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IN THE HIGH COURT OF PUNJAB AND HARYANA
AT CHANDIGARH

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Decided on: 11.05.2026

Ajay Kumar Raju and another

.....Petitioners

Versus

State of Punjab

.....Respondent

CORAM: HON'BLE MR. JUSTICE SANJAY VASHISTH

Present: Mr. Rajiv Kumar Trikha, Advocate
for the petitioners

Mr. Vinay Malhotra, DAG Punjab

SANJAY VASHISTH, J. (ORAL)

1. Prayer in this petition, filed under Section 482 of the BNSS, 2023 (earlier Section 438 Cr.P.C.), is for grant of anticipatory bail to the petitioners, who has been booked in a criminal case arising out of FIR No. 0008 dated 09.01.2026, under Sections 115(2) and 118(1) of BNS (Section 117(2) of BNS was added later on), registered at Police Station Mehtiana, District Hoshiarpur.

2. On 08.04.2026, following order was passed:

“(i) xx xx xx xx

(ii) FIR registered at the instance of the complainant, Rajesh Kumar @ Fateh, is detailed as follows:

“ On 22.12.2025 at about 4:00 P.M. I was at my house that the loud voices of striking at the main gate of our house were heard and when came near the main gate of our house then about 12 persons, the persons including women while standing there were exhorting me to come out. However, due to their fear I did not go out. Then some of them having scaled the main gate of my house, having opened the gate had caught hold me and dragged me to the road. I did know them very well. I



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enquired of them as to what was the matter. Then they started giving me beating. Out of them 1 Ajay Kumar J@Raju So Amarjit Singh Ro Phuglana, armed with gandasa, gave its blow on my both the legs, then 2. Sukhwinder Singh@ Babla So Paramjit Singh Ro village Padhiana, District Jalandhar, P.S. Adampur, armed with khanda, gave its blow on my left hand; then their accomplice 3. Jassi So Joginder Ro Village Purhian, Hoshiarpur armed with khanda, gave its blow from reverse side on my both the shoulders. I having fallen on the ground made alarm to save me. But their other accomplices 3. Rickey Raju So Amarjit Singh, 5. Lovepreet Singh @ Lavi So Pawan Raju 6. Sama Rani D/o Pawan Raju 7. Manpreet Raju D/o Pawan Raju, 8. Vikas Raju @ Savi Baba So Jeet Ram 9. Anita Rani Wo Pawan Raju residents of Phuglana, Mehtiana, gave kick blows to me while / was lying on the ground. 10. Gopi So Kadhu Ram R/o Katian, P.S. Hariana, Hoshiarpur 11. Aman and his wife 12. Rekha Rani D/o Kulwinder Ro Phuglana gave slaps to me. When my nephew Amritpal Singh @ Jinda So Sodhi Ram R/o Phuglana, who lives in my

neighborhood came forward to rescue me then Ajay Kumar @ Raju So Amarjit Singh gave gandasa blow on his left arm and then gave two gandasa blows from its reverse side on his legs. The aforesaid kept thrashing us but none of the villager rescued us. In the meantime, my mother and mother of Amritpal Singh @ Jinda came to rescue us. The assailants seeing the villagers of Phuglana getting congregated, fled away in their vehicles. Our friends and relatives got both of us in injured condition admitted in Civil Hospital, Hoshiarpur for treatment. Our talks for compromise were going on till now; which could not be fructified”

Thus, total of twelve accused are named in the FIR.

iii) Learned counsel for the petitioner argues that the alleged incident took place on 22.12.2025 at approximately 4:00 p.m., whereas no complaint was made to any authority regarding the incident until 09.01.2026, when the FIR in question was registered against the accused.

Role attributed to Petitioner No. 1, Ajay Kumar Raju, is that of causing a gandassa blow on the legs; however, none of the injuries were reported as grievous. Role attributed to Petitioner No. 2, Aryan Jassal @ Jassi, is that of striking with a kanda from the reverse side on the shoulder and legs. The injuries allegedly caused by Petitioner No. 2 also did not result in any grievous harm. Counsel for the petitioners submits that petitioners are ready and willing to cooperate with the investigation, provided they are granted protection from



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arrest

iv) Notice of motion.

v) Mr. Neeraj Madaan, Sr. DAG, Punjab, appears on behalf of respondent/State.

vi) Learned State counsel submits that the injury attributed to co-accused Sukhwinder Singh @ Babla with a khanda was found to be grievous. However, at this stage, learned State counsel is unable to counter petitioners' contentions. The injury attributed to Petitioner No. 1, Ajay Kumar, was observed on the legs of Rajesh, but the expert opinion in this regard is still awaited.

vii) List on 11.05.2026.

viii) In the meanwhile, petitioners are directed to join the investigation as and when required to do so by the Investigating Agency. In the event of their arrest, petitioners shall be released on interim bail, subject to their furnishing bail bonds to the satisfaction of the Arresting Officer. Petitioners shall also abide by all the conditions laid down under Section 482(2) of BNSS, 2023 (earlier Section 438(2) Cr.P.C.).

ix) Besides, it is directed that petitioners would hand over their passport to the Investigating Agency or to Court concerned, if they possess. Otherwise, would submit an affidavit, disclosing the fact that they do not possess any passport.

It is also directed that before leaving country any time during trial, petitioners would seek prior permission of the Court."

3. Learned State counsel on instructions from ASI Karnail Singh submits that the petitioners have joined the investigation on 08.04.2026, and as of now, custodial interrogation of the petitioners are not required for the purpose of investigation.

4. Since, petitioner has already joined the investigation and custodial interrogation is no more required; ad-interim bail order dated 08.04.2026 passed by this Court is hereby made absolute. Accordingly, present petition is allowed.

5. The petitioners shall continue to join the investigation as and when required to do so and abide by all the terms and conditions laid down under Section 482(2) of BNSS, 2023.



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6. However, present order would be subject to the submission of their passport to the Investigating Agency or to Court concerned, if they possesses, within a period of one week from today. Otherwise, they would submit an affidavit, disclosing the fact that they do not possess any passport.

7. It is clarified that in case, aforesaid condition is not complied with, this order would be considered as *non est* automatically.

11.05.2026

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**(SANJAY VASHISTH)
JUDGE**

Whether Speaking/Reasoned:
Whether Reportable:

**YES/~~NO~~
~~YES~~/NO**