

## PRESS RELEASE

**Karachi: December 15, 2015:** The Pakistan Broadcasters Association, taking note of the recent articles in various newspapers about the Journalists Protection and Welfare Bill 2011, appreciates the steps being considered by the Government to provide social benefits and protection to journalists. Pakistan is one of the most dangerous countries for journalists with 83 journalists/media workers killed since 1994 according to Committee to Protect Journalists. PBA has written to the Government many times for initiatives for protection of journalists.

At the same time PBA expresses grave concern towards a controversial clause of the draft law which would require journalists to reveal their source in matters of national security importance.

PBA believes that inclusion of this clause and its practical ramifications will curb freedom of the press and journalists in an environment which is already hostile towards journalists and their organizations. PBA urges the Government to ensure that all stakeholders including PBA is consulted on any such draft before its finalization.

PBA also believes that the bill should remain confined to its basic objectives i.e. welfare and protection of journalists, and should not touch the controversial and already settled matters.

PBA sincerely hopes that the Government will continue to work towards protecting journalists and their organizations while ensuring that the freedom of the press reigns supreme in any such endeavor.

*Sincerely for,*

**Pakistan Broadcasters Association**

**Muhammad Ali Butt**

Executive Director