

121 THE HIGH COURT OF PUNJAB AND HARYANA
AT CHANDIGARH

CRM-M-11069-2023

Date of Decision: 03.03.2023

DEVENDER GAUTAM

...Petitioner

V/s

STATE OF HARYANA AND ANOTHER

...Respondent

CORAM: HON'BLE MR. JUSTICE DEEPAK MANCHANDA

Present: Mr. Kartar Singh Malik-I, Advocate
for the petitioner.

DEEPAK MANCHANDA J.

By way of present petition, the petitioner is seeking quashing of FIR No. 120 dated 29.05.2019 registered under Section 174-A IPC at Police Station IMT Rohtak, District Rohtak and consequential proceedings arising therefrom as a sequel to order dated 16.03.2019 (Annexure P-4) passed by JMIC, Rohtak in complaint bearing No. COMA-2766/2017 filed under Section 138 of the Negotiable Instruments Act 1881, whereby the petitioner was declared a proclaimed person.

Learned counsel for the petitioner refers to order dated 26.02.2021 (Annexure P-5) passed by the trial Court, whereby the complainant withdrew the complaint filed under Section 138 of Negotiable Instruments Act 1881, acknowledging the fact that accused has made the entire payment.

Precisely the contention of learned counsel for the petitioner is that once the complaint filed under Section 138 of the NI Act stands withdrawn and the liability which was alleged against the petitioner stands satisfied, the present proceedings under Section 174-A IPC should not be allowed to continue.

Notice of motion restricted to respondents No. 1 only.

Mr. Bhupender Singh, DAG Haryana, who is present in the Court, accepts notice on behalf of respondent No. 1-State.

In view of the facts and circumstances as pleaded by the parties, it is apparent that the present FIR came into existence owing to the petitioner having been declared proclaimed person in the proceedings under Section 138 of the NI Act. The said complaint stands withdrawn. Thus the question would arise as to whether the proceedings under Section 174-A IPC should be allowed to continue after compounding of offence under which accused was declared proclaimed offender or not? The said question is no more *res-integra* and already stands settled by the Co-ordinate Bench of this Court in CRM-M-43813-2018 titled as ***“Baldev Chand Bansal Vs. State of Haryana and another”*** vide order dated 29.01.2019, which held as under:

“Prayer in this petition is for quashing of FIR No.64 dated 15.02.2017 filed under Section 174-A of the Indian Penal Code registered at Police Station Sector-5, Panchkula and all other subsequent proceedings arising thereof as well as order dated 24.10.2016 passed by the trial Court vide which a direction was issued to register the aforesaid FIR.”

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*Learned counsel for the petitioner has relied upon the decisions rendered by this Court in “**Vikas Sharma vs. Gurpreet Singh Kohli and another (supra), 2017, (3) L.A.R.584, Microqual Techno Limited and others Vs. State of Haryana and another, 2015 (32) RCR (Crl.) 790 and “Rajneesh Khanna Vs. State of Haryana and another” 2017(3) L.A.R. 555** wherein in an identical circumstance, this Court has held that since the main petition filed under Section 138 of the Act stands withdrawn in view of an amicable settlement between the parties, therefore, continuation of proceedings under Section 174A of IPC shall be nothing but an abuse of the process of law.*

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In view of the same, I find merit in the present petition and accordingly, present petition is allowed and the impugned order dated 24.10.2016 passed by Judicial Magistrate, 1st Class, Panchkula as well as FIR No.64 dated 15.02.2017 registered under Section 174-A of the Indian Penal Code

at Police Station Sector-5, Panchkula and all other subsequent proceedings arising thereof, are hereby quashed."

Same is the view of another Co-ordinate Bench in the “**Ashok Madaan vs. State of Haryana and another**” reported as 2020 (4) RCR (Criminal) 87, wherein it has been held that:

“No doubt, the learned counsel for the respondent has vehemently argued that the offence under Section 174-A I.P.C. Is independent of the main case, therefore, merely because the main case has been dismissed for want of prosecution, the present petition cannot be allowed, however, keeping in view the fact that the present FIR was registered only on account of absence from the proceedings in the main case which had been subsequently regularised by the court while granting bail to the petitioner, the default stood condoned. In such circumstances, continuation of proceedings under Section 174A I.P.C. shall be abuse of the process of court.

7. Accordingly, the petition is allowed. FIR No. 446 dated 21.08.2017, registered under Section 174A I.P.C. At Police Station Kotwali, District Faridabad, as well as consequential proceedings shall stand quashed.”

Keeping in view the facts and circumstances of the case and in view of the principles settled by various Courts, the present petition is allowed. The impugned FIR No. 120 dated 29.05.2019 under Section 174-A I.P.C. registered at Police Station IMT Rohtak, District Rohtak and all consequential proceedings are hereby quashed.

(DEEPAK MANCHANDA)
JUDGE

March 03, 2023
Ajay Goswami