

IN THE HIGH COURT OF PUNJAB AND HARYANA AT CHANDIGARH

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CRM-M-13498-2023

Date of Decision: 19.07.2023

Ashwani Mahajan

.... Petitioner

Versus

State of U.T. Chandigarh and another

.... Respondents

CORAM: HON'BLE MS. JUSTICE NIDHI GUPTA

Present: - Mr. Sanjeev Kumar, Advocate for the petitioner.

Mr. Deepinder Brar, Addl. P.P. for U.T. Chandigarh.

Mr. Arun Kumar Sharma, Advocate for respondent No. 2.

NIDHI GUPTA, J. (ORAL)

The petitioner has filed the present petition under Section 482 Cr.P.C., for quashing FIR No. 122 dated 26.04.2018 (Annexure P-1) registered under Sections 376-B and 377 IPC at Police Station Industrial Area, Phase-1 Chandigarh and all the consequential proceedings arising therefrom, on the basis of compromise deed dated 18.01.2019 (Annexure P-2).

Pursuant to the order dated 17.03.2023 passed by a co-ordinate Bench of this Court, the parties appeared before the Presiding Officer, Fast Track Special Court, Chandigarh, to get their statements recorded. Learned Presiding Officer, Fast Track Special Court, Chandigarh, has submitted her report along with copies of statements of the parties vide letter dated 20.04.2023 duly forwarded by the learned District and Sessions Judge, Chandigarh.

A perusal of the above said report would show that the petitioner and respondent No. 2 have appeared and suffered statements with respect to the compromise, which have been found to be voluntary, genuine, and out of free will.

Learned counsel for the petitioner has further submitted that the petitioner was not declared proclaimed offender in the present case.

Learned State counsel has stated that he has no objection in case the FIR is quashed on the basis of compromise qua the petitioner.

Learned counsel for respondent No. 2 has again reiterated that the matter has been settled and the said compromise is in the interest of all the persons and would help in bringing out peace and amity between the two parties.

This Court has heard the learned counsel for the parties and has perused the file.

After perusing the report submitted by the learned Presiding Officer, Fast Track Special Court, Chandigarh, this Court finds that the matter has been amicably settled between the petitioner and the complainant. Since the matter has been settled and the parties have decided to live in peace, this Court feels that in order to secure the ends of justice, the criminal proceedings deserve to be quashed.

As per the Full Bench judgment of this Court in ***“Kulwinder Singh and others Vs State of Punjab”, 2007 (3) RCR (Criminal) 1052***, it is 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 opinion that the same is 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 Apex Court in the case of “*Gian Singh Vs. State of Punjab and another*”, 2012 (4) RCR (Criminal) 543, had also 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 is reproduced here-in-below:-

“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.”

In view of what has been discussed here-in-above, this petition is allowed and FIR No. 122 dated 26.04.2018 (Annexure P-1) registered under Sections 376-B and 377 IPC at Police Station Industrial Area, Phase-1 Chandigarh, along with all other consequential proceedings arising therefrom on the basis of compromise, are ordered to be quashed qua the petitioner.

19.07.2023
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(NIDHI GUPTA)
JUDGE

Whether speaking/reasoned
Whether Reportable

Yes/No
Yes/No