

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY SECRETARIAT

SPECIAL REPORT OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE ON INFORMATION, BROADCASTING & NATIONAL HERITAGE

I, Chairperson of the Standing Committee on Information, Broadcasting & National Heritage in pursuance of Rule 234 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in the National Assembly, 2007, on behalf of the Standing Committee have the honor to present this special report of the Standing Committee on "Proposals to strengthen media's role in combating terrorism."

2. The Committee comprises the following members:-

01.	Ms. Marvi Memon	Chairperson
02.	Mr. Mian Muhammad Farooq	Member
03.	Mr. Waseem Akhtar Shaikh	Member
04.	Mr. Muhammad Tallal Chaudry	Member
05.	Mr. Tahir Iqbal Ch.	Member
06.	Ms. Parveen Masood Bhatti	Member
07.	Ms. Ghulam Bibi Bharwana	Member
08.	Ms. Zeb Jaffar	Member
09.	Ms. Arifa Khalid Parvez	Member
10.	Ms. Marriyum Aurangzeb	Member
11.	Ms. Leila Khan	Member
12.	Mr. Syed Amir Ali Shah Jamote	Member
13.	Mr. Imran Zafar Leghari	Member
14.	Ms. Belum Hasnain	Member
15.	Mr. Murad Saeed	Member
16.	Dr. Muhammad Azhar Khan Jadoon	Member
17.	Ms. Saman Sultana Jafri	Member
18.	Mr. Malik Muhammad Aamir Dogar	Member
19.	Ms. Naeema Kishwer Khan	Member
20.	Senator Pervaiz Rashid	Ex-officio Member
	<i>Minister for Information, Broadcasting and National Heritage</i>	

3. The Standing Committee held two meetings on 24th & 30th December, 2014 respectively to urgently review media laws, ethical and professional issues with reference to terrorism. These meetings were held with Ministry of Information, Broadcasting & National Heritage, its attached Departments, PEMRA, Ministry of Information Technology & Telecommunication, Pakistan Telecommunication Authority (PTA) and representatives from Pakistan Broadcasters Association (PBA), Council of Pakistan Newspaper Editors (CPNE), and All Pakistan Newspaper Society (APNS) along with media experts.

4. **Objective of the two urgent Committee meetings:**

- A. Objective was to establish clearly that the country was functioning in a situation close to war-time not peace time; especially based on the resolve shown by Honourable Prime Minister of Islamic Republic of Pakistan, Government including armed forces, opposition, politicians and civil society, to fight terrorism in the wake of the Peshawar tragedy.

Article 19 of the Constitution of Pakistan: Every citizen shall have the right to freedom of speech and expression, and there shall be freedom of the press, subject to any reasonable restrictions imposed by law in the interest of the glory of Islam or the integrity, security or defence of Pakistan or any part thereof, friendly relations with foreign States, public order, decency or morality, or in relation to contempt of court, [commission of] or incitement to an offence.

6.1.3 FEDERAL GOVERNMENT POWERS

Section 5 of the PEMRA Ordinance, 2002 as amended by the PEMRA (Amendment) Act, 2007: Power of the Federal Government to issue directives.- "The Federal Government may, as and when it considers necessary, issue directives to the Authority on matters of policy, and such directives shall be binding on the Authority, and if a question arises whether any matter is a matter of policy or not, the decision of the Federal Government shall be final."

6.1.4 LICENCEE COMMITMENTS

Section 20 of the PEMRA Ordinance, 2002 as amended by the PEMRA (Amendment) Act, 2007: Terms and conditions of license: "A person who is issued a license under this Ordinance shall...:

(c) ensure that all programmes and advertisements do not contain or encourage violence, terrorism, racial, ethnic or religious discrimination, sectarianism, extremism, militancy, hatred, pornography, obscenity, vulgarity or other material offensive to commonly accepted standards of decency;...

