



IN THE HIGH COURT OF PUNJAB AND HARYANA AT
CHANDIGARH
293

CRM-M-35440-2024
Date of decision: 19.09.2024

AMARJIT SINGH
V/s
....PETITIONER

STATE OF PUNJAB AND ANOTHER
....RESPONDENTS

CORAM: HON'BLE MR. JUSTICE SUMEET GOEL

Present: Mr. Akash Mehta, Advocate for
Mr. Munish Gupta, Advocate for the petitioner.

Mr. Yuvraj Singh Tiwana, AAG, Punjab.

Mr. Anil Saini, Advocate for respondent No.2.

SUMEET GOEL, J.

1. The present petition has been filed under Section 528 of BNSS, 2023 for quashing of FIR No.0162 dated 11.12.2016 under Sections 406, 498-A of IPC, registered at Police Station Garhshankar, District Hoshiarpur, order dated 15.11.2018 (Annexure P-2) whereby the petitioner has been declared as proclaimed offender, and all consequential proceedings arising therefrom on the basis of compromise dated 24.06.2024 (Annexure P-3), which is stated to have been effected between the parties.

2 On 22.08.2024, the following order was passed:

“Status report, by way of affidavit of Parminder Singh, PPS, Deputy Superintendent of Police, Sub-Division Garhshankar, District Hoshiarpur has been filed by learned State counsel in the Court today and the same is taken on record. Copy thereof has been furnished to the learned counsel for the petitioner. Learned counsel for the petitioner, inter alia contends that the order dated 15.11.2018 (Annexure P-2) whereby the petitioner has been declared as a proclaimed offender has been passed in derogation of the mandatory provisions of law inter alia contained in Section 82 of Cr.P.C. Further, the petitioner and respondent No.2 have entered into an amicable settlement & the FIR emanates from a matrimonial dispute.



The parties are directed to get their statements recorded qua the factum of compromise in the following manner:

(i) The petitioner shall appear before the trial Court/Illaq Magistrate concerned on 28.08.2024 or any date thereafter as fixed by trial Court/Illaq Magistrate for recording statements of the petitioner as well as of the complainant qua the factum of compromise. As and when any such appearance is made, the trial Court/Illaq Magistrate shall do the needful for recording the statements of the parties qua the factum of the compromise. It shall be open to the trial Court/Illaq Magistrate to either record the statements of the parties by physical process or by video conferencing as deemed appropriate by the trial Court/Illaq Magistrate.

(ii) In case the statement is to be recorded by way of video conferencing, the parties concerned shall be duly identified through video conferencing by their respective counsel, subject to the satisfaction of the Presiding Officer.

(iii) The trial Court/Illaq Magistrate may also choose to get the statements of the parties recorded through some Commissioner, appointed by the Court who would be some Advocate having sufficient standing at the Bar. In case the statement is recorded through some Commissioner, such Commissioner/Advocate shall furnish an affidavit after recording statements to the effect that the parties had appeared before him/her and he/she had recorded their statements as per law and that the said parties had been duly identified by their respective counsel. This shall be subject to satisfaction of trial Court/Illaq Magistrate.

After recording the statements of all the affected parties in either of the aforesaid manner, the trial Court/Illaq Magistrate shall submit its report on the basis of the statements so recorded as to whether all the affected parties have entered into a compromise and as to whether the compromise in question is found to be a valid compromise and has been effected without there being any kind of influence or coercion.

The trial Court/Illaq Magistrate shall also report as regards the following facts after seeking information from Investigating Officer, concerned:

(i) Whether there is any other accused other than the petitioners, arrayed in this petition?

(ii) Whether there is any other complainant or affected/aggrieved party other than the respondents, arrayed in the petition?

iii) Whether any accused has been declared Proclaimed Offender?

The report be submitted before this Court before the next date of hearing i.e. 19.09.2024.

Operation of the impugned order dated 15.11.2018 (Annexure P-2) shall remain stayed till the next date of hearing."



3. Pursuant to the aforesaid order, report dated 30.08.2024 from Sub-Divisional Judicial Magistrate, Garhshankar, has been received, which is taken on record. As per the report, the Trial Court has recorded as follows:-

“In kind reference to the subject cited above, the parties had been directed to appear before this Court to record their statements qua the compromise. Complainant Kashmir Kaur wife of Sh. Amarjit Singh Resident of Village Pahlewal, PO Garhshankar, District Hoshiarpur appeared before this Court and suffered a statement that she has compromised the matter with accused namely Amarjit Singh Son of Mohinder Singh. It was further stated that the compromise has been entered into by her of her free volition and without coercion. Accused Amarjit Singh has suffered a statement that the matter at hand has been compromised with the complainant and that such compromise had been entered into by him of his own free will. In proof of identity of the parties, complainant Kashmir Kaur produced copy of her Aadhar card as Ex. C1. Accused Amarjit Singh produced copy of his Aadhar card as Ex.C3. Both the afore-mentioned persons were also identified by their respective counsels. The copy of the compromise is marked as Ex.C2. Investigating Officer of the case ASI Gulshan Kumar No.1452/HPR suffered a separate statement that there is only one accused in this FIR namely Amarjit Singh. He further brought on record the fact that the accused had been declared PO in this case dated 15.11.2018. The above said accused is not involved in any other case. There is one victim/complainant in the above-said FIR namely Kashmir Kaur wife of Sh. Amarjit Singh Resident of Village Pahlewal, PO Garhshankar, District Hoshiarpur.

