

(2020) 12 KL CK 0077
In the High Court Of Kerala
Case No : Bail Application No. 8002 Of 2020

Gopalakrishnan N. And Ors	Vs	APPELLANT
State Of Kerala And Ors		RESPONDENT

Date of Decision : 04-12-2020

Acts Referred:

Code Of Criminal Procedure, 1973 — Section 438
Indian Penal Code, 1860 — Section 498A

Citation : (2020) 12 KL CK 0077

Hon'ble Judges : P.V. Kunhikrishnan, J

Bench : Single Bench

Advocate : Rahul Sasi, Neethu Prem, Vivek. P.K, Renjith. T.R.

Final Decision : Allowed

Judgement

1. This Bail Application filed under Section 438 of Criminal Procedure Code (Cr.P.C.) was heard through Video Conference.
2. The petitioners are the accused in Crime No.842 of 2020 of Bekal Police Station, Kasaragod District. The above case is registered against the petitioners alleging offences punishable under Section 498A of the Indian Penal Code (IPC).
3. The prosecution case is that, the 1st petitioner married the defacto complainant and thereafter the petitioners mentally and physically harassed the defacto complainant.
4. Heard the learned counsel for the petitioners and the learned public prosecutor.
5. The learned counsel for the petitioners submitted that, the offence alleged against the petitioners is a matrimonial offence. The counsel submitted that, the matrimonial relationship between the 1st petitioner and the defacto complainant is even now in existence. The counsel submitted that, the

petitioners are ready to abide any conditions if this Court is granting them bail.

6. The learned Public Prosecutor opposed this bail application. The public prosecutor submitted that, if this Court is granting bail to the petitioners, stringent conditions may be imposed.

7. After hearing both sides, I think, this bail application can be allowed on stringent conditions. Admittedly, the offence alleged against the petitioners is a matrimonial offence. The matrimonial relationship between the 1st petitioner and the defacto complainant is even now in existence. Considering the entire facts and circumstances of this case, I think, this bail application can be allowed on stringent conditions.

8. Moreover, considering the need to follow social distancing norms inside prisons so as to avert the spread of the novel Corona Virus Pandemic, the

Hon'ble Supreme Court in Re: Contagion of COVID-19 Virus In Prisons case (Suo Motu Writ Petition(C) No.1 of 2020) and a Full Bench of this

Court in W.P(C)No.9400 of 2020 issued various salutary directions for minimizing the number of inmates inside prisons.

9. Moreover, it is a well accepted principle that, the bail is the rule and the jail is the exception. The Hon'ble Supreme Court in Chidambaram P. v.

Directorate of Enforcement (2019 (16) SCALE 870,) after considering all the earlier judgments, observed that, the basic jurisprudence relating to bail

remains the same inasmuch as the grant of bail is the rule and refusal is the exception so as to ensure that, the accused has the opportunity of securing fair trial.

10. Considering the dictum laid down in the above decision and considering the facts and circumstances of this case, this Bail Application is allowed

with the following directions:

1. The petitioners shall appear before the Investigating Officer within ten days from today and shall undergo interrogation;

2. After interrogation, if the Investigating Officer proposes to arrest the petitioners, they shall be released on bail executing a bond for a sum of

Rs.50,000/-(Rupees Fifty Thousand only) each with two solvent sureties each for the like sum to the satisfaction of the officer concerned;

3. The petitioners shall appear before the Investigating Officer for interrogation as and when required. The petitioners shall co-operate with the

investigation and shall not, directly or indirectly make any inducement, threat or

promise to any person acquainted with the facts of the case so as to dissuade him from disclosing such facts to the Court or to any police officer;

4. The petitioners shall not leave India without permission of the Court;

5. The petitioners shall not commit an offence similar to the offence of which they are accused, or suspected, of the commission of which they are suspected;

6. The petitioners shall strictly abide by the various guidelines issued by the State Government and Central Government with respect to keeping of social distancing in the wake of Covid 19 pandemic;

7. If any of the above conditions are violated by the petitioners, the jurisdictional Court can cancel the bail in accordance to law, even though the bail is granted by this Court.