

# SENATE OF PAKISTAN



**SIXTEENTH PARLIAMENTARY YEAR 2018-2019**

**REPORT NO.01 OF 2018**

**REPORT OF THE SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE ON INFORMATION,  
BROADCASTING, NATIONAL HISTORY AND LITERARY HERITAGE**

**ON**

**“MEDIA CONCERNS OVER RESTRICTIONS BEING IMPOSED ON PRINT AND  
ELECTRONIC MEDIA, REFERRED BY THE HOUSE TO THE COMMITTEE ON  
12<sup>TH</sup> JULY 2018 FOR CONSIDERATION AND REPORT WITHIN ONE WEEK”**

**PRESENTED BY:**

**SENATOR FAISAL JAVED**

**CHAIRMAN (COMMITTEE)**

## SENATE SECRETARIAT

### REPORT OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE ON INFORMATION, BROADCASTING, NATIONAL HISTORY AND LITERARY HERITAGE ON "MEDIA CONCERNS OVER RESTRICTIONS BEING IMPOSED ON PRINT AND ELECTRONIC MEDIA, REFERRED BY THE HOUSE ON 12<sup>TH</sup> JULY 2018."

1, Senator Faisal Javed, Chairman Standing Committee on Information, Broadcasting, National History and Literary Heritage, have the honor to submit, on behalf of the Committee, this report on the matter regarding "media concerns over restrictions being imposed on print and electronic media" referred by the House on 12<sup>th</sup> July 2018 to the Committee for consideration and report within one week.

2. The composition of the Committee is as under:-

1.	Senator Faisal Javed	Chairman
2.	Senator Anwar ul Haq Kakar	Member
3.	Senator Pervaiz Rashid	Member
4.	Senator Dr. Ghous Muhammad Khan Niazi	Member
5.	Senator Syed Muhammad Sabir Shah	Member
6.	Senator Khushbakht Shujat	Member
7.	Senator Mushtaq Ahmed	Member
8.	Senator Moula Bux Chandio	Member
9.	Senator Rubina Khalid	Member
10.	Senator Taj Muhammad Afridi	Member
11.	Senator Muhammad Tahir Bizenjo	Member
12.	Senator Atta Ur Rehman	Member
13.	Senator Kamran Michael	Member
14.	Minister Incharge for Information, Broadcasting, National History and Literary Heritage	Ex-Officio Member

3. The Committee held threadbare discussion on the matter in its meeting held on 17<sup>th</sup> July 2018. The following Members of the Committee attended the meeting.

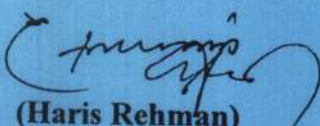
1.	Senator Moula Bux Chandio	Member
2.	Senator Rubina Khalid	Member

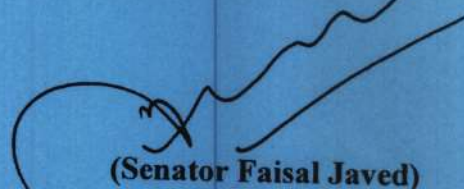
8. Senator Moula Bux Chandio noted that it needed to be identified first as to where actually the problem lies. He added that caretaker government hasn't been able to take control of the state of affairs therefore it's unlikely that any corrective measures would be taken in this particular matter as well. Senator Rubina Khalid asserted that broader picture should be taken into consideration, which tells us that entire electioneering is under threat and serious questions have already arisen on not only on the security situation but also on the credibility of elections. She called for freedom of media and level playing field to all political parties.

9. The Committee noted that Caretaker Minister for Information should have attended the meeting to apprise the Committee of government's stance on media concerns. It was also asserted that media freedom needs to be ensured and it is the responsibility of Ministry of Information, Broadcasting, National History and Literary Heritage to take cognizance of and address all issues facing the print and electronic media in the country.

10. After detailed deliberations, the Committee makes following recommendations for addressing the two concerns raised by media representatives.

- i. Caretaker government should take cognizance of concerns on unannounced censorship and take all steps to address these concerns so as to ensure media freedom as enshrined in the Constitution.
- ii. Ministry of Information, Broadcasting, National History and Literary Heritage should take the issue of unannounced censorship and reported ban on circulation/broadcast of a newspaper/private TV channel to the Federal Cabinet so that a holistic view of the matter is taken and necessary instructions to the concerned quarters are passed for addressing these concerns.
- iii. Ministry of Information, Broadcasting, National History and Literary Heritage should submit a report to the Committee of update into the matter in the first week of August 2018.

  
(Haris Rehman)  
DS / Secretary Committee

  
(Senator Faisal Javed)  
Chairman

Islamabad  
The 17<sup>th</sup> July 2018