In view of the statements of the parties afore-mentioned, it has been concluded that complainant Kashmir Kaur has entered into a compromise with accused Amarjit Singh. Such compromise is out of their free volition, without undue influence or coercion. The compromise is therefore genuine. Report is submitted for kind perusal of your good-self.”

4. Learned counsel for respondent No.2 admits the factum of parties having compromised and states that he has no objection in case the FIR and all proceedings subsequent thereto against the petitioner are quashed.



5. Similarly, learned State counsel has stated that he has no objection in case the FIR is quashed based upon the compromise (Annexure P-3).

6. I have heard learned Counsel for the parties and have carefully gone through the records of the case.

7. This Court and the Hon'ble Apex Court has repeatedly dealt with the issue of exercise of jurisdiction under Section 482 of the Code to quash proceeding in non-compoundable offences in the cases of ***Gian Singh vs. State of Punjab and another, 2012(10) SCC 303, Kulwinder Singh & others vs. State of Punjab & another, 2007 (3) RCR (Criminal) 1052 and Ram Gopal and another vs. State of Madhya Pradesh, 2021(4) R.C.R. (Criminal) 322 (Criminal Appeal No.1489 of 2012 decided on 29th of September, 2021)***. The proposition of law that emerges from the aforesaid decisions rendered by the Hon'ble Apex Court and this Court is :

- (a) *Power u/s 482 Cr.P.C. vested with this Court is much wider and is unaffected by Section 320 of the Code.*
- (b) *However, wider the power greater the caution.*
- (c) *The underlining principle while exercising such power is that it can be invoked to quash the proceedings recognizing compromise between the parties in the matters which are overwhelmingly and predominantly of civil character like commercial transactions or arising out of matrimonial relationship or family disputes.*
- (d) *The said power is not to be exercised in the prosecutions involving heinous and serious offences of mental depravity or offences like murder, rape, dacoity etc. as such offences are not private in nature and have a serious impact on society.*
- (e) *Section 482 Cr.P.C. casts duty upon the High Court to advance interest of justice as well. It is in recognition of this duty casted upon the High Court, that Apex Court held that the High Court would not refuse to quash FIR under Section 307 merely because FIR finds mention thereof. High Court can assess nature of*



injuries sustained, whether such injuries inflicted on vital/delicate parts of the body/nature of weapons used etc.

- (f) Such exercise at the hands of High Court would be permissible only after the evidence is collected after investigation and chargesheet is filed/charges framed during the trial. Such exercise cannot be carried out while the matter is still under investigation.*
- (g) While quashing FIR in non-compoundable offences even which are of private in nature, High Court is required to consider antecedents of the accused, conduct of the accused and whether he was absconding or whether he has managed the complainant to enter into a compromise.*

The statutory provision of Section 528 of BNSS, 2023 is same as the statutory provision of Section 482 of Cr.P.C., 1973. Therefore, the above said principles of law would apply to a petition under Section 528 of BNSS, 2023 as well.

8. Thus, keeping in view the aforesaid facts and circumstances, this Court is of the considered opinion that it is a fit case to exercise jurisdiction vested u/s 528 of BNSS, 2023 to quash the FIR as :-

- (i) Putting a quietus to the proceedings will bring peace and tranquility amongst parties & will accordingly further the cause of substantial justice.*
- (ii) The offences alleged are primarily of private nature.*
- (iii) The parties have compromised.*
- (iv) As per the report received the compromise is said to be voluntary in its nature.*
- (v) Complainant/victim is reported to have entered into compromise on his own volition*

9. Consequently, the petition is allowed. FIR No.0162 dated 11.12.2016 under Sections 406, 498-A of IPC, registered at Police Station Garhshankar, District Hoshiarpur, order dated 15.11.2018 (Annexure P-2) whereby the petitioner has been declared as proclaimed offender, and all



consequential proceedings arising therefrom on the basis of compromise dated 24.06.2024 (Annexure P-3), are, hereby, quashed qua the petitioner.

10. A challenge has also been laid to the order dated 15.11.2018 (Annexure P-2) whereby the petitioner was declared a proclaimed offender. Vide order dated 22.08.2024 earlier passed by this Court operation of the said order was stayed. Since the parties have entered into an amicable settlement the main FIR stands quashed on the basis of the said compromise, the impugned order dated 15.11.2018 (Annexure P-2) whereby the petitioner was declared as a proclaimed offender is also quashed.

11. Pending application(s), if any, shall also stand disposed off.

(SUMEET GOEL)
JUDGE

September 19, 2024
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Whether speaking/reasoned:	Yes/No
Whether reportable:	Yes/No