



CRM-M-55447-2024

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

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Date of decision: 13<sup>th</sup> November, 2024

Maninder Singh @ Mani

...Petitioner

Versus

State of Punjab

...Respondent

**CORAM: HON'BLE MRS. JUSTICE MANISHA BATRA**

Present: Mr. Damanjeet Bhoriwal, Advocate for the petitioner.

Mr. A.S. Samra, AAG, Punjab.

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**MANISHA BATRA, J (ORAL):-**

The present petition has been filed by the petitioner under Section 483 of the Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita, 2023 (for short 'BNSS') seeking regular bail in case bearing FIR No. 152 dated 02.09.2024 registered under Section 299 of Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita, 2023 (for short 'BNS') at Police Station Canal Colony, District Bathinda.

2. As per the prosecution case, the aforementioned FIR was registered on the basis of a written complaint filed by the complainant Avtar Singh alleging therein that on 18.08.2024, a post was uploaded on the facebook by the name of page 'Hindu Tiger Force'. The photographs of Sikh Gurus, Mata Sahib Kaur and Guru Granth Sahib were edited in the said post and objectionable comments were made qua Sikh community and its religion with an intent to disturb the public peace and harmony. The



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complainant disclosed the facebook page and facebook ID through which such posts have been made along with copies of screenshot thereof and prayed for taking action. After registration of FIR, investigation proceedings were initiated. The petitioner was arrested on 03.09.2024, as it was found that the post was made through an ID created by him. The petitioner has moved an application for grant of regular bail before the learned Additional Sessions Judge, Bathinda which was dismissed vide order dated 23.10.2024.

3. It is argued by learned counsel for the petitioner that he has been falsely implicated in this case. He has not posted any material on his facebook page. Rather some unknown person by creating a facebook page in the name of 'Hindu Tiger Force' had posted the said objectionable photos. He has already filed complaint to the spolice for conducting inquiry into the matter. Trial is likely to take time. Custodial interrogation of the petitioner is not required. Therefore, it is urged that the petition deserves to be allowed.

4. *Per contra*, learned State counsel who has advance notice of the petition has submitted that the allegations against the petitioner are serious in nature. The post made by him has hurt the religious sentiments of Sikh community to an extreme extent. The petitioner committed malicious acts with the intent to outrage religious feelings of Sikh community by insulting their religion. There are chances of his absconding, if extended benefit of bail. Therefore, it is urged that the petition does not deserve to be allowed.

5. I have heard learned counsel for the petitioner as well as learned State counsel at considerable length and have gone through the record carefully.



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6. The petitioner is alleged to have morphed photographs of holy books and of revered Gurus of Sikh community and is further alleged to have posted offensive photographs on social media on his facebook ID. Investigation has since been completed and challan has been filed. Trial is likely to take time. The petitioner is in custody since 03.09.2024. No useful purpose would be served by keeping him in custody anymore. The subject offence is triable by Magistrate. As per the discussion as made above, but without meaning to make any comment on the merits of the case, I am of the considered opinion that the petition deserves to be allowed. Accordingly, the same is allowed and the petitioner is ordered to be released on bail subject to his furnishing personal/surety bonds to the satisfaction of the Chief Judicial Magistrate/ Duty Magistrate concerned.

7. Since the main petition has been allowed, pending application, if any, is rendered infructuous.

**[MANISHA BATRA]**  
**JUDGE**

**13<sup>th</sup> November, 2024**

*Parveen Sharma*

1. *Whether speaking/ reasoned*
2. *Whether reportable*

: *Yes / No*  
: *Yes / No*