

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

205

CRM-M-45023-2022

Date of Decision: 06.01.2023

Sachin @ Sachin Chalia

..... Petitioner

Versus

State of Haryana

..... Respondent

CORAM: HON'BLE MR. JUSTICE JAGMOHAN BANSAL

Present: Mr.J.S.Lalli, Advocate
for the petitioner.

Ms. Priyanka Sadar, AAG, Haryana.

JAGMOHAN BANSAL, J. (Oral)

1. The petitioner, through instant petition under Section 439 Cr.P.C., is seeking regular bail in FIR No. 4 dated 05.01.2020 under Sections 6 and 12 of POCSO Act and Sections 376-D, 376-DA, 452, 506 and 120-B of IPC, registered at Police Station Madhuban, District Karnal.

2. Learned counsel for the petitioner, *inter alia*, contends that primarily there are allegations against co-accused Anil who allegedly clicked photographs of prosecutrix and raped her. The petitioner is in custody since 12.01.2020. The victim as well as her father who is complainant have already been examined. The petitioner is not involved in any other offence. The petitioner has been wrongly implicated in the commission of alleged offence. The petitioner has deep roots in the society. There is no possibility of flee from justice. The arrest is causing irreparable loss, mental agony, embarrassment and humiliation to petitioner as well entire family.

3. Status report dated 02.01.2023 by way of affidavit of Mukesh Kumar, HPS, Deputy Superintendent of Police, (HQ), Karnal is taken on record. Registry is directed to tag the same at appropriate place.

4. Learned State Counsel submits that police report stands filed, charges stand framed and prosecutrix stands examined. The petitioner is involved in the commission of grave offence, thus, no leniency is warranted and release of petitioner would hamper the trial.

5. A two judge Bench of Hon'ble Supreme Court in **Satender Kumar Antil v. CBI (2022) 10 SCC 51**, with respect to prevailing conditions of undertrial prisoner in India has observed:

“6. Jails in India are flooded with undertrial prisoners. The statistics placed before us would indicate that more than 2/3rd of the inmates of the prisons constitute undertrial prisoners. Of this category of prisoners, majority may not even be required to be arrested despite registration of a cognizable offence, being charged with offences punishable for seven years or less. They are not only poor and illiterate but also would include women. Thus, there is a culture of offence being inherited by many of them. As observed by this Court, it certainly exhibits the mindset, a vestige of colonial India, on the part of the investigating agency, notwithstanding the fact arrest is a draconian measure resulting in curtailment of liberty, and thus to be used sparingly. In a democracy, there can never be an impression that it is a police State as both are conceptually opposite to each other.”

6. Intent of arrest and reason of denial of bail is to:

i) Secure the appearance of the accused at the time of trial;

ii) Allay possibility of repeating of offence & jeopardising own life on account of grim prospect of

being convicted;

iii) Avoid possibility of tampering of evidence and security of witnesses who may be pressurised or maltreated.

7. A person who seeks to be liberated must take judgment and serve sentence in the event of his conviction. The nature of the crime charged, severity of punishment prescribed, prime facie available evidences, history & background of the accused may indicate that any amount of bond and surety is not going to secure presence of accused, at the time of conviction. Detention or arrest not only deprives a person from his fundamental right of personal liberty guaranteed by article 21 but also freedom guaranteed by article 19(1) of our Constitution.

8. Keeping in mind:

i) The Petitioner is in custody since 12.01.2020;

ii) Police report under section 173 of Cr.P.C. stands filed, charges stand framed;

iii) The prosecutrix as well as her father who is complainant have already been examined;

iv) There are total 16 witnesses and till date 08 witnesses have been examined, thus, possibility of conclusion of trial in near future is abysmally low;

v) Twin stringent conditions of bail prescribed under special statutes like PMLA, UAPA, NDPS Act, Companies Act are not applicable in the case in hand;

vi) The Petitioner is not involved in any other criminal case;

vii) The Petitioner is permanent resident of District Karnal and

staying with family members;

viii) Prosecution has not led any convincing/plausible documentary or oral evidence indicating possibility of Petitioner being flee from justice or tempering the evidences or winning over/threatening the witnesses;

this Court is of the considered opinion that present petition deserves to allowed and accordingly allowed. The petitioner is ordered to be released on bail subject to conditions as may be imposed by trial Court/illaqa/Duty Magistrate concerned.

(JAGMOHAN BANSAL)
JUDGE

06.01.2023
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Whether speaking/reasoned	Yes/No
<i>Whether Reportable</i>	<i>Yes/No</i>