayurveda Vaid and did not have any notice or warrants served on him. On having come to know of the order passed against him, he filed anticipatory bail application before the Court of Additional Sessions

Judge which was dismissed vide order dated 21.10.2022. He submits that petitioner was under wrong impression that the presence of the accused in Court is not necessary during Covid-19 period and he himself was restrained to be in contact with public on account of he having suffered the said ailment.

He, however, submits that the petitioner is ready and willing to join the proceedings, and prays that one opportunity may be granted for the petitioner to surrender before the learned trial Court, which may even be, subject to payment of costs. In support of his arguments learned counsel for the petitioner relies upon the orders of this Court in CRM-M-38277-2022 dated 26.08.2022, in the case of “Surjit Singh Vs. State of Punjab”, CRM-M-39000-2022, titled as “Raghav vs. State of Punjab”, decided on 9.9.2022 and CRM-M-36490-2022, “Major Singh vs. State of Punjab”, decided on 15.9.2022.

Notice of motion.

Ms. Aditi Girdhar, AAG, Haryana, who has appeared on receipt of advance copy of the petition, opposes the petition by submitting that the impugned order has been rightly passed by the learned trial Court.

Heard.

The very purpose of issuance of non-bailable warrants, is to compel and secure the presence of the accused to face trial and establish the rule of law so as to ensure finalization of the proceedings.

Adverting to the facts of the present case inasmuch as the petitioner was suffering from Covid-19 and Jaundice, thus could not appear before the trial Court, leading to the passing of the impugned order, which

appears to be justified explanation of absence. At times, the accused or his counsel can be prevented by sufficient reasons to put an appearance before the Court on a given date and every such absence cannot necessarily be construed as deliberate and willful. However, it is incumbent upon him to join the proceedings, before the trial Court, for the culmination of the same. Considering the fact that the absence of the petitioner being not willful or deliberate and his readiness and willingness to surrender and join the proceedings, in case one opportunity is granted to the petitioner, no prejudice shall be caused to any of the parties, rather his joining the proceedings would help expediting the trial. Thus, in order to make the ends of justice meet and finding judgments referred to above being applicable to the instant case, the present petition deserves to be allowed.

In view of the facts and circumstances of this case and the judgments referred to above, the impugned order 04.08.2021 (Annexure P-3), is set aside, subject to deposit of Rs.10,000/- with the Bar Welfare Association, Hissar. The petitioner is directed to surrender before the trial Court on or before 28.12.2022 and furnish his fresh bail/ surety bonds. On so doing, the trial Court shall release him on bail by imposing surety to its satisfaction. He is also directed to furnish an undertaking by way of his affidavit that he will appear on each and every date of hearing before the trial Court, unless specifically exempted by the Court. He shall also surrender his passport and will not leave the country without prior permission of the Court or the trial Court may impose any other condition that it may deem appropriate in the facts and circumstances of the present case.

Before parting with this order, it is made abundantly clear that in case the petitioner does not adhere to the aforesaid, the present petition shall be deemed to have been dismissed without any reference to this Court.

December 20, 2022
Rimpal

(AMAN CHAUDHARY)
JUDGE

Whether reasoned/speaking:

Yes/No

Whether reportable:

Yes/No