

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

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**CRM-M-64599-2023
Date of decision : 01.04.2024**

Pargat Singh**..... Petitioner**

versus

State of Punjab and another**..... Respondents****CORAM : HON'BLE MR. JUSTICE PANKAJ JAIN**

Present: Mr. Varinder Basa, Advocate
for the petitioner.

Mr. Jaswinder Singh Arora, DAG, Punjab.

Ms. Sunita Devi, Advocate
for respondent No.2.

PANKAJ JAIN, J. (Oral)

1. By way of present petition, the petitioner is seeking quashing of FIR No.93 dated 25.10.2022 registered for offences punishable under Section 336 of IPC (Sections 25 and 27 of Arms Act added later on) at Police Station Kotli Surat, Mallian, District Batala, Gurdaspur, Punjab on the basis of compromise dated 11.12.2023 (Annexure P-2).

2. On 21.12.2023, the following order was passed:-

“The present petition has been moved invoking jurisdiction of this Court under Section 482 Cr.P.C by the petitioners seeking quashing of FIR No.93 dated 25.10.2022 registered for offences punishable under Sections 336 of IPC (Section 25 and 27 of Arms Act added later on), at Police Station Kotli Surat, Mallian, District Batala, Gurdaspur, Punjab.

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Learned counsel for the petitioner contends that the matter already stands compromised vide order dated 11.12.2023 (Annexure P-2).

Notice of motion for **01.04.2024**.

On the asking of the Court, Mr. Tarun Aggarwal, Sr. DAG, Punjab appears and accepts notice on behalf of the respondent-State and Ms. Ramandeep Kaur, Advocate appears on behalf of respondent No.2 and admits the fact of there being a compromise between the parties.

In view of the above, both the parties are directed to appear before learned Duty Magistrate/Illaqa Magistrate/trial Court on 15.01.2024. On their doing so, the learned Duty Magistrate/Illaqa Magistrate/trial Court shall record their statements and furnish its report to this Court by the next date of hearing on the following aspects:-

1. Number of persons arrayed as accused in the FIR.
2. Whether any accused is proclaimed offender?
3. Whether the compromise is genuine, voluntary and without any coercion or undue influence?
4. Whether the accused persons are involved in any other case or not?
5. The trial Court is also directed to record the statement of the Investigating Officer as to how many victims/complainants are there in the FIR.

A copy of the report be also sent to the Registrar Judicial of this Court.

Needless to say that in case for any reason the statements are not recorded on the aforesaid date, the

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learned Duty Magistrate/Illaqa Magistrate/trial Court shall be at liberty to call the parties on any other date but not later than a week thereafter.”

3. Pursuant to the aforesaid order, report dated 23.01.2024 from JMIC, Batala has been received, which is taken on record. As per the report, the trial Court has recorded as follows:-

“xx xx xx

1) Number of persons arrayed as accused in the FIR?

According to the statement of the investigating officer, there is only one accused namely Pargat Singh.

2) Whether any accused is a proclaimed offender?

According to the statement of the investigating officer, accused has not been declared as proclaimed offender.

3) Whether the compromise is genuine, voluntary and without any coercion or undue influence?

Petitioner/accused accused Pargat Singh son of Sh. Veer Singh appeared in the Court along with his Advocate and stated that he had entered into a compromise without any extraneous influence, coercion and on his own volition. The complainant Gurmeet Singh son of Sadhu Singh stated in specific terms that he had no objection if the quashing proceedings filed by the petitioner/accused are accepted. Both the parties were identified by their respective Advocates.

Therefore, from the statements of the parties present before the Court, it appears that compromise entered into between the parties is genuine, voluntary and out of free will.

4) Whether the accused is involved in any other FIR or not?

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According to the statement of the investigating officer, accused is not involved in any other FIR.

5) Number of victims/complainants in the present FIR?

Statement of the Investigating Officer was also recorded on this score and he stated that there is only one complainant namely Gurmeet Singh in the present FIR.”

