

SC No 518/2022
DRI Vs. Praveen Kumar Solanki & Ors

05.04.2024

Present :- Ms. Mala Sharma, Ld. Counsel for DRI with IO Govind
Bharadwaj.

All accused produced from JC.

Sh. Vikram Hegde, ld. Counsel for accused Praveen Solanki.

Sh. Nitin Rai Sharma, Ld. Counsel for accused Ramanjeet
Singh and Navjot Singh.

Matter is listed for consideration on the point of charge.

Arguments addressed by Ld. Counsels for the accused persons as well as Ld. Spl. PP have already been heard. I have considered the rival contentions and perused the record.

1.0 As per the allegations appearing in the complaint, on 09.05.2022, acting on the basis of specific intelligence, DRI officers alongwith independent witnesses, examined an import consignment covered under Bill of Entry No. 8583262 dated 07.05.2022 filed by M/s Key Shipping Pvt. Ltd., covered under Master Airway Bill No. 17630364880 at the Delhi Cargo Service Center, Cargo Terminal, New Delhi. The same was shipped by M/s Frontline Freighters Uganda Ltd., vide invoice No. Frontline/012/2022 dated 03.05.2022. The consignment was declared to contain luggage trolley bags. On examining, a total of

330 luggage trolley bags packed in 09 pallets were found. Upon examination, 126 trolley bags had off white coloured powder packed in transparent packets concealed in the hollow pipes of the telescopic handles. Upon testing, the same gave positive result for Diacetylmorphine (Heroin) weighing 54.074 kgs.

1.1 During the course of investigation, it was revealed that a conspiracy was hatched between Praveen Solanki, Baljinder Ram @ Kala (since PO), Balbir r/o Uganda (brother of accused Baljinder Ram @ Kala, not arrested), Jassa r/o Nawanshahar (not arrested), Laddi r/o Janta Village, Mahalpur (not arrested) and Parmindar Singh @ Pindi r/o Hoshiyarpur (not arrested), to smuggle into India from Uganda, the contraband substance and to transport the same to Punjab. In this regard, Balbir, who is a resident of Uganda, would send the contraband concealed in trolley bags which were imported by Praveen Solanki in the name of his company M/s Key Shipping Pvt. Ltd., who would get the consignment cleared from the customs after submitting the relevant documents and thereafter, he was to transport the same to Sahniwal, Punjab by road where the consignment was to be received by Ramanjeet Singh and Navjot Singh who were to further deliver the same to Jassa Singh and Laddi. However, the consignment in question was intercepted by the DRI Officers at the Cargo Terminal, New Delhi.

1.2 During the course of investigation, raid was conducted at the premises of Baljinder Ram @ Kala at Village Kharka, Tehsil Guhla, District Kaithal, Haryana, from where 5.9 kgs of heroin and Rs. 32,83,000/- were recovered. However, said Baljinder Ram never joined the investigation and was declared an absconder.

1.3 At the instance of accused Ramanjeet Singh and Navjot Singh, 818gms heroin and Rs. 15,34,300/- cash was recovered from their business premises i.e., Shoe Land, Ramgarh Road, Sahniwal, Ludhiana. The said contraband was also disclosed by the accused persons to have been smuggled into India through the same channel concealed in wooden statues transported by accused Praveen Kumar Solanki.

2.0 As per the allegations, the accused persons, were regularly in touch with each other, telephonically and through whatsapp. During search of residential cum business premises of accused Praveen Kumar Solanki, a laptop computer was recovered and upon forensic examination of the same, it was found that accused Praveen had prepared invoices of the supplier from Uganda and used the same for customs clearance of the consignments imported from Uganda. Payment details received from the other accused persons were also found maintained. The IO also obtained bank account statements of M/s Key Shipping Pvt. Ltd. and it was revealed that various amounts stood

transferred in the bank account of Praveen Solanki's company from the other accused persons namely Navjot Singh and Ramanjeet Singh for the purpose of financing the clearance of consignment.

2.1 As per the allegations, after being imported into India, accused Praveen Solanki was to sell and transport the same to accused Ramanjeet and Navjot Singh who were further going to deliver the same to Jassa Singh and Laddi. As per the case of the prosecution, the money was also being paid by said Jassa Singh and Laddi. It is noted that the details of said Jassa Singh and Laddi were available with the DRI, however, they have not been arrested till date. On being asked, IO stated that the said persons as well as Parminder Singh @ Pindi are yet to join the investigation. It is noted that proceedings u/s 82 Cr.PC were initiated against Baljinder for his failure to join investigation, however, no such action has been taken by the DRI against the other suspects, even though, on the basis of allegations appearing on record, said Jassa Singh and Laddi appear to be big fish and all the consignments were ultimately destined to reach the said persons through the other accused persons. **IO has been directed to take appropriate action in this regard and to investigate the role of said suspects.**

3.0 From the allegations, as well as material and evidence available on record, **prima facie offence u/s 29, 21(c), 23 NDPS Act is made out against accused Praveen Kumar Solanki and prima facie**

//5//

offence u/s 29, 21(c), 23 and 27A NDPS Act is made out against accused Ramanjeet Singh and Navjot Singh. Charge be framed accordingly.

Draft charges have been prepared. However, Ld. Counsel for the accused persons seek adjournment to go through the order on charge before getting the plea of the accused persons recorded.

List for framing of charges on 19.04.2024.

(Gaurav Gupta)
Special Judge-NDPS/ASJ (South)
Saket Courts/05.04.2024