



Press Council of Pakistan

Let us Stand for Free and Responsible Press

Annual Report



PRESS COUNCIL OF PAKISTAN

Let Us Stand for Free and Responsible Press

PCP

A symbol of Press Freedom that carries a sense of responsibility in the world of free Pakistani Media and serves to identify frontiers of press freedom by promoting standard of good practice in the domain of freely enterprising media

TABLE OF CONTENTS

SR. NO	CHAPTERS	PAGE NO
1.	Preamble	3
2.	Messages	6
3.	Introduction of the Council	9
4.	Complaints & Suo Moto Action Cases	24
5.	PCP Council Meetings	36
6.	Violence against Journalists in Pakistan	56
7.	MoU with Pakistan Bar Council to protect media	
8.	PCP in the Eyes of Others	62
i.	Saleem Shahzad Inquiry Commission's Observations qua PCP	67
9.	Promotion of Ethical Journalism	68
10.	Media Ethics and Court Reporting	91
11.	Media in Courts	97
12.	PCP Media Guidelines for General Elections, 2013	100
13.	PCP Draft Declaration of Political Parties	110
14.	PCP Gender Sensitive Media Guidelines	113
15.	Linkages with International Press Councils	116
16.	WAPC resolution to salute Pakistani journalists	118
17.	Snapshots of PCP activities	124
18.	Standards of Newspapers and News Agencies	131
19.	Administrative & Budget Matters	133
20.	PCP Linkages and Way Forward	135
21.	Annual Audit Report	150

Preamble

With weak social and political institutions of the country, all eyes of Pakistanis these days are set on the present day robust, powerful and freely enterprising media to show them the way and steer them out of impending socio political mess.

In response, this burgeoning state of free media has so far contributed substantially in improving weak democratic indicators and has given a new hope to the disillusioned masses in the country.

Growth of free media for almost a decade is certainly a silver lining in the checkered history of Pakistan. Over the years, since its birth in 2002, free media including both print and electronic has found a niche of its own independent value in Pakistani society.

Now gone are the days when information was held in vacuums and disinformation ruled the roost. Access to information which was once a no go area is fast becoming a shared and accessible reality.

Thanks to the previous Parliament, the constitutional guarantee through amendments in Articles 19 & 19-A, freedom of expression and freedom of information has given way to enactment of freedom of information laws to cater to peoples' inalienable right to know. Today's media has given words and sounds to muffled voices of our society and has broken the socio political and cultural stereotypes.

What we have seen so far is the power of a free media that has no qualms in operating free and needs no boundaries to carry its message across.

The press has served so far the very purpose of its existence but its present state of affairs has left wide open many areas of concerns too. Especially the question whether Pakistani free media will triumph over its ardent task of making people master of their own destiny by socializing them economically and politically.

To do this mammoth task media needs to adopt a comprehensive policy in line with ethical underpinning that harnesses development of free, independent and accountable media and censures all that seems violative of good standard of ethical practicing media. This is exactly what PCP aims at while introducing and promoting ethical journalism in Pakistan.

In doing its statutory job PCP does not act as a martinet rather it serves to protect freedom of expression and supports free functioning of the press. With the rapidly growing Pakistani media in scale, reach, influence and revenues, standards of professional journalism has certainly weakened, which needs to be addressed promptly.

This growth has not been matching with corresponding sensitivity towards non commercial and non market dimension. This aspect is of relevance because the free media is the fourth pillar of the state in democracy. So in order to strengthen democracy we need to have a free, independent, impartial and responsible press growth in Pakistan.

PCP believes that first condition of freedom is its limitation as absolute freedom dies in chaos. In context of press freedom the basic task of Press Council of Pakistan is to identify frontiers of freedom attached to the realm of press freedom. This task is tremendous and PCP needs support of all media stakeholders to achieve these ends. To evolve consensus and a joint strategy to promote ethical journalism PCP is working in close coordination with all media stakeholders including APNS, CPNE, PFUJ and other journalistic bodies at the local and national level. Under the present setup PCP held hectic consultative meetings across the country with all the stakeholders to evolve consensus on media guidelines for reporting elections 2013, which were duly approved in PCP Council Meetings for printing and circulation. These are minor milestones and there are huge ones in the way forward.

In absence of any agreed national media policy PCP sometimes finds it hard to bring all stakeholders on one page but it has continued its struggle against all odds. Though PCP has taken a number of initiatives to promote media ethics in freely functioning media but its state of affairs with regard to implementation are not encouraging yet. The basic reasons for this are absence of central monitoring system and low public

response in terms of incoming complaints regarding violations of PCP Ethical Code of Practice.

On other side all media stakeholders seem presently divided on the issue of media regulation under one pretext or other. This state of affairs is affecting implementation of Ethical Code of Practice by media persons/media houses.

PCP looks for a joint strategy to address all these issues by engaging all concerned. This is a herculean task. The road is tough but the journey must go on.

I express thanks to the honorable members of the Press Council of Pakistan for evincing keen interest in making PCP functional and operative. Their guidance was key in conducting PCP affairs. It was the efforts of the PCP Members and relevant stakeholders including APNS, CPNE, PFUJ etc, that Council has gained strength and has become effective.

I feel profoundly indebted to Chairman PCP and appreciate the keen efforts put in by my team including Mr. Sagheer Ahmed Naqash; Dy. Director (Admn), Mr. Muhammad Jawwad Yousaf; Programmer and Mr. Kashif Nawaz; Public Relations Officer and in particular Mr. Nasir Asghar Gill; Dy. Director (Database) who did all the hard work in gathering details and worked tirelessly in drafting this report.

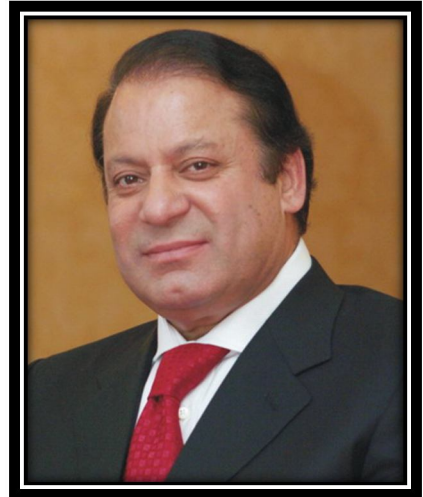
Registrar
Safdar Hussain Malik
Press Council of Pakistan

Messages for Year Book

Prime Minister, Islamic Republic of Pakistan

Mian Muhammad Nawaz Sharif

Media plays an important role in creating awareness among the masses and shaping public opinion. This role assumes greater proportions in the context of the present day world characterized by digital revolution. Media not only disseminates credible information but guides governmental policies and actions through constructive analysis.



In the context of the present national and international situation, media has to promote national policy and help create political and economic stability in the country. It has also to fulfill the vital responsibility of counteracting the negative propaganda against Pakistan at the international level, and of presenting the soft image of Pakistan.

The Pakistan Muslim League (N) government attaches high priority to the freedom of Media so that it can play its effective role in the true sense. We consider democracy and media as supplementary and complimentary to each other and believe that media can only prosper in a democratic environment to play its effective role.

The Press Council of Pakistan has an important role to play in safeguarding the freedom of expression and ensuring adherence to the parameters of a free but responsible media in Pakistan. I highly appreciate the PCP's efforts in fostering the ethics and standards of a responsible media in Pakistan. I felicitate the PCP for issuance of its first ever annual report.

I hope the PCP will strive hard to achieve even still higher standards of professionalism and elevate Pakistan as a model state in the media world. I assure the PCP best cooperation on behalf of my government.

Federal Minister for Information & Broadcasting
Senator Pervez Rashid

The challenge of objectivity, impartiality and balance in the fast growing robust Pakistani media has become a constant feature in its day to day working.

In the face of these challenges, I think, PCP has a greater role to play in identifying bench marks of good practice in journalism in shaping up growth of free but responsible media in Pakistan.



To achieve these broader objectives PCP should continue its efforts, as a vanguard, in setting its reform agenda to ensure freedom of press and to promote standard of Ethical Journalism.

I am of the view that under one roof all media professional groups should work together in a common effort in support of high professional standards at all levels of media. To do this we need to strengthen and encourage efforts of PCP and I assure the Council of all possible help from the concerned quarters in this regard.

To revitalize PCP under PCP Ordinance 2002 is a giant step forward and I congratulate it on issuing its first ever annual report which is a statutory requirement under PCP Ordinance.

Chairman, Press Council of Pakistan
Raja M. Shafqat Khan Abbasi

Thanks to the dynamics of present day free media, gone are the days when authentic news was in constant competition with disinformation or deliberate news.

This epoch making, birth of free media in Pakistan has altogether changed the overall scenario of sociopolitical behavior of its people.

It goes without saying that social impact of free, vibrant and independent media is manifold and needs to be harnessed as per social needs of the targeted community.

This commitment towards society is binding on the free media and shapes its pattern to accommodate passion, style and trends of public discourse.

That is why it demands consistent introspection by freely operating media itself to match its performance in the context of any agreed set of media ethics.

I think no code can transcend the flux of time and it has to be evolving all the time to meet new challenges. At the same time, code of ethics for media is not a strait-jacket and Press Council of Pakistan does not act like a martinet, rather it acts as a shield to protect press freedom against any pressure whatsoever.

I believe, PCP has been given a task to assist freely operating media to put in place concepts of good media standards with the sole aim of developing free but responsible media in Pakistan. But to do its mandatory and statutory role under PCP Ordinance 2002 and its revitalization Press Council appreciates support given to it by all media stakeholders and hopes this cooperation will continue to shape up future of Pakistani media.



“I think the road is tough but the journey must go on”.

INTRODUCTION OF THE COUNCIL

To set standards of ethical journalism PCP Ordinance was promulgated on 26th October, 2002 according to which the Council was to be notified under section 3 of the Ordinance. Press Council of Pakistan was to be established to implement 'Code of Ethical Practice' as set out in the schedule and to perform such other functions assigned to it under ordinance, rules or regulations made there under.

Under section 7 of the Ordinance different stakeholders mentioned in section 6 of PCP Ordinance had to send their nominations for the establishment of the Council within thirty days of the commencement of the Ordinance and the government had to notify the Council within thirty days but due to one reason or the other it remained dormant for a decade and could not be notified up till 18th October, 2011.

Under the Ordinance Mr. Justice (R) Ijaz Yousaf Chaudhry was appointed first Chairman of the Council on 3rd March, 2007. He served only eight months and was succeeded by Justice (R) Javaid Iqbal on 15th November, 2007. Mr. Justice (R) Javaid Iqbal served up till 15th November, 2009 but the Council could not become functional or operational.

The incumbent Chairman PCP, Raja M. Shafqat Khan Abbasi was appointed on 7th September, 2011. He mustered all his efforts to quicken the process. Resultantly, the dormant PCP became functional with the notification of its members on 18th October, 2011 and holding its first ever meeting on 1st November, 2011.

Members of the Council:

The Council consists of 19 members as detailed below:

1. Raja M. Shafqat Khan Abbasi
(Chairman, Press Council of Pakistan)

Nomination by National Assembly:

2. Mrs. Saira Afzal Tarar
(MNA, Nominee of Leader of Opposition)

3. Mrs. Yasmeen Rehman
(MNA, Nominee of Leader of House)

Nominees of All Pakistan Newspapers Society (APNS):

4. Syed Faseih Iqbal
(Chief Executive, Zamana Group of Newspapers)

5. Mrs. Jugnoo Mohsin
(Chief Editor, Weekly Friday Times, Lahore)

6. Mr. Mujib-ur-Rehman Shami
(Chief Editor, Daily Pakistan)

7. Mir. Shakeel-ur-Rehman
(Chief Executive, Jang Group of Publications)

Nominee of Council of Newspapers Editors (CPNE):

8. Mr. Majid Nizami
(Chief Executive, Nawa-e-Waqt Group of Publications)

9. Mr. Siddiq Baloch
(Chief Editor, Baluchistan Express, Quetta)

10. Mr. Wamiq A. Zuberi
(Editor, Business Recorder, Karachi)

11. Mr. Zia Shahid
(Chief Editor, Khabrain Group of Newspapers)

Nominee of Pakistan Federal Union of Journalists:

12. Mr. Bachal Laghari
(Bureau Chief, Daily Mehran, Karachi)

13. Mr. Ghulam Nabi Mughal
(Executive Director, Awami Awaz, Karachi)

14. Mr. Iqbal Jafri
(Sub-Editor/Reporter, Associated Press of Pakistan)

15. Nasir Zaidi
(Head Reference & Research, The News, Rawalpindi)

Nominee of National Commission on Status of Women:

16. Mrs. Nasreen Aslam Azhar
(Member, National Commission on Status of Women)

Nominee of Pakistan Bar Council:

17. Syed. Qalb-e-Hussain
(Vice Chairman, Pakistan Bar Council)

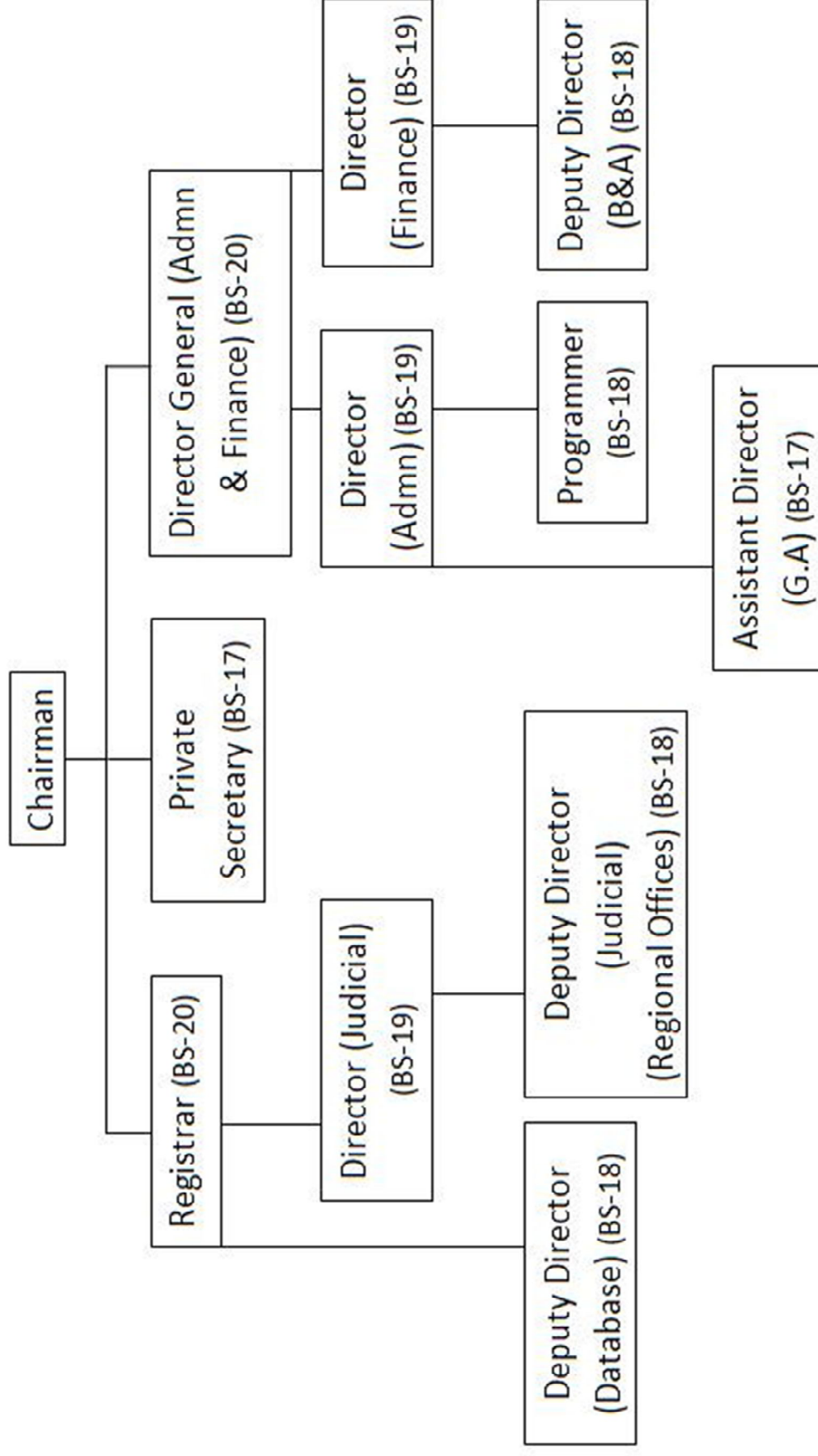
Nominee of Higher Education Commission:

18. Ms. Ayesha Ikram
(Director Publications, Higher Education Commission)

Mass Media Educationist nominated by PCP:

19. Dr. Prof: Shah Jahan Syed
(Head of Mass Communication Department, Peshawar University)
(Replaced Mr. Altaf Ullah Khan vide notification dated May 23, 2013)

Organizational Chart



PCP Mandate (Ethical Code of Practice)

An Ethical Code of Practice was formulated as under for the press for the purpose of its functioning in accordance with the canons of decency, principles of professional conduct and precepts of freedom and responsibility to serve the public interest by ensuring an unobstructed flow of news and views to the people envisaging that honesty, accuracy, objectivity and fairness shall be the guidelines for the press while serving the public interest in any form of publication such as news items, articles, editorials, features, cartoons, illustrations, photographs and advertisements; etc – This code is part of PCP Ordinance, 2002 as its annexure.

(1).The press shall strive to uphold standards of morality and must avoid plagiarism and publication of slanderous a libelous material.

(2).The Press shall strive to publish and disclose all essential and relevant facts and ensure that information it disseminates is fair and accurate.

(3).The press shall avoid biased reporting or publication of unverified material, and avoid the expression of comments and conjecture as established fact. Generalization based on the behavior of an individual or a small number of individuals will be termed unethical.

(4).The Press shall respect the privacy of individuals and shall do nothing which tantamount to an intrusion into private, family life and home.

(5). Rumors and unconfirmed reports shall be avoided and if at all published shall be identified as such.

(6).The information, including picture, disseminated shall be true and accurate.

(7). The Press shall avoid originating, printing, publishing and disseminating any material, which encourages or incites discrimination or hatred on grounds of race, religion, caste, sect, nationality, ethnicity, gender, disability, illness, or age, of an individual or group.

(8).The press shall not lend itself to the projection of crime as heroic and the criminals as heroes.

(9). The press shall avoid printing, publishing or disseminating any material, which may bring into contempt Pakistan or its people or tends to undermine its sovereignty or integrity as an independent country.

(10).The press shall not publish or disseminate any material or expression, which is violative of article 19 of the Constitution of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan.

(11).The press shall rectify promptly any harmful inaccuracies, ensure that corrections and apologies receive due prominence and afford the right of reply to persons criticized or commented upon when the issue is of sufficient importance.

(12). While reporting on medical issues, care must be taken to avoid sensationalism, which could arouse baseless fears or false hopes in the readers. Early research finding should not be presented as though they were conclusive or almost conclusive.

(13). Sensationalism of violence and brutalities shall be avoided. All reporting shall be accurate, particularly when court proceedings are covered and an accused person must not be presented as guilty before judgment has been pronounced.

(14). In the case of sexual offences and heinous crime against children, juveniles and women, names and identifying photographs shall not be published.

(15). Confidentiality agreed upon at briefings and background interviews must be observed.

(16). The press while publishing findings of opinion polls and surveys shall indicate the number of people, geographical area on which the polls and surveys were conducted, and the identity of the poll-sponsor.

(17). Any kind of privilege or inducement, financial or otherwise, which is likely to create conflict of interest and any inducement offered to influence the performance of professional duties and is not compatible with the concept of a reputable, independent and responsible press, must be avoided.

Functions of PCP (section 8):

PCP Ordinance was promulgated with the sole objective of making the press accountable to society and enabling it to preserve rights of the people while ensuring freedom of expression in freely operating media. Under section 8 the Council shall perform following functions namely;

(1) The Council shall perform the following functions, namely: -

- (i) The Council, while preserving the freedom of the press, shall maintain highest professional and ethical standards of newspapers and news agencies with a view to making them more responsive to the issues and concerns of the society in Pakistan.
- (ii) to help newspapers and news agencies to maintain their independence;
- (iii) to keep under review any development likely to restrict the dissemination of news of public interest and importance;
- (iv) to revise, update, enforce and implement the Ethical Code of Practice for the newspapers, news agencies, editors, journalists and publishers

as laid down in the Schedule to this Ordinance;

- (v) to receive complaints about the violation of Ethical Code of Practice relating to newspapers, news agencies editors and journalists;
- (vi) to appoint Enquiry Commissions to decide complaints at the head office, all provincial sub-offices and regions, as the case may be necessary for its proper functioning;
- (vii) to manage the funds and properties of the Council;
- (viii) levy and collection of fees as may be prescribed;
- (ix) control and audit funds of the Council;
- (x) to exercise such control and disciplinary powers over the members and employees of the Council as may be prescribed;
- (xi) to make regulations;
- (xii) to undertake all research relating to the newspapers, including the studies of foreign newspapers, their circulation and impact;
- (xiii) to undertake any additional studies as may be entrusted to Council by the Government; and
- (xiv) to do such other acts as may be incidental or conducive to the discharge of above functions.

(2) The Council shall also act as a shield to freedom of the press. It may receive a complaint by a newspaper, a journalist or any institution or individual concerned with a newspaper against Federal Government, Provincial Government or any organization including political parties for interference in the free functioning of the press.

Under para 9 of PCP Regulations 2012, Chairman may suo moto take notice of any matter which falls within the ambit of subsection (1) (ii) (iii) and subsection (2) of the section 8 of the Ordinance. He may take necessary steps/measures in this regard and may refer the matter to the Council with his reasons in writing for further action

Procedure in Inquiries and Making Complaints etc (section 10 of the Ordinance):

- (1). No complaint shall be entertained by the Council unless the complainant has first given a notice to the concerned editor or publisher within fifteen days of the publication of the matter complained against or appropriate relief;
- (2) The concerned editor or publisher shall take appropriate action on the notice within fifteen days of the receipt of notice.
- (3) The complainant, if not satisfied with the relief or response received from the concerned editor or publisher or if no relief or response is given by the editor or publisher, the complainant may, within fifteen days of the expiry of the period specified in sub-section (2), file a complaint before the Council, along with the evidence in support of the complaint and the response, if any, received from the editor or publisher of the newspaper or news agency in question.
- (4) The complainant shall state in the complaint as to how the publication of the matter complained against is objectionable and in violation of the Ethical Code of Practice.
- (5) The complainant, if an individual shall deposit a fee of rupees one thousand, and in case of an institution, a fee of rupees five thousand by way of a bank draft in the name of "Press Council of Pakistan."
- (6) If the complaint is found to be in order, the Registrar, with the approval of the Council, shall send the complaint to the concerned Commission for inquiry and decision.
- (7) In case where a complaint relates to the non-publication then state as to how the non-publication of the material violated the Ethical Code of Practice.
- (8) The Commission shall fix a date for the hearing of the case and shall cause notice of the day fixed to be given to the complainant and the respondent.
- (9) The parties before the Commission shall be allowed to produce evidence and shall be heard either personally or through person authorized by a party in this behalf in writing. On conclusion of the case, the Commission shall pass the order as it deems fit in the circumstances of the case.
- (10) In case the matter is decided in favor of the complaint, the commission

may;

(a) direct the editor or publisher to publish a contradiction or clarification in the manner and time specified by the Commission;

(b) direct the editor or publisher to publish an apology for the matter complaint against in the manner specified by the Commission and shall also warn or reprimand the concerned journalist, editor and publisher responsible for such publications;

(c) make such other direction as may be considered appropriate in the circumstances of the case keeping in view the objectives of this Ordinance.

(11) The provisions of sub-section (9) shall *mutatis mutandis* apply to the Council when hearing an appeal.

PCP Committees and Inquiry Commissions

Inquiry Committees

Under section 16, for the purpose of performing its functions under this Ordinance, the Council may constitute from among its members such committees for general or special purposes as it may deem necessary and every committee so constituted shall perform such functions as are assigned to it by the Council.

The Council in its meeting held on 27th March, 2012 constituted Inquiry Committee A and B to deal with complaints lodged with the Council. The basic function of the Council is to implement the 'Ethical Code of Practice' through a complaint driven mechanism as laid down in section 10 of the Ordinance.

Inquiry Committee A

1. Mr. Ghulam Nabi Mughal, Executive Editor, Daily Awami Awaz (PFUJ).
2. Ms. Jugnu Mohsin, Chief Editor, Weekly Friday Times (APNS).
3. Mr. Mujib-ur-Rehman Shami, Chief Editor, Daily Pakistan (APNS).
4. Mr. Nasir Zaidi, Head Reference & Research, Daily The News (PFUJ).
5. Ms. Nasreen Aslam Azhar, Member National Commission on the Status of Women.

6. Mir Shakeel-ur-Rehman, Chief Executive, Jang Group of Publications (APNS).
7. Ms. Saira Afzal Tarar, MNA.
8. Mr. Siddique Baloch, Chief Editor, Daily Balochistan Express (CPNE).
9. Mr. Wamiq A. Zuberi, Editor, Daily Business Recorder (CPNE).

Inquiry Committee B

1. Ms. Aayesha Ikram, Director, Higher Education Commission (HEC)
2. Mr. Altaf Ullah Khan, Head of Department of Mass Communication, Peshawar University (PCP)
3. Mr. Bachal Leghari, Bureau Chief, Daily Mehran, Karachi (PFUJ)
4. Syed Faseih Iqbal, Chief Executive, Zamana Group of Newspapers (APNS)
5. Mr. Iqbal Jaffri, Sub Editor/Reporter, APP, Islamabad (PFUJ)
6. Mr. Majid Nizami, Chief Editor, Nawa-i-Waqt Group of Publications (CPNE)
7. Vice Chairman, Pakistan Bar Council
8. Mrs. Yasmeen Rehman, MNA
9. Mr. Zia Shahid, Chief Editor, Khabrain Group of Newspapers (CPNE)

Special Inquiry Committee:

In its meeting held in Islamabad on 20-12-2012 the Council constituted a Special Inquiry Committee under section 16 of the Ordinance consisting of local based members to inquire into and decide the complaints. It was purely meant to ensure the attendance of the members of the special Inquiry Committee and also in view of financial constraints faced by the Council. Names of the Special Inquiry Committee:

- (1) Ms. Ayesha Ikram
- (2) Mr. Iqbal Jaffri
- (3) Mr. Nasir Zaidi
- (4) Mrs. Nasreen Aslam Azhar

(5) Syed Qalb-e-Hussain

Reports of the Committees had to be placed before the Council.

The Council also constituted the following Committees on 27-03-2012;

Appellate Committee-I

1. Mir Shakeel-ur-Rehman, Chief Executive, Jang Group of Publications (APNS).
2. Mr. Mujib-ur-Rehman Shami, Chief Editor, Daily Pakistan (APNS).
3. Ms. Saira Afzal Tarar, MNA.
4. Mr. Wamiq A. Zuberi, Editor, Daily Business Recorder (CPNE).
5. Ms. Jugnu Mohsin, Chief Editor, Weekly Friday Times (APNS).
6. Mr. Ghulam Nabi Mughal, Executive Editor, Daily Awami Awaz (PFUJ).
7. Mr. Siddique Baloch, Chief Editor, Daily Balochistan Express (CPNE).
8. Mr. Nasir Zaidi, Head Reference & Research, Daily The News (PFUJ).
9. Ms. Nasreen Aslam Azhar, Member National Commission on the Status of Women.

Appellate Committee-II

1. Mr. Majid Nizami, Chief Editor, Nawa-i-Waqt Group of Publications (CPNE)
2. Syed Faseih Iqbal, Chief Executive, Zamana Group of Newspapers (APNS)
3. Mrs. Yasmeen Rehman, MNA
4. Mr. Zia Shahid, Chief Editor, Khabrain Group of Newspapers (CPNE)
5. Vice Chairman, Pakistan Bar Council
6. Mr. Bachal Leghari, Bureau Chief, Daily Mehran, Karachi (PFUJ)
7. Mr. Iqbal Jaffri, Sub Editor/Reporter, APP, Islamabad (PFUJ)
8. Ms. Aayesha Ikram, Director, Higher Education Commission (HEC)
9. Dr. Prof: Shah Jehan Syed, Head of Department of Mass Communication, Peshawar University (replaced Mr. Altaf Ullah Khan, vide Notification dated

Finance Committee:

1. Raja M. Shafqat Khan Abbasi, Chairman (PCP)
2. Mr. Mujib-ur-Rehman Shami

3. Mr.Wamiq A. Zuberi,
4. Mrs. Yasmeen Rehman, (former MNA)
5. Ms. Saira Afzal Tarar, MNA

Advisory Board:

For capacity building and research etc, an Advisory Board will be constituted by involving the major Universities of the country. The Sub-Committee authorized the Chairman to make contact with the Heads of Department of Mass Communication of the Universities in this regard.

Appointment Committee:

1. Raja M. Shafqat Khan Abbasi, Chairman (PCP)
2. Mrs. Yasmeen Rehman, (former MNA)
3. Mr. Wamiq A. Zuberi
4. Mr. Nasir Zaidi
5. Ms. Ayesha Ikram

Inquiry Commissions:

Under section 10 (6) of PCP Ordinance after completion of codal formalities the complaints are to be referred to the concerned Inquiry Commission which are to be appointed under section 9 of the Ordinance with the following composition;

(a) One retired High Court Judge or a person qualified to be the judge of the High Court as Chairman.

