

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

256

**CRM-M No. 43690 of 2020
Date of Decision : 9.5.2023**

*Lakhwinder Singh and another**..... Petitioners**versus**State of Punjab and another**..... Respondents*

CORAM: HON'BLE MR. JUSTICE TRIBHUVAN DAHIYA

Present: Mr. G.S. Dhaliwal, Advocate, for the petitioners

Mr. Harpreet Singh, Addl. AG, Punjab

None for respondent no.2

TRIBHUVAN DAHIYA J. (ORAL):

The instant petition has been filed under Section 482 Cr.P.C. seeking quashing of FIR No.5 dated 11.1.2018 under Sections 406 and 498-A IPC registered at Police Station Women Cell, Ludhiana (Annexure P-1), and all consequential proceedings arising therefrom, in view of the compromise deed dated 12.2.2020 (Annexure P-2) entered into between the petitioners and the complainant to settle their disputes in question.

2. As the parties entered into a compromise to resolve their disputes which led to registration of the criminal case, they were directed to appear before the Illaqa Magistrate/trial Court for getting their statements recorded in that regard, vide orders dated 23.12.2020 and 13.2.2023. Pursuant thereto, a report dated 18.3.2023 has been received from Judicial Magistrate Ist Class, Ludhiana, at Flag 'A', stating that the compromise arrived at between the parties is without any pressure, coercion or undue influence. There is no criminal case pending against the petitioners, nor have they been declared proclaimed person(s).

3. Learned State counsel admit the factum of compromise, and submit that he has no objection to quashing of the FIR on that basis.

4. It has been held by the Supreme Court of India in cases *Gian Singh v. State of Punjab and another*, 2012(10) SCC 303 and *State of Madhya Pradesh v. Arun Kumar Narayan and others*, (2019) 5 SCC 688, that criminal cases having

overwhelmingly civil character, particularly those arising out of commercial transactions or matrimonial relationships or family disputes, should be quashed when the parties have resolved their disputes among themselves in a *bona fide* manner by entering into a compromise.

5. Further, reference can also be made to Full Bench judgment of this Court in *Kulwinder Singh and others v. State of Punjab and another*, 2007(3) R.C.R.(Criminal) 1052, holding that on the parties settling their disputes by way of a compromise, the High Court in exercise of power under Section 482 Cr.P.C. can allow the compounding of non-compoundable offences also, and quash the criminal proceedings to prevent abuse of the process of law or otherwise to secure the ends of justice. The power is not confined to matrimonial disputes alone.

6. A perusal of the allegations in the FIR as well as the aforesaid report establishes that the present case, arising out of matrimonial relationship, falls in the category of cases that can be quashed by the High Court in exercise of its inherent jurisdiction under Section 482 Cr.P.C., as per law laid down in the aforementioned judgments. The petitioners have no criminal antecedents. The offences alleged are not heinous in nature and cannot be termed as crime against the society; nor do they show mental depravity of the petitioners. Since disputes between the parties have been amicably resolved by way of the compromise, continuation of criminal proceedings will be an exercise in futility, as chances of ultimate conviction are not there, and it will hamper their peaceful coexistence even after resolution of disputes.

7. Consequently, this petition is allowed. FIR No.5 dated 11.1.2018 under Sections 406 and 498-A IPC registered at Police Station Women Cell, Ludhiana, and all consequential proceedings arising therefrom, are hereby quashed *qua* the petitioners.

(TRIBHUVAN DAHIYA)
JUDGE

9.5.2023

Ashwani

Whether speaking/reasoned:
Whether reportable:

Yes/No
Yes/No