

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY SECRETARIAT

Subject: - REPORT OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE ON INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING ON THE PROTECTION OF JOURNALISTS AND MEDIA PROFESSIONALS (AMENDMENT) BILL, 2023

I, Chairperson of the Standing Committee on Information and Broadcasting have the honor to present this report further to amend the Protection of Journalists and Media Professionals Act, 2021(XXIII of 2021) [The Protection of Journalists and Media Professionals (Amendment) Bill, 2023] (Government Bill), referred to the Committee on 27th March, 2023.

2. The Committee comprises the following:-

1.	Ms. Javaria Zafar Aheer	Chairperson
2.	Mr. Armaghan Subhani	Member
3.	Mr. Saad Waseem	Member
4.	Rana Iradat Sharif Khan	Member
5.	Mr. Nadeem Abbas	Member
6.	Ms. Zaib Jaffar	Member
7.	Ms. Maiza Hameed	Member
8.	Mr. Kiran Imran Dar	Member
9.	Dr. Nafisa Shah	Member
10.	Mr. Zulfiqar Ali Behan	Member
11.	Ms. Naz Baloch	Member
12.	Dr. Shazia Sobia Aslam Soomro	Member
13.	Prof. Dr. Shahnaz Naseer Baloch	Member
14.	Mr. Nasir Khan Musa Zai	Member
15.	Ms. Asiya Azeem	Member
16.	Ms. Marriyum Aurangzeb, <i>Minister for Information and Broadcasting</i>	Ex-officio Member

3. The Committee considered Bill, as introduced in the National Assembly, placed at Annexure-A, in its meetings held on 24th May and 13th July, 2023 and recommended that Bill as introduced may be passed by the National Assembly.

Sd/-
(TAHIR HUSSAIN)
Secretary
Islamabad, the 1st August, 2023

Sd/-
(JAVARIA ZAFAR AHEER)
Chairperson

Bill

*to amend the Protection of Journalists and Media Professionals Act,
2021*

WHEREAS it is expedient it is further to amend the Protection of Journalists and Media Professionals Act, 2021 (XXIII of 2021), in the manner and for the purpose hereinafter appearing;

It is hereby enacted as follows: -

1. **Short title and commencement.** - (1) This Act shall be called the Protection of Journalists and Media Professionals ACT (Amendment) Act, 2022.

(2) It shall come into force at once.

2. **Amendment in section 13, Act XXIII of 2002.**- in the Protection of Journalists and Media Professionals Act, 2021 (XXIII of 2021), hereinafter called as the said Act, in section 13, -

a) In sub -section (1), for the words "of Human Rights in consultation with Ministry of Information and Broadcasting", "to which business of the Commission stands allocated" shall be substituted' and

b) In sub-section (2), for the words "of Human Rights in consultation with Ministry of Information and Broadcasting", "to which business of the Commission stands allocated" shall be substituted.

3. **Amendment in section 17, Act XXIII of 2021.**- in the said Act, in section 17, in sub-section (1), for clause (b), the following shall be substituted, namely: -

"(b) prepare an annual report on the state of media freedom and safety to be laid before the Majlis-e-Shoora (Parliament), through the Ministry to which business of the Commission stands allocated, and submit to that Ministry any other independent reports as and when considered necessary".

Subject: **STATEMENT OF OBJECTIVE AND REASONS**

Since "Liaison and coordination with Agencies and Media on matters concerning Government Policies and Activities" is the responsibility of Ministry of Information and Broadcasting under Item No. 16: Entry -9 of the Rules of Business 1973. Hence, the Prime Minister transferred implementation of "Protection of Journalists and Media Professionals Act, 2021" from Ministry of Human Rights to the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting along with direction to make necessary amendments in the Act for its implementation.

2. It is informed that the above-mentioned decision has been ratified by the Cabinet in its meeting held on 24th January, 2023 under Case No. 08/02/2023.

Minister-in-Charge