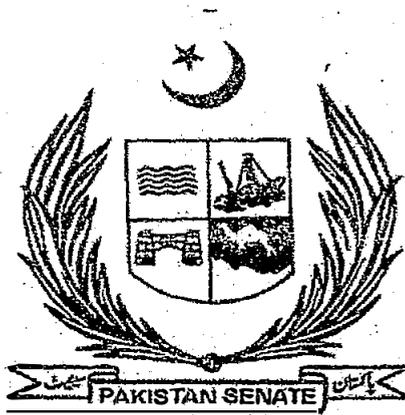


SENATE OF PAKISTAN



House of the Federation

REPORT 01

**REPORT OF THE SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE ON
INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING**

ON

**POINT OF PUBLIC IMPORTANCE REGARDING "GRIEVANCES OF
JOURNALISTS" RAISED BY SENATOR IRFAN UL HAQ SIDDIQUI IN
A SENATE SITTING HELD ON 15TH JULY 2025.**

PRESENTED BY

SENATOR SYED ALI ZAFAR

SENATE SECRETARIAT

THE REPORT OF THE SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE ON INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING ON A POINT OF PUBLIC IMPORTANCE REGARDING "GRIEVANCES OF JOURNALISTS" RAISED BY SENATOR IRFAN UL HAQ SIDDIQUI IN A SENATE SITTING HELD ON 15TH JULY 2025.

I, Senator Syed Ali Zafar, Chairman Senate Standing Committee on Information and Broadcasting have the honour to present, on behalf of Committee, this report on a Point of Public Importance regarding "Grievances of Journalists" raised by Senator Irfan ul Haq Siddiqui in a Senate sitting held on 15th July 2025 and referred by the House to the Committee for consideration and report.

2. The Composition of the Standing Committee is given as under: -

1.	Senator Syed Ali Zafar	Chairman
2.	Senator Ashraf Ali Jatoi	Member
3.	Senator Sarmad Ali	Member
4.	Senator Aon Abbas Bappi	Member
5.	Senator Irfan ul Haq Siddiqui	Member
6.	Senator Muhammad Tallal Badar	Member
7.	Senator Pervaiz Rashid	Member
8.	Senator Fesal Vawda	Member
9.	Senator Abdul Shakoore Khan	Member
10.	Senator Jan Muhammad	Member
11.	Senator Syed Waqar Mehdi	Member
12.	Senator Faisal Javed	Member
13.	Minister for Information & Broadcasting	Ex-Officio Member

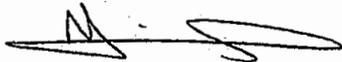
3. The Committee held its meeting on the agenda on, 6th August 2025 and 10th September 2025. The 10th September 2025 meeting of Committee was attended by the following;

1.	Senator Syed Ali Zafar	Chairman
2.	Senator Sarmad Ali	Member
3.	Senator Irfan-ul-Haque Siddiqui	Member
4.	Senator Pervaiz Rashid	Member
5.	Senator Abdul Shakoore Khan	Member
6.	Senator Jan Muhammad	Member

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| 7. | Senator Syed Waqar Mehdi | Member |
| 8. | Senator Faisal Javed | Member |
| 9. | Minister for Information and Broadcasting | Ex-Officio Member |

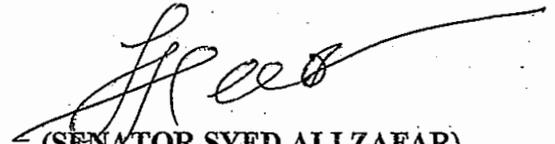
4. In its meeting held on 6th August 2024, the Committee discussed the agenda in detail. The Chairman expressed deep concern over the mistreatment of a senior journalist by a police officer. Senator Irfan-ul-Haq Siddiqui recalled that journalists had staged a walkout from the Senate galleries on 15th July, after which he was directed by the House to engage with them. He reported that a senior journalist had been tortured by police and termed this act as "unacceptable".
5. The Additional Secretary, Ministry of Interior, informed the Committee that the incident took place in Rawalpindi under the Punjab Government. A report had been submitted by Punjab Police; however, no representative of the Punjab Police was present. The Committee strongly condemned this absence and warned that such disregard would not be tolerated.
6. Mr. Usman Khan, President of the Parliamentary Reporters Association, briefed the Committee that senior journalist Mr. Tariq Virik had been unlawfully detained and mishandled by the SHO, allegedly as part of deliberate tactics used by Punjab Police against journalists. He confirmed that Mr. Virik had been kept in custody for eight hours without any valid reason.
7. The Federal Minister for Information and Broadcasting condemned the incident and apologized on behalf of the Government, reiterating that such conduct was neither supported nor tolerated. Despite efforts to engage senior police officers, the issue remained unresolved as the SHO neither appeared nor apologized.
8. After detailed deliberations, the Committee made the following recommendations:
 - a. The Federal Minister for Information and Broadcasting shall convene a meeting with relevant journalist representatives to amicably resolve their grievances, and engage the Government of Punjab, including senior police officials, for a coordinated approach;
 - b. Journalists were encouraged to engage in dialogue with the Minister for resolution of the issue;
 - c. An immediate inquiry be initiated against the concerned police officer, and the officer be suspended pending investigation;

- d. The Ministry of Interior was directed to bring the concerned SHO and senior police officers to the next meeting to brief the Committee; and
 - e. A comprehensive report on the implementation of these recommendations be submitted at the earliest possible time.
9. In its subsequent meeting held on 10th September 2024, the Committee reviewed the progress on the matter. During the discussion, a representative of the journalists expressed gratitude to the Committee for providing a forum that facilitated the resolution of outstanding issues. They noted that both the Regional Police Officer (RPO) Rawalpindi and the Minister for Information and Broadcasting had personally apologized to the journalists, helping to resolve differences. The journalists emphasized that the most important outcome was their renewed confidence that Parliament stands in support of them.
 10. The Minister for Information and Broadcasting acknowledged the Committee's role in motivating the Ministry to become more proactive in addressing such grievances.
 11. After considering the report and remarks, the Committee expressed satisfaction with the progress made by the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting. Consequently, the agenda item was disposed of.



(MISHAAL ASHRAF)

Acting Secretary Committee



(SENATOR SYED ALI ZAFAR)

Chairman Committee