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

CRM-M-60612-2022

Date of Decision: 13.02.2023

Pardeep and another

....Petitioners

Versus

State of Haryana and others

...Respondents

CORAM: HON'BLE MR. JUSTICE HARSH BUNGER

Present : Mr. Abhinav Sood, Advocate
for the petitioners.

Mr. Ram Kumar Singla, DAG, Haryana.

Mr. Sukhdev Singh, Advocate
for respondents No.2 and 3.

HARSH BUNGER, J. (Oral)

This petition has been filed under Section 482 Cr.P.C. for quashing of FIR No.0536 dated 23.08.2022, under Sections 406 and 420 of Indian Penal Code, 1860, registered at Police Station City Palwal, Tehsil and District Palwal (Annexure P-1) and all the consequent proceedings arising therefrom, on the basis of compromise dated 13.12.2022 (Annexure P-2) arrived at between the parties.

Vide order dated 23.12.2022 passed by this Court, the Illaqa Magistrate/trial Court was directed to record the statements of the parties with regard to the genuineness and validity of the compromise.

In compliance thereof, the Additional Chief Judicial Magistrate,

Palwal has submitted a consolidated report, vide letter dated 18.01.2023 which indicates that the parties appeared before the Magistrate and got recorded their respective statements with regard to the validity of the compromise. As per the report, the compromise arrived at between the parties is genuine and with free will and consent. Relevant extract of the said report is reproduced as under:-

“On the basis of the statements of the parties, Investigating Officer of the case and from perusal of the case file, the point wise report is as follows:-

1. Number of persons arrayed as accused in FIR and those found involved during investigation Two persons namely Pardeep and Saddam Hussain were arrayed as accused in the FIR and were found involved during investigation.

2. What is the status of the proceedings of the case/FIR - Till date no arrest has been made in the present case and the case is still at the stage of investigation.

3. Whether any accused is proclaimed offender- No accused in this case is proclaimed offender.

4. Whether the accused persons are involved in any other case or not As per statement of Investigating Officer of the case, no case except the present case is pending against accused Pardeep. Further, following is the details of cases:-

1. FIR No. 135/2020, under Section 61 of Excise Act, Police Station Camp, Palwal (pending).

2. FIR No. 855/2015, under Sections 406 and 420 of Indian Penal Code, Police Station City, Ballabgarh, Faridabad (compromised on 14.09.2017, file consigned).

3. FIR No. 420/2015, under Sections 419 and 420 of Indian Penal Code, Police Station Sarai Khavaja, Faridabad (pending).

4. FIR No. 159/2012, under Sections 279 and 336 of Indian Penal Code and under Section 4A/8-2/80 CS Act, Police Station Hathin Palwal (Acquitted on 21.11.2014 by the Court of Learned SDJM, Hathin).

5. FIR No. 594/2015, under Section 420 of Indian Penal Code, Police Station Saran, Faridabad. (Acquitted on 27.09.2017 by the Court of Ms. Himani Gill, Learned JMIC, Faridabad).

Copies of FIR of above mentioned cases and progress report of above-mentioned cases as provided by the Investigating Officer of the case are annexed herewith.

5. Whether all the concerned have signed the compromise deed- All concerned have admitted their signatures on compromise deed.

6. Whether the compromise is genuine, voluntary and without any coercion or undue influence-From the statements of parties it seems that the compromise is genuine, voluntary and without any coercion or undue influence.

7. The trial Court is also directed to record the statement of the Investigating Officer as to how many victims/complainants are there in the FIR. There is one complainant i.e. Parveen Sharma in the instant case and there is one victim Madhu Sharma wife of Parveen Sharma in the present case.”

A perusal of the said report shows that statements of the concerned persons have been recorded in the case, who have stated that the matter has been compromised and the complainant has further endorsed his no objection in case the FIR in question is quashed. They have further stated that the compromise arrived at between them is genuine, voluntary and without any pressure.

Learned counsel for respondents No. 2 and 3 has again reiterated that the matter has been settled and the said compromise is in the interest of all the concerned persons and would help in bringing out peace and amity between the parties.

Learned State counsel does not raise any serious dispute regarding quashing of aforesaid FIR in question.

I have heard the learned counsel for the parties and have

perused the file.

In *Shakuntala Sawhney Vs. Kaushalya Sawhney, (1979) 3 SCR 639, at P 642*, Hon'ble Supreme Court observed that the finest hour of Justice arises propitiously when parties, who fell apart, bury the hatchet and weave a sense of fellowship or reunion.

Hon'ble Apex Court in the case of *Gian Singh Versus State of Punjab and another. 2012(4) RCR (Criminal) 543* 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 personnel 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.”

Considering the entire facts, compromise, the statements of the parties recorded before the Illaqa Magistrate / Trial Court and also the report dated 18.01.2023 submitted by Additional Chief Judicial Magistrate, Palwal since the parties have arrived at a compromise by amicably settling their disputes and have decided to live in peace, no useful purpose will be served in allowing the criminal proceedings to continue.

Further, in the light of the above mentioned judicial precedents, when the parties have entered into a compromise, then continuation of the proceedings would be mere an abuse of process of the Court.

In order to prevent unnecessary continuation of criminal

proceedings on the ground that there are bleak chances of conviction in the case, I am of the considered view that it would be in fitness of things to quash the FIR on the basis of compromise and by quashing the FIR while accepting the prayer of the petitioners, would be securing the ends of justice.

Accordingly, this petition is allowed. FIR No.0536 dated 23.08.2022, under Sections 406 and 420 of Indian Penal Code, 1860, registered at Police Station City Palwal, Tehsil and District Palwal (Annexure P-1) and all the consequent proceedings arising therefrom, are quashed qua the petitioners. However, the same would be subject to payment of costs of Rs.10,000/- to be deposited by the petitioners with the **“Poor Patients Welfare Fund, PGIMER, Chandigarh”** and the said amount would be spent for the treatment of poor patients within the knowledge of its Medical Superintendent.

Needless to say that parties shall remain bound by the terms of compromise and their statements made in the Court below.

All pending application(s), if any, shall stand disposed of.

13.02.2023

Himani

**(HARSH BUNGER)
JUDGE**

Whether speaking/reasoned:

Yes/No

Whether reportable:

Yes/No