



CRM-M-34394-2024 (O&M)
DATE OF DECISION : 11.09.2024

... PETITIONER

STATE OF PUNJAB

... RESPONDENT

CORAM: HON'BLE MS. JUSTICE HARPREET KAUR JEEWAN

Present: Mr. Shubham Goyal, Advocate for the petitioner.

Ms. Sakshi Bakshi, AAG, Punjab.

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HARPREET KAUR JEEWAN, J. (ORAL)

1. Petitioner is seeking regular bail in case bearing FIR No. 17 dated 27.02.2024 under Sections 354, 354-A, 354-B, 509 IPC and Sections 8 and 12 of Protection of Children from Sexual Offences Act, (Section 354-B IPC and Section 8 of POCSO Act was deleted and Section 10 of POCSO Act added later on) registered at Police Station Kartapur, District Jalandhar Rural.

2. Custody certificate reflecting the custody of the petitioner as 6 months and 14 days has been taken on record.

3. The petitioner is facing trial with the allegations that the victim used to go to Shri Guru Ravidass Gurudwara every day to pay obeisances. However, the victim stopped going there and upon enquiry by her father (complainant), she told that the petitioner, who is Granthi in the Gurudwara Sahib, had committed wrong act with her. Thereafter, the complainant along

d)with the Ex-Sarpanch of the Village checked the CCTV footage installed

in the Gurudwara Sahib and found that the petitioner eve-teased the victim and kissed her face on the pretext of burning an incense stick.

4. Learned counsel for the petitioner *inter alia* contends that petitioner is an old person, suffering from many ailments. He is working as Granthi in Gurudwara Sahib. There are 2 groups of people trying to control the affairs of the Gurudwara Sahib. There is a delay of 3 days in lodging the FIR. The petitioner has been falsely implicated with an intention to defame him. The petitioner is in custody for a period of 6 months and 14 days.

5. I have heard the counsel for the petitioner.

6. Keeping in view the age of the petitioner as 74 years and the age of the victim as 10 years and keeping in view that there is a CCTV footage where such occurrence has been recorded, wherein the petitioner is alleged to be seen eve-teasing the minor victim and kissing her face on the pretext of burning an incense stick and also keeping in view the sanctity of the place of occurrence, no ground is made out for releasing the petitioner on regular bail.

7. Dismissed.

11.09.2024

Janki

(HARPREET KAUR JEEWAN)
JUDGE

Whether speaking/reasoned : Yes/No

Whether reportable : Yes/No