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“6. It is urged before us that the High Court overstepped the limits which the appellate court is bound by criminal cases setting aside an order of acquittal. Proceedings under [Section 138](#) of the Act are quasi-criminal proceedings. The principles, which apply to acquittal in other criminal cases, cannot apply to these cases. ...”

M. Abbas Haji v. T.N. Channakeshava, (2019) 9 SCC 606

Court again alluded to the quasi-criminal nature of the offence as follows:

“7. The learned counsel for the respondent has submitted that in order to advance the cause of justice, such an approach is permissible and for this purpose he has relied upon the [judgment](#) of this Court in *Zahira Habibulla H. Sheikh v. State of Gujarat* [*Zahira Habibulla H. Sheikh v. State of Gujarat*, (2004) 4 SCC 158 : 2004 SCC (Cri) 999]. We are afraid that the ratio of the aforesaid judgment cannot be extended to the facts of this case, particularly when we find that the present case is a complaint case filed by the respondent under Section 138 of the Act and where the proceedings are also of quasi-criminal nature.”

H.N. Jagadeesh v. R. Rajeshwari, (2019) 16 SCC 730,

Tags: [NIA S. 138 - Civil wrong](#), [Quasi-Criminal](#)