

**HIGH COURT OF CHHATTISGARH, BILASPUR****CRMP No. 203 of 2022**

- Smt. Sujata Bundela W/o Anurag Kumar Aged About 35 Years Resident Of Gomatidas Chowk, Chandrakhuri, P.S. Fulgaon Chowk, Tahsil And District Durg Chhattisgarh.

**---- Petitioner****Versus**

1. State Of Chhattisgarh Through District Magistrate Durg, District Durg Chhattisgarh.
2. Anurag Kumar S/o Gopal Krishna Kannaujiya Aged About 38 Years
3. Gopal Krishna Kannaujiya S/o Late Shri Shiv Sampat Ram Aged About 66 Years
4. Smt. Jaya Kannaujiya W/o Gopal Krishna Kannaujiya Aged About 61 Years
5. Smt. Vinita Uike W/o Anup Uike Aged About 40 Years

All are Resident Of Swami Vivekanand Road, Ashish Nagar, West Risali Bhilai, P.S. Risali, District Durg Chhattisgarh.

**---- Respondents**


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For Petitioner : Shri Ravi Maheshwari, Advocate

For Respondents/State : Shri Ayaz Naved, GA

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**HON'BLE SHRI JUSTICE GOUTAM BHADURI****ORDER****28/02/2022**

Heard.

1. The instant petition has been filed by the petitioner/wife, who lodged the FIR which was bearing No.112/2017 at Police Station Newai, District Durg dated

23.05.2017 under Sections 498 A, 506/34 of the IPC.

2. The petitioner has filed this petition for quashment of criminal proceeding in criminal case No.4265 of 2017 pending before the JMFC, Durg, District Durg arising out of FIR No.112 of 2017 dated 23.05.2017 registered at Police Station Newai, District Durg against respondents No.2 to 5.
3. The respondents No.2 to 5, who are the husband, Father-in-law, Mother-in-law and Sister-in-law of the petitioner are facing a trial before the JMFC, Durg bearing criminal case No.4265 of 2017.
4. Learned counsel for the petitioner would submit that the wife and the husband have settled the dispute and presently the wife is residing along with the respondents' family, therefore, in order to advance the cause of justice this petition may be allowed.
5. No representation is made on behalf of the respondents No.2 to 5.
6. This Court pursuant to the earlier submission made, directed the husband and wife to get their statements recorded and the statements were recorded before the Additional Registrar (Judicial). The statement of the petitioner/wife would show that they have entered into the compromise and she do not want any action against the respondents No.2 to 5 herein. She further stated that the compromise has been effected without any undue pressure or influence.
7. I have heard learned counsel for the parties and perused the documents.
8. With respect to compounding the offence, Hon'ble the Supreme Court in **Gian**

***Singh v. State of Punjab & Another***<sup>1</sup> has laid down the following principles :

“61. The position that emerges from the above discussion can be summarised thus: the power of the High Court in quashing a criminal proceeding or FIR or complaint in exercise of its inherent jurisdiction is distinct and different from the power given to a criminal court for compounding the offences under Section 320 of the Code. Inherent power is of wide plenitude with no statutory limitation but it has to be exercised in accord with the guideline engrafted in such power viz; (i) to secure the ends of justice or (ii) to prevent abuse of the process of any Court. In what cases power to quash the criminal proceeding or complaint or F.I.R may be exercised where the offender and victim have settled their dispute would depend on the facts and circumstances of each case and no category can be prescribed. However, before exercise of such power, the High Court must have due regard to the nature and gravity of the crime. Heinous and serious offences of mental depravity or offences like murder, rape, dacoity, etc. cannot be fittingly quashed even though the victim or victim’s family and the offender have settled the dispute. Such offences are not private in nature and have serious impact on society. Similarly, any compromise between the victim and offender in relation to the offences under special statutes like Prevention of Corruption Act or the offences committed by public servants while working in that capacity etc; cannot provide for any basis for quashing criminal proceedings involving such offences. But the criminal cases having overwhelmingly and predominatingly civil flavour stand on different footing for the purposes of quashing, particularly the offences arising from commercial, financial, mercantile, civil, partnership or such like transactions or the offences arising out of matrimony relating to dowry, etc. or the family disputes where the

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1 (2012) 10 SCC 303

wrong is basically private or personal in nature and the parties have resolved their entire dispute. In this category of cases, High Court may quash criminal proceedings if in its view, because of the compromise between the offender and victim, the possibility of conviction is remote and bleak and continuation of criminal case would put accused to great oppression and prejudice and extreme injustice would be caused to him by not quashing the criminal case despite full and complete settlement and compromise with the victim. 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 proceeding or continuation of the criminal proceeding would tantamount to abuse of process of law despite settlement and compromise between the victim and 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 affirmative, the High Court shall be well within its jurisdiction to quash the criminal proceeding.

