

Order Sheet

HIGH COURT OF SINDH,
CIRCUIT COURT, HYDERABAD

CP No. D- 803 of 2024
[Jahanzaib Ali & others v. Province of Sindh & others]

Before :

Mr. Justice Adnan-ul-Karim Memon
Mr. Justice Riazat Ali Sahar

Petitioners : Through Mr. Babar Ali, Advocate

Respondent-6 : Through Barrister Jawad Ahmed Qureshi, Advocate
Mr. Rafiq Ahmed Dahri, Asstt: A.G.

Date of Hearing
& Decision: 09.12.2025

ORDER

ADNAN-UL-KARIM MEMON, J.- Through the listed Constitutional Petitions, the Petitioners have prayed as under:-

- i. Declare that petitioners have a legal and lawful right to allot plots in "Journalist Colony."
- ii. Direct the respondents to grant the plots to the eligible to rightful journalists.
- iii. Declare that the lists submitted by respondent No.6 are null and void and scrutinize this list by respondent No.1.
- iv. Direct the respondent No.4 to submit the complete record of allotment of plots in this Honourable Court.
- v. Direct the respondent No.1 to conduct an enquiry and submit the detailed report in this Honourable Court pertaining to the irregularities and anomalies committed by the respondents 3 to 6.

2. The case of the petitioners is that they are journalists working with electronic and print media in Hyderabad. In 2009, the Sindh Government, through respondent No.2, granted 75 acres of land for a 99-year lease to respondent No.6 via the administration of the Deputy Commissioner (Revenue) and HDA. This land, known as the "Journalist Colony," is situated at Deh Ganjo Takar, Taluka Latifabad, Hyderabad, and was intended for the residential purposes of journalists in Hyderabad. After due scrutiny, the respondents prepared a list of eligible members for plot allotment, categorizing them as follows: Category A (Council Members), Category B (Associated

Members), and Category C (Others). The petitioners, though journalists, were not members of the Hyderabad Press Club and were therefore excluded from the allotment list. Despite approaching the respondents for redress, their requests went unanswered. The petitioners allege that the allotment list was prepared based on nepotism, including many non-professional individuals while excluding genuine journalists. Finding no other remedy, the petitioners have filed the present petition.

3. Upon notice, President, Hyderabad Press Club (respondent No.6) has filed comments through his counsel. In these comments, it is stated that the petitioners have filed the present petition merely to blackmail the authorities. The respondent contends that the subject land was specifically allotted to “Hyderabad Press Club,” whereas the petitioners are members of National Press Club, not Hyderabad Press Club. It is further stated that the petitioners have committed fraud and forgery by creating a parallel/dummy organization under the name “M/s. National Press Club,” registered in June 2023, with the sole intention of confusing the authorities and usurping the rights of Hyderabad Press Club. Record shows that the District Administration not only initiated action but has also effectively nullified this “fake” body. The petitioners’ organization was initially suspended via letters dated 2.8.2023 and 5.10.2023 for engaging in blackmailing. The Deputy Commissioner, Hyderabad, has now passed a final order dated 28.11.2025, formally rejecting the registration of National Press Club. The order notes that the petitioners attempted to intimidate and influence the office of Deputy Commissioner and displayed disdain and disregard for state institutions through disorderly conduct. It is further noted that the majority of the petitioners operate dummy newspapers solely to manipulate Press Club membership and acquire government land, and are not bona fide working journalists eligible for membership of Hyderabad Press Club. The respondent has, therefore, prayed for dismissal of the petition.

4. After hearing the arguments of both parties and perusal of the record, it is noticed that the land in question, known as “Journalist Colony,” was specifically allotted for the residential purposes of members of Hyderabad Press Club. The petitioners, although journalists by profession, are not members of Hyderabad Press

Club and have failed to establish their eligibility for allotment. The submissions of respondent No.6 indicate that the petitioners created a parallel organization, "M/s. National Press Club," registered in June 2023, with the intent to mislead the authorities and usurp the rights of Hyderabad Press Club. The Deputy Commissioner, Hyderabad, has already rejected the registration of this organization, noting attempts by the petitioners to intimidate and influence the authorities, and confirming that the majority of the petitioners operate dummy newspapers solely to manipulate Press Club membership and acquire government land.

5. In view of the above, the petitioners have not demonstrated any legal or equitable entitlement to the allotment of plots in Journalist Colony. Accordingly, the petition is dismissed. No order as to costs.

JUDGE

JUDGE

karar_hussain/PS*