
(2012) 10 P&H CK 0091

In the Punjab And Haryana At Chandigarh

Case No : Criminal Miscellaneous No. M-28341 of 2012 (O and M)

Manjeet Singh and Others

APPELLANT

Vs

State of Punjab and Another

RESPONDENT

Date of Decision : 05-10-2012

Acts Referred:

Arms Act, 1959 — Section 25, 27

Criminal Procedure Code, 1973 (CrPC) — Section 320, 482

Penal Code, 1860 (IPC) — Section 149, 307, 320, 342, 427

Citation : (2012) 10 P&H CK 0091

Hon'ble Judges : Sabina, J

Bench : Single Bench

Advocate : D.S. Malwai, for the Appellant; P.S. Paul, DAG, Punjab and Respondent No. 2 in person with Mr. S.P. Garg, for the Respondent

Final Decision : Allowed

Judgement

Sabina, J.—Petitioners have filed this petition u/s 482 of the Code of Criminal Procedure, 1973 for quashing of the FIR No. 117 dated 1.5.2008, u/s 307, 506, 452, 427, 447, 511, 342, 149 of the Indian Penal Code ("IPC" for short) and Section 25, 27 of the Arms Act, 1959 ("Act" for short) registered at Police Station City Barnala and all the subsequent proceedings arising therefrom in view of compromise (Annexure P-3) arrived at between the parties. Learned counsel for the petitioners has submitted that now with the intervention of relatives and friends parties have arrived at a compromise. Learned counsel has further submitted that offence u/s 307, 452 IPC and the Arms Act has since been deleted from the FIR.

2. Learned State counsel, on instructions of Sub Inspector Sardara Singh, has not disputed the fact that the offence u/s 307, 452 IPC and the Arms Act has not been deleted from the FIR.

3. Respondent No. 2 is present in person along with her counsel and has admitted the factum of compromise between the parties and has stated that she

has no objection if the FIR in question is ordered to be quashed. She has tendered her affidavit on record in this regard.

4. As per the Full Bench judgment of this Court in Kulwinder Singh and others vs. State of Punjab, 2007 (3) RCR (Criminal) 1052, High Court has power u/s 482 Cr.P.C. to allow the compounding of non-compoundable offence and quash the prosecution where the High Court felt that the same was required to prevent the abuse of the process of any Court or to otherwise secure the ends of justice. This power of quashing is not confined to matrimonial disputes alone.

5. Hon"ble the Apex Court in the case of Nikhil Merchant vs. Central bureau of Investigation and another JT 2008 (9) SC 192 in para Nos. 23 and 24 has held as under :-

23. In the instant case, the disputes between the Company and the Bank have been set at rest on the basis of the compromise arrived at by them where under the dues of the Bank have been cleared and the Bank does not appear to have any further claim against the Company. What, however, remains is the fact that certain documents were alleged to have been created by the appellant herein in order to avail of credit facilities beyond the limit to which the Company was entitled. The dispute involved herein has overtones of a civil dispute with certain criminal facets. The question which is required to be answered in this case is whether the power which independently lies with this court to quash the criminal proceedings pursuant to the compromise arrived at, should at all be exercised?

24. On an overall view of the facts as indicated hereinabove and keeping in mind the decision of this Court in B.S. Joshi's case (supra) and the compromise arrived at between the Company and the Bank as also clause 11 of the consent terms filed in the suit filled by the Bank, we are satisfied that this is a fit case where technicality should not be allowed to stand in the way in the quashing of the criminal proceedings, since, in our view, the continuance of the same after the compromise arrived at between the parties would be a futile exercise.

6. In case of Shiji @ Pappu and others Vs. Radhika and another 2012 (1) R.C.R. (Criminal) 9, the Hon"ble Apex Court in para No. 13 has held as under :-

13. It is manifest that simply because an offence is not compoundable u/s 320 IPC is by itself no reason for the High Court to refuse exercise of its power u/s 482 Cr.P.C. That power can in our opinion be exercised in cases where there is no chance of recording a conviction against the accused and the entire exercise of a trial is destined to be an exercise in futility. There is a subtle distinction between compounding of offences by the parties before the trial Court or in appeal on one hand and the exercise of power by the High Court to quash the prosecution u/s 482 Cr.P.C. On the other. While a Court trying an accused or hearing an appeal against conviction, may not be competent to permit compounding of an offence based on a settlement arrived at between the parties in cases where the offences are not compoundable u/s 320, the High Court may quash the prosecution even in cases where the offences with which the accused stand charged are non-

compoundable. The inherent powers of the High Court u/s 482 Cr.P.C. are not for that purpose controlled by Section 320 Cr.P.C. Having said so, we must hasten to add that the plenitude of the power u/s 482 Cr.P.C. by itself, makes it obligatory for the High Court to exercise the same with utmost care and caution. The width and the nature of the power itself demands that its exercise is sparing and only in cases where the High Court is, for reasons to be recorded, of the clear view that continuance of the prosecution would be nothing but an abuse of the process of law. It is neither necessary nor proper for us to enumerate the situations in which the exercise of power u/s 482 may be justified. All that we need to say is that the exercise of power must be for securing the ends of justice and only in cases where refusal to exercise that power may result in the abuse of the process of law. The High court may be justified in declining interference if it is called upon to appreciate evidence for it cannot assume the role of an appellate court while dealing with a petition u/s 482 of the Criminal Procedure Code. Subject to the above, the High Court will have to consider the facts and circumstances of each case to determine whether it is a fit case in which the inherent powers may be invoked.

7. Since the parties have arrived at a compromise and have decided to live in peace, no useful purpose would be served in allowing the criminal proceedings to continue. Accordingly, this petition is allowed. FIR No. 117 dated 1.5.2008, u/s 307, 506, 452, 427, 447, 511, 342, 149 IPC and Section 25, 27 of the Act registered at Police Station City Barnala and all the consequential proceedings, arising therefrom, are quashed.