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

**CRM-M-61761-2023 (O&M)
Date of decision : 22.05.2024**

Geeta Rani and others

... Petitioners

Versus

State of Punjab and another

...Respondents

CORAM: HON'BLE MR. JUSTICE MAHABIR SINGH SINDHU

Present: Mr. K.B. Raheja, Advocate
for the petitioners.
Ms. Avneet, AAG, Punjab.
Mr. M.S. Kathuria, Advocate for respondent No. 2.

MAHABIR SINGH SINDHU, J.

Present petition has been filed under Section 482 Cr.P.C. for quashing of FIR No. 53 dated 28.04.2023 registered under Section 306 of Indian Penal Code, 1860 (for short 'IPC') at Police Station City Kotwali Nabha, District Patiala alongwith all subsequent proceedings arising therefrom on basis of compromise (P-5) arrived at between the parties i.e. petitioners and respondent No. 2.

2. Allegations are that due to some matrimonial dispute, petitioner alongwith co-accused demanded Rs. 15 lakhs from complainant and his son.-Khushal Chand. Further alleged that due to frequent quarrel and insult at the hands of accused, the complainant's son-Khushal Chand committed suicide.

3. This Court while issuing notice of motion on 30.04.2024, passed the following order:-

“ Contends that matter has been compromised between the parties i.e. petitioners as well as respondent No. 2.

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- (2) *Notice of motion.*
- (3) *On asking of the Court, Ms. Manjot Kaur, AAG, Punjab accepts notice on behalf of respondent No. 1-State.*
- (4) *Mr. Rajiv Sharma, Advocate, appears on behalf of respondent No. 2. He acknowledged the factum of compromise dated 25.05.2023 (P-5) arrived at between the parties at their own level.*
- (5) *Requisite number of copies of the petition be supplied to learned counsel for the respondents during the course of day.*
- (6) *Petitioners shall file affidavit(s) that there is no other criminal case(s) pending against them and also give the details of any other FIRs, already quashed on the basis of compromise.*
- (7) *In view of the above, let parties appear before the Court of learned Illaqa Magistrate/trial Court on or before 09.05.2024 for recording their statement(s) with reference to the compromise, if any, entered into between them.*
- (8) *Learned Illaqa Magistrate/trial Court shall record the statement(s) of all accused, complainant/injured and victim, if any, and submit a report to this Court before the next date of hearing containing the following information:-*
- (i) *Whether the statements of the parties are bona fide and not result of any pressure or coercion etc. in any manner?*
- (ii). *Whether the compromise effected between the parties is genuine and valid?*
- (iii). *Whether all the accused, complainant and injured are party to the compromise and if not, the details/particulars of such person(s)?*
- (iv). *Whether any other case is pending against either of the parties or not, if yes, the details thereof?*
- (v). *Whether any of the persons involved in this case/dispute has been declared a proclaimed offender?*
- (vi). *Whether any of the petitioner(s) is/are previous convict or not?*
- (9) *List before this Court on **22.05.2024** for further consideration.*
- (10) *Meanwhile, learned State Counsel shall also get the instructions in the matter as to whether the State has any objection?*
- 11) *Copy of this order be sent to learned Judicial Officer concerned forthwith for information and strict compliance."*

4. In terms of aforesaid order, statements of both the parties were recorded and a report dated 17.05.2024 has been submitted in this regard by learned Sub Divisional Judicial Magistrate, Nabha, District Patiala. The operative part of the same reads as under:-



“ 1. As per statement of the parties and statement of Investigating Officer ASI Balwinder Singh, recorded on 06.05.2024 and 14.05.2024, the statements of the parties are bonafide and not the result of any pressure or coercion etc., in any manner.

2. As per statement of the complainant, accused persons and Investigating Officer of the case, the said compromise is genuine, voluntary and without any coercion or undue influence.

3. As per the statement of Investigating Officer namely ASI Balwinder Singh, complainant as well as accused persons, all the accused, complainant/injured are party to the compromise.

