

SITUATIONAL ANALYSIS OF “RIGHT TO INFORMATION” IN THE COMMUNICATION & INFORMATION SECTOR IN PAKISTAN

**Report Submitted to UNESCO
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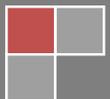


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ACRONYMS

CPJ	COMMITTEE TO PROTECT JOURNALISTS
FATA	FEDERALLY ADMINISTERED TRIBAL AREAS
FOI	FREEDOM OF INFORMATION
ISPAK	INTERNET SERVICE PROVIDERS ASSOCIATION OF PAKISTAN
ITU	INTERNATIONAL TELECOMMUNICATIONS UNION
KPK	KHYBER PUKHTOONKHWA
NGO	NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS
PBC	PAKISTAN BROADCASTING CORPORATION
PEMRA	PAKISTAN ELECTRONIC MEDIA REGULATORY AUTHORITY
PFUJ	PAKISTAN FEDERAL UNION OF JOURNALISTS
PNNABRO	PRESS, NEWSPAPERS, NEWS AGENCIES AND BOOKS REGISTRATION ORDINANCE
PPC	PAKISTAN PENAL CODE
PR	PUBLIC RELATIONS
PTA	PAKISTAN TELECOMMUNICATION AUTHORITY
PTCL	PAKISTAN TELECOMMUNICATION CORPORATION LIMITED (PTCL)
PTV	PAKISTAN TELEVISION NETWORK
RTI	RIGHT TO INFORMATION
SWOT	STRENGTH-WEAKNESS-OPPORTUNITY-THREAT
TUJ	TRIBAL UNION OF JOURNALISTS
UN	UNITED NATIONS
UNESCO	UNITED NATIONS EDUCATIONAL, SCIENTIFIC AND CULTURAL ORGANIZATION

INTRODUCTION

Freedom of Information (FOI) or now increasingly referred to as Right to Information is a universal fundamental right. It can be defined as the right to access information held by public bodies. It is an integral part of the fundamental right of freedom of expression, as recognized by Resolution 59 of the UN General Assembly adopted in 1946, as well as by Article 19 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (1948), which states that the fundamental right of freedom of expression encompasses the freedom to “to seek, receive and impart information and ideas through any media and regardless of frontiers”. (UNESCO, 2011)

Right to Information legislation reflects the fundamental premise that all information held by governments and governmental institutions is in principle public and may only be withheld if there are legitimate reasons, such as typically privacy and security, for not disclosing it. UNESCO’s mandate as set out in its 1945 Constitution specifically calls on the Organization to “promote the free flow of ideas by word and image”. This mission is reflected on UNESCO’s Medium Term Strategy Medium-Term Strategy for 2008-2013 (34 C/4), and particularly in its strategic programme objective of enhancing universal access to information and knowledge. (UNESCO, 2011)

Right to Information has become increasingly relevant today for Guaranteeing Human Rights, for the Sustainability of the Environment, for the Right to Political Participation and for the Fight against Corruption. Access to Information is the Right to Empowerment. (UNESCO, 2011)

Aims & Objective of Report

The objective of this report provides a broad-based overview on the status of Right to Information in Pakistan with respect to varying contexts and perspectives which include the following areas:

- How enabling is the policy and legal environment ensuring fluid access to information?
- What extent is the media free allowing the free flow of information to the public?
- In what ways is ownership of media affecting the quality and diversity of news?
- What are the challenges of the media and restraints to access information in conflict areas?

Each of these questions has been explored in this report.

This report aims to recommend areas or entry points for UNESCO in building the capacities of institutions and stakeholders in order to:

- Develop a conducive environment for freedom of expression, pluralism and diversity in media.
- Safeguard freedom of media to serve as a platform for democratic discourse.
- Ensure the continuous development of journalists and civil society to become supporting pillars of good governance.
- Strengthen independent and pluralistic media and ensure transparency of ownership.

This situational analysis is a qualitative study based mainly on a desk review of existing documents, supported by interviews with media analysts and experts, news reporters across Pakistan (print and electronic media) and media educationists.

1 BRIEF OVERVIEW OF MEDIA LANDSCAPE IN PAKISTAN

Print News Media

In print media, there are over 952 newspapers and periodicals, of which 761 are in Urdu, 84 in English, 2 in Punjabi, 17 in Pashto, 26 in Sindhi and 13 in Balochi (Federal Bureau of Statistics, Government of Pakistan, 2011). Major newspaper groups are Jang, Dawn, Nawa-e-Waqt, Express, Daily times, Khabrein. Each of these groups own televisions channels. Currently, cross-media ownership is a common phenomenon in Pakistan.

TV News Channels

After fourteen years of independence, television was introduced in Pakistan. First television channel Pakistan Television (PTV) was launched in 1964 from Lahore. PTV was the only channel available to the views until 1990 when the state's monopoly was broken by a private channel Network Television Marketing (NTM). However, this recent influx of private channels started in 2002, after Musharraf liberalised the media.

Pakistan Television Network now consists of six state-owned television channels. These channels have the maximum reach as they are available on satellite and on terrestrial. Currently PEMRA has given license to 85 channels out of which 69 are functional. There are approximately 20 news channels, 38 entertainment channels, 4 sports channel, 3 cooking show channels, 2 educational channels, 1 agriculture channels and 19 regional channels. (PEMRA, 2010) The major networks are PTV Network, GEO network, EYE TV Network, Indus Network, ARY Network, Express Media Group, AAJ Network and ATV Network.

Approximately 86 million people watch television; 38 million have access to cable and satellite while 48 million can only watch terrestrial broadcasts (Gallup Pakistan, 2009).

Radio

Radio in Pakistan, like television, was under state monopoly until the PEMRA Act of 2002. The state-owned Pakistan Broadcasting Corporation's (PBC) Radio Pakistan and FM 101 has by far the largest outreach, with 31 stations that cover 80% of Pakistan's territory, reaching 96.5% of the population, 95.5 million listeners (Pakistan Broadcasting Corporation, 2009). PEMRA has issued 138 FM licences out which 115 radio channels are functional. (PEMRA, 2010) Non-commercial campus radios are also present in most major universities across Pakistan. Listenership is higher in rural areas. Many illegal frequencies operating all over Pakistan, especially in Khyber Pukhtoonkhwa have been shut down by the government.

Internet

Pakistani internet users have been on the rise with accelerated pace; crossing 20 million benchmark with a greater percentage accessing the internet via mobile phones said the Freedom on the Net 2011 report. (Sanja Kelly, 2011). The report cited International Telecommunications Union (ITU) and said that estimated users have been surging significantly on monthly basis however; the Internet Service Providers Association of Pakistan (ISPAK) estimated a far lower number of internet users at only ten million. On the other hands, some of the local think tanks said that the internet users have crossed 24 million benchmark at present with surging number of broadband and mobile internet users. The

report stated that the Internet is available in all the major cities of the country, as well as in many remote areas. The majority of people use dial-up connections whereas broadband internet is growing speedily in big cities.

According to the Pakistan Telecommunication Authority (PTA), the number of broadband subscribers are 900,648 (0.5% of the population) who mostly use DSL (Pakistan Telecommunication Authority, 2009-2010). Pakistan Telecommunication Corporation Limited (PTCL), Wateen, and WorldCall control more than 80% of the broadband market. The remaining market still uses dial-up internet on their landlines (of which PTCL has sole monopoly).

Cellular mobile phone

According to PTA, there are over 1 billion cellular subscribers (65.4% of the population).

Annual Cellular Subscribers						
Mobile	Mobilink	Ufone	Zong	Telenor	Warid	Total
June 2011	33,378,161	20,533,787	10,927,693	26,667,079	17,387,798	108,894,518

(Source: Pakistan Telecommunication Authority, 2011, www.pta.gov.pk/)

59% of rural survey respondents and 82% of urban respondents said they had access to mobiles (BBC Pakistan, 2008).

2 RIGHT TO INFORMATION

The right to access to information was first provided legal cover through an ordinance promulgated by the caretaker government led by Meraj Khalid in January 1997, when Farooq Leghari was the president. When Nawaz Sharif came to power, his government did not get the ordinance passed into a law through parliament and the ordinance lapsed. In General Pervez Musharraf's regime the Freedom of Information Act 2002 was enacted.

After 37 years since the promulgation of the 1973 Constitution of Pakistan, under the 18th Amendment in April 2010, a new article i.e. Article 19-A was inserted in the Constitution acknowledging the Citizens Right to Information. Prior to this, the Constitution did not expressly give a right to access of information. However the practical reality of implementation of the article in its true spirit has yet to be realized.

Article 19-A states: *"Every citizen shall have the right to have access to information in all matters of public importance subject to regulation and reasonable restrictions imposed by law."*

While the article has been inserted, the Freedom of Information Act of 2002 is currently still in force.

Critique of Freedom of Information Act 2002

The Freedom of Information Act is considered controversial from various perspectives. According to I.A. Rehman, "The ordinance is flawed in concept and content. Unless it is drastically changed to accommodate public views it will serve only as a vehicle for denying information instead of making it accessible to the citizens." (Rehman, Report on Freedom of Information Ordinance, 2006)

Two reports that have executed an extensive review of the Ordinance are:

1. Rehman, I. (2006). Report on Freedom of Information Ordinance. In I. A. (ed.), *Sapana: South Asian Studies Vol. XII-Media & Peace in South Asia* (pp. 277-280). Lahore: Free Media Foundation.
2. Article 19. (2002, November 15). *Memorandum on the Federal Government of Pakistan's Freedom of Information Ordinance*. Retrieved November 2011, from Article 19.org: <http://www.article19.org/data/files/pdfs/analysis/pakistan.foi.02.pdf>

For a review on the draft Freedom of Information Rules for implementing the Pakistani Freedom of Information Ordinance:

1. Article 19. (2003, September 15). *Review on the draft Freedom of Information Rules for implementing the Pakistani Freedom of Information Ordinance*. Retrieved November 2011, from Article 19.org: <http://www.article19.org/pdfs/analysis/pakistan.foi.ngo.03.pdf>

The way the law was implemented was undemocratic. Documents excluded for record is too vast with a large area of exceptions, does not provide for appeal in case information is not provided, involves punishment for 'frivolous' complaints, and no protection offered to 'whistle-blowers'. The definition of 'public body' is restricted and does not include industries and corporations. These are just a few examples.

It is also important to note that the Freedom of Information Act 2002 does not include political parties and thus one cannot make any direct requests for information. Political parties register limited information only to the Election Commission of Pakistan which includes annual audited accounts

(often poorly reported), internal party election (which is often a formality considering the hereditary tradition in politics in Pakistan), assets of party members and details of election expenditures. (Center for Civic Education, 2011). However with a strong Access to Information Act, greater transparency can be achieved with respect to political parties.

Critique in Implementation of Freedom of Information Act 2002

If the new draft bill of 2011 is passed, it repeals the Freedom of Information Act 2002. However it is important to understand the issues in the implementation of FOI 2002 so that lessons learnt are understood and the new proposed law may be effectively implemented.

In 2007, the Civic Centre for Education, Pakistan conducted a study by requesting information from 15 different federal ministries, the Election Commission, National Accountability Bureau, and several public offices on the FOI 2002 and its implementation with respect to their departments. The findings of the study are as follows (Civic Centre for Education , Pakistan, 2007) :

- Only the Cabinet Division responded to the information request.
- The study showed that the law lacks political will and parliamentary ownership as it was enacted without any consultation with the parliament before Musharraf came into power.
- It was challenging to find information on the FOI ordinance itself.
- According to the statistics provided by the Cabinet Division, till December 2006 only 59 requests were made. Out of these, only forty received the requested information.
- The available information reveals that no separate funds were allocated during 2002-2007 to facilitate the implementation of the FOI-2002. “Examples from countries with successful implementation of access to information laws illustrate that extensive financial resources are required to transform traditionally close systems of governance into open systems.”
- The Government trained inductees in the office of the Federal Ombudsman. The training of other designated officers and staff has been done through the efforts of NGOs.
- Online Availability of FOI-2002 was not made available in Urdu and regional languages. The translation once again was done by NGO even though the Access to Justice Programme promised the translation of all laws. (This is with exception to the Law and Justice Commission of Pakistan that has attempted to provide information on the law and process for the public.)
- Not even a single ministry advertised in public interest to inform the public about the FOI-2002
- The Cabinet Division had not issued any formal instructions to Ministries/Divisions for the uniform implementation of the FOI-2002.
- There appeared to be a lack of a meaningful coordination mechanism as well as any serious attempt to monitor progress and to establish a functional reporting system.
- *Provincial Level and Local Government Implementation*
 - Only the Sindh Government promulgated an Ordinance which was a replica of the FOI-2002. The Ordinance was never taken up by the Sindh Assembly and no rules were framed to operationalize it. The Balochistan Freedom of Information Act was enacted in 2005.
 - In NWFP (now Khyber Pukhtoonkhwa), a draft of the Freedom of Information Bill was formulated but was not promulgated as an ordinance or enacted as a law.
 - In Punjab no efforts were made to enact any Freedom of Information law till now. The Punjab government has drafted a law- the Punjab Freedom of Information Act 2010 but has been delaying the enactment of the law questioning the motivations of the

government. The threat of publicizing the work and financial performance of elected and public representatives is daunting as ‘democratization of information’ is both power and evidence against them. The provincial law minister Rana Sanaullah has stated that the delay has only been because the Punjab government is waiting for the enactment of the federal information law ensuring that the provincial information law will be enacted in line with the spirit of the federal law.