(b) One nominated by APNS, and

(c) One nominated by CPNE

Inquiry Commissions are to be constituted for head quarters and at the provincial sub-offices of the Council.

The Council in its meeting held on 20-12-2012 approved following nominations for Chairmen of the Inquiry Commissions finalized by the Committee constituted for this

purpose. APNS provided nominations for the members of the Commissions on 02-08-2012 while nominations from CPNE are still awaited.

Heads:

Ms. Asma Jehangir,

Head of Inquiry Commission (Punjab)

Justice Ali Aslam Jaffri,

Head of Inquiry Commission (Sindh)

Justice GN Kohli,

Head of Inquiry Commission (Balochistan)

Justice Fazal-i-Haq Abbasi,

Head of Inquiry Commission (KPK)

Nominations from APNS:

Head Office: *Mr. Zahid Malik*, Chairman, Federal Capital Committee of APNS

Lahore: *Mr. Umer Mujib Shami*, Daily Pakistan, Lahore

Karachi: *Mr. Masood Hamid*, Secretary General, APNS, Daily Dawn, Karachi

Quetta: *Javed Ahmed*, Publisher & Chief Editor, Daily Aitemad

Peshawar: *Mr. Ayaz Badshah*, Daily Mashriq, Peshawer

The commission shall be notified on receipt of nominations from CPNE.

COMPLAINTS & SUO MOTO ACTION CASES

Complaints:

So far PCP has received 38 complaints out of which 02 complaints were pending on the request of the complainant himself due to litigation in Supreme Court. 24 complaints were disposed of and 12 complaints are under process

Detail of the disposed of/pending complaints is as under;

Complaints under PCP Ordinance 2002

Sr. No	Date	Complainant	Respondent	Gist	Remarks
1	23-01-12	Mr. Mehtab Khan CE, Daily AUSAF	CE etc of Daily Khabrain	Publishing allegedly baseless, derogatory, filthy material and alleging that the complainant is Qadiani and allegation of blasphemy	<u>Stance of the respondents</u> - The respondents have no enmity, malice, illwill or grudge against the complainant. - They only published a paid advertisement by the client/agency. - It was not in the knowledge of the respondent that it was against the complainant as complainant's name or the name of the newspaper was not mentioned in the Advertisement. - The respondents immediately published proper clarification add and excuse on the very next day with same prominence, on the same page and place. - The complainant being senior editor is very respectable to the respondents. - The respondents submitted a copy of apology which, according to the representative of the complainant, was ridiculous. <u>Decision</u> The complaint filed in view of settlement between the parties that the respondents will publish agreed clarification.
2	23-01-12	Mr. Mehtab Khan CE, Daily Ausaf	CE etc, Weekly Hajwari, Lahore	Publishing allegedly baseless, derogatory, filthy material and alleging that the	<u>Stance of respondents</u> - The letters PBUH were not written with the name of The Holy Prophet in an article written by the complainant regarding Hazrat Usman RA. - The respondents only covered/published the protests and

				complainant is Qadiani and allegation of blasphemy	demands of general public by publishing their version and did their job of publication and reporting on the basis of reports from monitoring desk etc. (III)The complainant lodged different FIRs and initiated cases against respondents in different cities as result of the reporting. (IV)Some persons from different areas initiated proceedings against the complainant by filing writ petition in Honorable Lahore High Court and submitting applications u/s 22A and 22B CrPC. The complainant lodged several FIRs against respondents who are defending and facing/litigation regarding the same material. (V)One Mian Muhammad Rafique lodged FIR against the complainant u/s 295C PPC in PS Chehlak Dist Multan regarding the same material. (VI)The Complainant has given incorrect declaration u/s 12PCP Ordinance. <u>Suggestion by Special Inquiry Committee.</u> Charge of violation of Ethical Code of Practice was proved. Suggested proceeding under sections 15/19 of the PCP Ordinance. <u>Decision by the Council</u> As the litigation regarding the allegation leveled in the complaint is pending in Courts, the PCP can not adjudicate. The complaint filed
3	23-01-12	Mr. Mehtab Khan CE, Daily Ausaf	CE,Daily Postmortem, Lahore	Publishing allegedly baseless, derogatory, filthy material and alleging that the complainant is Qadiani and allegation of blasphemy	<u>Stance of respondents</u> (I)The letters PBUH were not written with the name of The Holly Prophet in an article written by the complainant regarding Hazrat Usman RA. (II)The respondents only covered/published the protests and demands of general public by publishing their version and did their job of publication and reporting on the basis of reports from monitoring desk etc. (III)The complainant lodged different FIRs and initiated cases against respondents in different cities as result of the reporting. (IV)Some persons from different areas initiated proceedings against the complainant by filing writ petition in Honorable Lahore High Court and submitting applications u/s 22A and 22B CrPC. The complainant lodged several FIRs against respondents who are defending and facing/litigation regarding

					the same material. (V)One Mian Muhammad Rafique lodged FIR against the complainant u/s 295C PPC in PS Chehlak Dist Multan regarding the same material. (VI)The Complainant has given incorrect declaration u/s 12PCP <u>Suggestion by Special Inquiry Committee.</u> Charge of violation of Ethical Code of Practice was proved. Suggested proceeding under sections 15/19 of the PCP Ordinance. <u>Decision by the Council</u> As the litigation regarding the allegation leveled in the complaint is pending in Courts, the PCP can not adjudicate. The complaint filed
4.	07-08-12	Sardar Mohammad akram jehangir Azeem Pharmacy Chunani	Mr. Bahg Ali Bhatti (Bagu Machhi) of Roaznama Insaf	Allegedly blackmailing the complainant by publishing false and baseless news regarding pharmacy to get "monthly" which is violative of the Ethical Code of Practice	<u>Stance of respondents.</u> The allegation is incorrect. There has been many complaints against the complainant for committing fraud and indulging in dubious medicines. Copies of complaints of different persons and press clippings have been attached with the written reply. No body turned up on behalf of the respondents despite notices although written reply was received from them through post. The complainant has been heard. To come up for further arguments on the next date. <u>Suggestion by Special Inquiry Committee.</u> Charge of violation of Ethical Code of Practice was proved. Suggested proceeding under sections 15/19 of the PCP Ordinance. <u>Decision by the Council</u> As the litigation regarding the allegation leveled in the complaint is pending in Courts, the PCP can not adjudicate. The complaint filed
5.	06-09-12	Sohni Dharti T.V	Weekly Sohni Dharti, Multan	Allegedly launching a vicious complaint for induction of reporters misleading the general public about identity of the media group by using the name and logo of Sohni Dharti T.V	<u>Stance of respondents.</u> The respondents have stated that they never used the name etc of Sohni Dharti TV. They, on telephonic calls, informed the representatives that they have no concern with Sohni Dharti TV. Nobody turned up on behalf of the complainant. The respondent states that their institution is prepared to publish apology/correction. To come up for further proceedings on the next date. The correction/apology be produced. <u>Decision</u> The complaint filed in view of settlement between the parties

					that the respondents will publish agreed clarification.
--	--	--	--	--	---

6.	15-11-11	Dr. Haider Sherazi NICU, Neonatology, PIMS, Islamabad	CE Daily, Nawa-e-Waqt Rawalpindi	Clarification and rebuttal of news item regarding death of 25 babies	The complaint was addressed to the CE, Daily Nawa-e-Waqt Rawalpindi and only its copy was sent to the Council. The matter was put up in Inquiry Committees meeting on 5 th July, 2012 who decided that the complainant be asked to complete formalities in term of section 10 of PCP Ordinance. He did not respond despite reminders at which the complaint was filed presuming that he was not interested in proceedings u/s 10 of the Ordinance.
7.	02-12-12	MR. Salman Faruqi Secretary General to the President	South Asian News Agency	Alleged incorrect and false news item in which allegation of involvement of the complainant in Memo scandal was leveled	The matter was put up in PCP meeting on 5 th July who decided that the complainant be asked to provide proof in support of his claim and to complete formalities if he is still interested in proceeding by this Council U/S 10 of the Ordinance. 2. Matter was pended on 7-08-12 on the request of the complainant till final decision of the similar matter in Supreme court.
8.	02-12-12	Mr. Salman Faruqi Secretary General to the President	Mr. Ikram Saghal	Complaint against the alleged incorrect and false news item published in the Daily News regarding involvement of the complainant in Memo scandal	The matter was put up in PCP meeting on 5 th July who decided that the complainant be asked to provide proof in support of his claim and to complete formalities if he is still interested in proceeding by this Council U/S 10 of the Ordinance. 2. Matter was pended on 7-08-12 on the request of the complainant till final decision of the similar matter in Supreme court
9	02-12-12	PBC Headquarter, Islamabad	CE, The Nation Islamabad	Non-Accommodation of PBC Version	On the involvement of the PCP, The complainant has informed vide letter dated 30-07-12 that the matter has been settled with the news paper as

					the newspaper has published the version of the complainant. Complaint redressed.
10	13-04-12	Sardar Khan Niazi	Mr. Majeed Ur Rehman Shami	Concern over the name of the respondent in the Press release of Council dated 12-04-12 showing him as member of Inquiry Committee A	The matter was put in inquiry committees meeting on 5 th July 2012 who decided that the dispute regarding ownership is out side the jurisdiction of PCP and as the matter is subjudice before the superior courts, the committee cannot proceed in the matter. The complainant has been informed accordingly.
11	17-07-12	Aziz Ahmad	General Complaint against Media	Complaint regarding policy of the news paper about publishing advertisements excessively and leaving little space for news	Information regarding criteria for publication of advertisements was asked for from PID who have intimated that there are no restrains on number of advertisements to be published in a newspaper, as far as the rules relating to "Government Advertisement Policy", are concerned. Complainant informed.
12.	17-07-12	Anonymous	General Complaint against media	General complaint regarding publication of Un-Islamic and Anti Pakistan anti social material	This is anonymous complaint of general nature for publication of alleged anti social, anti Pakistan and anti Islam material in the Press. No action U/S 10 of the Ordinance can be taken on such like anonymous complaints. Filed
13	19-07-12	Qasid Raza Joya through Mehvish Khan Assistant Director (lit)	Shaikh Imtiaz Rehmani Reporter Daily Nawa-e-Waqt	Complaint against Sheikh Imtiaz Ahmed Rahmani Reporter Daily Nawa-E-Waqt alleging that Mr. Imtiaz Ahmed Rehmani who is a government servant in Education Department as (EST) teacher in govt High School Sultan Bahoo Jhang shows himself as news agent violating Rules 20 and 21 of Govt Servants Conduct Rules 1964	Violation of Rules by Govt Servants entails penalty under E/D Rules. The complaint has been sent to EDO Jhang and its copies have been sent to Mehvish Khan and the complainant Qasid Raza Joyia. Disposed off. Intimation sent to newspaper.

14.	12-09-12	Shehzad Mehmood Arshad, Daily Newsmart	Daily Newsmart	Non payment of Salary	The matter was taken up with PID and The Newspaper. The complainants have informed that they have been paid the salary. Complaint Redressed
15	12-09-12	Zafar Iqbal Khan	Daily Newsmart	Non payment of Salary	The matter was taken up with PID and The Newspaper. The complainant has informed that they he have been paid the salary. Complaints Redressed
16	12-09-12	Sheraz Ahmed, Daily News Mart	Daily News mart	Non payment of Salary	The matter was taken up with PID and The Newspaper. The complainants have informed that they have been paid the salary. Complaint Redressed
17.	02-10-12	Imran Khan & other	Daily Newsmart rawalpindi	Non payment of Salary	The matter was taken up with PID and The Newspaper. The complainant has informed that he have been paid the salary. Complaint Redressed.
18.	11-09-12	Mubashir Ahmad Majoka, PBC, Islamabad	Editor, Daily Nawa-e-Waqt	Non accommodation of PBC version	On the involvement of the PCP the complaint was redressed as intimated by the complainant by vide letter dated 03-10-2012.
19.	02-10-12	Imran khan , Computer Operator Daily Newsmart	Daily Newsmart Rawalpindi	Non payment of Salary	The matter was taken up with PID and The Newspaper. The complainant has informed that they have been paid the salary. Complaint Redressed.
20.	19-10-12	Mr. Iqbal Jaffri, Member PCP	RCB Official Fayyaz Khan.	Senior journalist Tahir Ch. was tortured by RCB official Fayyaz Khan	The matter was taken up with the CPO Rawalpindi who has informed that the police registered case under section 379 PPC on the statement of Mr. Tahir Chauhdry. Section 382 PPC was added subsequently on the statements of witnesses. The police are investigating the case and tracing the culprits. The complainant has been informed accordingly.
21.	11-09-12	Mubashir Ahmed Majoka PBC Islamabad.	Editor, Daily Ummat, Karachi	Non accommodation of PBC version.	On the involvement of PCP, the complaint was redressed as intimated by the complainant vide letter dated 27-11-2012
22.	28-10-12	Abdul Raheem and Others	Daily Sobh	Complaint through email regarding miss reporting.	The complaint was received through email. The complainants were asked through email to provide particulars of the respondent and their own address and also to complete formalities but with

					no response. A reminder was again issued on 05-11-2012 to do the needful within 10 days failing which it would be presumed that they were not interested and the complaint would be filed. They did not complete the formalities nor provided the particulars. It appears that they are not interested in proceedings by this Council. filed.
23.	17-10-12	Mr. Basharat Hussain S/O Haji Shahban Ali, Rahat Bakers	Ms. Waheed Zaidi Weekly Capital World	Blackmailing threatening Complainant to advertisement etc and the get	The complainant did not complete the formalities in term of section 10 of PCP Ordinance despite reminders. It appears that he is not interested in the proceedings. Filed. The weekly was also informed of the complaint.
24	01-10-12	Mohsin Jameel Baig, Chief Editor Weekly Pulse			The complainant is facing contempt proceedings along with Mr. Samar Raw, Production Editor of The Pulse for publishing a news item titled "SC Registrar oversteps Jurisdiction" in the edition of the weekly dated 22-06-2012, the contents whereof were, according to the charge sheet, false and contemptuous in nature. Both of them were charge sheeted by Honorable Supreme Court on 25-09-2012. The complainant has contended that once a matter is published then only and only the editor should be held responsible. He has requested for placing the matter before PCP regarding legal rights of working journalists abiding by the instructions of their editors. As the matter is subjudice in Honorable Supreme Court, the complaint has been filed.

Suo Moto Action Cases

PCP took Suo Moto action in 17 cases details of which are given below. The cases mostly pertain to murderous attacks/violence/threats to the journalists. In another matter, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and Punjab Provinces were approached in view of decisions of PCP in its first meeting held in Islamabad on 1st November 2011 for enacting Freedom of Information Laws in their respective provinces, impressing upon them that Sindh and Balochistan Governments have promulgated Freedom of Information Acts in 2005 and 2006 respectively. The Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Government informed through their letter dated 5-9-2012 that they had prepared a bill on the subject

but were waiting for federal legislation. They were informed through our letter dated 8-10-2012 that after 18th amendment in the Constitution there was no bar on their powers to legislate such law in their province and they were not bound to wait for federal legislation in this regard.

Through our hectic efforts outgoing Punjab Cabinet approved draft Freedom of Information Act, 2012 but it could not go to legislation as Punjab Assembly was dissolved. The Chairman brought the matter to the notice of the acting Chief Minister, Punjab when the delegation of PCP called on him on 22-04-2013. The acting Chief Minister, Punjab promised that the Ordinance would be issued in a few days. He accordingly advised the Provincial Governor to issue the Ordinance but it was deferred till formation of the next government after elections.

Under article 9 of PCP Regulations the Chairman can take suo moto notice in the matters relating to the freedom and independence of the press or any development likely to restrict the dissemination of news and refer the matter to the Council for further action.

Suo moto notice was taken in the following matters:

1. Firing on Mr. Ehsan Kohati Journalist and Mr. Fareed, Photographer in November, 2011 at Karachi.

The matter was taken up with Chief Secretary and I.G Sindh for appropriate action. The President Press Club Karachi has informed that there has been no progress in the case.

2. Furious remarks made by Qari Yaqoob, a leader of Diffa-e-Pakistan Council (DPC) in a public meeting at Karachi against the Press on February 12, 2012.

Matter was taken up with Chief Minister and Chief Secretary Sindh to look into the matter and direct authorities concerned to take legal action. It was informed that the remarks were withdrawn publicly by the leader of DPC.

3. Attacks on Geo TV Satellite Van, Jung/ The News and Cable Operators at Karachi on March 21, 2012.

Matter taken up with Chief Minister, Chief Secretary, Additional Chief Secretary Sindh for appropriate action. Mr. Faisal Aziz, Bureau Chief has informed that a report has been recorded by the Police.

4. Lethargic attitude of the Punjab Police in arresting the killers of Raja Abdul Hameed Court Reporter of the Daily Nation.

Matter was taken up with I.G Punjab RPO Rawalpindi and CPO Rawalpindi regarding lethargic attitude of the Police in arresting the culprits. It is very sad state of affairs that after three and a half years of the occurrence the CPO Rawalpindi has reported that there was no clue of the murderers and hence the case has been filed as untraced. The case was registered on the report of Raja Amjad Hameed, brother of the Slaim journalist, who also fell victim to a murderous assault but survived. He has been asked to intimate if he has any eviadance/material regarding the culprits, the same may be supplied to this Council for proceeding further.

5. Attack by unknown militants on Daily Business Recorder and Aaj T.V at Karachi on June 25, 2012.

The Karachi Police and Sindh government have been approached for appropriate action.

The Inquiry Committees in meeting dated 05-07-2012 showed great concern and deep sorrow over the lethargic attitude of the concerned authorities in not showing proper response. Their displeasure was conveyed to the authorities concerned.

6. Violent killing of Abdul Haq Baloch in Quetta.

D.O letter issued to Chief Secretary followed by reminder to Home Secretary Baluchistan for protection of media persons by law enforcing agencies and for taking action regarding arrest of the culprits. The Baluchistan Government, home department sent our letter to Deputy Commissioner on 29-11-2011 requiring them to submit detailed report.

7. Brutal killing of a journalist Rahmat Ullah Abid, in Pangoor, Balochistan on 18-11-2012.

Matter has been taken up with the Chief Secretary and IG, Balochistan for tracing the culprits and for providing security to journalists.

A three member Committee headed by Senator (R) Fasih Iqbal Editor In Chief of Daily Zamana and the Baluchistan times, and comprising of Mr. Bachal Laghari Bureau Chief Daily Mehran and Mr. Saleem Shahid President Quetta Press Club has been constituted who will meet representatives of journalistic bodies, editors, publisher, government authorities, representatives of law enforcement agencies and other stake holders and then present its report with recommendations for improvement of working environment for journalists in the province.

8. Registration of case against protesting journalists in Quetta.

Chief Secretary and Home Secretary approached to withdraw the case and afford protection to the media men. The President Press Club Quetta has informed that the case has been withdrawn.

9. Airing of objectionable Indian TV Channels on PTV and Private Channels.

Chairman PEMRA, Managing Director PTV have been approached to check the plague through all means. The Director ISPR on whose initiative action was taken has been informed.

10. Entry of Police in the Press Club Rawalpindi.

Report was called from the concerned Police and the President Press Club for further proceedings. The CPO Rawalpindi has reported that Mehmood ASI and Shahid Constable of Rescue 15 came to the Press Club for arresting Mr. Yasir Mirza the press photographer against whom a criminal case u/s 354 PPC was registered on the report of Ms. Ume Rubab and the Journalists and the complainant exchanged hot words. The Police officers also reached there and settled the matter between the parties. The concerned Police officials were suspended and inquiry was ordered against them. President Press Club was

asked to intimate if there is still any live issue. He has informed that there is no live issue now.

11. Suicide by lady reporter of daily Anti-Crime Lahore

A report was obtained from CPO, Lahore. The police reported on 17-10-2012 that a case u/s 302/34/109-PPC was registered on the report of father of the deceased. The law has taken its course and the case is under investigation.

12. Publishing of video footage of terrorists.

A video footage was published in Daily Pakistan Today dated 01-09-2012 showing horrible scene of Taliban with eight severed heads claiming to be of soldiers allegedly kidnapped by them from Bajaur. Publishing of such horrible and terrifying scenes amounts to sensationalism of violence which is violative of Ethical Code of Practice.

Matter to be placed before the Council for further action in order to discourage such practice.

13. Publishing of terrible scene in the Press The Nation Islamabad dated 19-11-2012 showing dead bodies of four Palestinian babies lying in a Ghaza City hospital after Israeli missile attack on a house killing seven members of the same family.

Publishing of such horrible and terrifying scenes amounts to sensationalism which is violative of the Ethical Code of Practice. Matter to be placed before PCP for further action to discourage such practice.

14. Planting of explosive material under the vehicle used by the senior Journalist and anchorperson Mr. Hamid Mir which was fortunately detected and defused.

The matter was taken up with Interior Ministry for making arrangements for security of Journalists. Report also called from IG Police and SSP Islamabad. Mr. Hamid Meer has been informed and has been asked to give reply/comments if

he wants to furnish. The Police have informed that necessary security has been provided at the office and residence of the journalist.

15. Killing of a renown Journalist in Tribal Areas

Malik Mumtaz Khan, a renowned journalist of tribal area and President of the Press Club Miran Shah, was shot dead in Miran Shah, North Waziristan Agency on Wednesday, the 27th February, 2013. His death was widely mourned by the Journalist community in KPK and FATA. They have demanded the government of a judicial inquiry into the incident and to ensure that the media owners and government should announce a package for the slain journalists and to ensure their safety. They urged journalists working in the tribal areas to quit the profession or to shift to safer places.

Several journalist have fallen prey to the terrorist attacks in FATA, KPK and other parts of the country. Malik Mumtaz Khan was the 14th journalist killed in tribal areas in ten years. North Waziristan is infested with militancy and the local journalists find it extremely difficult to work independently. Journalists have to face pressure from the field while rendering their professional duties. They face attacks and threatening telephone calls. The matter has been taken up with the Interior Ministry, Chief Secretary, KPK and Military Secretary to governor, KPK, for providing fool proof arrangements for the security of the Journalists working in the tribal areas and for announcement of a special package for the families of the journalists falling prey to the terrorist attacks.

16. Killing of a Journalist Khushnood A. Sheikh

Another journalist, Khushnood A. Sheikh was killed on the night of 25th February, 2013. The press gallery staged a walk-out from the Sindh Provincial Assembly's meeting to protest his killing. The Sindh Government has formed a committee in this context as attacks on the journalists are a great hindrance in the working of independent press.

PCP COUNCIL MEETINGS

Under para 8 of PCP Regulations, the Council shall hold not less than four meetings in a calendar year and may meet as often as it deems fit in order to carry out its functions provided in the Ordinance or Regulations.

The Chairman shall convene a meeting of the Council either on his own accord or, as the case may be on request of one half of its total membership.

Details of General Meetings of PCP Council Members since 1st November 2011:

First Meeting

It was held on 1st November, 2011 at Islamabad PCP Central Secretariat and was participated by following members;

1. Raja Muhammad Shafqat Khan Abbasi (Chairman, Press Council of Pakistan)
2. Syed Faseih Iqbal (Chief Executive, Daily Aiwan-e-Sahafat/Zaman Group of Newspapers)
3. Mr. Siddiq Baloch (Chief Editor, Daily Balochistan Express, Quetta)
4. Mr. Ghulam Nabi (Mughal (Executive Editor, Daily Awami Awaz, Karachi)
5. Mr. Bachal Laghari (Bureau Chief, Daily Mehran, Karachi)
6. Mr. Majeed Nazami (Chief Editor, Nawa-e-Waqt, Islamabad)
7. Mr. Zia Shahid (Chief Editor, Khabrain Group of Publications)
8. Mr. Iqbal Jafri (Sub-Editor/Reporter, Associated Press of Pakistan, Islamabad)
9. Mr. Nasir Zaidi (Editor, The News, Islamabad)
10. Mrs. Yasmeen Rehman (MNA-PPP)
11. Ms. Saira Afzal Tarar (MNA-PML (N))
12. Mrs. Nasreen Aslam Azhar (Member National Commission on the Status of Women)
13. Ms. Aayesha Ikram (Director, Higher Education Commission of Pakistan)
14. Mr. Mujibur Rehman Shami (Chief Editor, Daily Pakistan, Lahore)

15. Mr. Wamiq A. Zuberi (Editor, Daily Business Recorder)

16. Mr. Muhammad Azam (Registrar of Press Council)



Agenda for the First Meeting Of Press Council

- Welcome address by the Chairman to the honorable members of the Council
- Consideration of draft regulations of the Press Council of Pakistan
- Proposals for setting up Regional Offices in the four Provincial Capitals, including organogram, with details of requirement of staff etc
- Proposal for generation of funds for Press Council of Pakistan to perform functions as per sub-section 5 of Section 4 of the Ordinance
- Approval of procedures for lodging complaint to the Press Council of Pakistan
- Approval of design and content of web-page of Press Council of Pakistan
- Approval of seal and logo of the PCP
- Proposal for generating financial resources of the PCP as per requirement of the PCP Ordinance, 2002
- Any other items/issue raised by the honorable members of the Council

A four member Committee comprising of Chairman, Press council of Pakistan, Vice Chairman, Pakistan Bar Council, Mr. Abdul Latif Afridi, Mr. Bachal Laghari and Wamiq

A. Zuberi was constituted by the Council to formulate draft Regulations to cover day to day business of the Council.

Second Meeting

2nd meeting of the Press Council of Pakistan was held under the Chairmanship of Raja M. Shafqat Khan Abbasi, on 09-03-2013 at Islamabad.

List of participants;

1. Raja Muhammad Shafqat Khan Abbasi (Chairman, Press Council of Pakistan)
2. Mr. Majid Nizami (Chief Editor, Nawa-e-Waqt, Islamabad)
3. Mr. Mujibur Rehman Shami (Chief Editor, Daily Pakistan, Lahore)
4. Syed Faseih Iqbal (Chief Executive, Daily Aiwan-e-Sahafat/Zaman Group of Newspapers)
5. Mrs. Yasmeen Rehman (MNA-PPP)
6. Ms. Saira Afzal Tarar (MNA-PML (N))
7. Mrs. Nasreen Aslam Azhar (Member National Commission on the Status of Women)
8. Mr. Wamiq A. Zuberi (Editor, Daily Business Recorder)
9. Mr. Bachal Leghari (Bureau Chief, Daily Mehran, Karachi)
10. Mr. Ghulam Nabi Mughal (Executive Editor, Daily Awami Awaz, Karachi)
11. Mr. Siddique Baloch (Chief Editor, Daily Balochistan Express, Quetta)
12. Mr. Nasir Zaidi (Editor, The News, Islamabad)
13. Mr. Iqbal Jaffri (Sub-Editor/Reporter, Associated Press of Pakistan, Islamabad)
14. Ms. Aaysha Ikram (Director, Higher Education Commission of Pakistan)
15. Mr. Mohammad Azam, Joint Secretary (M/o I&B) (on special Invitation)

Main decision taken in the meeting

1. The PCP Draft regulations to cover day to day business of the Council were presented in the Council for its approval. The Council after lengthy discussion approved the Draft regulations with minor amendments.
2. The Council unanimously approved the name of Mr. Altafullah Khan, Head of the Department of Mass Communication, Peshawar University, as a member of the Council

as Mass Media Educationist, keeping in view that there was no representation from Khyber Pakhtunkhwa in PCP, which being national institution having federal character.

3. The logo of the Council was approved in the meeting.
4. Mr. Nasir Zaidi, member of the Council proposed that Press Council of Pakistan should establish joint collaboration with NGOs/civil society on the issues relating to media and media ethics.
5. It was agreed that Code of Conduct which is the part of the Ordinance may be projected through Internet, loading it up on the PCP's website and printing booklets & posters etc. The poster should be displayed in the offices of the newspapers and the press clubs and other related organizations. It was agreed that APNS should be approached for the promotion of Ethical Code and public message at the national level. PCP should also advertise for promoting its functions.
6. The Chairman informed the Council that he had approached certain leading Universities as well as High Court/Bar Associations for holding seminars/workshops relating to media ethics and other issues relating to the press to sensitize and create awareness among public and journalists across the country, which was approved.
7. The Council unanimously approved a resolution calling for suitable amendments in Defamation Act 2004, in Section 500 and Section 502-A of the PPC introduced during Musharraf regime.
8. The Council constituted a Sub-Committee, comprising the Chairman PCP, Mr. Mujibur Rheman Shami and Mr. Nasir Zaidi, and authorized the sub-committee to constitute necessary Committees, for smooth functioning of the Council.
9. It was also decided that Press Council of Pakistan should establish contracts with Press Councils of South Asian countries and other countries in order to get benefit from their experiences and to develop linkage.
10. The Council urged the Punjab and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa governments to enact Law of Access to Information in their respective Provinces and to urge the Federal, Sindh and Baluchistan Governments to implement this law in letter and spirit. The

Council lauded the introduction of Article 19-A in the Constitution of Pakistan by the Parliament.

