



**IN THE HIGH COURT OF PUNJAB & HARYANA AT
CHANDIGARH**

CRM-M-12184-2026

Date of decision: 29.04.2026

RAVINA MAHANT AND ANR.

....Petitioners

Versus

STATE OF PUNJAB

....Respondent

CORAM:- HON'BLE MS. JUSTICE RUPINDERJIT CHAHAL

Present:- Mr. M.S. Basra, Advocate for the petitioners.

Mr. Rahul Jindal, AAG Punjab.

.....

RUPINDERJIT CHAHAL, J. (ORAL)

1. Prayer in the instant petition filed under Section 482 of the Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita, 2023 is for grant of anticipatory bail to the petitioners in FIR No.15 dated 27.01.2026 under Sections 118(1), 118(2), 61(2) of the Bhartiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS), 2023, registered at Police Station Division No.3 Ludhiana, District Ludhiana.


2. Brief facts of the present case are that, the petitioners in connivance with other co-accused allegedly abducted one Manpreet Singh and after administering some intoxicating substance, amputated his private part. Hence, the present FIR.

3. Learned counsel for the petitioners contends that the petitioners have been falsely implicated in the present case and they have no concern with the said offence. He submits that the injuries allegedly suffered by the victim are self inflicted and the present FIR is just a



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counter-blast to an earlier FIR dated 22.01.2026 registered at the instance of the present petitioners against the complainant party and others. He submits that the petitioners have already sought an inquiry into the matter. He submits that both the parties belong to transgender community and there is a dispute of their working area. He submits that no specific role is attributed to the petitioners and there are general and vague allegations. Nothing is to be recovered from the petitioners. Learned counsel further submits that the petitioners are ready and willing to join the investigation as and when called upon to do so by the investigating agency. Therefore, it is urged that the petition deserves to be allowed.

4. Learned State counsel has filed the status report in the matter and he, relying upon the same, has vehemently opposed the prayer for bail. It is submitted that the offence allegedly committed by the petitioners are serious in nature. The learned counsel further contends that the petitioners have been specifically named in the FIR. He submits that petitioner No.1 in collusion with her co-accused petitioner No.2 executed the brutal act of abducting the injured Manpreet Singh and administered some intoxicating substance to render him unconscious and thereafter amputated his private part. He submits that the petitioner No.1 had also threatened the victim earlier of cutting his private part and had played a leading role in the entire occurrence including assembling the other co-accused persons, facilitating the abduction in vehicle and ensuring the execution of the grievous act. He further submits that petitioner No.2 acted in connivance with petitioner No.1 and other co-accused persons and was part of the unlawful assembly involved in the abduction and subsequent offence. Petitioner No.2 had



actively participated in the conspiracy by accompanying the main accused. On these grounds, the learned State counsel has prayed for dismissal of the present petition.

5. Mr. Gaurav Singla, Advocate has appeared on behalf of the complainant and has filed his power of attorney which is taken on record. He adopts the submissions made by learned State counsel and has opposed to the relief sought by the petitioners.

6. Heard.

7. The allegations levelled against the petitioners are of an extremely serious and heinous nature, involving premeditated abduction and grievous bodily harm. The specific roles attributed to the petitioners, coupled with the nature of injuries inflicted upon the victim, prima facie indicate their active involvement in the commission of the offence. At this stage, the plea of false implication and counter-blast is a matter of trial. The investigation is at a crucial stage, and custodial interrogation of the petitioners may be necessary to unearth the full conspiracy and the involvement of other co-accused. There also exists a reasonable apprehension that, if granted the concession of anticipatory bail, the petitioners may influence witnesses or hamper the course of investigation. The investigation conducted so far points toward requirement of deeper probe. While considering the plea for grant of anticipatory bail, this Court is required to consider the overall nature of offence and accusations against the accused, the manner of occurrence, the gravity of offence and the potential impact of granting pre-arrest protection to the petitioner, at this stage. Granting anticipatory bail to the petitioner with such allegations, at



this preliminary stage, would not be justified as it may affect the course of fair investigation and undermine the seriousness of the alleged act. Considering the gravity of the allegations, the custodial interrogation of the petitioner is necessary for effective investigation in the matter.

8. It is befitting to mention here that while considering a plea for grant of anticipatory bail, the Court has to equilibrate between safeguarding individual rights and protecting societal interest(s). The Court ought to reckon with the magnitude and nature of the offence; the role attributed to the accused; the need for fair and free investigation as also the deeper and wide impact of such alleged iniquities on the society. It would be apposite to refer herein judgment of Hon'ble Supreme Court in '**State Vs. Anil Sharma**', (1997) 7 SCC 187, wherein it has been held as under:

"6. We find, force in the submission of CBI that custodial interrogation is qualitatively more elicitation-oriented than questioning a suspect who is well-ensconced with a favourable order under Section 438 of the Code. In a case like this, effective interrogation of a suspected person is of tremendous advantage in disinterring many useful information and also materials which would have been concealed. Success in such interrogation would elude if the suspected person knows that he is well protected and insulated by a pre-arrest bail order during the time he is interrogated. Very often interrogation in such a condition would reduce to a mere ritual. The argument that the custodial interrogation is fraught with the danger of the person being subjected to third degree methods need not be countenanced, for, such an argument can be advanced by all accused in all criminal cases. The Court has to presume that responsible police officers would conduct themselves in a responsible manner and that those entrusted with the task of disinterring offences would not conduct themselves as offenders."



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9. Accordingly, this Court finds no merit in the present petition in the factual matrix of the case in hand. Moreover, custodial interrogation of the petitioner is necessary for effective investigation and if it is denied, it will leave many loose ends, which is not desired. Thus, the present petition being devoid of merits is hereby dismissed.

10. It is made clear that nothing said hereinabove shall be deemed to be an expression of opinion upon merits of the case/investigation.

29.04.2026

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- i) Whether speaking/reasoned?
- ii) Whether reportable?

(RUPINDERJIT CHAHAL)
JUDGE

Yes/No
Yes/No