- A critique of the draft law in Punjab, other than the recommendation to change its name to Punjab Right to Information Act and not as the Punjab Freedom of Information Act, is that there is a need to mention in the preamble that Right to Information is the constitutional right of the people. The draft law restricts access to information to the residents of the province whereas it should give access to all citizens of Pakistan. Furthermore, like the federal law, its scope needs to be broadened and NGOs should also be brought within the purview of the law. (Abdullah, 2011)
- At the local government level, no notice board was found in Union council offices (except in two Unions) containing details of office activities, duties and responsibilities. None of the Councils had records of complaints of missing amenities and addressing of matters was done ‘verbally’. No libraries have been established in any locality, no pamphlets or leaflets were distributed to create awareness about social and health issues. Information is mostly disseminated through the local mosque’s loud speakers.

Challenges for Implementation of Right to Information Acts

There is cynicism as to how the Act will be implemented. In his article, *Access That Never Was*, Nusrat Javed writes, “while covering parliamentary proceedings since 1985, I can recall hordes of questions members of our ‘sovereign parliament’ have been putting to various governments without getting any answers. Even if remotely linked to “issues of national security” most questions are “killed” in chambers of the national assembly speaker or senate chairmen...But the information they may extract can lead to exposure of some embarrassing facts. Little wonder, even the “democratic governments” stall such questions with standard excuse: “*the required information is being collected.*” (Javed, 2006, p. 274)

The biggest or main hurdle described by all interviewees is “red-tapism” of bureaucracy. Hence reforms need to be implemented beyond establishing and maintaining information systems. There is a culture of secrecy that pervades the system and so change in mind-sets is required.

Media expert and analyst Dr Mehdi Hasan says “no rule or law is properly implemented in Pakistan. Everything looks good on paper but in practicality the dynamics are totally different. If you look back, so many things in our historical background are still a mystery (e.g. Liaqat Ali Khan’s and Benazir Bhutto’s assassination). Sometimes the official information is incorrect also. For example in 1971, when we went to war with India, the official version was that Pakistan is winning the war, and only after seventeen days, Pakistan surrendered. Nobody knew what went wrong until 35 years later an Indian newspaper published the Hamood-ur-Rehman Commission report 1971. The problem is so many commissions and committees are established but no report is made public. Till date there is only one report on the Ahmedi incident that happened in Lahore under Ayub’s era which was made public, none of the reports have been made public. In the constitution it is clearly stated that right to information is guaranteed, but there are 6-7 such conditions which are imposed that there is no room for right to information.

“Only carefully selected information is passed on to the media. Media is as useless as the rest of the rest of the country. For example, what do you know of the Baluchistan missing people? What to do you know of banned outfits?” asks senior media professional and educationist, Wajahat Masood. He reiterated the challenge from the red-tapism of the civil servant system from the colonial period. So having the right to information does not matter.

Rabia Mehmood, Reporter for Express TV news, says, “Going through the hierarchy in bureaucracy is not an easy task. One has to convince government officials to give journalists access to information, which should already be publicly available and people’s access to this information is their right in a democratic set-up.

A recent example of how Access to Information was curtailed is when a few weeks back the current government issued a notification barring its employees from interacting with the media. The circular said: “Interaction of government servants with the media and their contribution through articles caused embarrassment to the government. Instances have come to the notice of government where its servants have interacted with the press/electronic media and contributed articles and writings in newspapers making statement of their opinion which is highly objectionable and places it in the embarrassing position. All such communications of opinion and articles by a government servant without prior sanction of the government are prohibited under the Government Servants (Conduct) Rules 1964. Any violation of these rules may warrant punitive action under the Government Servants (Efficiency and Discipline) Rules 1973.” (Raza, 2011) Two police officials were suspended for leaking information to a journalist shortly after issuance of notification. They were found involved in talking to a journalist about corruption in the anti-car lifting cell of the police. (Raza, 2011)

Most officials do not provide information to the media and only pass information when it loses its utility or data that is irrelevant. Official spokespersons are often not available in most of the federal ministries and departments and where they are present; they usually lack information making it difficult to report news objectively and accurately. (Raza, 2011)

Gender & Information

Women in Pakistan, particularly those who live in rural areas and those living in conservative household are deprived of information. Women are often not allowed to watch TV or listen to radios. Because many women are illiterate, print media is not a source of information or news. Women require greater information about their rights for socio-economic change and empowering them. (International Media Support, 2009, p. 33)

What needs to be done?

According to the President, National Press Club of Pakistan, the Club has done a lot of work on the proposed bill of the Right to Information and have done some research as well. “What we have seen is that there is a huge information gap amongst the journalist community on the content and the ability to use the Right to Information Act/Ordinance. We found out that there were only 10-12 requests by the journalists across Pakistan to use the RTI as a tool to access information.” He further added, “If we really want this right to information bill to be adopted by the stakeholders in Pakistan, it is important that we first build the capacity of the media to understand the Act and learn how to make use of this as a tool to seek information from the various authorities.” (Butt, 2011)

Sania Nishtar, president of the NGO Heartfile, says “there is very little public awareness relating to the implications of this law, particularly with respect to the manner in which this instrument can empower people and ways in which it can be an entry point to improving governance. As such therefore, there is no public demand for this legislation, which is an additional challenging factor.” (Freedominfo.org, 2011) The same response reverberated in Masood’s response “There are two ways to improve the situation: either individually or collectively. We as a collective nation need to arise to a consensus that things need to be changed. There is political will in the people to change. If the society decides that right to information needs to be propagated only then it can be implemented.”

One needs to take advantage of technological advances. As much data needs to be placed online. The Government needs to allow private channels to cover the parliament sessions. Currently, just the state television has permission and private channels take feed from PTV. The tradition of in-camera hearings at court needs to be abolished as well. The world over court hearings are allowed for coverage. And very few are in-camera, but even those are open to reporters. While in Pakistan, it’s a norm for the state institutions to block access to information which concerns Pakistani public. (Mehmood, 2011)

Repeal of FOI Act 2002 & Introduction of Draft Law Right to Information Bill 2011

On October 11th 2011, Sherry Rehman, sitting parliamentarian and head of think-tank Jinnah Institute, introduced the much-awaited Right to Information (RTI) bill in the National Assembly that was pending in the National Assembly Secretariat for two years. It was not clear why Rehman introduced the bill as a private member and not through her political party which is currently in power raising concerns on whether this was yet another failed attempt. “In Pakistan’s entire legislative history there are only a few instances where parliament has passed Private Members bills,” mentions Dr Nishtar. (Freedominfo.org, 2011) Earlier attempts were made in 2004 with subsequent versions of the bill submitted for review by the National Assembly in 2006 and 2008. (Dawn News, 2011)

The government has referred the bill to the concerned standing committee of the House for further deliberations. “The new RTI bill proposes to repeal the 2002 Ordinance on Freedom of Information in an effort to make all public and private bodies falling within its ambit increasingly accountable to citizens,” she said and added that the bill will facilitate and encourage the disclosure of information for greater transparency. (Yasin, 2011)

The new bill proposes access to information of every citizen to any department of the government and includes private bodies as well. As far as “exceptions” are concerned Rehman said the new Act will “also seek to ensure that all restrictions and exceptions on the right to information are weighed against the greater public interest,” she said. (Yasin, 2011) Furthermore, the bill requires organisations to proactively publish their records of structure, budget and modus operandi. It provides protection to whistle-blowers and it requires decisions not to grant information to an applicant explained clearly to him and to point out alternatives. The bill suggests the existence of a body that can monitor and provide guidance for the issuance of records to Public Information Officer. (Yasin, 2011)

3 PRESS FREEDOM & MEDIA RESPONSIBILITY

Freedom of Expression

Article XIX of the *Universal Declaration of Human Rights, 1948*, "Everyone has the right to freedom of opinion and expression; this right includes the freedom to hold opinions without interference and to seek, receive and impart information and ideas through any media and regardless of frontiers."

Unfortunately as in the case of the Right to Information in Article 19-A in the Constitution of Pakistan, the vague exceptions in Article 19 deters the freedom of expression.

"Every citizen shall have the right to freedom of speech and expression, and there shall be freedom of the press, subject to any reasonable restrictions imposed by law in the interest of the glory of Islam or the integrity, security or defense of Pakistan or any part thereof, friendly relations with foreign States, public order, decency or morality, or in relation to contempt of court or commission of or incitement to an offence."

Constitution of Islamic Republic of Pakistan, 1973

Press Freedom

With numerous dictatorships in Pakistan's history, many attempts have been made to strangle and control the vibrant and active press of Pakistan. Methods of control include:

- Control over newsprint, budget for advertising and public interest campaigns, and its ability to enforce regulations.
- Pressure groups (political parties, religious groups, ethnic groups etc.) use physical violence, sacking of offices, intimidation and beating of journalists, and interference with distribution of newspapers.
- censorship
- laws curtailing freedom of press

Despite all these methods used, privately owned newspapers and now electronic new media freely discuss public policy and criticize the government.

Several legal instruments have been introduced to restrict the press over time. In addition to the laws listed in Section 4 of this report, other laws used against journalists, editors, and publications are (Rehman, *Press Laws & Freedom of Expression*, 2006):

- i) The Officials Secret Act of 1926, a colonial law used to detain and prosecute editors and journalists.
- ii) The Security of Pakistan Act of 1952 used to close down press, impose prior censorship, and stop publication.
- iii) Maintenance of Public Order Ordinance 1960, prohibits publication, prior censorship, close press down, force disclosure of sources.
- iv) Section 123-A of Pakistan Penal Code (PPC) allows prosecution of anything prejudicial to safety or ideology of Pakistan
- v) Section 124-A of PPC applies to sedition.
- vi) Section 153-B penalizes incitement of students disturbing public order and can be used against the press.
- vii) Section 292 of PPC prohibits sale, publication or exhibition of obscene books.

- viii) Section 295-C of PPC known as the infamous blasphemy law has been applied to journalists.
- ix) Section 99 A of the Criminal Procedure Code gives executive powers to prescribe publications.
- x) The Contempt of Court Act
- xi) The Defamation Ordinance 2002
- xii) The Anti-Terrorism Act

Successive governments have only tried to further curtail freedom of expression. The growing theocratization of society, obsession with national security, suppression of dissent, long periods of authoritarian military rule and corrupt and secretive regimes have always opposed freedom of expression and transparency.

An example is when in November 2007, President Musharraf imposed an Emergency, the Constitution was suspended, hence suspending fundamental rights, PRMRA and PNNABRO laws were enforced, Code of conduct for media was issued, transmission of private television news channels was suspended, there was the prolonged suspension of GEO, outspoken journalists and media outlets were victimised and intimidated, government advertising was withheld.

In 2010, the Committee to Protect Journalists said that Pakistan was the deadliest country for journalists. According to the Committee to Protect Journalists, 41 journalists have lost their lives while reporting in Pakistan since 1992 (plus 13 journalists for which motives are not confirmed), 36 of these were killed after 2001. Seven journalists died this year (2011).

The most prolific of these of murders was that Saleem Shezad which incurred huge protests from the media and journalists community. The journalist had been kidnapped after his exposé regarding the PNS Mehran attack i.e. about Al Qaeda infiltration in the Pakistan navy and how it was involved in the attacked.

The list of Baloch journalists being brutally killed, presumably by Pakistan's intelligence agencies, continues to grow. Last week Javed Naseer Rind, deputy editor of *Daily Tawar*, was kidnapped and murdered.

Internet Censorship

Last year in June, Pakistan's High Court banned nine leading websites (including Facebook) in response to allegations that the websites are posting blasphemous material.

In a recent report (Ahmad S. , 2011), it was highlighted that internet filtering is also taking place. According to the report, Mobilink users are unable to search for several politically sensitive key words like the President's name. Users say pages related to Balochistan and the nationalists' movement are also blocked. Mobilink's new filtering system will directly affect a large portion of Pakistan's online community, which comprises 17 percent of the country's population. Internet users and members of civil society have expressed strong objections to the new controls, saying it is a gross violation of Article 19-A of the Constitution of Pakistan and against basic consumer rights.

Internet freedom in Pakistan has been under threat since 2006, under Musharraf regime with faith-based filtering to disguise the blocking of political discourse and curb freedom of expression online. The communications sphere is heavily monitored by government agencies without any legal or judicial oversight. There is no central agency in charge of controlling cyberspace; blocking orders are issued by a number of bodies including the Ministry of Information Technology (MoIT), Pakistan Telecommunication Authority (PTA), and the Supreme Court.

The internet is an important platform for citizens to report on important events and human rights violations in the country. While the government can curtail traditional media successfully, online citizen journalism is much more difficult to control. In response to the growth of social media and online journalism, the government has tried to control the flow of information online. In May 2011, the Lahore High Court issued a verdict calling for tighter control over the Internet and social media sites, and asserting that "the government shall strive for legislation in this regard on the lines already adopted by other Islamic countries in addition to China." There is currently no public knowledge of new legislation.

