



August 30, 2016

Via email: stephane.dion@parl.gc.ca

The Honourable Stéphane Dion, P.C., M.P.
Minister of Foreign Affairs
Global Affairs Canada
125 Sussex Avenue
Ottawa, ON K1A 0G2

Dear Minister Dion:

Re: Suicide Bomb Attack on Lawyers in Quetta, Pakistan

I am writing on behalf of the Canadian Bar Association (CBA) to express grave concern over the suicide bombing attack of 8 August, 2016 on a hospital in Quetta, Pakistan, which claimed the lives of over 70 civilians, the majority of whom were lawyers. It is particularly disturbing that the attack appears to have specifically targeted the lawyers, as they gathered at the hospital to mourn the death of their slain colleague, Bilal Anwar Kasi, President of the Balochistan Bar Association.

The CBA is a national association of over 36,000 lawyers, judges, law students, notaries and law professors. Among our primary objectives are improvement in the law and the administration of justice, and promoting the rule of law and fair justice systems in Canada and internationally.

The targeted attack on members of the legal profession in Quetta is a deplorable attack on the rule of law. I urge your government to call on authorities in Pakistan to ensure that adequate security measures are in place to protect legal professionals, and their families, so they can carry out their duties without compromising their safety. Additionally, there should be an independent and transparent investigation into the attack, and a commitment to bring the perpetrators to justice.

I commend to you the statements of the International Commission of Jurists¹ and the International Bar Association,² both condemning the attack in Quetta.

¹ ICJ condemns attack on lawyers and others in Quetta, 8 August 2016: www.icj.org/pakistan-icj-condemns-attack-on-lawyers-and-others-in-quetta

² IBA condemns brutal attack on Pakistan's legal profession, 10 August, 2016: www.ibanet.org/Article/NewDetail.aspx?ArticleUid=ffaa7146-46e8-4535-ac00-3df7d945991a

The CBA stands with the legal community of Pakistan and expresses its heartfelt sympathies to the victims and families of all affected by the attack.

Yours truly,

(original signed by René J. Basque)

René J. Basque, c.r./Q.C.

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