



Supreme Court Bar Association Of Pakistan

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Syed Qalb-e-Hassan, The President Supreme Court Bar Association of Pakistan (SCBAP) showed his grave concern over the undue & unjustified restrictions being imposed on media & press outlets. SCBAP is of the firm belief that there is no concept of real democracy without free and fair functioning of Media which always played a pivotal role and considered to be the fourth pillar of state. It is the healthy role of media to criticize government policies if they are not in consonance with the welfare of public at large or are against the other norms of the Society. At this instant, it has also been observed that restrictions are also in consideration to be imposed on Social Media or to limit its use which is condemnable in all aspects and manners. Role of PEMRA during the tenure of incumbent Government is also questionable and question of its neutrality and impartiality is continuously undermining the role of one of the foremost organ of the Country.

Whereas Article 19 of the Constitution provides that every citizen of Pakistan has a right to freedom of speech, freedom of expression and freedom of the press. SCBAP is very much concerned on the silent censorship being imposed on media and its relevant segment these days. Such steps taken by incumbent government machinery is not only against the social ethics and morality standards of any sparkling society but is also against the rights given to citizens of Pakistan as enshrined in Art. 19 of the Constitution of Islamic Republic of Pakistan. Moreover such alike prohibition and embargo on freedom of press & media also barricades the intellect minds from flourishing in the best interest of the society and of the Country.

On the other hand the private news channels are the first hand tool to provide all the information to public at large. That design of fencing the media to express their opinions independently should always be discouraged and now the time has come that entire society should turn down the same.

Supreme Court Bar Association of Pakistan hereby demands from the incumbent governing machinery and legislators of the Country to refrain from making any such legislation which undermines the sanctity of Art. 19 of the Constitution as well as to limit the freedom of press. The Legal Fraternity would resist any attempt to snatch the right of freedom of speech which is guaranteed as a constitutional fundamental right in our Constitution.

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