

Jithin vs Public Prosecutor

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Court : Kerala

Decided On : Jun-09-2023

Judge : Honourable Mr. Justice Raja Vijayaraghavan V

Appeal No. : Crl.MC/9688/2022

Appellant : Jithin

Respondent : Public Prosecutor

Judgement :

IN THE HIGH COURT OF KERALA AT ERNAKULAM

PRESENT THE HONOURABLE MR. JUSTICE RAJA VIJAYARAGHAVAN V
FRIDAY, THE 9TH DAY OF JUNE 2023 / 19TH JYASHTA, 1945 CRL.MC NO.
9688 OF 2022 AGAINST THE ORDER IN C.C NO.2346/2021 OF JUDICIAL
MAGISTRATE OF FIRST CLASS, KODUNGALLUR PETITIONERS/ACCUSED
PERSONS NO.1 TO 6 :- 1 JITHIN, AGED 30 YEARS S/O. SUGATHAN, THOPPIL
HOUSE, VALAPPAD VILLAGE, THRISSUR DISTRICT, PIN - 680567 2 ASHIQ,
AGED 25 YEARS S/O. BHASHEER, KAVUNGAL HOUSE, NATTIKA VILLAGE,
THRISSUR DISTRICT, PIN - 680566 3 HASSAN, AGED 24 YEARS S/O.
MUHAMMED SHAREEF, RAYAMMARAKKAR HOUSE, EDASSERY,
THALIKULAM VILLAGE, THRISSUR DISTRICT, PIN - 680569 4 ADHRAJ
SALAM, AGED 22 YEARS S/O. ABDUL SALAM, KARAPPAM HOUSE,
THALIKKULAM VILLAGE, THRISSUR DISTRICT, PIN - 680569 5 SHAHID,

AGED 28 YEARS S/O. HAMSA, PADUVINGAL HOUSE, NATTIKA VILLAGE, THRISSUR DISTRICT, PIN - 680566 6 MOHAMMED GAZZALI, AGED 19 YEARS S/O. THAJUDHEEN, MADATHIPARAMBIL HOUSE, THALIKULAM VILLAGE, THRISSUR DISTRICT, PIN - 680569 BY ADVS. V.S.MANSOOR SYAM N.B. RESPONDENTS/STATE & RESPONDENTS 2 TO 4 :-

1 PUBLIC PROSECUTOR THE STATE OF KERALA REPRESENTED BY THE PUBLIC PROSECUTOR, HIGH COURT OF KERALA, KOCHI, PIN - 682031 2 SHREEJITH, AGED 24 YEARS S/O. RANJITH, KAREPARAMBIL HOUSE, SEETHIVALAVU, NATTIKA VILLAGE, THRISSUR DISTRICT, PIN - 680566

3 AVINASH, AGED 24 YEARS S/O. THAMBI, PULAYAKKAL HOUSE, SEETHIVALAVU DESOM, NATTIKA VILLAGE, THRISSUR DISTRICT, PIN - 680566 4 ADARSH, AGED 24 YEARS S/O. KISHOR, MANAKKATUPADI HOUSE, VALAPPAD VILLAGE, THRISSUR DISTRICT, PIN - 680567 BY ADVS. D.VIMAL DEV SNEHAPRABHA SRI MP PRASHANTH PP THIS CRIMINAL MISC. CASE HAVING COME UP FOR ADMISSION ON 09.06.2023, THE COURT ON THE SAME DAY PASSED THE FOLLOWING:

RAJA VIJAYARAGHAVAN V, J.

----- Dated this the 9th day of June, 2023

ORDER

This petition is filed invoking the powers of this Court under Section 482 of the Code of Criminal Procedure, 1973 (the Code) for the sake of brevity.

2. The petitioners herein are the accused Nos. 1 to 6 in C.C.No.2346

of 2021 on the files of the Judicial Magistrate of the First Class, Kodungallur. In the said case, they are accused of having committed offences punishable under Sections 143, 147, 323, 324 and 506(i) r/w Section 149 of the IPC.

3. The prosecution allegation is that on 22.09.2021 at about 19.30

p.m, the petitioners formed themselves into an unlawful assembly and in the prosecution of their common object, attacked the party respondents and caused injuries.

4. The learned counsel appearing for the petitioners submitted that the parties have settled their disputes and they are not desirous of pursuing the prosecution proceedings. Reliance is placed on Annexure-A3 affidavit filed by 2nd respondent, Annexure-A4 affidavit filed by the 3rd respondent and Annexure-A5 affidavit filed by the 4th respondent to substantiate their

contentions. According to the learned counsel, if the proceedings are terminated, recording the amicable settlement, the parties can embark upon their future paths in an atmosphere of tranquility and mutual respect.

