

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

274 (II)

CRM-M-22303-2023 (O&M)

Date of decision: 31.08.2023

Lalit Kumar

....Petitioner

Versus

State of Punjab

...Respondent

CORAM: HON'BLE MR. JUSTICE AMAN CHAUDHARY

Present : Mr. Manoj Pundir and Mr. Jitender Ranga, Advocates
for the petitioner

Mr. Manipal Singh Atwal, DAG Punjab

AMAN CHAUDHARY. J.

1. Prayer in the present petition filed under Section 439 Cr.P.C. is for grant of regular bail to the petitioner in FIR No.274 dated 05.12.2022, registered under Sections 370(5) and 120-B IPC and Section 81 Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act, 2015, at Police Station Samana, District Patiala.

2. Learned counsel contends that the petitioner is in custody for about 9 months. He is not connected with one other co-accused and no recovery of any child or amount has been effected from him and alleges false implication. Co-accused Harpreet Kaur and Sanjit Devi @ Sanjita have been granted regular bails by this Court vide orders of even date. Charges have been framed on 30.08.2023 and in all there are 20 prosecution witnesses. All of them are official witnesses as such there is no possibility of they being influenced. He is not involved in any other case.

3. The custody certificate dated 28.08.2023, filed by learned State

counsel is taken on record, as per which, the petitioner is behind bars for 8 months and 23 days.

4. Learned State counsel opposes the bail on the ground that the petitioner had acted as a middle-man for the trading of newborn and he was apprehended at the spot and a baby was recovered from the Ambulance, of which he was the owner and driver. He is however unable to controvert the submissions made regarding the stage of the case, co-accused having been granted bail and the petitioner not being involved in any other case.

5. Heard.

6. Considering the facts and circumstances of the case, in particular that the petitioner is in custody for last 8 months and 23 days; co-accused have been granted bail; not involved in any other case; charges have been framed on 30.08.2023; there are a total of 20 prosecution witnesses; the trial is likely to take a considerable time, thus his further incarceration would not serve any useful purpose, the present petition for grant of regular bail deserves to be allowed.

7. 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 his not being required in any other case. The petitioner shall abide by the following conditions:-

- (i) The petitioner will not tamper with the evidence during the trial.
- (ii) The petitioner will not pressurize/ intimidate the prosecution witnesses.
- (iii) The petitioner will appear before the trial Court on each and every date fixed, unless is exempted by a specific order of Court.
- (iv) 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.

- (v) 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.
- (vi) The petitioner shall not in any manner misuse his liberty.
- (vii) 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.
- (viii) The petitioner shall not leave the country without prior permission of the trial Court.
- (ix) The trial Court/Duty Magistrate may impose any other condition, as deemed appropriate while releasing the petitioner.

8. 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.

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

(AMAN CHAUDHARY)
JUDGE

August 31, 2023

M.Kamra

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