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

**CRM-M-35630-2022 (O&M)
Date of Decision: 24.01.2023**

PANKAJ SHARMA

....Petitioner

Versus

STATE OF PUNJAB AND ANOTHER

...Respondents

CORAM: HON'BLE MR. JUSTICE HARSH BUNGER

Present : Mr. Jatinderpal Singh, Advocate
for the petitioner.

Mr. Harjinder S. Sidhu, AAG, Punjab.

Mr. Ankush Thakral, Advocate
for respondent No.2.

HARSH BUNGER, J. (Oral)

This petition has been filed for quashing of FIR No.0186 dated 28.05.2022, under Sections 307 and 323 of Indian Penal Code registered at Police Station City Faridkot, District Faridkot (Annexure P-1) and all the consequent proceedings arising therefrom, on the basis of compromise dated 05.08.2022 (Annexure P-3) arrived at between the parties.

Vide order dated 14.11.2022, the Illaqa Magistrate/trial Court was directed to record the statements of the parties with regard to the genuineness and validity of the compromise.

In compliance thereof, the Sessions Judge Faridkot has submitted its report, vide letter dated 21.12.2022 accompanied with copies of statements of all the concerned as well as of Investigating Officer, which indicates that the parties appeared before him and got recorded their respective statements with regard to the validity of the compromise. As per

the report, the compromise arrived at between the parties is genuine and without any pressure or coercion from any corner. Relevant extract of the said report is reproduced as under:-

“From the aforesaid statements of the parties and Investigating Officer, recorded in the court on 19.12.2022, the report is submitted as under:-

(i) Number of persons arrayed as accused in FIR and those found involved during investigation.

Only accused Pankaj Sharma

(ii) What is the status of the proceedings

Consideration on charge

(iii) Whether any accused is proclaimed offender:

Accused Pankaj Sharma is not declared as Proclaimed Offender in this case nor any such proceedings are initiated or pending against him in this case.

(iv) Whether the accused persons are involved in any other case or not:

Accused Pankaj Sharma is not involved in any other case.

(v) Whether all the concerned have signed the compromise deed:

Compromise deed Mark X has been signed by all the concerned i.e. complainant Ashok Kumar, accused Pankaj Sharma and attested by Rajesh Kumar and Gagandeep Singla.

(vi) Whether the compromise is genuine, voluntary, and without any coercion or undue influence;

Compromise deed Mark X as per statements of the parties recorded in the Court, is genuine, voluntary and without any coercion or undue influence.

(vii) The trial Court is also directed to record the statement of the Investigating Officer as to how many victims/complainants are there in the FIR.

As per the statement of the Investigating Officer ASI Gurbaksh Singh, No.721/FDK, there is only one complainant/injured Ashok Kumar in the FIR.”

A perusal of the said report would show that statements of all

the concerned persons have been recorded in the case, who have stated that

the matter has been compromised and they have no objection in case the FIR in question is quashed. They have further stated that the said compromise was entered into voluntarily and without any pressure.

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 parties.

Learned State counsel submits that after taking bed head tickets and X-ray reports pertaining to respondent No.2, final medical opinion has been obtained. It is submitted that after going through the MLR, MLR X-ray and Ortho and surgery notes in this case, the concerned surgeon opined that injuries No.1 to 15 have already been declared simple in nature and are not endangered to the life of person. Like wise the injuries upon the petitioner were also declared simple in nature and therefore, he does not raise any serious dispute regarding quashing of aforesaid FIR in question.

I have heard the learned counsel for the parties and have perused the file.

In *Shakuntala Sawhney Vs. Kaushalya Sawhney, (1979) 3 SCR 639, at P 642*, Hon'ble Supreme Court observed that the finest hour of Justice arises propitiously when parties, who fell apart, bury the hatchet and weave a sense of fellowship or reunion.

Hon'ble Apex Court in the case of *Gian Singh Versus State of Punjab and another. 2012(4) RCR (Criminal) 543* has held as under:-

“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 what cases power to quash the criminal proceeding or complaint or F.I.R. may be exercised where the offender and 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 serious impact on society. Similarly, any compromise between the victim and offender in relation to the offences under special statutes like 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 pre-dominantly civil flavour stand on 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 personnel in nature and the parties have resolved their entire dispute. In this category of cases, High Court may quash criminal proceedings if in its view, because of the compromise between the offender and victim, the possibility of conviction is remote and bleak and continuation of criminal case would put 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 wrongdoer and whether to secure the ends of justice, it is appropriate that criminal case is put to an end and if the answer to the above question(s) is in affirmative, the High Court shall be well within its jurisdiction to quash the criminal proceeding.”

Still further, the broad principles for exercising the powers under Section 482 were summarized by the Hon'ble Supreme Court in the matter of '**Parbatbhai Aahir @ Parbatbhai Bhimsinhbhai Karmur and others versus State of Gujarat and another**' (2017) 9 SCC 641', the same are extracted as under: 16. The broad principles which emerge from the precedents on the subject, may be summarised in the following propositions :

16.1 Section 482 preserves the inherent powers of the High Court to prevent an abuse of the process of any court or to secure the ends of justice. The provision does not confer new powers. It only recognises and preserves powers which inhere in the High Court;

16.2 The invocation of the jurisdiction of the High Court to quash a First Information Report or a criminal proceeding on the ground that a settlement has been arrived at between the offender and the victim is not the same as the invocation of jurisdiction for the purpose of compounding an offence. While compounding an offence, the power of the court is governed by the provisions of Section 320 of the Code of Criminal

Procedure, 1973. The power to quash under Section 482 is attracted even if the offence is non-compoundable.