Third Meeting

The 3rd meeting of the Press Council of Pakistan was held under the Chairmanship of Raja M. Shafqat Khan Abbasi on 02-08-2012 at the Council's Regional Office at Aiwan-e-Iqbal, Lahore. List of the participants is as below;

1. Ms Aaysha Ikram (Director, Higher Education Commission of Pakistan)
2. Mr. Iqbal Jaffri (Sub-Editor/Reporter, Associated Press of Pakistan, Islamabad)
3. Mr. Nasir Zaidi (Editor, The News, Islamabad)
4. Mr. Bachal Leghari (Bureau Chief, Daily Mehran, Karachi)
5. Mr. Ghulam Nabi Mughal (Executive Editor, Daily Awami Awaz, Karachi)
6. Mr. Wamiq A. Zuberi (Editor, Daily Business Recorder)
7. Mr. Zia Shahid (Chief Editor, Khabrain Group of Publications)
8. Syed Faseih Iqbal (Chief Executive, Daily Aiwan-e-Sahafat/Zaman Group of Newspapers)
9. Ms. Saira Afzal Tarar (MNA)

Agenda Includes:

1. Recitation from the Holy Quran - Chairman's welcome remarks
2. Approval of the minutes of the 2nd meeting
3. Consideration of minutes of the Sub-Committee
4. Consideration of minutes of the 1st meeting of Inquiry Committees
5. Consideration of minutes of Appointment Committee
6. Creation of Endowment Fund for the Council
7. Consideration of National Conference's recommendations
8. PCP Advisory Committee of Academia formed on the basis of recommendations of the two days National Conference.
9. Publication of advertisements to create public awareness about media ethics
10. Shifting of PCP office to new premises – setting up of PCP regional offices
11. Formation of Inquiry Commission in terms of Section 9(1) of the Ordinance

- 12.Role of PCP in the proceedings pending before the Supreme Court for constitution of the Commission for framing guidelines/ethics for the media
- 13.Proposed conference/meeting of SAARC Press Councils
- 14.Any other item/issue raised by the honorable members of PCP

Main decisions taken in the meeting

1. The Council approved formation of constitution of various Committees.
2. The Council decided that PCP should prepare a comprehensive proposal for the establishment of Regional Offices, based on its requirements, to Finance Division.
3. The meeting passed a resolution calling upon the Federal Government to fulfill its obligations in making the PCP a vibrant and fully functional institution.
4. PCP showed concerns that despite assurances by the President and the Prime Minister of Pakistan, the funds of Rs.23 million allocated for PCP for the financial year 2012-13 were meager and insufficient.
5. The Council was informed that PCP will develop and expand networking with Mass Communication Departments of the Universities so that gap between theory and practical journalism can be minimized.
6. The Council appreciated the decisions of heads of departments who participated in the two days Nation Conference vowing that PCP's Ethical Code of Practice will be made part of their curriculum in refresher courses. They also evinced their willingness to work with PCP in the matters relating to the research, press evaluation and promotion of Ethical Journalism etc.
7. The Council approved the publication of advertisement of PCP in order to create awareness among general public about working and procedure of filling complaints with PCP.
8. The Council approved the shifting of PCP offices to new premises in Islamabad as well as opening of Sub Offices at Lahore.

9. The Council constituted a two member Committee consisting of the Chairman PCP and Vice Chairman Pakistan Bar Council to propose names of Judges of a High Court or persons qualified to be Judge of the High Court to head the Inquiry Commissions for the head office and provincial capitals.
10. The Council also decided to move APNS and CPNE to send nominations for the Inquiry Commissions.
11. The Council decided to submit application in the honorable Supreme Court for becoming a party in a petition pertaining to formation of a Media Commission in framing guidelines/ethics for media.
12. It was decided that the PCP should put its view point before the August Supreme Court that the present Ethical Code of Practice has been formulated by all the relevant stakeholders including APNS, CPNE and PFUJ etc. It is the mandate of the Press Council to revise, update, enforce and implement the Ethical Code for the newspapers, news agencies, editors, journalists and publishers. It was resolved that any Ethical Code framed by the Government or any other institution might cause some repercussions/consequences on the freedom of press or proper functioning of the press. The Press Council, while preserving the freedom of the press, shall maintain highest professional and ethical standards of the newspapers and news agencies with a view to making them more responsive to the issues and concerns of the society in Pakistan. The Council shall also act as a shield to freedom of the press in terms of Section 8 of the Ordinance, 2002.
13. The Committee approved the suggestion to hold a meeting of Heads of SAARC Press Councils in Islamabad, subject to availability of fund.

Fourth Meeting

The 4th meeting of the Press Council of Pakistan was held under the Chairmanship of Raja M. Shafqat Khan Abbasi on 20-12-2012 at PCP Headquarters, Islamabad. The following members attended the meeting:

1. Ms Aayesha Ikram (Director, Higher Education Commission of Pakistan)

2. Mr. Bachal Leghari (Bureau Chief, Daily Mehran, Karachi)
3. Mr. Iqbal Jaffri (Sub-Editor/Reporter, Associated Press of Pakistan, Islamabad)
4. Mr. Nasir Zaidi (Editor, The News, Islamabad)
5. Mrs. Nasreen Aslam Azhar (Member National Commission on the Status of Women)
6. Mr. Wamiq A. Zuberi (Editor, Daily Business Recorder)
7. Mr. Mujibur Rehman Shami (Chief Editor, Daily Pakistan, Lahore)
8. Syed Faseih Iqbal (Chief Executive, Daily Aiwan-e-Sahafat/Zaman Group of Newspapers)
9. Mrs. Yasmeen Rehman (MNA-PPP)

Mr. Mujibur Rehman Shami and Syed Faseih Iqbal expressed their views in writing as well as through text and telephonically.

Agenda includes:

1. Consideration/approval of the minutes of the 3rd meeting of the PCP held at Aiwan-e-Iqbal, Lahore on 02-08-2012
2. Consideration/approval of the minutes of Appointment Committee held on October 11, 2012
3. Review/disposal of complaints received in PCP
4. Suo moto cases
5. Supplementary Grant and release of 3rd installment of the budget
6. Draft Annual Report of the PCP
7. Consideration/regularization of the case of the employees, filed in the High Court Islamabad
8. Draft guidelines for the media/press for the election coverage
9. How funds can be generated in terms of section 4(5) of PCP Ordinance
10. Effective mechanism for the complaint cell
11. Other items with the permission of Chair

Main decisions taken in the meeting

1. The meeting was informed by the Chairman that Executive Council of World Association of Press Councils (WAPC) has approved the membership of PCP in the WAPC in September, 2012. The Chairman also informed that the Press

Council of Pakistan has joined the Alliance of Independent Press Councils of Europe (AIPCE). The PCP has thus joined the prestigious organizations with membership of more than 30/40 countries.

2. The Council approved the names of heads of Inquiry Commissions finalized by the Sub-Committee.
3. The Council constituted a special Inquiry Committee of local based members to ensure their participation and in view of financial constraints.
4. The pended complaints due to litigation in the honorable Supreme Court and disposal of other complaints were reviewed by the Council. The Council approved the action.
5. The Council also reviewed the Suo Moto cases regarding attacks/threats to the journalists and appreciated the efforts made in this behalf.
6. The Council approved the constitution of a three member fact finding Committee headed by Senator(R) Syed Faseih Iqbal, Editor-in-Chief of Daily Zamana and the Balochistan Times and comprising Mr. Bachal Leghari, Bureau Chief Daily Mehran and Mr. Saleem Shahid, President Quetta Press Club, which would meet representatives of journalists bodies, editors, publishers, government authorities, law enforcement agencies and other stake-holders and then present its report with recommendations for improvement of working environment. The Council appreciated the efforts of the Chairman for moving the concerned authorities regarding brutal attacks/threats to journalists and the press.
7. The Committee discussed the financial difficulties being faced by the Council in performing its functions smoothly and also the latest progress of the case regarding the Supplementary Grant and release of 3rd & 4th installments of the budget and decided that concerned quarters be moved for early release of supplementary grant and budgetary installments.
8. Draft guidelines for media coverage of elections 2013 which were formulated after hectic consultations with all the stakeholders including APNS, CPNE, PFUJ,

civil society, Bar Associations etc. were presented in the meeting. Council appreciated the efforts and approved the guidelines.

9. The meeting was informed that PCP is a competent authority to formulate such guidelines for the press on any issue in terms of section 8 (1) of PCP Ordinance.

Fifth Meeting

The 5th general meeting of the Press Council of Pakistan was held on 1st April, 2013 at 11:30 a.m. in APNS Conference Hall at Karachi under the Chairmanship of Raja M. Shafqat Khan Abbasi, Chairman (PCP). The following attended the meeting:

1. Raja M. Shafqat Khan Abbasi (Chairman, Press Council of Pakistan)
2. Mr. Bachal Leghari (Bureau Chief, Daily Mehran, Karachi)
3. Mr. Iqbal Jaffari (Sub-Editor/Reporter, Associated Press of Pakistan, Islamabad)
4. Mr. Mujibur Rehman Shami (Chief Editor, Daily Pakistan, Lahore)
5. Mr. Nasir Zaidi (Editor, The News, Islamabad)
6. Syed Faseih Iqbal (Chief Executive, Daily Aiwan-e-Sahafat/Zaman Group of Newspapers)
7. Mr. Wamiq A. Zuberi (Editor, Daily Business Recorder)

Agenda includes:

1. Recitation from the Holy Quran.
2. Welcome remarks by the Chairman.
3. Consideration/approval of the minutes of 4th meeting of the PCP held on December, 20, 2012.
4. Review/disposal of complaints.
5. Suo-moto cases.
6. Making effective mechanism for the complaint cell.

7. Replacement of Mr. Altaf Ullah Khan, member PCP, who reportedly proceeded abroad.
8. Approval of replacement of nominee of APNS in the Inquiry Commission (In place of Mr. Sadique Baloch).
9. Formation of Press Council Committee by CPNE.
10. Formation of Media Commission by Supreme Court – Report submitted by PCP to the Media Commission.
11. Issue of safety, security and creating conducive atmosphere for the journalists. Formation of Fact Finding Committee of PCP for improvement of working environment of Journalists in Balochistan/progress of the committee.
12. Submission of case for Supplementary Grant. Financial problems of PCP.
13. How funds can be generated in term of section 4(5) of PCP Ordinance, 2002.
14. Launching/Distribution of PCP media guidelines (in five languages i.e. English, Urdu, Sindhi, Pashto & Baluchi) for covering upcoming elections, 2013.
15. Proposed Guidelines by SAFMA for Covering Elections. PCP's stance submitted to Election Commission of Pakistan.
16. Declaration form sent to major political parties for ensuring freedom of press during elections.
17. Approval of Chartered Accountant for internal audit.
18. Framing of Regulations for reducing the quorum of an adjourned PCP meeting, if a previous meeting is adjourned due to lack of quorum.

19. Empowering the Special Inquiry Committee to decide the complaints.
20. Regularization of PCP employees.
21. Opening/Setting up of PCP Regional Office at Karachi. Formation of a Committee to coordinate for finding a suitable place.
22. Quetta office, letter written to Chief Secretary Baluchistan.
23. Summery for Supplementary Budget submitted on 08-12-2012.
24. Budget proposed for the next year 2013-2014.
25. Rules quo TA/DA of the members.
26. Performance Report submitted to Honorable Supreme Court.
27. Members privileges while attending meeting.
28. Any other item with the permission of Chair.

The meeting was adjourned due to lack of quorum.

Sixth Meeting

The 6th general meeting of the Press Council of Pakistan was held on 22-04-2013 at 11:30 a.m. in the Committee Room of its Sub-Office Aiwan-e-Iqbal Complex, Egerton Road, Lahore, under the Chairmanship of Raja Shafqat Khan Abbasi. The following attended the meeting:-

1. Ms Aaysha Ikram (Director, Higher Education Commission of Pakistan)

2. Mr. Bachal Leghari (Bureau Chief, Daily Mehran, Karachi)
3. Mr. Ghulam Nabi Mughal (Executive Editor, Daily Awami Awaz, Karachi)
4. Mr. Iqbal Jaffari (Sub-Editor/Reporter, Associated Press of Pakistan, Islamabad)
5. Mr. Mujibur Rehman Shami (Chief Editor, Daily Pakistan, Lahore)
6. Mr. Nasir Zaidi (Editor, The News, Islamabad)
7. Mr. Siddique Baloch (Chief Editor, Daily Balochistan Express, Quetta)
8. Mr. Wamiq A. Zuberi (Editor, Daily Business Recorder)
9. Mrs. Yasmeen Rehman (MNA-PPP)
10. Mr. Zia Shahid (Chief Editor, Khabrain Group of Publications)

Agenda includes:

1. Recitation from the Holy Quran.
2. Welcome remarks by the Chairman.
3. Consideration/approval of the minutes of 4th meeting of the PCP held on December, 20, 2012 (5th meeting was adjourned due to lack of quorum).
4. Review/disposal of complaints.
5. Suo-moto cases.
6. Making effective mechanism for the complaint cell.
7. Replacement of Mr. Altaf Ullah Khan, member PCP, who proceeded abroad.
8. Approval of replacement of nominee of APNS (Mr. Javed Ahmed) in the Inquiry Commission (In place of Mr. Siddique Baloch).
9. Formation of Press Council Committee by CPNE.

10. Issue of safety, security and creating conducive atmosphere for the journalists.
Formation of Fact Finding Committee of PCP for improvement of working environment of Journalists in Balochistan/progress of the committee.
11. Purchase of computers, printers and furniture etc for PCP.
12. Progress regarding supplementary grant.
13. Creation of posts.
14. Budget proposal for the financial year 2013-2014.
15. Setting up of Regional Office at Karachi – Committee constituted to coordinate with Governor's Secretariat/Chief Secretary.
16. Rules for TA/DA of the Members.
17. Performance report of PCP submitted in the honorable Supreme Court.
18. Quorum for an adjourned meeting.
19. Media Commission setup by the honourable Supreme Court. Report submitted to the Media Commission with reference to TORs.
20. How funds can be generated in term of Section 4(5) of the PCP Ordinance 2002
21. Launching/distribution of PCP media guidelines (in five languages i.e. English, Urdu, Sindhi, Pashto & Baluchi) for covering upcoming elections, 2013 and holding of seminars in National Press Club Islamabad etc. regarding Democracy and Ethical Reporting in Election 2013, besides, debate, discussions in Peshawar University, Agriculture University, Gujrat University, High Court Bars, Rawalpindi, Islamabad and Lahore. Distribution of above three thousand guidelines in five languages all over the country.

22. Proposed Guidelines by SAFMA for Covering Elections. PCP's stance submitted to Election Commission of Pakistan.
23. Declaration form sent to major political parties for ensuring freedom of press during elections.
24. Approval of Chartered Accountant for internal audit.
25. Regularization of PCP employees.
26. Quetta office, letter written to Chief Secretary Baluchistan.
27. MoU signed with Pakistan Bar Council to ensure press freedom and legal assistance to press and media personnel who fall victim to attack/harassment all over the country.
28. Discussion on application by Mr. Muhammad Shahbaz, Bureau Chief, Daily Pakistan, regarding qualification of the reporters.
29. Any other item with the permission of Chair.

Main decisions taken in the meeting

1. One of the members pointed out at the very outset that in fact it was the 4th general meeting as the 5th meeting held at APNS Conference Room at Karachi on 1st April, 2013 was adjourned due to lack of quorum and no regular proceedings could be taken up. However, informal discussion was made regarding certain matters concerning the working of the PCP. He also explained that attendance of the three members in the 4th meeting who communicated their views through SMS and email but were not physically present, could not be marked and thus quorum of the 4th meeting was also incomplete. It was unanimously resolved that as the quorum of 6th meeting was complete, the Council could consider the agenda/minutes of the said meeting. The minutes regarding

agenda items 1-11 of the fourth meeting dated 20-12-2012 were considered and approved.

2. The reports/findings of the special Inquiry Committee regarding 6 complaints in which inquiries were conducted, were considered by the Council.

3. The complaint filed by Mr. Mehtab Khan, CE daily Ausaf against the CE daily Khabrain and others and in another complaint by M/s Sohni Dharti TV versus the Weekly Sohni Dharti Multan, both the parties reached an agreement that the respondents in both the cases would publish an agreed clarification (as per their agreements) and send the clarifications to the complainants and the Council. The Council considered the findings of the Inquiry Committee and decided that the complaints be filed as per settlement between the parties and directed that clarifications be obtained from the respondents and placed on record.

4. Regarding the other three complaints, namely (i) complaint by Mr. Mehtab Khan, CE daily Ausaf against the daily Post Mortem Lahore, etc, (ii) complaint by Mr. Mehtab Khan, CE daily Ausaf against the weekly Hijwari, Lahore etc and (iii) complaint by Sardar Muhammad Akram Jehangir, Azeem Pharmacy, Chunian against CE, Roznama Insaf, Lahore, etc, it was resolved after a long discussion that as litigation was pending between the parties in different courts regarding the matters alleged in the complaints, the PCP could not adjudicate in the matter, especially in view of the bar contained in Section 19 (3) of the PCP Ordinance, 2002. It was decided to file the said complaints and inform the parties with liberty to initiate restoration of proceedings after final decision of litigation if so desired and allowed by law.

5. Provisions regarding power of the Council and Commission under sections 15 and 19 of the Ordinance were also discussed in the meeting.

6. Delay in the constitution of Inquiry Commissions due to non submission of nominations by CPNE was considered. It was resolved that CPNE members in the PCP should be asked to nominate the members of Inquiry Commission in the light of decisions of meeting of 2-08-2012 and also to send reminders to President CPNE.

7. It was suggested by the PFUJ members of PCP to include nominee of PFUJ in Inquiry Commissions. The Chairman explained that it could be made only through an amendment in the Ordinance. The amendments in the Ordinance were submitted to the Standing Committee of the dissolved National Assembly and Senate but could not be materialized. The Council approved for moving the case for amendments in the Ordinance.

8. The meeting reviewed the 24 disposed off complaints and approved the action taken on said complaints.

9. The action in Suo Moto cases were also reviewed and appreciated by the Council.

10. The fallout of complaints was inadequate despite issuance of advertisements in the main national dailies about Ethical Code of Practice and explaining procedure for filing complaints.

11. The Chairman apprised that the fallout of the complaints was too inadequate and effective mechanism was required in this respect. This matter also came under discussion in the call on meeting with the honourable Chief Minister Punjab who suggested to allocate one percent of the advertisements of the Punjab government but at the same time emphasized that the media houses should also contribute to finance PCP and create sense of ownership and if it is done he will not only provide financial assistance to PCP from provincial funds but will also arrange financial assistance from other sources. The honourable Chief Minister impressed that the Press Council should be a vibrant body to effectively deal with the complaints.

12. The Council approved replacement of Mr. Altaf Ullah Khan, Chairman, Department of Journalism and Mass Communication, University of Peshawar who reportedly proceeded abroad about two years ago by Dr. Shah Jehan Syed, the incumbent Chairman of the Journalism & Mass Communication of the said University, as Member of Press Council.

13. Mr. Siddique Baloch was nominated as member of the Inquiry Commission by APNS for Balochistan Province. In view of a move by the PCP that Mr. Siddique Baloch was already member of different committees, the APNS nominated Mr. Javaid Ahmed,

Publisher and Editor of daily Atemad, Quetta to replace Mr. Siddique Baloch, as member of the Inquiry Commission for Balochistan Province. The replacement was approved by the Council.

14. Constitution of fact finding Committee to assess the scale of damage done to journalists in Balochistan was discussed. The Council desired that the Committee should do its job on priority basis.

15. Financial difficulties and non release of supplementary grant were also discussed. It was decided that the matter may be taken up in a meeting with Information Minister.

16. During a call on Governor Sindh by the delegation of PCP, the honourable Governor agreed to provide space for setting up of PCP Sub Office at Karachi and directed his Secretariat to find-out a suitable site/building for the purpose. A four-member Committee consisting of the following was constituted to coordinate with the Governor Secretariat Sindh for locating a suitable site:

1. Mr. Wamiq A. Zuberi
2. Syed Faseih Iqbal
3. Mr. Ghulam Nabi Mughal.
4. Mr. Bachal Leghari

It was decided that the committee members be requested to pursue the matter with the concerned authorities.

17. Mr. Bachal Leghari, Mr. G.N. Mughal, Mr. Nasir Zaidi, S. Iqbal Jaffri and Ms. Ayesha Ikram, members suggested that an amount of Rs.20,000/- be granted to the members attending a meeting of the Council as pocket expenses under Section 6 (2) of the PCP Ordinance. The Chairman apprised that pocket expenses can be allowed by making provisions in the rules. He also informed the Council that it was suggested by some of the members on 20.12.2012 that the members should be allowed TA/DA allowances as already admissible to an MNA while traveling for attending the meeting. A provision to this effect has been made in the proposed rules submitted to Ministry of Information &

Broadcasting. The Chairman informed the Council that as per Section 23 of the PCP Ordinance, only the federal government can make rules by notification in the Official Gazette. It was decided that a local member attending a meeting of the PCP should be paid Rs.10,000/- per day in lump sum to cover local traveling, diet etc. The other members attending the meeting from the outside may be provided the following expenses in addition to the above amount of Rs.10,000/-:-

Mileage @ Rs.10/- per km if traveled by road

Highest Air Conditioned Parlour if traveled by rail

Economy Class air ticket

Amended draft rules shall be submitted to the government for approval and notification.

18.The Chairman apprised the meeting about the performance report of PCP submitted in the honourable Supreme Court during hearing of media case alongwith with budget and its expenditure details.

19.Quorum for meetings of the Council has been fixed as 9 members under Section 17 (2) of the Ordinance. But there is no provision regarding quorum of an adjourned meeting. In certain Acts like the Legal Practitioners and Bar Council Act, 1973, when a meeting is adjourned for quorum, the quorum for the adjourned meeting will be lesser. Under Section 24 of the Ordinance, PCP, with the approval of government may by notification in the Official Gazette, make regulations, not in consistent with the Ordinance or rules made there under. The Council may make regulations inter alia regarding regulating of the meeting of the Council or Committee thereof. The meeting resolved that an amendment be proposed to the effect that when a meeting is adjourned for want of quorum, the quorum for the adjourned meeting should be ¼th of the total membership.

20.The Chairman apprised the Council about the report submitted to Media Commission constituted by the Supreme Court with reference to TORs.

21.The Chairman informed the meeting that PCP media guidelines for covering upcoming elections, 2013 were published in five languages i.e. English, Urdu, Sindhi,

Pashto and Balochi and seminars were held in National Press Club Islamabad, besides initiating debates/discussions in Peshawar University, Agriculture University, Gujrat University, High Court Bars, Rawalpindi, Islamabad and Lahore. The guidelines were distributed all over the country through media houses, Press Clubs, related NGOs, civil society, Bar Councils and other stakeholders. First time such guidelines were published and distributed in the country before elections.

22. The Chairman informed the meeting that a building for setting up regional office of Press Council at Quetta has been earmarked by the government but it is in deteriorating condition and requires extensive repairs. The Chairman also apprised that the Chief Secretary Balochistan has been moved for arranging repair of the building to make the PCP's regional office operational which will go a long way in dispelling the impression regarding security concerns of the journalists and convey a strong message in the country and abroad. The meeting appreciated the efforts of the Chairman.

23. The Chairman informed the meeting that a MoU has been signed with the Pakistan Bar Council to ensure press freedom and provide legal assistance to the press/media personnel who fall victim to attack/harassment all over the country.

VIOLENCE AGAINST JOURNALISTS IN PAKISTAN

For a few last years Pakistan has become a dangerous place to practice journalism on the face of this world. According to Media Threats Bulletin and information gathered by sources like Pakistan Federal Union of Journalists (PFUJ), Intermedia and International Organizations for Protection of Journalists in December 2012, 83 journalists were killed in Pakistan during 2001 - 2012.

Statistics show that Sindh is the most dangerous territory in Pakistan to practice journalism with 23 killed in last twelve years, including 17 in the last five years. The second worst place to be a journalist is Khyber Pakhtunkhwa with 18 journalists killed in twelve years. Among them 14 lost their lives in last five years. 17 journalists lost their lives in the line of duty in Balochistan since 2000. 11 journalists were killed in Punjab and the same numbers of journalists were eliminated in tribal areas.

Modes of Killings

According to Media Threats Bulletin (December 2012 issue)

Nature of Death	Number of Journalists
Short dead (killed at close range/target killed)	62
Abducted before being killed	12
Tortured before being killed	5
Beheaded	2
Hanged	1
Killed in a suicide bombing while reporting	10
Killed in bomb blast while reporting	4
Killed in targeted car bomb blast	1

Balochistan Situation

Continuing violence against working journalists in Balochistan is a grave reflection of the appalling security environment in the province. It is painful to note that journalist community has lost about 14 precious lives in Balochistan since 2008. Violence against media persons forced closure of press clubs in Panjgor and Khuzdar last year after the cold blooded murder of journalist Abdul Haq Baloch on 29th September, 2012.

The situation is worsening day after day as there is no push back against impunity for those who are targeting journalists one after another at will. Journalists based in strife

torn province have time and again asked for the arrest of killers but there has been no significance progress in this regard.

PCP Fact Finding Committee for Balochistan

Assessing the ground situation PCP took several initiatives and brought the incidents of violence/threats against the journalists at the highest forums. In order to assess the scale of damage done to working journalists PCP has sent a three member fact finding committee to Balochistan headed by Mr. Fasih Iqbal Khan; Chief Executive Daily Balochistan Zamana Group of Newspapers, Mr. Siddique Baloch; Chief Editor Baluchistan Express, Quetta and Mr. Bachal Laghari Daily Mehan, Karachi are the other members of the committee.

The committee after evaluating the situation will recommend what steps should be taken to improve the press state of affairs in the province.

To finalize recommendations committee is meeting with representatives of journalistic bodies, editors, media owners, law enforcement agencies and other relevant stakeholders.

Issue of Impunity against Journalists

PCP believes safety of journalists and the struggle against impunity for their killers are essential to preserve the fundamental right to freedom of expression, guaranteed by Article 19 of the Constitution of Pakistan and *Universal Declaration of Human Rights*.

It is a serious concern that persons who commit violence against journalists are seldom brought to book. Only killers of Daniel Perl were apprehended and punished whereas perpetrators of violence against 93 journalists killed so far since 2000 have not been arrested and persecuted yet in the court of law. This is a serious issue and PCP has taken number of initiatives to fight against impunity of those who attacked working journalists.

UN Plan of Action on the Safety of Journalists and the Issue of Impunity

In its plan of action on the safety of journalists United Nation has categorically stated that *“Every journalist killed or neutralized by terror is an observer less of the human condition. Every attack distorts reality by creating a climate of fear and self-censorship”*.

In another meeting held at Vienna, observed as under;

UN Strategy 2013-2014 to Guarantee the Safety of Journalists

The Implementation Strategy on United Nations Plan for the safety of journalists and the issue of impunity 2013-2014 is now available. This strategy combines efforts among all actors to promote a free and safe environment for journalists in both conflict and non-conflict situations, with a view to enabling an informed citizenry that is capable of strengthening peace, democracy and development worldwide.

The document includes a work-plan to put the UN Plan of Action in to effect, and follows extensive consultation since the endorsement of the Plan by the UN Chief Executives Board on 12 April 2012. The strategy is designed to be implemented at global and regional level, and for adaptation at national level. In the initial phase of its roll-out, and in order to concentrate efforts, the Strategy is especially being adapted to a selection of countries including Iraq, Nepal, Pakistan and South Sudan, as well as Latin America.

The Strategy outlines more than 100 concrete actions to be put in place over the coming two years by different UN agencies working in conjunction with other entities, as part of joint efforts to secure the safety of journalists. Among the measures set out are:

1. Creating UN internal coordination mechanisms to harmonize the UN actions in this field;
2. Supporting governments to develop laws on safeguarding journalists and mechanisms favorable to freedom of expression and information;
3. Conducting awareness-raising activities so that citizens understand the importance of the right to freedom of expression and access to information;
4. Providing training for journalists on the issue of safety and online safety;
5. Promoting good working conditions for journalists developing their professional activities on both a full-time and freelance basis;
6. Establishing real time emergency response mechanisms; and
7. Enhancing special measures for women journalists in response to the increasing incidence of sexual harassment and rape.

Led by UNESCO, the strategy is the result of a participatory process involving almost 100 actors including UN bodies, intergovernmental organizations, professional associations, media houses, NGOs, academia and governments. These culminated in a draft version that was discussed during the 2nd UN Inter-Agency Meeting on The Safety of Journalists and the Issue of Impunity, which took place in Vienna in November 2012. After further consultations, the strategy has now been finalized in February 2013.

The stimulus for entire process dates further back to a request made in 2010 by the Intergovernmental Council of UNESCO's International Programme for the Development of Communication (IPDC).

The implementation of this Strategy on The Safety of Journalists and The Issue of Impunity will be coordinated by UNESCO in close cooperation with the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the Office of the High Commissioner of Human Rights (OHCHR). Its success depends on a far greater range of actors, whose names can be consulted within the document.

Throughout the process, mid-term evaluations and follow-up meetings will help to ensure that steps are being made in the right direction.

PCP Efforts in Fighting Impunity

Attacked Journalists or their families find it hard to get legal support in cases of threats and killing of their colleagues and family members. Investigation and prosecution in this regard is not up to required standards and even FIR registration is not much easy. It seems journalists have no legal protection at all and have no resources to pursue the cases of slain journalists in the courts.

PCP has taken initiative in establishing a network of trained lawyers to help in investigations and proceedings by signing an MoU with Pakistan Bar Council.

Press Council of Pakistan and Pakistan Bar Council inked the following MoU to protect journalists' rights

Press Council of Pakistan (PCP) and Pakistan Bar Council (PBC) on January 18, 2013 signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) to help protect rights of the media and working journalists, especially in security sensitive areas.

