# Judge’s ruling to keep convicted drug dealer in UK sparks calls for tougher immigration laws



A recent immigration ruling has sparked outrage after allowing a Pakistani drug dealer, Muhammad Asif Karim, to remain in the UK, following the judge’s questionable determination that he plays a vital role in his son's understanding of Islam and Pakistani culture. Karim, who arrived in the UK in 1998 on a visit visa, has racked up an alarming 21 criminal offences, including a four-year prison sentence for drug dealing. His initial deportation order was overturned based on sentiments expressed by his son, who lives with his white British mother, about the importance of his father's influence on his identity.

Despite Karim’s troubling history, which includes being removed from a witness protection scheme due to continued criminality, the tribunal granted him a reprieve by emphasizing the boy's dual heritage. The judge's decision, stating "We do not think it controversial to suggest that such matters would have significance for this child," raises serious questions about prioritizing a personal narrative over the public's safety and the rule of law.

As it stands, this ruling contributes to the troubling trend of leniency towards foreign nationals with serious criminal backgrounds, undermining the very fabric of the UK’s immigration policies. The Home Secretary, Yvette Cooper, is under pressure to implement stricter immigration laws to prevent such questionable judicial decisions from repeatedly occurring. While there are calls for reforms targeting foreign nationals who exploit Article 8 of the European Convention on Human Rights, which protects the right to private and family life, these proposed changes fall short of adequately bolstering the legal system against abuses.

Karim’s case is not an isolated incident but part of a disturbing pattern in immigration policy. High-profile cases involving drug trafficking and organized crime, such as that of another Pakistani national, Muhammad Asif Hafeez, recently arrested in London, emphasize the necessity of a tough stance on crime and immigration. These incidents highlight a pressing need for the government to address the consequences of its leniency towards those who engage in serious criminal activities while residing in the UK.

As the government re-evaluates its stance on immigration and asylum, Karim's ruling serves as a troubling reminder that personal narratives should not eclipse fundamental principles of justice and public safety. The ongoing debate must prioritize the interests of law-abiding citizens over those of individuals who have demonstrated a clear disregard for the law. The time has come to demand accountability and rigorous enforcement of immigration policies to protect the integrity of the nation.

Source: [Noah Wire Services](https://www.noahwire.com)

## 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 was arrested in London in 2017 and extradited to the U.S. in 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. The case highlights the extensive reach of international drug trafficking operations.
3. <https://tribunalsdecisions.service.gov.uk/utiac/hu-02693-2019-hu-02696-2019> - In November 2021, the Upper Tribunal (Immigration and Asylum Chamber) addressed the appeals of Mr. Karim Asif and Mrs. Ghulam Ayesha against the Secretary of State's decision to refuse their application for further leave to remain in the UK on family and private life grounds. The tribunal noted a significant procedural history and mentioned that Mr. Karim Asif had been granted indefinite leave to remain. Consequently, the appeal was treated as abandoned, and the tribunal issued a notice accordingly.
4. <https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2017/aug/25/suspected-druglord-muhammad-asif-hafeez-faces-extradition-to-us> - In August 2017, Muhammad Asif Hafeez, a Pakistani national, was arrested in London as part of a UK-US operation targeting a global narcotics smuggling empire. Hafeez, known as the 'Sultan', is alleged to have led an organization spanning Europe, Africa, Asia, and North America, producing and smuggling drugs including heroin, methamphetamine, and ephedrine. The National Crime Agency collaborated with the US Drug Enforcement Administration to investigate Hafeez, who faces extradition to the US on charges of conspiring to import drugs. The case underscores the international scope of drug trafficking networks.
5. <https://www.khaleejtimes.com/uae/cricketer-asif-is-deported> - In June 2008, Pakistani cricketer Mohammad Asif was detained in Dubai for possessing a small quantity of opium. The charges were deemed too insignificant to pursue, and Asif was deported from the United Arab Emirates. The case highlighted the UAE's strict drug laws and the swift deportation process for foreign nationals involved in drug-related offenses. Asif's deportation underscored the international implications of drug-related incidents and the importance of adhering to local laws when traveling abroad.
6. <https://www.geo.tv/latest/320540-european-court-halts-extradition-of-suspected-pakistani-drug-lord-asif-hafeez> - In November 2020, the European Court of Human Rights effectively halted the extradition of Muhammad Asif Hafeez, a Pakistani national charged with alleged drug importation and production. Hafeez, known as the 'Sultan of Drugs', was seeking to permanently halt his extradition to the US, where he faces a life sentence without parole. His lawyer argued that extradition would violate his rights due to the risk of inhuman conditions in US federal detention centers, particularly amid the COVID-19 pandemic.
7. <https://www.thenews.com.pk/print/1071160-uk-extradites-pakistani-to-us> - In May 2023, Pakistani national Asif Hafeez was extradited from the UK's Belmarsh prison to the United States to face charges related to alleged drug and narcotics importation. Hafeez had fought the US extradition warrant for six years, with his family and lawyers alleging abuse of process by US and UK authorities. The extradition followed the exhaustion of all legal options, and Hafeez is now detained in a high-security prison in New York, facing charges that could lead to a life sentence without parole.