

Pawan Panwar vs State Of Nct Of Delhi & Anr on 8 April, 2024

Author: Navin Chawla

Bench: Navin Chawla

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* IN THE HIGH COURT OF DELHI AT NEW DELHI
+ CRL.M.C. 2776/2024
PAWAN PANWAR

..... Petitioner
Through: Mr.Jatin Sehgal, Mr.Adhirath
Singh, Mr.Vitren Bans
Mr.Manav Mitra, Advs.

versus

STATE OF NCT OF DELHI & ANR. Respond
Through: Mr.Aman Usman, APP with SI
Manish Tyagi.
Respondent no.2 in person

CORAM:
HON'BLE MR. JUSTICE NAVIN CHAWLA
ORDER

% 08.04.2024 CRL.M.A. 10569/2024 (Exemption)

1. Allowed, subject to all just exceptions.

2. This petition has been filed under Section 482 of the Code of Criminal Procedure, 1973 (in short, 'Cr.P.C.') seeking quashing of FIR No. 417/2016 registered at Police Station: Govind Puri, New Delhi under Sections 376/376(2)(n)/354(C)/417/506 of the Indian Penal Code, 1860 (in short, 'IPC'), along with all other proceedings arising therefrom, on the basis of a settlement.

3. Issue notice.

4. Notice is accepted by Mr.Aman Usman, the learned APP and Respondent no.2 who is present in person.

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5. The learned counsel for the petitioner submits that earlier the petitioner and the respondent no.2 were in a relationship and the subject FIR got lodged due to some misunderstanding and petty

issues between the parties with regard to the relationship between the petitioner and the respondent no.2.

6. The learned counsel for the petitioner submits that the parties have amicably settled all their inter se disputes.

7. The respondent no.2, who is personally present in Court and has been duly identified by the Investigating Officer (IO), reaffirms that she has settled all the disputes with the petitioner out of her own free will and without any coercion. She submits that she has no objection if the present FIR is quashed.

8. I have perused the contents of the FIR and have also interacted with the parties.

9. In Kapil Gupta v. State (NCT of Delhi), 2022 SCC OnLine SC 1030, the Supreme Court while considering a case of quashing of an FIR registered under Section 376 of the IPC, has held as under:

"13. It can thus be seen that this Court has clearly held that though the Court should be slow in quashing the proceedings wherein heinous and serious offences are involved, the High Court is not foreclosed from examining as to whether there exists material for incorporation of such an offence or as to whether there is sufficient evidence which if proved would lead to proving the charge for the offence charged with. The Court has also to take into consideration as to whether the settlement between the parties is going to result into harmony between them which may This is a digitally signed order.

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14. ...However, if such an application is made at an initial stage before commencement of trial, the said factor will weigh with the court in exercising its power.

15. The facts and circumstances as stated hereinabove are peculiar in the present case. Respondent No. 2 is a young lady of 23 years. She feels that going through trial in one case, where she is a complainant and in the other case, wherein she is the accused would rob the prime of her youth. She feels that if she is made to face the trial rather than getting any relief, she would be faced with agony of undergoing the trial.

16. In both the cases, though the charge sheets have been filed, the charges are yet to be framed and as such, the trial has not yet commenced. It is further to be noted that since the respondent No. 2 herself is not supporting the prosecution case, even if the criminal trial is permitted to go ahead, it will end in nothing else than an acquittal. If

the request of the parties is denied, it will be amounting to only adding one more criminal case to the already overburdened criminal courts.

17. In that view of the matter, we find that though in a heinous or serious crime like rape, the Court should not normally exercise the powers of quashing the proceedings, in the peculiar facts and circumstances of the present case and in order to give succour to Respondent No. 2 so that she is saved from further agony of facing two criminal trials, one as a victim and one as an accused, we find that this is a fit case wherein the extraordinary powers of this Court be exercised to quash the criminal proceedings."

10. In *Jitendra Raghuvanshi v. Babita Raghuvanshi*, (2013) 4 SCC 58, the Supreme Court has held as under:

"14. The inherent powers of the High Court under Section 482 of the Code are wide and This is a digitally signed order.

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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 This is a digitally signed order.

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11. Keeping in view the fact that the disputes between the parties arose out of the relationship between the petitioner and the respondent no.2, who are now stated to be married and are happily living together and the fact that the parties have amicably settled their inter se disputes, I find that no useful purpose shall be served in continuing with the proceedings of the present FIR as the chances of its success will be rather minuscule and it would rather create further acrimony between the parties and will be an unnecessary burden on the State exchequer. The continuation of the proceedings would rather act as a hindrance in the happy married life of the petitioner and the respondent no.2.

12. Guided by the principles enunciated by the Supreme Court in its judgments in Kapil Gupta (Supra), Jitendra Raghuvanshi (Supra), Gian Singh v. State of Punjab, (2012) 10 SCC 303; Parbatbhai Aahir @ Parbatbhai Bhimsinbhai Karmur & Ors. v. State of Gujarat & Ors. (2017) 9 SCC 641; and State of Haryana & Ors. v. Bhajan Lal & Ors. 1992 Supp (1) SCC 335, this Court deems it appropriate, in the interest of justice, to exercise its inherent powers under Section 482 of the Cr.P.C. to quash the FIR and all the proceedings emanating This is a digitally signed order.

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13. Accordingly, the petition is allowed. FIR No. 417/2016 registered at Police Station: Govind Puri, New Delhi under Sections 376/376(2)(n)/354(C)/417/506 of the IPC and all consequential proceedings emanating therefrom against the petitioner are quashed, subject to the condition that the petitioner shall deposit costs of Rs.50,000/- with Samarpan Children's Home [Samarpan Foundation, A-13, Ground Floor, Friends Colony East, New Delhi-110065, HDFC Bank, Current Account No.06171450000031, Branch-Jor Bagh Market, New Delhi-110003, RTGS/NEFT ISFC: HDFC0000617, MICR:110240103], within a period of four weeks from today, and file proof of such deposit with the Registry of this Court and also supply a copy thereof to the IO, within the said period.

NAVIN CHAWLA, J APRIL 8, 2024/Arya/am Click here to check corrigendum, if any This is a digitally signed order.

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