Press as well as legal fraternity of Pakistan had played a vital role in upholding true values of democracy for the rule of law and citizens' right of expression granted under

the Constitution. Whereas Pakistan Bar Council under its mandate is to provide legal aid in terms of sub-section 1(la) of section 13 of Legal Petitioners and Bar Council Act, 1973 while Press Council of Pakistan is bound to act as a shield to protect freedom of expression and finds it imperative to defend freedom of press from any interference from any quarter in terms of sub-section (2) of section 8 of the PCP Ordinance, 2002.

Both the apex bodies i.e. Pakistan Bar Council and Press Council of Pakistan have vowed to work together as strategic partners to provide legal aid to media persons at all levels. In this regards, Raja M Shafqat Khan Abbasi, Chairman (PCP) and Akhtar Hussain, Vice Chairman, Pakistan Bar Council have signed a MoU which covers the salient features as per the agreement:

MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING (MoU)

Pakistan Bar Council and Press Council of Pakistan

The Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) is signed on this day 26th December, 2012 between Pakistan Bar Council and Press Council of Pakistan.

BOTH THE PARTIES MUTUALLY AGREE TO THE FOLLOWING:

1. Pakistan Bar Council and Press Council of Pakistan have agreed to become strategic partners to collaborate in providing legal aid to the press and media persons who fell victim to attack/harassment or murder while during their professional work.
2. The scope of collaboration shall include at all levels throughout Pakistan.
3. Pakistan Bar Council and Press Council of Pakistan shall support and strengthen each other's ongoing initiatives in this regard.
4. Pakistan Bar Council and Press Council of Pakistan shall jointly develop new concepts and ideas to protect rights of the media and working journalists in any part of the country.
5. Both the PBC and PCP shall form a working group to review progress on quarterly basis and explore new areas to promote safety journalism in the country.
6. Both the bodies will support each other in case of any attack or assault on the freedom of press.
7. Both the sides agree to make short, medium and long terms arrangements to meet the stipulated objectives within ambits of their working charters.

AGREED AND SIGNED BY:

Vice Chairman
Pakistan Bar Council

Chairman
Press Council of Pakistan

PCP IN THE EYES OF OTHERS

Keeping in view the dynamics and powers of free Pakistani media these days, revitalization of PCP since October 2011 has been in the thick of thin. To promote ethical journalism in a free domain of powerful media, everybody feels that PCP has a cutting edge role to play in shaping face of Pakistani press. Social, political and legal quarters are of the view that if a free press shapes up well and responds to the social needs, Pakistan's main issues including extremism, poverty, corruption and good governance will be handled well and democratic trends and values will be strengthened.

Number of times political and socio religious leaders have referred to the vanguard role of present day free press to play a vital role in political and economical socialization of Pakistan.

The President of Islamic Republic of Pakistan in his statement published on March 10, 2012 in a daily 'Pak Banker' and Business recorder' has highlighted the

importance of a media watchdog body like Press Council of Pakistan to shape up future media that serves society well.



President highlights importance of media

ISLAMABAD: President Asif Ali Zardari on Friday reiterated the government's commitment to continue working for the development of media in the country and upholding freedom of information.

He said that the democratically elected government considers media as an important instrument for the strengthening of democracy and would continue to facilitate media in its professional pursuits.

The President was talking to a delegation comprising members of the Press Council of Pakistan, which called on him here at the Aiwan-e-Sadr.

The delegation included Chairman Press Council of Pakistan, Raja Mohammad Shafqat Khan Abbasi, Director Higher Education Commission of Pakistan, Ms Aayesha Ikram, Chief Editor Daily Pakistan Lahore, Mujibur-Rehman Shami, Chief Editor Nawa-e-Waqt Group of Publications, Majid Nizami, Editor Daily Business Recorder, Wamiq A. Zuberi, Chief Editor Daily Balochistan Express Quetta, Siddiq Baloch, Chief Editor Frontier Post Karachi, Ghulam Nabi Mughal, Editor Nawa-e-Waqt Karachi, Bachal Leghari, Editor Nawa-e-Waqt Islamabad, Iqbal Jafri, Editor Daily The News Islamabad, Nasir Zaidi, Ms Yasmeen Rehman, MNA and senior



ISLAMABAD: President, Asif Ali Zardari in a group photo with members of Press Council of Pakistan (PCP) during a meeting at Aiwan-e-Sadr, here on Friday.—PPI

officials of the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting. Federal Minister for Information and Broadcasting Dr Firdous Ashiq Awan and Spokesperson to the President Farhatullah Babar were also present during the meeting.

Raja Mohammad Shafqat Khan Abbasi while briefing the President said that the Press Council was established in 2002 with the purpose to safeguard freedom of the press and implement the Ethical Code of Practice.

He said that the credit for activating the dormant Council, appointing the new Chairman and issuance of notification of all the PCP

members goes to the present democratic government which reflects its sincerity and commitment towards freedom as well as development of media in the country.

Raja Mohammad Shafqat said that Press Council was the only forum where the grievances of the public against the press and complaints of press against any other institution were being resolved.

The Chairman PCP said that the Press Council was the only forum where all the stakeholders i.e. APNS (All Pakistan Newspapers Society), CPNE (Council of Pakistan Newspaper Editors), PFUJ

(Pakistan Federal Union of Journalists) and public representatives sit under one roof.

He also highlighted various issues being faced by the Press Council including the financial issues and setting up of the Council's regional offices.

The President directed the authorities concerned to look into the issues of the Press Council for their early redressal.

The participants during their interaction with the President highlighted the importance of the Press Council and the need to further strengthen it by establishing the Council's offices in the provinces.—APP

Prime Minister of Islamic Republic of Pakistan has categorically stated that press freedom and democracy are inseparable in a statement carried by Daily 'Express Tribune' on July 24, 2012

Staunch supporter

PM says media freedom, democracy are inseparable

Says free press ensures debate which is crucial for pluralistic society

ISLAMABAD

Prime Minister Raja Pervaiz Ashraf on Monday said that the democratic government is a staunch supporter of media freedom and has scrapped the draconian laws introduced in the past to curb the media.

He expressed these views during a presentation given to him by the ministry of information and broadcasting at the PM House.

The briefing was attended by Minister for Information and Broadcasting, Qamar Zaman Kaira, the secretary information and heads of attached departments of the ministry.

The prime minister described media freedom and democracy as inseparable and said the government would ensure press freedom and free debate which is critical for the evolution of a pluralistic society.

The PM appreciated the Pakistan Television for reaching out to maximum number of people in the country as a terrestrial channel

He directed the state-owned media to give enhanced coverage to all political parties including the opposition, both in news and current affairs programmes.

The PM appreciated the Pakistan Television for reaching out to maximum number of people in the country as the only terrestrial channel, which was disseminating news to its viewers with responsibility.

The success of PTV Sports Channel merited special appreciation during the presentation.

The premier issued directive for overcoming the shortage of DSNG (Digital Satellite News Gathering) vehicles on an emergency basis.

He said in media's competitive world, it is important to equip the state television channel with latest technology to ensure live coverage of important events.

He hoped that it would enable the official television to focus on the issues of people living in rural areas.

The prime minister directed the ministry of information and broadcasting to take immediate steps to make its media university functional to impart advanced training to working journalists.

He asked the media heads of information ministry to focus on projecting achievements of the government in various fields.

”It is important to equip the state television channel with latest technology to ensure live coverage of important events

Prime Minister
Raja Pervaiz Ashraf

The prime minister mentioned several steps by the government including the National Finance Commission Award, constitutional amendments, renaming of Khyber-Pakhtunkhwa, introduction of reforms in FATA, and making Pakistan a wheat exporting country, which he said would have far-reaching effects on the federation and national economy.

The prime minister directed the Pakistan Electronic

Media Regulatory Authority (PEMRA) to exercise its authority under law against the TV channels engaged in airing indecent and unauthorised material.

Earlier Qamar Zaman Kaira in his presentation said there was a marked improvement in the current affairs and news programmes of PTV. However, he said there was still an ample margin for improvement.

He said his ministry is proactively engaged to set the trend of news dissemination with responsibility.

The minister said the Press Council of Pakistan under its chairman Shafqat Abbasi is doing a good job because people now have access to a forum to file their complaints against media organisations for redressing their grievances. APP

TheNation, Islamabad

NATIONAL

Wednesday, November 2, 2011



ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Syed Yousuf Raza Gilani talking to the members of Press Council of Pakistan.—INP

Independent, influence-free PPC functioning

Govt to create endowment fund

OUR STAFF REPORTER

ISLAMABAD - Prime Minister Syed Yousuf Raza Gilani, while assuring government's all-out support to the Press Council of Pakistan (PCP), on Tuesday directed the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting to create an endowment fund for the council to ensure its independent and influence-free functioning.

The Prime Minister gave this direction while addressing the members of the Press Council, who led by its Chairman Raja Mohammad Shafqat Khan Abbasi called on him here at the PM House, after their first meeting on Tuesday. The meeting, besides PCP members, was also attended by Minister for Information and Broadcasting, Dr Firdous Ashiq Awan, Secretary Information Taimur Azmat Osman and senior officials.

Gilani also directed the Ministry of Information to facilitate the Press Council in setting up its administrative offices including the head office in Islamabad. The Prime Minister said he was happy to know that the PCP by holding its first meeting has become fully functional, adding, he believed that the country would benefit from the expertise of PCP, which comprised professional people.

He said since Pakistan being a responsible country and a nuclear power was passing through critical time, with all eyes of the world focused on it, media had very important role in improving and boosting the country's true image at home and abroad. The Prime Minister described the PCP as a dividend of democracy and expressed the hope that this institution would also play its critical role in future as well. "At present, we have democracy, the country is in safe hands. But God forbid, if anything happens (to democracy) in Pakistan, you will have a critical role to play", he said and added the institutions were created with futuristic approach.

The Prime Minister said the present government had completed almost four years, with the next being an electioneering year, adding, "We have passed through difficult phase and now want to pick thorns from the path of coming generation."

Gilani was and has always been supportive of press freedom, adding, his father used to ask him to read the editorial pages of the newspapers to know critical facts and opinion.

The Prime Minister said he had good relations with media and taken their criticism as advice. He said the establishment

of Press Council was a step towards strengthening of mass media, the fourth pillar of the state. "We all know that the media in Pakistan has assumed the role of a watchdog of all the three others pillars of the state," he added. Gilani said the Ethical Code of Practice for press set out in Press Council of Pakistan Ordinance was formulated for the purpose of its functioning in accordance with the spirit of freedom of press.

The ethical code promotes high standards of responsible journalism, particularly with regard to addressing the public complaints, he added. He said the democratic government believed that the media should be faithful to freedom of the press on one hand and accurate, fair and accountable to the civil society.

In many countries, the press councils are actively working as regulatory bodies where public can go to address their grievances against the media, he added.

The Prime Minister said function of the Press Council of Pakistan was to strive to maintain high standards of fairness while addressing the public complaints against the media.

He said the credit for appointing the new Chairman and notification of all the members of the Press Council went to the

democratic government. Under the Ordinance, Press Council consists of 19 members, including its Chairman. The Chairman is appointed by President of Pakistan on the advice of the Prime Minister. The Prime Minister said the Council had become fully functional and its first meeting was held on November 01, 2011. The present Chairman, Raja Muhammad Shafqat Khan Abbasi, assumed the charge of Chairman, Press Council, on September 7, 2011 and immediately met with all the nominated members and other stakeholders in the media.

The composition of the Council include: four members by the All Pakistan Newspapers Society; four members by the Council of Pakistan Newspapers Editors; four members by the professional bodies of Journalists, Vice Chairman Pakistan Bar Council, Chairperson or nominee of the Higher Education Commission, one member by the Leader of the House in the National Assembly, one member by the Leader of the Opposition in the National Assembly, one mass media educationist to be nominated by the Council, one woman to be nominated by the National Commission on Status of Women in Pakistan.

Saleem Shahzad Inquiry Commission's Observations qua PCP

On May 29, 2011 the dead body of the journalist Syed Saleem Shahzad bearing torched marks was found two days after he had gone missing from Islamabad. He had been voicing his concern about threats to his life. The journalists from all over the world condemned this act of brutality.

In response the Government of Pakistan constituted a Commission of Inquiry headed by Supreme Court Judge, Mr. Justice Saqib Nisar. Chief Justice of Federal Shariat Court, Inspectors General of Police of Punjab and Islamabad and President of Pakistan Federal Union of Journalists (PFUJ) were members of the Commission. The Commission in its detailed report explained the role of Press Council of Pakistan in the following words "Press Council of Pakistan is not a government department; rather it is meant to be an "autonomous and independent" statutory body (Preamble, Ordinance). By and large, the form of regulation envisaged in the Ordinance is self-regulation since most members of the Council are press insiders, not state representatives. (Section 6, Ordinance) The Ordinance also lays down an Ethical Code of Practice. (Schedule, Ordinance) The Council is entrusted with the task of "maintain[ing] highest professional and ethical standards of newspapers and news agencies with a view to making them more responsive to the issues and concerns of the society in Pakistan." while also "preserving the freedom of the press..." (Section 8(i), Ordinance). The Council has the power to "receive complaints about the violation of Ethical Code of Practice..." (Section 8(1)(v)) The Council is also entitled to receive complaints by members of the press against "Federal Government, Provincial Government or any other organization ... for interference in the free functioning of the press." (Section 8(2), Ordinance) To deal with the complaints it receives, the Council can appoint three-member "Enquiry Commissions", (Section 8(1)(vi), Ordinance) chaired by a "retired High Court Judge or a person qualified to be the judge of the High Court." (Section 9) An Enquiry Commission has the power to:

"(a) direct the editor or publisher to publish a contradiction or clarification in the manner and time specified by the Commission;

(b) direct the editor or publisher to publish an apology for the matter complaint against in the manner specified by the Commission and shall also warn or reprimand the concerned journalist, editor and publisher responsible for such publications;

(c) make such other direction as may be considered appropriate in the circumstances of the case keeping in view the objectives of th[e] Ordinance.” (Section 10, Ordinance)

Therefore, it seems that as far as complaints against the Press are concerned, the Ordinance provides a sufficient forum. If officers of the state, including those in the intelligence agencies, have clear evidence to prove that a journalist is delinquent or compromised and that his writings and other activities violate the Code, they can take recourse to the Council. The Council may then appoint a Commission to decide the matter in accordance with law and justice. There should, however, be no room for harassing journalists on the mere perception that they are compromised or their reporting is unethical since, like everyone else, they are entitled to be considered innocent until proven guilty”.

PROMOTION OF ETHICAL JOURNALISM

As free robust media continues to grow in Pakistan concerns for responsible and ethical



journalism are also growing across country. Being an apex media watchdog body PCP is a forerunner in showing its concerns with regard to development of ethical press and has taken number of initiatives in arousing awareness about the ethical underpinning of free press. To advance these concepts PCP has designed and executed number of

interventions in collaboration with different media stakeholders. These include seminars, round table conferences, training workshops, public service messaging and printing of public resource document. These collaborative activities offered PCP added advantage by inviting different media stakeholders under its banner and building consensus on promoting media ethics. It was due to PCP sole initiative that all media stakeholders sat under one roof and formulated ethical media guidelines to address day to day issues confronted by free media in Pakistan. In absence of any national media policy, the idea and sense behind all these efforts is to make joint concerted moves to develop unified approach for the promotion of ethical journalism in Pakistan. So far outcome of these promotional activities have been encouraging.

The seminars/workshops were organized in collaboration with different organizations without any financial burden on PCP budget.

Two-day National Conference on Media Ethics-Theory and Practice



A two-day (28th - 29th June, 2012) National Conference on Media Ethics, Theory and Practices was held in Islamabad aiming at to provide a platform to brilliant minds of

Pakistan to exchange their views for strengthening freedom of press.

Minister for Information and Broadcasting Qamar Zaman was the chief guest at inaugural session. It was chaired by Raja Shafqat Khan Abbasi, Chairman PCP. The prominent guest speakers were Mr. Mujeeb-ur-Rehman Shami; Chief Editor Daily

Pakistan Lahore, Mr. Hamid Mir; senior anchorperson GEO TV and Mr. Zia-ud-Din; Editor Daily Express Tribune. Other personalities from media owners, Press Attaches of Foreign Consulates, Pakistani media students, scholars, research associates, members of national and international print and electronic media also participated in the session.

Session I:

Dr. Mughees-ud-Din Sheikh; HOD Mass Communication Deptt, Dean Superior University, Lahore (Moderator of the session)

Mr. Zia-ud-Din; Editor Daily Express Tribune (Chairman of the session)

Mr. Sardar Khan Niazi; Chief Editor; Daily Pakistan, Islamabad (Co-chairman of the session)

For this session all the research scholars were handed over a topic to read out their research papers during the conference. Topics assigned to the research scholars are given at pages are given after the details of concluding session.

In the 1st part of “session one” every research scholar has given his/her introduction.

Presenters:

1. Dr. Rafia Taj (Chairperson, Department of Mass Communication University of Karachi)



Heads of Mass Communication Department of 30 Universities across Pakistan presenting their Research Papers during National Conference held in Islamabad

2. Dr. Mohammad Ashraf Khan(Chairman, Department of Mass Communication, Bahauddin Zakriya University, Multan)

3. Dr. Mohammad Aslam Pervaiz (Chairman, Dept of Mass com , Gomal University D.I Khan)
4. Prof. Dr. Masroor Alam Khan (Head Dept of Mass com, NUST Islamabad)
5. Dr. Shafiq Jallandhri (Chairman Dept of Media and Communication Karakoram International University Gilgit)
6. Dr. Syed Abdul Siraj (Chairman Dept of Mass Com Allama Iqbal Open University Islamabad)
7. Dr. Tahir Malik (National University of Modern Languages, Islamabad)
8. Mr. Tauseef Ahmed Khan (Head, Federal Urdu University of Arts, Sciences & Technology, Karachi)
9. Dr. Anjum Zia (Head, Department of Mass Communication Lahore College for Women University, Lahore)
10. Dr. Farzana Bari (Head, Department of Gender Studies, Quaid-e-Azam University, Islamabad)
11. Dr. Muhammad Nawaz Mahsud (Chairman Dept of Mass Com University of Sargodha)
12. Dr. Shamim Mahmood Zaidi (Chairperson, Department of Communication & Media Sciences, Fatima Jinnah Women University, Rawalpindi)
13. Ms. Sidra Chaudhry (Head, Department of Mass Communication, IIUI, Female Campus, Islamabad)
14. Ms. Amna Yousaf, Lecturer Virtual, University Islamabad

Question and answer session was held at the end.

On the advice of PCP Chairman Dr. Mughes announced a committee of 9 members to conclude all suggestions into a final phase.

Constitution of Advisory Committee

The following Advisory Committee/Board was constituted in term of decision of the Press Council meeting dated 27-3-2012

1. Dr. Mughes ud Din (HOD, Mass Communication, Dean Superior University, Lahore)

2. Dr. Ahsan Akhtar Naz (Director Institute of Communication Studies, University of Punjab, Lahore)
3. Dr. Shafique Jalahndari (Chairman Dept of Media and Communication Karakoram International University Gilgit)
4. Dr. Anjum Zia (HOD, Mass Communication Department, Lahore College for Women University, Lahore)
5. Dr. Rafia Taj (Chairperson, Department of Mass Communication, University of Karachi)
6. Dr. Masroor Alam Khan (HOD, Mass Communication, National University of Science & Technology, Islamabad)
7. Mr. Baram Khan (In charge, Media and Journalism Department, University of Balochistan, Quetta)
8. Dr. Farzana Bari (Head, Department of Gender Studies, Quaid-e-Azam University, Islamabad)
9. Dr. Aslam Pervaiz (Chairman, Department of Mass Communication, Gomal University, D.I Khan)

Day Two 29th June 2012

Mr. Mughees ud Din was moderator while Mr. Hamid Mir renowned anchor chaired the session. During the session Ms. Hina from Adnan Shahid Foundation, Islamabad Dr. Rizwan from PIMS Islamabad, Dr. G.M Gul, Mr. Ahsan Naz, Ayesha Ikram (HEC), Mr. Bachal Laghari (member PCP), Mr. Nawab Khursheed (PFUJ-ISB), Mr. Baram, Mr. Aslam Pervaiz, Dr. Raffia Taj, Dr. Anjum Zia, Ayesha Ikram (HEC), Dr. Shabier Ahmad Baloch, Mr. Shujat presented their research papers alongwith their ideas to establish theme of the conference.



Member PCP, Fasieh Iqbal addressing the participants of the Conference

Group Activities: Group (A):

Mr. Hamid Mir and Mr. Shaukat Pervaiz jointly chaired the session Group A:

Theme 1: Ethics & Laws: Role of mass Communication Departments of Universities/Colleges:

Mr. Masroor (HOD, Communication Sciences, National University of Science and Technology), Mr. Shafeeq Jalahndri (Chairman, Department of Media & Communication, Karakoram International University, Gilgit), Mr. Ahsan Akhtar Naz (Director, Institute of Communication Studies, University of Punjab, Lahore), Mr. Rizwan Taj, Miss. Hina Shahid (Incharge, Department of Mass Communication, Foundation College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, Rawalpindi) and Miss. Shaista Yasmin from Civil Society presented their point of view in group activity.

Group Activities: Group (B):

Theme 1: Role of APNS, CPNE & Journalist Unions:

Mr. Khushnood Ali Khan (President CPNE), Mr. C.R. Shamsi (Editor Daily Azkar), Ms. Fouzia Shahid (Seniour Journalist), Mr. Masroor (HOD, Communication Sciences, National University of Science and Technology), Mr. Shafeeq Jalahndri (Chairman, Department of Media & Communication, Karakoram International University, Gilgit), Mr. Ahsan Akhtar Naz (Director, Institute of Communication Studies, University of Punjab, Lahore), Dr. Ghulam Shabbir (Chairman, Department of Media Studies, Islamic University, Bahawalpur) presented their point of view in group activity.

Concluding Session of the Conference:

The concluding session was chaired by PCP Chairman. The then Acting President of Islamic Republic of Pakistan and Chairman Senate Mr. Nayyar Hussain Bukhari was the chief guest at the concluding session of the two days' National Conference. The other eminent speakers included Syed. Faseih Iqbal; Chief Executive, Daily Aiwan-e-Sahafat, Zamana Group of Newspapers and Prof Dr. Mughees-ud-Din Sheikh HOD, Mass Communication Department, Dean Superior University, Lahore.

The theme of the conference was to discuss role of media in strengthening democracy.

The role of Mass Communication Department of universities/ colleges, role of All Pakistan Newspapers Society (APNS), Council of Pakistan Newspaper Editors

(CPNE), Journalist unions, Role of Press Council, Pakistan Electronic Media Regulatory



Syed Nayyar Hussain Bokhari; acting President addressing the concluding session. Mr. Raja Shafqat Abbasi, Syed Faseih Iqbal and Mughees-ud-Din Sheikh sitting on the stage

Authority (PEMRA) and civil society in media ethics and laws was also focused during deliberations.

The question of implementation of media ethics and responsibilities of owners was also discussed. Chairman Press Council of Pakistan Raja Shafqat Abbasi, Secretary Information Taimur Azmat Usman and other eminent journalists addressed the occasion.

Concluding session was addressed by the then Acting President and Chairman Senate Syed Nayyer Hussain Bukhari.

Chairman Pakistan Press Council Raja Shafqat Abbasi emphasized that efforts to brainstorm journalist community had been lacking to cover various newly-emerged issues like terrorism, conflict, security, media literacy, social issues and online social media.

He stressed there had been wide gap between theory and practices and the conference would deliberate as how to update the curriculum in accordance with modern trends to teach the students about new issues.

PCP was expanding its network at local and international levels by establishing linkages with various organizations for collaboration and experience-sharing, he added.

He informed that PCP was in touch with Press Councils of SAARC, Commonwealth countries and World Association of Press Councils to establish a working collaboration with them and learn from their experiences. At the end of the conference Dr. Mughees-ud-Din Sheikh presented recommendations/suggestions by the participants of two day national conference on media ethics – theory and practice. Recommendations are given after the list of the topics assigned to mass media heads of different universities.

List of Invitees/Participants of National Conference who presented their research papers under a given topic as Heads of Mass Communication Department of 30 universities across Pakistan.

S. No.	Name	Designation	University	Topic
1.	Dr. Rafia Taj	Chairperson	Department of Mass Communication, University of Karachi.	Press Council--- A Way Forward
2.	Dr. Ahsan Akhtar Naz	Director	Institution of Communication Studies, University of the Punjab, Lahore	Mass Communication Curriculum and Media Ethics
3.	Dr. Muhammad Ashraf Khan	Chairman	Department of Mass Communication, Bahauddin Zakariya University, Multan	Coverage of Terrorism on Media: An overview
4.	Dr. Syed Abdul Siraj	Chairman	Department of Mass Communication, Allama Iqbal Open University, Islamabad	Media Professionalism in Pakistan
5.	Prof. Dr. Masroor Alam Khan	Head	Department of Mass Communication, NUST, Islamabad	Role of PEMRA and Press Council of Pakistan
6.	Dr. Zafar Iqbal	Head	Department of Media and Communication Studies, International Islamic University, Ibd	Children Programmes and Electronic Media: Situation Analysis
7.	Dr. Ghulam Shabir	Chairman	Department of Media Studies, Islamia University, Bahawalpur	Media Monitoring
8.	Dr. Muhammad Nawaz Mahsud	Chairman	Department of Mass Communication, University of Sargodha	Comparative Studies of the Ethical Code of Practice in the Developed and Under-Developed Countries.
9.	Dr. Shafique Jullandhry	Chairman	Department of Media and Communication, Karakoram International University Gilgit	Some Non Theoretical Issues in Media Ethics
10.	Dr. Muhammad Aslam Parvez	Chairman	Department of Mass Communication, Gomal University Dera Ismail Khan	Responsibilities of the Journalists in Modern Age

				and Islamic Perspectives
11.	Dr. Zahid Yousaf	Head	Department of Mass Communication, University of Gujrat	Media Diplomacy in Regional Peace
12.	Lt. Col (R) Syed Manwar Ali	Chairman	Mass Communication Department, NUML, Islamabad	Requirement of National Interest and responsibility of Media
13.	Dr. Chang Rizwana	Chairperson	Department of Mass Communication, University of Sindh, Jamshoro	Technology Precludes Ethics
14.	Prof. Dr. Shah Jahan	Head	Institute of Management Studies, University of Peshawar	Peace and Conflict: Time Reporting
15.	Dr. Shamim Mahmood Zaidi	Chairperson	Department of Communication and Media Sciences, Fatima Jinnah Women University, Rawalpindi	Women Empowerment and Media Role
16.	Mr. Baram Ghauri	Incharge	Media and Journalism Department, University of Baluchistan, Quetta	Ethical Dilemma in Pakistan
17.	Syed Shaukat Ali Shah	Chairman	Department of Mass Communication, Hazara University, Mansehra	Election Politics and Role of Media
18	Sheikh Mohammad Anwar	Incharge	Department of Mass Communication, Government College University, Faisalabad	Media and Culture: The Case of Pakistan
19	Dr. Mehdi Hasan		Beaconhouse National University, Lahore	The Question of Implementation of Media Ethics and Responsibilities of Owners, Journalist Community and the Media Consumer
20	Dr. Anjum Zia	Head	Department of Mass Communication, Lahore College for Women University, Lahore	Portrayal of Women in Media
21	Dr. Farzana Bari	Head	Department of Gender Studies, Quaid-e-Azam University, Islamabad	Media and Gender

22	Mr. Rasheed Khalid	Head	Department of Defence and Strategic Studies, Quaid-e-Azam University, Islamabad	Media Managers, Their Role and Challenges
23	Mr. A w Baloch	Registrar/Head	Department of Mass Communication, Preston University, Islamabad	Role of Media in Strengthening the Democracy
24	Prof. Pervez A Hoodbhoy	Head	Department of Physics School of Science and Engineering LUMS, Lahore	
25	Ms. Sidra Chaudhry	Head	Department of Mass Communication, International Islamic University (Female Campus), Islamabad	Clashing Views on Media Ethics in Pakistan
26	Dr. Sohail Asghar	Head/Director	Arid Agriculture University, Rawalpindi	Media Diplomacy and Its Significance in Image Building
27	Mr. Tauseef Ahmed Khan	Head	Federal Urdu University of Arts, Science and Technology, <u>Karachi</u>	Media Role/Impact on Development of Urban and Rural Areas of Pakistan
28	Dr. Mughees Uddin	Former Dean & Prof	Superior University, Raiwind Road, <u>Lahore</u>	Media Ethics – Theory and Practice
29	Dr. Tahir Malik,	Head	NUML, Sector H-9, Islamabad	Impact of Globalization on Media Ethics
30.	Ms. Hina Shahid	Head	Department of Mass Communication, Foundation University, College of Liberal Art and Sciences, I-New Lala Zar, Rawalpindi.	Terrorism and Media in Pakistan
31.	Prof. Rizwan Taj	Head	Psychiatry PIMS, Islamabad	Psychological Effects of Media

Recommendations/Suggestions by the Participants of Two Days' National Conference

- * Media should not broadcast/publish information without thorough investigation
- * Avoid complexity and interpretative reporting should be promoted
- * Media should avoid presenting parodies of the national leaders
- * Media should more focus on education and development of general public
- * Monitoring of social media/citizen journalism is also required
- * Increased role of the owners of media organizations in editorial boards should be reduced
- * Media should limit element of commercialism
- * There should no deal and compromise between media owners/employees and parties, to maintain the standard of journalism
- * Our TV programmes should incorporate and based on our own cultural values
- * The concept of editorial choice should be exercised while reporting crimes /situation to avoid negative effect on the audience
- * While reporting crimes, crises, conflicts and disasters, sectorial or tribal identification should be avoided
- * Close family members of a victim should not be asked embarrassing questions by the reporters
- * Minimum qualification and salary should be fixed for the correspondents working in rural areas of the country
- * Journalists community and Press Council should promptly respond whenever journalists/media is attacked or humiliated

- * All media organizations should establish their own monitoring cells or appoint Ombudsmen for themselves
- * All media organizations should public their policies
- * Offices of the Editors need to be made stronger then the media organizations
- * The decision of the Supreme Court of Pakistan regarding 7th Wage Board Award should be fully implemented by media organizations and if they do not do so, the PFUJ should/may file a case of contempt of court
- * Newspapers Employees Act does not cover electronic media employees, the Act should be modified to cover them as well
- * Complaint Committee of Press Council should be made more effective for the enforcement of ethics
- * The Press Council of Pakistan should accredit media educations/institutions and their academic programmes and journalists
- * Criteria for hiring journalists in media organizations should be clearly defined by the Press Council of Pakistan
- * To publish the research studies regarding ethical issues on media, Press Council should initiate a research journal
- * Refresher courses for the mid career journalists with the help of Mass Communication Departments of the Universities should be organized by the Press Council of Pakistan.
- * Press Council of Pakistan should work/serve as a platform to develop consensus among all the stakeholders
- * Press Council should establish Research Cell for monitoring contents analysis of media

- * The Press Council should collaborate with all the Departments of Mass Communication for having a combined research on media
- * A working committee should be constituted by the Press Council to examine the issues relating to ethical codes and give recommendations on it
- * Press Council should examine all the press laws relating to the freedom of press so that suitable amendments could be suggested to the government.
- * The Press Council should take on board all the stakeholders i.e. PFUJ, CPNE, APNS, Media Studies Institutions and civil society to update ethics of media
- * Freedom of Information Act 2004 should be fully implemented so that journalists have easy access to information from government departments
- * The process of issuing advertisements to the print and electronic media should be made more transparent and an independent body should be appointed to monitor them.
- * In order to ensure transparency and accountability in the freedom of press, Provinces of Punjab and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa should enact law in this regard.
- * Freedom of press has been guaranteed under Article 19 of the Constitution of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan. Press includes electronic media etc as well. For the enforcement of ethics, electronic media needs to be brought within the ambit of PCP.
- * The Universities & Colleges should give maximum focus on 'Media Ethics and Practices in their research work
- * Coordination between Departments of Mass Communication and Media Industry is essential to address the market need
- * The existing media rating system and methodologies should be made public as practiced globally
- * Ethical Codes being practiced around the world should be obtained by the Departments of Mass Communication for the use/guidance of Press Council of Pakistan

* The Ethical Code of Practice developed by the Press Council of Pakistan should also be made part of the curriculum of all Departments of Mass Communication of the Universities

* To raise awareness and break the negative stereotypes of women in media is the right direction to change the future for women in this country. There is a need of campaigning to empower women and young girls to challenge the limiting media labels and recognize their potential.

