

# JOINT ACTION COMMITTEE

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January 26, 2025

The News Editor,  
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Dear Sir,

Please publish the following news item issued by the Joint Action Committee and oblige:

## PRESS RELEASE

The Joint Action Committee of media bodies consisting of PBA, APNS, CPNE, AEMEND and PFUJ has addressed the following letter to the chairman Standing Committee of Senate on Interior apprising him on the stance of the JAC on the PECA bill.

JAC (Joint Action Committee) is a representative body of all media organizations, PFUJ, CPNE, AEMEND, APNS and PBA. The Joint Action Committee (JAC) wishes to draw your attention to the proposed amendments to the Prevention of Electronic Crimes Act (PECA) through the PECA Amendment Bill 2025. This bill, which carries significant implications for freedom of the press and freedom of expression, has been introduced without any consultation or discussion with relevant stakeholders, including media and journalist organizations.

At the very outset, it is pertinent to mention that JAC is not against the enactment of laws that regulate media in a manner consistent with democratic norms. However, the process through which this amendment is being advanced—hastily and without meaningful engagement with the stakeholders—contradicts the principles of fairness and the spirit of democracy. Such an approach erodes trust and raises serious concerns about the intent behind the bill, particularly its impact on constitutionally guaranteed rights such as freedom of expression and freedom of the press.

We believe that legislation of such importance must be shaped through a transparent, participatory process, ensuring that the concerns, objections, and suggestions of all relevant stakeholders are taken into account. Passing this law in its current form, without addressing these issues, will inevitably be seen as an attempt to stifle dissent and curtail freedoms that are guaranteed by the Constitution of Pakistan, which is neither acceptable nor justifiable in a democratic society.

Sir, we urge you to give the representatives of JAC a hearing before the committee debates the above-mentioned amendment bill. We would like to put up our serious concerns on certain aspects of this bill which seriously impede freedom of expression.

### Issued on behalf of:

All Pakistan Newspapers Society (APNS),  
Pakistan Broadcasters Association (PBA),  
Council of Pakistan Newspaper Editors (CPNE),  
Pakistan Federal Union of Journalists (PFUJ),  
Association of Electronic Media Editors and News Directors (AEMEND)