Pluralism and Diversity in Information

It is generally felt that despite the presence of large media groups, there are 85 channels (20 of which air news). Hence respondents to interviews felt that the Pakistan news media was pluralistic and takes in to account diverse views. There is diversity in both the Urdu and English press as well (Masood, 2011)

"Pluralism is practiced since the influx of these private channels, but concentration of ownership, more commonly known as cross-ownership has led to limited viewpoints being put across. We have to make laws, there has to be a criteria which avoids these cross ownerships, like the ones practiced in the US so avoid monopoly of media outlets. We also need to encourage greater diversity in editorials. We need to place professionals at every level of the news organizations", says Syed Fahad Hussain, Senior News Analyst.

Media & Democracy

“The media has always strengthened democracy in Pakistan” says Dr Mehdi Hasan. “Even when the media was not free under martial, it played an important role in reviving democracy. The media has always been ‘the press’ in Pakistan. The press has always struggled for the people of Pakistan and their democratic right. They have made many sacrifices. Pakistan media has a history that it can be proud of. Very few nations of the third world countries have such histories where the press has contributed so much. For example during Zia’s regime over 150 journalists were either arrested or tortured or threatened. The PFUJ is a living example.” The media holds the government accountable and also by increasing awareness of the people about issues and helping them make better choices at the ballot box (Hussain, 2011).

An alternative perspective is that the media is currently undermining democracy. It is felt that it is sensationalizing situations and giving politicians a platform to broadcast their own agendas. Relevant issues are also not given due coverage.

In order to strengthen democracy, trained journalists, self-censorship, competency and integrity and due coverage of issues that directly address the problems of the people is needed. (Hasan, Masood, Saif, Hussain, 2011)

Quality of Journalism & Media Responsibility

When the electronic media boom began, most of the staff came from print media. So journalists, reporters, visual editors etc. were not sufficiently trained. Sensationalism has become a major feature on most news broadcasts with every news or statement labelled as breaking news. There is often no follow-up or analysis of reports just running commentary. News-based talk shows are very popular, with similar opinion makers and politicians on the same channels while moderators become biased or focus on unfounded speculations.

Independent self-regulatory mechanisms and common Code of Ethics are required to deter the use of press laws however this seems to require greater coordination between stakeholders.

Professionalism and Ethical reporting is missing. There are no gatekeepers at the moment (Hasan, 2011). First and foremost, the institution of professional editors should be revived. Nowadays, family members are at editorial posts of news channels and newspapers. If the standard of reporting needs to be improved then professional editors need be the policy makers of the media houses. When owners or their relatives are acting as the editors their main concern is making profit. But professional editors have journalistic standards and reporting ethics are their main concern. (Hasan 2011)

Reporters are aware of the code of ethics but they do not follow it. For example, recently in Sheikhpura a school teacher was murdered. The real story was that he converted to Ahmedism and his family was against it. And the reporter reported that unknown people killed him instead of reporting the truth. Greed and fear plays an important part. We can’t imagine what it is like for people working in warzones. In places like Lahore, a print reporter solely relies on press club. They just go to the press club in the evening and gather news which has been circulated by different news agencies. Sometime even the slug/headline of the news story is made by news agencies.

Code of ethics is not being followed anywhere. In most far flung areas, the reporters are not paid, in fact they pay to be hired by the media organization to gain leverages in the community. Training will

only bring awareness but situation won't improve. Stakeholders should be contacted to find a way run media in such a way to retain the integrity of media. (Masood, 2011)

Capacity building for a Responsible Media

Lack of trained journalists is a major area of concern and affects the quality of information produced. The journalists is the first gatekeeper, the second gatekeeper is the editor/editorial policy. Most reporters/correspondents work in far flung areas but are unpaid volunteers who without money, education and formal training. These reporters are in this field to gain important position in society, to blackmail people. They are not aware of the ethic or content of news production. Sometimes these reporters make payments to the TV channels to attain their media card with which they can get many privileges. (Hasan, 2011) A reporter should know that they are not to interfere in the personal lives of the people. A reporter should know that they have no right to include his/her opinion in a news story which is published with a 'staff reporter' or 'correspondent' by-line. If the reporter wants to express his/her opinion they should write news articles or columns. This kind of education should be given. Most of the reporters are not even educated. They don't even have their matriculation degree. All an electronic reporter need is cell phone with a hands-free and contacts. So the reporters in some areas need basic education as well. (Hasan, 2011)

There is a need to provide education and refresher courses. Journalism is a specialized field so either government should provide this education or the institutions should take this initiative. Very few journalists are interested in attending these courses as most of them believe that they know everything. (Hasan, 2011)

Training is required for teaching journalists about ethics, reporting in security situations and how to do research (Saif, 2011). Training is required at every level, not just journalists, but also owners, stakeholders and executive level decision makers. Training should include professional training and understating ethical requirements which are an integral part of the day to day decision making which goes in the news room. Practical training will help them better understand the requirements of the profession. (Hussain, 2011) (Masood, 2011)

Journalism Curriculum

The current curriculum is extremely out-dated. It has very little relevance to practical journalism practiced in Pakistan. The syllabus needs to be updated with specialized courses for training reporters and producers. (Hussain 2011)

Institutions nowadays have courses that look very well made on paper but they lack practical training. Also electronic broadcast is being taught in these institutions but they don't have proper equipment to teach electronic broadcast and electronic journalism. (Hasan, 2011) There is a need for an independent examination body which should be rotated so that examination can be fair and unbiased. (Masood 2011)

4 MEDIA REGULATION & MEDIA OWNERSHIP

Media Laws & Regulation

The Constitution of Pakistan has the provisions of Freedom of Expression under Article 19; however the list of limitations and phrasing can easily be used to limit this fundamental right.

"Every citizen shall have the right to freedom of speech and expression, and there shall be freedom of the press, subject to any reasonable restrictions imposed by law in the interest of the glory of Islam or the integrity, security or defense of Pakistan or any part thereof, friendly relations with foreign States, public order, decency or morality, or in relation to contempt of court or commission of or incitement to an offence." Article 19-Constitution of Pakistan 1973

The list of laws that are currently regulating the media are:

- Press and Publication Ordinance (PPO) 1988
- Printing Presses and Publications Ordinance 1988
- Freedom of Information Ordinance of 2002,
- Pakistan Electronic Media Regulatory Authority (PEMRA) of 2002
- Defamation Ordinance of 2002,
- Contempt of Court Ordinance of 2003,
- Press, Newspapers, News Agencies and Books Registration Ordinance 2003
- Press Council Ordinance 2002
- Intellectual Property Organization of Pakistan Ordinance 2005
- Balochistan Freedom of Information Act 2005
- Sindh Access to Information Ordinance of 2006.
- PEMRA Amendment Act 2007
- Pakistan Electronic Media Regulatory Authority Rules, 2009.

Most of these laws have been regulated after 2002 with liberalisation of the media and satellite channel boom. However it is also noted that the 2002 regulations were “hurriedly enacted by President Musharraf before the government took office. Most of which were anti-democratic and...increased his control of the public.” (International Media Support, 2009, p. 18)

The Press Council of Pakistan has recently been formed in 2011 (even though the Ordinance was enacted in 2002) and had its first session November 2nd 2011 (The Nation, 2011). While the responsibility of the council is to ensure ethical reporting and that truth is not stifled, its effectiveness remains to be seen.

The Press, Newspapers, News Agencies and Books Registration Ordinance (PNNABRO) of 2002 deals with procedures for registration of publications and criteria of media ownerships. Under this legislation, the newspaper is required to guarantee from the editor to abide by the Ethical Code of Practice contained in the Schedule to the Press Council of Pakistan Ordinance. “These forms of interlinking laws could provide the government with additional means for imposing restrictions and take draconian actions against newspapers.” (International Media Support, 2009, p. 19) Publishers have to provide bank details. The law has strict controls and regulations for registration (International Media Support, 2009, p. 20) Ownership of publications (mainly the newspapers and news agencies) is

restricted to Pakistani nationals and foreign involvement cannot exceed 25 percent. Foreigners cannot get a ‘Declaration’.

The Pakistan Electronic Media Regulatory Authority (PEMRA) is an independent body established by the government in 2002 to monitor the transition to the end of state monopoly, licensing of private television and radio stations, and oversight of programmes and advertisements produced¹. PEMRA is governed by the PEMRA Ordinance (2002, PEMRA Amendment Act 2007), PEMRA Rules 2009 and PEMRA Regulations. So channels and cable operators’ can be shutdown/suspended if the programming violates the ordinance, rules and regulations. On content: the Ordinance states:

The Authority shall by order in writing, giving reasons therefore, prohibit any broadcast media or distribution service operator from –(a) broadcasting or re-broadcasting or distributing any programme or advertisement if it is of the opinion that such particular programme or advertisement is against the ideology of Pakistan or is likely to create hatred among the people or is prejudicial to the maintenance of law and order or is likely to disturb public peace and tranquillity or endangers national security or is pornographic, obscene or vulgar or is offensive to the commonly accepted standards of decency; (PEMRA Ordinance, Section 27). The Code of Conduct (Schedule A) defines the parameters for programming content in more detail.

The PEMRA laws were utilized by the Musharraf regime in his attempts to control the media. An example of this is when President Musharraf proclaimed a state of emergency on November 3, 2007, the Ministry of Information and PEMRA suspended transmission of all private channels and cable network operators were verbally instructed not to broadcast private channels. Some media practitioners refer to PEMRA as “license issuing office that has implemented regulatory barriers for broadcaster.” “It is a *bhatta* (means money extortion in Urdu) body that collects money from broadcasting operators in a legal way. Nothing more can be expected,” notes media law activist and journalist Matiullah Jan (International Media Support, 2009, p. 18).

Political pressure is placed on media indirectly such as the government cuts off ‘unfriendly’ media from governmental advertising or directly by using PEMRA to silence the broadcast media by either suspending licenses or by simply threatening to do so. “Since the Chair and members of the Authority are appointed by the President (Section 6, PEMRA Ordinance 2002), the body is not really independent.” (Hassan, 2010) “What must happen is the restructuring of the Board of PEMRA with independent eminent people. It is still full of bureaucrats and ex-policemen, so there you find lack of ownership,” says Matiullah Jan (International Media Support, 2009, p. 18). PEMRA’s leadership agrees it needs to be “a combination of regulator and the stakeholders. Therefore, the chain is – Law – Regulator-Stakeholder,” says Dr Abdul Jabbar, the Executive Member of PEMRA. (International Media Support, 2009, p.18). The PEMRA board has been reconstituted to some extent and includes some media professionals.

The independence of PEMRA is in question as the law authorizes the Federal Government to issue policy directives to PEMRA (under Section 4, PEMRA Ordinance 2002). (Alam, p. 7)

The lack of enforcing the PEMRA law against illegal radio stations is another serious issue for the broadcast sector. In tribal areas, these illegal FM radio stations are in abundance and they have been used to incite hatred and violence (International Media Support, 2009).

¹This is done to ensure that they do not contradict the Code of Conduct and PEMRA 2009 rules.

Media Ownership

Pakistan's media sector is highly influenced by the ownership structure. There are three dominating media moguls, or large media groups. Over the years the number of these groups has increased but the dominance of these groups in both print and broadcast industries all three media groups are very influential in politics and society. (International Media Support, 2009)

As Dr Mehdi Hasan narrates, "Before the influx of private channels, it was announced that newspaper houses will not be allowed to have news television channels. But within a year this condition was waived, and now almost every newspaper has its own news channel. There is a monopoly of media houses now. Small time newspapers and news channels can't afford to compete with these media giants like Jang group."

Due to mounting media ownership consolidation and concentration, diversity is in decline and new entrants are finding it difficult to compete with big market players. Though the combination of resources of print and electronic media, as Riaz argues, may increase quality in news and current affairs programmes, there is a fear that the permission can 'result in a few large firms controlling the majority of information Pakistanis receive' (Riaz, 2003:13 quoted in Alam). This also makes it easier for the government to control the media.

While the article quoted predicts fading pluralism. Eight years on, it was interesting to find that all interviewees of this report felt that within the current news media landscape pluralism was evident especially after the influx of private news channels.

According to Wajahat Masood, media professional and educationist, and media expert and analysts Dr Mehdi Hasan, today in most media establishments, the owners are the editors. Masood explains, newspaper ownership is a corporate job and editorship is a professional job. But today owners have taken over editorial positions and the position is passed on as inheritance. "There needs to be a line between the ownership authority and editorial authority. If someone holds both positions then monetary concerns become a priority. Free media is dependent on economic independence. But if your ads are controlled by the government, then it is an unprofitable business. It has become such a profitable business criminal bodies run the newspapers and pump cash into their unlawful activities."

Dr Mehdi Hasan recalls, "There was a time when public and civil society was part of the progressive press movement. When owners did not interfere and professional editors used to manage policies, when news reports and columns couldn't have personal opinions. But nowadays owners invest so much money that they have a right to earn self-projection which is visible in the news content sometimes." TV news reporter, Rabia Mahmood adds "business owners need to look at what they want out of these networks i.e. businesses. If the emphasis is on revenue and ratings only, then compromise on news content and its treatment gets sacrificed, e.g. use of Bollywood songs as a background score to news stories regardless of the nature of a story is editorializing of content and is practiced by all news channels."

Senior news analyst, Syed Fahad Hussain says, "We need to ensure that professionals manage these organizations with authority, autonomy and independence to set the editorial agenda which is free from all sort of commercial and political agenda. This has to be done by insulating the editorial side from the marketing side.

