

ORDER SHEET
IN THE HIGH COURT OF SINDH, Karachi
Constitutional Petition No. D-4670 of 2026
(Syed Basit Rasool Quadri versus Federation of Pakistan & others)

Date	Order with signature of Judge
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Mr. Justice Adnan-ul-Karim Memon
Mr. Justice Muhammad Jaffer Raza

Date of hearing and order: 24.8.2026

Mr. Gazain Zafar Magsi, Advocate for the petitioner
Ms. Wajiha Mehdi, Assistant Attorney General
Ms. Samina Maqsood, Law Officer NADRA

ORDER

Adnan-ul-Karim Memon, J. Petitioner has filed this Constitutional Petition under Article 199 of the Constitution of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan, 1973, seeking the following relief: -

1. *Declare the blocking of the petitioner's CNIC bearing No.42301-0741966-3 to be illegal, unlawful and unconstitutional, without lawful authority and of no legal effect.*
2. *Direct the respondents to immediately restore and unblock the petitioner's CNIC.*

2. The petitioner, who retired as Executive Director of M/s Fortune Agencies, has filed the instant Constitutional Petition with the narration that he recently discovered that his Computerized National Identity Card (CNIC) had been blocked without any prior notice or opportunity of hearing. Upon approaching NADRA, he was not provided with any written order, reasons, or certified copy of the alleged court order on the basis of which the CNIC was blocked.

3. The petitioner's counsel submits that he has never been convicted of any offence. Although a NAB reference was instituted against him, the same was decided in his favour by the Accountability Court, while proceedings/appeals are pending before the superior courts. He contends that there is no lawful justification or adverse order warranting the blockage of his CNIC. It is submitted that the blockage has caused serious hardship, financial loss, mental distress and damage to his reputation, besides preventing him from using banking and other essential services. Despite repeated requests and a legal notice, the respondents failed to provide any justification or restore the CNIC. The petitioner's counsel, therefore, contends that the impugned action is without lawful authority, arbitrary and violative of Articles 9, 10-A, 14, 18 and 25 of the Constitution, particularly as no notice, hearing, reasons or lawful material were provided before blocking his

CNIC. He accordingly seeks declaration that the blockage is illegal and unconstitutional and a direction to the respondents to immediately unblock and restore his CNIC, along with any other appropriate relief.

4. Learned counsel representing NARDRA submits that, as per the report and comments of the V&R Branch, RHO NADRA Karachi, that the CNIC bearing No. 42301-0741966-3 of the petitioner, Syed Basit Rasool Quadri S/o Syed Ahmed Quadri, was digitally impounded (blocked) pursuant to an order dated 05.06.2026 passed by the IVth Civil Judge & Judicial Magistrate, Karachi South, whereby the petitioner was declared a proclaimed offender. Counsel has accordingly submitted that de-blocking of the CNIC requires an order from the same Court.

5. The trial Court, in compliance with the directions of this Court in the case of *Nasarullah v. Station House Officer, P.S. Jacobabad and 6 others* (**PLD 2016 Sindh 238**), noted that the accused had been declared a proclaimed offender on 27.04.2026. Accordingly, NADRA was directed to digitally impound his CNIC to secure his attendance in the case and to submit compliance/intimation to the Court within seven days.

6. We have heard learned counsel for the petitioner as well as learned counsel appearing on behalf of NADRA and perused the available record.

7. It is an admitted position that the CNIC of the petitioner has not been blocked by NADRA on its own accord but pursuant to specific orders passed by the competent Courts. The report submitted by NADRA clearly reflects that the digital impounding of the CNIC has been directed by the Court, and therefore, the authority of NADRA is confined to implementing and acting upon the orders of the competent Courts.

8. The record further reveals that the petitioner has been declared a proclaimed offender, and is avoiding the process of law therefore, he needs to join the proceedings in the matter by appearing before the concerned Court. The pendency of criminal proceedings is restraining him from enjoying his rights, however in principle and cannot, by itself, justify an indefinite deprivation of his identity document.

9. It is a settled principle of law that the right to possess and use a Computerized National Identity Card is intrinsically connected with the right to identity, dignity, freedom of movement, and access to lawful activities guaranteed under Articles 4, 9, 14 and 15 of the Constitution. Any restriction imposed by a State functionary must have clear legal backing, must be proportionate to the

purpose sought to be achieved, and cannot continue mechanically without periodic judicial scrutiny.

10. The Hon'ble Supreme Court of Pakistan has repeatedly held that fundamental rights cannot be curtailed merely based on allegations, pending inquiries, or criminal proceedings unless the action is authorized by law and supported by valid reasons. The Hon'ble Supreme Court emphasized that State authorities must act strictly in accordance with law and cannot subject citizens to arbitrary restrictions. Similarly, the Hon'ble Supreme Court held that executive authorities are bound to exercise powers reasonably, fairly, and in conformity with constitutional guarantees.

11. We are of the view that blocking of CNICs is an exceptional measure and cannot be used as a substitute for criminal investigation or as a means of compelling attendance before investigating agencies. Such restrictions must be based upon lawful authority and continued only where necessary for the administration of justice, which factum is present in the present case.

12. In the present case, since the blocking of the petitioner's CNIC was based upon orders passed by the learned trial Court, this Court cannot directly substitute or set aside those orders in the present constitutional jurisdiction. However, because the petitioner needs to participate in the criminal proceedings, and has been declared a proclaimed offender, as stated and NADRA itself has stated that de-blocking can only be undertaken upon receipt of appropriate orders from the concerned Courts, the petitioner is entitled to approach the said Court for appropriate relief.

13. Accordingly, the instant petition is disposed of with direction to the petitioner to approach the learned Court which passed the order of blocking of CNIC. Upon filing such application and surrendering to the trial Court, the learned Court shall decide the fate of the application within two weeks strictly in accordance with law, keeping in view the recent decision of the Supreme Court in the case of Agha Abid Majeed Khan v. Idrees Ahmed and another, reported as **PLD 2026 SC 280** on the subject issue, after providing opportunity of hearing to all concerned.

14. The petition stands disposed of in the above terms.

JUDGE

JUDGE