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**IN THE HIGH COURT OF JUDICATURE AT BOMBAY
CRIMINAL APPELLATE JURISDICTION
WRIT PETITION NO. 3021 OF 2023**

- | | |
|---|----------------|
| 1. Aanamika Bholanath Gupta
2. Aslam Mohammed Roshan
3. Kumar Madhu Naidu | ...Petitioners |
| Versus | |
| 1. State of Maharashtra
2. Usha Chandrakant Shah | ...Respondents |

Mr. Karansingh Rajput i/b Mr. Sanket Mungale for the Petitioners.

Ms S.S. Kaushik, APP for the Respondent/State.

Ms Sushma Singh for Respondent No.2.

**CORAM : NITIN W. SAMBRE &
N. R. BORKAR, JJ.**

DATE : 4 OCTOBER, 2023.

PC:-

1. The present petition under Article 226 of the Constitution of India is filed to quash the First Information Report No.367 of 2022 dated 6 August 2022 registered at Gamdevi Police Station, Mumbai for the offences punishable under Sections 420, 465, 467, 468, 471, 474 read with 34 of the Indian Penal Code.

2. The aforesaid crime came to be registered against the petitioners on the basis of report lodged by respondent No.2. According to the respondent No.2, petitioner No.1 was inducted as a licensee in the flat owned by her for the period of 11 months, i.e., from 20 November 2020 to 19 October 2021. It is alleged that petitioner No.1, however, in connivance with

petitioner No.2 got prepared forged tenancy agreement and filed the Suit on the basis of said forged document.

3. The quashing of FIR is sought on the ground that there has been an amicable settlement between the parties and respondent No.2 is no longer desirous of prosecuting the case in question.

4. The learned counsel for the petitioners and the learned counsel for the respondent No.2 jointly submit that in view of settlement arrived at between the parties no purpose would be served by keeping the prosecution alive. It is submitted that the present case is squarely covered by the law laid down by the Hon'ble Supreme Court in the case of ***Narinder Singh and ors. Vs. State of Punjab and anr***¹.

5. The respondent No.2, who is identified by her Advocate Ms Sushma Singh, is personally present in the Court. She confirms about the settlement arrived at with the petitioners, and the contents of the consent affidavit dated 11 August 2023 filed by her, wherein she has stated that she has no objection if the criminal case in question against the petitioners is quashed.

6. The Hon'ble Supreme Court in *Narinder Singh and ors vs. State of Punjab and another*² has held :

“ 29. In view of the aforesaid discussion, we sum up

¹ (2014) 6 SCC 466

² (2014) 6 SCC 466

and lay down the following principles by which the High Court would be guided in giving adequate treatment to the settlement between the parties and exercising its power under Section 482 of the Code while accepting the settlement and quashing the proceedings or refusing to accept the settlement with direction to continue with the criminal proceedings:

29.1. Power conferred under Section 482 of the Code is to be distinguished from the power which lies in the Court to compound the offences under Section 320 of the Code. No doubt, under Section 482 of the Code, the High Court has inherent power to quash the criminal proceedings even in those cases which are not compoundable, where the parties have settled the matter between themselves. However, this power is to be exercised sparingly and with caution.

29.2. When the parties have reached the settlement and on that basis petition for quashing the criminal proceedings is filed, the guiding factor in such cases would be to secure:

- (i) ends of justice, or*
- (ii) to prevent abuse of the process of any court.*

While exercising the power the High Court is to form an opinion on either of the aforesaid two objectives.

29.3. Such a power is not to be exercised in those prosecutions which involve heinous and serious offences of mental depravity or offences like murder, rape, dacoity, etc. Such offences are not private in nature and have a serious impact on society. Similarly, for offences alleged to have been committed under special statute like the [Prevention of Corruption Act](#) or the offences committed by public servants while working in that capacity are not to be quashed merely on the basis of compromise between the victim and the offender.

29.4. On the other, those criminal cases having overwhelmingly and predominantly civil character, particularly those arising out of commercial transactions or arising out of matrimonial relationship or family disputes should be quashed when the parties have resolved their entire disputes among themselves.

29.5. While exercising its powers, the High Court is to examine as to whether the possibility of conviction is remote and bleak and continuation of criminal cases would put the accused to great oppression and prejudice and extreme injustice would be caused to him by not quashing the criminal cases."

7. The dispute between the parties appears to be of civil nature. In view of the settlement between the parties, the respondent No.2 is not going to support the prosecution case and therefore, the possibility of conviction is remote and bleak. Considering overall facts and circumstances, in our view, the petition deserves to be allowed. Hence, the Petition is allowed in terms of prayer clause (a), subject to payment of cost of Rs.25000/- by each petitioner to the Police Welfare Fund viz. "Mumbai Police Welfare Fund Account No.465010100008693 IFC code: UTIB0000465" within six weeks from today and the receipt of payment of cost shall be produced with the Registry, failing which the order of quashing the criminal proceedings shall stand recalled.

8. Writ Petition is disposed of.

(N.R. BORKAR, J.)

(NITIN W. SAMBRE, J.)