



**International  
Federation  
of Journalists**

**JACQUELINE PARK**  
IFJ Asia-Pacific Director  
**ELISABETH COSTA**  
General Secretary

**For the attention of:**

Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif  
Prime Minister's Secretariat  
44000 Constitution Avenue  
Islamabad  
PAKISTAN  
By email: [info@pmo.gov.pk](mailto:info@pmo.gov.pk)

January 21, 2013

Dear Mr Prime Minister,

**RE: Journalist killings in Pakistan**

We write to express our deep concern at the deadly situation currently confronting media workers in Pakistan and the ongoing failure by Pakistan law enforcement officials to bring journalist killers to justice.

The International Federation of Journalists (IFJ), representing more than 600,000 journalists in 120 countries, respectfully requests you use your authority to ensure prompt action is undertaken following the latest shooting assassination of three media workers from Express News and to ensure justice is swiftly meted out to the perpetrators of this heinous crime.

The brutal murder of Express News employees technician Waqas Aziz Khan, driver Khalid Khan and security guard Ashraf Arian, fired upon at close range as they sat in an Express TV van on Friday, January 17, has incensed a Pakistan media community weary of the spectre of death.

This is the third strike on media workers from Express News in the past year and, if concerted effort had been made to bring the culprits of these previous attacks to justice, these three men might still be alive today.

We address this letter to you now because Pakistan continues to build an horrific record of violence against journalists and subsequent impunity for those responsible. The latest attack brings the number of media workers killed in Pakistan to four in the year to date, including the shooting murder of investigative journalist Shan Dahar on January 1.

The IFJ has already issued its report card on Pakistan as one of the most deadly places for journalists; it has condemned attacks that took 10 journalists' lives in 2013 but these protests seem to fall on deaf ears. Even on the rare occasions when credible investigations take place, the results are either inconclusive or have been withheld from the public.

In this climate, the IFJ has no alternative but to come to a conclusion that the government of Pakistan to date has failed in its duties to protect media workers when the realities for them are all too apparent. It has failed to bring killers to justice and yet these brave journalists continue to try to do their jobs knowing death is a real repercussion.

The IFJ would like to remind the Government of Pakistan that as a signatory to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, it is legally bound to respect, guarantee and uphold the right to freedom of expression protected by Article 19 of the Covenant, which includes the obligation to ensure that any attacks on journalists are vigorously investigated in a timely



**International  
Federation  
of Journalists**

**JACQUELINE PARK**  
IFJ Asia-Pacific Director  
**ELISABETH COSTA**  
General Secretary

fashion, the perpetrators are prosecuted, and the victims, or, in the case of killings, their representatives, receive appropriate forms of redress.

It is no longer enough for Pakistan's government to condemn killings, serious and overdue action is needed.

We stress that by allowing a culture of impunity to thrive by acquiescence, i.e. by failing to prosecute those responsible for attacks such as that on the Express News workers can amount to a violation of the Government of Pakistan's obligation to protect the right to life as guaranteed by Article 6 of the ICCPR when such attacks lead to the death of the victims.

We call upon the Government of Pakistan to dedicate all necessary resources to identify and prosecute the killers of Shan Dahar, Ashraf Arian, Khalid Khan and Waqas Aziz Khan. No reasonable efforts should be spared to bring to justice those responsible for this reprehensible crime.

We look forward to a discussion or response to this issues and the state of impunity surrounding violence against journalists in Pakistan.

Yours Sincerely,

**Jacqueline Park**  
**Director,**  
**IFJ Asia-Pacific**

With copy to:

Pervaiz Rashid  
Minister for Information, Broadcasting, and National Heritage  
Minister for Law, Justice, and Human Rights  
e: [pervaiz.rashid@senate.gov.pk](mailto:pervaiz.rashid@senate.gov.pk)

Shahid Nadeem Baloch  
Inspector General of Police, Sindh  
f: +9221 9921 2051  
e: [feedback@sindhpolice.gov.pk](mailto:feedback@sindhpolice.gov.pk)