
State of Haryana Vs Balwan

Criminal Appeal No. 241-DBA of 2008

Court: High Court Of Punjab And Haryana At Chandigarh

Date of Decision: April 17, 2009

Acts Referred:

Penal Code, 1860 (IPC) & Section 376, 511

Citation: (2009) 4 RCR(Civil) 45 : (2009) 5 RCR(Criminal) 436

Hon'ble Judges: Uma Nath Singh, J; Daya Chaudhary, J

Bench: Division Bench

Advocate: Naveen Malik, DAG, for the Appellant; R.S. Shoeran, for the Respondent

Final Decision: Dismissed

Judgement

Uma Nath Singh, J.

This appeal by way of leave to appeal arises out of a judgment of acquittal dated 15.10.2007, passed by learned

Sessions Judge, Bhiwani in Sessions Case No. 50 of 9.10.2006 (Sessions trial No. 128 of 9.10.2006) under Sections 376/511, 323 and 506

IPC.

2. The brief facts of prosecution case leading to filing of this appeal are that on 20.8.2006, prosecutrix Sudesh (PW3) had made an application

(Ex.PC) before the S.H.O., P.S. Sadar, Bhiwani stating therein that she is married with Anil Kumar and has a small one year old daughter. She

had gone to the fields with her niece for cutting grass. When she was engaged in cutting the grass, accused Balwan came from behind, grappled

with her and tried to rape forcibly. When she resisted, the accused gave a fist blow on her lip, pressed her neck, and felled her on the ground. The

prosecutrix then called her niece who rushed to the spot. Having seen her niece coming, the accused fled away from the spot while holding threat

to the prosecutrix that if she told anything about this incident, then he would kill her. The prosecutrix then narrated the entire story to her husband

and went to the police station being accompanied by him where they submitted an application (Ex.PC) making request for the registration of a case

against the accused. Hence, a formal FIR (Ex.PC/1) was registered at P.S. Sadar, Bhiwani against the accused-respondent under Sections

376/511, 323 and 506 IPC, by SI Bani Singh (PW5). The prosecutrix was then sent to General Hospital, Bhiwani for medico-legal examination

alongwith application (Ex.PD), where she was medically examined by Dr.Naresh Kumar Garg (PW6) vide MLR (Ex.PG). SI Bani Singh (PW5)

went to the spot and prepared a rough site plan of the scene of occurrence (Ex.PE), and also got it photographed. He also collected the Sickle

(Ex.P10), a pair of slippers (Ex.P 11), some damaged crop of Bajra and grass (Ex.P 12), and a plastic chaddar (sheet) (Ex.P9), and took them

into possession vide recovery memo (Ex.PF). The accused was arrested on 24.8.2006 and was put to medico- legal examination in General

Hospital, Bhiwani. Dr. Gianender Singh (PW1) examined the accused vide MLR (Ex.PA), and noticed as under :

(i) Pubic hairs were well developed; (ii) both testicles were present in scrotum; (iii) penis was well developed; (iv) on manipulation of penis,

erection was present, and (v) no injury was seen on genital parts.

In the opinion of doctor, there was nothing to suggest that the accused was unable to do the sexual intercourse.

3. Investigating officer SI Bani Singh (PW5) during the course of investigation, recorded the statements of witnesses, got prepared a scaled site

plan (Ex.) and after the completion of investigation, presented a challan in the Court of competent jurisdiction against the accused-respondent.

Accused Balwan was charged-sheeted by learned Sessions Judge, Bhiwani under Sections 376, 511, 323 and 506 IPC, to which he pleaded not

guilty and claimed trial. The prosecution examined as many as six witnesses, namely Dr. Gianender Singh (PW 1) who medico-legally examined

the accused; Photographer Ajit Singh (PW2), Prosecutrix Sudesh Kumari (PW3), Eye Witness Monika (PW4), Investigating Officer SI Bani

Singh (PW5) and Dr.Naresh Kumar Garg (PW6) who medico-legally examined the prosecutrix.

4. Accused-respondent Balwan, during his examination u/s 313 Cr.P.C., denied the prosecution allegations and stated further that he has been

falsely implicated in this case. At the relevant time, he used to cultivate the fields of one Lillu Brahman, and the cattle of complainant party would

destroy the crops standing in his fields. The prosecutrix also used to destroy the crops in his fields while cutting grass for fodder and whenever he

objected to that, she quarreled with him and only for that reason, she framed him in this case. However, the accused-respondent Balwan could not

lead any evidence in his defence. On conclusion of trial, as learned Sessions Judge could not find any dependable evidence, he recorded the

impugned judgment of acquittal.

5. Learned Deputy Advocate General, Haryana, contended that there is sufficient material on record to substantiate the prosecution case and the

learned Sessions Judge while recording the acquittal of accused has not correctly appreciated such evidence. She further contended that the

prosecutrix (PW3) and her niece eye witness Monika (PW4) have fully supported the prosecution case, which is supported by the medical

evidence, particularly the injuries noticed on the person of prosecutrix and further, there was nothing to suggest that the accused person was unable

to do the sexual intercourse.

6. On the other hand, learned counsel for the respondent-accused submitted that both the prosecution witnesses namely, PW3 and PW4 are

related to each other and there are material improvements in their testimonies. Further, the injuries noticed on the person of prosecutrix are also

simple in nature and there is no injury found on her private part so as to establish the element of rape. Moreover, the prosecutrix is an educated

married lady and she has tried to improve her case in the Court by introducing new stories over the statement given to the police in her application

(Ex.PC). Thus, according to learned counsel, the impugned judgment passed by learned Sessions Judge, is fully justified.

