
(2016) 08 DEL CK 0009
In the Delhi High Court
Case No : CRL.M.C. 1312 of 2016

Aakaash Asthana

APPELLANT

Vs

State of NCT of Delhi

RESPONDENT

Date of Decision : 12-08-2016

Acts Referred:

Criminal Procedure Code, 1973 (CrPC) — Section 482

Citation : (2016) 7 ADDelhi 325

Hon'ble Judges : Mr. P.S. Teji, J.

Bench : Single Bench

Advocate : Mr. Jayant K. Sud, Mr. Vishal Dabas and Mr. Honey Khanna, Advocates, for the Appellant; Ms. Manjeet Arya, APP, for the Respondent

Final Decision : Allowed

Judgement

P.S. Teji, J.—The present petition under Section 482 Cr.P.C. has been filed by the petitioner, namely, Sh. Aakaash Asthana for quashing of FIR No. 1511/2015 dated 10.12.2015, under Sections 279/337 IPC registered at Police Station Saket on the basis of Memorandum of understanding executed between the petitioner and respondent nos. 2 to 6, namely, Smt. Sanjeeda Begum, Sh. Shafik Ahmad, Sh. Shahrukh Ahmad and Master Jameel Ahmad and Master Sameer Ahmad, both under the guardianship of respondent no. 2, on 10.02.2016

2. Learned Additional Public Prosecutor for respondent-State submitted that the respondent nos. 2 to 4 and respondent no. 2 also as guardian for respondent nos. 5 and 6 present in the Court have been identified to be the LR's of the deceased/victim in the FIR in question by SI Rajdeep Singh.

3. The factual matrix of the present case is that on 13.12.2015, the petitioner was going on his motorcycle "Rajdoot" bearing registration no. URW 4387, from Malviya Nagar metro station towards Max Hospital, wherein Late Sh. Salim was crossing the road and the accident took place between the him and the petitioner. The petitioner took Sh. Salim to Max Hospital. However, he was later

transferred to AIIMS hospital. On 06.12.2015, when the victim was fit enough to talk, he told the respondents that the petitioner was not at fault. On 08.12.2015/09.12.2015, victim developed septicemia and he was again operated upon.

Thereafter, on 10.12.2015 the FIR in question was registered against the petitioner on the basis of the statements made by Head Constable Rajeev Kumar. On 12.12.2015, Sh. Salim Ahmad was declared dead. An amicable settlement was arrived at between the parties during the pendency of the matter.

4. Respondent Nos. 2 to 4 and respondent No. 2 on behalf of respondent nos. 5-6 present in the Court submitted that the dispute between the parties has been amicably resolved. It is agreed that the petitioner shall pay a sum of Rs. 7 Lacs in to to respondent nos. 2 to 6, LRs of Late Sh. Salim, in the manner enunciated in the terms of the settlement out of which a sum of Rs. 5.3 Lacs shall be paid by him at the time of quashing of the FIR in question. It is agreed that the respondents shall cooperate with the petitioner in getting the FIR in question quashed and shall also withdraw the cases, if any, filed by them against the petitioner and also that they shall not file any civil/criminal case against the petitioner with respect to this incident in future. It is further agreed between the parties that after the execution of this settlement, no claim, lien and dispute shall subsist between them.

Respondent nos. 2 to 4 and respondent nos. 5 and 6 through respondent No. 2 affirmed the contents of the aforesaid settlement and of their affidavits dated 16.03.2016. In the affidavit, they stated that they have no objection if the FIR in question is quashed. All the disputes and differences have been resolved through mutual consent. Now no dispute with petitioner survives and so, the proceedings arising out of the FIR in question be brought to an end. Statements of the respondent nos. 2 to 4 and respondent nos. 5 & 6 through respondent No. 2 have been recorded in this regard in which they stated that they have entered into a compromise with the petitioner and have settled all the disputes with him. They further stated that they have no objection if the FIR in question is quashed.

5. In *Gian Singh v. State of Punjab* (2012) 10 SCC 303 Apex Court has recognised the need of amicable resolution of disputes in cases like the instant one, by observing as under:-

"61. 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 proceedings or continuation of criminal proceedings 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 proceedings."

6. The aforesaid dictum stands reiterated by the Apex Court in a recent judgment in *Narinder Singh v. State of Punjab* (2014) 6 SCC 466. The relevant

observations of the Apex Court in Narinder Singh (Supra) are as under:-

"29. In view of the aforesaid discussion, we sum up and lay down the following principles by which the High Court would be guided in giving adequate treatment to the settlement between the parties and exercising its power under Section 482 of the Code while accepting the settlement and quashing the proceedings or refusing to accept the settlement with direction to continue with the criminal proceedings:

29.1 Power conferred under Section 482 of the Code is to be distinguished from the power which lies in the Court to compound the offences under Section 320 of the Code. No doubt, under Section 482 of the Code, the High Court has inherent power to quash the criminal proceedings even in those cases which are not compoundable, where the parties have settled the matter between themselves. However, this power is to be exercised sparingly and with caution.

