



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

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CRM-M-36728-2025

Date of Decision: 21.05.2026

PAWANPREET SINGH @ BABLA AND OTHERS

... Petitioners

VERSUS

STATE OF PUNJAB AND OTHERS

... Respondents

CORAM: HON'BLE MR. JUSTICE AMAN CHAUDHARY.

Present: Mr. Vikramjeet Singh, Advocate
for the petitioners.

Mr. M.S. Atwal, DAG, Punjab.

Mr. Himanshu Joshi, Advocate
for respondent Nos.2 to 4.

AMAN CHAUDHARY, J. (ORAL)

1. The present petition has been filed for quashing of FIR No.09 dated 16.01.2021 under Sections 323, 324, 148, 149 and 120 of IPC (Section 326 of IPC and 3 of SC/ST Act, added later on), registered at Police Station Haibowal, District Ludhiana alongwith all consequential proceedings arising therefrom on the basis of compromise/affidavit (Annexures P-2 and P-4).

2. This Court while issuing notice of motion vide order dated 11.03.2026 had directed the parties to appear before the trial Court/Illaq Magistrate for recording their statements with regard to the compromise.

3. Pursuant to the aforesaid order, report dated 02.05.2026 has been received from the learned Addl. Sessions Judge, Ludhiana. A perusal of the said report reveals that statements of the concerned persons have been recorded in the present case, who have stated that the matter has been settled between them and



they have no objection in case the FIR in question is quashed. The compromise effected between them is genuine, without any undue influence and coercion. It is stated in the report that initially the FIR was lodged against five persons but the challan has been presented only against three persons; none of them has been declared as proclaimed offender/person and they are not involved in any other FIR.

4. Heard learned counsel for the parties and also gone through the case file.

5. The Full Bench of this Court in **Kulwinder Singh and others vs. State of Punjab**, 2007 (3) RCR (Criminal) 1052, held that High Court has power under Section 482 Cr.P.C. to allow the compounding of non-compoundable offence and quash the prosecution where the High Court is of the view that the same was required to prevent the abuse of the process of law or otherwise to secure the ends of justice. This power of quashing is not confined to matrimonial disputes alone.

6. Hon'ble the Supreme Court of India in the case of **Gian Singh vs. State of Punjab and another**, 2012 (4) RCR (Criminal) 543, had observed that in order to secure the ends of justice or to prevent the abuse of process of Court, inherent power can be used by this Court to quash criminal proceedings in which a compromise has been effected. The relevant portion of para 57 of the said judgment reads thus:-

“57. 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. XXX---XXX”

7. Relying on the afore judgments in **Sonu and others vs State of Haryana and others**, CRM-M-30072-2019, dated 31.10.2022, an FIR registered under SC/ST (Prevention of Atrocities Act), 1989 was quashed by the Coordinate Bench, on the basis of a compromise.

8. Hon’ble the Supreme Court, quashed an FIR registered under the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities) Act, 1989 on the basis of compromise having been effected between the parties post conviction, in **Ramawatar vs. State of Madhya Pradesh**, Criminal Appeal No.1393-2011, dated 25.10.2021, by observing and holding thus:

“16. On the other hand, where it appears to the Court that the offence in question, although covered under the SC/ST Act, is primarily private or civil in nature, or where the alleged offence has not been committed on account of the caste of the victim, or where the continuation of the legal proceedings would be an abuse of the process of law, the Court can exercise its powers to quash the proceedings. On similar lines, when considering a prayer for quashing on the basis of a compromise/settlement, if the Court is satisfied that the underlying objective of the Act would not be contravened or diminished even if the felony in question goes unpunished, the mere fact that the offence is covered under a ‘special statute’ would not refrain this Court or the High Court, from exercising their respective powers under Article 142 of the Constitution or Section 482 Cr.P.C.

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18. We may hasten to add that in cases such as the present, the Courts ought to be even more vigilant to ensure that the complainant/victim has entered into the compromise on the volition of his/her free will and not on account of any duress. It cannot be understated that since members of the Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe belong to the weaker sections of our country, they are more prone to acts of coercion, and therefore ought to be accorded a higher level of protection. If the Courts find even a hint of compulsion or force, no relief can be given to the accused party. What factors



the Courts should consider, would depend on the facts and circumstances of each case.”

9. In view of the afore-referred judgments, perusing the report of the trial Court regarding amicable settlement between the petitioners and the complainant, this Court finds that quashing the FIR will accord a quietus to all disputes between the parties and it is in the interest of both sides to bury the hatchet and lead a peaceful life. Thus, no useful purpose would be served in continuing the proceedings and in order to secure the ends of justice, the criminal proceedings in the present case deserve to be quashed.

10. Resultantly, the present petition is allowed and FIR No.09 dated 16.01.2021 under Sections 323, 324, 148, 149 and 120 of IPC (Section 326 of IPC and 3 of SC/ST Act, added later on), registered at Police Station Haibowal, District Ludhiana alongwith all consequential proceedings arising therefrom stands quashed qua the petitioners herein on the basis of compromise/affidavit (Annexures P-2 and P-4).

MAY 21, 2026.

Rajender

**(AMAN CHAUDHARY)
JUDGE**

Whether speaking/reasoned : Yes/No

Whether reportable : Yes/No