

**SENATE OF PAKISTAN  
HOUSE OF FEDERATION**



**Report No. 3 of the Committee**

**REPORT OF THE SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE ON INFORMATION, BROADCASTING, NATIONAL  
HISTORY AND LITERARY HERITAGE ON "POINT OF PUBLIC IMPORTANCE RAISED BY SENATOR  
MUHAMMAD ALI KHAN SAIF IN THE SENATE SITTING HELD ON 28TH AUGUST, 2018 REGARDING  
DEROGATORY REMARKS OF AN ANALYST ON A PRIVATE CHANNEL ABOUT PASHTOONS"**

**PRESENTED BY**

**SENATOR FAISAL JAVED**

**CHAIRMAN COMMITTEE**

## SENATE SECRETARIAT

### REPORT OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE ON INFORMATION, BROADCASTING, NATIONAL HISTORY AND LITERARY HERITAGE ON POINT OF PUBLIC IMPORTANCE RAISED BY SENATOR MUHAMMAD ALI KHAN SAIF IN THE SENATE, REGARDING DEROGATORY REMARKS AGAINST PASHTOONS IN A PRIVATE TV CHANNEL PROGRAM.

I, 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 point of public importance raised by Senator Muhammad Ali Khan Saif in the Senate, regarding derogatory remarks against Pashtoons in a Private TV channel program, referred by the House on 28<sup>th</sup> August 2018 to the Committee for consideration and report.

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 for Information and Broadcasting	Ex-Officio Member

3. The Committee placed the matter on agenda in its meetings held on 5<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> October 2018 and 7<sup>th</sup> January 2019. The following attended the meeting on 5<sup>th</sup> October 2018.

1.	Senator Khushbakht Shujat	Member
2.	Senator Rubina Khalid	Member
3.	Senator Muhammad Tahir Bizenjo	Member

Attendance of the meeting on 18<sup>th</sup> October 2018 was as follows:

1.	Senator Khushbakht Shujat	Member
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Member  


2.	Senator Rubina Khalid	Member
3.	Senator Sajjad Hussain Turi	Member
4.	Senator Dr. Ghous Muhammad Khan Niazi	Member
5.	Senator Pervaiz Rashid	Member
6.	Senator Anwar ul Haq Kakar	Member
7.	Minister for Information and Broadcasting	Ex-Officio Member
8.	Senator Muhammad Ali Khan Saif	Mover

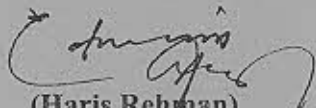
Since conclusive discussion could not be held on the agenda item within 60 days of being referred from the House, extension of 60 working days was solicited from the Chairman Senate in his Chamber and subsequently the matter was again brought on agenda in Committee meeting held on 7<sup>th</sup> January 2019, which was attended by the following:

1.	Senator Sajjad Hussain Turi	Member
2.	Senator Mushtaq Ahmed	Member
3.	Senator Dr. Ghous Muhammad Khan Niazi	Member
4.	Senator Kamran Michael	Member
5.	Senator Muhammad Tahir Bizenjo	Member
6.	Senator Rubina Khalid	Member
7.	Senator Syed Muhammad Sabir Shah	Member

4. The mover, Senator Muhammad Ali Khan Saif, informed the Committee that on 26-8-2018, in the program titled "Sawal Yeh Hai" aired on ARY News with Maria Memon as anchorperson, the analyst Mr. Rahmat Ali Razi, cast derogatory remarks against the Pashtuns while referring to a bureaucrat hailing from Khyber Pakhtunkhwa serving in Pakistan Railways. The program was repeat telecast and its clips are also available on social media but not action was taken to omit the remarks in repeat telecast or negate them in live telecast. He underscored that such derogatory remarks against Pashtuns, or any other ethnic group for that matter, are absolutely uncalled for. He added that serious action shall be taken against the panelist for uttering these remarks, the anchorperson for her inability to stop the panelist from making these remarks or negating them forthwith and the owner of ARY Channel for not airing an apology to the Pashtuns on such remarks that tantamount to slander. The Committee unanimously condemned the remarks and held that such remarks are absolutely uncalled for. The Members asked PEMRA for taking due action against all those responsible as per the law. Chairman PEMRA informed that he had cognizance of the matter from script of the program and directly talked to the owner of ARY News, who apologized on the matter and assured every effort would be made that no such remarks are aired every again. The Chairman and Members of the

Committee did not find this action from PEMRA satisfactory. Senators Rubina Khalid and Anwar ul Haq Kakar demanded that the channel should make an apology on air because the derogatory remarks were passed in a TV program, not in a private meeting. Senator Khushbakht Shujat expressed grave concern on the matter and remarked that when history of our country is written, it will be recorded that the future generation was destroyed by the media and no one did anything to stop this destruction. Senator Muhammad Ali Khan Saif recommended that using its powers, the Committee should summon the analyst, anchorperson and owner to appear before it and explain their role in the matter. He also said that future legislation to prevent such incidents in future would be welcome but for an incident that has already happened there shall be concrete action and penalty. The Chairman Committee underscored that no curbs can be placed on media freedom however every possible step needs to be taken for making media more responsible and sensitive. He also said that there was absolutely no justification for maligning any ethnic group and it was a totally uncalled for act.

5. The Committee finally decided to dispose of the matter on above lines. The Committee also recommended that under Rule 265-A of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in the Senate, 2012, the Minister for Information will be required to make a statement on the matter before the House.

  
(Haris Rehman)  
DS / Secretary Committee

  
(Senator Faisal Javed)  
Chairman

Islamabad  
The 12<sup>th</sup> January 2019