

SENATE OF PAKISTAN



(Report No. 11/2018-21)

REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON RULES OF PROCEDURE AND PRIVILEGES

ON

PRIVILEGE MOTION NO.4(295)/2020-M

**MOVED BY SENATOR MUSHAHIDULLAH KHAN AGAINST THE
AMBASSADORS AND OTHER CONCERNED OFFICERS POSTED IN
PAKISTANI MISSIONS AT DOHA AND PARIS REFERRED BY
HON'BLE CHAIRMAN SENATE ON 14TH JANUARY, 2020**

PRESENTED BY

**SENATOR AYESHA RAZA FAROOQ
CHAIRPERSON**

SENATE SECRETARIAT

Subject: REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON RULES OF PROCEDURE AND PRIVILEGES ON PRIVILEGE MOTION NO. 4(295)/2020-M.

I, Chairperson of the Committee on Rules of Procedure and Privileges, have the honour to present report of the Committee on Privilege Motion No.4 (295)/2020-M moved by Senator Mushahidullah Khan against the ambassadors and other concerned officers posted in Pakistani Missions at Doha and Paris, referred to the Committee by the Hon'ble Chairman Senate on 14th January, 2020.

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

1. Senator Ayesha Raza Farooq	Chairperson
2. Senator Syed Shibli Faraz	Member
3. Senator Mian Raza Rabbani	Member
4. Senator Syed Muzafar Hussain Shah	Member
5. Senator Dr. Asif Kirmani	Member
6. Senator Pervaiz Rasheed	Member
7. Senator Dilawar Khan	Member
8. Senator Nighat Mirza	Member
9. Senator Walid Iqbal	Member
10. Senator Dr. Sikandar Mandhro	Member
11. Senator Muhammad Ali Khan Saif	Member
12. Senator Manzoor Ahmed Kakar	Member
13. <u>Minister for Parliamentary Affairs</u>	<u>Ex. Officio Member</u>

3. The matter was taken up for consideration in the Committee meetings held on 02.03.2020 & 15.07.2020 respectively. The following Members of the Committee attended the meetings:

1. Senator Ayesha Raza Farooq	Chairperson
2. Senator Syed Shibli Faraz	Member
3. Senator Mian Raza Rabbani	Member
4. Senator Syed Muzafar Hussain Shah	Member
5. Senator Pervaiz Rasheed	Member
6. Senator Dr. Asif Kirmani	Member
7. Senator Dilawar Khan	Member
8. Senator Walid Iqbal	Member
9. <u>Minister for Parliamentary Affairs</u>	<u>Ex. Officio Member</u>
10. Senator Mushahidullah Khan	Mover



4. The mover, Senator Mushahidullah Khan while explaining the facts of the matter informed the Committee that he was nominated by the Chairman Senate to attend a Conference on "Specialized Policy Dialogue on Private Sector Engagement" on 16-17 January, 2019 in Paris, France. Since his flight was via Doha, Qatar, therefore the Senate Secretariat intimated the Pakistani missions in Paris and Doha as well as the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Islamabad of the Senator's itinerary, advising them to facilitate the Senator in accordance with his official status. However, when he reached Doha airport, no one from the embassy was present there to receive him at the airport. Similarly, on reaching Paris he complained that a junior officer of the Pakistan Mission was deputed to receive him at the airport, adding that neither was he given a proper briefing for the said event nor did any senior officer of the Mission accompany him to the conference. He felt that it was a prime responsibility of the head of the Pakistan Mission to facilitate and assist Parliamentarians and provide required protocol during official visits. After repeated requests made by the Senator for deputing a senior officer to assist him during the conference, some senior officer from the Mission did reach out to him but only after the conclusion of the Conference. The hon'able member added that in his long political career, he has always been received with utmost respect and accorded due protocol facilitation by Pakistan Missions abroad, and thus he found the instant case peculiar and worth raising here to ensure that the same is not repeated with other honorable members of the Parliament.

