

ORDER SHEET
IN THE HIGH COURT OF SINDH AT KARACHI
CP No. S-534 of 2024

(Ms. Shehzadi v. Home Secretary Government of Sindh & Others)

DATE: **ORDER WITH SIGNATURE(S) OF JUDGE(S)**

1. For Order on Office Objection as at 'A'
2. For Hearing of Main Case

28-1-2025

Mr. Zulfiqar Ali Abro, Advocate for Petitioner
Ms. Rubina Qadir, Addl. P.G. Sindh
Mr. Mehran Khan, AAG

Although the protection sought by the Petitioner – who, as stated in the title, was a 14-year-old minor – against her ex-husband through this Petition was promptly granted by this Court on the very first date, vide order dated 10.5.2024, (and jurisdiction was entertained at the principal seat despite it vesting in the Circuit Court Hyderabad), her Counsel now reports a tragic turn of events. He states that she has since been murdered in Karachi by her maternal uncle ("Mamoo"). In support of this assertion, he submits a copy of FIR No.534/2024 dated 28.7.2024, lodged in connection with the crime, and informs the Court that proceedings are ongoing before the Trial Court.

This is an appalling and deeply distressing state of affairs. Women face violence and persecution when they exercise their free will in choosing a spouse, and they risk their very lives when they seek to escape an unhappy or oppressive marriage. Such incidents lay bare the brutal reality of a patriarchal society, where men hold the position of decision-makers and where entrenched customs continue to dictate every aspect of women's lives – even such basic acts as the air they breathe.

Since the Petitioner has tragically lost her life, this Court is left with no alternative but to **abate the proceedings**, which is accordingly ordered. Her untimely demise not only brings this legal matter to an unfortunate close but also highlights the harsh realities faced by women, even in their most feeble attempts to stand up for their rights. While the proceedings may formally end here, the underlying issues of gender-based violence and societal oppression demand continued attention and action from both the legal system and society as a whole.

JUDGE