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## Court Extends Detention of Foreign National in Ongoing Cyber Fraud Probe

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— Categories: Crime



A local court has extended the physical remand of a foreign national arrested in connection with a major online fraud case, highlighting growing concerns over international involvement in cybercrime within Pakistan.

The individual in question, identified as Sun Sun Li, is among 16 foreign nationals named in First Information Report (FIR) No. 141/25, registered at the Cyber Crime Police Station. The extension of her custody was approved by Senior Civil Judge Muhammad Ashfaq Malik, allowing authorities additional time to continue their investigation.

The case was originally filed by Ayesha Munir, a resident of Toba Tek Singh, who alleges she was defrauded of Rs500,000 (approximately USD 1,800) through an online scam operation. The complaint has brought renewed scrutiny to the presence and activities of non-citizens operating within the country under questionable circumstances.

While details of the investigation remain confidential, officials have confirmed that the accused were allegedly part of a coordinated online fraud network, targeting local citizens under pretenses. Authorities suspect the group may have ties to transnational criminal operations, a growing issue as Pakistan's digital footprint expands.

This incident once again raises valid concerns about the current immigration policies and the government's inconsistent enforcement of border and visa regulations. The public has expressed frustration over repeated lapses in security and oversight that allow foreign actors to exploit the system and target ordinary citizens. The state's inability to vet and monitor foreign arrivals, especially in the context of digital fraud, poses not only a financial risk but also a national security threat.

As the investigation unfolds, law enforcement agencies have stated that they are committed to uncovering the full extent of the network's reach and ensuring accountability. Meanwhile, civil society and legal experts are calling for a thorough review of immigration oversight and for stricter vetting of foreign nationals entering Pakistan for work or residency.

In light of recent developments, it is becoming increasingly clear that tighter controls and more robust law enforcement coordination are necessary to prevent such breaches in the future. The extension of remand signals the court's recognition of the seriousness of the allegations and the need for further inquiry.

The government, however, must do more than simply respond to these incidents after the fact. A strategic and preventive approach is long overdue, one that prioritizes national security, safeguards citizens' data and finances, and holds both individuals and institutions accountable.