(e) broadcast if permissible under the terms of its license, programmes, in the public interest specified by the Federal Government or the Authority in the manner indicated by the Government or, as the case may be, the Authority, provided that the duration of such mandatory programmes do not exceed ten percent of the total duration of broadcast or operation by a station in twenty four hours except if, by its own violation a station chooses to broadcast such content for longer.

6.1.5 IN-HOUSE ARRANGEMENTS with regard to advertisements and monitoring

(f) comply with the codes of programmes and advertisements approved by the Authority and appoint an in-house monitoring Committee, under intimation to the Authority to ensure compliance of the Code;..."

6.1.6 CONTENT COMMITMENT

The PEMRA Authority Rules 2009 Schedule A (1): No program shall be aired which

(a) passes derogatory remarks about any religion or sector community or uses visuals or words contemptuous of religious sects and ethnic groups or promotes communal and sectarian attitudes or disharmony;

(e) is likely to encourage and incite violence or contains anything against maintenance of law and order or which promotes anti-national or anti-state attitudes;

(n) anything which tends to glorify crime or criminals.

6.1.7 AGREED UPON REDRESSAL, PENALTY REGIME

Section 27 of the PEMRA Ordinance, 2002 as amended by the PEMRA (Amendment) Act, 2007: "Prohibition of broadcast media or distribution service

relating to press and publications for the time being in force or B) any document wherever printed, appears to contain any treasonable or seditious matter or any matter which is prejudicial to national integration or any matter which promotes or is intended to promote feelings of enmity or hatred between different classes of the citizens of Pakistan, the Provincial Government may, by notification declare every copy of the issue of the newspaper containing such matter to be forfeited to Government, and any Magistrate may by warrant authorize any police-officer not below the rank of sub-inspector to enter upon and search for the same in any premises where any copy of such issue or any such book or other document may be.

6.1.10 THE ATA REGIME

The Anti-terrorism Act Section 11W: Printing, publishing or disseminating any material to incite hatred or giving projection to any person convicted for a terrorist act or any proscribed organization or an organization placed under the observation or anyone concerned in terrorism (1) A person commits an offence if he prints, publishes or disseminates any material, whether by audio or video-cassettes or by written, photographic, electronic, digital wall chalking or any other method which incites religious, sectarian or ethnic hatred or gives projection to any person convicted for a terrorist act, or any person or organization concerned in terrorism or proscribed organization or an organization placed under observation: Provided that a factual news report, made in good faith, shall not be construed to mean "projection" for the purpose of this section.

6.1.11 Media Commission's recommendations on self regulations limits:

With regard to the concept of self-regulation alone being enough to reform media, the Commission's Report categorically stated that it is not feasible to let self-regulation alone determine the standards and norms of media content:

"The Commission is of the opinion that it is not feasible to let the content of media be regulated exclusively through content self-regulation even after taking note of international standards and best practices. There is an inescapable, irreducible responsibility and need for the State to provide a legislative framework of guiding principles and norms, with adequate checks and balances that do not curb freedom of expression.

Except for certain subjects of hypersensitivity and for subjects that, in any case, deserve circumspection, media in Pakistan already enjoy some of the highest levels of freedom, and of content self-regulation, in comparison to all other predominantly Muslim countries, and in comparison to most other countries in the regions of which Pakistan is simultaneously a part i.e. Central Asia, South Asia, West Asia, Gulf."

6.1.12 EXISTING NATIONAL ETHICAL CODES

A. The Press Council of Pakistan Ordinance 2002, Section 8(1)(iv): Functions of the Council. To revise, update, enforce, and implement the Ethical Code of Practice for the newspapers, news agencies, editors, journalists and publishers as laid down in the Schedule I of this Ordinance.

B. The Press Council of Pakistan Ordinance 2002, Schedule Ethical Code of Practice, Section 8: The press shall not lend itself to the projection of crime as heroic and the criminals as heroes.

