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Experts call for early review of Hudood Ordinance

Experts and participants in a discussion have stressed the need to review the Hudood Ordinance for provision of justice and end to misuse of this law against innocent people for vested interests of certain section of society like police, feudal lords etc.

The discussion was arranged by the Parliamentarians Commission for Human Rights (PCHR) on "Evaluation of Proposed Amendments in Hudood Laws" here.

Chairman PCHR MNA Riaz Fatyana, Director Kashmala Tariq, State Minister for Interior Dr. Shahzad Waseem, other parliamentarians including Senators Muhammad Abbas Kumaili, Roshan Khursheed, Nighat Agha, MNAs Gyan Singh, Shugufta Jumani, Sardar Saleem Jan Mazari, Sh. Waqas Anjum, Malik Saifullah Tiwana, Syed Tahir Shah, Mahnaz Rafi, and PCHR Chief Coordinator Shafique Choudhry were present on the occasion.

The majority of participants was of the view that since the enactment of the five Hudood Ordinances in 1979, they had surrounded in controversy, however, they had never been debated in the Parliament for amendments. Chairman PCHR MNA Riaz Fatyana informed the participants that the Commission had submitted draft amendments in the Zina Ordinance prepared by MNA Kashmala Tariq. He added that PCHR encouraged the parliamentarians to take up the Hudood issue and debate it in the Parliament and other forums to address problems being faced by masses due to flaws in these laws.

Dr. Aslam Khaki on the occasion delivered his lecture on the existing Hudood Ordinances and the mechanism of their execution in the society. He said that the Hudood Ordinance although provided better security to victim of rape, however, execution of the Ordinance had been misused and it had earned a bad name due to its abuse at the implementation stages. He was of the view that Tazeer should be deleted from the Hudood Ordinance.

He was of the opinion that the Islamic Procedural Law should be applicable in Hudood cases as Islam does not have a concept of imprisonment and female victims should not be sent to jail just after registration of cases against them as cases might be

fake and motivated by vested interests.

MNA Kashmala Tariq informed the participants that an amendment bill had been proposed by the PCHR and presentations were given to the President and Prime Minister evaluating the importance of proposed amendments. She added that the Ordinance had flaws and must be removed through proposed amendments without further delay.

While discussing the issue, MNA Mahnaz Rafi viewed that the Hudood Ordinance came in highly politically motivated circumstance in 1979 and there was a dire need to review the Ordinance after that, however, the parliament did not pay any heed in this regard.

MNA Shuguftha Jumani was of the view Hudood Ordinance had been used by feudals against innocent people since it was introduced and maintained that the law was particularly used against innocent women in Pakistan.