The Committee/Board was constituted in terms of decision of the Press Council regarding constitution of Committees under section 16 of the PCP Ordinance.

Seminar on “Media and Issue of Professional Ethics”

While chairing a seminar on “Media and the issues of professional ethics” organized by Sustainable Development Policy Institute in Islamabad, Chairman PCP said that media needs a self checking mechanism to create credibility which goes to its own favor by devising and implementing an independent ethical policy. He emphasized that under



Senior anchorperson Muhammad Malik, Moeed Pirzada, Fahad Hussain, Hamid Mir, Zia-ud-Din editors and civil society notables participating in a seminar on “Media and Issue of Professional Ethics”

Constitutional guarantees of freedom of expression and freedom of information it is duty of the provincial governments to enact these laws to ensure people's right to know, but Punjab and KPK did not legislate on this subject.

He stressed the need to empowering the institution of editor in newspaper industry. M Ziauddin, Editor of Express Tribune said that media is in flux the world over due to advancement in technology which brings about ethical issues also. He referred to telephone hacking by Rubert Murdoch through police affecting inter-state relations.

He was of the view that journalists in Pakistan are struggling for freedom of expression for decades and there are no gatekeepers to take care of professional ethics in a real-time situation in the world of electronic media and print media has so many gatekeepers to take care of a situation. He stressed that there are red lines drawn by agencies and militants and the journalists are targeted in the cross-fire. Mohammad Malick, Resident Editor, The News, said that it was unfair to expect the media to behave impeccably while it was even denied facilities that are given in civilized societies. We don't even have a functioning Right of Information Act. There is no security of life or safety and the media personnel are expected to face all the odds. He was of the view that media was a commercial enterprise and a Rs. 38 billion a year industry and "you cannot ignore this aspect and expect the management to pay salaries to the staff". Anchor Hamid Mir from Geo TV said that we can only raise the issue of media ethics where a state exists with its writ all over the country. He said that state and owners both target working journalists. He said that secret fund of Rs. 5.5 billion with Information Ministry is also used to influence journalists.

He said that it is the responsibility of PCP to ensure implementation of code of ethics. Moeed Pirzada from state-run TV said that cross-media ownership led to monopolies in Pakistan where print and electronic media were owned by same persons.

He said that huge media monopolies in our country have no parallel in Europe. He said that the director or editor news had no authority and owners had all the controls in media. Fahad Hussain from ARY News said that media ethics is a big issue and cannot be solved by individual efforts. He said that ethical stand is not economically beneficial as viewers do not boycott channels airing unethical matter. He said ethics are absent in other sectors also. He posed the question who will determine what is ethical.

In the question hour, while replying to a question, Hamid Mir said that government, political parties and religious groups terrorise newspapers for favourable coverage. Mr Ziauddin said that coverage of women/children is at times shameless in media. Mr Pirzada said that there is no need of government channels. He said that instead of state or private channels, there should be public channels.

Seminar on “Media Ethics and Need for Press Council”

A seminar on ‘Media Ethics and Need for Press Council’ was organized by Department of Media and Communication Studies (DMCS), IIUI at New Campus International Islamic University Islamabad on December 17, 2012.

Prominent speakers including Press Council of Pakistan Chairman, Pervaiz Shaukat, President Federal Union of Journalists (PFUJ), Afzal Butt, President Islamabad Press Club, Mateeullah Jan, Senior Journalist Dr. Nabi Bux Jumani, Dean Faculty of Social Sciences and Dr. Zafar Iqbal Head of DMCS attended the seminar and expressed their views on the topic.

Press Council of Pakistan Chairman Raja M. Shafqat Abbasi speaking on the occasion, said that Ethical Code of Practices has been finalized with the consensus of APNS, CPNE and PFUJ. He said Press Council of Pakistan is working day and night to improve media standards, so that there should not be any ethical issue in media at all. According to him Press Council of Pakistan is now fully functional. Media has played vital role in strengthening the democracy and creating awareness among the society and PCP will strive for freedom of press, enforcement of the Ethical Code of Conduct, he added. He informed the gathering that PCP has sent Ethical Code of Conduct to all press clubs and newspapers asking them to display the same in their respective organizations.

He highlighted the need for responsibilities amongst working journalists as well as those who are becoming a part of this profession and stated that media related institutions and senior journalists should play helpful role for improving journalist role in today’s media.

Seminar on “Media Ethics in Disaster Reporting”

Speaking at a seminar titled “Media Ethics in Disaster Reporting” organized by the



Federal Minister for Information & Broadcasting, Firdous Ashiq Awan, Prof. Dr. Mumtaz Ahmed, Prof. Fateh Muhammad, Shafqat Memood of Disaster Management Authority, senior local and foreign journalists attending the seminar on “Disaster Reporting”.

Department of Media and Communication Studies, International Islamic University, Islamabad, Chairman Press Council of Pakistan said that media has played vital role in minimizing difficulties and miseries of the victims of the disasters. It was emphasized that during the devastating situation of earth quack and floods in the country in the recent years, it was media’s duty and responsibility to draw the attention of the society, government authorities as well as of donors for responding to the needs of victims of the disaster events. It was agreed that social media could also play important role in this regard and media should not display or show the pictures of the victims while receiving aid because displaying such pictures will injure the self-respect and dignity of human beings. If government officials or authorities provide any assistance or compensation to the victims, that is their obligation which cannot be displayed. In this context Chairman PCP said self-regulation is the best regulation. Media should know the Para-meters and code of practice. The prominent speakers who expressed their views in the seminar included; Fateh Muhammad Malik, Rector (IIUI), Dr. Zafar Iqbal, Ahmad Barkat, Aljazeera TV, Mateen Haider, Dawn, Hassan Khan, Khayber TV, Shafqat Munir.

Seminar on “National Media Policy and Role of Press Council of Pakistan”

A seminar titled ‘National Media Policy and Role of Society’ was organized by department of communication and media studies of Hazara University in collaboration with Press Council of Pakistan (PCP) on April 19, 2012 at Mansehra.

Hazara University
Vice-chancellor Dr
Syed Sakhawat
Shah, PCP
chairman Raja
Shafqat Abbasi,



Chairman PCP with students and faculty members of Mass Media Department of Hazara University

Chairman of journalism department Syed Shaukat Ali, Shujaat Ali Khan, Nisar Khan Swati, Kausar Saleem Bangash and Mohammad Faheem highlighted the value of freedom of information laws and urged the provincial governments to implement them.

Chairman PCP explained that although the law was enacted at centre and two provinces yet more was needed to be done for allowing masses access to public information. “Media should also follow rules and promote true journalism for the prosperity of the country,” he added.



PCP Chairman and Vice Chancellor Hazara University signing MoU

He informed that memorandums of understanding were being signed with the universities across the country for promoting ethical journalism and building capacity by improving skills of working journalists.

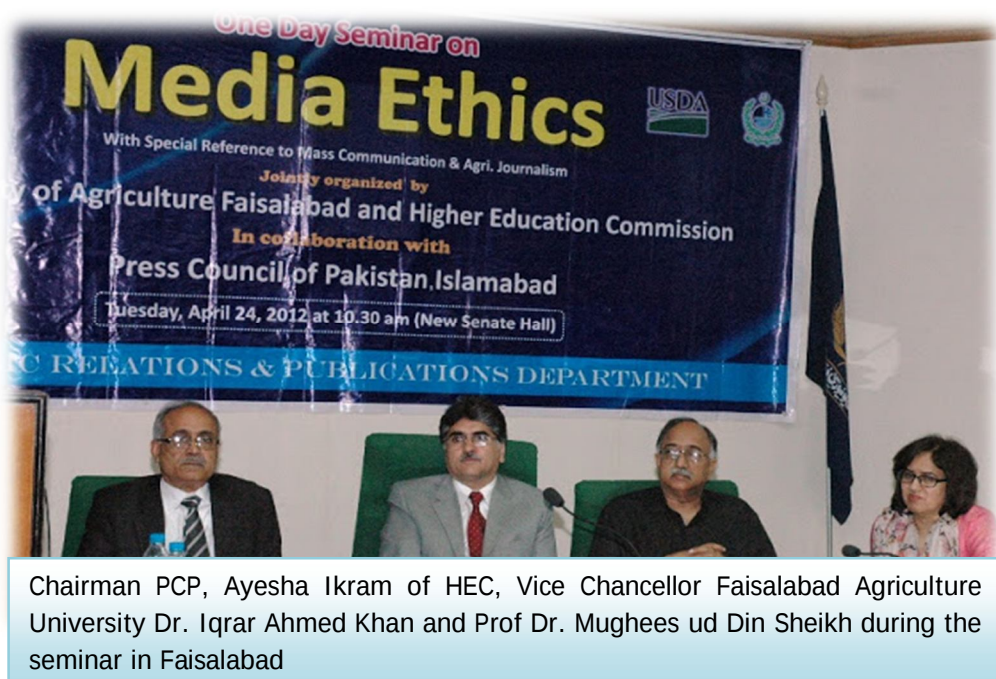
The PCP and Hazara University also signed a MoU to jointly organize

seminars, workshops and dialogues to promote true values of freedom of expression and information.

Seminar on “Media Ethics”

One day seminar on Media Ethics was organized by University of Agriculture and Higher Education Commission

in collaboration



with Press Council of Pakistan on April 24, 2012 at New Senate Hall, Faisalabad. The speakers urged media to make sure implementation of the media ethics and give solution to social issues of the common man to bring positive change in the society.

Chairman PCP chaired the seminar while UAF Vice Chancellor Dr. Iqar Ahmad Khan, HEC Director Media Ayesha Ikram, Institute of Communication Studies, Lahore, former Dean and Director Dr. Mughees-ud-din Shaikh and journalist Shamus Islam Naz were guest speakers of on the occasion.

PCP Chairman said that the self-regulation within the media organizations must be developed to keep check on the media ethics and ensure dissemination of real public issues. “By involving the journalists, civil society, members of parliament and others, we are determined to make Press Council of Pakistan more effective in order to implement the media ethics and framing a course of action,” he said.

Dr. Iqar Ahmad Khan lauded the efforts of the journalists to highlight the issues of the country and arising awareness about various issues of national interest.

KU Mass Comm Dept signs MoU with PCP

On the occasion of the World Press Freedom Day, the KU's Department of Mass Communication and the Press Council of Pakistan signed a MoU on 3 May, 2012 at Karachi. Under the agreement, a number of seminars, workshops will be arranged, in which resource persons and experts from both the institutions will share their expertise. The department's head expressed her gratitude, saying this sharing would surely benefit both the institutions because in the fast growing world of media, it is imperative that its members be equipped with the latest technology.



Mr. Raja Shafqat Khan Abbassi Chairman Press Council of Pakistan (PCP) Signing the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) to Collaborate between PC JP & Mass Communication Department on "press Freedom Day" here in Karachi on 3-5-2012

Meeting with Representatives of Regional Newspapers held at Hyderabad on 5th May, 2012

With a view to promote ethical journalism at regional level PCP Chairman, held an interactive meeting with representatives of regional newspapers at



Chairman PCP, Qazi Asad Abid and Dr. Jabbar Khattak with senior journalists and representatives of regional newspapers based in Hyderabad

Hyderabad. Among notables who were present in the gathering included Qazi Asad Abid, Dr. Jabbar Khattak Bureau Chief of Herald and other senior journalists. The representatives of regional media outlets appreciated PCP efforts in promoting good standards of ethical practice and assured him of his full support in following PCP Ethical Code of Practice.

Meeting with Lahore based senior Journalists, Columnists, Editors and Members of Civil Society, held on 2nd June, 2012

PCP organized an interactive meeting with the Lahore based senior journalists, columnists, editors and members of Civil Society to discuss 'Role of Present Day Media and Our National Challenges'. The prominent participants included



Lahore based senior journalists including Mujeeb ur Rehman, Zia Shahid, Munno Bhai, Asad ullah Ghalib, Irshad Arif holding an interactive meeting with PCP officials in Lahore

Mujib-ur-Rehman Shami, Munno Bhai, Asad Ullah Ghalib, Zia Shahid and Irshad Arif. They reviewed the state of free media and the challenges in promoting ethical journalism in the free functioning of the press.

PCP Organized one day “Media training workshop” at Secretariat on 15th June, 2012.

Around 100 journalists from Rawalpindi and Islamabad participated in the training sessions covering different areas of professional



Journalists from Rawalpindi and Islamabad attending Media Training Workshop at PCP Secretariat

skills. Mr. Irfan Ghouri; Chief Reporter Daily Express Tribune, Mr. Tahir Nayaz; senior journalist Daily Times, Mr. Tariq; senior journalist ARY News conducted the sessions of one day workshop. After the Workshop Chairman PCP distributed certificates among the media persons who attended the workshop.

Seminar to mark World Press Freedom Day

PCP in collaboration with Karachi University organized a one day seminar on “Responsibilities of the Press” to commemorate ‘The World Press Freedom



Chairman PCP addressing the gathering at Karachi University to mark Press Freedom Day

Day'. Speaking on the occasion participants highlighted the role of free press in shaping up democratic societies and empowerment of people by safeguarding their basic right to know. Ghazi Sala-ud-Din renowned columnist and Mujahid Brelvi senior anchorperson CNBC were among the guest speakers.

MEDIA ETHICS AND COURT REPORTING

With a view to promote press ethics in court reporting PCP has designed and organized number of seminars and workshops in collaboration with several Bar Associations from district to High Court level.

Basic aims of these events were to build capacity of the media persons covering court proceedings and to establish coordination between members of the Bar and Media while ensuring responsible free flow of information. Specific emphasis was on matters of women, youth, terrorism and issues of public importance.

These events are a part of PCP's policy to build consensus on different issues with regard to standards of ethical journalism in all forms of reporting.

These interactions with Press and Bar will enable PCP to draft its guidelines for court reporting in future

Seminar on "Media Ethics and Court Reporting"

To promote media ethics in reporting proceedings of the court PCP organized a seminar on "Media Ethics and Court Reporting" in collaboration with Punjab Judicial Academy and Lahore Bar Association on 4th February, 2012 at Lahore Judicial Academy.

The seminar was presided by PCP Chairman while Chief Justice Lahore High Court, Justice Azmat Saeed was the Chief Guest at the occasion. Other prominent guest speakers included Executive Editor, The Express Tribune; Muhammad Ziauddin, Chief Editor, Daily Pakistan; Mujeeb-ur-Rehman Shami, Columnist; Saeed Assi and Irfan Siddiqui renowned analyst, Lahore Bar Association President; Chaudhry Zulfiqar and Judicial Academy Chairman; Justice (R) Tanver Ahmed Khan.

Speaking at the occasion Chief Justice Lahore High Court; Justice Azmat Saeed said "no authority had the legal power to halt flow of information to people through press and electronic media about the working of all government departments, including the LHC". He said "he was generally satisfied that reporting



about the courts was factual and relevant. He said judgments became public property after the judges signed them, so they could not stop journalists from informing the public about them”.

Executive Editor, The Express Tribune; Muhammad Ziauddin said that media commentary on sub-judice matter was disrespectful of the judiciary. He said the movement for judicial independence had given the judges additional responsibility and it was their job to guard the institution’s dignity.



Mujeebur Rehman Shami, chief editor of daily Pakistan, said the rising trend of open debate on pending cases hurt the judiciary’s image and should be curbed. He said lawyers, judges and media should work together to ensure a free flow of information about legal issues to the public.

Irfan Siddiqui, a columnist for Jang, said reporters should not add their opinions to news reports. Opinion writing is for columnist, commentators and editorial writers, he said.

Seminar on “Media Ethics and Court Reporting”

In a seminar on ‘Media Ethics and Court Reporting’ organized jointly by Peshawar High Court Bar Association (PHCBA) and Press Council of Pakistan at PHCBA Bar Room on 21st June, 2012 at Peshawar, participants stressed for extra care while reporting proceedings of the court in press especially regarding juvenile and female cases. Speaking on the occasion Chief Justice Peshawar High Court (PHC), Justice Dost Muhammad Khan said that no institution can prevent judiciary from fulfilling its legal and constitutional responsibilities and judges will continue to provide speedy and inexpensive justice to litigants and it is the duty of the press to report these facts with responsibility, accuracy and fairness. He said constitution provides freedom of expression and speech to people and great responsibilities are on the shoulders of journalists to disseminate information based on accuracy, credibility, truth, facts and

impartiality for education of masses. The Chief Justice said no one can ignore the importance of media in this age of fast communication, adding people were politically mature and can judge difference between accurate news and story based on assumption. He said working journalists are backbone of media organizations as they are the one who report news stories and events from the spot as wrong reporting damages prestige and reputation of the courts and there is no place for sensationalism in these affairs.



Chief Justice PHC Justice Dost Muhammad Khan, Chairman PCP, senior journalist Hamid Mir, Syed Talat Hussain, President PHCBA Abdul Latif Afridi, senior lawyer Ather Minallah and President Peshawar Press Club Saif ul Islam Saifi attending the seminar in Peshawar

Chairman Press Council Pakistan (PCP) underscored the need for implementation of freedom of information laws terming it vital for smooth and accurate dissemination of news. He urged court reporters should chose words carefully as selection of wrong words can change essence and nature of judgments. Focus should also be made on capacity buildings of editors in news rooms so that unethical words were not telecast or published. Senior journalist Hamid Mir, Talat Hussain, President Peshawar Press Club Saiful Islam Saifi, senior lawyer Atharmin Ullah and President PHCBA, Abdul Latif Afridi also spoke on the occasion and stressed that criminals should not be projected as heroes in press and impression of judgment before judgment should be avoided. Later, the Chief Justice distributed certificates among Court reporters.

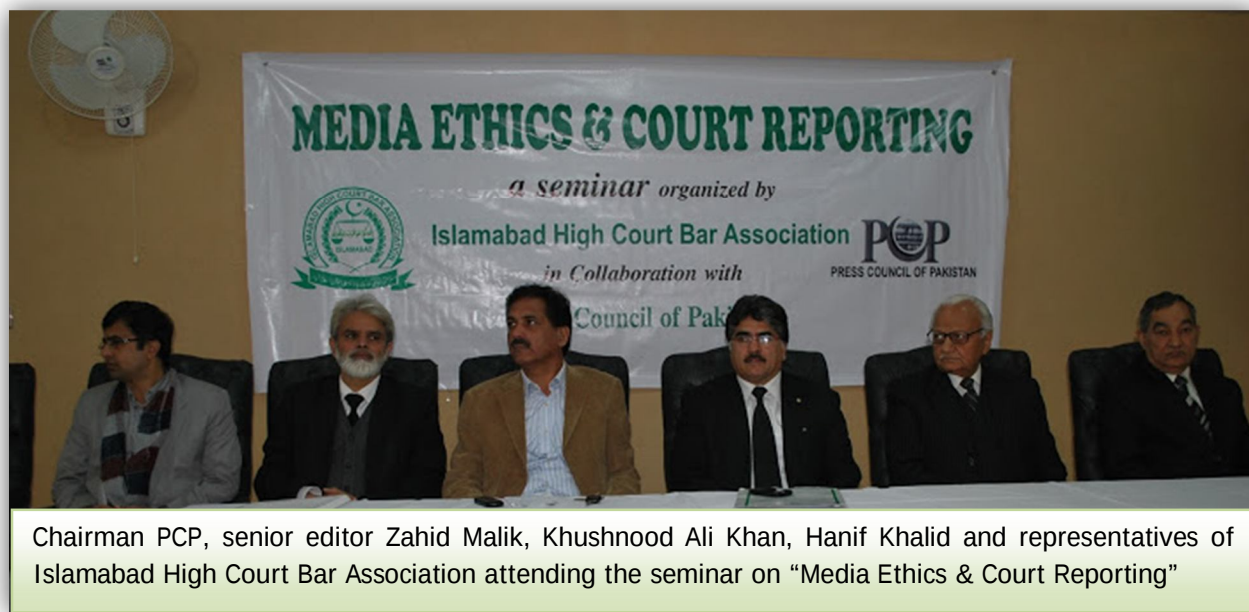
Seminar on “Media Ethics & Court Reporting”

In a seminar organized by Islamabad High Court Bar Association in collaboration with Press Council of Pakistan on Media Ethics and Court Reporting in Islamabad on February 7, 2013, prominent speakers including Chairman, Press Council of Pakistan,

Raja Shafqat Abbasi, Mr. Zahid Malik, Editor-in- Chief Pak observer, Mr. Khoshnood Ali Khan, Editor- in-Chief Daily Jinnah, Mr. Hanif Khalid, Resident Editor Daily Jang, Mr. Asad Malik, President (IHCPA), Dr. Syed Muhammad Anwar, President Islamabad Bar and Mr. Junaid Akhtar Chohan, General Secretary were among the notables who participated in the seminar.

Chairman PCP, speaking on the occasion, said that Press and lawyers have played a great role for restoration of judiciary and in strengthening the democracy and rule of law in the country. Court reporters are vital part of judicial system who need extra care and caution. They are officers of the court who inform the public about the court proceedings. He said “Court Reporting” is a specialized form of journalism. Mr. Abbasi urged the media men that while reporting the matter, principles of fairness, accuracy, relevancy, impartiality, right of privacy, verification and right of clarification should be maintained.

Mr. Zahid Malik said national interest must be kept in mind by the press, Mr. Khoshnood Ali Khan and Mr. Hanif Khalid said that media is playing a great role in educating the



society as well as strengthening the democratic institution.

Apart from the advocates, large number of the Court Reporters working in Rawalpindi/Islamabad attended the seminar.

Seminar on “Media Ethics & Court Reporting”

In another seminar on “Media Ethics and Court Reporting” organized by Islamabad Bar Association in collaboration with Press Council of Pakistan in Islamabad, prominent speakers including Chairman, Press Council of Pakistan Raja M. Shafqat Abbasi , Mr. Abdul Wadood Qurashi , Resident Editor Daily Khabrain, Mr. Aamir Jehangir (CEO Mishal), Mr. Sultan Shah, Ex President (CCRAR), Mr. Zaman, President (CCRAI), Mr. Javaid Saleem Shorish, Advocate Supreme Court, Mr. Ayub Arbab , General Secretary, Bar Association and Shahid Abbasi, Advocate and Mr. Naseer Anjum highlighted importance of upholding media ethics while reporting proceedings of the courts in press. Chairman PCP said that Court Reporters are vital part of judicial system. They are also officers of the court who inform the public about the court proceedings, he added. He said “Trail Reporting” is specialized form of journalism.

He offered that Press Council of Pakistan is ready to hold short courses with the collaboration of National Universities to enhance the capacity and professional capabilities of reporters. He said the PCP would give Award of the Year to the best court reporter to promote healthy journalism.

Mr. Wadood Qureshi, Mr. Sultan Shah and Mr. Aamir Jehangir said media is playing a great role in educating the society as well as strengthening the democratic institutions. Mr. Javaid Shorish and Mr. Naseer Anjum demanded that media institutions, Press Council and PEMRA should play their effective role in curbing yellow journalism.

Apart from the Advocates, large number of the Court Reporters working in Rawalpindi/Islamabad attended the Seminar.

Promoting Future of Ethical Journalism at Varsity Level

Capacity building of the working journalists both at the national and local level has been a prime focus of PCP promotional activities. The basic aim of these interventions is to develop euphoria among budding and young journalists about the good standards of practical media. PCP has arranged different activities in collaboration with different universities scattered throughout Pakistan with a sole objective of future of ethical press and broadcast challenges. Efforts were made to fill gap between theory and practical media. Different MoUs were signed between Press Council of Pakistan and universities to re-adjust their curriculum of Mass Communication Departments to address to future challenges.

Seminar on “Role of the Bar in Strengthening the Democracy and Democratic Institutions”

A seminar on “Role of the bar in Strengthening the Democracy and Democratic Institutions” was held within premises of Kahuta Bar Association (KBA). Addressing the seminar, Chairman PCP said that Bar can play an important role to strengthen the democracy and the institutions.

MEDIA IN COURTS

Taking cognizance of a petition filed by senior anchor Hamid Mir and senior journalist Absar Alam. Supreme Court of Pakistan has constituted a Media Commission to probe into allegation of financial corruption in media and to inquire about a 'Secret Fund' placed under Federal Ministry of Information and Broadcasting. The Commission was also authorized to assess performance of different departments attached to State Media outlets to justify their mandatory functions. The Commission has submitted its interim report to Supreme Court of Pakistan. Supreme Court has ordered the concerned quarters to provide information regarding secret funds gifted to selected media persons/media houses for political favors. Out of 288, list of 155 journalists/media houses who took gifts and payments from the Information Ministry would also be made public. The matter is still subjudice in the august courts but one thing is sure that under light of recommendations it is expected that the august court will set parameters for free media in Pakistan.

The Council in its third meeting held on August 2, 2012 at Lahore decided to submit application in the honorable Supreme Court for becoming a party in a petition pertaining to formation of a Media Commission in framing guidelines/ethics for media.

It was decided that The PCP should put its view point before the August Supreme Court that the present Ethical Code of Practice has been formulated by all the relevant stakeholders including APNS, CPNE and PFUJ etc. It is the mandate of the Press Council to revise, update, enforce and implement the Ethical Code for the newspapers, news agencies, editors, journalists and publishers. It was resolved that any Ethical Code framed by the Government or any other institution might cause some repercussions/consequences on the freedom of press or proper functioning of the press. The Press Council, while preserving the freedom of the press, shall maintain highest professional and ethical standards of the newspapers and news agencies with a view to making them more responsive to the issues and concerns of the society in Pakistan. The Council shall also act as a shield to freedom of the press in terms of Section 8 of the Ordinance, 2002. The application was accordingly submitted in the august Supreme Court for becoming a party in said proceedings through Mr. Ali Zafar and Ms. Ama Jehangir, senior Supreme Court Advocates. They had agreed to file the

petition on behalf of PCP without claiming any fee. Their gesture was lauded by the Council.

THE EXPRESS TRIBUNE, JANUARY 11, 2013

Regulating the watchdog

SC approves media accountability panel

Says it will formally announce the creation of commission on Jan 15

OUR CORRESPONDENT
ISLAMABAD

A Supreme Court bench on Thursday approved the formation of a two-member commission for upholding the principles of media regulation.

