

IN THE HIGH COURT OF PUNJAB & HARYANA
AT CHANDIGARH

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CRM-M-8484-2023 (O&M)

Date of decision: 13.04.2023

GURJEET SINGH AND OTHERS

....Petitioner(s)

Versus

STATE OF PUNJAB AND ANOTHER

...Respondent(s)

CORAM: HON'BLE MR. JUSTICE AMAN CHAUDHARY

Present : Mr. Vikram Kumar, Advocate for
Mr. Nikhil Batta, Advocate
for the petitioners.

Mr. Manipal Singh Atwal, DAG Punjab.

Ms. Suman Kumari, Advocate
for the complainant-respondent No.2.

AMAN CHAUDHARY. J.

Present petition has been filed for quashing of FIR No.298, dated 27.09.2022, under Sections 406, 420, 120-B of Indian Penal Code and Section 13 Punjab Prevention of Human Smuggling Act, registered at Police Station Tripuri, District Patiala, Punjab, and all other consequential proceedings arising therefrom on the basis of the compromise dated 27.01.2023 (Annexure P-2).

Notice of motion was issued on 17.02.2023 and both the parties were directed to appear before the trial Court for recording their statements in the context of genuineness of the compromise. The trial Court was also directed to submit its report with regard to genuineness of the compromise.

Pursuant to the aforesaid order, report dated 01.04.2023 has been received from the learned Judicial Magistrate 1st Class, Patiala. A perusal of the said report reveals that statements of the concerned persons have been recorded in

the present case, who have stated that the matter has been settled between the parties and they have no objection in case the FIR in question is quashed and the compromise effected between them is genuine, without any undue influence and coercion. It is stated in the report that there are six accused. None of the accused has been declared as proclaimed offender and none of them is involved in any other FIR.

I have heard learned counsel for the parties and have also gone through the case file.

The Full Bench of this Court in “***Kulwinder Singh and others Vs State of Punjab***”, 2007 (3) RCR (Criminal) 1052, 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 view that the same was 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 Supreme Court of India in the case of “***Gian Singh Vs. State of Punjab and another***”, 2012 (4) RCR (Criminal) 543, had 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 reads thus:-

“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”

Hon'ble The Supreme Court of India in case of “**Jayrajsingh Digvijaysingh Rana vs State of Gujrat and another**”, 2012(12) SCC 401, held that where there is a partial compromise with some of the accused even then also the proceedings against the said accused should be quashed as the same would not even remotely result in his conviction.

In view of the judgments referred to above, perusing the report of the trial Court regarding amicable settlement between the petitioner(s) and the complainant(s), this Court finds that quashing the FIR will accord a quietus to all disputes between the parties and it is in the interest of both sides to bury the hatchet and lead a peaceful life. Thus, no useful purpose would be served in continuing the proceedings and in order to secure the ends of justice, the criminal proceedings in the present case deserve to be quashed.

Resultantly, the present petition is allowed and FIR No.298, dated 27.09.2022, under Sections 406, 420, 120-B of Indian Penal Code and Section 13 Punjab Prevention of Human Smuggling Act, registered at Police Station Tripuri, District Patiala, Punjab, and all other consequential proceedings arising therefrom on the basis of the compromise dated 27.01.2023 (Annexure P-2), are quashed qua the petitioners.

(AMAN CHAUDHARY)
JUDGE

April 13, 2023

M.Kamra

Whether speaking/reasoned	:	Yes/No
Whether reportable	:	Yes/No