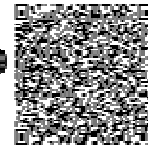


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**IN THE HIGH COURT FOR THE STATES OF PUNJAB AND
HARYANA AT CHANDIGARH**

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CRM-M-18285-2025 (O&M)

Date of decision: 03.04.2025

Harbhajan Kaur and another**...Petitioners****Versus****State of Punjab****...Respondent****CORAM: HON'BLE MRS. JUSTICE MANISHA BATRA**

Present:- Mr. Gobind Singh Randhawa, Advocate
for the petitioners.

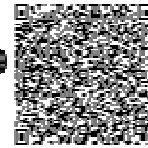
Ms. Ruchika Sabherwal, Sr. DAG, Punjab.

MANISHA BATRA, J. (Oral)

1. The instant petition has been filed by the petitioners under Section 528 of Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita, 2023 (*for short 'BNSS'*) for quashing of order dated 24.01.2025 (Annexure P-5), passed by the Court of learned Judicial Magistrate First Class, Patti in case titled as ***State vs. Ravail Singh and others***, arising out of FIR No. 81 dated 27.07.2023, registered under Sections 307, 323, 324, 34 of IPC and Sections 25 and 27 of the Arms Act, 1959 at Police Station Valtoha, District Tarn Taran, whereby the petitioners had been declared as proclaimed offenders.

2. The present petition has been filed by the petitioners on the grounds and it has been argued by their counsel that they have been falsely implicated in the aforementioned case. The petitioners were not named in the FIR. However, on the basis of a subsequent inquiry conducted by the police, they were arraigned as accused. It is further submitted that the petitioners have also got registered a cross case against the complainant party. On an application moved by the Investigating Officer on 20.11.2024 before the

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learned Magistrate, arrest warrants were issued against the petitioners and they were ultimately declared as proclaimed offenders by passing the impugned order. They were never served with any notice/warrants issued by the learned trial Court. More so, the petitioners had been declared as proclaimed offenders without following the proper procedure prescribed under law. They are ready to join the Court proceedings. Hence, it is urged that the impugned order is liable to be set aside.

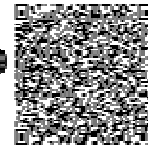
3. *Per contra*, learned Senior Deputy Advocate General, Punjab has resisted the petition by submitting that there is no infirmity in the impugned order and the petitioners have rightly been declared as proclaimed offenders as they were running away from the process of Court. It is, thus, urged that the petition is liable to be dismissed.

4. I have heard learned counsel for the parties at considerable length and have also gone through the material placed on record.

5. On giving due deliberations to the contentions as raised by learned counsel for the parties and on an overall perusal of the orders passed by the learned trial Court from the date of initiating proceedings of proclamation as against the petitioners till the date of declaring them as proclaimed offenders, I am of the considered opinion that the impugned order dated 24.01.2025 suffers from material illegalities and is liable to be quashed with all the consequential proceedings arising therefrom.

6. After going through the material placed on record as well as the copies of zimni orders passed by the learned trial Court, it is revealed that on 13.12.2024, since the non-bailable warrants issued against the petitioners were received back unserved, the learned trial Court had ordered for issuance of

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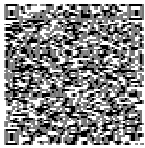


proclamation against them for 24.01.2025. A bare perusal of this order shows that the learned trial Court before ordering for publication of proclamation has not recorded its proper satisfaction that the petitioners had absconded or were concealing themselves so that the warrant of arrest, previously issued, cannot be executed, despite reasonable diligence, which was in violation of the provisions of Section 82(1) of Cr.P.C. Reliance in this regard can be placed upon ***Rohit Kumar Vs. State of Delhi : 2008 Crl. J. 2561.***

7. A perusal of the statement of the serving police official reveals that the proclamation was executed on 27.12.2024, requiring the petitioners to cause their appearance before the learned trial Court on 24.01.2025, which means that the petitioners were not granted mandatory period of 30 days to cause their appearance before the learned trial Court. Hence, the same was in clear violation of the provisions of Section 82(1) Cr.P.C., as per which, a specified time of not less than 30 days is required to be given to the accused from the date of publishing such proclamation which is mandatory in nature. Reliance in this regard can be placed upon ***Gurappa Gugal and others Vs. State of Mysore : 1969 CriLJ 826*** and ***Shokat Ali Vs. State of Haryana : 2020(2) RCR (Criminal) 339.***

8. Accordingly, in view of the discussion as made above and also in view of the ratio of law as laid down in above cited authorities, the present petition is allowed and the impugned order dated 24.01.2025 (Annexure P-5), passed by the Court of learned Judicial Magistrate First Class, Patti in case titled as ***State vs. Ravail Singh and others***, arising out of FIR No. 81 dated 27.07.2023, registered under Sections 307, 323, 324, 34 of IPC and Sections 25 and 27 of the Arms Act, 1959 at Police Station Valtaha, District Tam

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Taran, whereby the petitioners had been declared as proclaimed offenders, is quashed with all consequential proceedings arising therefrom.

9. However, the petitioners are directed to surrender before the Court concerned within a period of four weeks, subject to order for grant of anticipatory bail, if any passed on their petition to be filed under Section 482 of BNSS. In the absence of any order for grant of anticipatory bail and on such surrender, the petitioners shall be liable to be remanded to judicial custody subject to any order for grant of regular bail to be passed by the concerned Court in accordance with law.

10. Needless to observe that in case any application is filed before the concerned Court for grant of regular bail, then the concerned Court shall be bound to dispose of the same expeditiously and that nothing in this order shall be treated as expression of any opinion on merits so as to bind or influence the concerned Court in disposal of the same.

11. Till the appearance of the petitioners before the trial Court, their arrest shall remain stayed.

12. It is made clear that in case the petitioners fail to appear before the trial Court within a period of four weeks from today, this petition shall be deemed to be dismissed.

03.04.2025

Waseem Ansari

(MANISHA BATRA)
JUDGE

Whether speaking/reasoned

Yes/No

Whether reportable

Yes/No