# Pakistani drug dealer wins UK stay over son's cultural upbringing despite criminal past



In a surprising turn of events, a Pakistani drug dealer, Muhammad Asif Karim, has successfully dodged deportation from the UK. His case highlights the complexities of immigration law, particularly regarding family life and personal identity. Karim, who first arrived in the UK as a visitor in 1998, has since accrued a criminal record comprising 21 offences, including a four-year prison sentence for attempting to distribute heroin and cocaine. Despite his lengthy history of criminality, he was initially granted leave to remain due to his cooperation as a witness in a murder trial. However, his participation in the witness protection programme was cut short after he continued to engage in criminal behaviour.

Karim was ordered to be deported back to Pakistan a decade ago but has since gained a reprieve. An immigration tribunal has ruled in his favour, citing the importance of his relationship with his son—a child of a white British mother. The tribunal concluded that Karim plays a pivotal role in teaching his son about Islam and Pakistani culture, stating that these factors are fundamental to the boy's identity. The judge noted that the boy's mother supported the idea that Karim could provide guidance related to education and life skills, matters she felt could benefit from a father’s perspective. “We do not think it controversial to suggest that such matters would have significance for this child,” the judge remarked, acknowledging the boy's clear identity as being of Pakistani descent yet primarily raised by his British mother.

This ruling comes at a time when the UK government, led by Home Secretary Yvette Cooper, is aiming to tighten immigration policies, particularly regarding foreign nationals with criminal histories. There are concerns among some lawmakers that the current system allows for excessive leniency under Article 8 of the European Convention on Human Rights, which protects the right to private and family life. Critics argue that while the intent to streamline immigration laws is understandable, the proposed measures may not sufficiently address potential abuses of the system. Recent cases, including that of an Albanian criminal who avoided deportation partially based on his child's preference for a specific type of chicken nugget, have sparked outrage and calls for a more stringent legal framework.

The legal backdrop to Karim's case reflects broader tensions within the UK's immigration policy discourse, where balancing the rights of individuals against public safety and the integrity of the law is increasingly contentious. The ruling has provoked varied reactions, especially considering Karim’s extensive criminal background. Although he has not offended in over ten years, his history complicates discussions around rehabilitation, public safety, and the often thin line between compassion and accountability in the legal system.

In the realm of drug-related issues, Karim's situation is similarly mirrored by other Pakistani nationals involved in drug trafficking, such as Muhammad Asif Hafeez, a notorious figure currently embroiled in extradition proceedings to the US. Hafeez has been accused of leading an intricate drug trafficking network, which paints a broader picture of the challenges associated with drug crime and the difficulties of addressing such issues on both domestic and international stages. The ongoing legal and social ramifications of these cases suggest that the dialogue surrounding immigration and criminal justice in the UK remains complex and fraught with implications for future policy decisions.

Ultimately, Karim's case is emblematic of a legal system grappling with the intricacies of human rights considerations, cultural identity, and the obligations of state toward both its citizens and those seeking refuge. As the government moves towards stricter immigration reforms, the ramifications of such decisions will continue to spark debate, as they touch upon the very fabric of societal values and the balance of justice.

## Reference Map:

* Paragraph 1 – [[1]](https://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-14762323/Pakistani-drug-dealer-allowed-stay-Britain-talk-son-Islam-culture.html?ns_mchannel=rss&ns_campaign=1490&ito=1490)
* Paragraph 2 – [[1]](https://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-14762323/Pakistani-drug-dealer-allowed-stay-Britain-talk-son-Islam-culture.html?ns_mchannel=rss&ns_campaign=1490&ito=1490)
* Paragraph 3 – [[1]](https://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-14762323/Pakistani-drug-dealer-allowed-stay-Britain-talk-son-Islam-culture.html?ns_mchannel=rss&ns_campaign=1490&ito=1490), [[2]](https://www.justice.gov/usao-sdny/pr/pakistani-national-muhammad-asif-hafeez-pleads-guilty-drug-trafficking-charges)
* Paragraph 4 – [[1]](https://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-14762323/Pakistani-drug-dealer-allowed-stay-Britain-talk-son-Islam-culture.html?ns_mchannel=rss&ns_campaign=1490&ito=1490)
* Paragraph 5 – [[1]](https://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-14762323/Pakistani-drug-dealer-allowed-stay-Britain-talk-son-Islam-culture.html?ns_mchannel=rss&ns_campaign=1490&ito=1490), [[7]](https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2017/aug/25/suspected-druglord-muhammad-asif-hafeez-faces-extradition-to-us)
* Paragraph 6 – [[1]](https://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-14762323/Pakistani-drug-dealer-allowed-stay-Britain-talk-son-Islam-culture.html?ns_mchannel=rss&ns_campaign=1490&ito=1490), [[6]](https://www.skysports.com/cricket/news/12123/3710838/asif-drug-charges-dropped)
* Paragraph 7 – [[1]](https://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-14762323/Pakistani-drug-dealer-allowed-stay-Britain-talk-son-Islam-culture.html?ns_mchannel=rss&ns_campaign=1490&ito=1490), [[2]](https://www.justice.gov/usao-sdny/pr/pakistani-national-muhammad-asif-hafeez-pleads-guilty-drug-trafficking-charges), [[4]](https://www.thenews.com.pk/print/1063657-asif-hafeez-loses-us-extradition-fight-at-european-court-of-human-rights)
* Paragraph 8 – [[1]](https://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-14762323/Pakistani-drug-dealer-allowed-stay-Britain-talk-son-Islam-culture.html?ns_mchannel=rss&ns_campaign=1490&ito=1490)

