

June 24, 2009

### PRESS RELEASE

“Pakistan Broadcasters Association has already sent an interim Code of ethics to the Government relating to coverage of terrorism acts on April 28, 2009 and is awaiting response to incorporate it in the Self-regulatory Code of Ethics for the television media, said the Secretary General, PBA Syed Sarfraz Hussain Shah.

In a press release issued on Wednesday, June 24<sup>th</sup> 2009, PBA said both, the Ministry of Information and Pakistan Electronic Media Regulatory Authority (PEMRA) have confirmed receiving the said Code and informed PBA that the Code has been forwarded to Ministry of Law for comments and authorities will shortly respond.

It may be recalled that Federal Minister of Information Qamar-uz-Zaman Kaira had met PBA delegation on April 14, 2009 wherein it was decided that an interim Code on Terrorism be drafted at the earliest.

PBA in response to the Minister’s request sent an Interim Code within two weeks of the said meeting and is still awaiting a response. It is incorrect to say that the Electronic Media in Pakistan is not operating under any law or not conforming to any Code of ethics. PBA members are observing the laws of the land passed by the legislature as well as rules and regulations framed by the executive branch for implementation of these laws”, said Shah.

He, however, pointed out that PBA has already expressed its opposition to some of the draconian laws framed by dictators to suppress the independence of the media.

“Any unilateral attempt to muzzle the electronic media will be opposed” warned Secretary General, PBA.”



A circular seal of the Pakistan Broadcasters Association (PBA) is stamped at the bottom right. The seal features the text "PAKISTAN BROADCASTERS ASSOCIATION" around the perimeter and "P.B.A." in the center. A blue ink signature is written across the seal.