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Surender and Anr. Vs. State of Govt of Nct of Delhi and Ors.

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Court : Delhi

Decided On : Feb-27-2015

Judge : Sunil Gaur

Appellant : Surender and Anr.

Respondent : State of Govt of Nct of Delhi and Ors.

Advocate for Def. : Mr. Vinod Diwkar

Advocate for Pet/Ap. : Mr. Satish K. Sansi, Mr. M.M. Kaushal

Judgement :

* IN THE HIGH COURT OF DELHI AT NEW DELHI Date of Decision: February 27, 2015 + CRL.M.C. 4237/2014 SURENDER & ANR. Through: ..... Petitioners Mr. Satish K. Sansi & Mr. M.M. Kaushal, Advocates versus STATE OF GOVT OF NCT OF DELHI & ORS. ... Respondents Through: Mr. Vinod Diwkar, Additional Public Prosecutor for respondent No.1-State with SI Prakash Respondent No.2 & 3 in person CORAM: HON'BLE MR. JUSTICE SUNIL GAUR

JUDGMENT
(ORAL) % In this petition, quashing of FIR No.147/2014, under Sections 324/452 of the IPC, registered at police station Gulabi Bagh, Delhi is sought by petitioners. Notice. Mr. Vinod Diwakar, learned Additional Public Prosecutor accepts notice of the above captioned first petition on behalf of respondent No.1State and submits that respondent No.2 is present in the Court and she has been identified to be the

first-informant/ complainant of FIR in Crl. M.C. No.4237/2014 Page 1 question by SI Prakash, Investigating Officer of this case. Learned counsel for petitioners submits that the parties to these petitions are neighbours and due to some misunderstanding, the FIR in question was got registered and now the misunderstanding amongst them stands cleared. Respondent No.2 affirms the contents of her affidavit placed on record in support of this petition and submits that to restore cordiality amongst the parties, proceedings arising out of these FIRs be brought to an end. In Gian Singh Vs. State of Punjab (2012) 10 SCC303Apex Court has recognized the need of amicable resolution of disputes in cases like the instant one, by observing as under:

61. In other words, the High Court must consider whether it would be unfair or contrary to the interest of justice to continue with the criminal proceedings or continuation of criminal proceedings would tantamount to abuse of process of law despite settlement and compromise between the victim and the wrongdoer and whether to secure the ends of justice, it is appropriate that criminal case is put to an end and if the answer to the above question(s) is in the affirmative, the High Court shall be well within its jurisdiction to quash the criminal proceedings.

The aforesaid dictum stands reiterated by the Apex Court in a recent judgment in Narinder Singh v. State of Punjab (2014) 6 SCC466 The pertinent observations of the Apex Court in Narinder Singh (Supra) are as under:Crl. M.C. No.4237/2014 Page 2 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. Crl. M.C. No.4237/2014 Page 3 Similarly, for the 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 predominantly 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 IPC would fall in the category of heinous and serious offences and therefore are 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 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 proving the charge under Section 307 Crl. M.C. No.4237/2014 Page 4 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. 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 latter 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 Crl. M.C. No.4237/2014 Page 5 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 to a conclusion as to whether the offence under Section 307 IPC 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 IPC 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.

In view of the fact that the incident in question, which led to lodging of this FIR, took place on a trivial issue and the misunderstanding amongst the parties stand cleared, this Court finds that continuance of proceedings arising out of these cross FIRs would be an exercise in futility. Upon deposit of cost of Rupees Ten Thousand by petitioners with the Prime Ministers Relief Fund within two weeks

and after placing on record receipt of cost within a week, the proceedings arising out of FIR Crl. M.C. No.4237/2014 Page 6 No.FIR No.147/2014, under Sections 324/452 of the IPC, registered at police station Gulabi Bagh, Delhi shall stand quashed. This petition is disposed of in aforesaid terms. (SUNIL GAUR) JUDGE FEBRUARY27 2015 r Crl. M.C. No.4237/2014 Page 7

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