5 REPORTING CONFLICT & DISASTER

Natural Disasters

While the report focuses on conflict environments it is important to touch upon reporting natural disasters. Natural calamities of unimaginable scale since 2005 have shaken the country nation-wide with earthquakes and floods. Media infrastructure at the regional level is destroyed/ affected. For sources of information in natural disaster reporters have had to rely on information from government sources (which were not necessarily accurate inaccurate), aid agencies, foreign agencies and development organizations working in the field as local district correspondents were inaccessible. Only embedded journalists with the military doing relief work tend to get reliable footage. The inaccessibility of the areas results in stale coverage. The media also tends to focus more on visits of politicians in power which results in a great PR activity. Channels and papers lifted up stories from each other rather than visiting disaster hit locales themselves. There is lack of professional training of journalists to report disaster and provide coherent and accurate information. (Rehmat, 2005) There is also a great deal of communication gap in providing health and rehabilitation information to the effected.

Conflict

Pakistan has been in a perpetual state of war since 2001 as an ally of the US in the War on Terror. According to the *Committee to Protect Journalists*, 36 journalists have lost their lives since 2001, with seven journalist killed in 2011 alone.

Violence, assassinations and intimidations are some of the problems that lead to self-censorship, biased reporting and limited topics to be covered. Some of the challenges faced by journalist are highlighted below (International Media Support, 2009):

1. Lack of security for the journalist.
 - a) Journalists hardly take proper safety measures when reporting in a conflict zone. In FATA and Khyber Pukhtoonkhwa some senior journalists and local media workers have learnt the art of ‘maneuvering’ in an environment of danger, and are experienced in balancing stories in order not to upset the different parties in a conflict. Some journalists in these areas have received safety training from media support organizations and NGOs. There is lack of awareness among journalists with regard to the possible safeguards that can be implemented to enhance protection.
 - b) The media houses hunt for breaking news encourages a competitive atmosphere that pushes journalist to take safety risks. The same media houses do little to train or equip the journalists to tackle security and safety issues.
 - c) Journalists are targeted not only by the militants but also by the army and security forces.

2. Media distortion:
 - a) Media content in Pakistan is distorted most of all because of coercion, pressure, bribery and propaganda from external actors.
 - b) The radical organizations have grown strong enough to threaten violence with such leverage that the mainstream media often give in to their agenda. Radicals also threaten to kill journalists and their families, media owners and editors.
 - c) Part of the radical influence has also been generated by the media's own dynamics as media sees the conflict as hot news and follows it intensely. Journalists, TV-anchors and reporters want to be popular and increase their program ratings by covering what they believe to be popular events and issues.

3. Information Vacuum:
 - a) Some areas in Pakistan suffer from a lack of access to information or only receive information that is one-sided and manipulated. Many people living in areas of FATA and Khyber Pukhtoonkhwa that have been living under the control of the Taliban for years. Mainstream newspapers are not available as many villages are difficult to access and selling publications can be dangerous. Since only very few people can afford television sets radio transmissions are the main sources of information and radical hate-speech and propaganda dominate the airwaves although some unbiased FM radios transmit in the region as well.

4. Quality of Media and Journalism
 - a) Sufficient training and education of TV-professionals have not accompanied the sudden boom of TV-channels. Major TV-channels and reporters are criticized for sensationalism and too heavy a focus on breaking news. News events are followed on minute-by-minute basis with reporters on the spot, but these contain little background information, analysis or follow up that could put events in a context.
 - b) Sensationalism is also prevalent in the political talk shows. Seeking to raise ratings by airing opinions presumed to be popular among their viewers, talk show moderators sometimes step outside their roles and become biased stakeholders in a debate.

Three current conflict hotspots are coverage are Khyber Pukhtoonkhwa & and Tribal Areas where the War against Terror is taking place; Karachi's target killings and the insurgency in Balochistan. This report presents interviews of three journalists as case studies who are reporting in each of the three zones describing the challenges they face.

**Interview 1 Jamshed Bhagwan, Peshawar Bureau Chief Express News and Express 24/7.
Former Vice President PFUJ in the last term.**

Challenges in Access to Information

The biggest challenge that we face is of life security. Our lives are under constant threat. Nobody tells you the truth here. Even the public is scared to talk to us they don't tell us anything. The only way to report is that the journalist has to either go with the army or the militants to these warzone, if you report alone then both of the parties become your enemy. They kidnap you or kill you. Recently, AFP reported some news, and an Express News correspondent got kidnapped instead because the militants claimed that he belongs to a newspaper so he must have reported it. We had to put a lot of pressure to get him released. The biggest challenge we have is that we have no support from the public. They will never take a stand for us. They could care less whatever becomes of the journalist. We have no access to any information. The government is under pressure from the army and the militants so they don't talk to us, the military won't talk to you if you are not reporting with them and the militants won't talk to you if you are not on their side.

External and internal pressures

We don't have any internal pressure as such that is from the organization because whatever reporting we do is carefully planned by our organization executives. The journalists hardly have any training to be in a situation like this so they don't know what to do. And also if journalists have some sort of disagreement and altercation with somebody, then they don't give them due news coverage. Our biggest problem is access to information. Militants don't take us seriously; they only talk to BBC reporters and radio journalists as radio is their medium of communication. BBC Pakistan has a very positive and soft approach towards the militants/Taliban in Pakistan. They treat afghan militants differently. They don't acknowledge them at all. It is shocking if you were to compare BBC Pakistan and BBC Afghanistan policies towards militancy.

You will be shocked to know that most of these journalists who work in these warzones, who put their lives at risk at every second are not even paid. Most of the organizations don't have the reporters on payroll insured. There is no life or job security. Most of the local journalists prefer to work as correspondents for international newspapers or agencies as they are offered more job incentives.

Protection & Support

We have different unions like IFJ which help and support us a lot. For e.g. when Rahim Ullah's son in law Mushtaq Yousafzai was kidnapped, we applied a lot of pressure and got him free. Sometimes we use our connections to apply pressure, sometimes unions help us out and sometimes we ourselves exert enough pressure. If we were to go with the protection of the government then we won't have freedom to report as their interests would be at stake. Sometimes it is not government who is pressurizing us but the army.

Even if the government or the organization were to take stand for the journalist nothing will happen. No amount of protection can save us from them. For example what happened to Musa Khan Khel. GEO took such a huge stand, involved all the stakeholders in the issue, but at the end of the day, we lost a brother—a journalist. We have to survive here on our own until things get better.

Free and fair reporting

This is not possible as no one gives you the correct information. If one wants to do free and fair reporting then just one option which is very risky: undercover reporting. But then you will have to use local sources, official version will be missing from your report. Camera won't be allowed: extremely tough conditions.

I personally think free and fair reporting is not possible anywhere in Pakistan or anywhere in the world thanks to the corporate culture. If you are sitting in Lahore, you can't say anything against Mobilink, if you are sitting in Karachi you can't say anything about MQM. So where is free journalism?

Interview 2 Nadeem Khan, Express News, Crime reporter, Karachi

Challenges in Access to Information

The biggest problem is that we don't have access to information. There is no official version. The government does not help at all. Sometimes they refuse to share information; sometimes they keep quiet because saying anything will put them in a tricky situation.

There was a time when reporting in FATA was considered the toughest job but now it has shifted to Karachi. You have no idea of the conditions that we work in. Everyone is a party in Karachi. Government, political parties and police are responsible for what is happening there. We have evidence, we the journalists witness the misdoings but we can't say anything because if we say something then we become a party.

Internal and External Pressures

The biggest pressure that we face is of our security. The situation in Karachi is so complex that if you were to report about a political party then next day you'll be dead for sure. There is no doubt on that. Political parties pressurize us to influence the news content. So many times firing, targeted killing happens in front us, we have camera footage as the evidence to the crime but we are not allowed to share that information or our thoughts with anyone. Getting threat calls is a routine for us. We are not insured, our salaries are the same as the other reporters.

Actually one problem is that there is so much competition for ratings in the electronic media that sometimes we are forced into places and situations which are considered danger-zone. We are forced to compromise on journalistic instinct, ethics and life for ratings.

We try to follow code of ethics but it is hard in the current circumstances. If you are seeing blood all around you then you have no choice but show it. If violence is reality how much can you censor? I try to side with the 'mazloom' i.e. oppressed no matter who they are. For example three incidents of firing happened in Korangi the same day. First an incident took place in Kourangi Chakrgoth in which two people died, and then after sometime another incident took place in Kourangi 5 where two criminals were injured and were taken to the hospital. After another half an hour the infamous firing incident on the police van took place. What police did was they arrested those two criminals from the hospital. When I found out about it I raised voice for those criminals because they were the victims in this case.

Protection of Government?

Nothing will happen, things will become tougher for us. Government is a party in all this itself, what protection can they give to others, if we work with the government then our security and privacy will be compromised. Right now we just get threats, then they will exploit us through our family and loved ones as they will access to them.

Free and Fair Journalism

We can't have free and fair journalism in Pakistan till the department of police exists. If the department of police dissolved I assure you 50% of the crime/target killing will finish. See the main problem is that the recruitment in police is done on political basis. There is no transparency in the department.

Interview 3 Eesa Tareen, President of Balochistan Union of Journalists

Journalism is not easy at all in Balochistan. None of the newspaper workers are getting paid according to their work mostly people get Rs. 2000-3000, the most they get paid is Rs. 8,000. First we had threat from three sides now another threat has been added. The pressure comes from government, religious parties and political parties and also from people who call themselves separatist. The dangerous situation is they want news stories printed according to their wishes. Then we have to compromise our knowledge, our ethics because we cannot say no to them. We have been given the title of a journalist, our main focus is that we have to unite the society and not create divisions and hatred amongst them.

The owner is the most respectable source of information, they decide the news we make, the kind of language we use. We have to keep many things in mind. Sometimes we get a phone call saying that we have to label the 'xyz' as a murderer. See our responsibility is to edit the content in such a way that it not opinionated, unbiased, and not use language that can hurt somebody. We have to remain objective and present news in such a way that they are not offensive for anyone. First it was like we were not supposed to give both sides of the story. Now we can give other points of views but we are forced to use such language which can be offensive to a community or a religion. If we don't follow 'orders' then we are threatened. These threats have worsened in the last ten years-ever since dictatorship began, things have just gotten worse. The situation is so bad here that you can't trust no one here. Not even your brother or son because they might have joined some outfit too. You never know as everyday a new militant organization is formed.

(Interview on News Night with Talat Hussain, October 26th, 2011 Dawn News.
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hoeaiEkO3MU>

Are these journalists prepared (educated and trained enough) for reporting for conflict?

"No, not at all. Mass Communication teaches you journalism but what is happening here...nothing can prepare you for it. It is a totally different ball game. You guys cannot imagine how things work here. No sort of education or training can prepare you to face the conditions that we work in. However recently, some NGOs have conducted some training and workshops with short courses here. Human Rights Commission has conducted a lot of first aid training workshops here but you see they don't help us while reporting." (Bhagwan, 2011)

"Journalists especially of eth electronic media are not experienced or trained in the basics of reporting, and code of ethics. They can't handle themselves properly while reporting in such areas. Journalists with print media background, in comparison have had enough experience and knowledge to handle themselves and tricky situations when the need arises." (Khan, 2011)

Challenges of Media in FATA

Pakistan remains the toughest newsbeat for journalists. While the environment has become unsafe for journalists all over the country in recent years, tougher still is reporting from and on the Federally Administered Tribal Areas (FATA), a semi-autonomous tribal region in the northwest of Pakistan comprising of seven Agencies (tribal districts) and six FRs (Frontier regions). The tribal region along the Pak-Afghan border has been never been easy to report from due to its lawless nature and with the militancy-related conflict centered there, reporting news has just gotten tougher for journalists. Internews, an international NGO on media development marks a figure of at least 10 journalists being killed from FATA and 18 from the adjacent Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, since 2001.

History shows that political administration in FATA tried its best to stop tribal journalists from showing the real suffering and on ground realities of the tribal areas to the outside world. The lack of understanding and poor communication between the administration and the people created a gap between the administration and the administered. In the process, they went to the extent of putting some journalists behind the bars under the notorious Collective Territorial Responsibility clause of the Frontier Crimes Regulation (FCR, 1901) (Community Appraisal and Motivation Programme, 2010). The elected administration acted as dictators and did not even tolerate positive criticism of the tribal systems and went to the level of expelling ‘uncooperative’ journalists from their areas.

In this context, the skill of the FATA journalists to understand the precise grounds for different perspectives reflect on conflict understandings and how human rights are violated during conflict and normal times, analyze the conduct of numerous actors of society in conflict and in peace, and presenting those in an impartial manner to the wider public can play a very important role in reducing violence and enhancing the necessary social capital and political will for cooperation.

Tribal journalists have had limited access to official information and are not allowed to monitor development schemes and spending of development funds. According to a senior journalist, reporting from tribal areas was one-sided as the administration would allow only those stories for publication in newspapers which were full of praise for them.

It was in keeping with these problems and short-comings that a handful of tribal journalists formed the Tribal Union of Journalists (TUJ) on 15 June 1987, in Parachinar sub-division of Kurram Agency. The membership of the Union is now over 250 (Community Appraisal and Motivation Programme, 2010).