5. When the matter had come up for admission, this court had

directed the investigating officer concerned to record the statement of the defacto complainant/injured/victim and report as to whether the assertion in the petition and the affidavit filed in support that entire disputes have been resolved between the parties concerned is true and genuine. The investigating officer was also directed to report as to whether the petitioners are persons with criminal antecedents and whether there is any other impediment in terminating the criminal proceedings.

6. The learned Public Prosecutor has raised reservations with regard

to the prospect of quashing the present proceedings purely on the basis of the settlement. It is urged that the extant circumstances may not warrant the exercise of the court's inherent jurisdiction, as conferred under Section 482 of the Code of Criminal Procedure. However, it is fairly submitted that no other transgressions or complaints stand registered against the Petitioners hitherto. It is further submitted that the statement of the party respondents has been recorded, and they have unequivocally expressed that they harbor no enduring grievances.

7. I have considered the submissions and have gone through the records.

8. In State of M.P. v. Laxmi Narayan,¹ a three-judge bench of

the Honble Supreme Court has summarised the law as laid down in Gian Singh v. State of Punjab², Narinder Singh v. State of Punjab³, State of Rajasthan v. Shambhu Kewat⁴, State of M.P. v. Deepak⁵, State of M.P. v. Manish⁶, J. Ramesh Kamath v. Mohana Kurup⁷; State of M.P. v. Rajveer Singh⁸, Parbatbhai Aahir v. State of Gujarat⁹, State of M.P. v. Kalyan Singh¹⁰ and State of M.P. v. Dhruv Gurjar¹¹. It was laid down as under:

15. Considering the law on the point and the other decisions of this Court on the point referred to hereinabove, it is observed and

held as under:

15.1. That the power conferred under Section 482 of the Code to quash the criminal proceedings for the non-compoundable [(2019) 5 SCC 688]

(2012) 10 SCC 303 2014 (6) SCC 466

(2014) 4 SCC 149

(2014) 10 SCC 285

(2015) 8 SCC 307 2016) 12 SCC 179

(2016) 12 SCC 471

(2017) 9 SCC 641

(2019) 4 SCC 268

(2019) 5 SCC 570]

offences under Section 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; 15.2. 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; 15.3. Similarly, such power is not to be exercised for the offences under the special statutes 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; 15.4. Offences under Section 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 Section 307 IPC and/or the Arms Act, etc. which have a serious impact on the society cannot be quashed in exercise of powers under Section 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 Section 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 Section 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 Section 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/delicate 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 paras 29.6 and 29.7 of the decision of this Court in *Narinder Singh* [*Narinder Singh v. State of Punjab*, (2014) 6 SCC 466 :

(2014) 3 SCC (Cri) 54] should be read harmoniously and to

be read as a whole and in the circumstances stated hereinabove; 15.5. While exercising the power under Section 482 of the Code to quash the criminal proceedings in respect of non-compoundable offenses, 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.

9. Having carefully analyzed the nature of the allegations, the gravity of the offense, the severity of injuries inflicted, antecedents of the petitioners, and the amicable relationship that now exist between the parties, I am of the considered opinion that the quashing of proceedings on the basis of the

settlement will not have any adverse impact on the society and it would only inure to bring about peace and secure the ends of justice. Even otherwise, persisting with the prosecution would be nothing but a waste of time as the prospects of conviction are bleak. Having considered all the relevant circumstances, I am of the considered view that this Court will be well justified in invoking its extraordinary powers under Section 482 of the Code to quash the proceedings. Resultantly, this petition will stand allowed. Annexure-2 Final Report in Crime No. 998/2021 of Valappad Police Station and all further proceedings pending against the petitioners as C.C.No.2346/2021 on the file of the Judicial Magistrate of the First Class, Kodungallur, are quashed. Sd/- RAJA VIJAYARAGHAVAN V, JUDGE SMA
APPENDIX OF CRL.MC 9688/2022 PETITIONER ANNEXURES : Annexure A1 THE CERTIFIED COPY OF FIR NO 998 OF 2021 OF VALAPPAD POLICE STATION THRISSUR ALONG WITH FI STATEMENT Annexure A2 THE CERTIFIED COPY OF THE FINAL REPORT IN CC NO 2346 OF 2021 OF JUDICIAL FIRST CLASS MAGISTRATE COURT KODUNGALLUR THRISSUR Annexure A3 THE AFFIDAVIT OF THE 2ND RESPONDENT Annexure A4 THE AFFIDAVIT OF THE 3RD RESPONDENT Annexure A5 THE AFFIDAVIT OF THE 4TH RESPONDENT

