

**Minutes of the Meeting of Special Inquiry Committee Held on 21<sup>st</sup> November, 2013 at 11:00 a.m. under the Chairmanship of Raja M. Shafqat Khan Abbasi, Chairman, in PCP Secretariat, Zero Point, Islamabad**

The following members attended the meeting:

1. Syed Qalb-e-Hassan
2. Mrs. Nasreen Aslam Azhar

The following complaints came up before the Committee:

**Complaint of Italian Embassy through M/o Information, Broadcasting and National Heritage against Pakistani media:**

The (External Publicity Wing) M/o Information, Broadcasting & National Heritage forwarded the complaint of Italian Embassy sent through M/o Foreign Affairs, along with press clipping. The Ambassador in his Note Verbale conveyed to the M/o Foreign Affairs that on 9<sup>th</sup> January, 2012 the head of their visa section had been subjected to defamation campaign by baseless reporting in Pakistani media about his involvement in the visa scam that allegedly took place in Consulate General of Italy Karachi during his previous assignment in Pakistan from 1992 to 1997. The Ambassador also alleged that the diplomat had received direct and indirect threats causing concern for his personal safety.

Copy of the complaint and relevant documents were sent to the Chief Editor, Daily Jang for written reply. The Daily Jang submitted written reply on 29-07-2013, copy of which was sent to the Embassy through M/o I, B&NH/Foreign Affairs. The respondent explained that three MNAs namely Mr. Abdul Wahid Soomro, Nazir Ahmed and Rafique Jamali filed Assembly questions in the National Assembly Secretariat regarding involvement of the Counsellor in visa scam and the Daily Jang had only reported the story of the questions considering it as news item. The respondent further stated that the newspaper would welcome the Counsellor to publish his view points/comments regarding the published material. The response of the respondent was sent to the Embassy through the Information/Foreign Ministries for comments/views but the reply is still awaited despite reminders. The Committee decided that another reminder be sent to the Embassy through the same channel.

**Complaint by KESC regarding one-sided and biased reporting by the Daily Dawn**

The KESC alleged in their complaint that the Daily Dawn has been consistently publishing news/reports about KESC without seeking fair response or their stance and even in case of their stance, facts were ignored. Copy of the complaint alongwith enclosures was sent to the Chief Editor, Daily Dawn who submitted a detailed written report, copy of which was again sent to KESC for their information/input. Notices were issued to the parties. The Council for the complainant has submitted an application for adjournment on the ground that the notice was too short. Request allowed. Fresh notices will be issued to the parties in due course.

**Complaint by Mrs. Shahida Nasreen, DSP Circle Muzaffarabad (Multan) against the Daily Khabrain and its Multan Reporter (Rizwan Sheikh)**

Mrs. Shahida Nasreen, DSP Circle Muzaffarabad (Multan) submitted a complaint against the Daily Khabrain Multan and its Crime Reporter (Rizwan Sheikh) for publishing false, baseless and defamatory stories against her for defaming and blackmailing her. After completing legal formalities, copy of the complaint, press clipping etc were sent to the Daily Khabrain and the Reporter. The Press Reporter, Rizwan Sheikh filed his written statement on 25-01-2013 contending that his story was based on the report of higher police officers submitted to the IG Police which again was based on the finding of SSP (Operation) Multan. Copy of the written reply was sent to the complainant for information/input. The Daily Khabrain has also filed separate statement copy of which has been submitted to the complainant for information and giving input if any. The reply is still awaited. Notices were also sent to the parties to arrange their representation before the Special Inquiry Committee but nobody has appeared on their behalf. Fresh notices will be issued to the parties for the next meeting.

**Complaint by Maulana Ijlal Haider Baloch against the Daily Jang for publishing material likely to create sectarian problem**

The complainant was asked to comply with the mandatory provisions of Section of the Ordinance but with no response. Another reminder be issued with the warning that if the complainant does not fulfill the mandatory provision of the Ordinance, the complaint will be filed.

**Complaint of Mr. Naz Akhtar, Director, Institute of Communication Studies, University of the Punjab, Lahore against the Daily Jang**

In his complaint dated 14-01-2013 Dr. Ahsan Akhtar complained against misreporting by Daily Jang and Daily Inqilab dated 10<sup>th</sup> & 11<sup>th</sup> January, 2013 regarding functions in the department of Communication Studies, Punjab University. The copy of the complaint and other documents were sent to the respondent for written statement. The respondents have filed written statement alongwith evidence/documents in support of their version. Copy of the same be sent to the complainant for information/input. Mr. Baidar Bakht and Khizar Hayat Gondal represented the Daily Jang while Mr. Nafees Bazmi, Editor represented the Daily Inqilab, Lahore.

**Complaint by Mr. Jawad Haider, Principal Naveed Foundation High School, Lahore against Hafiz Muhammad Imran Ashraf, CE Daily Falah-e-Khalq and Mst. Amna Imran Chief Editor & Publisher**

Mr. Jawad Haider, Principal Naveed Foundation High School, Lahore made a complaint against the respondents Hasfiz Muhammad Imran Ashraf for publishing frivolous, fake and defamatory stories of students tortured in Naveed Foundation High School, Lahore. After completing formalities, notice was given to the respondents who have submitted written reply. Copy of the written reply was sent to the complainant for information/input. Notice of today's meeting was also given to the parties but nobody has turned up. Fresh notices will be issued to the parties for the next meeting.