Radio is the primary and most consumed form of media in FATA. According to the FATA Communications Strategy report of 2009, over 80% adult men and over 70% adult women in FATA regularly listen to radio (Intermedia, 2011). No local print publication is produced in FATA due to a virtual ban. Literacy rates are extremely low so not even KP-produced print media is consumed in any significant quantity. Watching TV is an expensive proposition – both in terms of affordability and because militant groups discourage it. Severe power shortages also make this difficult. Internet is not an option as the service is hardly available throughout the seven agencies. And wherever it is available, the service is so poor that it is non-existent. This leaves radio as the primary medium for information in FATA. There is a need, therefore to build on the limited media space and radio-based information for local communities to help them join the mainstream Pakistani media space and benefit from it. Recently, the government announced to set up eight radio channels and a TV station in FATA (Express Tribune, August 24th 2011).

The main challenges for news organizations in FATA include:

- Content: only short time broadcasts are available (Intermedia, 2011); serious shortage of news bulletins, like talk shows, interviews and features. Mostly, the content is distorted by the pressures of militants, military or the government.
- Skilled Staff: there are few producers, presenters, recording engineers and reporters available, few news readers and even fewer editors agree to work in such conditions. Security, lack of training, low pays-scales major hurdles in recruiting skilled and trained staff.
- Access to information: this is a serious issue in FATA. Limited access to information available, the journalists are forced to choose sides between military and the militants. Nobody is willing to talk.
- Access to news organizations: there are logistics problems; security forces and mechanisms buffet them and public access is limited.
- Community information: this is almost absent – little reflection, for instance of North Waziristan’s lively business community in the little information on air, for instance.

CONCLUSION

To conclude the report, a SWOT Analysis has been done to sieve through areas of concern and highlight gaps which may consequently require interventions.

Strengths-Positive attributes of the current system contributing to Access to Information

The media of Pakistan is vibrant, persistent and has been one of the major factors contributing to strengthening democracy within the country. The press has dared to challenge every dictator along the way of its tumultuous history. The news and views distributed are considered to be diverse and pluralistic.

Weaknesses-Factors hindering the Access to Information

Red-tapism of the bureaucracy is seen as the biggest threat to implementation of the Access to Information. This requires more than just introducing new rules and procedures-this requires mass-level behaviour change with government circles and the establishment that has been pervaded by a culture of secrecy, apathy and status quo.

Exceptions and exclusions within Article 19 and Article 19-A, and in subsequent related legislations override the actual purpose of the law. The current Freedom of Information Ordinance 2002 restricts information rather than assist and facilitate citizen's in accessing information. There is also no mechanism in place to ensure timely delivery of information to citizen's or media.

There is lack of awareness amongst the public at large about the importance of the Right to Information and its possibilities.

Stringent press laws and abuse of statutes by the government to control and pressurize the media need to be repealed and revoked. PEMRA is not completely independent and is also used to control media by the government.

The current media landscape is dominated by three to four media groups. Cross-ownership needs to be regulated.

There is lack of professional editorship as owners have taken over for whom monetary profits based on higher ratings is far more important than accurate and ethical reporting of news. The business side of things needs to be insulated from the editorial side of the organization.

Lack of properly trained journalists, with lack of knowledge of media ethics, control the information flow. It is important to educate these young and dynamic journalists in the field about self-regulation.

There is little access to information in conflict areas and journalists are not trained enough to report on conflict. In some cases owners/editors risks the lives of their reporters for a breaking story.

Opportunities to promote Access to Information

In all weaknesses listed above, there lie opportunities to reform the current system by educating policy-makers, training the media and creating mass-level awareness.

Last month the draft of Right to Information Bill 2011 was submitted in the National Assembly and is under review. There could be no better opportune moment to share the draft document with the

public, media organizations and academia at large and create awareness about the Right to Information pressuring for the enactment of the Bill.

There are success stories next door with respect to Right to Information e.g. in India, the right to information law is being used as an anti-corruption tool. Ordinary citizens submit information requests to get things done for which they had to bribe public officials prior to the enactment of the law. Transparent measures and use of internet to facilitate citizens has encouraged many to file requests for information.

The Press Council has just recently been established. This is an opportune moment for advocacy to engage the media in developing a self-regulatory mechanism, a Code of Conduct, for itself and a platform to have a strengthened unified front against oppressors of the press.

Even if traditional media are curtailed, the Internet and social media are going strong as the number of online journalists and bloggers increase by the day ensuring that the flow of information does not deter despite restrictions even on the internet.

There is a Global movement for transparency and openness (Arab Spring in Middle East, Wall Street Operation in US, Strikes against governments in Europe, Fight against Corruption in India) and advantage can be taken of the momentum of the global movement.

Threats to Access to Information

The three largest and main threats to Access to Information and implementation of Right to Information are:

1. Restriction of information in the name of national security.
2. Growing terrorism and conflict in the region.
3. Corruption to prevent dispensation of information.

RECOMMENDATIONS

The following recommendations are not specific to the content of the Right to Information Law but suggest entry points for interventions by UNESCO to push forward democratic “civic-centric” reforms. The recommendations are an amalgamation of suggestions from interviews, observations of authors of this report and a stakeholder report held in Islamabad in March 2010 (Centre Of Civic Education Pakistan & Benazir Bhutto Media University Project, Ministry Of Information And Broadcasting, 2010) (Civic Centre for Education , Pakistan, 2007). Two broad areas of concern that require immediate attention are creating awareness at all levels about the importance of the Right To Information amongst policy-makers and citizens alike to ensure the successful implementation of the law once it is re-enacted. Secondly there is a dire need to address the concerns of reporters who are reporting in highly volatile conflict zones and where access to information is not only unavailable but a great risk to their lives.

Right to Information

1. While the new Right to Information bill is under review by a parliamentary committee, it was noticed that the draft was not readily available. The draft needs to be shared with stakeholders in all provinces and online in order for it to be accessible to as many members of civil society. A debate needs to be encouraged if a clause or language is contradictory to the spirit of Article 19-A. For instance the government should repeal all the anti-disclosure laws. The classification criteria of documents need to be defined by the government in conjunction with stakeholders.
2. Separate strategies are required for the divisional, departmental and public level for implementation of the Right to Information (FOI) Act.
3. Advocacy, pressure from political, academic and civil society circles is required to ensure timely enactment of the pending Information Bill to prevent further delay in enactment. Civil society organizations’ and media need to combine efforts to make freedom of information laws a citizen concern. Advocacy is required to have the government announce a “pro-active citizen centric” (Centre of Civic Education Pakistan, 2011) Access to Information Policy characterized by proactive disclosures. The media should be engaged in sensitizing the public about the bill and the stakes in delaying the enactment of the bill.
4. Office of the federal ombudsman as appellate authority should be replaced with an independent Information Commission to ensure the Right to Information Act.
5. A long-term sustainable campaign is required to create awareness amongst citizens. Citizen’s Rights groups can:
 - Train citizens in requesting information and using information under the FOI.
 - Inform the masses of the possibilities of the FOI-2002 and their right to demand information.
 - Create legal cells to citizens.

The following recommendations apply for once the Right to Information Act (2011) is enacted.

6. Either the scope of the present law must be extended to include local and provincial public bodies or effective laws must be enacted at these levels. The drafts or existing Freedom of Information Laws at the provincial level need to be revised in line with the new federal draft and must apply to citizens of all of Pakistan (and not just residents of provinces). Similar advocacy activities are required at the provincial level and union levels.

7. Effective mechanism for implementation should be provided. Easy implementation mechanisms can help actualize the vision. Technical support and capacity building in the area in consultation with stakeholders can help develop such a mechanism.
8. Officials and staff need to be trained in data management under the requirements of the FOI law.
9. An effort is also required to develop a mechanism within the governmental apparatus to monitor and evaluate the conduction of procedures by each Ministry/Division with modernized record-keeping mechanisms.
10. A uniform training system for officials and staff in all departments is required to inform, develop and encourage a mind-set of access to information and facilitation of citizen's in accessing public records. Creative strategies are required to transform the culture of red-tapism and secrecy.
11. The government should make best use of e-governance and develop an access to information portal. This would require a survey and capacity-building in various departments.
12. There is a dire need to sensitize citizens about Access to Information laws, how it benefits them individually and strengthens governance and democracy at large. Media organizations need to develop strategies to ensure the implementation of the law, and to inform and educate citizens about the law.
13. The media needs to be encouraged to highlight success stories on benefits of the law regularly through various programmes.
14. Awareness needs to be created about the law and its implementation in educational institutions (including Civil Services Academy) along with other fundamental rights through information material/modules.
15. The partnership between the government and civil society organizations must be strengthened to provide an enabling environment for the citizens to access information.
16. Efforts must be made to translate the FOI-2002 (or new drafted law) into the local languages of the target population to ensure understanding.

Reporting in Conflict Zones-Information to Protect Journalists in the Field (International Media Support, 2009)

1. Existing monitoring mechanisms need to be enhanced, based upon a detailed assessment of current efforts. Improvements should focus on ensuring that field monitoring from the high-risk regions is reliable, detailed and timely. Accuracy and factual case-by-case monitoring should be linked to a system that can collate and process data and generate overviews and trends.
2. The monitoring mechanisms are required to disseminate information and analysis for immediate response in support of journalists and media workers at risk; development of contextualized risk analysis; and provision of data for so that journalists don't take unnecessary risks.
3. Promote a process in Pakistan in which national and international organizations involved in risk awareness training and capacity building can share information and know-how, coordinate and develop joint strategies.
4. Elaborate contextualized manuals for risk awareness and conflict-sensitive journalism. The manuals should be translated in regional languages and distributed in journalists working in challenging environments.

5. Increase risk awareness among editors and media owners; Media owners should come together and discuss how their reporters can be kept away from risk, rather than competing for the most sensational stories that actually put those reporters at risk. Furthermore, media outlets should be encouraged to procure flak jackets and other protective equipment that can augment the safety of media workers in the field.
6. Advocacy for establishing regionally-based safety funds, which can provide financial and other forms of support for journalists and media workers that need to relocate to a safer region for some time, or otherwise need assistance. Establishment of safe houses and hotlines for journalists.
7. Monitoring of media content and other forms of analysis of the radicalized media should be developed and serve as a basis for awareness raising initiatives among non-radical media. Discussions on this matter could both seek to target academics as well as media professionals, especially those at the editorial level.
8. Support for existing community radios and the establishment of additional stations in Kyber Puktoonkhwa, FATA and Balochistan is recommended.
9. Strengthening of the existing media, both in terms of geographical reach in particular areas, and in terms of editorial content, should be considered. Support is also recommended for improvement of these outlets' news and editorial capacity where needed.
10. The variety of options that exist for using mobile technology as an information and communication tools should be explored. A particular focus should be to strengthening the use of this channel among women, who are often deprived of access to information. A first step would be to investigate communications forms in these communities, and to map the existing use of this and other technologies as well as traditional forms of communication in use.
11. Investigative journalism should be strengthened through training and through funding that can subsidize journalists in undertaking larger investigative projects.
12. Capacity-building should be coordinated with the establishment of a fund for investigative journalism.
13. Promote unity between the media actors for a common cause. A major conference on self-regulation in Pakistan, maybe through the new Press Council, could unite the different players in the industry.
14. Training programmes for journalists and refresher trainings for established journalists to ensure that they source stories properly and don't fall into the trap of letting themselves submit slanted reports in exchange for important information

Media Development in FATA

1. Break the 'breaking news' syndrome: the news organizations need to understand that life of their reporters and media staff are at risk and they need to not pressurize them with urgency to break a story. They need to keep the economics of the business out of it when reporting in conflict zones.
2. Training: Nothing can train the journalists to report in warzones. But some basic special training should be given so that the journalist can handle the weight of the duty: objective reporting in such testing and trying times. Training will also allow the reporter to handle him/herself in critical situations and act accordingly.
3. Centralized information/news database: because of limited sources there needs to be a centralized news database which can be accessed by all journalists, which is independent and run by the journalists. So that information sharing and verification can be done and only authentic information relayed.

4. **Advocacy Campaign:** There needs to be an advocacy campaign to extend federal media regulatory jurisdiction to FATA; help set up more radio stations in FATA to increase legal media space; build operational capacity of local journalists and conduct thematic trainings for them and to help local media produce and distribute local information-based programming for radio.
5. **Improved Pay scales:** News organizations should offer a better incentive if they want to recruit skilled staff in conflict zone. Excellent pay-scale along with insurance should be offered to these journalists.
6. **Telecommunication:** The state of telephone, mobile and internet communications in FATA remain dismal. According to the published news, mobile and Internet services are no longer working in Kurram Agency, the hotbed of sectarian conflict. Around 5,000 telephone lines in North Waziristan Agency have fallen silent. Mohmand Agency also faces technical difficulties with regards to telephony (Intermedia, 2011).
7. **Community Radios:** There is a need to engage the society to have its ownership in the real issues of the area. This includes content creation by the community for its own issues to be addressed and highlighted. This will not only create more debate on issues relevant to the society but would also create job opportunities within the region for operations, management and content generation for such initiatives.
8. **FATA - Press Information Department:** To highlight the challenges of FATA, the institutional capacity of the KPK government has to be strengthened, where a special Press Information Center should be establish to facilitate the national and international media to highlight the success stories out of FATA. This will also help the authorities to establish an institutional framework to engage the masses on a more effective manner.
9. **Communication and Information Survey:** To measure the effectiveness of the social and economic change in the FATA region, there is a need to conduct periodic baseline surveys.
10. **More public-private initiatives to be encouraged across Pakistan, especially in the challenging and less developed areas.**
11. **There is a need to create more independent voices in the media ecosystem in Pakistan, which requires a Media Development Fund, an independent body, which can support diversity in content by encouraging independent content creators. This is also requires a shift from taking leads from new media where the traditional media should be able to follow, respond and debate on content generated by "independent and non-agenda based content creators". This creates more room for transparency and accountability through CI tools and initiatives.**

Media Ownership

Training is required of media ownership. Refresher courses are advised for staff at all levels.

