

221 IN THE HIGH COURT OF PUNJAB AND HARYANA
AT CHANDIGARH

CRM-M-44084-2022
Date of decision: 01.02.2023

Pitar Masih ...Petitioner

Versus

State of Punjab ...Respondent

CORAM: HON'BLE MR. JUSTICE ANOOP CHITKARA

Present: Mr. Amit Arora, Advocate
for the petitioner(s)

Mr. Virat Rana, AAG, Punjab

ANOOP CHITKARA, J.

FIR No.	Dated	Police Station	Sections
0197	14.11.2019	Sadar Kapurthala, District Kapurthala	457, 380, IPC,1860 (411 IPC added later on)

1. The petitioner apprehending arrest in the FIR captioned above had come up before this Court under Section 438 CrPC seeking anticipatory bail.

2. Vide order dated 27.10.2022, the petitioner was granted interim protection by the Co-ordinate Bench of this Court, which is continuing till date subject to the joining of investigation by the petitioner.

3. The petitioner's counsel argued that the custodial investigation would serve no purpose whatsoever, and the pre-trial incarceration would cause an irreversible injustice to the petitioner and family.

4. The State's counsel opposes the bail and submits that the petitioner did not join the investigation even for one day and the bail be cancelled.

4.(a) At this stage, counsel for the petitioner submits that the bail may not be cancelled and seeks one more opportunity to do the needful. Moreover, he has no objection in case this Court imposes stringent conditions.

REASONING:

5. On the submission of counsel for the petition, there would be no justification to discontinue the interim protection, and the same is made absolute subject to the

petitioner complying with the terms of the bail order and the following additional conditions.

6. Given the nature of the allegations and the other circumstances peculiar to this case, the petitioner shall surrender all weapons, firearms, ammunition, if any, along with the arms license to the concerned authority within fifteen days from today and inform the Investigator about the compliance. However, subject to the Indian Arms Act, 1959, the petitioner shall be entitled to renew and take it back in case of acquittal in this case, provided otherwise permissible in the concerned rules.

7. That the petitioner shall join the investigation on 06.02.2023 at 9:00 a.m. in the concerned police station and thereafter as and when called by the Investigator. ***If the petitioner fails to comply with this condition, then on this ground alone, the bail might be canceled, and the State may file such application for the cancellation of bail***

8. In return for the protection from incarceration, the Court believes that the accused shall also reciprocate through desirable behavior. ***It is clarified that in case the petitioner does not mend his ways and repeats the offence or indulge in criminal behaviour, then in all future matters, the concerned courts shall keep it as a factor that this court had afforded a final opportunity to the petitioner to reform and live a normal life but did not mend his ways.***

9. The conditions mentioned above imposed by this court are to endeavour that the accused does not repeat the offence and to ensure the safety of the witnesses, victim, and their families. In Sushila Aggarwal, (2020) 5 SCC 1, Para 92, the Constitutional Bench held that unusually, subject to the evidence produced, the Courts can impose restrictive conditions. In Sumit Mehta v. State of N.C.T. of Delhi, (2013) 15 SCC 570, Para 11, Supreme Court holds that while exercising power Under Section 438 of the Code, the Court is duty-bound to strike a balance between the individual's right to personal freedom and the right of investigation of the police. While exercising utmost restraint, the Court can impose conditions countenancing its object as permissible under the law to ensure an uninterrupted and unhampered investigation. In Mohammed Zubair v. State of NCT of Delhi, Writ Petition (Criminal) No 279 of 2022, Para 29, decided on July 20, 2022, A Three-Judge bench of Hon'ble Supreme Court holds that "The bail conditions imposed by the Court must not only have a nexus to the purpose that they seek to serve but must also be proportional to the purpose of imposing them. The courts while imposing bail conditions must balance the liberty of the accused and the necessity of a fair trial. While doing so, conditions that would result in the deprivation of rights and liberties must be eschewed."

Petition allowed in aforesaid terms. Interim order dated 27.10.2022 is hereby made absolute subject to strict compliance of all terms and conditions. All pending applications, if any, stand disposed.

(ANOOP CHITKARA)
JUDGE

01.02.2023
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Whether speaking/reasoned:	Yes
Whether reportable:	No.