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IN THE HIGH COURT OF PUNJAB & HARYANA AT
CHANDIGARH

CRM-M-23250-2023 (O&M)
Date of Decision:- 15.01.2024

SHATRUGHAN MANDAL

....Petitioner(s)

Versus

STATE OF PUNJAB

...Respondent(s)

CORAM: HON'BLE MR. JUSTICE SANJIV BERRY

Present : Mr. Lakshay Bector , Advocate for the petitioner.

Mr. Gurpreet Singh Sandhu, DAG Punjab.

SANJIV BERRY, J. (ORAL)

The instant petition has been preferred by the petitioner under Section 439 of the Code of Criminal Procedure for grant of regular bail to the petitioner in the following case :-

FIR No.	Dated	Sections	Police Station
91	20.08.2022	304, 323, 148, 149 IPC	Division No.4, Ludhiana

2. It is, *inter alia*, contended by learned counsel for the petitioner that the petitioner is innocent and has been falsely implicated in this case and is in custody since 21.08.2022. He submits that no specific overt act has been attributed to the petitioner and even as per the medical record placed on file, the cause of death in this case was ‘diseased condition of the organs described’. He has referred to the order dated 10.01.2024 passed in CRM-M-61058-2022, whereby similarly situated co-accused namely Kalis has

been granted the concession of bail by this Court. He thus prays for grant of concession of bail to the petitioner on the ground of parity.

3. *Per contra*, learned State counsel while referring to the status report dated 02.08.2023 filed by way of affidavit of Assistant Commissioner of Police, (Central), Ludhiana, District Ludhiana, has not disputed the factum of cause of death of the deceased as reported by the Doctor and that similarly situated co-accused has been granted the concession of bail by this Court. He submits that challan in the case has already been presented and only 5 out of 17 witnesses cited by the prosecution have yet been examined.

4. Heard learned counsel for the parties and perused the record.

5. After considering the rival contentions and perusing the record, it transpires that the case of the prosecution in a nutshell is that on 19.08.2022 at about 10:30 PM, the complainant along with his family was present in his house. On hearing noise, the father of the complainant Bharat Bhushan Sharma went outside, where 9-10 unidentified boys were raising noise. The father of the complainant requested them not to do so, but they started beating him and one of them pushed him, as a result of which, the father of the complainant fell down. He was taken to the hospital, where he was declared brought dead.

6. It is not disputed that the cause of death of the deceased is not due to the alleged injuries, but due to 'the diseased condition of the organs'. No specific overt act has been attributed to the petitioner and since the challan has been presented, the petitioner is not required for further investigation. Admittedly, he is in custody since 21.08.2022 and the

prosecution has cited 17 witnesses out of which only 5 have been examined and the criminal liability, if any, of the petitioner, could only be determined after the conclusion of trial, which may take sufficient long time. In the circumstances, no purpose would be served by detaining the petitioner any longer.

7. Consequently, without commenting on the merits of the case, the present petition is allowed. The petitioner is ordered to be released on bail subject to his furnishing bail bonds/surety bonds to the satisfaction of learned Trial Court/Duty Magistrate concerned, if not required in any other case; undertaking to regularly appear on each and every date; not to leave the country without prior permission of the Court; and not to tamper with evidence of prosecution in any manner.

8. Any observation made above shall not be construed as opinion of this Court on the merits of the case.

9. Pending miscellaneous application(s), if any, stand disposed of.

(SANJIV BERRY)
JUDGE

15.01.2024
S.Sharma(syr)

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| i) | Whether speaking/reasoned? | Yes/No |
| ii) | Whether reportable? | Yes/No |