

CRM-M-12906-2023

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2024:PHHC:036166

IN THE HIGH COURT OF PUNJAB AND HARYANA AT CHANDIGARH

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CRM-M-12906-2023

Date of Decision: 13.03.2024

Jobanpreet Singh

.... Petitioner

Versus

State of Punjab and another

.... Respondents

CORAM: HON'BLE MS. JUSTICE NIDHI GUPTA

Present: - Ms. Gupreet Kaur, Advocate for the petitioner.

Mr. S.S. Chahal, AAG, Punjab.

Mr. Jagpal Singh, Advocate for respondent No. 2.

NIDHI GUPTA, J. (ORAL)

The petitioner has filed the present petition under Section 482 Cr.P.C., for quashing of FIR No. 264 dated 19.08.2021 (Annexure P-1) registered under Sections 354, 354A and 506 IPC and Section 8 of the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences Act, 2012 at Police Station Ajnala, District Amritsar (Rural) and all the consequential proceedings arising therefrom, on the basis of affidavit/compromise dated 13.12.2021 (Annexure P-2) effected between the parties.

Pursuant to the order dated 17.05.2023 passed by a co-ordinate Bench of this Court, the parties appeared before the learned Sub Divisional Judicial Magistrate, Ajnala, to get their statements recorded. Learned Sub Divisional Judicial Magistrate, Ajnala, has submitted her report along with statements of the parties vide letter dated 16.06.2023 duly forwarded by the learned District and Sessions Judge,

Amritsar.

A perusal of the above said report would show that the petitioner and respondent No. 2 have appeared and suffered statements with respect to the compromise, which have been found to be genuine, voluntary and out of free will between the parties.

Learned counsel for the petitioner submits that as per report, petitioner is only accused in the present case and he is party to the compromise and has never been declared as proclaimed offender.

Learned State counsel has stated that he has 'no objection' in case the FIR is quashed on the basis of compromise qua the petitioner.

This Court has heard the learned counsel for the parties and has perused the file.

After perusing the report submitted by the learned Sub Divisional Judicial Magistrate, Ajnala, this Court finds that the matter has been amicably settled between the petitioner and respondent No. 2. Since the matter has been settled and the parties have decided to live in peace, this Court feels that in order to secure the ends of justice, the criminal proceedings deserve to be quashed.

As per the Full Bench judgment of this Court in ***"Kulwinder Singh and others Vs State of Punjab", 2007 (3) RCR (Criminal) 1052***, it is held that High Court has power under Section 482 Cr.P.C. to allow the compounding of non-compoundable offence and quash the proceedings where the High Court is of the opinion that the same is required to prevent the abuse of the process of law or otherwise to secure the ends of justice. This power of quashing is not confined to matrimonial disputes alone.

Hon'ble Apex Court in the case of “*Gian Singh Vs. State of Punjab and another*”, 2012 (4) RCR (Criminal) 543, had also observed that in order to secure the ends of justice or to prevent the abuse of process of Court, inherent power can be used by this Court to quash criminal proceedings in which a compromise has been effected. The relevant portion of para 57 of the said judgment is reproduced here-in-below:-

“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 view of what has been discussed here-in-above, this petition is allowed and FIR No. 264 dated 19.08.2021 (Annexure P-1) registered under Sections 354, 354A and 506 IPC and Section 8 of the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences Act, 2012 at Police Station Ajnala, District Amritsar (Rural) and all the consequential proceedings arising therefrom, are ordered to be quashed qua the petitioner.

13.03.2024
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(NIDHI GUPTA)
JUDGE

Whether speaking/reasoned	Yes/No
Whether Reportable	Yes/No