**PRESS COUNCIL OF PAKISTAN**

 **ISLAMABAD**

Chairman Press Council of Pakistan (PCP) takes notice of the condemnable incident of ransacking of the Shabqadar media Centre reported in The News today. This unprovoked attack on a facility for local journalists causing damage to property and stealth of valuables from the premises is a matter which cannot be ignored. The lives of journalist’s could have been endangered in this act of hooliganism.

2. Sub-Section 1(iii) of Section 8 of Press Council of Pakistan (PCP) Ordinance 2002 mandates the PCP “to keeps under review any development likely to restrict the dissemination of news of public interest and importance” and, as per Section 8(2) of the said Ordinance, “the Council shall also act as a shield to freedom of Press.

Thus violent incident is a hindrance to the free flow of information. The Chairman has asked Inspector General of Police (KPK) to look into the matter, punish culprits and ensure safety of journalists.