

IN THE HIGH COURT OF PUNJAB & HARYANA
AT CHANDIGARH

222

CRM-M-13829-2023 (O&M)

Date of decision: 26.04.2023

SURINDER SINGH

....Petitioner(s)

Versus

STATE OF PUNJAB

...Respondent(s)

CORAM: HON'BLE MR. JUSTICE AMAN CHAUDHARY

Present : Mr. Amit Arora, Advocate
for the petitioner.

Mr. Manipal Singh Atwal, DAG Punjab.

AMAN CHAUDHARY. J.

The present petition has been filed under Section 439 Cr.P.C. for the grant of regular bail to the petitioner in respect of FIR No.80 dated 27.09.2022, under Sections 21 of NDPS Act (Offence under Section 29 of NDPS Act added later on), registered at Police Station Arif ke, District Ferozepur.

Learned counsel contends that the petitioner is in custody for last about 7 months. The alleged recovery from the petitioner is 200 grams of herion, which is non-commercial in nature. The contraband recovered from co-accused was also of non-commercial quantity, who has been granted bail by this Court, on the basis of his custody being 6 months and not involved in any other case. Though, there is one more case against the petitioner under the NDPS Act, however, the alleged recovery of non-commercial quantity of contraband has been effected from him and he is on bail in the said case. In this regard he relies on the judgment dated 16.01.2012 passed by Hon'ble The Supreme Court of India in Criminal Appeal No.159 of 2012 titled as **Maulana Mohd. Amir Rashadi vs. State of U.P. and others**, 2012(2) SCC 382.

Charges were framed on 06.03.2023, however, the prosecution evidence is yet to

commence. In total, there are 14 prosecution witnesses.

Learned State counsel has produced the custody certificate dated 24.04.2023, which is taken on record, as per which the custody of the petitioner is 6 months and 27 days. He opposes the bail on the ground that the petitioner was apprehended at the spot and non-commercial quantity of contraband has been recovered from him. There is one more FIR registered against him under the NDPS Act and two under IPC. He is however unable to controvert the submissions with regard to stage of trial, the petitioner on bail in the other case as also the co-accused having been granted regular bail.

Heard.

Hon'ble The Supreme Court of India in the case of **Maulana Mohd.**

Amir Rashadi (*Supra*) had observed as under:-

“As observed by the High Court, merely on the basis of criminal antecedents, the claim of the second respondent cannot be rejected. In other words, it is the duty of the Court to find out the role of the accused in the case in which he has been charged and other circumstances such as possibility of fleeing away from the jurisdiction of the Court etc.”

In view of the facts and circumstances of the case, in particular that the petitioner is in custody for the last 6 months and 27 days; non-commercial quantity of contraband has been recovered from him, therefore, rigors of Section 37 of NDPS Act are not attracted in the present case; co-accused had already been granted regular bail; though the charges were framed on 06.03.2023, however, the prosecution evidence is yet to commence; in all, there are 14 prosecution witnesses; the trial is likely to take a considerable time, his further detention behind bars would not serve any useful purpose, thus the present petition for grant of regular bail deserves to be allowed.

As a result, the present petition is allowed. The petitioner is ordered to

be released on regular bail, subject to his furnishing bail/surety bonds to the satisfaction of trial Court/Duty Magistrate concerned and subject to him not being required in any other case. The petitioner shall abide by the following conditions:-

- 1. The petitioner will not tamper with the evidence during the trial.
- 2. The petitioner will not pressurize/ intimidate the prosecution witnesses.
- 3. The petitioner will appear before the trial Court on each and every date fixed, unless is exempted by a specific order of Court.
- 4. The petitioner shall not commit an offence similar to the offence of which, he is an accused, or for commission of which he is suspected of.
- 5. The petitioner shall not directly or indirectly coerce, induce, threaten or promise to any person acquainted with the facts of the case so as to dissuade him/ her from disclosing such facts to the Court or to any police officer or tamper with the evidence in any manner.
- 6. The petitioner shall not in any manner misuse his liberty.
- 7. The petitioner shall furnish his address and mobile number to the Trial Court forthwith and shall not change the same till the conclusion of the trial and in case for any reason, the petitioner seeks to change any of the aforesaid, the same shall be done only with prior intimation to the learned Trial Court, stating the reason for the same.
- 8. The petitioner shall deposit his passport, if any, with the Trial Court forthwith and in case, he does not have the passport, he shall furnish a specific affidavit in this regard.

It is made abundantly clear that in case there is any breach of the aforesaid conditions, the State shall be at liberty to seek cancellation of bail as granted to the petitioner by this order.

In view of the above, this Court makes it clarified that the observations made herein above are limited for the purpose of present proceedings and would not be construed as any opinion on the merits of the case and the trial would proceed independently of the aforesaid observations.

(AMAN CHAUDHARY)
JUDGE

April 26, 2023

M.Kamra

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