

PAKISTAN COALITION ON MEDIA SAFETY (PCOMS)

Declaration by Media Stakeholders on Combating Impunity

International Conference on Safety & Security of Pakistani Journalists
Islamabad, March 7, 2013

The “**International Conference on Safety and Security of Pakistani Journalists: Promoting Collaborative Approaches to Combat Impunity**”, held in Islamabad on March 6-7, 2013 by Intermedia Pakistan with support of International Media Support (IMS), Open Society Foundations (OSF) and UNESCO, attended by representatives of leading national and international media houses, associations, platforms and media development organizations, and which expressed solidarity with the Pakistani media on the issue of impunity against Pakistani journalists, declared the following:

1. The level of threats facing Pakistani media and its practitioners is unacceptable that have, according to Intermedia Pakistan and Pakistan Federal Union of Journalists, killed over 90 journalists since 2000 and resulted in injuries, assaults, arrests, kidnapping and other forms of serious intimidation faced by over 2,000 journalists in the same period.
2. Urgent and extraordinary measures need to be coordinated, endorsed and adopted by all stakeholders of the media sector in Pakistan, including media owners, managers, practitioners and workers, as well as the other various stakeholders of the media stakeholders, to reduce the range of threats that journalists, media workers and media establishments in Pakistan face.
3. The “Pakistan Coalition on Media Safety” (PCOMS) is set up, in pursuance of the Declaration of the National Conference on Impunity Against Journalists held on November 8, 2012, that recommended setting up of such an alliance, to serve as a platform for key stakeholders of the media sector in Pakistan to promote collaborative approaches, mechanisms and actions aimed at reducing risks, threats and attacks against the media and promoting safety and security of journalists, media workers and media establishments in the country.
4. “Pakistan Coalition on Media Safety” (PCOMS) welcomes and supports the UN Action Plan Against Impunity and its focus on Pakistan as one of the pilot countries of the Plan – and seeks to both benefit and contribute to it in the interests of safety and security of journalists, media workers and media establishments in Pakistan.

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5. A 'Working Group' was set up to approach key media stakeholders in Pakistan to create a Steering Committee for the "Pakistan Coalition on Media Safety" (PCOMS) that can take ownership of the Coalition. The conference proposed Hamid Mir, Adnan Rehmat, Owais Aslam Ali, Iqbal Khattak and Mazhar Abbas as members of the Working Group.
6. The "Pakistan Coalition on Media Safety" will develop a "National Charter on Media Safety", adopting the outcomes of the national consultation conducted by UNESCO and national conference on impunity against journalists conducted by Intermedia Pakistan – both in November 2012 – to outline priorities, collaborative and individual actions, develop resources, tools and mechanisms, to promote a unified agenda of safety and security of journalists, media workers and media establishments of Pakistan.
7. The "Pakistan Coalition on Media Safety" welcomes the establishment of the "International Friends of Pakistan Media Alliance on Safety", and seeks to interact with it in the interest of pushing forward an agenda of safety of journalists, media workers and media establishments in the country.
8. The "Pakistan Coalition on Media Safety" will seek to promote membership by all key stakeholders of the media sector in Pakistan to lend support to the cause of promoting safety and security of journalists, media workers and media establishments in Pakistan.
9. The "Pakistan Coalition on Media Safety" will seek to establish networking, partnerships and collaborations with the international media community, including media development and support organizations, on the issue of promoting safety and security of journalists, media workers and media establishments in Pakistan.
10. The "Pakistan Coalition on Media Safety" will develop a "Roadmap of Safety and Security" that outline a series of prioritised actions aimed at promoting safety and security of journalists, media workers and media establishments in Pakistan.