Media Responsibility:

1. Training is required at all levels on Media Ethics and responsibility
2. Launch an awareness campaign on the benefits and advantageous of the self-regulations mechanism especially with owners and editors. Financial advantageous for the owners over legal expenses in a non-costly self-regulatory mechanism would be a major attraction to the media ownership.

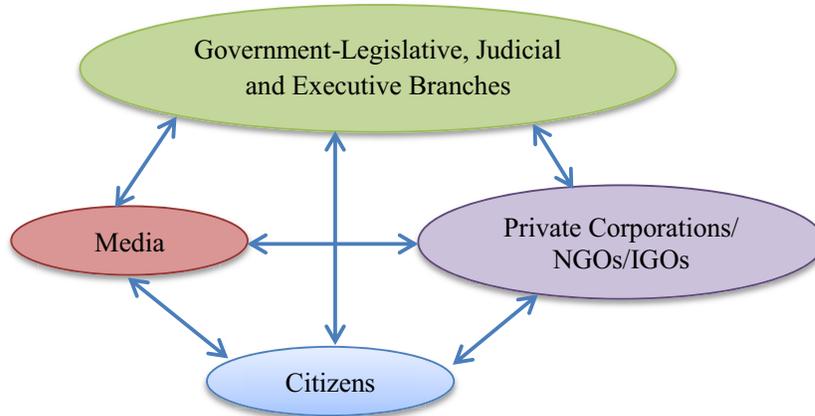
Media Education

1. Students need to be educated about the Right to Information.
2. The current mass communication and journalism curriculum needs to be revised keeping practical elements of the profession in mind.

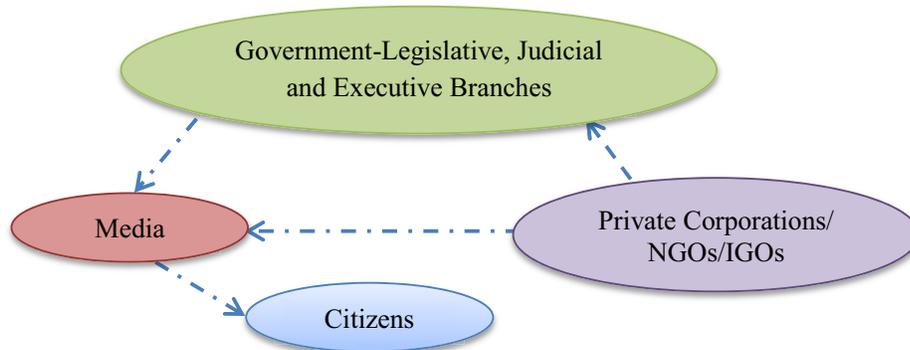
PROPOSED PROJECT OUTLINES

Proposed Projects for Improving Citizen's Access to Information in Pakistan

The situational analysis report indicates that there are various hurdles anticipated in the practical implementation of the pending "Right To Information Act 2011". These hurdles are mostly manifested in the form of communication and information gaps within the various tiers of stakeholders.



The diagram above indicates the information matrix in ideal circumstances (the arrows depicting information flows), however in reality the situation can be illustrated as:



While information flows are mostly unidirectional, citizens are mostly at the receiving end of information from limited sources which is most often an edited or gagged version. Access to information directly from the government by ordinary citizens is nearly non-existent. To reduce these barriers in information flows it is recommended to address the lack of awareness amongst the various media and general masses about their fundamental right to Access to Information and how all stakeholders can benefit from the pending Right To Information Act.

While there are various ways to address the issue at hand, four initial projects are proposed as below to address the gaps illustrated in diagrams above:

1. Capacity-building of Media in Understanding the Function and Appliance of Right to Information Act in Pakistan.
2. Capacity-building of Government officials and Provision of Technical Assistance in Development of Citizen-friendly Mechanism for Implementation of 2011 RTI.
3. Nation-wide Public Awareness Campaign about the advantages and opportunities of RTI Act in Pakistan.
4. Facilitation of development of CI mechanisms in FATA

Detailed methodology for each project is proposed as follows.

Proposed Project I

Capacity-building of Media in Exercising the Right to Information in Pakistan.

Introduction

Right to Information has become increasingly relevant today for guaranteeing human rights, for the sustainability of the environment, for the right to political participation and for the fight against corruption. One major component of UNESCO's mandate is to "promote the free flow of ideas by word and image". This mission is reflected in UNESCO's Medium Term Strategy Medium-Term Strategy for 2008-2013, and particularly in its strategic programme objective of enhancing universal access to information and knowledge. (UNESCO, 2011)

In Pakistan, the clause covering the fundamental right to access to information under Article 19-A has just recently been included in the Constitution. However, the currently enforced Freedom of Information Act 2002 was framed by the government to include flaws that curtail the media rather than encourage the freedom of information. At the provincial level, similar bills were enacted in Sindh and Balochistan. A revised bill referred to as the Right to Information Act (2011) has been drafted in consensus with various stakeholders and has been introduced in the National Assembly only last month (October 2011). The government has referred the bill to the concerned standing committee of the House for further deliberations.

Proposed Project Objective:

The objective of the project is to:

1. Encourage the media to advocate further discussion at the national level, the speedy approval of the RTI Act and implementation of law at both federal and provincial levels
2. Build the media's capacity to understand the importance of the RTI Act and how they can use the Right to Information Act as a tool to seek information for public dissemination.

Log frame:

The following log frame attempts to elaborate project components in further detail.

<p>1</p> <p><u>Objectives</u></p> <p>To help improve citizen's access to information in public and private corporations under Article 19-A of the Constitution of Pakistan and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights...</p> <p>... by improving the media's capacity to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Advocate enactment of RTI Act. Exercise the RTI Act Create further awareness amongst citizen's regarding the RTI Act. 	<p>2</p> <p><u>Challenges</u></p> <p>-Existing FOI laws in Sindh, Balochistan and Federal level do not support access to RTI. -No FOI legislation in KPK and Punjab province -Red-tapism of bureaucracy which lacks culture of open sharing of information.</p>	<p>3</p> <p><u>Objectives of the Activity</u></p> <p>-Encourage discourse and build pressure for enactment of RTI laws and Rules -Building capacity of media professionals in application of RTI Act as a tool for information dissemination -Encourage media to play role in creating awareness amongst citizens on RTI Act once enforced</p>	<p>4</p> <p><u>Outputs</u></p> <p>- Round-table discussions with media, policy makers and civil society members for consultation on formulating RTI Act for Federal and provincial level. - Academic debates and interactive discussions on TV and radio with leading journalists, program anchors, journalism students/professors and other stakeholders. - Development of online forums on various social media websites to discuss the pending RTI Act and its benefits. - Capacity building workshops with journalists (nationwide).</p>	<p>5</p> <p><u>Outcomes</u></p> <p>Right to Information Act enacted at federal level with guidelines for implementation on federal, provincial and district level. ----- The media is exercising its right to know. ----- Increased levels of awareness amongst citizens regarding the RTI Act and its utilization. (This is addressed to larger extent in Proposed Project 3)</p>	<p>6</p> <p><u>Indicators</u></p> <p>Existence of the RTI Act and Rules. ----- -Number of requests made to government or private corporations for information by media/citizens. ----- Number of news reports, programmes on the RTI. ----- Demands made by citizens for greater access to information through media, public forums.</p>	<p>7</p> <p><u>Means of Verification</u></p> <p>-Legislative record -Surveys & Interviews -Media content analysis (qualitative and quantitative).</p>
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Methodology:

#	Activities	Participating/Target Population	Locations	Estimated Budget
ADVOCACY FOR ENACTMENT OF RTI LAW				
1	Series of round-table discussions with media, policy makers and civil society organizations for consultation on formulating RTI Act for Federal and provincial level.	Leading media personnel and policy makers	Islamabad and provincial capitals	USD 250,000
2	Academic debates and interactive discussions on TV and radio	Leading journalists, news anchors, program anchors, journalism students/professors and other stakeholders.	Islamabad, Lahore, Karachi	USD 50,000
3	Development of online forums on various social media websites to discuss the pending RTI Act and its benefits	Journalists, students, academics	Online	USD 15,000
TRAINING				
4	Capacity building workshops with journalists	-Journalists of various beats. -Editors of smaller district papers will be included as well. -Students of Mass Communication depts. in various colleges and universities across Pakistan -Staff of NGOs	Nation-wide. Three cities in each province (to cover north, centre and south of province) along with one each in FATA, & Gilgit-Baltistan	USD 150,000
INTERNAL MONITORING & EVALUATION				
5	Media content analysis of discussion and reports on RTI Act			USD 80,000
6	Interviews/survey of media professionals on requests made to government.		Nationwide	USD 30,000

Timeframe

For sufficient impact it is suggested project duration of one to two years with various activities spanned out at different times of the year building momentum.

Budget*

The budget is dependent on project duration, and scale of project.

Proposed Project II

Capacity-building of Government Officials for Implementation of RTI Act 2011.

Introduction

Right to Information has become increasingly relevant today for guaranteeing human rights, for the sustainability of the environment, for the right to political participation and for the fight against corruption. One major component of UNESCO's mandate is to "promote the free flow of ideas by word and image". This mission is reflected in UNESCO's Medium Term Strategy Medium-Term Strategy for 2008-2013, and particularly in its strategic programme objective of enhancing universal access to information and knowledge. (UNESCO, 2011)

In Pakistan, the clause covering the fundamental right to access to information under Article 19-A has just recently been included in the Constitution. However, the currently enforced Freedom of Information Act 2002 was framed by the government to include flaws that curtail the media rather than encourage the freedom of information. At the provincial level, similar bills were enacted in Sindh and Balochistan. A revised bill referred to as the Right to Information Act (2011) has been drafted in consensus with various stakeholders and has been introduced in the National Assembly only last month (October 2011). The government has referred the bill to the concerned standing committee of the House for further deliberations.

Proposed Project Objective:

While there is a general lack of awareness regarding the fundamental right to information, the situational analysis report indicates that the responsibility of implementation of the relevant regulations lies completely with the government and public organizations. The bureaucracy of control of information has hindered transparency and furthered corruption within the system.

The objective of the project is:

1. To build the government staff's capacity to understand the importance of the RTI Act and the need for its enactment and implementation.
2. To provide technical assistance in developing citizen-friendly RTI mechanism for government.
3. To encourage change in organizational culture and behavior of government employees to reduce red-tapism and encourage open sharing of documentation and information within legal parameters.

The project is applicable to the federal, provincial and district level administration.

Log frame:

The following log frame attempts to elaborate project components in further detail.

<p>1 <u>Objectives</u></p> <p>To help improve citizen's access to information in public and private corporations under Article 19-A of the Constitution of Pakistan and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights...</p> <p>... by improving the government's capacity to facilitate citizen's exercising of Right to Information</p>	<p>2 <u>Challenges</u></p> <p>-Existing FOI laws in Sindh, Balochistan and Federal level do not support access to RTI.</p> <p>-No FOI legislation in KPK and Punjab province</p> <p>-Red-tapism of bureaucracy which lacks culture of open sharing of information.</p>	<p>3 <u>Objectives of the Activity</u></p> <p>-To build govt.'s capacity to understand the importance of the RTI Act and implementation.</p> <p>-To provide technical assistance in developing citizen-friendly RTI mechanism for government.</p> <p>-To encourage change in organizational culture and behavior of government employees to reduce red-tapism.</p>	<p>4 <u>Outputs</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Stakeholder conference with policy makers, civil society members, NGOs, media and heads of various departments to understand importance of RTI. - Stakeholder conference with policy makers, civil society members, NGOs, media and heads of various departments to prioritize departments for project and signing of MoUs for collaboration. - Technical consultations on development of effective and citizen-friendly RTI mechanism. - Consultative discussions with government departments and management professionals on organizational behavior change - Training of government staff once RTI mechanism developed at district, provincial and federal level. 	<p>5 <u>Outcomes</u></p> <p>Increased level of facilitation from government departments to provide citizens, media and other organizations access to information.</p>	<p>6 <u>Indicators</u></p> <p>RTI Act Implementation mechanism designed and formally adopted by Government departments with legal measures available for appeal in case of refusal of information.</p> <p>-----</p> <p>-Greater number of information requests receiving responses by departments.</p>	<p>7 <u>Means of Verification</u></p> <p>-Documentation of Implementation framework</p> <p>-MoUs with departments to introduce RTI mechanism.</p> <p>-Interviews of media and citizens who have approached departments.</p> <p>-Record with concerned departments regarding requests and efficient responses to requests.</p>
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Methodology:

#	Activities	Participating/Target Population	Locations	Estimated Budget
1	Stakeholder conference to understand importance of RTI and need for its' enactment.	Policy makers, civil society members, NGOs, media and heads of various departments	Islamabad and/or provincial capitals	USD 50,000
2	Stakeholder conference to prioritize departments for project and signing of MoUs for collaboration.	Policy makers, civil society members, NGOs, media and heads of various departments	Islamabad and/or provincial capitals	USD 15,000
3	Technical consultations on development of effective and citizen-friendly RTI mechanism.	Technical consultants, expertise, policy makers, civil society members, NGOs, media and heads of various departments	Islamabad and/or provincial capitals	USD 35,000
4	Consultative discussions for organizational change to reduce red-tapism in providing citizen's with information.	Government departments and management professionals.	Islamabad and/or provincial capitals	USD 25,000
5	Training of government staff once RTI mechanism developed at district, provincial and federal level.		Islamabad and provincial capitals	USD 40,000
INTERNAL MONITORING & EVALUATION				
6	Review of records with departments on number of requests of information and efficiency of government in responding.			USD 18,000

Timeframe

For initial piloting it is suggested the project duration of one-two years depending on number of tiers involved (district, provincial and federal).

