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* **IN THE HIGH COURT OF DELHI AT NEW DELHI**

+ **CRL.M.C. 1518/2024**

KHEM CHAND & ANR.

..... Petitioners

Through: Mr. Vinayak Bhandari, Ms. Jaisal Singh, Ms. Teesta Mishra, Advocates with Petitioners in person.

versus

STATE OF NCT OF DELHI & ANR.

..... Respondents

Through: Mr. Digam Singh Dagar, APP for State with SI Om Yadav, P.S. Palam Village.
Respondent No.2 in person.

**CORAM:
HON'BLE MS. JUSTICE JYOTI SINGH**

**ORDER
23.02.2024**

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1. This petition has been filed on behalf of the Petitioners under Section 482 Cr.P.C. seeking quashing of FIR No.166/2016 dated 25.03.2016 under Sections 354/323/506 IPC and registered at PS: Palam Village including proceedings emanating therefrom.
2. Petitioners and Respondent No.2 are neighbours and had cordial relationships but for the present FIR and a cross-FIR No. 165/2016 both of which arose out of an incident dated 23.03.2016. Petitioners allege that on 25.03.2016 at around 06:30 PM, Petitioner No. 2 was selling goods in her store when Respondent No. 2 came with her husband and son and started throwing the goods outside the store and when Petitioner No. 2 tried to stop



them, Respondent No. 2 along with her husband and son physically assaulted Petitioner No. 2. Subsequently, Respondent No. 2's son came to the house of the Petitioners and threatened to kill them and their son. In the present FIR, Respondent No. 2 alleges that Petitioners came along with their son and stormed into the Complainant's house and physically assaulted her. When Complainant's husband attempted to stop them, Petitioners along with their son thrashed her husband badly.

3. It is stated that being neighbours, none of the parties wanted to continue with the acrimonious relationship and therefore settled all their disputes and differences before the Mediation Centre, Dwarka Courts, where a Settlement Deed was also executed on 22.12.2022 and both parties agreed to withdraw their on going litigations against each other. Copy of the settlement has been placed on record. In furtherance of the settlement, present petition is filed for seeking quashing of one of the FIRs being case FIR No. 166/2016.

4. Issue notice.

5. Learned APP accepts notice on behalf of the State.

6. Petitioners and Respondent no.2 are present and are identified by Investigating Officer SI Om Yadav, PS: Palam Village. Respondent No.2 submits that she has no objection to the quashing of the FIR. Learned APP for the State submits that the parties have amicably settled the matter and therefore, he leaves the decision to the Court with respect to quashing of the present FIR.

7. The Supreme Court in ***Gian Singh v. State of Punjab and Another, (2012) 10 SCC 303***, observed that while exercising inherent powers under Section 482 Cr.P.C. in respect of quashing of an FIR where parties have



entered into amicable resolution of the disputes, one of the considerations would be whether it would be unfair or contrary to the interest of justice to continue the criminal proceedings despite the compromise and if the answer to the question is in the affirmative, the High Court would be well within its jurisdiction to quash the criminal proceedings, in order to ensure that the disputes are put to an end and peace is restored as securing the ends of justice is the ultimate guiding factor. This was of-course with a caveat that heinous and serious offences of mental depravity or offences like murder, dacoity etc. cannot be fittingly quashed even though the victim or the victim's family settles the disputes with the offender. Relevant paragraphs of the judgment are as follows:-

“55. In the very nature of its constitution, it is the judicial obligation of the High Court to undo a wrong in course of administration of justice or to prevent continuation of unnecessary judicial process. This is founded on the legal maxim quando lex aliquid alicui concedit, conceditur et id sine qua res ipsa esse non potest. The full import of which is whenever anything is authorised, and especially if, as a matter of duty, required to be done by law, it is found impossible to do that thing unless something else not authorised in express terms be also done, may also be done, then that something else will be supplied by necessary intendment. Ex debito justitiae is inbuilt in such exercise; the whole idea is to do real, complete and substantial justice for which it exists. The power possessed by the High Court under Section 482 of the Code is of wide amplitude but requires exercise with great caution and circumspection.