Section 13: Sensationalism of violence and brutalities shall be avoided. All reporting shall be accurate, particularly when court proceedings are covered and an accused person must not be presented as guilty before judgment has been pronounced.

Section 14: In the case of sexual offences and heinous crime against children, juveniles and women, names and identifying photographs shall not be published.

- The tone of our reporting is as important as the reliability of our reporting.
- We should respect human dignity without sanitizing the realities of war. There must be clear editorial justification for the use of very graphic pictures of war or atrocity.
- We will ensure, as far as is reasonably possible, that next of kin do not learn of a person's death or injury from our news bulletins, websites or programmes.
- At such times we should also monitor our output, particularly scheduled programmes, including films, drama, comedy and music, to identify anything which might be thought inappropriate in the light of hostilities.
- Our credibility is undermined by the careless use of words which carry emotional or value judgments.

The Terrorism Act 2000:

- We have a legal obligation under the Terrorism Act 2000 to disclose to the police, as soon as reasonably practicable, any information which we know or believe might be of material assistance in:
 - preventing the commission of an act of terrorism anywhere in the world.
 - securing the apprehension, prosecution or conviction of a person in the UK, for an offence involving the commission, preparation or instigation of an act of terrorism.
 - It is a criminal offence not to disclose such information, punishable by up to 5 years in prison. Any situation where BBC staff may be in potential breach of the Terrorism Act must be referred to Controller Editorial Policy and Programme Legal Advice.
- We should not reveal security details or other sensitive information not widely in the public domain which might assist an attack.
- We do not normally report incidents which turn out to be hoaxes unless they have had a serious and evident effect, such as a major and highly visible transport disruption.
- Any proposal to attend an event staged by proscribed organizations or groups with a known record for mounting acts of terror must be referred to a senior editorial figure or for Independents to the commissioning editor.
- Any proposal to broadcast material recorded at legitimate events when paramilitary or other groups stage an appearance must be referred to a senior editorial figure or for Independents to the commissioning editor, who may consult Controller Editorial Policy.
- In cases of hijacking, kidnapping, hostage taking and sieges we must be aware that anything we broadcast or publish may be seen or heard by the perpetrators, both in the UK and overseas.
- It is important that we report demands in context. We should also consider carefully the ethical issues raised by providing a platform to hijackers, kidnappers or hostage takers, especially if they make direct contact. We must remain in editorial control of the reporting of events and ensure that:
 - we do not interview a perpetrator live on air.
 - we do not broadcast any video and/or audio provided by a perpetrator live on air.
 - we broadcast recordings made by perpetrators, whether of staged events, violent acts or their victims, only after referral to a senior editorial figure.
 - we install a delay when broadcasting live material of sensitive stories, for example a school siege or plane hijack. This is particularly important when the outcome is unpredictable and we may record distressing material that is unsuitable for broadcast without careful editing.

C. UNESCO-COMMONWEALTH

War time reporting- UNESCO-Commonwealth Broadcasting Association document.

The following chapters from their document need to be studied and where relevant included in the Ethical codes for Pakistan: Disaster coverage, Violence, War Reporting, Disorder, kidnapping and hostages, Bomb warnings, Demonstrations.

6. 2 Ministry of Information and IT briefed the committee on SOCIAL MEDIA impact on terrorism: Their briefing and analysis is as follows:

A. THE NEW UPCOMING TOOL THAT IS GOING UNNOTICED AND IS BECOMING THE FAVOURITE OF TERRORISTS TO SPREAD THEIR MESSAGE AND TERROR SINCE MAINSTREAM MEDIA IS FAR BETTER REGULATED AND MATURE.