Budget*

The budget is dependent on project duration, and scale of project.

Proposed Project 3
Nation-wide Public Awareness Campaign about the advantages and opportunities of RTI and the RTI Act in Pakistan.

Introduction

Right to Information has become increasingly relevant today for guaranteeing human rights, for the sustainability of the environment, for the right to political participation and for the fight against corruption. One major component of UNESCO's mandate is to "promote the free flow of ideas by word and image". This mission is reflected in UNESCO's Medium Term Strategy Medium-Term Strategy for 2008-2013, and particularly in its strategic programme objective of enhancing universal access to information and knowledge. (UNESCO, 2011)

In Pakistan, the clause covering the fundamental right to access to information under Article 19-A has just recently been included in the Constitution. However, the currently enforced Freedom of Information Act 2002 was framed by the government to include flaws that curtail the media rather than encourage the freedom of information. At the provincial level, similar bills were enacted in Sindh and Balochistan. A revised bill referred to as the Right to Information Act (2011) has been drafted in consensus with various stakeholders and has been introduced in the National Assembly only last month (October 2011). The government has referred the bill to the concerned standing committee of the House for further deliberations.

Proposed Project Objective:

The situational analysis report indicates that there is a massive lack of awareness amongst the general masses regarding the Right to Information, the opportunity this presents for ordinary citizens to empower themselves, and about relevant legislation and procedures. The greater the demand for information the public, the greater will be the pressure on public departments and organizations to release information.

The objective of the project is to conceptualize, develop and implement a nation-wide mass media campaign in order to inform the general populace regarding the fundamental right to information, the opportunities it presents for them and about the RTI Act and procedures to accessing information.

Log frame:

The following log frame attempts to elaborate project components in further detail.

<p>1 <u>Objectives</u> To help improve citizen's access to information in public and private corporations under Article 19-A of the Constitution of Pakistan and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights... ... by creating awareness amongst the general population about the fundamental right to information and the RTI Act.</p>	<p>2 <u>Challenges</u> -Existing FOI laws in Sindh, Balochistan and Federal level do not support access to RTI. -No FOI legislation in KPK and Punjab province -Red-tapism of bureaucracy which lacks culture of open sharing of information.</p>	<p>3 <u>Objectives of the Activity</u> -To promote citizens' right to access to information</p>	<p>4 <u>Outputs</u> - Advocacy and campaign for promoting rights to know and demand for information among civil society, media and general public. This will include: -Talk shows on TV and radio -Public Service ad campaign (TV, radio, online) -Use of social and alternative media. -Articles in vernacular and English print media. -Initial survey and post-intervention survey on level of awareness about the right to information.</p>	<p>5 <u>Outcomes</u> Increased level of awareness amongst general populace regarding Right to Information.</p>	<p>6 <u>Indicators</u> Substantial increase in the knowledge regarding RTI and RTI mechanisms. ----- -Increase in number of information requests receiving responses by departments.</p>	<p>7 <u>Means of Verification</u> Baseline and post-intervention survey results. -Interviews of media and citizens who have approached departments. -Record with concerned departments regarding requests and efficient responses to requests.</p>
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Methodology:

#	Activities	Participating/Target Population	Locations	Estimated Budget
PUBLIC AWARENESS CAMPAIGN				
1	Talk shows on TV and radio	General population, policy-makers, civil society <i>Radio shows are essential to address rural and conflict areas.</i>	National	USD 50,000
2	Public Service ad campaign (TV, radio, online)	General population, policy-makers, civil society	National	USD 100,000
3	-Articles in vernacular and English print media.	Policy-makers (English press), and middle income groups (Urdu/regional press).	National	USD 15,000
4	Social and alternative media campaign	Youth and academics	National	USD 20,000
INTERNAL MONITORING & EVALUATION				
6	Baseline survey			USD 10,000
7	Impact survey			USD 12,000

Timeframe

A three- to six month campaign would prove sufficient to address objectives of campaign.

Budget*

The budget is dependent on project duration, and scale of project.

Proposed Project 4

Facilitation of development of Communication & Information mechanisms in FATA

Introduction

Right to Information has become increasingly relevant today for guaranteeing human rights, for the sustainability of the environment, for the right to political participation and for the fight against corruption. One major component of UNESCO's mandate is to "promote the free flow of ideas by word and image". This mission is reflected in UNESCO's Medium Term Strategy Medium-Term Strategy for 2008-2013, and particularly in its strategic programme objective of enhancing universal access to information and knowledge. (UNESCO, 2011)

In Pakistan, the clause covering the fundamental right to access to information under Article 19-A has just recently been included in the Constitution. However, the currently enforced Freedom of Information Act 2002 was framed by the government to include flaws that curtail the media rather than encourage the freedom of information. At the provincial level, similar bills were enacted in Sindh and Balochistan. A revised bill referred to as the Right to Information Act (2011) has been drafted in consensus with various stakeholders and has been introduced in the National Assembly only last month (October 2011). The government has referred the bill to the concerned standing committee of the House for further deliberations.

Proposed Project Objective:

In conflict zones, the scale of human rights violations on all sides is often very high but breaches mostly go unreported due to very little access to information. This applies to all conflict areas in Pakistan such as FATA, Khyber Pukhtoonkhwa and Balochistan where journalists have to face threats from militants and official intelligence agencies alike. In the pursuit to tell the truth many journalists have lost their lives. The fact that communication and information (CI) infrastructure is also non-existent in FATA makes things even more difficult (i.e. no internet, no cell phones, no local papers).

The objective of the proposed project is to strengthen Communication & Information mechanisms in FATA. This is to be done by various methods:

- Capacity building of Media, and CI professionals in FATA on social issues and reporting in conflict areas. There is an increased demand for capacity-building initiatives in Pakistan, as mentioned by recent developments between the Tribal Union of Journalists and various Social Enterprises and NGO initiatives.
- Development of CI mechanisms in FATA through establishment of a FATA Information Department which will serve as a "Knowledge Bureau of FATA"
- More public-private initiatives to be encouraged across Pakistan, especially in the challenging and less developed areas.
- There is a need to create more independent voices in the media ecosystem in Pakistan, which requires a Media Development Fund, an independent body, which can support diversity in content by encouraging independent content creators. This also requires a shift from taking leads from new media where the traditional media should be able to follow, respond and debate on content generated by "independent and non-agenda based content creators". This creates more room for transparency and accountability through CI tools and initiatives.

Log frame:

The following log frame attempts to elaborate project components in further detail.

<p>1 <u>Objectives</u> To help improve citizen's access to information in public and private corporations under Article 19-A of the Constitution of Pakistan and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights...</p> <p>... Strengthening Communication & Information Systems in conflict areas.</p>	<p>2 <u>Challenges</u> -Logistical difficulties in working with media in FATA, mainly security-related concerns.</p>	<p>3 <u>Objectives of the Activity</u> -To support the development of media to improve reporting and information flow in conflict areas like FATA.</p>	<p>4 <u>Outputs</u> -Capacity building of Media and CI professionals in FATA on social issues and reporting in conflict areas. -Establishment of a FATA Information Department/Bureau -Establish more public-private initiatives in the media in FATA -Creating and developing framework for an independent Media Development Fund</p>	<p>5 <u>Outcomes</u> Increased level of reporting and information exchange from mainstream and independent sources in FATA.</p>	<p>6 <u>Indicators</u> Increased number and diverse nature of news reports on news from and coverage of FATA Existence of various platforms that support journalists i.e. Information Bureau, Public and Private partnerships and media development funds.</p>	<p>7 <u>Means of Verification</u> Baseline and post-intervention content analysis of local and national media. -Existence of function Press dept. /bureau. -MoUs and implementation of public-private initiatives -Existence of Media Development Fund and number of recipients benefitting from project</p>
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Methodology:

#	Activities	Participating/Target Population	Locations	Estimated Budget
1	Capacity building of Media, and CI professionals in FATA on social issues and reporting in conflict areas.	Media professional and policy-makers (traditional and official)	FATA/Peshawar	USD 125,000
2	Establishment of a FATA Information Department/ Bureau	All stakeholders	FATA	USD 350,000
3	Establish more public-private initiatives in the media in FATA	Stakeholders in both public and private departments/organizations that can help strengthen CI mechanisms. For example local radio stations in FATA can collaborate with radio station in University of Peshawar.	FATA & Peshawar	USD 300,000
4	Creating and functionalizing the Media Development Fund	Media professional and policy-makers	National (Islamabad based with benefactors based in FATA, Balochistan)	USD 2,000,000

Timeframe

The objectives listed can be addressed in one year period however capacity-building would be effective a follow-up of training of journalists in subsequent year.

Budget*

The budget is dependent on project duration, and scale of project.

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ANNEX A- FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ORDINANCE 2002

October 27, 2002

*The President promulgated an Ordinance called "Freedom of Information Ordinance 2002."
This Ordinance has been enacted to ensure transparency by providing access to information.
Following is the text of the Ordinance:*

ORDINANCE NO. XCVI OF 2002

AN ORDINANCE to provide for transparency and freedom of information;

WHEREAS it is expedient to provide for transparency and freedom of information to ensure that the citizens of Pakistan have improved access to public records and for the purpose to make the Federal Government more accountable to its citizens, and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto;

AND WHEREAS the President is satisfied that circumstances exist which render it necessary to take immediate action;

NOW, THEREFORE, in pursuance of the Proclamation of Emergency of the fourteenth day of October, 1999, and the Provincial Constitution Order No. 1 of 1999, read with the Provisional Constitution (Amendment) Order No. 9 of 1999, and in exercise of all powers enabling him in that behalf, the President of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan is pleased to make and promulgate the following Ordinance:-

1. **Short title, extent and commencement.** - (1) This Ordinance may be called the Freedom of Information Ordinance, 2002.

(2) It extends to the whole of Pakistan.

(3) It shall come into force at once.

2. **Definition.**- In this Ordinance, unless there is anything repugnant in the subject or context,-

(a) "complainant" means

(b) (i) a requester, or

(ii) any person acting for and on behalf of requester;

(b) "complaint" means any allegation in writing made by a complainant;

- (i) where he is a requester, that access to record has been wrongfully denied to him by a public body;
- (ii) where he is a requester, that access to and/or correction of his personal information has been wrongfully denied to him by a public body having the custody or control of the record;
- (iii) where is a requester that the information requested by him has been unduly delayed by a public body;
- (c) "designated official" means an official of a public body designated under section 10;
- (d) "employee", in relation to a public body, means a person employed in a public body whether permanently or temporary;
- (e) "Federal Tax Ombudsman" means Federal Tax Ombudsman under section 3 of the Establishment of the Office of Federal Tax Ombudsman Ordinance, 2000 (XXXV of 2000);
- (f) "Mohtasib" means the Wafaqi Mohtasib (Ombudsman) appointed under Article 3 of the Establishment of the office of the Wafaqi Mohtasib (Ombudsman) Order, 1983 (P.O.NO. I of 1983);
- (g) "prescribed" means prescribed by rules made under this Ordinance;
- (h) "public body" means;
 - (i) any Ministry, Division or attached department of the Federal Government;
 - (ii) Secretariat of Majlis-e-Shoora (Parliament)
 - (iii) any office of any Board, Commission, Council, or other body established by, or under, a Federal law;
 - (iv) courts and tribunals;
- (i) "record" means record in any form, whether printed or in writing and includes any map, diagram, photography, film, microfilm, which is used for official purpose by the public body which holds the record;

3. Access to information not to be denied.- (1) Notwithstanding anything contained in any other law for the time being in force, and subject to the provisions of this Ordinance, no requester shall be denied access to any official record other than exemptions as provided in section 15.

(2) This Ordinance shall be interpreted so as

- (i) to advance the purposes of this Ordinance, and
- (ii) to facilitate and encourage, promptly and at the lowest reasonable cost, the disclosure of information;

4. Maintenance and indexing of records.- Subject to provisions of this Ordinance and in accordance with the rules that may be prescribed, each public body shall ensure that all records covered under clause (i) of section 2 of this Ordinance are properly maintained.

5. Publication and availability of records.- The acts and subordinate legislation such as rules and regulations, notifications, by-laws, manuals, orders having the force of law in Pakistan shall be duly, published and made available at a reasonable price at an adequate number of outlets so that access thereof is easier, less time-consuming and less expensive.

6. Computerisation of records.- Each public body shall endeavour within reasonable time and subject to availability of resources that all records covered by the provisions of this Ordinance are computerised and connected through a network all over the country on different system so that authorised access to such records is facilitated.

