

The News Director,

Dear Sir,

Please broadcast the following Press Release of PBA in News Bulletins / Tickers on your esteemed channel.

**PRESS RELEASE**

**Karachi, September 18, 2019:** In a statement issued today PBA has outrightly rejected the Government's suggestion of establishing Media Tribunals.

In a statement, PBA has taken serious note of the statement made by Prime Minister's Advisor on Information and Broadcasting, Dr. Firdous Ashiq Awan regarding establishment of Media Tribunals. Earlier too PBA had rejected the idea of establishing any Media Courts/Tribunals and had asked the Government to reveal the real purpose of this proposal. PBA believes that the idea of Media Tribunals/Courts is malafide, discriminatory and seems to be another effort to control media and restrict freedom of expression. There already exist laws, courts and regulatory authorities in the country to deal with media related issues.

The statement further added that it is shocking that such a proposal is coming from a Government that had promised before elections to not only uphold independence of media but to encourage freedom of expression.

The statement further said that already independent media is facing a huge crisis in Pakistan, as the Government despite repeated commitments and promises has still not cleared its outstanding media dues. Earlier PBA along with APNS had met with the Honourable Prime Minister requesting clearance of these dues and were promised that they would be paid before Eid-ul-Fitr 2019. But media organizations continue to face financial crisis as the commitment has gone unfulfilled. It appears the Honourable Prime Minister is being misled.

PBA requests the Prime Minister to immediately announce the withdrawal of the proposal of setting up media tribunals.

*Sincerely for,*  
**Pakistan Broadcasters Association.**



**Muhammad Ali Butt**  
Executive Director