7. We have heard learned counsel for the parties and perused the appeal record.

In view of the rival submissions, we need to carefully reappreciate the evidence adduced by the prosecution in order to find out cogent

incriminating materials, if any, which may necessitate our interference with the judgment of acquittal. We have already noticed the evidence of Dr.

Gianender Singh (PW1). As regards the testimony of Ajit Singh (PW2), a Photographer by profession, he has stated that he was running a Photo

Studio under the name and style of Gora Photo Studio at village Nandgaon. On 20.8.2006, on the asking of police, he had taken 4 snaps of the

scene of occurrence situated in village Jharwai. He has proved the photographs (Ex.P I to Ex.P4) as well as their negatives (Ex.P5 to Ex.P8). In his

cross-examination, he has stated that the scene of occurrence was about 2 kms away from his shop and he had charged a sum of Rs. 80/- for

taking these photographs from one Sumer Singh on that day itself. He has also deposed that the said Sumer Singh, who had made the payment to

him, was present outside the Court. Sudesh (PW3) is the complainant. She has deposed that on 20.8.2006, she had gone to collect fodder from

the fields along with her niece Monika and when she started collecting grass, accused Balwan came from behind and grappled with her. However,

she got herself freed, but even thereafter, he caught hold of her again and felled her on earth and then tried to rape her. When she tried to release

herself, he gave bites on her lips and both the cheeks, and then pressed her throat and gagged her mouth. Thereafter, she started crying, and then

the accused pressed her breast, tore her clothes, and tried to penetrate his male organ into her private part. When she cried, the accused gagged

her mouth and sat upon her. On hearing her crying, her niece Monika (PW4) came to the spot, and on seeing her, the accused ran away from the

spot. However, while going, he held threats to the effect that if she reported the matter to anyone, he would finish her. In reply to Court question,

she stated that she was not aware of the contents of the application (Ex.PC) as her condition was very bad at that time as the accused had tried to

rape her. She also stated that she had signed the application (Ex.PC) on being asked by the police. In her cross-examination, when she was

confronted with her original complaint (Ex.PC) wherein these improved facts were not mentioned, she was not in a position to give any answer.

However, she has denied the defence suggestion that she was deposing falsely; that her cattle used to destroy the crops standing in the fields of one

Lillu Brahman when she used to collect grass; and that on being restrained from entering that field, she got a false case registered against the

accused. Similarly, Monika (PW4) though supported the version of PW3 given in Court, yet on being confronted with her earlier statement

(Ex.DA), was found to have made a lot of improvement in her Court statement. SI Bani Singh (PW5) is the Investigating Officer, who has proved

the investigation part of the case. In his cross-examination, he has admitted that Sudesh (PW3) had come with an application (Ex.PC) while being

accompanied by her husband Anil (not examined), Monika (PW4), Sumer Singh (not examined) and 4-5 co-villagers. He has also admitted that

prosecutrix (PW3) neither produced her torn shirt allegedly being worn at the time of occurrence, nor did she disclose anything in that regard

before him. Even the doctor did not produce/hand over the shirt of the prosecutrix to the police. Dr. Naresh Garg (PW6) who medico-legally

examined the prosecutrix (PW3) found the following injuries :

1. Diffused swelling of size 3 x 3 cms on upper lip.
2. Abrasion of size 3 x 2 cms on right cheek.
3. Diffused swelling red mark on right side of the neck. Patient was advised ENT opinion.
4. Abrasion of size 2 x 1 cm on left side of the neck.
5. Complain of pain on right thumb.
6. Complain of pain on right hand.
7. Complain of pain on the chest.

Initially injury No. 3 was kept under observation. After going through the X- Ray report, all the injuries were declared to be simple in nature. The

probable duration of these injuries was within 6 hours and the weapon used was found to be a blunt one. In his cross-examination, PW6 has

admitted that there was no mark of injury noticed on the person of prosecutrix corresponding to the injuries Nos. 5 to 7. He also admitted that the

possibility of other injuries being received by way of fall on a hard surface, cannot be ruled out.

8. In the premises discussed herein above, we notice that the prosecutrix, being a literate lady, has introduced a different story altogether during the

trial. She has made material improvements in her Court statement over the contents of application (Ex.PC) given to the police. Besides, she has

also admitted that she was not aware of the contents of the application (Ex.PC) which she had signed only on the asking of police. Similarly, her

niece Monika (PW4) has also made substantial improvements in her Court statement over her earlier version. The torn cloth which the prosecutrix

was wearing at the time of incident, was not produced before the police, and even her husband, who had accompanied her to the police station for

lodging a report, has also not turned in the witness box. Besides, the injuries noticed on the person of the prosecutrix also did not suggest the factum

of rape and the doctor has opined that the same could be received by fall on some hard surface.

9. In view of glaring improvements as the aforesaid, and the dearth of cogent evidence, we are not inclined to interfere with the impugned judgment of

acquittal. Moreover, our view is fortified by the ratio of judgment of Hon'ble the Apex Court that if two views are possible the one taken by the

trial Court in favour of an accused for recording acquittal would be the acceptable and possible view. Some of the judgments of Hon'ble the Apex

Court, on the point of interference with the orders of acquittal are reported as : (i) 2002 (3) RCR (Crl.) 861 (Harjana Thirupala and others v.

Public Prosecutor, High Court of A.P., Hyderabad; (ii) 2004 (2) RCR (Crl.) 940, (Shingara Singh v. State of Haryana and another), and (iii) State

of U.P. Vs. Gambhir Singh and Others, .

Hence, this Criminal Appeal No. 241-DBA of 2008 is dismissed as being devoid of merits.