

Amit Kumar and Ors Vs. State (Govt of Nct of Delhi) and Anr.

Amit Kumar and Ors Vs. State (Govt of Nct of Delhi) and Anr.

SooperKanoon Citation : sooperkanoon.com/11942

Court : Delhi

Decided On : Nov-26-2014

Judge : Sudershan Kumar Misra

Appellant : Amit Kumar and Ors

Respondent : State (Govt of Nct of Delhi) and Anr.

Advocate for Def. : Mr. Amit Ahlawat, Mr. Gulab Singh, Mr. Ratan Solanki

Advocate for Pet/Ap. : Mr. Sanjiv Kumar, Mr. Dalip Singh

Judgement :

\$~25 * IN THE HIGH COURT OF DELHI AT NEW DELHI + CRL.M.C. 5379/2014
..... Petitioners AMIT KUMAR & ORS Through: Mr. Sanjiv Kumar & Mr. Dalip Singh, Advs. versus STATE (GOVT OF NCT OF DELHI) & ANR. Respondents Through: Mr. Amit Ahlawat, APP for the State. ASI Jaswant Singh, P.S. CWC, Nanakpura. Mr. Gulab Singh & Mr. Ratan Solanki, Advs. for R-2. CORAM: HON'BLE MR. JUSTICE SUDERSHAN KUMAR MISRA % SUDERSHAN KUMAR MISRA, J.

(ORAL) Crl.M.A. 18343/2014 (exemption) Exemption, as prayed for, is allowed, subject to all just exceptions. The application stands disposed off. CRL.M.C. 5379/2014 1. This petition has been moved under Section 482 of the Code of Criminal Procedure seeking quashing of FIR No.51/2013 registered under Sections 498A/406/34 IPC at Police Station CAW Cell, Nanakpura, Delhi on

03.04.2013 on the ground that the matter has been settled between the parties.

2. Issue notice.

3. Counsel for the State and respondent No.2/complainant enter appearance and accept notice. The complainant, Smt. Rajni, is present in person. The Investigating Officer, ASI Jaswant Singh, Police Station, CAW Cell, Nanakpura who is also present in Court, identifies the complainant, who is arrayed as respondent No.2 in this petition.

4. It is stated that the aforesaid FIR came to be lodged by the complainant as a result of certain domestic and matrimonial disputes between the parties consequent upon the marriage of the complainant with the first petitioner, Amit Kumar, on 29.10.2009.

5. At the same time, the first petitioner is also stated to have initiated proceedings under Section 9 of the Hindu Marriage Act, 1955, in the Ghaziabad Court. Thereafter, on 08.03.2013, a settlement was recorded before the Mediation Cell, CAW Cell, Nanakpura, New Delhi, whereby both the parties agreed that they shall seek divorce by mutual consent; and further that the complainant shall be paid a sum of Rs. 2 lakhs and all the Articles mentioned in Annexure I of that settlement shall be returned to her in final settlement of all the claims and dues. It was also agreed that the proceedings initiated by the first petitioner against the second respondent shall be duly withdrawn by him. A copy of the said Settlement Agreement has been annexed with this petition.

6. It appears that after the settlement was recorded, the complainant felt that the petitioners were not complying with the settlement, and therefore, proceeded for registration of the aforesaid FIR on 03.04.2013. However, after filing of the FIR, the petitioners are stated to have taken all steps in terms of the aforesaid Settlement Agreement and the complainant is stated to be satisfied with the same.

7. The marriage between the first petitioner and second respondent is also stated to have been dissolved by a decree of divorce by mutual consent under Section 13-B(2) on 24.07.2014. A copy of the judgment dissolving the marriage has also

been annexed.

8. It is stated that the entire amount of Rs. 2 lakhs as envisaged in the Settlement Agreement, along with the various articles mentioned therein have been duly paid and returned to the complainant. The complainant submits that in terms of the aforesaid settlement she has received the aforesaid payment and articles and now she has no further grievance in this regard. She also states that she does not want to pursue these proceedings any further.

9. Counsel for the State submits that the matter is still under investigation; and since both the complainant and petitioner have settled the matter and complainant is no longer interested in pursuing the investigation any further; no useful purpose will be served in continuing with the proceedings.

10. Looking to the decision of the Supreme Court in *Gian Singh v. State of Punjab*, (2012) 10 SCC303 which has referred to a number of matters for the proposition that even a non-compoundable offence can also be quashed on the basis of a settlement between the offender and the victim, if the circumstances so warrant; by observing as under:

58.However, certain offences which overwhelmingly and predominantly bear civil flavour having arisen out of civil, mercantile, commercial, financial, partnership or such like transactions or the offences arising out of matrimony, particularly relating to dowry, etc. or the family dispute, where the wrong is basically to the victim and the offender and the victim have settled all disputes between them amicably, irrespective of the fact that such offences have not been made compoundable, the High Court may within the framework of its inherent power, quash the criminal proceeding or criminal complaint or FIR if it is satisfied that on the face of such settlement, there is hardly any likelihood of the offender being convicted and by not quashing the criminal proceedings, justice shall be casualty and ends of justice shall be defeated.