9. Further, in case of ***Parbatbhai Aahir @ Parbatbhai Bhimsinhbhai Karmur & ors. V. State of Gujarat & ors. {(2017) 9 SCC 641}*** their Lordship again reiterated the view taken in case of ***Gian Singh*** (supra) and has laid down the following propositions :

“15. The broad principles which emerge from the precedents on the subject, may be summarised in the following propositions :

- (i) Section 482 preserves the inherent powers of the High Court to prevent an abuse of the process of any court or to secure the ends of justice. The provision does not confer new powers. It only recognises and preserves powers which inhere in the High Court;
- (ii) The invocation of the jurisdiction of the High Court to quash a First

Information Report or a criminal proceeding on the ground that a settlement has been arrived at between the offender and the victim is not the same as the invocation of jurisdiction for the purpose of compounding an offence. While compounding an offence, the power of the court is governed by the provisions of Section 320 of the Code of Criminal Procedure, 1973. The power to quash under Section 482 is attracted even if the offence is non-compoundable.

(iii) In forming an opinion whether a criminal proceeding or complaint should be quashed in exercise of its jurisdiction under Section 482, the High Court must evaluate whether the ends of justice would justify the exercise of the inherent power;

(iv) While the inherent power of the High Court has a wide ambit and plenitude it has to be exercised; (i) to secure the ends of justice or (ii) to prevent an abuse of the process of any court;

(v) The decision as to whether a complaint or First Information Report should be quashed on the ground that the offender and victim have settled the dispute, revolves ultimately on the facts and circumstances of each case and no exhaustive elaboration of principles can be formulated;

(vi) In the exercise of the power under Section 482 and while dealing with a plea that the dispute has been settled, the High Court must have due regard to the nature and gravity of the offence. Heinous and serious offences involving mental depravity or offences such as murder, rape and dacoity cannot appropriately be quashed though the victim or the family of the victim have settled the dispute. Such offences are, truly speaking, not private in nature but have a serious impact upon society. The decision to continue with the trial in such cases is founded on the

overriding element of public interest in punishing persons for serious offences;

(vii) As distinguished from serious offences, there may be criminal cases which have an overwhelming or predominant element of a civil dispute. They stand on a distinct footing in so far as the exercise of the inherent power to quash is concerned;

(viii) Criminal cases involving offences which arise from commercial, financial, mercantile, partnership or similar transactions with an essentially civil flavour may in appropriate situations fall for quashing where parties have settled the dispute;

(ix) In such a case, the High Court may quash the criminal proceeding if in view of the compromise between the disputants, the possibility of a conviction is remote and the continuation of a criminal proceeding would cause oppression and prejudice; and

(x) There is yet an exception to the principle set out in propositions (viii) and (ix) above. Economic offences involving the financial and economic well-being of the state have implications which lie beyond the domain of a mere dispute between private disputants. The High Court would be justified in declining to quash where the offender is involved in an activity akin to a financial or economic fraud or misdemeanour. The consequences of the act complained of upon the financial or economic system will weigh in the balance.”

10. Considering the submission of the victim and she is the petitioner before this Court and has stated that she has entered into compromise with the respondents No.2 to 5 who are the accused and they have started living together. Looking to the nature of allegation and the background and further

taking into the the principles laid down by the Supreme Court as cited above and it appears that the matrimonial dispute has been settle at rest, continuation of criminal case would oppression & prejudice, I am inclined to quash the FIR and the criminal proceedings against respondents No.2 to 5.

11. In the result the petition is allowed. The proceedings of criminal case No.4265 of 2017 pending before the JMFC, Durg, District Durg for the offence under Sections 498 A, 506/34 of the IPC arising out of FIR No.112 of 2017 dated 23.05.2017 registered at Police Station Newai, District Durg is hereby quashed. The respondents No.2 to 5 are acquitted of the charges leveled against them.

Sd/-

Goutam Bhaduri  
Judge

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