

## Media Law Clinic

Venue: PC Hotel Peshawar

Date: 28<sup>th</sup> June 08

10:30 am to 04:30 pm



### Activity Details

A day-long Media Law Clinic was held for journalists of tribal areas on Saturday, 28th June 08, at PC Hotel Peshawar. The rationale of the law clinic was to identify and address the problems, legal as well as professional, faced or likely to be faced by journalists of tribal areas working in both print and electronic media.

### Resource Persons

Ms. Misbah Saboohi

### Training Coordinator

Mr. Muhammad Wajih Akhtar

## Schedule

The training started according to schedule with the delay of 15mints as people started coming to the press club after 10:15 am but later 21 participants turned up and the training went very well . The participants had great interest in the law clinic. The president of the Fata Union of Journalists- Mr. Nasir Mohmind- and many others suggested holding another law clinic for the journalists of Fata so that more journalists can participate in it.

## Presentations

### Session 1

During the work shop Misbah Saboohi, the media law consultant, presented the multimedia presentation on freedom of information ordinance 2002 and PEMRA Ordinance and also the media laws that directly or indirectly affect the journalists. She briefed the participants about the legal responsibilities of journalists while gathering or reporting news and passing the same information to the public at large.

She clarified that the government puts restrictions on freedom of the press in the name of national security, public order or other legitimate concerns of the state. However public's right to know cannot be curbed if fair, neutral and truthful reporting is done by the journalists. She also explained legal defenses available to journalists in case they find themselves being sued by different parties. It was stressed that code of conduct for the media in PEMRA laws, Defamation ordinance or contempt of court should be interpreted in the light of international best practices prevalent in journalism.

### Session 2

Afterwards in open house discussion journalists raised some problem faced by them in tribal areas. The participants also took part in the discussion as to how to improve working conditions for the journalists in tribal areas. They have showed their fear for the militants in tribal areas, which is causing the great hurdle in reporting for such an area where conflict is on.

## Participant's Feedback

In the end all the participants were presented the certificates of participation. They also requested for the long duration workshop for journalists of other far flung areas of other agencies of FATA as they can not move out for one day

Muhammad Salim Afridi, Daily Pakistan:

"We wish that Intermedia will keep doing the same for the journalists of FATA in future, if the material could be translated in to regional language or even in urdu may be it would be more appropriate and result oriented".

Saeed Badshah, Daily Aaj:

"In my openion one day workshop on such an issue and especially for the tribal areas is not a good idea; it must be for 3 days or may be one week, because we have to face many problems to attend these workshops for one day."

Wazeer Afridi, Daily Express, Nation, Tasweer:

"I will congratulate Intermedia for this successful workshop and I believe such workshops can help journalists to improve their reporting in tribal areas, keeping in mind the need of today Intermedia must train us about computers usage, Internet and camera operating techniques."

Noor Shad Shabab, Daily Ausaaf , Sana News:

"These orientations should also be organized for the in the local press clubs so that more journalists can participate".

## List of participants

S. No	Name	Organization
1	Mr. Hidayat Shah	Daily Aaj Kal / Bara Press Club
2	Mr. Tariq Shah	Daily Ilhaaq
3	Mr. Muhammad Amir	INP News Agency
4	Mr. Qadir Khan	ANN
5	Mr. Jehaad Gul	Daily Al Akhbaar
6	Mr. Abdul Azam Shanwaari	Daily Ausaaf / AVT
7	Mr. Akmal Khan Qadri	Daily Mashriq
8	Mr. Wazeer Khan Afridi	Daily Nawa e Waqt
9	Mr. Saif Ul Rehman	Daily Ausaaf
10	Mr. Fakhar Alam	Daily Ilhaaq
11	Mr. Kifayat Ullah	Daily Al Akhbar
12	Mr. Zia Ullah	Daily Pakistan
13	Mr. Noor Shad Shabab	Daily Ausaaf
14	Mr. Saeed Badshah	Daily Aaj
15	Mr. Mr. Abdul Qadir	Frontier Star
16	Mr. Aurangzaib Afridi	News Channel
17	Muhammad Salim	Daily Pakistan
18	Sajid Ali	Daily Surkhaab
19	Muhammad Farooq	Daily Ausaaf
20	Aurangzaib Mohmind	Daily Surkhab`
21	Nasir Mohmind	Bara Press club