



IN THE HIGH COURT OF PUNJAB AND HARYANA
AT CHANDIGARH

CRM-M-43064-2024
Date of Decision:06.11.2024

Amrik Singh Sidhu ...Petitioner

vs.

State of Punjab ...Respondent

Coram : Hon’ble Mr. Justice N.S.Shekhawat

Present: Mr. Rakesh Kumar, Advocate
for the petitioner.

Mr. M.S. Bajwa, DAG, Punjab.

N.S.Shekhawat J. (Oral)

1. The petitioner has filed the present petition under Section 482 of B.N.S.S with a prayer to grant anticipatory bail to him in case FIR No.78, dated 30.06.2024, under Sections 386 and 506 of IPC, registered at Police Station Nakodar, District Jalandhar (Annexure P-1).
2. The FIR in the present case was registered on the basis of the statement made by Manpreet Singh and the same has been reproduced below:-

“In reference to application No. 64-BH dated 23.06.2024 to S.H.O Sahi,b P.S Sadar Nakodar, Sir it is requested that I Manpreet Singh R/o Tadda Haripur P.S Sadar, Nakodar, That I use to do agriculture work, On 29.06.2019 at 05:11 P.M I received a call from Phone No. +351963160621 on my phone No. 9878928904, in which one person talked to me that you are given three days time and if you want to survive then you should give Rs 50,00,000/- otherwise you will be gunned down and your son

who is studying in mother pride school Malsiyan who's name is Harshan Singh will also be gunned down, and if you want to save all then you have to pay Rs 50,00,000/-, and we will make you last call on Monday, it is requested that action be taken against them. Yours faithfully Sd/- Manpreet Singh R/o Tadda Haripur P.S Sadar, Nakodar DATE 30.06. 2024 9878928904.”

3. Learned counsel for the petitioner contends that the petitioner had no concern with the allegations levelled in the FIR. He further contends that even as per the case of the prosecution, the money was demanded by Harjinder Singh @ Jinda and Kulwinder Singh, who were arrested and have been granted the concession of regular bail. Learned counsel further contends that in fact, the petitioner has been falsely involved in the present case due to some dispute in the house of his sister. Further, the petitioner along with his mother had filed a Criminal Writ Petition No.8462-2023 for protection of life and liberty as threats were extended by Hardial Singh and Paramjit Kaur etc to her. Vide order dated 28.08.2023 (Annexure P-4), this Court had directed the Senior Superintendent of Police (Rural) to depute a senior officer to look into the matter. He further contends that in fact, Paramjit Kaur and Hardial Singh having grudge with the petitioner and his family members. As a consequence, they were falsely involved in the present case.

4. Pursuant to the notice, a status report by way of an affidavit of Deputy Superintendent of Police, Sub Division Nakodar, District Jalandhar Rural has been filed on behalf of respondent-State and the same was taken on record.

5. Learned State counsel submits that the present petitioner is a hardened criminal and is a habitual offender and the following six FIRs were

registered against him:-

FIR No.	Dated	Sections	Police Station
51	10.07.2024	308 (5), 351 (3) of BNS	Lohian, District Kapurthala
151	2017	279, 337,338,427 of IPC	Laduwal, District Ludhiana
81	17.04.2024	386,506 of IPC	Sultanpur Lodhi, District Kapurthala
82	19.04.2024	307, 506, 120-B of IPC and under Section 25 of Arms Act	Sultanpur Lodhi, District Kapurthala
111	11.06.2024	386,506, 120-B of IPC	Sultanpur Lodhi, District Kapurthala
20	10.05.2024	386, 506 of IPC	Kabirpur, District Kapurthala

He further contends that the petitioner and the other accused are part of a big extortion racket. The petitioner had provided the information regarding the complainant to their co-accused to know about the financial status of the complainant and threatening calls were made to the complainant. Learned State counsel has referred to the following paragraphs from the status report and the same is reproduced below:

9.That during investigation, on 06.07.2024, co-accused Jobanjit Singh suffered a disclosure statementto the effect that he is a drug addict and he along with his friend Lucky got hatched a plan by virtue of which they would get heroin from international countries and sell the same to customers in India. However, before they could execute their plan, the container in which the heroin came was apprehended by DRI officials and FIR was registered in Gujarat against Jobanjit Singh for the said incident Jobanjit Singh was arrested by Gujarat police in the said case.

However, on 16.02 2024, when Jobanjit Singh was being taken to Gujarat from Amritsar, he managed to escape from the custody of Gujarat Police. Thereafter, he called Jagdeep Singh @ Jagga asking for help and the said Jagdeep Singh @ Jagga asked Kulwinder Singh @ Kaka and Harjinder Singh @ Jinda to keep Jobanjit Singh at their house. It is pertinent to mention herein that during his stay at Harjinder Singh @ Jinda's house, Jobanjit Singh made a plan with the petitioner (who was introduced to Jobanjit Singh by Harjinder Singh) and Harjinder Singh @ Jinda wherein they would call a trader or an agriculturist from an international number and demand money by way of extortion from him. In consequence of the said plan, the petitioner approached his friend, who is a resident of Village Haripur Chadha (same village as complainant's) and the said unknown person told the petitioner about the assets and family of complainant. Thereafter, Harjinder Singh @ Jinda informed his friend Jagdeep Singh @ Jagga, who is residing in England, about the information he had received from petitioner with regard to assets and family of complainant and asked him to call him from an international number for the purpose of extorting money from complainant. Agreeing with the plan set up by Harjinder Singh @ Jinda and petitioner Amrik Singh, Jagdeep Singh @ Jagga arranged a call from one Galha (son of Shir, presently residing in England) to the complainant wherein a demand of Rs. 50,00,000/- was made to complainant. Lastly, Jobanjit Singh stated that when they got to know about the arrest of their accomplice Harjinder Singh, Jobanjit Singh and Kulwinder Singh agreed to kill complainant. However, before they could do so, they were arrested by the police officials.

10. That on 11.07.2024, co-accused Kulwinder Singh suffered another disclosure statement wherein he stated he along with the petitioner and other accused persons run a racket of extortion and they receive an amount of Rs. 5,00,000/- each for Jagdeep

Singh @ Jagga and Navdeep Singh @ Galha about the targets.

13. That it is humbly submitted that the present case is of grave nature wherein the accused persons, including the petitioner, are involved in a big extortion racket. It was the petitioner who had asked his friend (unknown person) to get information about complainant and after getting the said information, the petitioner told his co-accused about the same. Thus, the custodial interrogation of the petitioner is required to get the name of the person who had actually done recce of complainant and informed the petitioner about the same.

6. I have heard the rival submissions made by learned counsel for the parties and perused the record carefully.

7. From the submissions made by learned State counsel, it is apparent that the petitioner is a habitual offender and in the past also, he was involved in similar cases. Apart from that, in the present case also, there is sufficient evidence on record against the present petitioner and keeping in view the gravity of the allegations levelled against the petitioner, he is not entitled to any relief of grant of anticipatory bail by this Court. Apart from that, even the custodial interrogation of the petitioner will be required to know the names of the other accused, who are also part of extortion racket with the present petitioner. Thus, the present petition is ordered to be dismissed.

06.11.2024
hitesh

(N.S.SHEKHAWAT)
JUDGE

Whether speaking/reasoned : Yes/No
Whether reportable : Yes/No