

Awami Workers Party عوامی ورکرز پارٹی



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Date: 21st May, 2016

Ref:

Mr. Justice (R) Syed Tahir Ali Shah

21st May, 2016

Chief Election Commissioner Gilgit-Baltistan

Chief Election Commissioner Secretariat

Near China Trade Gilgit Batistan

Ph: 05811-920734

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Subject: PRE-POLLING AND VIOLATIONS OF CODE OF CONDUCT IN BY-ELECTION FOR GILGIT-BALTISTAN LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY ELECTION HUNZA (GBLA-6)

Dear Sir,

1. As you are aware that the Election Commission Gilgit-Baltistan (CEC G-B) has announced scheduling of by-elections for the Gilgit-Baltistan Legislative Assembly (GBLA) No. 6 (Hunza) on May 28th, 2016.
2. In this by-election Baba Jan, a member of the Awami Workers Party (AWP) federal committee, is the official candidate of the Awami Workers Party (AWP). Baba Jan is contesting this election from jail due to trumped up terrorism charges. He contested election from this seat at the time of general elections to GBLA in 2015 from jail as well. In the previous election he was runner-up candidate who came in second place, losing out to Mir Ghazanfar Ali Khan of Hunza's ruling family, who was backed by the party of Pakistani Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif, who is also the President of the Pakistan Muslim League (N).

In November 2015, Mir Ghazanfar Ali Khan was appointed by the Pakistani Prime Minister as the Governor of Gilgit-Baltistan, which made the GBLA-6 seat vacant and triggered the present by-elections. Now the G-B Governor's son Mir Salim Khan is the candidate of the ruling Pakistan Muslim League (N) in GBLA-6.

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3. On May 19, 2016, almost a week ahead of the scheduled by-election, the Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif paid a visit to the region to announce special financial packages for the region amounting to billions of rupees to influence the by-election in Hunza.
4. It may pointed out that the PM Nawaz Sharif did not announce any major uplift package for GB since taking oath of the office of the PM in 2013 and has only decided to visit the region at the time of a by-elections. The Prime Minister has been announcing these packages along with entire state machinery, both elected and non-elected, of Gilgit-Baltistan. The GB Governor (father of PML(N)'s candidate from the GBLA 6), Chief Minister and other ministers, Deputy Speaker and Advisors have also accompanied the PM while announcing financial packages. This is equal to pre-poll rigging and clear violation of electoral laws governing Gilgit-Baltistan, particularly Article 30 to 32 of the Election Code of Conduct 2015 issued by the Election Commission. Awami Workers Party condemns this pre-poll rigging in the strongest terms!

Under the above circumstance we urge you take immediate notice of this blatant pre-poll rigging and take strict and immediate action to nullify the effects PM's announcements/packages by invoking powers vested in the Election Commission of Gilgit-Baltistan under Article 5(3) & 6 of the Election Commission Order 2002, and Sections 103 (C) and 104 of the Representation of the People Act, 1976.

Best Regards,

Abid Hassan Minto
President Awami Workers Party
Senior Advocate Supreme Court

CC: Mr. Abid Raza, Election Commissioner Gilgit-Baltistan