### **Complaint by Mr. Umair Mushtaq against Daily Jang**

Mr. Umair Mushtaq sent a complaint through a message on Facebook regarding printing of slain and injured victims of Anarkali Food incident at Lahore. He requested for taking action against the Daily Jang Lahore for such unethical and immoral publication.

The complainant did not furnish his particular. He has been asked through Face Book to provide his particulars and comply with the mandatory provision of section 10 of the PCP Ordinance but with no response despite reminders. Another reminder be issued with direction that the complaint will be filed if mandatory provision of the Ordinance are not fulfilled. It may be added that in the last meeting, Mr. Abdul Aziz Mohmand put in appearance on behalf of the newspaper and contended that publishing of such pictures of slain victims of incident was sensationalism. He assured that he would convey the concerns to the concerning sections.

### **Complaint by Mr. Dr. Numan Niaz, Head of Operations and Contents, PTV Sports against the Daily Times**

The complainant has alleged that the respondent has deliberately attempted to orchestrate, a malicious campaign against the complainant in the Daily Times. Copy of the complaint has been sent to the respondent for filing written reply. Reminder be issued.

### **Email Complaint by Mr. Imran Dogar against News Agency PNNI**

The complainant has alleged that the respondent has advertised on Face book to nominate correspondent and received Rs.2000/- fraudulently. The complainant has been asked to send the advertisement, bank receipt and other documents/detail for further proceeding.

### **Complaint by Mst. Farkhanda Jameel Khosa against the Bureau Chief, Daily Pakistan Times, D.G. Khan**

The complainant has filed complaint against the respondent, alleging misrepresentation and malicious manipulated news published on 29-07-2013 by the Daily Times, D.G. Khan. The complainant has been asked to comply with the mandatory provision of Section 10 of the PCP Ordinance but with no response despite reminder. Another reminder be issued to the complainant with direction that the complaint will be filed if mandatory provision of the Ordinance are not fulfilled presuming that complainant is not interested in pursuing it.

### **Complaint by Mst. Ghayoor Sultana against Abdul Sattar Chaudhry, News Reporter, the Daily Jehan-e-Pakistan**

Mst. Ghayoor Sultana has complained against the respondent for harassing and blackmailing her.

The complainant has been asked to comply with the mandatory provision of Section 10 of the PCP Ordinance but with no response despite reminder. Another reminder be issued to the complainant with direction that the complaint will be filed if mandatory provision of the Ordinance are not fulfilled presuming that complainant is not interested in pursuing it.

**Email Complaint by Mr. Muhammad Bukhari against Pakistan Today Lahore**

Mr. Muhammad Bukhari has complained through email regarding publishing misleading and malicious information by the respondent.

The complainant has been asked to comply with the mandatory provision of Section 10 of the PCP Ordinance but with no response despite reminder. Another reminder be issued to the complainant with direction that the complaint will be filed if mandatory provision of the Ordinance are not fulfilled presuming that complainant is not interested in pursuing it.

**Complaint by Mr. Manzoor Ahmed of Airport Society Rawalpindi against the press**

Mr. Manzoor Ahmed has filed a general complaint against the press for publishing advertisements in violation of Supreme Court's decision.

The complainant has been asked to comply with the mandatory provision of Section 10 of the PCP Ordinance but with no response despite reminder. Another reminder be issued to the complainant with direction that the complaint will be filed if mandatory provision of the Ordinance are not fulfilled presuming that complainant is not interested in pursuing it.

**Complaint by Rana Mushtaq Ahmed against Daily Pakistan**

Rana Mushtaq Ahmed has submitted complaint against the management of daily Pakistan, Islamabad, contenting that he has been working with this newspaper for the last 13 years but that management has malafidely transferred him to the office of the daily Pakistan, Quetta, that on reaching Quetta he learnt that daily Pakistan is not being published from Quetta nor there is any administration, editor, Bureau Chief or any other staff in Quetta.

According to him, there is no printing press in Quetta and dummy edition is being published showing it publication of daily Pakistan, Quetta to get crores of rupees from the government for advertisements. He has requested for recovering the amount from the management of daily Pakistan received in the name of Quetta edition and for cancellation of his transfer order of Quetta and for reimbursing the amount spent by him on his travel to and from Quetta.

The PCP has no mandate to redress the grievances of the complainant. It pertains to Ministry of Information, Broadcasting & National Heritage. The application has been sent to PIO, PID, for necessary action. The complainant be also informed.

(Nasreen Aslam Azhar)  
Member

(Syed Qalbe Hassan)  
Member

(Raja M. Shafqat Khan Abbasi)  
Chairman

53. Minutes of the meeting of Special Inquiry Committee held on 21<sup>st</sup> November, 2013 in PCP Secretariat, Islamabad are placed below for approval. The same may be sent to honourable members.

(Director Judicial)  
25/11/2013

Registrar

Chairman