



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

CRM-M No.52170 of 2024 (O&M)

Date of Decision: 13.11.2024

RAVINDER TEJI ALIAS RANGA ALIAS RAVI

.....Petitioner

Versus

STATE OF PUNJAB

.....Respondent

CORAM : HON'BLE MRS. JUSTICE MANJARI NEHRU KAUL

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

Mr. Amit Rana, Senior DAG, Punjab.

Manjari Nehru Kaul, J.(Oral)

1. This is the petition filed by the petitioner seeking concession of regular bail in case FIR No.12 dated 07.02.2021 under Sections 302, 201, 34, 460, 120-B IPC registered at Police Station Mehatpur, District Jalandhar.

2. Short reply by way of an affidavit of Onkar Singh, PPS, Deputy Superintendent of Police, Sub Division Shahkot, Jalandhar and custody certificate of the petitioner have been filed today in the Court. The same are taken on record.

3. Learned counsel for the petitioner has reiterated that the present case hinges on circumstantial evidence; the deceased was found murdered inside his own house. It has been further argued that no suspicion was raised qua the involvement of any person in the alleged murder, much less the petitioner. Learned counsel has asserted that once no suspicion was raised



qua the involvement of the petitioner in the alleged murder, coupled with there being 'no witness of last seen' also, there was no occasion for the petitioner to go and suffer an extra judicial confession before one Manpreet Singh confessing to his involvement in the alleged murder. Learned counsel has submitted that after the petitioner was arrested on 18.02.2021 only seven prosecution witnesses out of twenty cited had been examined till date. Hence, the possibility of trial concluding in the near future did not arise. It has, thus, been prayed that in the aforementioned facts and circumstances, the petitioner deserves to be enlarged on bail.

4. Per contra, learned State counsel while vehemently opposing the prayer and submissions made by the counsel opposite, has not disputed that the FIR was registered against unknown persons and no suspicion whatsoever was raised qua the involvement of any person much less the petitioner, in the crime in question. However, learned State counsel submits that the deceased was an old man living all by himself in his house; all the accused including the petitioner broke into the house of the deceased with an intention to rob him. However, since the deceased recognized his assailants including the accused, he was then done to death. On a pointed query, learned State counsel, on instructions, has not disputed that other than the alleged extra judicial confession allegedly suffered by the petitioner before Manpreet Singh, no other evidence with respect to the involvement of the petitioner had been collected by the police. Learned State counsel has, however, submitted that recovery of a copper wire and a *parna* had



been affected from the petitioner and the co-accused, which was used to strangle the deceased to death.

5. I have heard learned counsel for the parties and perused the relevant material on record.

6. The petitioner has been in custody for more than three and a half years, having been arrested on 18.02.2021. The instant case rests on circumstantial evidence; the trial is unlikely to conclude in the near future as thirteen prosecution witnesses still remain to be examined.

7. In the facts and circumstances as enumerated hereinabove, this Court deems it fit to extend the concession of regular bail to the petitioner. Accordingly, the instant petition is allowed. The petitioner be admitted to bail on his furnishing bail/surety bonds to the satisfaction of the Trial Court/Duty Magistrate concerned.

8. However, it is made clear that anything observed hereinabove shall not be construed to be an expression of opinion on the merits of the case.

9. Needless to add, in case the petitioner misuses the concession of bail granted to him, the State would be at liberty to seek cancellation of the same.

(MANJARI NEHRU KAUL)
JUDGE

13.11.2024
sandeep

Whether Speaking/Reasoned : Yes/No

Whether Reportable : Yes/No