

Order Sheet
IN THE HIGH COURT OF SINDH KARACHI

Crl.Bail Application No.1395 of 2026
(*Bilal v. the State*)

Crl.Bail Application No.1396 of 2026
(*Muhammad Shahzad v. the State*)

Date	Order With Signature Of Judge
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1. For orders on office objection at Flag A
2. For hearing of bail application

Date of hearing : 11.06.2026

Date of order: 24.06.2026

Mr. Liaquat Ali Khan, advocate for the applicants

Mr. Muhammad Iqbal Awan, Deputy Prosecutor General
Sindh

Insp./I.O Saeed Ahmed, SIO Frere

Omar Sial, J.: While every murder is a tragedy, it is rare to encounter a crime as horrific, brutal, and deeply disturbing as the one before this Court.

2. On October 19, 2024, the complainant, Muhammad Farooq, a resident of Flat No. 701, Zainab Arcade, Moosa Lane, Karachi, reported a quadruple murder. The complainant stated that he left his residence at approximately 2200 hours after dinner. While out, his daughter Samina requested a ride to his house. During the drive, she mentioned that his son, Bilal—who resides separately—had visited the family home.

3. After dropping Samina off, the complainant noticed Bilal's car parked haphazardly near the Hussaini Irani Hall, with his son, Sameer (alias Ali), standing nearby. At around 0315 hours, upon Sameer's advice, the complainant returned home. Finding the door locked and receiving no response, he entered using his own keys. Inside, he discovered his daughter, Madiha, lying dead in a pool of blood.

4. A further inspection of the premises revealed three more casualties: the complainant's daughter-in-law, Ayesha, was found dead in her room (though her infant child was discovered alive under the bed); his wife, Shamshad, was found dead in the TV lounge; and his granddaughter, Aleena, lay dead in the courtyard. All four victims had their throats slit with a sharp-edged weapon.

5. During the initial response, the complainant's son, Bilal, arrived at the scene. Observing fresh, unexplained knife wounds on Bilal's hands, the police detained him, and an FIR was initially lodged against unknown perpetrators. Under interrogation, Bilal confessed to murdering the four female victims.

6. Following his disclosure, investigating officers recovered the murder weapon on Bilal's lead—a large knife. Bilal further revealed that after committing the murders, he changed his clothes at the residence of co-accused, Shahzad. Acting on Bilal's identification, police recovered a pair of light-brown shoes, khaki *shalwar qameez*, and a mobile phone hidden within the clothing. Additionally, a broken Samsung touchscreen mobile phone was recovered from a grave at the Meera Peer Graveyard.

7. Bilal stated that he committed the murders at the instigation of Shahzad, who had been pressuring him for two months to kill his family, marry Shahzad's sister, and transfer the ownership of the family home into her name. Call Data Records (CDR) confirmed frequent communication between Bilal and Shahzad's mobile numbers on the night of the incident. Shahzad was subsequently arrested. Bilal later recorded a formal confessional statement before a Judicial Magistrate under Section 164 of the Cr.P.C.

8. F.I.R. No. 279 of 2024 was registered under sections 302 (intentional murder), 34 (common intention), 109 (abetment), and 311 (fasad-fil-arz) of the Pakistan Penal Code (PPC).

9. I have listened to the learned counsels for the applicant and the complainant and the learned Deputy Prosecutor General. My observations and findings are as follows.

10. According to the Investigating Officer, Inspector Saeed, the prosecution's case against the primary accused, Bilal, rests significantly on his interrogation statements. Bilal disclosed that he was involved in a romantic affair and had sent a marriage proposal (*rishta*) to the woman through his mother. Upon his mother's return, the woman contacted Bilal, alleging that his mother's conduct and remarks to her family were actively opposed to the marriage. According to Bilal's extra-judicial confession, this grievance provoked him to slit the throats of his wife and three children.

11. In addition to the extra-judicial confession, Bilal recorded a judicial confession under section 164 Cr.P.C. before the learned 7th Judicial Magistrate, Karahi South. While this statement diverges slightly from his remarks to the investigating officer, it corroborates the involvement of a woman named Sonia—the sister of the co-accused, Shahzad.

12. The learned counsel for the applicant submitted that the extra-judicial confession could not be taken into account as it was barred under Article 38 and 39 of the Qanun-e-Shahadat Order, 1984. It is pertinent to mention, however, that following the extra-judicial confession, Bilal helped the police to locate the crime weapon and the clothes he had worn at the time of the incident. There is an argument that in such a situation, Article 40 of the Order could come into play. Of course, it is the learned trial that will finally adjudicate on this aspect. Although the record indicates that Bilal later retracted his judicial confession, I am not inclined to show any leniency on this basis, at this preliminary stage. Evaluating the case holistically, sufficient material exists to connect Bilal to the commission of the offense. Even on a prima facie basis, if these allegations are true, Bilal poses a severe danger to society and must remain under close monitoring in judicial custody pending trial. Ultimately, it is the learned trial judge who will determine guilt or innocence after a full evaluation of the evidence.

13. The crime weapon was recovered at Bilal's pointation from the waters beneath the Native Jetty Bridge. This documented recovery represents a notable investigative success for the Sindh Police, and Inspector Saeed is commended for his efforts in recovering the crime weapon. However, the prosecution's case would have been considerably stronger had a comprehensive forensic analysis been conducted.

14. Based on the evidence gathered so far, Bilal has a compelling case to answer for the slaughter of his family. First and foremost, it appears that he is the only individual with a motive for the crime. His father explicitly cast suspicion in the First Information Report (FIR). This suspicion is heavily reinforced by Bilal's own recorded Section 164 confession, which carries significant legal weight. Furthermore, crucial physical evidence has been recovered directly from his leads, including the murder weapon—a knife stained with both his blood and the victims' blood—as well as the clothes and shoes allegedly worn during the attack, which were hidden at Shahzad's house. While Bilal's sister has attempted to explain the cuts on his hands by claiming they occurred during a car repair. I currently find this alibi highly implausible. Finally, the unusually restrained demeanor of his family members (except his siter Samina), particularly his father and the deceased Ayesha's father, when questioned about the killings, was meaningful. During the bail proceedings, family members of both Bilal and Ayesha submitted affidavits supporting his release. However, as mentioned above, their demeanor, body language, the contents of the FIR, and their Section 161 statements raise serious doubts as to whether these affidavits were sworn of their own free will and conscience.

15. The case against Shahzad is on a very different footing. The evidence against him at this stage is that Bilal's shoes and clothes (worn during the slaughter) were left in his home. Bilal also accuses him of instigating Bilal to kill his family if he wanted Sonia to marry him. I find that an absurd accusation, as no brother

would want his sister to marry a murderer. The case against Shahzad is one of further inquiry.

16. I am inclined to agree with the reasons given by the learned trial judge in the order challenged for dismissing Bilal's bail. With much respect and humility, I, however, feel that the observation regarding *fasad-fil-arz* made in the order is premature. *Fasad-fil-arz* is a complex concept with very little legal precedent. It must be decided after the evidence is led, and with solid reasons for its application. A crime, as heinous as it may be, would not mean ipso facto that it falls within the ambit of *fasad-fil-arz*.

17. Given the above:

- (i) Bilal's application seeking bail is dismissed.
- (ii) Shahzad is admitted to post-arrest bail against a surety of Rs. 500,000 and a P.R. Bond for the same amount to the satisfaction of the learned trial court.

JUDGE