

CRM-M-56367-2023

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IN THE HIGH COURT OF PUNJAB & HARYANA AT CHANDIGARH

CRM-M-56367-2023

Date of decision : November 15, 2023

Gurjant Singh alias Billi and another

....Petitioners

Versus

State of Punjab

....Respondent

CORAM: HON'BLE MR. JUSTICE KULDEEP TIWARI

Present : Mr. Yashpal Thakur, Advocate, for the petitioners

Mr. Karunesh Kaushal, AAG, Punjab

KULDEEP TIWARI, J. (ORAL)

1. Through the instant petition, relief of regular bail has been sought on the ground that the petitioners are behind the bars for the last 4 years 6 months.

2. Learned State counsel, during the course of arguments, has submitted custody certificate of one of the petitioner namely Gurjant Singh, issued by Additional Superintendent, Central Jail, Patiala. The same is taken on record. The custody certificate reveals that petitioner Gurjant Singh has faced incarceration for about 4 years and 6 months.

3. On a specific query with regard to stage of trial, the learned State counsel has informed this Court, on instructions from ASI Jarnail Singh that total 19 witnesses were cited by the

prosecution in the final report. Out of 19, 12 prosecution witnesses have already been examined. One witness was given up as unnecessary and during the pendency of the trial, one witness unfortunately has expired. He further stated that the next date of hearing before the trial court is 6.12.2023 for recording statements of the remaining five witnesses. Therefore, the trial is at the fag end.

4. Considering the stage of trial, this Court is not inclined to grant the prayer of regular bail to the petitioners. However, a direction is issued to the learned trial court to make an endeavour to conclude the trial expeditiously, preferably within three months from today. The Senior Superintendent of Police concerned is also directed to ensure the presence of prosecution witnesses before the learned trial court concerned, enabling the latter to conclude the trial.

5. The petition is disposed of accordingly.

6. Copy of this order be also sent to the Senior Superintendent of Police concerned for its compliance.

November 15, 2023

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**(KULDEEP TIWARI)
JUDGE**

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