4. Ms. Sunita Devi, Advocate appears for respondent No.2 and admits the fact of parties having compromised and states that she has no objection in case the FIR and all proceedings subsequent thereto against the petitioner are quashed.

5. Learned State counsel has stated no objection in case the FIR is quashed based upon the compromise.

6. I have heard learned counsel for the parties and have carefully gone through the records of the case.

7. This Court and Apex Court has repeatedly dealt with the issue of exercise of jurisdiction under Section 482 Cr.P.C. to quash proceedings recognizing compromise between parties in non-compoundable offences in the cases of **Gian Singh vs. State of Punjab and another, 2012(10) SCC 303, State of Madhya Pradesh vs. Laxmi Narayan and others (2019) 5 SCC 688, Kulwinder Singh & others vs. State of Punjab & another, 2007 (3) RCR (Criminal) 1052 and Ram Gopal and another vs. State of Madhya Pradesh, 2021(4) R.C.R. (Criminal) 322 (Criminal Appeal No.1489 of 2012 decided on 29th of September, 2021).** The proposition of law that emerges from the aforesaid decisions rendered by Apex Court and this Court is :

(a) *Power u/s 482 Cr.P.C. vested with this Court is much*

wider and is unaffected by Section 320 of the Code.

(b) However, wider the power greater the caution.

(c) The underlining principle while exercising such power is that it can be invoked to quash the proceedings recognizing compromise between the parties in the matters which are overwhelmingly and predominantly of civil character like commercial transactions or arising out of matrimonial relationship or family disputes.

(d) The said power is not to be exercised in the prosecutions involving heinous and serious offences of mental depravity or offences like murder, rape, dacoity etc. as such offences are not private in nature and have a serious impact on society.

(e) Section 482 Cr.P.C. casts duty upon the High Court to advance interest of justice as well. It is in recognition of this duty casted upon the High Court, that Apex Court held that the High Court would not refuse to quash FIR under Section 307 merely because FIR finds mention thereof. High Court can assess nature of injuries sustained, whether such injuries inflicted on vital/delicate parts of the body/nature of weapons used etc.

(f) Such exercise at the hands of High Court would be permissible only after the evidence is collected after investigation and chargesheet is filed/charges framed during the trial. Such exercise cannot be carried out while the matter is still under investigation.

(g) While quashing FIR in non-compoundable offences even which are of private in nature, High Court is required to consider antecedents of the accused, conduct of the accused and whether he was absconding or whether he has managed the complainant to enter into a compromise.

8. Thus, keeping in view the aforesaid facts and circumstances, this Court is of the considered opinion that it is a fit case to exercise jurisdiction vested u/s 482 Cr.P.C. to quash the FIR as :-

*(i) The present matter does not fall within the exceptions as carved out in **Laxmi Narayan's** case (supra) i.e. heinous offence.*

(ii) The offences alleged are of private nature.

(iii) The parties have compromised.

- (iv) As per the report received the compromise is said to be voluntary in its nature.
- (v) Complainant/victim is reported to have entered into compromise on his own volition.
- (vi) Though the petitioners already stand convicted yet in view of law laid down by the Apex Court in the case of **Ram Gopal and another vs. State of Madhya Pradesh** (supra), this Court finds it to be a fit case to exercise jurisdiction under Section 482 Cr.P.C. to quash the FIR and all consequential proceedings emanating therefrom including the order of conviction.

9. Consequently, the petition is allowed. FIR No.93 dated 25.10.2022 registered for offences punishable under Section 336 of IPC (Sections 25 and 27 of Arms Act added later on) at Police Station Kotli Surat, Mallian, District Batala, Gurdaspur, Punjab and all proceedings arising therefrom, are, hereby, quashed qua the petitioner.

(PANKAJ JAIN)
JUDGE

01.04.2024
Dinesh

Whether speaking/reasoned	Yes
Whether Reportable :	No