

IN THE HIGH COURT OF PUNJAB & HARYANA AT
CHANDIGARH

2026:PHHC:006605



(227)

CRM-M-995-2026(O&M)
Date of Decision: 19.01.2026

Sonia

--Petitioner

Versus

State of Punjab

--Respondent

CORAM:- HON'BLE MR. JUSTICE VINOD S. BHARDWAJ.

Present:- Mr. I.P.S. Deol, Advocate for the petitioner.

Mr. Ritu Raj Singh, DAG, Punjab.

VINOD S. BHARDWAJ.J (Oral)

CRM-645-2026

Application is allowed, as prayed for.

Main Case

1. The instant petition is for seeking concession of regular bail under Section 483 BNSS in case bearing FIR No.128 dated 18.08.2024 under Sections 302, 120-B(1) IPC, registered at Police Station Jalandhar Cantt., District Police Commissionerate, Jalandhar.

2. The FIR in the instant case has been registered on the statement of Baldev Singh, which reads as under:-

“To the Police Commissioner, Jalandhar I Cantt. Complaint against 1. Sonia w/o late Happy, d/o Bali Ram, presently r/o Village Singhowal, Distt. Gurdaspur. Mob no. 73411-82841. 2. Manjinder Singh, r/o Kukar Pind, Distt. Jalandhar. Mob no. 7527885106. Sir, I Baldev Singh, aged about 65 years, r/o Village Rehmanpur, P.O. Kukar Pind, Distt. Jalandhar, submit that 1. That the marriage of my son Happy took place with the

accused no. 1. Sonia d/o Bali Ram, about 15 years ago, and 4 children were born out of the wedlock. 2. That my daughter-in-law had illicit relations with accused no. 2. Manjinder r/o Kukar Pind, but we were unaware of this. That my son died on 10.11.2022 at Village Rehmanpur under suspicious circumstances and on 25.11.2022, my daughter-in-law went away somewhere and we became very worried looking for her, and in this connection, submitted an application regarding missing person to the Police also. 3. That when we searched the room of my son Happy, we found a mobile of my daughter-in-law Sonia and upon opening it, we found many records (calls, chats and video recordings) with accused no. 2. When we heard these conversations carefully, our minds were blown away, as in those, our daughter-in-law Sonia and accused no. 2. Manjinder were plotting to kill my son Happy, and were preparing some medicine which my daughter-in-law was giving to my son Happy, which was sure to kill him. Manjinder, in that recording, openly says that if he does not die with the medicine, then I will kill him by strangling him. From these conversations, the illicit relationship between Sonia and Manjinder is quite evident. That these two accused have murdered my son in a planned manner. Due legal action may kindly be taken against the two accused and I may be given justice. Complainant LTI Baldev Singh s/o Sh. Khushi Ram, r/o Village Rehmanpur, P.O. Kukar Pind, Distt. Jalandhar. Mob no. 9878164773. Upon which the Commissioner has noted, "SHO P.S. Cantt. To enquire the facts and record". SD/English Commissioner Police, Jalandhar. After which the enquiry into the above mentioned complaint was got conducted by ASI Gurdial Hira 1827, and who submitted in his report that both parties were called in connection with the complaint. The complainant party came present through Baldev Singh, who was joined in the investigation and his statement recorded. Complainant Baldev Singh s/o Khushi Ram r/o Village Rehmanpur, P.O. Kukar Pind, Distt. Jalandhar

submitted in his statement that he is a resident of the above mentioned address and works as a labourer. He has one daughter and three sons. His eldest son Happy, who was married to Sonia d/o Bali Ram, presently r/o Village Singhowal, Distt. Gurdaspur, about 15 years ago, and they have 2 daughters and 2 sons. On 10.11.2022, my son Happy died and after the Bhog ceremony, on 26.12.2022, my daughter-in-law Sonia, along with her children, went away from home in the evening without informing anyone, and I, along with my family, made many efforts to look for my daughter-in-law Sonia and then I gave an application at the Police Post, Paragpur, who had asked for photographs of my daughter-in-law Sonia to register the missing persons complaint. And when I was looking for photographs of Sonia at my home, then we found Sonia's phone in her room, which, upon checking, the voice messages were heard and one boy whose name is Manjinder Singh s/o Hardeep Lal, r/o Village Kukar Pind, Distt. Jalandhar, was heard talking to my daughter-in-law Sonia regarding killing my son by giving him medicine and my daughter-in-law is also heard replying to him in the voice message, that she will help him in killing him. The voice messages are being handed over in a pen drive and along with it, a print of the message is also being submitted. My son Happy has been killed by Sonia and Manjinder Singh by planning together and giving him some poisonous medicine. All these are recorded on my daughter-in-law Sonia's phone and I will hand over the phone also later. Legal action should be taken against my daughter-in-law Sonia d/o Bali Ram r/o Village Singhowal Distt. Gurdaspur and Manjinder Singh s/o Hardeep Singh r/o Kukar Pind Distt. Jalandhar.”

3. Learned counsel for the petitioner has contended that the petitioner is in custody since 19.08.2024 and has already undergone custody of nearly 17 months. He contends that the husband of the petitioner namely

Happy was suffering from various renal issues, as a result whereof, his

health was not well. He died on 10.11.2022 but no Post Mortem Report regarding the cause of death was ever recorded. The petitioner left the matrimonial house on 26.12.2022 along with her children. It is, thereafter, that in August, 2024 that the FIR in question was registered. It is contended that the death in question has already been treated as natural and no suspicion was expressed against the petitioner. The implication of the petitioner in a homicide case after two years without any specific cause of death to link the petitioner with the crime and solely on the basis of the Whatsapp conversation of the petitioner with the co-accused reflecting her relationship with the said co-accused, no presumption can be drawn with respect to the death of Happy being homicidal. It is contended that the petitioner is not involved in any other case. It is further contended that the investigation in the case is complete and trial would take long as 11 witnesses still remain to be examined.

4. Learned State counsel does not dispute the facts as aforesaid, however, he contends that the father-in-law of the petitioner had noticed certain conversations and messages of the petitioner with one Manjinder Singh son of Hardeep Lal, wherein there was some reference to the petitioner planning murder of deceased Happy Singh. It is not disputed that the cause of death has not been ascertained and post mortem was not conducted.

5. I have heard learned counsel appearing on behalf of the respective parties and have gone through the record.

6. Without commenting on the merits of the case and taking into consideration the nature of allegations, the mode and manner of the nomination of the petitioner as an accused, the lack of recovery as well as

the stage of trial, this Court deems it fit to allow the present petition.

7. Accordingly, the instant petition is allowed and the petitioner is ordered to be released on regular bail on her furnishing requisite bail bond/surety bond to the satisfaction of the trial Court/Duty Magistrate, concerned.

8. It is made clear that the petitioner shall not extend any threat and shall not influence any prosecution witnesses in any manner directly or indirectly.

9. The observation made hereinabove shall not be construed as an expression on the merits of the case and the Trial Court shall decide the case on the basis of available material.

19.01.2026

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(VINOD S. BHARDWAJ)
JUDGE

Whether speaking/reasoned:	Yes/No
Whether Reportable:	Yes/No