



RESOLUTION NO. 335

WHEREAS,-

- Youth's active and meaningful participation in societies and in democratic practices and processes is of crucial importance;
- Student unions are building grounds for students to nurture themselves and actively become part of the social, cultural and political process of their country.
- Student unions provided an opportunity for the elected representatives of the students to pursue various educational, cultural and welfare related activities;
- Student unions are the only forum where students can raise voice for their academic rights in an effective manner;
- Student unions in Pakistan have, by and large, been the flag-bearers of progressive trends;
- Students' Unions and organizations played a very active role in various national political movements specially their role in the Pakistan movement cannot be denied, when Muslim students had united under the banner of the All India Muslim League;
- Students unions were in the vanguard of the struggle against dictatorship;
- Students' unions have served as a platform to allow the entry of leaders from lower and middle classes on the same footing with those from well-endowed families with political backgrounds;
- It is also true that, in past, many of the student wings have been involved in violence on campus; rather than banning student unions, we could have strengthened educational institutions by a stricter implementation of their code of conduct;

WHEREAS,

- a) The 9th of February, 1984, is a day of infamy for the democratic fabric of Pakistan,;
- b) On this very day the Student Unions were banned by the passing of MLO 1371 (Punjab Zone A) and MLO 227 (Sind Zone C).
- c) These MLOs were repealed by the democratic Government in 1989.
- d) The Supreme Court judgment titled as 1993 SCMR 1781 forbade students from indulging in politics, however, directed that "arrangements shall be made as soon as possible and not later than a month to take steps for developing, restoring or re-organizing a healthy students discussion and other activity in any form suitable to the individual institutions which might be called by any description; regarding which arrangements for election shall also be made".



e) The Supreme Court also held that keeping in view the nature of the subject matter will have to be kept under review from time to time by the Supreme Court.

WHEREAS the effect of the MLOs banning student unions has,-

- put society through a cruel and prolonged suffering for more than three decades; slowly allowing the poison of fundamentalism, sectarianism, linguistic hatred and other reactionary tendencies to seep into the streams of society;
- stymied campus development and student welfare issues;
- damaged the personal growth of students and of healthy debates.
- caused critical damage in the form of lack of student elections and by extension, the death of the concept of responsible governance in the minds of our youth.

Therefore, the Senate of Pakistan, while acknowledging that students have played a vital role in the progress of their countries, not just in Pakistan but around the world,-

REITERATES that Students Unions are a major forum for organising social activities and for addressing a range of academic and welfare issues through collective representation of students; hence provide a platform to the students for personal and community development;

DECLARES that,-

- The Constitution of Pakistan vide Article 17 gives every person the right to form associations;
- These recommendations are not in violation of the judgment of the Supreme Court;
- use of weapons on the campuses was and is deplorable; a policy of dewaterization in educational institutions should be strictly followed by the Federal and Provincial Governments.

URGES the Government to revive student unions in the educational institutions of the Islamabad Capital Territory with a Code of Conduct in place. The Code should provide a mechanism for ensuring zero tolerance for violent activities;



Keeping in view that this is a provincial subject, **RECOMMENDS** to the Provincial Governments to revive students' unions in the educational institutions and regulate the same in order to ensure zero tolerance for violent activities.

**Moved by Senator Raja Muhammad Zafar-u-Haq,
Leader of the House.
Unanimously passed by the Senate of Pakistan on 23rd
August, 2017**