

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY SECRETARIAT
PRESS RELEASE

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY STANDING COMMITTEE ON INTERIOR AND NARCOTICS
CONTROL MEETS TODAY

Islamabad, the 3rd November, 2015. A meeting of the Standing Committee on Ministry of Interior and Narcotics Control was held on 3rd November, 2015 at 11.00 a.m. Parliament House, Islamabad under the Chairmanship of **Rana Shamim Ahmad Khan, Chairman/MNA**. The agenda of the meeting was as under:-

- i) "The Criminal Law (Amendment) Act, 2015;
- ii) "The Criminal Law (amendment) Bill, 2014; (Amendment of section 55, Act XLV of 1860)" (Mover Ms. Shaista Pervez Malik, MNA).

2. After recitation from the Holy Quran, the Honourable Chairman invited Ms. Shaista Pervez Malik, MNA mover of the bill "The Criminal Law (amendment) Bill, 2014; (Amendment of section 55, Act XLV of 1860)"(Agenda item-II) to brief the Committee. Ms. Shaista Pervez Malik, MNA explained to the Committee that rape is a physical and psychological attack on a woman's dignity, body, her mental well-being integrity and privacy and affects her ability to function in society. Rape is an attack on critical public values, which undermine the social and moral fabric of a community and therefore mandates the mobilization of the State's protective and condemnatory forces. The law makes no provision for the social suffering and ostracism that a rape victim may be subject to magnified further through wide publication regarding commission of the offence against her. It is the obligation of the State to guard against crime, to prevent the abuse of the process of law, to protect the vulnerable from exploitation and ensure the life and dignity of women. The proposed amendments adhere to the principles of Islam, the mandate of the Constitution of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan and international human rights and are essential to meet the challenges in the investigation and prosecution of rapes cases.

3. The Members of the Committee appreciated the efforts of Ms. Shaista Pervez Malik, MNA about the bill. After detailed discussions, the Committee unanimously passed the bill.

4. Thereafter, the Chairman invited the representatives from Ministry of Interior to brief the Committee clause by clause on the "The Criminal Law (Amendment) Act, 2015. The representatives from Ministry of Interior briefed to the Committee that the whole Nation is suffering from the trauma of brutal terrorist attacks Terrorism, sectarianism and extremism have gripped the whole country and these acts have become the order of the day. The country is passing through an extraordinary situation which requires stringent measures to be taken in order to curb this menace which has infiltrated into our society.

5. The sole purpose behind all this was to provide protection for people of Pakistan and prevention of acts threatening the security of Pakistan. After detailed discussions, the Committee partially endorsed the amendments proposed in the said bill with minor changes. However, the Committee directed to the Ministry to bring it back before the Committee in its next meeting for final approval.

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6. The meeting was attended by Mr. Ghalib Khan, Syed Iftikhar-ul-Hassan, Nawab Muhammad Yousuf Talpur, Ms. Naeema Kishwer Khan, Dr. Arif Alvi, Mr. Sher Akber Khan, Col.(Retd) Dr. Amir Ullah Marwat, Ms. Shaista Pervaiz Malik, MNA/Mover and representatives from Ministry of Interior, Ministry of Law and National Assembly Secretariat.


(CH. SHARAFAT ALI)
Secretary Committee
03-11-2015

Director (Media)