7. Declaration of public record.- Subject to the provision of section 8, the following record of all public bodies are hereby declared to be the public record, namely:-

(a) policies and guidelines;

(b) transactions involving acquisition and disposal of property and expenditure undertaken by a public body in the performance of its duties;

(c) information regarding grant of licenses, allotments and other benefits and privileges and contract and agreements made by a public body;

(d) final orders and decisions, including decisions relating to members of public; and

(e) any other record which may be notified by the Federal Government as public record 'for the purposes of this Ordinance,

8. Exclusion of certain record.- Nothing contained in section 7 shall apply to the following record of all public bodies, namely:-

(a) nothing on the files;

(b) minutes of meetings;

(c) any intermediary opinion or recommendation;

(d) record of the banking companies and financial institutions relating to the accounts of their customers;

(e) record relating to defence forces, defence installations or connected therewith or ancillary to defence and national security;

(f) record declared as classified by the Federal Government;

(g) record relating to the personal privacy of any individual ;

(h) record of private documents furnished to a public body either on an express or implied condition that information contained in any such documents shall not be disclosed to a third person; and

(i) any other record which the Federal Government may, in public interest, exclude from the purview of this Ordinance.

9. Duty to assist requesters.- A public body shall take necessary steps as may be prescribed to assist any requester under this Ordinance.

10. Designation of official.- (1) A public body shall designate and notify an officer or employee to whom requests under this ordinance are to be made. These officials will be designated to ensure easy public access to information.

(2) In case no such official has been designated or in the event of the absence or non-availability of the designated officials, the person in-charge of the public body shall be the designated official.

11. Functions of designated official.- Subject to the provisions of this Ordinance and the rules made thereunder and the instruction if any, of the Federal Government, the designated official shall provide the information contained in any public record or, as the case may be, a copy of any such record.

12. Applications for obtaining information, etc.- (1) Subject to the sub-section (2), any citizen of Pakistan may make an application to the designated official in the form as may be prescribed and shall with his application, furnish necessary particulars, pay such fee and at such time as may be prescribed.

(2) Nothing contained in sub-section (1) shall apply to such public record as has been published in the official Gazette or in the form of a book offered for sale.

13. Procedure for disposal of applications.- (1) Subject to sub-section (2), on receiving an application under section 12, the designated official shall, within twenty-one days of the receipt of request, supply to the applicant the required information or, as the case may be, a copy of any public record.

(2) In case the designated official is of the opinion that-

(a) the application is not in the form as has been

(b) the applicant has not furnished necessary particulars or has not paid such fee as has been prescribed;

(c) the applicant is not entitled to receive such information;

(d) the required information or, as the case may, be the required record does not constitute a public record under section 7;

(e) the required information or, as the case may be, the required record constitutes -a record which is excluded under section 8;

He shall record his decision in writing and the applicant shall be informed about such decision within twenty-one days of the receipt of the application.

(3) The information from, or the copy of, any public record supplied to the applicant under subsection (1), shall contain a certificate at the foot thereof that the information is correct or, as the case may be, the copy is a true copy of such public record, and such certificate shall be dated and signed by the designated official.

14. Exempt information from disclosure.- Subject to the provisions of this Ordinance, a public body shall not be required to disclose exempt information.

15. International relations.- (1) Information may be exempt if its disclosure would be likely to cause grave and significant damage to the interests of Pakistan in the conduct of international relations.

(2) In the Section, "international relations" means relations between Pakistan and

(a) the government of any other foreign State; or

(b) an organisation of which only States are members.

16. Disclosure harmful to law enforcement.- Information may be exempt if its disclosure is likely to

(a) result in the commission of an offences

(b) harm the detection, prevention, investigation or inquiry in a particular case;

(c) reveal the identity of a confidential source of information;

(d) facilitate an escape from legal custody;

(e) harm the security of any property or system, including a building, a vehicle, a computer system or communications system.

17. Privacy and personal information.- Information is exempt if its disclosure under this ordinance would involve the invasion of the privacy of an identifiable, individual (including individual) other than the requester.

18. Economic and commercial affairs.- Information is exempt if and so long as its disclosure

(a) would be likely to cause grave and significant damage to the economy as a result of the premature disclosure of the proposed introduction, abolition or variation of any tax, duty, interest rate, exchange rate or any other instrument of economic management;

(b) would be likely to cause significant damage to the financial interests of the public body by giving an unreasonable advantage to any person in relation to a contract which that person is

seeking to enter into with the public body for the acquisition? or disposal of property or the supply of goods or services, or

(c) by revealing information to a competitor of the public body, would be likely to cause significant damage to the lawful commercial activities of the public body.

19. Recourse of the Mohtasib and Federal Tax Ombudsman.- (1) If the applicant is not provided the information or copy of the record declared public record under section 7 within the prescribed time or the designated official refuses to give such information or, as the case may be, copy of such record, on the ground that the applicant is not entitled to receive such information or copy of such record, the applicant may, within thirty days of the last date of the prescribed time for giving such information or, as the case may be, of such record, or the communication of the order of the designated official declining to give such information or copy of such record, file a complaint with the head of the public body and on failing to get the requested information from him within the prescribed time may file a complaint with the Mohtasib and in cases relating to Revenue Division, its subordinate departments, offices and agencies with the Federal Tax Ombudsman.

(2) The Mohtasib or the Federal Tax Ombudsman, as the case may be, may, after hearing the applicant and the designated official, direct the designated official to give the information or, as the case may be, the copy of the record or may reject the complaint.

20. Dismissal of frivolous, vexatious and malicious complaint.- Where a complaint instituted is found to be malicious, frivolous or vexatious, the complaint may be dismissed by Mohtasib, and fine may be imposed on the complainant up to an amount not exceeding ten thousand rupees.

21. Offence. Any person who destroys a record which at the time it was destroyed was the subject of a request, or of a complaint with the intention of preventing its disclosure under this Ordinance, commits an offence punishable with imprisonment for a term not exceeding two years, or with fine, or with both.

22. Indemnity.- No suit, prosecution or other legal proceedings shall lie against any person for anything which is done in good faith or intended to be done in pursuance of this Ordinance or any rules made thereunder;

23. Ordinance not to derogate other laws.- The provisions of this Ordinance shall be in addition to, and not in derogation of, anything contained in any other law for the time being in force.

24. Power to remove difficulties.- If any difficulty arises in giving effect to the provisions of this Ordinance, the Federal Government may, by order in the official Gazette, make such provisions not inconsistent with the provisions of this Ordinance as appear to it to be necessary or expedient for removing the difficulty.

25. Power to make rules.- (1) The Federal Government may, by notification in the official Gazette, make rules for carrying out the purposes of this Ordinance.

(2) In particular and without prejudice to the generality of the foregoing powers, such rules may provide for-

- (a) the fee payable for obtaining information from, and copies of the public record;
- (b) the form of application for obtaining information from, and copies of, the public record; and
- (c) the form in which information from public record shall be furnished.

ANNEX-B LIST OF JOURNALISTS KILLED IN PAKISTAN SINCE 2001

Cases in which motive is confirmed

1. [Javed Naseer Rind](#), *Daily Tawar*
November, in Khuzdar, Pakistan
2. [Faisal Qureshi](#), *London Post*
October 7, 2011, in Lahore, Pakistan
3. [Shafiullah Khan](#), *The News*
June 17, 2011, in Wah Cantonment, Pakistan
4. [Asfandyar Khan](#), *Akhbar-e-Khyber*
June 11, 2011, in Peshawar, Pakistan
5. [Saleem Shahzad](#), *Asia Times Online*
May 29 or 30, 2011, in Mandi Bahauddin, Pakistan
6. [Nasrullah Khan Afridi](#), Khyber News Agency, Pakistan Television, Mashreq
May 10, 2011, in Peshawar, Pakistan
7. [Wali Khan Babar](#), Geo TV
January 13, 2011, in Karachi, Pakistan
8. [Pervez Khan](#), Waqt TV
December 6, 2010, in Ghalanai, Pakistan
9. [Abdul Wahab](#), Express News
December 6, 2010, in Ghalanai, Pakistan
10. [Misri Khan](#), *Ausaf and Mashriq*
September 14, 2010, in Hangu, Pakistan
11. [Ejaz Raisani](#), Samaa TV
September 6, 2010, in Quetta, Pakistan
12. [Ejazul Haq](#), City-42 TV
May 28, 2010, in Lahore, Pakistan
13. [Ghulam Rasool Birhamani](#), *Daily Sindhu Hyderabad*
May 9 or 10, 2010, in Wahi Pandhi, Pakistan
14. [Azamat Ali Bangash](#), Samaa TV
April 17, 2010, in Orakzai, Pakistan
15. [Malik Arif](#), Samaa TV
April 16, 2010, in Quetta, Pakistan
16. [Janullah Hashimzada](#), Shamshad TV
August 24, 2009, in Jamrud, Pakistan
17. [Musa Khankhel](#), Geo TV and *The News*
February 18, 2009, in Swat, Pakistan
18. [Tahir Awan](#), freelance
January 4, 2009, in Dera Ismail Khan, Pakistan
19. [Mohammad Imran](#), Express TV
January 4, 2009, in Dera Ismail Khan, Pakistan
20. [Abdul Razzak Johra](#), Royal TV
November 3, 2008, in Punjab, Pakistan
21. [Abdul Aziz Shaheen](#), *Azadi*
August 29, 2008, in Swat, Pakistan

22. [Mohammed Ibrahim](#), Express TV and *Daily Express*
May 22, 2008, in Khar, Pakistan
23. [Siraj Uddin](#), *The Nation*
February 29, 2008, in Mingora, Pakistan
24. [Chishti Mujahid](#), *Akbar-e-Jehan*
February 9, 2008, in Quetta, Pakistan
25. [Zubair Ahmed Mujahid](#), *Jang*
November 23, 2007, in Mirpur Khas, Pakistan
26. [Muhammad Arif](#), ARY One World TV
October 19, 2007, in Karachi, Pakistan
27. [Javed Khan](#), *Markaz* and DM Digital TV
July 3, 2007, in Islamabad, Pakistan
28. [Noor Hakim Khan](#), *Daily Pakistan*
June 2, 2007, in Bajaur, Pakistan
29. [Mehboob Khan](#), freelance
April 28, 2007, in Charsadda, Pakistan
30. [Hayatullah Khan](#), freelance
June 16, 2006, in Miran Shah, Pakistan
31. [Munir Ahmed Sangi](#), Kawish Television Network (KTN)
May 29, 2006, in Larkana, Pakistan
32. [Allah Noor](#), Khyber TV
February 7, 2005, in Wana, Pakistan
33. [Amir Nowab](#), Associated Press Television News and *Frontier Post*
February 7, 2005, in Wana, Pakistan
34. [Sajid Tanoli](#), *Shumal*
January 29, 2004, in Mansehra, Pakistan
35. [Fazal Wahab](#), freelance
January 21, 2003, in Mingora, Pakistan
36. [Shahid Soomro](#), *Kawish*
October 20, 2002, in Kandhkot, Pakistan
37. [Daniel Pearl](#), *The Wall Street Journal*
Date unknown in 2002, in Karachi, Pakistan
38. [Sufi Mohammad Khan](#), *Ummat*
May 2, 2000, in Badin, Pakistan
39. [Z.A. Shahid](#), *Khabrain*
January 18, 1997, in Lahore, Pakistan
40. [Mohammad Samdani Warsi](#), *Parcham*
December 6, 1994, in Karachi, Pakistan
41. [Mohammed Salahuddin](#), *Takbeer*
December 4, 1994, in Karachi, Pakistan

Media Workers Killed in Pakistan

4. [Mohammad Sarwar](#), Aaj TV
September 3, 2010, in Quetta, Pakistan

5. [Mian Iqbal Shah](#), Peshawar Press Club
December 22, 2009, in Peshawar, Pakistan

Journalists killed in which motives are unconfirmed

1. [Muneer Shakir](#), Online News Network, Sabzbaat TV
August 14, 2011, in Khuzdar, Pakistan
2. [Zaman Ibrahim](#), *Daily Extra News*
April 2, 2011, in Karachi, Pakistan
3. [Abdost Rind](#), freelance
February 18, 2011, in Turbat, Pakistan
4. [Ilyas Nizzar](#), *Darwanth*
January 3, 2011, in Pidararak, Pakistan
5. [Mehmood Chandio](#), Awaz
December 5, 2010, in Mirpurkhas, Pakistan
6. [Lala Hameed Baloch](#), *Daily Intikhab*
November 18, 2010, in an area outside Turbat, Pakistan
7. [Siddique Bacha Khan](#), Aaj TV
August 14, 2009, in Mardan, Pakistan
8. [Wasi Ahmad Qureshi](#), *Daily Azadi, Balochistan Express*
April 16, 2009, in Khuzdar, Pakistan
9. [Raja Assad Hameed](#), *The Nation*, Waqt TV
March 26, 2009, in Rawalpindi, Pakistan
10. [Khadim Hussain Sheikh](#), Sindh TV and *Khabrein*
April 14, 2008, in Hub, Pakistan
11. [Mohammad Ismail](#), Pakistan Press International
November 1, 2006, in Islamabad, Pakistan
12. [Asadullah](#), Freelancer
September 1, 2001, in Karachi, Pakistan
13. [Nawaz Zulfiqar Memon](#), *The Nation*
December 3, 1999, in Islamabad, Pakistan

(Source: Committee to Protect Journalists, <http://www.cpj.org/killed/asia/pakistan/>)