

IN THE HIGH COURT OF PUNJAB AND HARYANA AT
CHANDIGARH

321

CRM-M-48413-2023 (O&M)

Date of Decision : 14.12.2023

SUNIL KUMAR AND OTHERS

.... Petitioners

VERSUS

STATE OF PUNJAB AND ANOTHER

.... Respondents

CORAM : HON'BLE MRS. JUSTICE ALKA SARIN

Present : Mr. Munish Puri, Advocate for the petitioners.

Mr. Harjinder Singh Sidhu, AAG Punjab for respondent No.1.

Mr. Amrit Pal, Advocate for

Ms. Deepti Rampal, Advocate for respondent No.2.

ALKA SARIN, J. (ORAL)

1. The present petition has been filed under Section 482 of the Code of Criminal Procedure, 1973, for quashing of FIR No.151 dated 19.12.2021 under Sections 498-A, 406, 120-B of the Indian Penal Code, 1860 registered at Police Station Sadar, District Pathankot, along with all the subsequent proceedings arising therefrom, on the basis of compromise dated 15.09.2023 (Annexure P-2).

2. On 25.09.2023, the following order was passed :

“This petition has been filed under Section 482 Cr.P.C. seeking quashing of FIR No.151 dated 19.12.2021 under Sections 498-A/406/120-B IPC registered at Police Station Sadar, District Pathankot and all consequential proceedings arising therefrom on the basis of compromise dated 15.09.2023 (Annexure P-2).

Learned counsel appearing for the petitioners contends that in terms of the settlement, petitioner No.1 and respondent No.2 have started cohabiting together as husband and wife and both the parties have amicably resolved all their pending disputes.

Notice of motion.

On asking of the Court, Ms. Ishma Randhawa, Addl. A.G., Punjab accepts notice on behalf of respondent No.1-State and Ms. Deepti Rampal, Advocate puts in appearance and accepts notice on behalf of respondent No.2 and files her vakalatnama which is taken on record. Registry is directed to tag the same at an appropriate place in the file.

In view of the compromise/settlement arrived at between the parties, let the parties appear before the trial Court/Area Magistrate on 10.10.2023 for getting their statements recorded with regard to the settlement. Trial Court is directed to report on the following points:-

- (i) how many total accused are facing the trial;*
- (ii) whether any of the accused was declared proclaimed offender at any stage of trial;*
- (iii) status/stage of the trial/case;*

(iv) to record the statements of all the concerned parties with regard to the genuineness and validity or otherwise of the compromise;

(v) to record the statement of Investigating Officer with regard to points No.(i), (ii) and (iii) as above.

Report be sent through District and Sessions Judge, before the next date of hearing.

Adjourned to 14.12.2023.”

3. Pursuant to the order dated 25.09.2023, a report dated 25.10.2023 of the learned Judicial Magistrate, 1st Class, Pathankot has been received by this Court wherein it has been stated that the statements of the parties have been recorded and the parties have stated that they have compromised the matter voluntarily without any threat, pressure, undue influence or fraud and that the complainant has no objection to the quashing of the present FIR. Statements of the parties have also been appended with the report.

4. The Apex Court in the case of ***Gian Singh vs. State of Punjab & Anr. [2012 (10) SCC 303]*** has held as under :

“57. The position that emerges from the above discussion can be summarised thus: the power of the High Court in quashing a criminal proceeding or FIR or complaint in exercise of its inherent jurisdiction is distinct and different from the power given to a criminal court for compounding the offences under Section 320 of

the Code. Inherent power is of wide plenitude with no statutory limitation but it has to be exercised in accord with the guideline engrafted in such power viz; (i) to secure the ends of justice or (ii) to prevent abuse of the process of any Court. In what cases power to quash the criminal proceeding or complaint or F.I.R may be exercised where the offender and victim have settled their dispute would depend on the facts and circumstances of each case and no category can be prescribed. However, before exercise of such power, the High Court must have due regard to the nature and gravity of the crime. Heinous and serious offences of mental depravity or offences like murder, rape, dacoity, etc. cannot be fittingly quashed even though the victim or victim's family and the offender have settled the dispute. Such offences are not private in nature and have serious impact on society. Similarly, any compromise between the victim and offender in relation to the offences under special statutes like Prevention of Corruption Act or the offences committed by public servants while working in that capacity etc; cannot provide for any basis for quashing criminal proceedings involving such offences. But the criminal cases having overwhelmingly and pre-dominatingly civil flavour

stand on different footing for the purposes of quashing, particularly the offences arising from commercial, financial, mercantile, civil, partnership or such like transactions or the offences arising out of matrimony relating to dowry, etc. or the family disputes where the wrong is basically private or personal in nature and the parties have resolved their entire dispute. In this category of cases, High Court may quash criminal proceedings if in its view, because of the compromise between the offender and victim, the possibility of conviction is remote and bleak and continuation of criminal case would put accused to great oppression and prejudice and extreme injustice would be caused to him by not quashing the criminal case despite full and complete settlement and compromise with the victim. In other words, the High Court must consider whether it would be unfair or contrary to the interest of justice to continue with the criminal proceeding or continuation of the criminal proceeding would tantamount to abuse of process of law despite settlement and compromise between the victim and wrongdoer and whether to secure the ends of justice, it is appropriate that criminal case is put to an end and if the answer to the above question(s) is in affirmative, the High Court shall be

well within its jurisdiction to quash the criminal proceeding.”

5. Learned counsel for the petitioners has also referred to the law laid down by this Court in ***Kulwinder Singh & Ors. vs. State of Punjab & Anr. [2007 (3) RCR (Criminal) 1052]*** wherein it has been held that even in non-compoundable offences, if the parties have entered into a compromise, this Court has wide powers under Section 482 CrPC to quash the proceedings to prevent abuse of law and secure the ends of justice.

6. In view of the above and keeping in view the report by the Trial Court that the parties have genuinely entered into a compromise and all the disputes between the parties have been resolved, it would not be in the interest of justice to continue the criminal proceedings.

7. Resultantly, FIR No.151 dated 19.12.2021 under Sections 498-A, 406, 120-B of the Indian Penal Code, 1860 registered at Police Station Sadar, District Pathankot, along with all the subsequent proceedings arising therefrom, are quashed on the basis of compromise dated 15.09.2023 (Annexure P-2).

8. The petition is accordingly allowed. Pending applications, if any, also stand disposed of.

14.12.2023
Aman Jain

(ALKA SARIN)
JUDGE

NOTE: Whether speaking/non-speaking: Speaking
Whether reportable: Yes/No