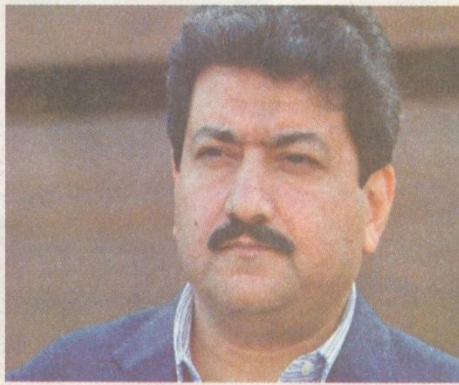
The bench, headed by Justice Jawad S Khawaja, announced that the commission would comprise a former judge of the Supreme Court Justice (Retd) Nasir Aslam Zahid and ex-information minister Javed Jabbar.

The commission has been formulated on the request of petitioners Hamid Mir, Absar Alam and Asad Kharal for maintaining principles of media and content regulations and upholding the authority's constitution. The committee is supposed to keep checks on any fiscal misappropriation by the ministry of information and other federal government departments, and take account of the government's advertisements through Midas Pvt Ltd.

The committee is supposed to keep checks on any fiscal misappropriation and take account of the government's ads through Midas Pvt Ltd

The bench was presented with a draft prepared by Islamabad High Court Bar Association president Syed Nayyab Hassan Gardezi, in consultation with the petitioners and other respondents, including representatives of the Federation of Pakistan, through the information and broadcasting ministry, Pakistan Electronic Media Regulation Authority (Pemra), Midas Pvt Ltd and other stakeholders on the court's orders.

On Wednesday, the court had asked Gardezi to convene a meeting of stakeholders and submit a Terms of Reference



Journalist Hamid Mir. PHOTO: FILE

regarding the formation of a commission in light of the earlier court orders issued on December 21, 2012.

The draft submitted before the apex court by Gardezi stated that these terms of reference have been settled with the consent of all parties.

The point of view of Hamid Mir, Absar Alam, Asad Kharal,

the task of their advertisement to their preferred advertising agencies on merit, adhering to the formalities of the code, and if the said issue is decided, what should be considered for granting advertising campaigns to such agencies at a large scale.

During the hearing, the bench rejected the objections of the additional advocate general, counsel for information ministry and Pemra, regarding the formation of the commission.

The court adjourned the hearing of the case and said that a verdict will be formally issued on January 15.

Justice Khilji Arif said a transparent media policy is essential for transparent elections. He expressed hope that the commission will present its recommendations and that they will be implemented before the elections to ensure delivery of unpolluted information to the masses.

Dr Tariq Hassan, Nasir Jamal, Husnain Ibrahim Kazmi, Nasir Ayaz, Adnan Iqbal Chaudhry, Yasin Azad and Raja Masqat Nawaz were incorporated into the draft.

One of the petitioners Asad Kharal, in his point of view, said that it should be decided whether the federal and provincial governments can give

PCP MEDIA GUIDELINES FOR ELECTIONS-2013

With a view to promote ethical journalism during upcoming elections and in pursuance of its statutory role under Section 8 of PCP Ordinance, 2002, to evolve, revise and update Media Ethics, PCP started consultation with all media stakeholders, including APNC, CPNE, PFUJ, Bar Association, Academia and relevant civil society organizations in October, 2012.

After consultative meetings with media stakeholders in Lahore, Multan, Karachi, Quetta and Islamabad draft media guidelines were formulated and approved in general Council meeting on 20th December, 2012. After approval, PCP published and circulated media guidelines among stakeholders. To reach



Consultative Meeting of media stakeholders to evolve Media Guidelines for Elections 2013 held in Lahore

out media outlets/media person at grass root level, it was translated in five languages, including three regional languages; Pushto, Balochi and Sindhi for circulation throughout Pakistan.

Having a statutory complaint driven mechanism to implement media ethics, PCP looked forward to Election Commission and media stakeholders for their support to evolve a joint mechanism in this regard.

PCP has also sent a declaration form to major political parties contesting polls to declare their solemn pledge to uphold press freedom during elections and not to interfere in the free functioning of the press.

PCP Election Guidelines for Media

To harness pluralistic Media development in Pakistan freedom of expression has been guaranteed by the Article 19(A) of the Constitution of Islamic Republic of Pakistan. This constitutional guarantee coupled with section 8 (I) of the PCP Ordinance, the Council shall perform to help press to maintain its independence and to revise, update, enforce and implement the Ethical Code of Practice for media houses and media practitioners.

There are different sets of interlocking rights as media gears up its political socialization campaign that culminates in reporting election day event.

- a. Peoples' (voters) right to make fully informed choice before and during polls.
- b. Contesting candidate's right to put his/her political vision and policies across using media platform.
- c. Rights of media houses as corporate citizens of the land.

To ensure that these interlocking rights are not trespassed, media needs to strive at all times to;

- a. passing on credible information without favoring any candidate to people to enable them to make an informed choice.
- b. avoid discrimination against any political party, leader or candidate.
- c. protect free functioning of all media platforms while ensuring freedom of expression and upholding values attached to it.
- d. reach out to all communities without prejudice and making them aware of the election process and how they can freely exercise their right to vote.

Keeping in view values of fair, unbiased and ethical coverage of elections, media should ensure that:-

1. The media shall apply principles of fairness in the allocation of time and space in provision of coverage to political parties and candidates while recognizing that balance and fairness are achieved over a reasonable period of time.
2. The media shall reflect the voices of men and women and opinions of all sections of society and all democratic groups that uphold the Constitution of Pakistan and law/rules of the country.

- a) All media, both public and private, shall observe the distinction between advertising and editorial content and shall not allow forms of advertising or paid political promotion to be disguised as editorial content.
 - b) Paid political content must be identified as such.
 - c) A balance between broadcasting of paid for content and editorial content shall be maintained in line with agreed industry standards.
3. Media shall encourage election participation and shall, in particular, discourage;
- a) all forms of rumors, speculation, sensationalism and disinformation, particularly when these concern specific political parties or candidates,
 - b) publication of unsubstantiated allegations or personal remarks or opinions that are designed to be offensive and malicious and verify information regarding individuals or parties which is critical or negative before it is telecast, broadcast or published,
 - c) all forms of hate speech that can be interpreted as incitement to violence or has the effect of promoting public disorder.
4. This pledge to avoid inflammatory expression shall apply to coverage of political activities at all levels, including when it applies to the reporting of statements or remarks by political leaders or candidates.
5. The Media shall exercise caution in the use of opinion polls and surveys during electioneering process and especially close to Election Day. While publishing/broadcasting finding of opinion polls and surveys media shall indicate the number of people, geographical area on which the polls and surveys were based and the identity of the polls sponsor.

6. Media should report accurately the election results as they emerge from Election Commission of Pakistan and should avoid publications/broadcasting incomplete and unauthorized election results pouring in from different constituencies on election day.
7. All media shall ensure that all their staff designate to cover election, including those working at local level are well trained and politically neutral.
8. Safety of journalists and media staff is paramount, all media and law enforcement agencies should take effective measures in this regard.
9. Candidates in elections shall not act as news anchors, interviewers or presenters of any type of programme during the election period.
10. Journalists covering elections should distance themselves from being an agent of any political party/candidate.
11. Journalists covering elections should not pay any political price by accepting any inducement/gifts/cash.
12. Media must offer an equitable space and time to major political parties/contesting candidates in any constituency.
13. Media should resist pressure whatsoever by any political party/candidate or their supporter for any favor with regard to elections. Likewise political parties/candidates and their supporters should keep their hands out of the affairs of the journalists and uphold respect of freedom of press.
14. Media shall give the audience regular information about appropriate websites or other information source listing all candidates taking part in the elections.
15. Media should act together to protect each other from acts of violence or political intimidation and ensure that fair and transparent systems are used for

the allocation of state and political advertising related to the elections.

Steps to implement these media guidelines are as under

- a. Having a statutory obligation to receive and decide public and private complaints in violation of identified benchmarks of media ethics for media coverage of elections, PCP shall act as a vanguard in protecting rights of media without sacrificing the true values of freedom of expression.
- b. PCP will set up a 'Press Monitoring Cell'.
- c. PCP monitoring cell will share gathered information with Election Commission, Journalists, media houses and relevant stakeholders to ensure free and fair election.
- d. The PCP will prepare a pre and post election monitoring report with regard to adoption and observance of the media guidelines for elections by PCP.

Note:

PCP believes that media exercises all its claims of independence and freedom on behalf of people's right to know and efforts of all media should be focused on fulfilling its commitment towards society because the ultimate judge of media performance during elections are the people of Pakistan.

Activities to Promote Ethical Reporting in Elections 2013 after Launching PCP Media Guidelines for Elections

Seminar on “Role of Media & Bar in Upcoming Elections, 2013” held at High Court Bar Association, Rawalpindi

Seminar on “Role of Media and Bar in Upcoming Elections, 2013” was organized at High Court Bar Association Rawalpindi in collaboration with Press Council of Pakistan on March 21, 2013 at High Court Bar Association, Rawalpindi.

Presiding over the seminar Chairman PCP asked political parties contesting upcoming polls to sign a joint declaration to uphold Press Freedom and not to interfere in impartial and transparent media coverage during elections. He stressed all political parties should support free functioning of the press during elections as it would also be a litmus test for media performance while covering this national event. He informed that to promote ethical practice PCP has published its approved 'Media Guidelines' after



due consultation with all media stakeholders including APNS, CPNE, PFUJ and relevant Civil Society organizations which were further translated in five languages including three regional languages, to be circulated among media persons across Pakistan.

Addressing the gathering President, HCBA, Tofeeq Asif said press and bar have always served the cause of democracy in Pakistan and both will continue to do so in strengthening democracy in future. President PFUJ, Pervaiz Shouket asked the bar and media to cleanse their ranks of opportunists because both institutions are sacred and have a due role in developing a strong democratic Pakistan.

Sardar Khan Niazi of Daily Pakistan praised PCP efforts in protecting freedom of expression and asked it to ensure implementation of freedom of information laws in all the four Provinces to improve people's access to public information. Wadood Qureshi Resident Editor of Daily Khabrain criticized the role of some NGO's, who under guise of doing service to free media, were actually forwarding their own agenda of interest. He advised PCP to stay away from such opportunistic designs of certain quarters.

Among the notables who addressed the gathering were former President HCBAR, Mr. Ikram Ch, senior lawyer Mr. Abeer Wahab-ul-Khari, Mr. Siddique Alvi, Raja Ameer Akbar, Miss. Batool, Mr. Faisal Khan Niazi and Ch. Masood.



Workshop Organized by Press Council of Pakistan on “Promoting Ethical Journalism in Reporting General Elections, 2013”

PCP in collaboration with National Press Club, Islamabad organized a training workshop on “Promoting Ethical Journalism in Reporting General Elections, 2013” in Islamabad on April 5, 2012. Speakers at the workshop were of the view that for a fair,

unbiased and ethical coverage of elections, media should ensure fairness in allocation of time and space while covering political parties during polls.

Senior Journalist and Anchorperson Talat Hussain said that currently the social media seems to be the only medium for the candidates. "It is the responsibility of a reporter to sift relevant data from the bulk before coming up with a story worth reading," he said.

He added that as far as the responsibility of a journalist was concerned, he should first



Chairman PCP, anchorperson Syed Talat Hussain, President PFUJ Shaukat Pervez, Kanwar Dilshad and CEO SPO Naseer Memon at the Workshop held at National Press Club, Islamabad

look at the bulk of news followed by exceptions.

"The coming elections are a test of your capabilities as how you handle news in a rush when you have the liberty to cover and kill it," he said.

NPC President Faisal

Farooq Khan said that if a journalist was approached by any party or pressurized for a favour, they should approach the committee assigned by the Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) to lodge the complaint.

Strengthening Participatory Organization (SPO) Chief Executive Naseer Memon said



that journalists were on the driving seat as they were holding one of the responsible and sensitive professions.

Press Council of

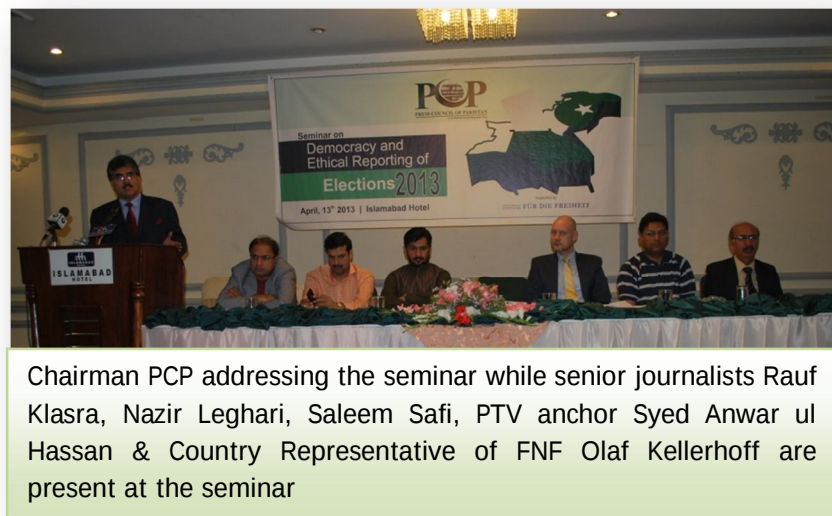
Pakistan Chairman, said that journalists should report on equitable grounds and avoid being biased. "Media has played a remarkable role in securing democracy, strengthening it and highlighting civil rights issues," he said.

Pakistan Federal Union of Journalists President Pervaiz Shoukat said that he had taken up with the ECP the issues relating to ethical coverage of upcoming polls. "I told them that any step to silence media will not be accepted because it is against the freedom of press," he added.

PCP Organized Seminar on "Democracy & Ethical Reporting of Elections, 2013"

Only free, impartial and responsible media reporting can play an important role in the upcoming general elections besides creating awareness among the masses for selecting suitable

candidates. These views were expressed by participants at a seminar on "Democracy and Ethical Reporting of Elections 2013" organized by Press Council of Pakistan (PCP) on 13th April in



Chairman PCP addressing the seminar while senior journalists Rauf Klasra, Nazir Leghari, Saleem Safi, PTV anchor Syed Anwar ul Hassan & Country Representative of FNF Olaf Kellerhoff are present at the seminar

Islamabad which was participated by senior journalists, anchor persons, reporters, civil society representatives and officials of election monitoring organizations. Sharing his remarks on the occasion, Chairman PCP, said the next elections would be quite important for the future of the country and media has to play a pivotal role in this regard. He said ethical code of reporting should be strictly followed by the media practitioners.

He urged that "Code of ethics should be strictly followed while reporting elections so

that the clear picture is unveiled to common people who have the right to get up to date knowledge of current circumstances in the country",.

Speaking on the occasion, senior journalist, Saleem Safi said media is a fourth pillar of state and a big responsibility lies on its shoulder for creating awareness and build opinion of people. He said media persons are accountable to masses and it is their responsibility to report impartially.

Anwar ul Hassan, another T.V Anchor on the occasion said media reporting has deep influences on minds of people as they establish their opinion on the basis of information they gather from traditional or social media.

Another renowned journalist, Rauf Kalasra said media must investigate facts while keeping in mind the ethical underpinning and produce more and more stories on actual

circumstances so that people could select a good, committed and fair leadership which would help lead the country on the way of progress.

A senior media person Nazir Laghari said vote of every person counts and it is time

not only to persuade people to participate in elections but also to give them authentic knowledge for electing visionary, dynamic and professional people who understand problems of general public and have the commitment to give relief to them.



PCP Election Guidelines for Media and Declaration of Political Parties

With a view to have support of political parties contesting elections 2013 in promoting ethical reporting during election coverage PCP sent a declaration form to be signed by all major political parties to pledge their support and assist in the free functioning of press and freedom of expression.

PCP DRAFT DECLARATION OF POLITICAL PARTIES

All political parties, who champion the cause of democracy in Pakistan, are bound, constitutionally, morally and under public covenant to represent people, to honor values attached to the smooth functioning of democratic process.

This thought gets even more profound especially when it comes to democratic transfer of power by holding free and fair elections after lapsing political mandate periodically.

All political parties along with Election Commission of Pakistan, free media and civil society agree that upcoming elections 2013 offer us tremendous opportunity to strengthen democracy and relevant institutions.

“Holding elections” fairly, “Contesting Elections” democratically and “Reporting Elections” transparently and responsibly in free media all go side by side towards a common goal that is free and fair elections.

All these stakeholders of free and fair elections expect fairness on each other's part so each of them should also recognized other's mandate and rights.

Press Council of Pakistan believes that strength of free media is actually the strength of democracy in any society and that is why free media is a democratic necessity to oversee transfer of power by “Reporting Elections” impartially and transparently without any form of political interference whatsoever.

So during polls any attempt or act of undoing present day free media or any interference in the free functioning of the press can harm nascent democracy and would hamper growth of free and independent media in Pakistan.

PCP also believes that “Reporting Elections 2013” would be a litmus test of credibility for the performance of freely operating Pakistani media.

In these testing times PCP desires of all political parties contesting polls to sign a joint declaration to reiterate their solemn pledge to uphold the followings.

1. Political parties will respect freedom of information and expression as guaranteed by article 19-A of the constitution of Pakistan
2. All political parties will support and assist in the free functioning of independent press during polls.
3. All political parties shall declare that no member of any political party or their activist or their supporter will pressurize, intimidate or harass any media person/ media house for political favor during coverage of elections.
4. Representatives of political parties should also earnestly declare that their members, activists and supporters will assist media person/media houses covering elections independently and transparently.

PCP will appreciate if all political parties sign a joint declaration to uphold values of free media, in a ceremony held under the banner of a statutory body like Press Council of Pakistan in coming days.

To add value to the role of free media in reporting elections 2013 PCP, after hectic consultations with all media stakeholders, has formulated and published media guidelines to promote ethical and responsible during media coverage of upcoming polls.

Approved by the PCP Council meeting on 20th December 2012 these guidelines aim at enabling present day media to deliver freely but responsibly. All concerns addressed to in the draft declaration points are part of PCP media guidelines for elections 2013.

PCP also looks forward to the political endorsement of this recourse document.

PCP believes free media is an essential component of democracy package and only free media that thrives on the guiding principles of ethical journalism can sustain democratic values in the country and enable people to develop a civic sense by socializing them politically, economically and ethically.

PCP GENDER SENSITIVE MEDIA GUIDELINES

Consultations with the concerned stakeholders are under way to finalize draft of gender sensitive media guidelines to promote gender balance in media coverage.

Draft Guidelines for Gender Sensitive Media

1. In democracy, Press freedom is a way of establishing sovereignty of people including both men and women and works as a catalyst to create gender balance in society.
2. In a free Press all journalistic guidelines aim at developing a media that is ethical, credible, independent and devoid of all forms of bias including gender bias.
3. Given the substantial opinion making role free media of Pakistan can be an effective tool in breaking down barriers of cultural and social stereotype and empowering women.
4. From a gender perspective, PCP believes that Press must address root causes underlying weak responsiveness of present day free media and promote a media that is gender sensitive.
5. To achieve this, ethical media of Pakistan should strive at all times to;
 - a. Ensure balance of women and men as sources, experts, analysts and commentators on a wide range of issues debated in the media
 - b. In news media should target women and men as equal subject of news and views by streaming gender in their coverage.
 - c. Minimize negative and stereotypical portrayal of women in media.
 - d. Minimize media stereotypes which are sometimes inevitable.
 - e. Integrate gender balance in daily news gathering and reporting.
 - f. Breaking down gender based division of hard and soft news.
 - g. Empower women against prevalent hard social stereotypes.
 - h. Protect women by implementing gender sensitive ethical code to improve gender sensitive reporting.
 - i. Ensure balanced representation of women in media houses.
 - j. Train and gender sensitize journalists to improve gender sensitive reporting.
 - k. Adopt gender-aware policies and gender sensitive methodologies.
 - l. Avoid sensational approach in covering gender issues.

- m. Avoid policy of commodification, commercialization and consumerism of women in media.
- n. Breaking females stereotypes in entertainment and news media.
- o. Protect gender role in advertisement to promote healthy gender balance.

6. Violence against women

Definition

Any act of gender based violence that results in, or likely to result in, physical, sexual, or mental harm or suffering to women, including threats of such acts, coercion or arbitrary deprivation of liberty whether occurring in public or in private life.

PCP endorses U.N definition on violence against women and asks Pakistani media practitioners to adopt it in letter and spirit and promote gender sensitive reporting in covering issues of women and especially crimes against women.

It includes

- a. Media should employ caution against identification in cases involving rape, abduction, acid throwing incidents, sexual assaults or news regarding HIV/AIDS.

Note: Names, photographs or other particulars indicating identity should not be published or broadcast.

- b. Media should observe restraint while reporting official visits to victims of rape/sexual assault.
- c. Media should maintain secrecy of the sources of confidential information in covering crimes against women.
- d. Media should not sensationalize the information at the cost of honor and safety of a victim of rape/sexual assault.
- e. The marital status of a woman and number of her children should not be mentioned in rape and elopement cases.

7. Pictorial depiction of women in media is another area. It requires that;

- a. Media should avoid portraying of women as mere subjects.

- b. Media must observe restraint in publishing/broadcasting disproportionate pictures of foreign women in skimpy sportswear and beauty contests and replace it with positive portrayal of local women in sports.
 - c. Pictures of glamorous women should be replaced with pictures of women who have achieved successes in various fields.
 - d. Media must not publish/broadcast uncapped pictures of women appearing in most newspapers and other media outlets without prior permission of the subjects.
 - e. Media must discourage commodification of women's images in advertisements of shaving creams, cigarettes, tyres etc.
 - f. Media should exercise maximum restraint in publication/broadcasting of vulgar and provocative ads of movies.
8. Professional and quality coverage of women issues requires media to;
- i. Avoid judgmental words or phrases, only the fact should be reported in any event.
 - ii. Replace gender insensitive vocabulary with gender sensitive vocabulary.
 - iii. Media houses should evolve gender-aware policies and organize training programs to gender sensitize the media practitioners.
 - iv. Media houses should have effective and enforceable mandatory policies on sexual harassment.
 - v. The voice of women should be reflected in media pertaining to a variety of issues and not just women specific issues.
 - vi. Representation of more women in media can do the both trick for development of common gender policies.

LINKAGES WITH INTERNATIONAL PRESS COUNCILS

Media needs no boundaries and no media can grow in isolation. Taking lead from this global fact PCP after being revitalized in October, 2011 has endeavored at regional and international level to be a part of international media striving for standards of good practice at this level. To share experiences of other countries in media development PCP at the moment has close interactions with WAPC, AIPCE and SAARC countries as a member state.

World Association of Press Councils (WAPC)

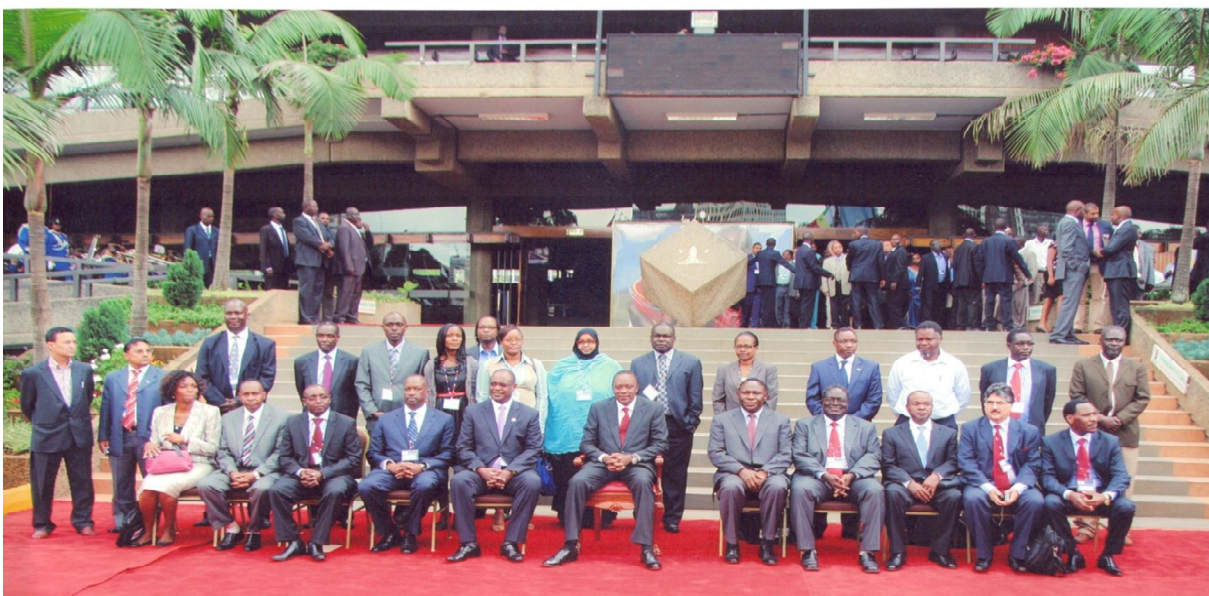
Executive Council of World Association of Press Councils (WAPC) has approved the membership of Press Council of Pakistan (PCP) in its annual meeting held on September 6, 2012 at Moro Goro, Tanzania.

Request for the membership of this prestigious organisation was made by the PCP in 2012. PCP Chairman Raja Shafqat Abbasi gave a detailed presentation about the working, mandate and composition of the PCP. Press Council of India (PCI) Chairman Justice Markandey Katju proposed the resolution for the membership of PCP, which was endorsed and seconded by Turkey, Nepal and Kenya. After detailed discussions and debate, about 15 executive council members unanimously approved membership of the Press Council of Pakistan and hence PCP became the member of Executive Committee of WAPC. Executive Council members of WAPC lauded the courageous role played by the Pakistani journalists and media persons, especially who gave their lives in line of their duties.

WAPC HONORS COURAGE OF PAKISTAN'S JOURNALISTS

At its recent Executive Council meeting in Dar es Salaam, Tanzania, the WAPC Executive Council was pleased to welcome the Press Council of Pakistan to WAPC membership.

The WAPC observes that according to press freedom and human rights organizations,



Pakistan is one of the most dangerous places in the world for journalists. These sources indicate that more than 80 have been killed and numerous have been wounded in the past 12 years. While there is some disagreement about exact numbers, it is clear that Pakistan's journalists face a daunting reality in carrying out their assignments. The WAPC sends its sympathy and condolences to the families of those who have died, and observes that with such acts of impunity, hope for democracy also dies! The Executive Council of the WAPC salutes the bravery of Pakistani journalists. They continue to provide the public with important information and do so in the face of violence and with great courage.

The WAPC executive council is made up of representatives from Azerbaijan, Hawaii (USA), India, Kenya, Malawi, Nepal, Pakistan, Tanzania, Turkey, the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus (TRNC), Uganda, and Zimbabwe.

WAPC has desired that its next meeting may be held in Pakistan

**Resolutions of World Association of Press Councils (WAPC) Condemning
violence against Pakistani Journalists**



WORLD ASSOCIATION OF PRESS COUNCILS (WAPC)

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

May 5, 2013

For Further Information Contact:

Chris Conybeare, WAPC Secretary General

conybeare@msn.com

**WAPC Condemns Violence Against Journalists in Pakistan
and Honors Their Courage**

At its recent General Assembly and Executive Council meeting, held May 4, 2013 in Nairobi, Kenya, the WAPC noted the continuing violence against journalists and media workers in Pakistan. According to Reporters Without Borders, at least 5 journalists were killed between January and March of this year. WAPC Secretary General, Chris Conybeare said:

We salute the courage of Pakistani journalists and media workers and condemn these acts of impunity. When journalists are killed, democracy also dies. We call on the international community to stand in solidarity with our colleagues in Pakistan.

The safety and security of journalists and all media workers is one of the indicators of a democratic environment. This appalling lack of security is of special concern as Pakistan faces general elections on May 11, 2013. We note that Pakistan has made great strides toward democratic governance, and we support continued efforts to reduce violence.

The WAPC is an international association of press and media councils that have pledged to uphold ideals of freedom of communication, independent media, and excellence in journalism.

The WAPC executive council is made up of representatives from Hawaii (USA), India, Kenya, Malawi, Nepal, Pakistan, Seychelles, Tanzania, Turkey, the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus (TRNC), Uganda, and Zimbabwe.



WORLD ASSOCIATION OF PRESS COUNCILS (WAPC)

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

September 20, 2012

For Further Information Contact:

Chris Conybeare, WAPC Secretary General

conybeare@msn.com

WAPC HONORS COURAGE OF PAKISTAN'S JOURNALISTS

At its recent Executive Council meeting in Dar es Salaam, Tanzania, the WAPC Executive Council was pleased to welcome the Press Council of Pakistan to WAPC membership.

The WAPC observes that according to press freedom and human rights organizations, Pakistan is one of the most dangerous places in the world for journalists. These sources indicate that dozens have been killed and numerous have been wounded in the past 12 years. While there is some disagreement about exact numbers, it is clear that Pakistan's journalists face a daunting reality in carrying out their assignments.

The WAPC sends its sympathy and condolences to the families of those who have died, and observes that with such acts of impunity, hope for democracy also dies!

The Executive Council of the WAPC salutes the bravery of Pakistani journalists. They continue to provide the public with important information and do so in the face of violence and with great courage.

The WAPC is an international association of press and media councils that have pledged to uphold ideals of freedom of communication, independent media, and excellence in journalism.

The WAPC executive council is made up of representatives from Azerbaijan, Hawaii (USA), India, Kenya, Malawi, Nepal, Pakistan, Tanzania, Turkey, the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus (TRNC), Uganda, and Zimbabwe.

