

Manoj Kumar vs State of Kerala

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Court : Kerala

Decided On : Apr-23-2024

Judge : Honourable Mr. Justice P.V.Kunhikrishnan

Appeal No. : Crl.MC/3450/2024

Appellant : Manoj Kumar

Respondent : State of Kerala

Judgement :

IN THE HIGH COURT OF KERALA AT ERNAKULAM

PRESENT THE HONOURABLE MR. JUSTICE P.V.KUNHIKRISHNAN
TUESDAY, THE 23RD DAY OF APRIL 2024 / 3RD VAISAKHA, 1946
CRL.MC NO. 3450 OF 2024 CRIME NO.1251/2016 OF ARYANCODE
POLICE STATION, THIRUVANANTHAPURAM AGAINST THE
ORDER/JUDGMENT DATED IN CC NO.1320 OF 2017 OF JUDICIAL
MAGISTRATE OF FIRST CLASS -I, NEYYATTINKARA PETITIONER:
MANOJ KUMAR, AGED 44 YEARS, S/O. SUDHAKARAN, CHANDRIKA
BHAVAN, NEAR MYLACHAL HIGH SCHOOL, MYLACHAL,
KEEZHAROOR VILLAGE, THIRUVANANTHAPURAM, PIN - 695124 BY
ADVS. G.SUDHEER R.HARIKRISHNAN (H-308) SMRITHI S.S.
RESPONDENTS: 1 STATE OF KERALA, REPRESENTED BY PUBLIC

PROSECUTOR, HIGH COURT OF KERALA, PIN - 682031 2
PREETHAMOL. S. @ PREETHA, AGED 39 YEARS, D/O. SARADA,
PRADEEP BHAVAN, KOTTAVILA, KANIMANOOR DESOM,
PARASSALA VILLAGE, NEYYATTINKARA TALUK,
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM, PIN - 695122 BY ADVS SMT. SEETHA S
SR.P.P. SMT. N. P ASHA FOR DEFACTO COMPLAINANT THIS
CRIMINAL MISC. CASE HAVING COME UP FOR ADMISSION ON
23.04.2024, THE COURT ON THE SAME DAY PASSED THE
FOLLOWING:

ORDER

This Criminal Miscellaneous Case is filed under Section 482 of the Code of Criminal Procedure, 1973 (the Code for the sake of brevity).

2. The petitioner is the accused in C.C.No.1320/2017

on the files of the Judicial First Class Magistrates Court-I, Neyyattinkara, arising from Crime No.1251/2016 of Aryancode Police Station. The above case is charge-sheeted alleging offences punishable under Sections 498(A) and 494 of the Indian Penal Code.

3. The prosecution case is that the accused mentally and physically harassed the defacto complainant.

4. The learned counsel for the petitioner submits that

the parties have settled their dispute and do not wish to pursue the prosecution proceedings. The counsel relies on the affidavit filed by the victim in support of his contention. The counsel appearing for the victim also submitted that the matter is settled and the victim has no objection in quashing the prosecution.

5. The learned Public Prosecutor, on instructions, has

expressed reservations about quashing the proceedings solely on the basis of the settlement. But the Public Prosecutor conceded that the matter is settled between

the parties.

6. This Court has considered the submission of the petitioner, victim and the Public Prosecutor and has also gone through the records including the affidavit filed by the victim.

7. In *State of Madhya Pradesh v Laxmi Narayan*

and Others (2019 (5) SCC 688), three judge bench of the Hon'ble Supreme Court has summarized the situation in which non compoundable offences can be quashed invoking the powers under Section 482 of the Code. The Apex Court in *Laxmi Narayan's case (supra)* also relied on the law laid down in *Gian Singh v. State of Punjab and Another* (2012 (10) SCC 303) and *Narinder Singh and Others v. State of Punjab and Another* (2014 (6) SCC 466). The Apex Court in paragraph 13 of the *Laxmi Narayan's case* discussed the law in detail and the same is extracted hereunder: 13. Considering the law on the point and the other decisions of this Court on the point,

referred to herein above, it is observed and held

as under:

i) that the power conferred under S.482 of the Code to quash the criminal proceedings for the non - compoundable offences under S.320 of the Code can be exercised having overwhelmingly and predominantly the civil character, particularly those arising out of commercial transactions or arising out of matrimonial relationship or family disputes and when the parties have resolved the entire dispute amongst themselves; ii) such power is not to be exercised in those prosecutions which involved 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; iii) similarly, such power is not to be exercised for the offences under the special statutes like 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; iv) offences under S.307 IPC and the Arms Act etc. would fall in the category of heinous and serious offences and therefore are to be treated as crime against the society and not against the individual alone, and therefore, the criminal proceedings for the offence under S.307 IPC and / or the Arms Act etc. which have a serious impact on the society cannot be quashed in exercise of powers under S.482 of the Code, on the ground that the parties have resolved their entire dispute amongst themselves. However, the High Court would not rest its decision merely because there is a mention of S.307 IPC 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 S.307 IPC is there for the sake of it or the prosecution has collected sufficient evidence, which if proved, would lead to framing the charge under

S.307 IPC. 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. However, such an exercise by the High Court would be permissible only after the evidence is collected after investigation and the charge sheet is filed / charge is framed and / or during the trial. Such exercise is not permissible when the matter is still under investigation. Therefore, the ultimate

conclusion in paragraphs 29.6 and 29.7 of the

decision of this Court in the case of Narinder Singh (supra) should be read harmoniously and to be read as a whole and in the circumstances stated herein above; v) while exercising the power under S.482 of the Code to quash the criminal proceedings in respect of non-compoundable offences, which are private in nature and do not have a serious impact on society, on the ground that there is a settlement / compromise between the victim and the offender, the High Court is

required to consider the antecedents of the accused; the conduct of the accused, namely, whether the accused was absconding and why he was absconding, how he had managed with the complainant to enter into a compromise etc.

8. Keeping in mind the above dictum laid down by the

Apex Court, this Court perused the facts in this case and also perused the documents produced by the parties. After going through the entire facts and circumstances, I am of the considered opinion that the dispute is private in nature and the settlement can be accepted. Therefore, this Criminal Miscellaneous case is allowed and all further proceedings against the petitioner in C.C.No.1320/2017 on the files of the Judicial First Class Magistrates Court-I, Neyyattinkara, arising from Crime No.1251/2016 of Aryancode Police Station are quashed. Sd/- RR P.V.KUNHIKRISHNAN JUDGE APPENDIX OF CRL.MC 3450/2024 PETITIONER ANNEXURES Annexure A 1 COPY OF THE FIR IN CRIME NO. 1251/2016 OF ARYANCODE POLICE STATION Annexure A2 COPY OF THE FINAL REPORT IN CRIME NO. PENDING AS C.C. NO. 1320/2017 BEFORE THE JUDICIAL FIRST CLASS MAGISTRATE COURT-I, NEYYATTINKARA Annexure A3 THE AFFIDAVIT SWORN IN BY THE 2ND RESPONDENT BEFORE THE NOTARY PUBLIC

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