

Form No: HCJD/C-121
ORDER SHEET.
ISLAMABAD HIGH COURT, ISLAMABAD,
JUDICIAL DEPARTMENT.

Criminal Misc. No. 137-B of 2022

Shehnaz Bibi alias Baji

Versus

The State

S.No. of order/ proceeding	Date of order/ proceeding	Order with signature of Judge and that of parties or counsel where necessary.
(02)	16.02.2022	Syed Saqib Ali Shah, Advocate for the Petitioner. Hazrat Younas, learned State Counsel. Nasir Manzoor, S.I

TARIQ MEHMOOD JAHANGIRI, J.-

Through the instant petition, the petitioner seeks bail after arrest in case F.I.R. No. 95/2022, dated 16.01.2022, offence under section 9-C CNSA, 1997, registered at Police Station Sabzi Mandi, Islamabad.

02. It is alleged that on spy information police has recovered *Heroin* weighing 1280 grams from possession of the petitioner, hence the instant FIR.

03. Learned Counsel for the petitioner / accused contends that petitioner / accused has falsely been implicated in the case by the local police with malafide intentions; there is no apprehension of petitioner's absconding or

tampering with the prosecution evidence, if she is enlarged on bail; the recovery, if any, effected from the petitioner / accused is planted one; there is no single independent witness of the occurrence available which makes case of the petitioner / accused one of further inquiry; report of chemical examiner is still awaited; she is previously non-convict; not involved in any other case of similar nature and is entitled for grant of bail after arrest.

04. Conversely, learned State Counsel has vehemently opposed the bail petition and stated that huge quantity of contraband was recovered from possession of the petitioner/accused. No enmity of police is on the record, which shows that the petitioner / accused has falsely been involved in this case. Hence, she is not entitled to the concession of bail.

05. We have heard the arguments advanced by learned counsel for the petitioner / accused, learned State Counsel and perused the record with their able assistance.

06. It is an admitted fact that only 1280 grams of Heroin was allegedly recovered form

the petitioner / accused and alleged recovered substance marginally exceeds 01-kilogram, so she is not likely to be awarded maximum sentence provided by the statutes, she is in jail and her trial is not likely to be concluded in near future. Reliance is placed upon case titled as "***Saeed Ahmed V. State through P.G. Punjab and another***" (**PLJ 2018 SC 812**), wherein bail after arrest of the accused, who was found in possession of 1350 grams of *charas* was allowed by the Hon'ble Supreme Court of Pakistan.

07. In another case titled as "***Abbas Raza V. The State through P.G. Punjab and other***" (**2020 SCMR 1859**), accused found in possession of 1300 grams of contraband, was allowed bail by the Hon'ble Supreme Court of Pakistan. It has been held by the Hon'ble Supreme Court of Pakistan, that:

"the liberty of a person is a precious right which has been guaranteed under the Constitution of Islamic Republic of Pakistan, 1973. The denial of the same should be such which can establish the guilt of the accused without second thought".

08. It has been held by the Hon'ble

Supreme Court of Pakistan in a case titled as **Aya Khan and another V. The State (2020 SCMR 350)**, that:

*"Without discussing the merits of the case lest it prejudice the case of one or the other side, suffice it to say that in the FIR or in the recovery memo, no where it is stated that whether it was net or gross weight of the narcotics and in this eventuality it **becomes a border line case** between subsections (b) and (c) of section 9, C.N.S.A., 1997. Thus the benefit of doubt in this aspect shall go to the accused. In view of the principle of law laid down in the case of Manzoor and 4 others v. The State (PLD 1972 SC 81)."* **(Emphasis added).**

Accused carrying possession of 1100 grams of chars was granted bail.

09. It is an admitted position that only 1280 grams of Heroin was allegedly recovered from the accused. It has been consistent view of the superior Courts as well as of this Court that in cases where recovery of narcotic substance does not exceed the limit between 900 to 1500 grams, the case being of borderline between clauses (b) and (c) of Section 9 of Control of Narcotic Substances

Act, 1997, therefore, invariably in all cases applicants have been admitted to bail. In this regard, guidance can be taken from the cases titled as **"Wajid alias Waji v. State" (2016 PCr.LJ 831)**, **"Ali Hassan alias Hasan v. State" (2014 YLR 188)**, **"Asif Ali v. State" (2013 YLR 1241)** and **"Ayaz v. State" (2011 PCr.LJ 177)**.

10. In a case titled as **"Jamal-ud-Din alias Zubair Khan v. The State" (2012 SCMR 573)**, the Hon'ble Supreme Court of Pakistan while granting bail after arrest to accused carrying four (04) kilograms of *Charas* has held that:

"Needless to say that the Court while hearing, a petition for bail is not to keep in view the maximum sentence provided by the Statute but the one which is likely to be entailed in the facts and circumstances of the case. The fact that petitioner has been in jail for three months yet commencement of his trial let alone its conclusion is not in sight, would also tilt the scales of justice in favour of bail rather than jail."

11. It is well settled principle of law that while deciding the bail application, before

recording of evidence in the trial Court, only tentative assessment is to be made by the Court and it is not permissible to go into details of evidence in one way or the other that might prejudice the case of either party.

In this regard reliance is placed upon **PLD 1994 Supreme Court 65, PLD 1994 Supreme Court 88, 2021 SCMR 111 and 2020 SCMR 937.**

12. Investigation in the case has been completed; the petitioner / accused is previously non-convict, no more required for further investigation; report of chemical examiner is still awaited; she is not involved in any other case of similar nature; she is behind the bars without any progress in the trial. Fair and speedy trial is one of the fundamental rights of the petitioner; no moral and legal compulsion exists to keep her behind the bars for an indefinite period which amounts to punishment without trial.

13. We do not find this to be a case where bail should be refused as an exception. Ultimate conviction and incarceration of guilty accused can repair the wrong caused by

mistaken relief of bail after arrest but no satisfactory reparation can be offered to the accused for her unjustified incarceration if she is acquitted ultimately.

14. A tentative assessment of record shows that present petitioner has made out a case of further inquiry as envisaged under Section 497(2) Cr.P.C.

15. In view of above, instant petition is **accepted** and the petitioner is admitted to bail subject to furnishing bail bonds in the sum of **Rs. 1,00,000/- (Rupees one Hundred Thousand only)** with one surety in the like amount to the satisfaction of learned trial Court.

16. Needless to mention that, this is a tentative assessment which shall not affect the trial of case in any manner.

(BABAR SATTAR) (TARIQ MEHMOOD JAHANGIRI)
JUDGE JUDGE