

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

**CRM-M-34528 of 2023
DATE OF DECISION :- 25.09.2023**

Somnath and others

...Petitioners

Versus

State of Punjab and another

...Respondents

CORAM: HON'BLE MR. JUSTICE PANKAJ JAIN

Present:- Mr. Prashant Vashisth, Advocate for the petitioners.

Mr. Kunal Vinayak, AAG, Punjab.

Mr. Nimanyu, Advocate for respondent No. 2.

PANKAJ JAIN, J. (Oral)

By way of present petition, the petitioners are seeking quashing of FIR No.93 dated 8.4.2016, registered for the offence punishable under Sections 323/341/506/148/149/325/379-B of the Indian Penal Code, Police Station Basti Jodhewal, Ludhiana-Police Commissionerate on the basis of compromise dated 20.6.2023 (Annexure P-2).

2. On 19.7.2023, the following order was passed:-

“The present petition has been moved invoking jurisdiction of this Court under Section 482 Cr.PC by the petitioners seeking quashing of FIR No.93 dated 08.04.2016, registered for offences punishable under Sections 323/341/506/148/149/325/379-B of the Indian Penal Code, at Police Station Basti Jodhewal, Ludhiana-Police Commissionerate.

Learned counsel for the petitioners contends that the matter already stands compromised vide compromise dated 20.06.2023 (Annexure P-2).

Notice of motion for 25.09.2023.

On the asking of the Court, Mr. Tarun Aggarwal, Sr. DAG, Punjab accepts notice on behalf of respondent No.1-State. Mr. Nimanyu, Advocate appears and accepts notice on behalf of respondent No.2 and admits the fact of there being a compromise between the parties.

In view of the above, the parties, i.e. the petitioners as well as respondent No.2 are directed to appear before learned Duty Magistrate/Illaq Magistrate/trial Court on 10.08.2023. On their doing so, the learned Duty Magistrate/Illaq Magistrate/trial Court shall record their statements and furnish its report to this Court by the next date of hearing on the following aspects:-

- 1.Number of persons arrayed as accused in the FIR.*
- 2. Whether any accused is proclaimed offender?*
- 3.Whether the compromise is genuine, voluntary and without any coercion or undue influence?*
- 4. Whether the accused persons are involved in any other case or not?*
- 5. 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.*

A copy of the report be also sent to the Registrar Judicial of this Court.

Needless to say that in case for any reason the statements are not recorded on the aforesaid date, the learned Illaq Magistrate/trial Court shall be at liberty to call the parties on any other date but not later than a week thereafter.”

3. Pursuant to the aforesaid order, report from Additional District and Sessions Judge, Ludhiana dated 24.8.2023 has been received, which is taken on record. As per the report, the trial Court has recorded as follows:-

“1. There are four persons arrayed as accused. Three of them are petitioners Somnath, Ravi Kumar and Gaurav Kumar where

as Karam Chand was reported to have died and proceedings were abated vide order dated 17/07/2019 passed by the Predecessor.

2. None of persons arrayed as accused are declared Proclaimed offender.

3. From their statements it appears that the compromise between the parties, whose statements have been recorded, is genuine and without any pressure from any corner and coercion. Copies of their statements recorded in the court are attached herewith for your goodselves kind perusal.

4. As per statement of I.O. Karanjit Singh except the above said FIR no any other criminal case was registered against the above said accused persons.

5. As per statement of I.O. Karanjit Singh in the present FIR there is only one Complainant namely Harish Kumar S/o Des Raj.

Submitted please for kind perusal and necessary action.”

4. Mr. Nimanyu, Advocate appears for respondent No.2 and admits the fact of parties having compromised and states that he has no objection in case the FIR and all proceedings subsequent thereto against the petitioner are quashed.

5. Learned State counsel has stated no objection in case the FIR is quashed based upon the compromise.

6. I have heard learned counsel for the parties and have carefully gone through the records of the case.

7. After considering judgment rendered by the Apex Court in **Gian Singh vs. State of Punjab and another, 2012(10) SCC 303, State of Madhya Pradesh vs. Laxmi Narayan and others (2019) 5 SCC 688, Kulwinder Singh & others Vs. State of Punjab & another, 2007 (3) RCR (Criminal) 1052 and Ram Gopal and another vs. State of Madhya**

Pradesh, 2021(4) R.C.R. (Criminal) 322 (Criminal Appeal No.1489 of 2012 decided on 29th of September, 2021), the proposition of law that emerges from the aforesaid decisions rendered by Apex Court and this Court is :

- (a) *Power u/s 482 Cr.P.C. vested with this Court is not affected by Section 320 of the Code.*
- (b) *However, wider the power greater the caution.*
- (c) *The underlining principle while exercising such power is that it can be invoked to quash the proceedings recognizing compromise between the parties in the matters which are overwhelmingly and predominantly of civil character like commercial transactions or arising out of matrimonial relationship or family disputes.*
- (d) *The said power is not to be exercised in the prosecutions involving heinous and serious offences of mental depravity or offences like murder, rape, dacoity etc. as such offences are not private in nature and have a serious impact on society.*
- (e) *Section 482 Cr.P.C. casts duty upon the High Court to advance interest of justice as well. It is in recognition of this duty casted upon the High Court, that Apex Court held that the High Court would not refuse to quash FIR under Section 307 merely because FIR finds mention thereof. High Court can assess nature of injuries sustained, whether such injuries inflicted on vital/delicate parts of the body/nature of weapons used etc.*
- (f) *Such exercise at the hands of High Court would be permissible only after the evidence is collected after investigation and chargesheet is filed/charges framed during the trial. Such exercise cannot be carried out while the matter is still under investigation.*
- (g) *While quashing FIR in non-compoundable offences even which are of private in nature, High Court is required to*

consider antecedents of the accused, conduct of the accused and whether he was absconding or whether he has managed the complainant to enter into a compromise.

8. Thus, keeping in view the aforesaid facts and circumstances, this Court is of the considered opinion that it is a fit case to exercise jurisdiction vested u/s 482 Cr.P.C. to quash the FIR as :-

(i) *The present matter does not fall within the exceptions as carved out in **Laxmi Narayan's** case (supra).*

(ii) *The offences are of private nature.*

(iii) *The parties have compromised.*

(iv) *As per the report received the compromise is said to be voluntary in its nature.*

(v) *Complainant/victim has entered into compromise on his own volition.*

9. Consequently, the petition is allowed. FIR No.93 dated 8.4.2016, registered for the offence punishable under Sections 323/341/506/148/149/325/379-B of the Indian Penal Code, Police Station Basti Jodhewal, Ludhiana-Police Commissionerate and all proceedings arising therefrom, are, hereby, quashed qua the petitioners.

(PANKAJ JAIN)
JUDGE

25.09.2023

p.singh

Whether speaking/reasoned

Yes/No

Whether Reportable

Yes/No