

ORDER SHEET
IN THE HIGH COURT OF SINDH, KARACHI.
C.P. No. D-161 of 2026
(Muhammad Ahsn v Secretary Ministry of Interior, Government of Pakistan & others)

Dated Order with signature of Judge.

Before:-
Mr. Justice Adnan-ul-Karim Memon
Mr. Justice Zulfiqar Ali Sangi.

Date of hearing and order:-29-04-2026

Mr. Babar Ali Shaikh, Advocate for Petitioner.
M/s. Mohsin Shahwani and Khaleeq Ahmed, DAGs.
Mr. Abdul Samad, Counsel for NADRA.

ORDER

Adnan-ul-Karim Memon, J The Petitioner, Muhammad Ahsan son of Muhammad Muslim, has invoked the constitutional jurisdiction of this Court under Article 199 of the Constitution of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan, 1973, seeking multiple reliefs including surrender of his Computerized National Identity Card (CNIC), issuance of No Objection Certificate (NOC) for obtaining a Pakistani visa on the basis of his Bangladeshi passport, condonation of overstay in Pakistan without imposition of penalty, facilitation for travel to Bangladesh and return to Pakistan to meet his family, and directions to the FIA authorities not to cause any hindrance in this regard.

2. Learned counsel for the Petitioner submits that the Petitioner's CNIC was digitally impounded in the year 2019 on the basis of alleged discrepancy in his particulars, as reported by the verifying agency, and that he was directed to appear before the concerned NADRA Zonal Office along with original documents for verification and adjudication under the prevailing Verification and Revocation policy.

3. On the other hand, learned counsel for NADRA submits that the appropriate course for the Petitioner was to appear before the Verification and Revocation (V&R) Branch, Awami Markaz, Karachi, for re-examination of his credentials. It is further stated that the matter essentially pertains to factual verification of identity and citizenship status, which lies within the exclusive domain of the competent authority under the NADRA framework. Learned counsel for the Petitioner, however, refuted the stance of NADRA and contends that the requisite compliance has already been made, including surrender of CNIC through undertaking, as reflected in NADRA's letter dated 03.04.2026, and that the Petitioner's grievance remains unresolved despite such compliance on the part of respondent's Ministry.

4. Keeping in view the aforesaid stance of petitioner, the learned Additional Attorney General submits that the Petitioner claims to have been born on 01.01.1963 in East Pakistan (now Bangladesh) and seeks to relinquish Pakistani nationality, obtain appropriate documentation for issuance of visa on the basis of Bangladeshi passport, and seeks condonation of overstay without penalty. He further submits that the petitioner's CNIC was digitally impounded by NADRA in 2019 on the basis of alleged fake particulars reported by the verifying agency, and that the petitioner has since surrendered his CNIC through an undertaking, which, at best, constitutes procedural compliance but does not conclude the issue of his nationality or validate the impugned identity document. Learned Additional Attorney General contends that, under Section 14 of the Pakistan Citizenship Act, 1951, and the applicable policy, a person acquiring nationality of a country not recognized for dual nationality is required to have his status determined strictly in accordance with law. Since Bangladesh is not included in the list of countries permitting dual nationality with Pakistan, the petitioner's status necessarily requires adjudication by the competent authority. It is further stated that the petitioner's presence in Pakistan is governed by the immigration and visa regime applicable to foreign nationals. As he did not enter Pakistan on a valid visa, he is not entitled to seek in-country visa conversion and must apply through the prescribed online visa system from outside the country. Any request for condonation of overstay also falls exclusively within the domain of the Ministry of Interior, which shall be considered accordingly upon proper application. In view of the above, it is submitted that surrender of CNIC does not alter the petitioner's legal status, and his remedy, if any, lies in approaching the Ministry of Interior & Narcotics Control for consideration of permissible relief, including issuance of an exit permit for lawful departure from Pakistan. However he emphasized that, if the Petitioner approaches the competent authority in accordance with law as discussed supra, his request for surrender of nationality-related documents and issuance of necessary facilitation/NOC shall be considered and processed in accordance with the applicable legal framework and coordination with the concerned foreign authorities, when confronted to the counsel for the petitioner, he agrees to the said proposal. However, he submitted that there shall not be any bottleneck in this regard on the part of respondent. This request of the parties, seems to be reasonable and acceded to.

5. However, the issues raised in the petition predominantly relate to determination of nationality status, verification of identity documents, and consequential administrative facilitation, all of which fall within the domain of the competent statutory authorities. Such matters require factual assessment and verification in accordance with the applicable laws, rules, and policies governing citizenship and identity documentation, rather than adjudication in constitutional jurisdiction.

6. In view of the statement made by the learned counsel for NADRA and learned Additional Attorney General that the Petitioner's case shall be re-considered and decided by the competent authority in accordance with law, no useful purpose would be served by keeping this petition pending.

7. Accordingly, the instant petition is disposed of with the direction that, if not already done, the Petitioner shall approach the competent authority for consideration of his case regarding surrender of CNIC, determination of his status, and issuance of necessary facilitation/NOC, whereupon the same shall be decided by the authority concerned through a speaking order strictly in accordance with law, rules, and policy, after providing due opportunity of hearing to the Petitioner. However if the case of the petitioner is found to be genuine, his request must be considered without creating trouble for him.

8. It is clarified that all such proceedings shall be undertaken independently by the competent authority without being influenced by any observation made herein, which are purely tentative in nature and confined to the disposal of this petition.

9. The petition along with pending application(s) stands disposed of in the above terms. Let a copy of this order be communicated to all concerned for compliance.

JUDGE

JUDGE