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58. Where the High Court quashes a criminal proceeding having regard to the fact that the dispute between the offender and the victim has been settled although the offences are not compoundable, it does so as in its opinion, continuation of criminal proceedings will be an exercise in futility and justice in the case demands that the dispute between the parties is put to an end and peace is restored; securing the ends of justice being the ultimate guiding factor. No doubt, crimes are acts which have harmful effect on the public and consist in wrongdoing that seriously endangers and threatens the well-being of the society and it is not safe to leave the crime-doer only because he and the victim have settled the dispute amicably or that the victim has been paid compensation, yet certain crimes



have been made compoundable in law, with or without the permission of the court. In respect of serious offences like murder, rape, dacoity, etc., or other offences of mental depravity under IPC or offences of moral turpitude under special statutes, like the Prevention of Corruption Act or the offences committed by public servants while working in that capacity, the settlement between the offender and the victim can have no legal sanction at all. However, certain offences which overwhelmingly and predominantly bear civil flavour having arisen out of civil, mercantile, commercial, financial, partnership or such like transactions or the offences arising out of matrimony, particularly relating to dowry, etc. or the family dispute, where the wrong is basically to the victim and the offender and the victim have settled all disputes between them amicably, irrespective of the fact that such offences have not been made compoundable, the High Court may within the framework of its inherent power, quash the criminal proceeding or criminal complaint or FIR if it is satisfied that on the face of such settlement, there is hardly any likelihood of the offender being convicted and by not quashing the criminal proceedings, justice shall be casualty and ends of justice shall be defeated. The above list is illustrative and not exhaustive. Each case will depend on its own facts and no hard-and-fast category can be prescribed.

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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.”

8. In a later judgment in the case of ***Narinder Singh and Others v. State of Punjab and Another***, (2014) 6 SCC 466, the Supreme Court reiterated the proposition and relevant paragraphs are as follows:-

“29.1. Power conferred under Section 482 of the Code is to be distinguished from the power which lies in the Court to compound the offences under Section 320 of the Code. No doubt, under Section 482 of the Code, the High Court has inherent power to quash the criminal proceedings even in those cases which are not compoundable, where the parties have settled the matter between themselves. However, this power is to be exercised sparingly and with caution.

29.2. When the parties have reached the settlement and on that basis petition for quashing the criminal proceedings is filed, the guiding factor in such cases would be to secure:

(i) ends of justice, or

(ii) to prevent abuse of the process of any court.

While exercising the power the High Court is to form an opinion on either of the aforesaid two objectives.

29.3. Such a power is not to be exercised in those prosecutions which involve heinous and serious offences of mental depravity or offences like



murder, rape, dacoity, etc. Such offences are not private in nature and have a serious impact on society. Similarly, for the offences alleged to have been committed under special statute like the Prevention of Corruption Act or the offences committed by public servants while working in that capacity are not to be quashed merely on the basis of compromise between the victim and the offender.

29.4. On the other hand, those criminal cases having overwhelmingly and predominantly civil character, particularly those arising out of commercial transactions or arising out of matrimonial relationship or family disputes should be quashed when the parties have resolved their entire disputes among themselves.”

9. From the conspectus of the aforesaid judgments, some of the principles that can be succinctly culled out for exercise of inherent powers under Section 482 Cr.P.C. are that the inherent jurisdiction is to prevent abuse of process of Court or to secure ends of justice as ends of justice are higher than ends of mere law, premised on the principle that inherent powers have been vested to do real, complete and substantial justice. This is of course not without a caveat that the Courts must steer clear of intervention in cases which involve heinous or serious offences involving mental depravity or economic offences and those which fall in the category of offences relating to murder, extortion, dacoity, cases under the Arms Act, 1959 etc.

10. It is a settled law that inherent powers under Section 482 Cr.P.C. are required to be exercised to secure the ends of justice and/or prevent abuse of the process of the Court. Since parties have amicably settled their disputes and Complainant does not wish to prosecute the complaint, chances of conviction are bleak and continuing the criminal proceedings will be an exercise in futility. This Court is fortified in its view by the decision of Co-ordinate Benches of this Court in ***Satbir Singh and Anr. v. The State Govt. of NCT of Delhi and Anr., CRL.M.C. 294/2023***, decided on 17.01.2023 and



Dinesh v. The State of NCT of Delhi & Anr., CRL.M.C. 692/2023, decided on 02.02.2023 have quashed FIRs under similar provisions predicated on amicable settlement between the parties.

11. Accordingly, FIR No.166/2016 dated 25.03.2016 under Sections 354/323/506 IPC and registered at PS: Palam Village including the proceedings emanating therefrom is hereby quashed.

12. Petition stands disposed of in the aforesaid terms.

JYOTI SINGH, J

FEBRUARY 23, 2024/hs