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## Bibliography

1. <https://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-14762323/Pakistani-drug-dealer-allowed-stay-Britain-talk-son-Islam-culture.html?ns_mchannel=rss&ns_campaign=1490&ito=1490> - Please view link - unable to able to access data
2. <https://www.justice.gov/usao-sdny/pr/pakistani-national-muhammad-asif-hafeez-pleads-guilty-drug-trafficking-charges> - In November 2024, Muhammad Asif Hafeez, also known as 'Sultan', pleaded guilty in Manhattan federal court to conspiring to import heroin, methamphetamine, and hashish into the United States. Hafeez, arrested in London in 2017, was extradited to the U.S. in May 2023. He admitted to leading a sophisticated international drug trafficking network responsible for manufacturing and distributing large quantities of narcotics globally. The charges carry a maximum sentence of life in prison and a mandatory minimum sentence of 10 years. Sentencing is scheduled for a later date.
3. <https://www.theguardian.com/sport/2008/jun/19/pakistancricketteam.drugsinsport> - In June 2008, Pakistan's fast bowler Mohammad Asif was detained in Dubai for possessing 0.24 grams of opium. The charges were dropped due to the insignificance of the amount, and Asif was deported. He claimed to be unaware that opium was a drug and used it for 'power enhancement'. The incident led to discussions about drug use in sports and potential punitive actions by the Pakistan Cricket Board.
4. <https://www.thenews.com.pk/print/1063657-asif-hafeez-loses-us-extradition-fight-at-european-court-of-human-rights> - In April 2023, the European Court of Human Rights rejected Pakistani businessman Muhammad Asif Hafeez's appeal against extradition to the United States on charges related to alleged drug importation. Hafeez, held in London's Belmarsh prison since August 2017, argued that extradition would violate his rights due to the risk of life imprisonment without parole and inhumane detention conditions in the U.S. The court dismissed these claims, allowing the extradition to proceed.
5. <https://www.geo.tv/latest/483655-european-court-rejects-asif-hafeezs-appeal-against-extradition-to-america> - In April 2023, the European Court of Human Rights dismissed Muhammad Asif Hafeez's appeal against extradition to the U.S. on drug-related charges. Hafeez, a Pakistani businessman, had been detained in London's Belmarsh prison since August 2017. He argued that extradition would violate his rights under Article 3 of the Convention due to the risk of life imprisonment without parole and inhumane detention conditions in the U.S. The court rejected these claims, allowing the extradition to proceed.
6. <https://www.skysports.com/cricket/news/12123/3710838/asif-drug-charges-dropped> - In June 2008, Pakistan's fast bowler Mohammad Asif was detained in Dubai for possessing 0.24 grams of opium. The charges were dropped due to the insignificance of the amount, and Asif was deported. He claimed to be unaware that opium was a drug and used it for 'power enhancement'. The incident led to discussions about drug use in sports and potential punitive actions by the Pakistan Cricket Board.
7. <https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2017/aug/25/suspected-druglord-muhammad-asif-hafeez-faces-extradition-to-us> - In August 2017, Pakistani national Muhammad Asif Hafeez, known as the 'Sultan', was arrested in London on charges related to leading a global narcotics smuggling empire. Hafeez faced extradition to the United States, where he was wanted for conspiring to import drugs, including heroin and methamphetamine. The National Crime Agency and the U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration collaborated on the investigation, highlighting the international scope of Hafeez's alleged activities.