

310 (2nd case)

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

**CRM-M No.33510-2023
Date of decision: 09.11.2023**

Gurcharan Singh and others

... Petitioners

Versus

State of Punjab and others

...Respondents

CORAM: HON'BLE MR. JUSTICE MAHABIR SINGH SINDHU

Present: Mr. Mahipal S. Yadav, Advocate for the petitioners.

Mr. C.L. Pawar, Addl. A.G., Punjab.

Mr. Sunny K. Singla, Advocate
for respondent Nos. 2 & 3.

MAHABIR SINGH SINDHU, J.

Present petition has been filed under Section 482 Cr.P.C. praying for quashing of FIR No. 164 dated 09.10.2019 under Sections 452, 324, 323, 148, 149 of the Indian Penal Code, 1860 at Police Station Amargarh, District Sangrur along with all subsequent proceedings arising therefrom on the basis of compromise dated 16.10.2019 (P-3), entered into between the parties i.e. petitioners as well as respondent Nos. 2 & 3.

(2) FIR was registered against the petitioners on the statement of the respondent No. 2 with the allegations that the petitioners in connivance with each other inflicted injuries to the respondent Nos. 2 and 3. On the basis of the above allegations, the present FIR was registered against the petitioners.

(3) This Court, while issuing notice of motion on 17.07.2023, passed the following order:-

“Contends, inter alia, that matter has been compromised between the parties.

(2) Notice of motion.

(3) On the asking of the Court, Mr. Joginder Pal Ratra, DAG, Punjab accepts notice on behalf of respondent No. 1/State.

(4) Mr. Mahipal S. Yadav, Advocate, who is present in the Court, has appeared on behalf of respondent Nos. 2 & 3. He acknowledged the factum of compromise dated 16.10.2019 (P-3) arrived at between the parties at their own level.

(5) Requisite number of copies of the petition be supplied to learned Counsel for the respondents during the course of day.

(6) Petitioners shall file their respective affidavits that there is no other criminal case(s) pending against them and also give the details of any other FIR(s), already quashed on the basis of compromise.

(7) In view of the above, let parties appear before the Court of learned Illaqa Magistrate/trial Court on 31.07.2023 for recording their statement(s) with reference to the compromise, if any, entered into between them.

(8) Learned Illaqa Magistrate/trial Court shall record the statement(s) of all accused, complainant/injured and victim, if any, and submit a report to this Court before the next date of hearing containing the following information:-

(i) Whether the statements of the parties are bona fide and not result of any pressure or coercion etc. in any manner?

(ii) Whether the compromise effected between the parties is genuine and valid?

(iii) Whether all the accused, complainant and injured are party to the compromise and if not, the details/particulars of such person(s)?

(iv) Whether any other case is pending against either of the parties or not, if yes, the details thereof?

(v) Whether any of the persons involved in this case/dispute has been declared a proclaimed offender?

(vi) Whether any of the petitioner(s) is/are previous convict or not?

(9) List before this Court on 04.09.2023 for further consideration.

(10) Meanwhile, learned State Counsel shall also get the instructions in the matter as to whether the State has any objection?

(11) Copy of this order be sent to learned Judicial Officer concerned forthwith for information and compliance.”

(4) In terms of aforesaid order, the statements of both the parties were recorded by learned Judicial Magistrate First Class, Malerkotla and submitted a report dated 05.08.2023. The operative part of the same reads as under:-

“The report is submitted as under:

(i) As per the statement of complainant/victims/injured recorded on 31.07.2023, they have entered into compromise with their own free will and without any pressure or coercion or undue influence, hence their statements are bonafide.

(ii) As per the statements of complainant/victims/injured and accused recorded by learned Duty Magistrate on 31.07.2023, the compromise effected between them seeks genuine and valid.

(iii) As per FIR, all the accused, complainant and injured are party to the compromise.

(iv) As per the statement of IO, no any other case is pending against either accused persons or complainant/victims/injured.

(v) As per the statement of IO, no any accused of present case has been declared as Proclaimed Offender.

(vi) As per the statement of IO, no any accused/petitioner is previous convict.

(5) A perusal of the aforesaid report clearly reveals that matter has been compromised by the parties with their free consent, voluntarily and without any coercion or undue influence. Also reveals that no one has been declared as proclaimed offender. Even before this Court also, there is no objection by either side against each other.

(6) Learned State Counsel, on instructions, acknowledged the above factual position. Also submitted that he has no objection in case the aforesaid FIR as well as consequential proceedings are quashed on the basis of compromise effected between the parties.

(7) Learned Counsel for respondent Nos.2 and 3 also raised no objection to the present petition.

(8) The Hon'ble Supreme Court in Gian Singh v. State of Punjab, (2012) 10 SCC 303, has held as under:-

“61. 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 what cases power to quash the criminal proceeding or complaint or FIR may be exercised where the offender and the victim have settled their dispute would depend on the facts and circumstances of each case and no category can be prescribed. However, before exercise of such power, the High Court must have due regard to the nature and gravity of the crime. Heinous and serious offences of mental depravity or offences like murder, rape, dacoity, etc. cannot be fittingly quashed even though the victim or victim's family and the offender have settled the dispute. Such offences are not private in nature and have a serious impact on society. Similarly, any compromise between the victim and the offender in relation to the offences under special statutes like the Prevention of Corruption Act or the offences committed by public servants while working in that capacity, etc.; cannot provide for any basis for quashing criminal proceedings involving such offences. But the criminal cases having overwhelmingly and predominatingly civil flavour stand on a different footing for the purposes of quashing, particularly the offences arising from commercial, financial, mercantile, civil, partnership or such like transactions or the offences arising out of matrimony relating to dowry, etc. or the family disputes where the wrong is basically private or personal in nature and the parties have resolved their entire dispute. In this category of cases, the High Court may quash the criminal proceedings if in its view, because of the compromise between the offender and the victim, the possibility of conviction is remote and bleak and continuation of the criminal case would put the accused to great oppression and prejudice and extreme injustice would be caused to him by not quashing the criminal case despite full and complete settlement and compromise with the victim. In other words, the High Court must consider whether it would be unfair or

contrary to the interest of justice to continue with the criminal proceeding or continuation of the criminal proceeding would tantamount to abuse of process of law despite settlement and compromise between the victim and the wrongdoer and whether to secure the ends of justice, it is appropriate that the criminal case is put to an end and if the answer to the above question(s) is in the affirmative, the High Court shall be well within its jurisdiction to quash the criminal proceeding.”

(9) In view of above, this Court is fully convinced that alleged offence(s) are entirely personal in nature and do not affect any public peace or tranquility. Thus, quashing of the FIR in question along with consequential proceedings, on the basis of compromise, would bring peace and harmony to secure the ends of justice.

(10) Consequently, present petition is allowed; and above FIR along with all subsequent proceedings resulting therefrom are quashed qua the petitioners. However, as a deterrence for the future, petitioners are burdened with costs of Rs.25,000/- (Rs.5000/- each). Costs be deposited with Punjab and Haryana High Court Bar Association, Chandigarh Lawyers Family Welfare Fund.

(11) Pending application(s), if any, shall also stand disposed off.

November 09th, 2023
Harish Kumar

(MAHABIR SINGH SINDHU)
JUDGE

Whether speaking/reasoned	Yes/No
Whether Reportable	Yes/No