A. The current social media paradigm

Old Mainstream media is no longer mainstream. Social media is fast becoming mainstream because it carries mainstream media content, generates its own content, and has a decisive edge over mainstream media in terms of reach and speed. Social media has little transparency, identity clarity and controls. This new media causes durable information flows that define long-term public perceptions of right and wrong, good and bad. There are no rules for opinion, expression. There is no check on fake sites. Anyone can say anything (true or false) and get away with the impact on the populace or individuals. New media is more interactive and is feedback based: issues emerging on this platform will have more (seeming) authenticity. The debate that virals from the new media impacts the editorial judgment of traditional media. And yet it is minus all the checks and balances of responsible media. Thus a similar level of checks is required so that unfiltered terror enablers do not make their way in. Sheer numbers favour new media against traditional media: An average Pakistani English newspaper publishes 100,000 plus copies. Even an ordinary twitter account has twice as many followers. Media strategies will have to shift from information-peddling or blocking to creation of consistent information flows or blocking social media-generated information flows using new-social-internet media to create impact. We know about ISIS, TTP, and other promoters of violence effectively using new media for impact and fear. These are important case studies of today which we need to counter through correct legislation. Now you cannot "smoke them out". They can be everywhere. You cannot just block them in the mainstream media. There has to be a social media strategy. Focus of information flow has shifted, so should the focus of media strategy to deal with it. Using the example of ISIS there has to be a legislation to regulate social media by first ensuring that avenues of incitement to violence, abuse, and other dangerous material are brought under tight scrutiny. The approach should narrow the future lane that terrorists can use to recruit people and send their messages out. If we don't put the safeguards today, tomorrow we will have to deal with the problem in an aggravated form.

B. Research on social media impact

Mass media and the Internet in particular have emerged as enablers for terrorist planning, facilitation, and communication, and we need to continue to counter terrorists' ability to exploit them. Since terrorism, insurgencies and other dark networks will attempt to remain on or close to the technological cutting edge we need to tighten the monitoring. Researchers have established that most extremist websites seek to fulfill five basic goals: to disseminate propaganda, organize the membership, communicate information, fundraise, and recruit new members.

monitoring generally attributed to the need to protect users' privacy should not be allowed to prevail when it comes to terrorist atrocities.

- IV. Pakistani Govt. can tighten its control over social media by acquiring new software that would facilitate extensive surveillance/monitoring of terrorists' communications.
- V. Like in Egypt, Pakistan's Interior Ministry too can tender document inviting software companies to contribute to the development of an open source intelligence system.
- VI. Government can solicit private sector for ways to automate the process of identifying emerging threats and upheavals using the billions of posts people share every day. Government can take up opportunities for collecting data, identifying linkages, tracking activities, and recognizing patterns.
- VII. The system could monitor Facebook, Twitter, WhatsApp and Viber in real-time for usage that might "harm public security or incite terrorism." It could also screen content for "vocabulary which is contrary to law and public morality."
- VIII. Facebook and Twitter are repositories of voluntary information that may be collected and sorted to yield a searchable database from which less apparent linkages and warnings may be derived.
- IX. Existing open-source tools in the hands of individuals with a modicum of Excel skills and situational awareness of an event can extract commonalities and patterns from Twitter posts.
- X. Crowd sourcing, the evaluation of voluntary public information from groups, and participatory sensing, directed information collection or an informant 2.0 of sorts, also are valuable forensic methods.
- XI. IT Experts' experience suggests that a more targeted approach to social media yields better results more quickly, with fewer false positives and less invasion of privacy. This more targeted approach is a variation on snowball sampling, a technique that has long proven useful in the study of deviant behavior in small populations.
- XII. By tracking social media posts and uploads, not only can authorities be alerted to significant events and uncover self-identified perpetrators, but they can also identify key members through the use of analytical methods such as social network analysis.
- XIII. Using social media to track and ultimately disrupt dark networks will turn on the ability to scrape social media data in near real-time.
- XIV. The primary step is to launch an awareness campaign to make people aware of their rights and duties (to report cyber crime as a collective duty towards the society) and further making the application of the cyber laws more stringent to check crime.
 - a) It is essential to educate and empower youth to safely and responsibly take control of their Internet experience.
 - b) Disseminate general awareness of cyber crimes and user laws/rights by arranging symposia, seminars, lectures, classes, demonstrations, presentations, briefings to educate the society and gain their comfort level.
 - c) Creating awareness of Cyber Laws. People need to be aware of the appropriate law enforcement investigative authorities at the local, state, federal, or international levels.
 - d) Introducing Cyber Crimes awareness in schools and adding it to curriculum will create the required awareness amongst the youth.
 - e) Disseminate information for consumers and businesses on computer security and safeguarding personal information.

