



Crl.O.P.(MD)No.22065 of 2025

BEFORE THE MADURAI BENCH OF MADRAS HIGH COURT

Dated : 05.12.2025

CORAM:

THE HONOURABLE MRS.JUSTICE L.VICTORIA GOWRI

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1.Muthuraj

2.Saratha

3.Manju

4.Kalaiselvan

5.Ramya

... Petitioners/A1, A3 to A6

Vs.

1.The State of Tamil Nadu rep. by,
The Inspector of Police,
All Women Police Station,
Alangulam, Tenkasi District.
(Crime No.21 of 2023)

... 1st respondent /
Complainant

2.Prathipa

... 2nd respondent / de-facto
Complainant

PRAYER : Criminal Original Petition filed under Section 528 of BNSS, to call for the records and quash the charge sheet filed against the petitioners in P.R.C.No.31 of 2025 on the file of the Judicial Magistrate Court, Tenkasi, in respect of Crime No.21 of 2023 on the file of the 1st respondent police.



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For Petitioners : Mr.N.Vignesh

For R1 : Mr.M.Sakthi Kumar
Government Advocate (Criminal Side)

For R2 : Mr.B.Azhagesh

ORDER

This Criminal Original Petition has been filed under Section 528 BNSS, seeking to quash the charge sheet filed in P.R.C.No.31 of 2025 on the file of the Judicial Magistrate Court, Tenkasi, insofar as the petitioners are concerned.

2. The de-facto complainant, namely Prathipa, the wife of the 1st petitioner, was subjected to harassment and ill-treatment, including demands for dowry, at the hands of the petitioners. The 2nd petitioner is the mother-in-law, the 3rd and 5th petitioners are the sisters-in-law, and the 4th petitioner is the husband of the 3rd petitioner.

3. On 27.11.2023, the 1st petitioner verbally abused the 2nd respondent, telling her to die, which caused the 2nd respondent to consume poison in a state of extreme distress. Thereafter, the 2nd respondent contacted her relative, who arrived at the house, rescued her, and took her to the hospital for treatment. This resulted in the filing of a complaint in Crime No.21 of 2023 before the 1st respondent police.



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4. After investigation, a charge sheet was filed, and the matter was taken on file as P.R.C.No.31 of 2025 for the alleged offences under Sections 498(A), 294(b), 506(1), 306, 511, and 352 of the IPC, read with Section 4 of the Tamil Nadu Prohibition of Harassment of Women Act, 2002.

5. Admittedly, the petitioners and the 2nd respondent are related as family members, and they have now resolved the dispute amicably. A Joint Compromise Memo dated 26.11.2025 has been filed before this Court.

6. The petitioners and the 2nd respondent/de-facto complainant are present before this Court in person and are identified by Ms.V.Muthulakshmi, All Women Police Station, Alangulam, Tenkasi District. The de-facto complainant has categorically stated that she does not wish to pursue the proceedings against the petitioners. This Court is satisfied that the compromise is voluntary and not the result of any coercion or undue influence.

7. The law relating to quashment of criminal proceedings on the basis of compromise between the parties is well settled. In ***Gian Singh v. State of Punjab***¹, the Hon'ble Supreme Court authoritatively held that the inherent power of the High Court under Section 482 Cr.P.C is of wide amplitude and

¹ 2012 10 SCC 303



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may be exercised to quash criminal proceedings even in respect of non-compoundable offences, provided the dispute is essentially private in nature and the quashment would secure the ends of justice. The Court, however, drew a clear distinction between offences arising out of personal or matrimonial disputes, commercial transactions and similar private wrongs, and serious or heinous offences having grave impact on society, holding that the latter category cannot ordinarily be quashed merely on the basis of a settlement.

8. The said principles were succinctly crystallised in *Parbatbhai Aahir v. State of Gujarat*², wherein the Supreme Court, after surveying the earlier precedents, laid down broad propositions governing the exercise of inherent jurisdiction on the basis of compromise. It was emphasised that the paramount consideration is whether the continuance of the criminal proceedings would be unfair or contrary to the interests of justice, and whether the dispute predominantly bears a civil or private character, rendering the possibility of conviction remote and bleak.

9. In *State of Madhya Pradesh v. Laxmi Narayan*³, the Supreme Court reiterated and clarified the limitations on such power, holding that offences of a

² 2017 9 SCC 641

³ 2019 5 SCC 688



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serious nature, particularly those involving mental depravity, grave violence, or offences against society at large, cannot be quashed on the basis of compromise, even if the parties have amicably settled the dispute. The Court further cautioned that while examining compromise quash petitions, the High Court must consider the nature and gravity of the offence, the conduct of the accused, and the stage of the proceedings, and the overall impact on society and must satisfy itself that the settlement is voluntary and not the result of coercion or undue influence.

10. Applying the aforesaid principles to the facts of the present case, this Court has carefully examined the nature and gravity of the allegations, the relationship between the parties, the conduct of the petitioners, the stage of the proceedings, and the voluntary nature of the compromise.

11. The dispute in question is predominantly matrimonial in nature and does not involve any offence having serious or grave impact on society at large. In view of the compromise arrived at between the parties, the possibility of conviction is rendered remote and bleak. Continuation of the criminal proceedings would therefore serve no useful purpose and would amount to an abuse of the process of Court.



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12. Accordingly, the impugned charge sheet filed in P.R.C.No.31 of 2025 on the file of the Judicial Magistrate Court, Tenkasi, is quashed insofar as the petitioners are concerned, and the Criminal Original Petition stands allowed. The joint compromise memo dated 26.11.2025 shall form part and parcel of this order.

05.12.2025

NCC : Yes / No
Index : Yes / No
Internet : Yes / No
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L.VICTORIA GOWRI, J.

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To

1.The Judicial Magistrate Court,
Tenkasi.

2.The Inspector of Police,
All Women Police Station,
Alangulam, Tenkasi District.

3.The Additional Public Prosecutor,
Madurai Bench of Madras High Court, Madurai.

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