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

CRM-M-35862-2025

Date of Decision: 11.08.2025

Gurmail Singh

..... Petitioner

Versus

State of Punjab and others

.....Respondents

CORAM: HON'BLE MR. JUSTICE RAJESH BHARDWAJ

Present: Mr.Sandeep Arora, Advocate, for the petitioner.

Mr.Raj Karan Singh, AAG, Punjab.

Mr. Anil Kumar Spehia, Advocate, for
respondents No.2 to 4.**Rajesh Bhardwaj, J. (ORAL)**

1. Instant petition has been filed praying for quashing of FIR No.78, dated 04.07.2013 registered under Sections 323, 324, 452, 148, 149 IPC (Sections 308 and 326 IPC added lateron), at Police Station Kartarpur, District Jalandhar and subsequent proceedings arising therefrom on the basis of compromise dated 02.04.2025, Annexure P-6.

2. The FIR in question was lodged by complainant-respondent No.2 and the investigation commenced thereon. However, with the intervention of respectables, finally the parties arrived at settlement and they resolved their inter se dispute, which is apparent from Annexure P-6. On the basis of the compromise, the petitioner is praying that continuation of these proceedings would be a futile exercise and an abuse of process of the Court and thus, the FIR in question and all the subsequent proceedings arising therefrom may be quashed in the interest of justice.

3. This Court vide order dated 30.07.2025 directed the parties to appear before the trial Court/Illaq Magistrate for recording their



statements, as contended before the Court, and the trial Court/Illaq Magistrate was also directed to send its report.

4. In pursuance to the same, learned Additional Sessions Judge, Jalandhar, has sent report dated 07.08.2025. With the report, he has annexed the photocopy of statement of respondent No.2 to 4 i.e., Kulwinder Kaur on her behalf as well as on behalf of Hardeep Singh and Harjit Singh as Special Power of Attorney and statement of the petitioner, namely, Gurmail Singh dated 04.08.2025. On the basis of the statements, learned Additional Sessions Judge, Jalandhar has concluded in its report that the compromise is without any inducement, threat or coercion from any quarter and is genuine. It has been mentioned in the report that there were eight accused in the present case and as per official police record, the present case was registered against accused Gurmail Singh i.e. the petitioner. It is further mentioned in the report that the petitioner is not involved in any other case.

5. Learned counsel for the petitioner has submitted that the petitioner had entered into a compromise with respondents No.2 to 4. He submits that rest of the co-accused have been acquitted by learned trial Court.

However, learned State counsel has submitted that in all there were eight accused, out of which one accused was declared innocent and challan was presented against seven of the accused. He submits that the petitioner and accused Avtar Singh were declared proclaimed offender and rest of five accused were tried by learned trial Court and were acquitted by it vide order dated 08.02.2018. He submits that though the order declaring the petitioner proclaimed offender passed qua the petitioner was set aside,



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but whereabouts of co-accused Avtar Singh are not known till date.

Learned counsel for the petitioner has submitted that the petitioner has duly joined the proceedings and the co-accused who were tried by learned trial Court were acquitted by it. Just because one of the co-accused is proclaimed offender and his whereabouts are not known, the petitioner cannot be punished for the same.

6. Learned counsel for respondents No.2 to 4 has affirmed the same and pleaded no objection, if the present FIR is quashed qua the petitioner.

7. I have heard learned counsel for the parties, perused the record and the report sent by learned Additional Sessions Judge, Jalandhar.

8. A bare perusal of statutory provisions of the 528 of Bhartiya Nagrik Suraksha Sanhita, 2023 would show that the High Court may make such orders, as may be necessary to give effect to any order under this Code or to prevent abuse of the process of any Court or otherwise to secure the ends of justice. Section 359 Bhartiya Nagrik Suraksha Sanhita, 2023 is equally relevant for consideration, which prescribes the procedure for compounding of the offences under the BNS, 2023.

9. Keeping in view the nature of offences allegedly committed and the fact that both the parties have amicably settled their dispute, the continuation of criminal prosecution would be a futile exercise. The Hon'ble Supreme Court in a number of cases including **Narinder Singh and others Versus State of Punjab and another, 2014 (6) SCC 466**, **B.S.Joshi and others vs State of Haryana and another (2003) 4 Supreme Court Cases 675** followed by this Court in Full Bench case of **Kulwinder Singh and others Vs. State of Punjab and another, 2007(3) RCR 1052** have dealt



with the proposition involved in the present case and settled the law.

10. Thereafter, Hon'ble Supreme Court in **Gian Singh vs State of Punjab and another** (2012) 10 Supreme Court Cases 303 further dealt with the issue and the earlier law settled by the Supreme Court for quashing of the FIR in **State of Haryana vs Bhajan Lal**, 1992 Supp (1) SCC 335. Para 61 of the judgment reads 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 F.I.R may be exercised where the offender and 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 offender in relation to the offences under special statutes like 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 pre-dominantly



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 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 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. Although present case pertains to an offence under Section 326 IPC yet good sense prevailed upon the parties and they have settled the dispute and this Court accepts the settlement just to enhance the spirit of brotherhood, peace and harmony between the parties and to improve their relationship in future.

12. Applying the law settled by Hon'ble Supreme Court in plethora of judgments and this High Court it is apparent that when the parties have entered into a compromise, in the nature of cases as prescribed then



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continuation of the proceedings would be merely an abuse of process of the Court and by allowing and accepting the prayer of the petitioners by quashing the FIR would be securing the ends of justice, which is primarily the object of the legislature enacting under Section 482 Cr.P.C.

13. In the facts and circumstances, this Court finds that the case in hand squarely falls within the ambit and parameters settled by judicial precedents and hence, FIR No.78, dated 04.07.2013 registered under Sections 323, 324, 452, 148, 149 IPC (Sections 308 and 326 IPC added lateron), at Police Station Kartarpur, District Jalandhar and all the subsequent proceedings arising therefrom, are hereby quashed qua the petitioner, on the basis of compromise Annexure P-6.

14. Needless to say that the parties shall remain bound by the terms and conditions of the compromise and their statements recorded before the Court below. Petition stands allowed.

11.08.2025

sharmila

(RAJESH BHARDWAJ)
JUDGE

Whether Speaking/Reasoned	:	Yes/No
Whether Reportable	:	Yes/No