decrease fear about emotional responses and also may help survivors identify relatives and people in their circle who may be in need of professional help.

- f) Terrorists need advertisement for their terrorist activities. Any media coverage and Government explanations must ensure that through the tone, quality and content they are not inadvertently furthering this goal.
- g) Media should support State courses of action when operations are under way and broadcast Government provided information when requested. This includes understanding of policy objectives, and a balanced presentation, e.g., why Governments may seek to mediate, yet not give in to terrorist demands.
- h) Media and Government both must avoid glamorizing terrorist and present them as criminals. A detailed session with both stakeholders is possible to show them case studies of what constitutes as glamorizing.
- i) Try to help in dispersing the strain of a situation, not contribute to it. Keeping the public reasonably calm should be an important policy objective of both stakeholders. Their own objectives might be to explain how big a threat there is and how they have tackled it; but this must be done keeping in mind the impact this has on mental health.
- j) Try to avoid showing crying mothers and emotional stories related to disaster victim and their families as this adds to the stress. Even though it is understandable that this does also create hatred for the terrorists and unifies the nation, the images need to be discussed at workshops and respectful treatment of families needs to be managed at stakeholder level.
- k) Stakeholders need to restrict information on serious and sensitive rescue operations by defense forces so as not to aid the terrorists.
- l) Avoid airing and sharing techniques and technologies used by terrorists to avoid creating copycat terrorists.
- m) Limit information on hostages which could harm them: e.g., number, nationality, official positions, how wealthy they may be, or important relatives they have.
- n) Stakeholders to reserve airing of news that may cause extensive panic or intensify events which help the terrorist by thrilling emotions and putting unreasonable pressure on state and police and military.
- o) Always show good news first in the order of precedence in news bulletins and if possible at children's bed time also. This good news could be related to wins against terrorists so as to create hope in this war. Avoid repetition of bad news. It will demoralize the nation and advertise the terrorist wins.
- p) Gory graphic visuals need to be avoided. Enemy threats not to be highlighted in such a way that they create panic.
- q) Speaking against the country's security apparatus demoralizes the nation.
- r) Show good role models in the fight against terrorists and in other fields.
- s) Highlight success in sports etc.
- t) Show quality entertainment during these war days so as to have an alternative to the harsh realities of present day war-time for the minds of the populace.
- u) Show programs which inculcate Youth character building efforts and show a culture of discipline.
- v) No graphic visuals and names of rape victims to be shown.
- w) Avoid interviewing Children as the psychological damage is tremendous.

