



IN THE HIGH COURT OF PUNJAB AND HARYANA AT CHANDIGARH

277

CRM-M-15973-2024

Date of Decision: 18.07.2024

Robin Jindal

.... Petitioner

Versus

State of Punjab and another

.... Respondents

CORAM: HON'BLE MS. JUSTICE NIDHI GUPTA

Present: - Mr. Nitin Sachdeva, Advocate for the petitioner.

Ms. Rishu Madan, AAG, Punjab.

Mr. Devayansh Jolly, Advocate for respondent No. 2.

NIDHI GUPTA, J. (ORAL)

Prayer in this petition filed under Section 482 Cr.P.C. is for quashing of FIR No. 122 dated 01.09.2022 (Annexure P-1) registered under Section 498-A IPC at Police Station Women, Ludhiana and all consequential proceedings arising therefrom, on the basis of compromise deed dated 29.02.2024 (Annexure P-4), arrived at between the parties.

Pursuant to the order dated 03.04.2024 passed by this Court, the parties have appeared before the learned Judicial Magistrate Ist Class, Ludhiana to get their statements recorded. Learned Judicial Magistrate Ist Class, Ludhiana, has submitted her report along with statements of the parties vide letter dated 24.04.2024 duly forwarded by the learned District and Sessions Judge, Ludhiana.



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 without any coercion and undue influence.

Learned counsel for the petitioner, *inter alia*, submits that the present FIR emanates from the matrimonial dispute between the parties. It is submitted that petitioner is the husband of the complainant/respondent No.2 herein. Respondent No.2/complainant presently residing in Canada. Marriage of the petitioner with complainant/respondent No.2 was solemnized on 10.12.2020 and no child was born out of the said wedlock. Due to temperamental differences, the parties could not cohabit together and started residing separately since 18.09.2021. Now better sense has prevailed between the parties and in order to live peacefully, parties have entered into compromise dated 29.2.2024 (Annexure P-4), according to which, both the parties have agreed not to proceed further with the FIR in question. It is also submitted that a joint petition under Section 13-B of the Hindu Marriage Act, 1955 (Annexure P-5), for divorce by way of mutual consent has also been filed before the Family Court, concerned. Further, it is submitted that the petitioner is the only accused in the FIR as well as in the challan and he 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 Judicial Magistrate Ist Class, Ludhiana, 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. 122 dated 01.09.2022 (Annexure P-1) registered under Section 498-A IPC at Police Station Women, Ludhiana and all consequential proceedings arising therefrom, on the basis of compromise deed dated 29.02.2024 (Annexure P-4), arrived at between the parties, are ordered to be quashed qua the petitioner.

18.07.2024
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(NIDHI GUPTA)
JUDGE

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