

**IN THE HIGH COURT OF PUNJAB AND HARYANA AT
CHANDIGARH**

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CRM-M-18207 of 2023
Date of Decision:17.04.2023.

Sohan Singh Aujla

.....Petitioner

Versus

State of Punjab and another

..... Respondents

CORAM: HON'BLE MR. JUSTICE VIKRAM AGGARWAL

Present: Mr. Gulzar Mohammad, Advocate
for the petitioner.

Mr. M.S. Nagra, A.A.G., Punjab.

VIKRAM AGGARWAL, J. (ORAL)

1. Prayer in the present petition is for issuance of directions to the trial Court to decide the case bearing No.CHI/841 of 07.06.2017 titled as State of Punjab Vs. Sohan Singh Aujla and others, FIR No.154 dated 27.05.2016, under Section 384, 506, 182, 120-B of the Indian Penal Code, registered at Police Station Navi Bardari Police Commissionerate, Jalandhar, within some short period of time
2. Learned counsel for the petitioner contends that the FIR in question was registered on 27.05.2016 and charges were framed on 29.08.2017. It has been submitted that thereafter more than 30 opportunities have already been availed by the prosecution and still the prosecution evidence has not been concluded and only two witnesses have been completely examined out of a total of 13 witnesses. He submits that the right of the petitioner for his speedy trial has been seriously and grossly prejudiced. He seeks a direction to the trial Court to decide the case within a short period of time.

4. Mr. M.S. Nagra, A.A.G., Punjab, accepts notice on behalf of the respondent-State.
5. The orders produced on record have been perused. It is indeed disappointing to note that the trial is still pending even 05 years after framing of charges and only two witnesses have been completely examined.
6. No doubt, the trial Courts are heavily burdened. However, this alone cannot be a ground to sacrifice the rights of the litigating parties, even if the party seeking relief is the accused.
7. Without going into the merits of the case, the present petition is disposed of with a direction to the Sessions Judge, Jalandhar to personally look into the matter by summoning the file and sensitize the Presiding Officer of the Court concerned to expeditiously decide the trial by giving short adjournments. A report giving the time period with which the trial will be concluded be sent to this Court separately which shall be put up before the concerned Administrative Judge for perusal.

April 17th, 2023
Rekha

(VIKRAM AGGARWAL)
JUDGE

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