- k) The Press Council of Pakistan Ordinance 2002 Section 8 (1) iv, 19
 - l) The Press Council of Pakistan Ordinance 2002 Schedule Ethical Code of Practice, Section 8, 13, and 14,
 - m) The Press Newspapers, News Agencies and books Registration Ordinance 2002 Section 5A, Section 35.
 - n) PEMRA (TV Broadcast State Operation) Regulators 2002 Part V Standards of Program Section 18 (n) (o)
8. Committee recommended that media stakeholders refer to the above existing laws for a better understanding of regulations pertaining to them for how to deal with Terrorists statements, their glamorization/glorification, threats issued by them. Members insisted that the above should not given coverage by any segment of media, since existing law was clear on the same.
 9. Committee recommended that media stakeholders take guidance from international best practices namely BBC Editorial Guidelines, UK Terrorism Act (especially for glorification definitions), and UNESCO-Commonwealth Broadcasting Association guidelines for building better Codes of Ethical Conduct. Where confusions exist on the term glorification either the UK version can be examined or the incitement model of US law. Committee recommended that the Consultative Body needs to finalize soon.
 10. Committee recommended that the Media Commission report recommendations on self regulation not being enough were appropriate.
 11. Committee recommended that Individual Journalists both in Print and Electronic Media to be imposed with penalty first and foremost in case of violation.
 12. Committee recommended implementation of existing laws through amicable settlement between Government and media stakeholders with Committee acting as bridge.
 13. Committee recommended Implementation of Schedule A of PEMRA Rules 2009 Code of Conduct for Media Broadcasters or Cable TV operators. As detailed in Section 20 (f) of the PEMRA Ordinance, 2002. Members reminded media stakeholders that enforcing existing Code of Conduct was mandatory on them. Media Stakeholders insisted that they didn't agree with existing Government code of conduct. Government reminded stakeholders that they were bound as per existing law to comply failing which their license could be revoked. Committee reminded that since many years this code was the subject of controversy. They reminded the house of their sub-Committee which was formed on the same subject to assist resolve the controversy. They also reminded the stakeholders that to date even the PBA drafted code of conduct being championed by PBA itself which is a self regulatory draft was not implemented by its own members let alone the Government code which is legally binding linked to their license agreement.
 14. Committee recommended that whilst stakeholders were legally bound to comply with the existing code of conduct, Government should have a detailed conclusive meeting with stakeholders within two weeks to implement the code as well as its procedures for enforcement in case the code was violated.
 15. Committee recommended that as the law mandated editorial boards and delaying mechanisms, this code could best be enforced with such means. Government and Stakeholders assured the Committee that they would

Committee members gave the Government two weeks to clarify all such operational definitions amongst themselves through a meeting despite law being clear on them. Committee also asked the Government to provide a counter terrorism narrative to media and Committee so that the war against terrorism could be won swiftly together. Committee awaits discussion on the same. Committee made it clear that the international best practices especially in the UK Terror Act and BBC Guidelines was specific enough.)

- iii. The Anti-Terrorism Act 1997 Section 11 A-B: (The Committee suggested that for ease of media being able to differentiate the First Schedule needed to have lists of 3 different types of terrorists: A-banned organizations B-leading to banned and C- clarity required between Government and media stakeholders on how to treat a particular group. As this was a joint effort between media and Government to curb terrorists. The Committee suggested the Government work actively in real time with media and vice versa so that these lists were updated and clarity on what could be shown on media would be clear through constant consultations. Committee further recommended that the First Schedule should keep under observation those terrorists who leave one banned organization and create a new organization; any such new organization to be immediately considered of same category and those terrorists to be considered banned as well. Committee members for ease of media asked Government to create through First Schedule a directory of such banned organizations and individuals to be published in public domain.)
20. Committee recommended that a Consultative Body between Government and all representative Media stakeholders including Editors and CEOs of TV/print organizations, psycho social experts, social media experts, meet more often during the so called war time period to discuss and amicably unanimously settle any operational matters, issues which required clarity on counter terrorism narrative or any of the codes implementation. The Consultative Body could be assisted by the Standing Committee on Information, Broadcasting & National Heritage in its terms of references and functioning. The operational procedures, ethical codes, case studies from current media practices on terror incidents, the impact on the mental well being of the public plus the impact on reduction of terrorism could be part of its mandate.
21. Committee members desired to see implementation tightened. One of the recommendations was that till POPO exists which is a validation of war time, the following rules shall exist: Emergency powers to PEMRA Chairman to make a Committee of Secretary Information/ Interior/ Chairman FBR, Chairman PTA, Executive member PEMRA, with a hotline to the media stakeholders. This new Committee to exercise the same penalties which exist in law but faster and without any delays. PEMRA instructions to channels to be recorded for better implementation. Members discussed the impression in media and political circles that PEMRA had no teeth to implement its already existing laws and for this it was important to establish not only this fast track Government Committee to check on violations but also to establish special broadcast tribunals for media. Committee suggested that before things reached the level where the

K-Live calls from the public / viewers (on terror attacks) and beepers of the reporters on terror sites should be allowed through time delay machines in order to ensure that no unsolicited comment helping the terrorists is aired.