4. As per the statement of the parties, no other civil or criminal litigation is pending against them.

5. As per the statement of ASI Balwinder Singh, Investigating officer of the case recorded on 14.05.2024, none of the accused persons has been declared as Proclaimed Offender in the present case.

6. As per statement of the accused persons and statement of Investigating Officer ASI Balwinder Singh, the accused persons have not been convicted by any Court in any case.”

5. A perusal of the aforesaid report clearly reveals that the matter has been compromised by both the parties with their free consent, voluntarily and without any coercion or undue influence. Even before this Court also, there is no objection by either of the parties against the compromise.

6. Learned counsel for the petitioners contend that matter has been amicably settled between the parties i.e. petitioners and respondent No. 2.

7. Learned State Counsel, after obtaining instructions has raised no objection to the prayer made by petitioners and she duly acknowledged the factum of compromise.



8. Learned counsel for respondent No. 2 has acknowledged the factum of compromise effected between the parties with their free consent.
9. Learned counsel for the parties jointly stated that petitioners and complainant are now residing in the same house.
10. Hon'ble the Supreme Court in **Gian Singh v. State of Punjab, (2012) 10 SCC 303**, has held as under:-

“61. The position that emerges from the above discussion can be summarised thus : the power of the High Court in quashing a criminal proceeding or FIR or complaint in exercise of its inherent jurisdiction is distinct and different from the power given to a criminal court for compounding the offences under Section 320 of the Code. Inherent power is of wide plenitude with no statutory limitation but it has to be exercised in accord with the guideline engrafted in such power viz. : (i) to secure the ends of justice, or (ii) to prevent abuse of the process of any court. In what cases power to quash the criminal proceeding or complaint or FIR may be exercised where the offender and the victim have settled their dispute would depend on the facts and circumstances of each case and no category can be prescribed. However, before exercise of such power, the High Court must have due regard to the nature and gravity of the crime. Heinous and serious offences of mental depravity or offences like murder, rape, dacoity, etc. cannot be fittingly quashed even though the victim or victim's family and the offender have settled the dispute. Such offences are not private in nature and have a serious impact on society. Similarly, any compromise between the victim and the offender in relation to the offences under special statutes like the Prevention of Corruption Act or the offences committed by public servants while working in that capacity, etc.; cannot provide for any basis for quashing criminal proceedings involving such offences. But the criminal cases having overwhelmingly and predominatingly civil flavour stand on a different footing for the purposes of quashing, particularly the offences arising from commercial, financial, mercantile, civil, partnership or such like transactions or the offences arising out of matrimony relating to dowry, etc. or the family disputes where the wrong is basically private or personal in nature and the parties have resolved their entire dispute. In this category of cases, the High



Court may quash the criminal proceedings if in its view, because of the compromise between the offender and the victim, the possibility of conviction is remote and bleak and continuation of the criminal case would put the accused to great oppression and prejudice and extreme injustice would be caused to him by not quashing the criminal case despite full and complete settlement and compromise with the victim. In other words, the High Court must consider whether it would be unfair or contrary to the interest of justice to continue with the criminal proceeding or continuation of the criminal proceeding would tantamount to abuse of process of law despite settlement and compromise between the victim and the wrongdoer and whether to secure the ends of justice, it is appropriate that the criminal case is put to an end and if the answer to the above question(s) is in the affirmative, the High Court shall be well within its jurisdiction to quash the criminal proceeding.”

11. In view of above, this Court is fully convinced that the offence is entirely personal in nature and does not affect public peace or tranquility. Thus, quashing of the FIR in question along with consequential proceedings, on the basis of compromise would bring peace and harmony to secure the ends of justice.

12. Consequently, present petition is allowed; aforesaid FIR along with all consequential proceedings resulting therefrom are quashed qua the petitioners.

13. No costs.

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

22.05.2024
Harish Kumar

(MAHABIR SINGH SINDHU)
JUDGE

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