

IN THE HIGH COURT OF PUNJAB AND HARYANA AT CHANDIGARH

260

CRM-M-21275-2024

Date of Decision: 24.07.2024

Harmandeep Singh and another

.... Petitioners

Versus

State of Punjab and another

.... Respondents

CORAM: HON'BLE MS. JUSTICE NIDHI GUPTA

Present: - Mr. Daksh Sharma, Advocate for the petitioners.

Ms. Rishu Madan, AAG, Punjab.

Mr. Yogesh, Advocate for

Ms. R. Akanksha, 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. 173 dated 15.11.2023 (Anenxure P-1) registered under Sections 498-A and 406 IPC at Police Station Bullowal, Hoshiarpur and all consequential proceedings arising therefrom, on the basis of compromise dated 18.12.2023 (Annexure P-2), entered into between the parties.

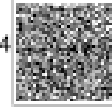
Pursuant to the order dated 30.04.2024 passed by this Court, the parties have appeared before the learned Judicial Magistrate Ist Class, Hoshiarpur, to get their statements recorded. Learned Judicial Magistrate Ist Class, Hoshiarpur, has submitted his report along with statements of the parties vide letter dated 11.06.2024 duly forwarded by the learned



District and Sessions Judge, Hoshiarpur.

A perusal of the above said report would show that the petitioners and respondent No. 2 have appeared before the learned trial Court 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 No.1 is the husband; whereas petitioner No. 2 is the mother-in-law of complainant/respondent No. 2. Marriage of the petitioner No. 1 with complainant/respondent No.2 was solemnized on 13.02.2022 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 December, 2022. Now better sense has prevailed between the parties and in order to live peacefully, parties have entered into compromise dated 18.12.2023 (Annexure P-2), according to which, both the parties have agreed not to proceed further with the FIR in question. According to the compromise, petitioner No. 1 has paid the entire agreed amount of Rs.9,00,000/- in lump sum towards full and final settlement to respondent No. 2-complainant. The parties have also agreed to file a joint petition under Section 13-B of the Hindu Marriage Act, 1955, for divorce by way of mutual consent. Further, it is submitted that initially, 03 persons were named in the FIR, however, challan has been filed only against the present petitioners and they have



never been declared as proclaimed offender(s).

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

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, Hoshiarpur, this Court finds that the matter has been amicably settled between the petitioners and respondents 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. 173 dated 15.11.2023 (Anenxure P-1)
registered under Sections 498-A and 406 IPC at Police Station Bullowal,
Hoshiarpur and all consequential proceedings arising therefrom, on the
basis of compromise dated 18.12.2023 (Annexure P-2), entered into
between the parties, are ordered to be quashed qua the petitioners.

24.07.2024
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(NIDHI GUPTA)
JUDGE

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