

## Lalit Mohan Pal and Others Vs State and Another

**Court:** Gauhati High Court

**Date of Decision:** March 14, 1952

**Acts Referred:** Penal Code, 1860 (IPC) â€” Section 106, 323, 341, 352

**Citation:** (1952) CriLJ 1035

**Hon'ble Judges:** Ram Labhaya, J; Deka, J

**Bench:** Division Bench

### Judgement

Deka, J.

This is a petition for revision filed u/s 439 of the Code of Criminal Procedure on behalf of four persons Lalit Mohan Pal, Srimanta

Kumar Pal, Kripa Mohan Pal, and Kedar Mohan Pal against the conviction and sentence passed in Case No. 14550 of 1950 of the Silchar Court

which were upheld by the appellate Court.

2. All the petitioners were convicted u/s 341, I. P. C. and sentenced to pay a fine of Rs. 60/- in default three months" rigorous imprisonment.

Accused Lalit Pal in addition, was convicted u/s 323, I. P. C. and sentenced to pay a fine of Rs. 60/-, in default three months" rigorous

imprisonment. The other three accused Srimanta, Kripa and Kedar were convicted u/s 352, I. P. C. and sentenced to pay a fine of Rs. 25/- each,

in default rigorous imprisonment for one month. AH the accused persons were further directed u/s 106, Criminal P.C. to execute a bond for Rs.

200/- each with one surety for keeping the peace during the period of two years. There was an order u/s 522, Criminal P.C. restoring the

possession of the eastern wing of the disputed house to the south "bhiti" where the complainant Har Kumar Pal formerly lived.

3. The case for the prosecution was that the complainant Har Kumar Pal and accused Lalit Mohan Pal had a joint motor business which was

subsequently liquidated but even after their business failed they used to live jointly in a house occupying different compartments. During the Durga

Puja in the year 1950, Har Kumar left his apartments in charge of his mother and he and his other members of the family left for a short tour

outside Govindapur where the house was situated. On Har Kumar"s return to Hailakandi. On the next day he found his mother there and all the

members of his family returned to his house at Govindapur, the next day where his entrance was obstructed by Lalit and other accused persons.

On the morning following when Har Kumar's mother made an attempt to enter the house she was physically assaulted by the accused persons

Lalit taking the lead, and Har Kumar was also assaulted in the course of rescuing his mother. Their injuries were examined by the doctor and he

has been a witness in the Court below. The defence was that Har Kumar had actually sold the portion of his house to Lalit and that the story of

assault and dispossession was false in its entirety. The first Court found a case made out against the accused persons and they were convicted and

sentenced as stated above and their appeal failed.

4. Mr. Ghose appearing for the petitioners has raised an objection as to the joinder of charges stating that the offence u/s 341, I. P. C. was alleged

to have taken place on 20th October 1950 and the assault took place on the 21st and as such, the trial was vitiated for misjoinder of charges.

Taking the prosecution story as a whole, both the occurrences can be said to have taken place in the course of the same transaction and this

objection not having been taken in the Courts below, we do not think there is sufficient justification for giving any weight to this contention

inasmuch as in our, opinion there has been no failure of justice as a consequence thereof.

5. The second contention of Mr. Ghose has been that the order u/s 106, Criminal P.C. cannot be maintained in view of the fact that there is no

finding as to the likelihood of the breach of peace. On a perusal of the Judgment we are satisfied that the learned Magistrate has given no reasons

to hold that there is any apprehension or likelihood of any breach of the peace and in consideration thereof, we do not think the order u/s 106,

Criminal P.C. is justified and as such, it is liable to be vacated.

6. Mr. Ghose has, however, put greater emphasis on the point that the order u/s 522, Criminal P.C. cannot be maintained in the facts and

circumstances of this case and. in support of his contention he has relied on Narnin Singh v. Panna Lal 22 Lah 512, wherein it has been held that

entering into the vacant possession of a house in the absence of the complainant does not amount to an offence committed by the accused attended

by criminal force or show of force within the meaning of Section 522(1), Criminal P.C. and the person dispossessed cannot be restored to the

possession of his property under the provision of that Act. The other case on which Mr. Ghose has relied is D.K. Aswatha Narayana v. J.

Muneppa ILR (1943) Mad 900.

With regard to the first case, we must say that We cannot agree with the view of the Hon"ble Judges deciding that case as in our opinion the

retention of the possession by a criminal trespasser by show of criminal force as well amounts to factual dispossession in the eye of law for which a

relief u/s 522, Criminal P.C. can be given when the Court thinks it justified. This view is supported by the decision of the Allahabad High Court

reported in Mt. Chhabia Vs. Ram Charan, wherein it has been held that where the criminal trespasser enters upon the property and prevents the

rightful possessor from coming upon the property, a dispossession may be said to have taken place and if the trespasser was guilty of some force

or intimidation when he prevented the other party from returning to the property, a Magistrate would be justified in acting u/s 522, Criminal P.C.

This has been exactly the case in the present instance. In the above view the second case also does not help the petitioners. The dispossession was

attended by criminal force or show of criminal force when the entry by the complainant and his mother was resisted. In this view the restoration of

possession u/s 522, Criminal P.C. was quite valid.

7. The result is that the Rule fails except with regard to the order u/s 106, Criminal P.C. which is vacated. The sentences in default of realization of

fine is reduced to one week in each case.

Ram Labhaya, J.

8. I agree.