16.3 In forming an opinion whether a criminal proceeding or complaint should be quashed in exercise of its jurisdiction under Section 482, the High Court must evaluate whether the ends of justice would justify the exercise of the inherent power;

16.4 While the inherent power of the High Court has a wide ambit and plenitude it has to be exercised; (i) to secure the ends of justice or (ii) to prevent an abuse of the process of any court;

16.5 The decision as to whether a complaint or First Information Report should be quashed on the ground that the offender and victim have settled the dispute, revolves ultimately on the facts and circumstances of each case and no exhaustive elaboration of principles can be formulated;

16.6 In the exercise of the power under Section 482 and while dealing with a plea that the dispute has been settled, the High Court must have due regard to the nature and gravity of the offence. Heinous and serious offences involving mental depravity or offences such as murder, rape and dacoity cannot appropriately be quashed though the victim or the family of the victim have settled the dispute. Such offences are, truly speaking, not private in nature but have a serious impact upon society. The decision to continue with the trial in such cases is founded on the overriding element of public interest in punishing persons for serious offences;

16.7 As distinguished from serious offences, there may be criminal cases which have an overwhelming or predominant

element of a civil dispute. They stand on a distinct footing in so far as the exercise of the inherent power to quash is concerned;

16.8 Criminal cases involving offences which arise from commercial, financial, mercantile, partnership or similar transactions with an essentially civil flavour may in appropriate situations fall for quashing where parties have settled the dispute;

16.9 In such a case, the High Court may quash the criminal proceeding if in view of the compromise between the disputants, the possibility of a conviction is remote and the continuation of a criminal proceeding would cause oppression and prejudice; and

16.10 There is yet an exception to the principle set out in propositions 16.8 and 16.9 above. Economic offences involving the financial and economic well-being of the state have implications which lie beyond the domain of a mere dispute between private disputants. The High Court would be justified in declining to quash where the offender is involved in an activity akin to a financial or economic fraud or misdemeanour. The consequences of the act complained of upon the financial or economic system will weigh in the balance.

In the matter of '*Ramgopal And Another Vs State of Madhya Pradesh, 2021 SCC Online SC 834*', the Hon'ble Supreme Court has held that the matters which can be categorized as personal in nature or in the matter in which the nature of injuries do not exhibit mental depravity or commission of an offence of such a serious nature that quashing of which would override public interest, the Court can quash the FIR in view of the

settlement arrived at amongst the parties. The observation of the Hon'ble Supreme Court is extracted as under:-

“19. We thus sum-up and hold that as opposed to Section 320 Cr.P.C. where the Court is squarely guided by the compromise between the parties in respect of offences ‘compoundable’ within the statutory framework, the extra-ordinary power enjoined upon a High Court under Section 482 Cr.P.C. or vested in this Court under Article 142 of the Constitution, can be invoked beyond the metes and bounds of Section 320 Cr.P.C. Nonetheless, we reiterate that such powers of wide amplitude ought to be exercised carefully in the context of quashing criminal proceedings, bearing in mind: (i) Nature and effect of the offence on the conscious of the society; (ii) Seriousness of the injury, if any; (iii) Voluntary nature of compromise between the accused and the victim; & (iv) Conduct of the accused persons, prior to and after the occurrence of the purported offence and/or other relevant considerations...”

Having appraised the afore-stated parameters and weighing upon the peculiar facts and circumstances of the instant case, this court is inclined to invoke powers under Section 482 Cr.P.C. to quash the criminal proceedings for the following reasons:

- (i) The alleged occurrence prima facie appears to be a result of misunderstanding between the parties as the complainant and petitioner are stated to be known to each other and were having good relations.
- (ii) In the alleged occurrence, the petitioner as well as respondent

No.2 suffered injuries which were declared to be simple in nature.

(iii) The petitioner does not suffer any criminal antecedents and is not involved in any other case.

(iv) The FIR in this case dates back to the May, 2022 and there is nothing on record to show that either before or after the purported compromise, any untoward incident transpired between the parties;

(v) The parties on their own volition, without any coercion or compulsion, willingly and voluntarily have buried their differences and wish to accord a quietus to their dispute;

(vi) The complainant is not likely to support the case of the prosecution. Continuation of the proceedings is likely to be a waste of judicial time.

(vii) The object of law is well served when the parties resolve their differences and chose to peacefully co-exist and live in harmony.

(viii) The grievances having been resolved, no interest of justice would be served by forcing the petitioner to undergo rigours of criminal proceedings.

(ix) Since the Petitioner and the complainant are residents of the same area / town, the quashing of criminal proceedings will advance peace, harmony, and fellowship amongst the parties who have decided to forget and forgive any ill-will and have no vengeance against each other; and continuation of the proceedings is not likely to advance any interest of justice.

(x) The cause of administration of criminal justice system would remain un-effected on acceptance of the amicable settlement between the parties and/or resultant acquittal of the Petitioner.

For the reasons stated above, the present petition is allowed and the criminal proceedings in the aforesaid case FIR No.0186 dated 28.05.2022, under Sections 307 and 323 of Indian Penal Code registered at Police Station City Faridkot, District Faridkot (Annexure P-1) and all the consequent proceedings arising therefrom, are quashed on the basis of compromise dated 05.08.2022 (Annexure P-3) entered into between the parties. However, the same would be subject to payment of costs of Rs.10,000/- to be deposited by the petitioner with the **“Poor Patients' Welfare Fund, PGIMER, Chandigarh”** and the said amount would be spent for the treatment of poor patients within the knowledge of its Medical Superintendent.

Disposed of in the aforesaid terms.

All pending application(s), if any, shall stand disposed of.

24.01.2023
Amandeep

(HARSH BUNGER)
JUDGE

Whether speaking/reasoned:
Whether reportable:

Yes/No
Yes/No