L- Any news / report / breaking news / tickers aired on the channel should be verified from the quarters concerned and source of information should be disclosed. In case of major catastrophe, report or facts should be aired with an opinion from law enforcing agency as well.

M- Media should avoid any incorrect or unverified news should be aired. In the event any factually incorrect programme, news or assertion is made by the licensee, correct factual position should be broadcasted as soon as it comes to the knowledge of the licensee along with an apology. Where there has been any error in reporting news or a programme represented to be fact contains factual inaccuracies that are reasonably material, the same shall be rectified by the media broadcaster as soon as reasonably practicable.

N- Enactment of crime scene should be avoided as it adds to terrorism.

O- Crime scene trampling by anyone to be avoided so that no disrespect is shown to victims.

P- Sensationalism of violence and brutalities should be avoided. Except for state military action.

24. Committee also recommended the following on Media security in current circumstances. Whilst airing news about terrorism media is at great risk. When they don't air that news they are also at risk. As such Committee recommended that Media owners should get insurance schemes for the lives and equipment of media teams tasked for covering any activity beyond their routine assignment. Government to assist in protection of media personnel and houses. These plans to be discussed in the Consultative Body. This responsibility needs to be jointly shared with media houses. By having media war time rules which puts the onus of what cannot be aired on Government it saves the media from the terrorists as now they can easily claim they cannot air as they are being strictly monitored by Government.

25. Committee recommended that Urgent Regulation of Social Media is required keeping the realities in mind. They hoped that the cyber crime legislation pending with Government since early 2014 could finally be introduced so that the damage entailed in the past could be curtailed going forward. They were hopeful that the PTA/ FIA regulated up to date cyber crime act would tighten the laws for abusive, terrorist encouraging content. The Committee also made it clear that to date no capacity planning existed at all Government institutions of the monitoring/ curtailing of the massive threat from social media related to terrorists activities and that this weakness needed urgent investment by the Government in relevant institutions. Impact of social media on the national discourse and the need to constrain the space for violent extremists in that space was discussed. The Committee endorsed the proposal that mechanisms to track social media for abuse by terrorist groups are the domain of NACTA, and social media must be monitored rigorously keeping above guidelines in mind.

26. Committee recommended the following on the counter-terrorism narrative

better mental health of the populace whilst not de-sanitizing the threat elements.

- g) Regular feedback mechanism between doctors and the Consultative Body and Government spokespersons should be arranged so that future damages can be curtailed through mutual negotiations on best practices.

8. Conclusion:

The above report is a work in progress as this close to war situation progresses. The Committee reserves its rights to add to it through further Committee meetings. The Committee also expects Government and media stakeholders to implement its recommendations at the earliest since it considers this document as central to winning the war through media. The Committee would appreciate if any legislation / amendments made to media laws during this period would include the above recommendations. The Committee is open to suggestions through public forums and especially through the M/o Information, Broadcasting & National Heritage and the Consultative Body which it feels should be one of the main drivers of the above recommendations. The Committee shall be pleased to meet on a short notice to deliberate on any laws/amendments post the urgent Action Plan legislation also. The chairperson appreciated the urgent interest shown by the Honorable Members of the Standing Committee on Information, and their valuable feedback in the meetings, their consensus based approach and finally their unanimity in the recommendations of this report.

-Sd-
(**MARVI MEMON**)
Chairperson

-Sd-
(**MOHAMMAD RIAZ**)
Secretary

Islamabad, the 7th January, 2015