Report on the Participation of Pakistani Delegate at the 14th Annual Conference of Alliance of Independent Press Councils of Europe (AIPCE) held at Antwerp, Belgium

14th Annual Conference of Alliance of Independent Press Councils of Europe (AIPEC) was held in Antwerp, Belgium from 17th to 19th October, 2012. AIPCE is a network of independent self regulatory Press Councils of Europe for both print and broadcast media. Its annual conference provides its members a joint platform to discuss issues related to freedom of expression and self-regulation.

Delegates from more than 35 countries representing independent Press Councils attended the conference to share their experience through individual presentations.

From Asia only Pakistan, Sri Lanka and Korean delegates were invited to participate in the conference. It provided the PCP delegate an excellent opportunity to present a strong case of growing democracy, free media development and safety of working journalists in Pakistan these days.

Distinguished forum of AIPCE also provided Pakistani delegate a chance to dispel some of the unfounded misperceptions held by some participating countries about the development of free media and struggling democracy in Pakistan.

As members of AIPCE representatives of independent press councils of Armenia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Belgium, Bosnia Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Council of Europe, Croatia, Cyprus, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Hungary, Ireland, Israel, Kosovo, Kyrgyzstan, Moldova, Montenegro, Netherland, Nepal, New Zealand, Norway, OSCE Pakistan, Russia, Serbia, Spain, South Africa, Spain, Sri Lanka, Sweden, Switzerland, Tajikistan, U.K, Ukraine and UNESCO attended the 14th annual conference of AIPCE.

Not only the words but the syntax of the conference matched perfectly to the targets set by PCP for developing free but responsible media in Pakistan.

Self-regulation of media through consistent introspection by media itself was one of the basic themes of the AIPCE Conference.

While presenting country report the Pakistani delegate, Chairman PCP; Raja M. Shafqat Khan Abbasi stated that Press Council of Pakistan has been recently revitalized after a decade during present democratic dispensation in the country that does not allow any state meddling in the dissemination of news and views in the free media and it welcomes all shades of public criticism against it.

He stated that birth of free media in Pakistan has worked as a catalyst to strength indicator of democracy in Pakistan. He also referred to the sacrifices of media persons in their search for truth while reporting in conflict zones.

With regard to ethical dilemma in media coverage of shocking events, Pakistani delegate made the conference aware of the resolve of Pakistani Media to report violent terrorism in certain pockets of the country.

It was communicated in a befitting manner that PCP is an autonomous body that upholds true values of freedom of expression and acts like a shield against any pressure to ensure free flow of creditable information.

Besides, Pakistani delegate contributed in all group discussions of the conference and used available time and space to project Pakistan's soft image in the comity of World Nations.

During sessions of 3 day AIPCE Conference, following subjects were taken up:-

1. Recent Evolutions in the Media Regulatory Landscape.
2. Actual Challenges of Media Self Regulation.
3. Online Issues.
4. Freedom of Expression and 'Responsible Journalism'.
5. Press complaints commission of UK and Leveson Inquiry
6. Press Council regulated by Law, reference to the Danish Press Council.

7. Journalism ethical network.

8. Recent development in the case law of the European Court of Human Rights.

Pakistan has been added to AIPCE official website having a symbol of national Pakistani flag with a hyperlink www.presscouncil.org.pk

AIPCE is now spreading its network with independent press councils of the other continents. Idea of giving the status of 'Partner Organization' in the member council other than European or Euro Vision is encouraging step and PCP welcomes it.

Visit of Bangladeshi Journalists to PCP Secretariat



A delegation of senior Bangladeshi journalists calling on PCP Chairman on June 12, 2012 in Islamabad

On 12-06-2012 a delegation of Bangladeshi journalists visited PCP Chairman at PCP Secretariat, Islamabad and discussed matters of mutual interest.

Both sides agreed to share their experience of free functioning of press and its vitality in a democratic society to find common grounds in developing free but responsible media.

PCP Chairman welcomed the delegation and assured them of PCP's full support in enhancing full cooperation in the field of mass media and strengthening its ethical underpinning.

Conference on “Overview and Changing Trends in the Development of Press Councils Worldwide”

To establish links between worldwide Press Councils and to enhance conceptual



understanding in strengthening free press, PCP held a conference in Islamabad under title “Overview and Changing Trends in the Development of Press Councils Worldwide” on July 5, 2012. The Conference was presided over by PCP Chairman while delegation of Indonesian Press Council attended the Conference on special invitation.

Mr. Eden White, International Ambassador of ‘Ethical Journalism’ was also present in the Conference to share his worldwide experience. It was agreed in the Conference that all Press Councils should interact closely to build global concepts of ethical journalism.

Visit of US Journalists at PCP Secretariat

A nine member Media delegation from the United States visited Press council of Pakistan under the **PAK- US Journalists Exchange Programme** on 26 Jan 2012. Chairman PCP briefed the delegation on how the council functions and said such media exchange programme would be useful to share journalism expertise with each other. Around 42 Pakistani journalists have visited the US under the same programme so far.

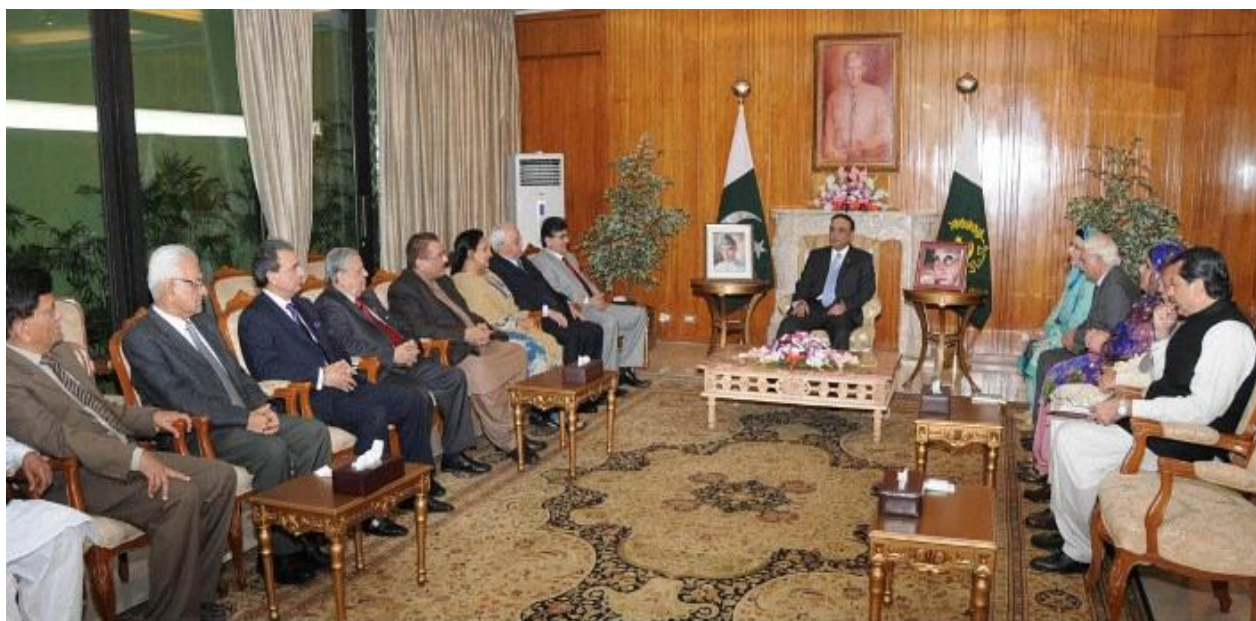


Raja Shafqat Abbassi, Chairman, Press Council of Pakistan presiding over a meeting with a delegation of International Centre of Journalists USA in Islamabad on January 26, 2012

The US delegation comprised of

- | | | |
|-------------------------|---|--|
| 1. Odette Yousef | - | Bureau Reporter WBEZ, Chicago |
| 2. Joe Little | - | News Reporter, KG TV 10 News |
| 3. Nancy San Martin | - | The Miami Herald |
| 4. Mark Seibel | - | US Journalist |
| 5. McClatchy Washington | - | Journalist |
| 6. Bob Gabordy | - | Executive Editor, Tallahassee Democrat |
| 7. Stephen Magagnini | - | Senior Writer / Reporter, The Sacramento Bee |
| 8. Emily Donahue | - | News Director, KUT, 90.5 FM, Texas, Austin |
| 9. Greg Victor | - | OP-ED/Forum Editor Pitts Burgh, Post-Gazette |
| 10. Richared F. Gootee | - | Government at Evansville Courier & Press |

PCP Activities



President Asif Ali Zardari during meeting with the delegation of Press Council of Pakistan at Aiwan-e-Sadr on 09 March 2012.



Prime Minister Syed Yusuf Raza Gilani talking to the members of Press Council of Pakistan at PM House, Islamabad on November 01, 2011.



وزیراعلیٰ جنم ستھی کے ہمراہ ایوان وزیراعلیٰ میں ملاقات کے بعد پریس کونسل آف پاکستان کے عہدیداروں کا گروپ فوٹو۔
(لاہور 22 اپریل 2013ء)



Chairman Press Council of Pakistan, Raja M. Shafqat Khan Abbasi presiding over the meeting of inquiry committees in Council Secretariat, Islamabad on July 6, 2012



PCP Chairman, Raja M. Shafqat Khan Abbasi shaking hands with Kenyan President, Mr. Uhuru Kenyatta during WAPC General Assembly & Executive Council Meeting held at Nairobi, Kenya



Chairman PCP, Raja M. Shafqat Abbasi called on Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Governor, Engineer Shaukatullah at Governor House, Peshawer on March 19th, 2013.



A six member PCP delegation, headed by Chairman Raja Shafqat Khan Abbasi called on Sindh Governor, Dr. Ishrat-ul-Ibad Khan at Governor House, Karachi on April 01, 2013



PCP Delegation Led by Chairman PCP Raja Shafqat Khan Abbasi with Governor Punjab Lateef Khoosa



THE CHAIRMAN, PRESS COUNCIL OF PAKISTAN, JUSTICE(R) SHAFQAT ABBASI ADDRESSING AT A MEDIA RELATED SEMINAR ORGANIZED BY IIUI (INTERNATIONAL ISLAMIC UNIVERSITY ISLAMABAD) ON DECEMBER 14, 2011



Chairman PCP, Raja Shafqat Abbasi had a meeting with H.E Peter Claes, Ambassador of Belgium



German Ambassador to Pakistan H.E Dr. Cyrill Nunn & Dr. Thomas Ditt, Head of Press and Cultural Section visits PCP Secretariat



Chairman PCP with delegates from International Press Councils during 14th International AIPCE Conference held at Belgium



Chairman PCP with delegates from International Press Councils during WAPC Executive Council Meeting held at Tanzania



Chairman PCP with delegates from International Press Councils during 14th International AIPCE Conference held at Belgium

STANDARDS OF NEWSPAPERS AND NEWS AGENCIES

The boom of electronic media in 2002 and its immediacy in terms of impact and global reach has forced the Pakistani print media industry to adjust quickly to respond to needs of time. Due to rise of cross ownership in Pakistani media distinctive properties associated with print media has been reasonably or unreasonably channelized to follow the trends set by electronic media.

Rapid growth of broadcast news channels has not been achieved at the expense of print media in Pakistan since 2002. Certified launch of prominent newspapers like Daily Express Tribune, Daily Pakistan Today and Daily Dunya means that print media is also finding new outlets to reach its thousand of readers across country.

According to Central Media List issued by Press Information Department (PID) details of newspapers are as under;

a.	Daily	=	1015
b.	Weekly	=	350
c.	Fortnightly	=	60
d.	Monthly	=	350
e.	Quarterly	=	15
Total		=	1790

All Pakistan Newspapers Society

Total members/newspapers	=	324
--------------------------	---	------------

Like past capacity of news reporters at the local level has always been an issue of concern and it has continued affecting basic standards of reporting and communication. Speculations based on mere perceptions are still the order of day. There is no agreed policy to balance content to ads ratio. Since bad news gives you more revenue, quest for good news is dying out. Entertainment, extra vaganza is creeping in the very domain of creditable and credible news. Editors are losing grounds to market managers in their rush for more revenues. They are no more doing their goalkeeper role to discourage bad practices in newspaper houses.

Considering the present state of our newspaper industry in Pakistan many concerned quarters feel that issue of cross ownership in media should be promptly addressed to put the independent press back on track. Due to short fall of complaints PCP's complaint driven mechanism could not serve as a barometer to assess standards of newspapers and news agencies.

ADMINISTRATIVE & BUDGET MATTERS

Finance and Audit

1. No separate head wise budget is allocated for the PCP. The allocation in the shape of grants etc is made for the PCP and other allied departments in the budget of M/o Information and Broadcasting. Under section 4(3) of PCP Ordinance 2002 Government in consultation with Council, has to allocate appropriate funds in its annual budget to meet administrative and operational expenses of the Council.
2. The Government allocated Rs. 35 millions in the shape of one head grant etc for the financial year 2011-12 for the PCP in the revised estimates. The funds of M/o I&B as a whole were audited by the Auditor General of Pakistan that included the grant of Rs. 35 million to the PCP in the financial year 2011-2012. Copy of audit report of M/o I&B prepared by Auditor General of Pakistan is annexed.
3. The PCP was non-functional body till November 2011. A chartered accountant will be appointed in term of section 5 of the Ordinance for audit of the PCP accounts after the end of financial year 2012-13 apart from the audit of M/o I&B's funds as a whole. The duly audited statement of PCP accounts will be released later.

Expenditure and Budget Details for Press Council of Pakistan for Financial Year 2011-12

Description	Amount
Salaries and wages	13,972,903
Repair and maintenance	512,343
Utilities	617,384
POL expenses	881,979
Conveyance allowance	97,725
Rent a car expenses	6,200
Rent of building	5,027,256
PCP members meeting	713,711
Expenses on national conference	600,000
Miscellaneous	108,123
Consumable goods	803,928
Equipment costs	6,993,060

Air fare charges	77,538
Printing and stationary expenses	385,957
Entertainment expenses	198,581
Accommodation charges	75,261
Withholding tax deposit	1,844,982
Total Expenditure in Financial Year 2011-2012	32,916,931

PCP LINKAGES & WAY FORWARD

Linkages with the Universities:

- Allama Iqbal Open University (AIOU), Islamabad.
- The University of Punjab, Lahore.
- Fatima Jinnah Women University, Rawalpindi.
- University of Peshawar.
- Quaid-e-Azam University, Islamabad.
- University of Balochistan, Quetta.
- University of Karachi.
- International Islamic University, Islamabad.
- National University of Modern Languages (NUML), Islamabad.
- National University of Science & Technology (NUST), Islamabad.
- Hazara University, Mansehra.

Linkages with NGO's, Bars & Journalists Bodies:

- ❖ Internews, Intermedia, CPI, Individuall, FnF, SPO, PBA and SDPI.
- ❖ Coalition of Ethical Journalism Network (CEJNW).
- ❖ APNS, CPNE, PFUJ, Bar Councils/Associations etc.

Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) Signed for Promotion of Ethical Journalism with:

- Hazara University, Mansehra
- Karachi University, Karachi
- Bahau-ul-Din Zakariya University, Multan.
- Pakistan Bar Council
- University of Peshawar

Publicity Campaign:

- ☐ Distribution of Ethical Code of Conduct to different organizations/media houses, press clubs and community based groups to sensitize Journalists on media ethics and code of conduct.
- ☐ Publication of advertisements in newspapers to create awareness about PCP and its complaint procedure.
- ☐ Translation and distribution of Ethical Code of Practice in Urdu and regional languages.

- ❑ Launching of PCP's official website in 2012, providing access to the public to know about the PCP and procedure for filing the complaints.

International Organizations:

- ❑ Recently the Executive Council of World Association of Press Councils (WAPAC) approved PCP Membership.
- ❑ Has joined the Alliance of Independent Press Councils of Europe (AIPCE).
- ❑ Established contacts with different heads of the Press Councils including SAARC countries
 - Indonesia, Tanzania, New Zealand, Turkey, Germany etc.

Shifting of Head Office:

Established PCP Secretariat in new premises at Zero Point, Islamabad. The Secretariat was furnished with all the necessary provisions.

The previous PCP Office was located in a residential area in a portion of house in Sector E-7. It was not spacious to accommodate its offices. Its monthly rent was. It was not easily approachable and building was also without civic facilities. The present Secretariat is situated at the 6th Floor, Rafi Plaza, Zero Point, Islamabad in the central posh area of Islamabad with adequate space and all the required civic facilities. Along with a Conference Room, PCP offices consist of eight spacious rooms and a space for saying prayers. The conference room has been equipped with multimedia projector including facility of power point, while all the rooms were furnished with accessories and required furniture after occupation. The monthly rent of the building is Rs. 228,000.

The Secretariat was shifted in new premises in July 2012.

Regional Offices:

The Lahore sub-office has been established in a spacious room with a covered area 643 sq/ft in a famous building of Aiwan-e-Iqbal at Egerton Road. The monthly rent of the building is Rs. 45,000.

The establishment of Karachi and Queetta sub-offices is under process.



Aiwan-e-Iqbal. Lahore

During a call on Governor Sindh on April 2, 2013 by the delegation of PCP, the honorable Governor promised to provide a space for Karachi sub-office and directed his Secretariat for seeking suitable site/building. A four member committee consisting of PCP members Mr. Wamiq A. Zuberi, Syed Faseih Iqbal, Mr. Ghulam Nabi Mughal and Mr. Bachal Laghari has been constituted by the Council for coordinating with the

Governor's Secretariat for locating a suitable place for setting up of the Karachi sub-office.

The Chairman visited Governor's Secretariat Queetta and discussed setting up of regional office of the Press Council in Queetta. An area of about 8,000 sq/ft was preliminary allocated by former President General Zia-ul-Haq for the Press Council adjacent to Queetta Press Club. About half area of the building has been occupied by some government departments and half area has been allocated to Hawkers Association. The Press Council building is in deteriorated condition due to being not operational. It consists of two halls of approximately 30 ft x 15 ft with a corridor and a room for office with a size of 10 ft x 12 ft with attached bath. Its covered area is about 450 sq ft. the Chief Secretary Balochistan was requested by letter dated January 3, 2013 for making urgent arrangements for a repair of the building enabling us to make the regional office of PCP make operational which will convey a strong message in the country as well as abroad and will be helpful in dispelling the impression about security concerns of the journalists.

Recommendations for Legislation

For strengthening PCP and updating the Code of Ethics for press, the PCP is in touch with the National Assembly and Senate. The Standing Committee of National Assembly on Information and Broadcasting constituted the following six members Committee to consider the ToR vide order dated October 12, 2012;

“To discuss and suggest necessary amendments in the “Press Council of Pakistan’s Ordinance, 2002” for strengthening the role of Press Council of Pakistan (PCP)”

Members of the Sub-Committee of the Standing Committee of National Assembly on Information and Broadcasting;

1. Mrs. Bushra Rehman	Convener
2. Mr. Mehboob ullah Jan	Member
3. Mr. Ishtiaq Khan	Member
4. Mrs. Samina Mushtaq Pugganwala	Member
5. Ch. Saeed Iqbal	Member
6. Malik Muhammad Shakeel Awan	Member

The Sub-Committee held its meeting on 17 October, 2012 in National Assembly Secretariat and second meeting on 30 November, 2012 in PCP Secretariat. Necessary amendments with reference to ToR were submitted to the Sub-Committee.

The Standing Committee of Senate on Information and Broadcasting held its meeting on 18 September, 2012 regarding working/functions and mandate of the PCP. In order to make freedom of information law in conformity with the modern age needs PCP proposed certain amendments. Relevant Working Paper was submitted to the Standing Committee of Senate in line with the Working Paper submitted to the Sub-Committee of the National Assembly.

The Standing Committee constituted a sub-committee headed by Senator Farhat Ullah Babar regarding promulgation of Freedom of Information laws.

Way Forward:

Since its revitalization in 2011, though PCP has taken number of initiatives to establish Council's mandate and writ and to enhance its scope with regard to implementation of media ethics through complaint driven mechanism yet the desired goal still seems to be at quite a distance.

The main reason behind all these facts is the lack of public awareness and ownership while responding to the performance of free press in Pakistan. Despite our efforts through advertisements, seminars and interactive debates with all media stakeholders, it did not materialize well in addressing shortfall of complaints, in absence of which PCP is unable to determine how people react to the performance of free press in Pakistan. Only response in the shape of complaints by the masses can serve as a barometer to assess standards of newspapers and news agencies and affecting them. The Council is of the view that continuous effort with tenacity of purpose is required here to enhance scope of PCP as a media watch-dog body in its future operations and objectives, increase in number of complaints will enable PCP to assess performance and standards of ethical journalism.

Rich experience of contemporary world in context of media growth is of great value to PCP. This can help us in setting our priorities to promote ethical journalism by advancing common values and thoughts at regional and as well as at international level.

To do this, PCP for quite a time is endeavoring hard to hold an interactive national conference between Press Councils of SAARC member states in Islamabad this year, but unavailability of required funds is the major irritant in holding such an event.

Presently, there is no discreet gap between the policy and approach of PCP but what it lacks is the required support of the public, in furthering its mandate of ethical press. So PCP's way forward seems to be in between continuous efforts and getting public behind it to strengthen ethical underpinning of freely growing Pakistani press.

“The task ahead is not easy but we must continue our journey towards our goals”

PCP ADVERTISEMENTS

Human Dignity Verified Reporting Sovereignty of the country No Sensationalism
Responsibility Rectification Objectivity Respect for Privacy Fairness
Truthfulness Right to Information
Human Rights Freedom of Expression Democracy Respect for Fundamental Rights

پریس کونسل آف پاکستان

آزاد اور ذمہ دار صحافتی تقاضوں کی یقین دہانی

No Hatred , No Slander or libel , No to Bias , No Rumors , No glorification of crime
or criminal , No identification of Minors or Women victims , No Inducement

پریس کونسل آف پاکستان ایک خود مختار ادارہ ہے جس کا کام پاکستانی روزنامہ و ماہنامہ اخبارات، رسائل و جرائد، نیوز ایجنسیوں اور ان کی ویب سائٹ پر نظر رکھتے ہوئے میڈیا کے اعلیٰ معیار کا اجراء کرنا ہے۔
A۔ کونسل کے اعلیٰ مقاصد درج ذیل ہیں۔

- کسی بھی ایسی سرگرمی پر نظر رکھنا جو عوامی دلچسپی اور اہمیت کی حامل خبروں کے پھیلاؤ پر حذر کرتی ہو۔
- پرنٹ میڈیا سے متعلقہ (Ethical Code of Practice) اخلاقی ضابطہ کی خلاف ورزی پر شہریوں سے شکایات وصول کرنا اور اس پر فیصلہ دینا ہے
- اخلاقی ضابطہ (Ethical Code of Practice) کے مطابق یاد دہانی کروانا اور اس میں اضافہ کرنا اور عمل درآمد کرنا۔ کونسل پریس کی آزادی اور وفاقی حکومت، صوبائی حکومت یا کسی بھی آرگنائزیشن بشمول سیاسی جماعتوں کی اخبارات کے خلاف پریس کے آزادانہ طریقہ عمل میں مداخلت میں ایک شیلڈ کا کردار ادا کرتی ہے۔
- کونسل اپنی پیشہ ورانہ ذمہ داریاں نبھاتے ہوئے اعلیٰ اخلاقی اقدار پر عمل درآمد یقینی بنائے گی تاکہ آزادی صحافت کی راہ میں کوئی رکاوٹ حاصل نہ ہو۔

کونسل کی تشکیل:

کونسل انیس ارکان بشمول چیئر مین پر مشتمل ہے۔ CPNE، APNS اور PFUJ سے چار چار ارکان، پاکستان بار کونسل سے وائس چیئر مین، ہائر ایجوکیشن کمیشن سے چیئر پرسن یا نامزد، نیشنل اسمبلی میں لیڈ آف ہاؤس کا ایک رکن، نیشنل اسمبلی میں اپوزیشن لیڈر کی طرف سے نامزد کردہ ایک رکن، کونسل کا نامزد کیا ہوا Mass Media Educationist، نیشنل کمیشن آن وی آئی ایف، ان پاکستان کی جانب سے نامزد ایک خاتون رکن

انکوائری کمیشن:

انکوائری کمیشن درخواستوں کے فیصلے کے لیے ضرورت کے تحت جتنے انکوائری کمیشن چاہے تشکیل دے سکتا ہے جو تین ارکان پر مشتمل ہوں گے جن میں ایک ریٹائرڈ جج کورٹ جج CPNE اور APNS سے نامزد ایک رکن پر مشتمل ہوگی۔

درخواست فائل کرنے کا طریقہ کار:

- درخواست دہندہ کا پریس کونسل میں شکایت درج کرانے سے پہلے متعلقہ ایڈیٹر/پبلشر کو نوٹس بھیجنا ضروری ہے۔
- ہر وہ درخواست جو کونسل کو جمع کروائی جائے گی مصروفیت پر مشتمل ہوگی جس پر درخواست دہندہ کی درخواست کا انحصار ہوگا۔ نیز جواب نوٹس ملا ہو تو تلف کرے گا۔
- کسی بھی کیس میں اگر درخواست دہندہ کسی غلط بیانی، بلیک میلنگ اور دھوکہ دہی کی نشاندہی کر رہا ہو، درخواست میں واضح طور پر درج کرے گا۔
- کمیشن کیس کے مطابق دی گئی درخواست کو تیس دن کے اندر حل کرے گا۔ اگر کمیشن کے فیصلے کے خلاف کونسل کو اپیل کی گئی ہو تو کونسل اس کو ساٹھ دنوں میں حل کرے گی۔
- شکایت کے اندراج کے لیے افراتو کونسل ایک ہزار روپے اور اداروں کو پانچ ہزار روپے بڑے ریجیٹرنگ ڈرافٹ بحق پریس کونسل آف پاکستان جمع کروانے ہوں گے۔

نوٹس لینے کا اختیار:

پریس کی آزادی اور اس کے آزادانہ فنکشن کے لئے چیئر مین آرڈیننس کے سیکشن 8 کے سب سیکشن (I) (II) (III) اور سیکشن 8 کے سیکشن (2) کی حد کو عبور کرتی کسی بھی درخواست پر سوسائٹ نوٹس کے تحت ضروری اقدامات کارروائی کرنے کا اختیار رکھتا ہے اور کونسل کو جو بات کے ساتھ مزید کارروائی کا تحریری اختیار دے سکتا ہے۔
ارکان زیر نوٹس کسی بھی درخواست پر ذاتی دلچسپی کی بنا پر کارروائی میں حصہ نہیں لے سکتے۔

بصورت دیگر کارروائی عمل میں لائی جائیگی:

فیصلہ پر مناسب مہلہ آمد نہ ہونے کی صورت میں کونسل تادیبی کارروائی عمل میں لاتے ہوئے متعلقہ فرد کو فوری معذرت کی اشاعت، وارننگ جاری کرنے، تنبیہ یا سزائش کرنے، باقی اخبارات میں کونسل کا فیصلہ شائع کرنے یا کونسل متعلقہ اخبار کی اشاعت کو مخصوص مدت کے لئے بند کرنے یا ڈیٹیکٹریشن کو منسوخ کرنے کا نوٹس جاری کر سکتی ہے۔

مزید معلومات اور سوالات کے لیے مکمل آرڈیننس، Ethical Code، طریقہ عمل، فیصلے اور درخواست سے متعلق طریقہ کار کے لیے ہماری ویب سائٹ www.presscouncil.org.pk ملاحظہ فرمائیے۔

Contact us: Registrar, Press Council of Pakistan, Rafi centre, 6th floor, Zero Point, Islamabad Tel: +92 51 9102498, Fax: +92 51 2653619
Regional Office, 4th Floor, Fareed Chamber, Abdullah Haroon Road, Karachi | Aiwan-e-Iqbal Complex, 5th floor, Building No. 7, Egerton Road, Lahore
E-mail: pakistanpresscouncil@yahoo.com

website: www.presscouncil.org.pk

PCP PRESS COUNCIL OF PAKISTAN

N O G L O R I F I C A T I O N O F C R I M E O R C R I M I N A L

N O I D E N T I F I C A T I O N O F M I N O R S O R W O M E N V I C T I M

N O T O B I A S . N O I N D U C E M E N T

N O H A T R E D . N O S L A N D E R O R L I B E L

Democracy
Verified Reporting
Accountability

Sovereignty of the country
Freedom of Expression
Human Dignity
Truthfulness
Human Rights
Respect for Privacy
Free Press

Press Council of Pakistan

Ensuring Freedom of Press with Responsibility

The Press Council of Pakistan is an autonomous and independent body which issues and monitors good standards of media practice for Pakistani newspapers, magazines periodicals, news agencies and their websites. The main functions of the PCP are:

- To keep under review any development likely to restrict the dissemination of news of public interest and importance
- To receive complaints about the violation of ethical code of practice relating to the print media.
- To revise, update, enforce and implement the ethical code of practice.
- The council shall also act as a shield to freedom of the press and receive a complaint by a newspaper against Federal Government, Provincial Government or any organisation including political parties for interference in the free functioning of the press.
- The council shall maintain highest professional and ethical standards while preserving freedom of press.

Composition of the Council

The council consists of nineteen members including a chairman. Four members each nominated by the APNS, CPNE, PTUI, a Vice Chairman Pakistan Bar Council, Chairperson or nominee of the Higher Education Commission, One member nominated by the leader of the house in the National Assembly, One member nominated by the leader of the opposition in the National Assembly, mass media educationalist nominated by the Council, One woman member nominated by the National Commission on the status of women in Pakistan.

Inquiry Commission

The council shall constitute as many inquiry commissions as may be necessary for the purpose of deciding complaints. The commission will consist of 3 members and will be headed by a retired High Court Judge and one nominated each by APNS and CPNE.