And also in *Narinder Singh and Ors. v. State of Punjab and Anr.* 2014(2) Crimes 67 (SC) where the Supreme Court held as follows:

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 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 pre-dominantly 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. 29.5 While exercising its powers, the High Court is to examine as to whether the possibility of conviction is remote and bleak and continuation of criminal cases would put the accused to great oppression and prejudice and extreme injustice would be caused to him by not quashing the criminal cases. 29.6 Offences under Section 307 Indian Penal Code would fall in the category of heinous and serious offences and therefore is to be generally treated as crime against the society and not against the individual

alone. However, the High Court would not rest its decision merely because there is a mention of Section 307 Indian Penal Code in the FIR or the charge is framed under this provision. It would be open to the High Court to examine as to whether incorporation of Section 307 Indian Penal Code is there for the sake of it or the prosecution has collected sufficient evidence, which if proved, would lead to proving the charge under Section 307 Indian Penal Code. For this purpose, it would be open to the High Court to go by the nature of injury sustained, whether such injury is inflicted on the vital/delegate parts of the body, nature of weapons used etc. Medical report in respect of injuries suffered by the victim can generally be the guiding factor. On the basis of this prima facie analysis, the High Court can examine as to whether there is a strong possibility of conviction or the chances of conviction are remote and bleak. In the former case it can refuse to accept the settlement and quash the criminal proceedings whereas in the later case it would be permissible for the High Court to accept the plea compounding the offence based on complete settlement between the parties. At this stage, the Court can also be swayed by the fact that the settlement between the parties is going to result in harmony between them which may improve their future relationship. 29.7 While deciding whether to exercise its power under Section 482 of the Code or not, timings of settlement play a crucial role. Those cases where the settlement is arrived at immediately after the alleged commission of offence and the matter is still under investigation, the High Court may be liberal in accepting the settlement to quash the criminal proceedings/investigation. It is because of the reason that at this stage the investigation is still on and even the charge sheet has not been filed. Likewise, those cases where the charge is framed but the evidence is yet to start or the evidence is still at infancy stage, the High Court can show benevolence in exercising its powers favourably, but after prima facie assessment of the circumstances/material mentioned above. On the other hand, where the prosecution evidence is almost complete or after the conclusion of the evidence the matter is at the stage of argument, normally the High Court should refrain from exercising its power under Section 482 of the Code, as in such cases the trial court would be in a position to decide the case finally on merits and to come a conclusion as to whether the offence under Section 307 Indian Penal Code is committed or not. Similarly, in those cases where the conviction is already

recorded by the trial court and the matter is at the appellate stage before the High Court, mere compromise between the parties would not be a ground to accept the same resulting in acquittal of the offender who has already been convicted by the trial court. Here charge is proved under Section 307 Indian Penal Code and conviction is already recorded of a heinous crime and, therefore, there is no question of sparing a convict found guilty of such a crime.

And specifically in respect of matrimonial disputes in *Jitendra Raghuwanshi & Ors. v. Babita Raghuwanshi & Anr.* (2013) 4 SCC58 where the Supreme Court held as follows:

15. In our view, it is the duty of the courts to encourage genuine settlements of matrimonial disputes, particularly, when the same are on considerable increase. Even if the offences are non-compoundable, if they relate to matrimonial disputes and the Court is satisfied that the parties have settled the same amicably and without any pressure, we hold that for the purpose of securing ends of justice, Section 320 of the Code would not be a bar to the exercise of power of quashing of FIR, complaint or the subsequent criminal proceedings.

16. There has been an outburst of matrimonial disputes in recent times. The institution of marriage occupies an important place and it has an important role to play in the society. Therefore, every effort should be made in the interest of the individuals in order to enable them to settle down in life and live peacefully. If the parties ponder over their defaults and terminate their disputes amicably by mutual agreement instead of fighting it out in a court of law, in order to do complete justice in the matrimonial matters, the courts should be less hesitant in exercising their extraordinary jurisdiction. It is trite to state that the power under Section 482 should be exercised sparingly and with circumspection only when the Court is convinced, on the basis of material on record, that allowing the proceedings to continue would be an abuse of process of court or that the ends of justice require that the proceedings ought to be quashed.

11. Under the circumstances, and since the complainant is no longer interested in pursuing the investigation after having settled the matter to her satisfaction; and she has also divorced the first petitioner, it is best to give a quietus to the matter.

Consequently, the petition is allowed and the FIR No.51/2013, registered under Section 498-A/ 406 IPC at police station CAW Cell, Nanakpura and all proceedings emanating therefrom, are hereby quashed.

12. The petition is disposed off.

13. Dasti. SUDERSHAN KUMAR MISRA, J NOVEMBER26 2014 nk

SooperKanoon - India's Premier Online Legal Search - sooperkanoon.com