5. The Special Secretary, M/o Foreign Affairs, regretted the lapse and while apologizing, explained the process of local protocol facilitation accorded to parliamentarians at Doha airport, which was provided to the hon'able Senator in the instant case. He further informed the Committee, that since the Ambassador who was on leave at the time of the Senator's visit, an officer from the Pakistan Mission in Paris was deputed to facilitate the Senator.

6. Senator Mian Raza Rabbani lamented the unfortunate behaviour of the staff of Foreign Office posted in various Pakistan Missions abroad. He recommended for an inquiry to be initiated in the matter of breach of privilege in respect of Senator Mushahidullah Khan and for necessary action to be taken against the responsible officers. Some members also complained of instances of discrimination in protocol accorded on the basis of parliamentarians' alignment with the political party in government.

7. The Chairperson, while commending Pakistan's ambassadors and staff in Pakistan missions, expressed her concern on this serious lapse which should not have taken place and termed this callous attitude of the Mission towards a member of Parliament travelling to participate in an official conference as a breach of his privilege. She, along with the Committee members, recommended an inquiry to be held into the matter.

8. The Chairperson also directed the Special Secretary to formulate clear SOPs regarding protocol to be accorded to members of Parliament on official visits and circulate to all Pakistan Missions abroad for strict compliance/ observance.

9. In the next meeting of the Committee held on 15.07.2020, the Special Secretary, M/o Foreign Affairs again tendered his apology on the unintentional lapse in facilitation and protocol accorded to Senator Mushahidullah Khan. He apprised the Committee of the inquiry conducted into the matter, and as directed by this Committee as well as the Senate Foreign Affairs Committee, he also shared the revised SOPs regarding the protocol to be accorded to the hon'ble members of the Parliament while on official visits, which he said had also been circulated to all the Pakistan Missions abroad for strict compliance.

10. Senator Mushahidullah Khan was not completely satisfied by the inquiry conducted by the Foreign Ministry and termed it an eye wash and demanded an apology from the concerned officer in the Pakistan Mission in Paris. He agreed not to press this issue further after reassurance by the Special Secretary that all necessary arrangements will be made, and all measures as per revised SOPs will be strictly undertaken to ensure that such a lapse does not take place in the future.

11. Senator Mian Raza Rabbani recommended for an amendment in para number 7 of the revised SOPs to include a comprehensive briefing by Missions on the official Conference/meeting for visiting parliamentarians as well as on Pakistan's and visiting country's bilateral relations. He also recommended for an officer, expert and fully conversant with Conference topic, to be deputed to facilitate visiting delegates. While endorsing Senator Mian Raza Rabbani's suggestion, Senator Pervez Rasheed amplified the importance of a briefing on the bilateral and political relations with the country being visited to sensitize visiting Members.

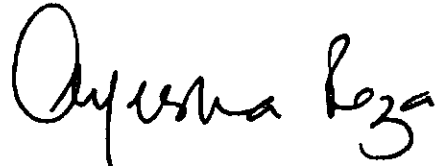
12. While concluding the matter, the Chairperson Senator Ayesha Raza Farooq observed that Pakistan Missions abroad were duty bound to accord due respect to all the visiting parliamentarians belonging to both the government and opposition. She directed the Foreign Office to ensure that such breaches do not occur in future and also directed the Special Secretary to solicit an apology from charge de Affairs Mr. Muhammad Amjad for this lapse. She also directed the Special Secretary to amend the revised SOPs as per the recommendations of the hon'able members, for submission to the Committee.

13. The Mover accepted the apology tendered by the Special Secretary that the lapse in protocol was not by wilful design and will not recur in future. The matter was disposed off accordingly.

14. The Committee recommended that the House may also dispose off the motion accordingly.



(HAFEEZULLAH SHEIKH)
AS/Secretary Committee



(SENATOR AYESHA RAZA FAROOQ)
Chairperson of the Committee