

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

265

CRM-M-38663-2022

Date of Decision: 12.01.2023

Sumit Sharma and Others

...Petitioners

Versus

State of Haryana and Others

...Respondents

CORAM: HON'BLE MR. JUSTICE JAGMOHAN BANSAL

Present:- Mr. Anshuman Dalal, Advocate for the petitioners

Ms. Priyanka Sadar, AAG, Haryana

Mr. Yogesh Jangra, Advocate for

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

JAGMOHAN BANSAL, J. (Oral)

The petitioners through instant petition under Section 482 Cr.P.C, on the basis of Compromise dated 21.05.2022 (Annexure P-2), are seeking quashing of FIR No.84 dated 12.10.2018 (Annexure P-1) under Sections 323, 406, 498-A & 506 of IPC, registered at Police Yamuna Nagar, along with all subsequent proceedings arising therefrom.

Learned counsels for the petitioners and respondent Nos.2 and 3 are *ad-idem* that marriage between the contesting parties stands dissolved, vide order dated 06.12.2022 passed by Family Court, Yamuna Nagar.

In terms of order dated 30.08.2022 of this Court, Judicial Magistrate, First Class, Jagadhri, has submitted her report dated 07.12.2022. The relevant extracts of the report are as below:-

“2. *On oral inquiry all the parties have stated that the matter has been settled amicably without any*

pressure, undue influence or coercion in any manner. I also specifically inquired from the complainant/victims about the validity of compromise. They stated that the compromise arrived at in the said matter is voluntarily and without any kind of undue influence or coercion.

3. *Statements of both the parties regarding compromise recorded separately. Same are attached herewith.*

4. *It is submitted that I am satisfied that the matter has been settled between the parties amicably/voluntarily. Thus, the compromise in the present case is genuine, voluntary and without any coercion or undue influence. It is further submitted that as per statement of Investigating Officer Mukesh Kumari No.495, PS Gandhi Nagar, Yamuna Nagar, in the present case none of the accused has been declared proclaimed offender and no other criminal case is pending against the accused/complainant/victim.”*

Learned State counsel and learned counsel for respondent Nos.2 & 3 would submit that they have no objection, if the present FIR and subsequent proceedings are quashed.

Relying upon its earlier judgments in 'Gian Singh Vs. State of Punjab and others, (2012) 10 SCC 303' and 'The State of Madhya Pradesh Vs. Laxmi Narayan and others (2019) 5 SCC 688', a two Judge Bench of the Hon'ble Supreme Court in 'Ramgopal and another Vs. State of Madhya Pradesh 2021 SCC online SC 834' while dealing with power of High Court under Section 482 of Cr.P.C. to quash non-compoundable offences on the basis of compromise between the disputing parties has held:

“11. True it is that offences which are ‘non-compoundable’ cannot be compounded by a criminal court in purported exercise of its powers under Section 320 Cr.P.C. Any such attempt by the court would amount to alteration, addition and modification of Section 320 Cr.P.C, which is the exclusive domain of Legislature. There is no patent or latent ambiguity in the language of Section 320 Cr.P.C., which may justify its wider interpretation and include such offences in the docket of ‘compoundable’ offences which have been consciously kept out as non-compoundable. Nevertheless, the limited jurisdiction to compound an offence within the framework of Section 320 Cr.P.C. is not an embargo against invoking inherent powers by the High Court vested in it under Section 482 Cr.P.C. The High Court, keeping in view the peculiar facts and circumstances of a case and for justifiable reasons can press Section 482 Cr.P.C. in aid to prevent abuse of the process of any Court and/or to secure the ends of justice.

12. The High Court, therefore, having regard to the nature of the offence and the fact that parties have amicably settled their dispute and the victim has willingly consented to the nullification of criminal proceedings, can quash such proceedings in exercise of its inherent powers under Section 482 Cr.P.C., even if the offences are non- compoundable. The High Court can indubitably evaluate the consequential effects of the offence beyond the body of an individual and thereafter adopt a pragmatic approach, to ensure that the felony, even if goes unpunished, does not tinker with or paralyze the very object of the administration of criminal justice system.

13. It appears to us that criminal proceedings involving non-heinous offences or where the offences are pre-dominantly of a private nature, can be annulled irrespective of the fact that trial has already been concluded or appeal stands dismissed

against conviction. Handing out punishment is not the sole form of delivering justice.

Societal method of applying laws evenly is always subject to lawful exceptions. It goes without saying, that the cases where compromise is struck post-conviction, the High Court ought to exercise such discretion with rectitude, keeping in view the circumstances surrounding the incident, the fashion in which the compromise has been arrived at, and with due regard to the nature and seriousness of the offence, besides the conduct of the accused, before and after the incidence. The touchstone for exercising the extra-ordinary power under Section 482 Cr.P.C. would be to secure the ends of justice. There can be no hard and fast line constricting the power of the High Court to do substantial justice. A restrictive construction of inherent powers under Section 482 Cr.P.C. may lead to rigid or specious justice, which in the given facts and circumstances of a case, may rather lead to grave injustice.

On the other hand, in cases where heinous offences have been proved against perpetrators, no such benefit ought to be extended, as cautiously observed by this Court in Narinder Singh & Ors. vs. State of Punjab & Ors.³ and Laxmi Narayan (Supra).

In other words, grave or serious offences or offences which involve moral turpitude or have a harmful effect on the social and moral fabric of the society or involve matters concerning public policy, cannot be construed betwixt two individuals or groups only, for such offences have the potential to impact the society at large. Effacing abominable offences through quashing process would not only send a wrong signal to the community but may also accord an undue benefit to unscrupulous habitual or professional offenders, who can secure a 'settlement' through duress, threats, social boycotts, bribes or other dubious means. It is

well said that “let no guilty man escape, if it can be avoided.”

From the perusal of the enclosed FIR, report of the Trial Court and compromise arrived between the parties, it transpires that contesting parties have amicably resolved their issue, thus, no useful purpose would be served by continuing the proceedings. There appears to be no chance of conviction, thus, continuance of the proceedings would just waste valuable judicial time and it is well-known fact that courts are already over burdened.

In view of above facts and circumstances and on account of the fact that marriage between the contesting parties stands dissolved, the present petition deserves to be allowed and accordingly is allowed. FIR No.84 dated 12.10.2018 (Annexure P-1) under Sections 323, 406, 498-A & 506 of IPC, registered at Police Yamuna Nagar, along with all subsequent proceedings arising therefrom, are hereby quashed qua the petitioners.

(JAGMOHAN BANSAL)
JUDGE

12.01.2023

Mohit Kumar

Whether speaking/reasoned *Yes/No*

Whether reportable *Yes/No*