Procedure for filing complaint

- Before filing complaint to the press council complainant has to give notice to the concerned editor/publisher.
- Every complaint made to the council shall contain a statement in a concise form of the material fact on which the complainant relies.
- In all cases in which a complainant relies on any misrepresentation or blackmailing or fraud, the same shall be stated in the complaint.

The Commission, as the case may be, shall dispose off a complaint referred to it within thirty days. If an appeal against the decision of the Commission is preferred to the Council, the Council shall decide the same within sixty days.

Power to take notice

The Chairman may suo motu take notice of any matter which falls within the ambit of independence of press and free function of press in terms of subsection (1) (ii) (iii) of section 8 and subsection (2) of section 8 of the PCP Ordinance 2002 and may refer to take necessary steps/measures in this regard and he may refer the matter to the Council with his reasons in writing for further actions. The members having personal interests can not take part in the proceedings of any complaint under consideration.

What actions can be taken

In case of non-compliance of the decision, council may recommend for suspension of publication for a specific period or cancellation of declaration and can ask to publish an apology promptly, issue a warning or can ask other newspapers to circulate the decision of council, warn, admonish or censure the concerned person.

For further information and queries regarding complete text of the ordinance, ethical code, functions, appeal, declaration procedure and making complaints, please visit our website: www.presscouncil.org.pk

Contact us:
Registrar, Press Council of Pakistan, Rafi centre, 6th floor, Zero Point, Islamabad
Regional Office, 4th Floor, Fareed Chamber, Abdullah Haroon Road, Karachi
Alwan-e-Iqbal Complex, 5th floor, Building No-7, Egerton Road, Lahore
Tel: +92 51 92 265 3619 E-mail: pakistanpresscouncil.org.pk



PCP

PRESS COUNCIL OF PAKISTAN

زمہ دار اور آزاد اظہار کی یقین دہانی

9- ایسا روزنامہ لانے سے اجازت دینے سے پاکستانیوں کے عام کی برائی ہو سکتی ہے

خوف کی وجہ سے ایسا روزنامہ لانے کو روکا جائے گا۔

10- ایسا روزنامہ لانے کے بعد اس کے خلاف وزنی شہرت کی بنا پر ایسا روزنامہ لانے کو روکا جائے گا۔

11- ایسا روزنامہ لانے کے بعد اس کے خلاف وزنی شہرت کی بنا پر ایسا روزنامہ لانے کو روکا جائے گا۔

12- ایسا روزنامہ لانے کے بعد اس کے خلاف وزنی شہرت کی بنا پر ایسا روزنامہ لانے کو روکا جائے گا۔

13- ایسا روزنامہ لانے کے بعد اس کے خلاف وزنی شہرت کی بنا پر ایسا روزنامہ لانے کو روکا جائے گا۔

14- ایسا روزنامہ لانے کے بعد اس کے خلاف وزنی شہرت کی بنا پر ایسا روزنامہ لانے کو روکا جائے گا۔

15- ایسا روزنامہ لانے کے بعد اس کے خلاف وزنی شہرت کی بنا پر ایسا روزنامہ لانے کو روکا جائے گا۔

16- ایسا روزنامہ لانے کے بعد اس کے خلاف وزنی شہرت کی بنا پر ایسا روزنامہ لانے کو روکا جائے گا۔

17- ایسا روزنامہ لانے کے بعد اس کے خلاف وزنی شہرت کی بنا پر ایسا روزنامہ لانے کو روکا جائے گا۔

18- ایسا روزنامہ لانے کے بعد اس کے خلاف وزنی شہرت کی بنا پر ایسا روزنامہ لانے کو روکا جائے گا۔

پریس کا ضابطہ اخلاق

پریس کے ضابطہ اخلاق کی تشکیل کا مقصد باہمی احترام کی فراہمی میں شمولیت اور اس کی پابندی کو یقین دہانی دینا ہے۔

1- پریس کے ضابطہ اخلاق کی پابندی اور اس کے خلاف وزنی شہرت کی بنا پر ایسا روزنامہ لانے کو روکا جائے گا۔

2- پریس کے ضابطہ اخلاق کی پابندی اور اس کے خلاف وزنی شہرت کی بنا پر ایسا روزنامہ لانے کو روکا جائے گا۔

3- پریس کے ضابطہ اخلاق کی پابندی اور اس کے خلاف وزنی شہرت کی بنا پر ایسا روزنامہ لانے کو روکا جائے گا۔

4- پریس کے ضابطہ اخلاق کی پابندی اور اس کے خلاف وزنی شہرت کی بنا پر ایسا روزنامہ لانے کو روکا جائے گا۔

5- پریس کے ضابطہ اخلاق کی پابندی اور اس کے خلاف وزنی شہرت کی بنا پر ایسا روزنامہ لانے کو روکا جائے گا۔

6- پریس کے ضابطہ اخلاق کی پابندی اور اس کے خلاف وزنی شہرت کی بنا پر ایسا روزنامہ لانے کو روکا جائے گا۔

7- پریس کے ضابطہ اخلاق کی پابندی اور اس کے خلاف وزنی شہرت کی بنا پر ایسا روزنامہ لانے کو روکا جائے گا۔

8- پریس کے ضابطہ اخلاق کی پابندی اور اس کے خلاف وزنی شہرت کی بنا پر ایسا روزنامہ لانے کو روکا جائے گا۔



صحافت کی اشاعت حق کا قافز

پریس کونسل آف پاکستان PCP

For further information and queries regarding complete text of the ordinance, ethical code, functions, appeal, declaration procedure and making complaints, please visit our website: www.presscouncil.org.pk

Registrar
 4th Floor, Zero Point, Islamabad
 Tel: +92 33 9232307
 Fax: +92 33 2203593

Regional Office
 Karachi
 4th Floor, Feroz Chamber, Abdullah
 Hafeez Road, Karachi

Lahore
 4th Floor, Feroz Chamber, Abdullah
 Hafeez Road, Lahore, E-mail: pakistanspresscouncil@yahoo.com

Stand Together
for Freedom of Press with
Responsibility

28-29 June 2012

2 Days National Conference on Media Ethics Theory & Practices

Venue
Hill View Hotel, Jinnah Super Markaz, Islamabad

PCP is providing a concrete platform to the brilliance of Pakistan to exchange their views for strengthening press freedom by promoting responsible journalism and encouraging journalistic excellence.

Day -1 Presentation of Research Paper by The Academia of Prestigious Institutions of Pakistan

- ▶ Press Council- A way Forward
- ▶ Coverage of Terrorism on Media: An Overview
- ▶ Children Programmes and Electronic Media
- ▶ Media Monitoring
- ▶ Comparative studies of the Ethical code of Practice
- ▶ Some Non Theoretical issues in Media
- ▶ Responsibilities of the journalists in Modern age and Islamic Perspectives
- ▶ Media Diplomacy in Regional Peace
- ▶ Requirement of National interest
- ▶ Technology Precludes Ethics
- ▶ Peace and Conflict : Time Reporting Women Empowerment and Media Role
- ▶ Ethical Dilemma in Pakistan
- ▶ Election Politics and Role of Media
- ▶ Media and Culture: the case of Pakistan
- ▶ On line Media and its Implication on Pakistani Society
- ▶ The Question of Implementation of Media
- ▶ Ethics and Responsibilities of Owners
- ▶ Portrayal of Women in Media
- ▶ Media Managers, Their Roles and Challenges
- ▶ Role of Media in Strengthening the Democracy
- ▶ Clashing Views on Media Ethics in Pakistan
- ▶ Media Diplomacy and its Significance in Image Building
- ▶ Impact of Globalization on Media Ethics

Day -2 Themes

- ▶ Ethics and Laws: Role of Mass Communications Department
- ▶ Role of APNS, CPNE & Journalist Unions
- ▶ Role of Press Council, PEMRA and Civil Society
- ▶ Presentation of the working groups

Registrar, Press Council of Pakistan, Rafi centre, 6th floor, Zero Point, Islamabad
Regional Office, 4th Floor, Fareed Chamber, Abdullah Haroon Road, Karachi
Aiwan-e-Iqbal Complex, 5th floor, Building No. 7, Egerton Road, Lahore
Tel: +92 51 92 265 3619 | E-mail: pakistanpresscouncil.org.pk

website: www.presscouncil.org.pk

PCP PRESS COUNCIL OF PAKISTAN

Human Dignity Verified Reporting Sovereignty of the country No Sensationalism
 Responsibility Rectification Objectivity Respect for Privacy Fairness
 Truthfulness Right to Information
 Human Rights Freedom of Expression Democracy Respect for Fundamental Rights

YOU HAVE FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION BUT YOU ARE ACCOUNTABLE TOO!

No Hatred , No Slander or libel , No Rumors , No glorification of crime or criminal ,
 No to Bias , No identification of Minors or Women victims , No Inducement

The **Press council of Pakistan** is an autonomous and independent body which issues and monitors good standards of media practice for Pakistani newspapers, magazines periodicals, news agencies and their websites.

The main functions of the PCP are:

- To keep under review any development likely to restrict the dissemination of news of public interest and importance
- To receive complaints about the violation of ethical code of practice relating to the print media.
- To revise, update , enforce and implement the ethical code of practice.
- The council shall also act as a shield to freedom of the press and receive a complaint by a newspaper against Federal Government, Provincial Government or any organisation including political parties for interference in the free functioning of the press.
- The council shall maintain highest professional and ethical standards while preserving freedom of press.

COMPOSITION OF THE COUNCIL

The council consists of nineteen members including a chairman. Four members each nominated by the APNS, CPNE, PFUJ, a Vice Chairman Pakistan Bar Council, Chairperson or nominee of the Higher Education Commission, One member nominated by the leader of the house in the National Assembly, One member nominated by the leader of the opposition in the National Assembly, mass media educationist nominated by the Council, One women member nominated by the National Commission on the status of women in Pakistan.

INQUIRY COMMISSION

The council shall constitute as many inquiry commissions as may be necessary for the purpose of deciding complaints. The commission will consist of 3 members and will be headed by a retired **High Court Judge** and one nominated each by **APNS** and **CPNE**.

PROCEDURE FOR FILING COMPLAINT

- Before filing complaint to the press council complainant has to give notice to the concerned editor/publisher.
- Every complaint made to the council shall contain a statement in a concise form of the material fact on which the complainant relies along with response of notice if any.
- In all cases in which a complainant relies on any misrepresentation or blackmailing or fraud, the same shall be stated in the complaint.
- The Complainant if individual shall deposit Rs.1000/- and if institution Rs.5000/- through bank draft in the name of PCP.

The Commission, shall dispose off a complaint referred to it within thirty days. If an appeal against the decision of the Commission is preferred to the Council, the Council shall decide the same within sixty days.

POWER TO TAKE NOTICE

- The Chairman may suo motu take notice of any matter which falls within the ambit of independence of press and free function of press in terms of subsection (1) (II) (III) of section 8 and subsection (2) of section 8 of the PCP Ordinance 2002 and may refer to take necessary steps/measures in this regard and he may refer the matter to the Council with his reasons in writing for further actions.
- The members having personal interests can not take part in the proceedings of any complaint under consideration.

WHAT ACTIONS CAN BE TAKEN

In case of noncompliance of the decision, the council may ask to publish apology promptly, issue a warning or admonish or censure or can ask other newspapers to publish the decision of the council against the concerned person. The council may recommend for suspension for a specific period or cancellation of declaration.

For further information and queries regarding complete text of the ordinance, Ethical code, functions, appeal, declaration procedure and making complaints , please visit our website: www.presscouncil.org.pk

Contact us: Registrar , Press Council of Pakistan, Rafi centre, 6th floor, Zero Point, Islamabad Tel: +92 51 9102498, Fax: +92 51 2653619
 Regional Office, 4th Floor, Fareed Chamber, Abdullah Haroon Road, Karachi | Aiwan-e-Iqbal Complex, 5th floor, Building No. 7, Egerton Road, Lahore
 E-mail: pakistanpresscouncil@yahoo.com

website: www.presscouncil.org.pk



PRESS COUNCIL OF PAKISTAN



**AUDIT REPORT
ON
THE ACCOUNTS OF
FEDERAL GOVERNMENT - (CIVIL)**

AUDIT YEAR 2011-12

AUDITOR GENERAL OF PAKISTAN

A PC-1 of the project 'Construction of Headquarters Building of the Bureau of Emigration & Overseas Employment' at Plot No. 10, Mauve Area, G-8/1, Islamabad was approved at a capital cost of Rs. 623,505 million in August, 2007 with completion time of 30 months. The contract for construction of Emigration Tower was awarded at a contract cost of Rs. 837,966 million with completion date of January, 2010. Details are as under:

(Rs. in million)				
S. No.	Description	Contractor	Date of start	Date of completion
1	Civil, Elect, plumbing	M/s Guarantee Engineers	20.03.2009	14.08.2011
2	HVAC works	M/s Wular Engineers	09.09.2010	10.07.2011
3	Lift Works	Islamabad Industrial Trading Corporation, Karachi	19.10.2010	10.07.2011
4	Tube well works	Geo Hunt	13.08.2009	Completed
5	Executing Agency	PRIMACO	-	-
6	Consultant	NESPAK	-	-
7	Miscellaneous	Different Contractors	-	-
Total				837,966

Audit observed that completion date was January, 2010 but it was incomplete even in September, 2011.

Audit also observed that the contract cost exceeded the approved PC-1 cost by Rs. 214,461 million which is beyond the permissible limit of 15%.

Audit is of the view that expenditure over and above the permissible limit of 15% is unauthorized.

The management replied that PC-1 is under revision in the Ministry of Human Resource Development and will be approved in due course of time.

The management has accepted the audit observation.

The PAO was informed on 16.12.2011, but no DAC was convened till the finalization of Audit Report.

Audit recommends that the revised PC-1 may be got approved from the competent forum. It may also be ascertained why the contract was awarded beyond the approved PC-1 cost.

CHAPTER 13

13 MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING

13.1 Introduction of Ministry

The Ministry of Information and Broadcasting has been established to produce, disseminate and facilitate the free flow of information to empower the people to participate in nation building and development.

The Ministry of Information and Broadcasting is the apex body for formulation and administration of the rules and regulations and laws relating to information, broadcasting, the press and films in Pakistan.

Following functions has been provided to Ministry of Information and Broadcasting in the Rules of Business, 1973:

- Policy relating to internal publicity on national matters;
- Broadcasting, including television;
- Production of films on behalf of the Government, its agencies, Government controlled Corporations, etc.;
- Press relations, including delegations of journalists and other information media;
- Provision of facilities for the development of newspaper industry;
- Policy regarding government advertisement; control of advertisement and placement;
- Audit of circulation of newspapers;
- Liaison and coordination with agencies and media on matters concerning Government policies and activities;
- External Publicity;
- Training facilities for Radio and Television personnel.

The following function was transferred to the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting vide Cabinet Division Notification No. 4-5/2011-Min-1 dated 05.04.2011:

- Establishment of Tourists Centers in Pakistan and abroad

The following functions were transferred to the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting vide Cabinet Division Notification No. 4/9/2011-Min.1 dated 29.06.2011:

- i. Administration of Newspapers Employees (Conditions of Service) Act, 1973
- ii. Implementation Tribunal for Newspaper Employment

13.2 Comments on Budget & Accounts (Variance Analysis)

Final budget allocated to the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting for the financial year 2010-11 was Rs. 3,799,635 million including Supplementary Grant of Rs. 251,671 million against which the Ministry utilized Rs. 4,093,031 million. Grant wise detail of current and development expenditure is mentioned below:

Grant No.	Grant Type	Original Grant	Supplementary Grant	Final Grant	Expenditure	Excess / (Saving)	% Excess / (Saving)
66	Current	290,451,000	130,240,000	420,691,000	387,173,891	(33,517,109)	(7.97)
67	Current	93,663,000	-	93,663,000	106,249,141	11,586,141	12.37
68	Current	286,097,000	21,864,000	307,961,000	330,290,247	28,329,247	9.25
69	Current	459,487,000	-	459,487,000	484,141,866	24,654,866	5.37
70	Current	2,396,381,000	74,677,000	2,471,058,000	2,738,381,123	287,223,123	11.62
	Sub total	3,519,979,000	-	3,519,979,000	4,065,536,268	318,476,268	8.99
152	Development	27,985,000	24,890,000	52,875,000	27,391,882	(25,073,818)	(47.43)
	Total	3,547,964,000	251,671,000	3,799,635,000	4,093,031,480	295,396,480	7.77

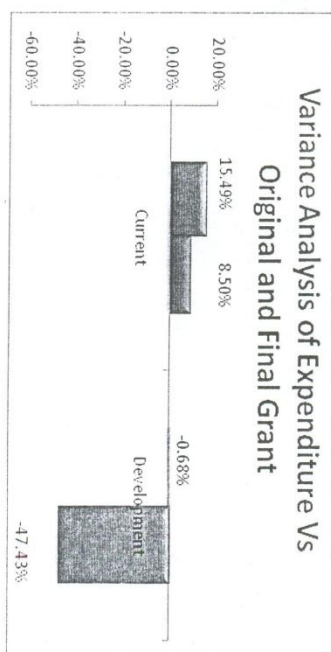
Audit noted that there was an overall excess expenditure of Rs. 293,396 million, which was due to excess expenditure of Rs. 318,476 million in current grant that was partly offset by saving of Rs. 25,079 million in the development grant.

Supplementary grants obtained without careful cash forecasting

In order to ensure prudent financial management, Para 13(vii) of System of Financial Control and Budgeting, 2006 states that 'Ministries/Divisions should be able to anticipate budgetary requirements well ahead of the financial year to which the budget relates and obtain the concurrence of the Finance Division. The Finance Division is expected to decline any request for supplementary grants except in extraordinary circumstances.' This document further states that 'the funds obtained from supplementary grants shall be expended for the purposes for which these have been sanctioned. In current expenditure, demands for supplementary grants shall not be made, except in extraordinary circumstances.'

During the year, supplementary grants of Rs. 251,671 million were obtained which was 7.09% of original allocation.

According to Para 71 of General Financial Rules (Volume I), while framing budget estimates, the authorities should exercise utmost foresight. Variation between estimated and actual expenditure captures the level of foresight that goes into budget formulation. As shown in the chart below, the excess in current expenditure was 15.49%, which, after accounting for supplementary grant decreased to 8.5%. In development expenditure, savings against original budget were 0.68% which increased to 47.43% when supplementary grants were taken into account.



13.3 Brief comments on the status of compliance with PAC Directives

Name of Ministry	Years	Total No of audit paras	No of PAC Directives / Actionable Points	Compliance	Non-Complied
Information & Broadcasting	1987-88	1	1	1	0
	1988-89	1	1	0	1
	1989-90	3	3	2	1
	1990-91	2	2	2	0
	1991-92	1	1	1	0
	1992-93	3	3	2	1
	1993-94	7	7	2	5
	1994-95	2	2	1	1
	1995-96	2	2	0	2
	1996-97	3	3	1	2
	1999-00	41	32	0	32

13.4 AUDIT PARAS

Non Production of Record

13.4.1 *Non-Production of Record*

Section 14(2) of Auditor General's (Functions, Powers and Terms and Conditions of Service) Ordinance, 2001 states that the officer incharge of any office or department shall afford all facilities and provide record for audit inspection and comply with requests for information in as complete a form as possible and with all reasonable expedition.

Section 14(3) of Auditor General's (Functions, Powers and Terms and Conditions of Service) Ordinance, 2001 states that 'any person or authority hindering the auditorial functions of the Auditor General regarding inspection of accounts shall be subject to disciplinary action under relevant Efficiency and Discipline Rules, applicable to such person'.

The Ministry of Information and Broadcasting did not provide the following record for audit, which was requisitioned vide slip No. 01 dated 17.08.2011 and reminder dated 26.08.2011:

- i. Payrolls for the period under audit.
- ii. List of vehicles, their attachment/allocation, movement/Log Book registers of vehicles, petrol account and vehicle-wise expenditure on POL/Repair of each vehicle.
- iii. Dead stock registers and consumable items register.
- iv. List of dead stock items purchased during the period under audit.
- v. List of unserviceable items.
- vi. Details of receipts (if any) and expenditure therefrom (if any). Receipt books of all kinds (if any).
- vii. Number of bank accounts alongwith bank statements showing the detail of balances and counterfoils of cheque books.
- viii. TA Advances register.
- ix. Detailed description of functions of the organization, targets/ achievements during the period under audit.

196

- x. Details of procurements, alongwith all case files regarding administrative approval/expenditure sanctions, made during the audit period.
- xi. Disbursement record of Discretionary Grant of Federal Minister/ Minister of State.
- xii. Details of Consultants/contract employees appointed during the period under audit.

In the absence of record, propriety of expenditure could not be ascertained, which may render the public money vulnerable to misuse.

The PAO was also informed on 02.12.2011, but DAC was not convened till the finalization of Audit Report.

Audit recommends that responsibility be fixed for hindering the auditorial functions of the Auditor General of Pakistan.

Irregularity & Non Compliance

13.4.2 *Non-obtaining of adjustment/audit accounts statements - Rs. 125,000 million*

Para 207(3) of GFR Volume-I states that the recipient organization is required to submit vouched accounts or audited statement of the accounts to the sanctioning authority, in order to ensure that the Grant was utilized/spent for the purpose for which it was provided.

The Ministry of Information and Broadcasting, Islamabad released an amount of Rs 125,000 million to various Press Clubs in Pakistan during the Financial Year 2010-11 as per following details:

S. No.	Description of Supplementary Grant	Date of Sanction	Amount
1	Grant-in-Aid to Press Club, Multan	01.01.2010	70,000
2	Grant-in-Aid to Press Club, Islamabad	29.11.2010	10,000
3	Financial Assistance to Press Club, Khairpur	21.04.2010	2,500
4	For Construction of APNS office in Karachi	07.05.2011	25,000
5	Financial grant for 25% cost of land for Journalists Colony in Hyderabad	12.05.2011	17,500
Total			125,000

(Rs. in million)

197

CHAPTER 14

14 MINISTRY OF INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY AND TELECOMMUNICATIONS

14.1 Introduction of Ministry

The Ministry of Information Technology and Telecommunications is the national focal Ministry and enabling arm of the Government of Pakistan for planning, coordinating and directing efforts to initiate and launch Information Technology and Telecommunication programs and projects aimed at economic development of the country.

The Ministry of Information Technology and Telecommunications is strategically run by elected representatives of the public and administratively controlled by the bureaucracy. Being the primary concern for any government this sector is controlled by each provincial Ministry at provincial level and by district governments at district level.

The core operational activities of the Ministry are:

- Preparation of an overall integrated Plan as well as formulation of policy for the development and improvement of information technology including infrastructure in Pakistan
- Cooperation with the provincial Governments, autonomous bodies, private sector, international organizations and foreign countries in respect of information technology
- Promotion of information technology applications
- Providing guidelines for the standardization of software for use within the Government
- Matters relating to Pakistan Computer Bureau (PCB), Pakistan Software Export Board (PSEB) and the National Information Technology Commission (NITC)

Audit observed that the management did not obtain the adjustment accounts/audited accounts statements of the amounts released to the Press Clubs.

Audit further observed that the released amounts included an amount of Rs. 42.500 million (S. No. 4&5) for development expenditure although the funds were released from the current budget.

Audit is of the view that in the absence of adjustment accounts, the authenticity of use of public funds cannot be established.

The management replied that the grant-in-aid was disbursed to the Press Clubs under the directives of the Prime Minister. No conditions have been specified in the directives for disbursement of grant-in-aid to the beneficiaries.

The reply was not accepted as government rules are required to be followed by all Ministries.

The PAO was also informed on 02.12.2011, but DAC was not convened till the finalization of Audit Report.

Audit recommends that that the management should obtain utilization reports/audited accounts to ascertain the actual expenditure incurred.

ANNUAL AUDIT REPORT
JUNE, 2011-12



ANJUM ASIM SHAHID RAHMAN
Chartered Accountants

PRESS COUNCIL OF PAKISTAN

**STATEMENT OF RECEIPT AND DISBURSEMENT
FOR THE YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2012**

**Anjum Asim Shahid Rahman**

1st Floor, 2 Ali Plaza
1-E, Jinnah Avenue
Blue Area, Islamabad
Pakistan

T: +92-51 2271906, 2274665, 2273883

F: +92 51 2273874

W: www.gtpak.com

Independent auditors' report to the Management of Press Council of Pakistan

We have audited the annexed receipts and disbursements account of the **Press Council of Pakistan** as at June 30, 2012 together with the notes forming part thereof (here-in-after referred to as the statement for the year then ended). It is the responsibility of the management to establish and maintain a system of internal controls, and prepare and present the statement in conformity with the cash receipts and disbursements basis as described in note 2.1 to the statement. Our responsibility is to express an opinion on the statements based on our audit.

We conducted our audit in accordance with the auditing standards as applicable in Pakistan. Those standards require that we plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the statement is free of material misstatement. An audit includes examining on a test basis, evidence supporting the amounts and disclosures in the statement. An audit also includes assessing the accounting policies used and significant estimates made by the management, as well as evaluating the overall presentation of the statement. We believe that our audit provides a reasonable basis for our opinion.

As described in note 2.1, the statement has been prepared on the cash receipts and disbursements basis of accounting, which is a comprehensive basis of accounting other than the generally accepted accounting principles.

In our opinion the statement presents fairly, in all material respects, the cash receipts and disbursements of the **Press Council of Pakistan** for the year ended June 30, 2012 on the basis of accounting as described in note 2.1 to the statement.

ANJUM ASIM SHAHID RAHMAN

Chartered Accountants

Engagement Partner: Nadeem Tirmizi

Islamabad

August 22, 2013

Chartered Accountants

Member of Grant Thornton International Ltd

Other offices in Lahore and Karachi

PRESS COUNCIL OF PAKISTAN
STATEMENT OF RECEIPTS AND DISBURSEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2012

	Note	2012 Rupees
RECEIPTS		
Grants-net	3	33,388,931
		<u>33,388,931</u>
DISBURSEMENTS		
Expenditures	4	32,916,931
		<u>32,916,931</u>
EXCESS OF RECEIPTS OVER DISBURSEMENTS		<u>472,000</u>
REPRESENTED BY		
Advance to employee	5	472,000
		<u>472,000</u>

The annexed notes from 1 to 6 form an integral part of this statement of receipts and disbursements.


22-8-13
CHAIRMAN

PRESS COUNCIL OF PAKISTAN

NOTES TO THE STATEMENT OF RECEIPTS AND DISBURSEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2012**1 LEGAL STATUS AND OPERATIONS**

Press council of Pakistan is an autonomous and independent apex body which issue and monitor good standards of media practice. Press council of Pakistan came into existence on October 26, 2002 by virtue of Press Council of Pakistan Ordinance 2002 having its office at 6th floor, Rafi Center, Zero point, Islamabad. The prime vision of the press is to ensure free, responsible and independent press.

The objectives of the press are to:

- To maintain highest professional and ethical standard of newspapers and news agencies while preserving freedom of press and its independence etc.
- Review of any development likely to restrict the dissemination of news of public interest.
- To deal with complaints about the violation of Ethical Code of Practice relating to newspapers, news agencies, editors and journalists etc.
- To revise, update, enforce and implement the Ethical Code of Practice for the newspapers, news agencies, editors, journalists and publishers as laid down in the Clause 4 of Sub section 1 of Section 8 of the Ordinance 2002.

2 SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES

The following accounting policies have been applied during the year in dealing with items that are considered material to the Council's statement of receipts and disbursement (the "statement").

2.1 Basis of preparation

The Statement has been prepared on cash receipt and disbursement basis of accounting, which is a comprehensive basis of accounting other than generally accepted accounting principles.

2.2 Grants

Grant is recognized when actually received by Press Council of Pakistan.

2.3 Disbursement

Expenditures are recognized on cash accounting basis.

3 GRANTS - NET

	2012
	Rupees
Grant received from Ministry of Information and Broadcasting	35,000,000
Grant lapsed during the year	(1,611,069)
	<u>33,388,931</u>



PRESS COUNCIL OF PAKISTAN

NOTES TO THE STATEMENT OF RECEIPTS AND DISBURSEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2012

	2012
	Rupees
4 EXPENDITURES	
Salaries and wages	13,972,903
Repair and maintenance	512,343
Utilities	617,384
POL expenses	881,979
Conveyance allowance	97,725
Rent a car expenses	6,200
Rent of building	5,027,256
PCP members meeting	713,711
Expenses on national conference	600,000
Miscellaneous	108,123
Consumable goods	803,928
Equipment costs	6,993,060
Air fare charges	77,538
Printing and stationary expenses	385,957
Entertainment expenses	198,581
Accommodation charges	75,261
Withholding tax deposit	1,844,982
	32,916,931

5 ADVANCE TO EMPLOYEE

At the year end, an amount of Rs. 472,000/- has been held by Mr. Zahid Hussain Abbasi (Cashier) for petty nature expenditures and subsequent period salaries.

6 GENERAL

- Figures have been rounded off to nearest rupee. *MR*

R Zahid
22-8-13
CHAIRMAN



Head Office

Address: 6th Floor, Rafi Center, Zero Point, Islamabad

Phone: +92 51 9252 307 Fax: +92 51 2203 593

Web: www.presscouncil.org.pk

E-mail: secretariat@presscouncil.org.pk

Lahore

Address: Aiwan-e-Iqbal Complex,

Building No. 1, 5th Floor, Egerton Road, Lahore