29.2. When the parties have reached the settlement and on that basis petition for quashing the criminal proceedings is filed, the guiding factor in such cases would be to secure:

(i) ends of justice, or

(ii) to prevent abuse of the process of any court. While exercising the power the High Court is to form an opinion on either of the aforesaid two objectives.

29.3. Such a power is not to be exercised in those prosecutions which involve heinous and serious offences of mental depravity or offences like murder, rape, dacoity, etc. Such offences are not private in nature and have a serious impact on society. Similarly, for the offences alleged to have been committed under special statute like the Prevention of Corruption Act or the offences committed by public servants while working in that capacity are not to be quashed merely on the basis of compromise between the victim and the offender.

29.4. On the other hand, those criminal cases having overwhelmingly and predominantly civil character, particularly those arising out of commercial transactions or arising out of matrimonial relationship or family disputes should be quashed when the parties have resolved their entire disputes among themselves.

7. The inherent powers of the High Court ought to be exercised to prevent the abuse of process of law and to secure the ends of justice. The respondent nos. 2 to 4 and respondent no. 2 on behalf of respondent nos. 5 and 6 agreed to the quashing of the FIR in question and stated that the matter has been settled out of their own free will. As the matter has been settled and compromised amicably, so, there would be an extraordinary delay in the process of law if the legal proceedings between the parties are carried on. So, this Court is of the considered opinion that this is a fit case to invoke the jurisdiction under Section 482 Cr.P.C. to prevent the abuse of process of law and to secure the ends of justice.

8. The incorporation of inherent power under Section 482 Cr.P.C. is meant to deal with the situation in the absence of express provision of law to secure the ends of justice such as, where the process is abused or misused; where the ends of justice cannot be secured; where the process of law is used for unjust or unlawful object; to avoid the causing of harassment to any person by using the provision of Cr.P.C. or to avoid the delay of the legal process in the delivery of justice. Whereas, the inherent power is not to be exercised to circumvent the express provisions of law.

9. It is settled law that the inherent power of the High Court under Section 482 Cr.P.C. should be used sparingly. The Hon'ble Apex Court in the case of State of Maharashtra through CBI v. Vikram Anatrai Doshi and Ors. and in the case of Inder Singh Goswami v. State of Uttaranchal has observed that powers under Section 482 Cr.P.C. must be exercised sparingly, carefully and with great caution. Only when the Court comes to the conclusion that there would be manifest injustice or there would be abuse of the process of the Court if such power is not exercised, Court would quash the proceedings.

10. It is a well settled law that where the High Court is convinced that the offences are entirely personal in nature and therefore do not affect public peace or tranquility and where it feels that quashing of such proceedings on account of compromise would bring about peace and would secure ends of justice, it should not hesitate to quash them. In such cases, pursuing prosecution would be waste of time and energy. Non-compoundable offences are basically an obstruction in entering into compromise. In certain cases, the main offence is compoundable but the connected offences are not. In the case of B.S. Joshi and others v. State of Haryana and another 2003 (4) SCC 675 the Hon'ble Apex Court observed that even though the provisions of Section 320 Cr.P.C. would not apply to such offences which are not compoundable, it did not limit or affect the powers under Section 482 Cr.P.C. The Hon'ble Apex Court laid down that if for the purpose of securing the ends of justice, quashing of FIR becomes necessary, section 320 Cr.P.C. would not be a bar to the exercise of power of quashing. In the nutshell, the Hon'ble Apex Court justified the exercise of powers under Section 482 Cr.P.C. to quash the proceedings to secure the ends of justice in view of the special facts and circumstances of the case, even where the offences were non-compoundable.

In the light of the aforesaid, this Court is of the view that notwithstanding the fact that the offence under Section 279 IPC is a non-compoundable offence, therefore, there should be no impediment in quashing the FIR under this section, if the Court is otherwise satisfied that the facts and circumstances of the case so warrant.

11. In the facts and circumstances of this case and in view of statements made by the respondent nos. 2 to 4 and respondent nos. 5 and 6 through respondent no. 2, the FIR in question warrants to be put to an end and proceedings emanating thereupon need to be quashed.

12. Accordingly, this petition is allowed and FIR No. 1511/2015 dated 10.12.2015, under Sections 279/337 IPC registered at Police Station Saket and the proceedings emanating therefrom are quashed against the petitioner.

13. This petition is accordingly disposed of.