



**IN THE HIGH COURT OF PUNJAB AND HARYANA
AT CHANDIGARH**

217

CRM-M-48487-2024(O&M)

Date of Decision: 13.12.2024

RANJIT SINGH @ JAGGI

....Petitioner

VERSUS

STATE OF PUNJAB

....Respondent

CORAM : HON'BLE MRS. JUSTICE MANISHA BATRA

Present : Mr. Satvir Singh, Advocate for the petitioner.

Mr. Satjot Singh, AAG, Punjab.

MANISHA BATRA, J. (Oral)

1. This is a petition under Section 483 of Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita, 2023 for grant of regular bail to the petitioner in case arising out of FIR No.14 dated 25.01.2023 registered under Section 302, 201, 404, 34 of IPC (Section 120-B added later on) at Police Station City Sunam, District Sangrur.

2. Adumbrated facts as emanating from the record are that the aforementioned FIR was initially registered on the statement recorded by complainant Ranjeet Singh alleging therein that on 20.01.2023, his brother Manjeet Singh who used to ply a bolero pickup vehicle for purchasing/collecting black oil from different cities, had left home for the purpose of collecting black oil. The petitioner and co-accused

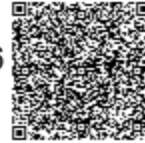
Tarwinder Singh alias Kali who had been employed as labourers by his



brother had gone along with him. His brother did not return home and his dead body was found lying at Civil Hospital, Sunam as unclaimed which was identified by him. On the allegations that he was sure that the petitioner and co-accused Tarwinder Singh @ Kali had hand in the murder of the victim and they had also taken away cash amount of Rs.60,000/- which the victim was carrying at the time of leaving, action was prayed to be taken.

2. After registration of FIR, investigation commenced. Usual formalities were completed. The petitioner and the co-accused were arrested on 26.01.2023. They were interrogated and suffered disclosure statements admitting their complicity in committing the murder of the victim and taking away four drums of black oil/mobil purchased by the victim. They also disclosed the names of the co-accused Mandeep Singh @ Laddi and Kala Singh @ Punjab as the persons who had asked them to throw the dead body of the deceased in drain. The co-accused were also arrested. Investigation has since been completed and the petitioner is facing trial for commission of aforementioned offences.

3. It is argued by learned counsel for the petitioner that he has been falsely implicated in this case only because of reason that he was employed by the deceased. His involvement in the murder of the victim has not been established. There is no eye witness to the murder of the victim. The case is based upon circumstantial evidence and no



circumstance pointing towards his guilt could be collected by the investigating agency. He is in custody since 26.01.2023. Trial is likely to take substantial time since not even a single witness has been examined so far. There is delay of five days in reporting the matter to the police. The co-accused Mandeep Singh @ Laddi and Kala Singh @ Punjab have been extended benefit of bail. His further detention would not serve any useful purpose. Therefore, it is urged he deserves to be given concession of bail.

4. Status report has been filed by respondent-State. It is argued by learned Additional Advocate General, Punjab that there are serious allegations against the petitioner who was named in the FIR. Recovery of mobil oil purchased by the victim had been effected at their instance. The evidence collected during investigation has *prima facie* established the guilt of the petitioner. As such, it is argued that keeping in view the grave nature of the allegations as levelled against the petitioner, he does not deserve to be extended benefit of bail.

5. I have heard learned counsel for the parties at considerable length and have gone through the record carefully.

6. The petitioner in connivance with the co-accused Tarwinder Singh alias Kali is alleged to have committed murder of the victim, is alleged to have caused disappearance of his dead body to conceal the evidence of offence of murder and is further alleged to have removed



four drums of mobil oil purchased by the victim after killing him. There are serious allegations against the petitioner. Gravity of the offence is main point to be taken into consideration at the time of granting/ denying the benefit of bail to an accused. Simply because of the fact that the petitioner in custody for about 01 year 11 months, he cannot be extended benefit of bail. As per the above discussed facts, this Court of the considered opinion that the petition does not deserve to be allowed. Accordingly, the same is dismissed.

7. It is, however, also made clear that any observation made herein shall not be treated as an expression of opinion on the merits of the case.

8. Pending application, if any, also stands disposed of.

(MANISHA BATRA)
JUDGE

13.12.2024

Deepak Patwal

1. Whether speaking/reasoned : Yes/No
2. Whether reportable : Yes/No