



Bar Council of Punjab & Haryana

LAW BHAWAN

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Official statement and Letter of Condemnation

(22.05.2023)

Bar Council of Punjab and Haryana had been apprised of one Strike Notice/Resolution dated 20.05.2023 issued by the Sindh High Court Bar Association (Karachi, Pakistan), currently circulating on social media, the relevant extract of which is as follows: -

"Sindh High Court Bar Association, Karachi (May 20, 2023)

Members are informed that as per Press Release of Pakistan Bar Council the Sindh High Court Bar Association shall observe a full day strike on Monday, May 22 2023 as a mark of complete protest against decision of Indian Government for holding G20 Tourism Working Group meeting in dispute territory of Srinagar, India illegally Occupied Jammu & Kashmir (IOJK) and to express solidarity with the people of Jammu and Kashmir.

Members are requested to cooperate in this regard.

*Sd/- Amir Nawaz Warraich
Honorary Secretary"*

Furthermore, a news item reportedly published by The News International, an English language newspaper in Pakistan (<https://www.thenews.com.pk/amp/1072406-lawyers-to-observe-strike-tomorrow-against-g20-summit-in-iioj-k>) has also reported on the same, the relevant extract of which is as follows: -

"Karachi | Our correspondent | May 21, 2023

The Sindh Bar Council announced on Saturday lawyers would observe a strike on Monday in protest against the decision of the Indian government to hold this year's G20 meeting in Indian-Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir (IIOJ&K).

Endorsing the strike call of the Pakistan Bar Council, SBC Vice Chairman Azhar Hussain Abbasi and Chairman Executive Committee Naeem Qureshi also condemned the Indian government's decision to hold the G20 meeting in occupied Jammu and Kashmir. xxxx"



In light of the above, in exercise of the powers conferred upon the undersigned by Rule 43 of BCPH Rules, an emergent agenda item highlighting the above stated matter was circulated amongst all Members of State Bar Council for their views, whereby a unanimous resolution has been passed which is as under: -

“It has been resolved that this notice/resolution issued by the Sindh High Court Bar Association, Pakistan Bar Council, Sindh Bar Council, as reported in media, is to be condemned in the strongest words. An official statement and letter of condemnation be issued in this regard by the worthy Chairman BCPH.”

As directed by the General House, the undersigned is issuing the following statement and letter of condemnation on behalf of Bar Council of Punjab & Haryana in this regard.


State Bar Council of Punjab & Haryana strongly condemns the press release/communique/resolutions passed by Sindh High Court Bar Association (Karachi, Pakistan), Pakistan Bar Council & Sindh Bar Council in the harshest possible terms. While beautiful Srinagar extends a warm welcome to all international G20 delegates at the 3rd TWG meet, such press release/communique/resolution is not in the right earnest and smacks of desperation. Such mendacious statements are only designed to suit oblique political motives. Such Bar bodies, attempting to engineer hatred have unscrupulously toed the line of the current political dispensation in Pakistan.

Kashmir is an integral part of India and futuristic people of Kashmir only want progress and development similar to the rest of India. They have rejected Pakistan’s false narratives and stand united in the pursuit of a better future.

While India entered the G20 presidency with its humble resolve of ‘One Earth • One Family • One Future’ such attempts by Pakistan through Sindh High Court Bar Association (Karachi, Pakistan), Pakistan Bar Council & Sindh Bar Council only demonstrates their complete disregard for regional stability and progress.

Kashmir, the crown of India, ancient in its wisdom, modern in its growth, and rich in its diversities, is prosperous and ready to engage with the world. India believes in the power of dialogue and cooperation to build bridges and promote inclusive growth. The world looks forward to discover the wonderful sustainable tourism destinations, geographical richness and experiences in Kashmir.

The legal fraternity from this region firmly stands with the people of Kashmir and above all the vision of the Hon’ble Prime Minister of a resurgent India.


Suvir Sidhu
Chairman
