



Bar Council of Punjab & Haryana

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Ref. No10059.....

Date .20.02.2023.....

Open Letter to the General Public

While visiting Court complexes, one would always notice lawyers and clerks bowing their heads while entering inside the Courtroom, and exiting in the same manner. The temple of justice as we enter inside, is presided by the chosen one who is the same to foe and friend and also in honour and dishonour, who is the same in cold and heat, in pleasure and pain, who is free from attachment, to whom censure and praise are equal, who is silent-uncomplaining-content with anything, homeless, steady minded, full of devotion and acts without fear or favour - on the road to render justice. This is the respect judges command, not through their position but due to strong characters built over decades of hard work and integrity.

Biblical narratives from Exodus 18:13-26 to Hindu philosophy beautifully compare a judge with a flower which would never wither and remains ever fresh. Lord Krishna's 'Jagadoddhara Na' saves the Universe and ensures that it gets into the right path. In Gurbani words Niyaye, Niyam, Tapavas, Adal, Sach, Dharam and many others have been used for justice. Our Judges becoming a judge is a call of the conscience, who live by the principle of righteousness and dharma. The lives of judges are governed by the strict code of 'Restatement of Values of Judicial Life'.

Many a times, while maliciously using tech media platforms through channels like Balwinder Sekhon speaks, Main Punjabi Manch (NGO), Scroll Punjab TV etc some persons have tried to scandalise Courts to suit their own convenience. While asserting their rights and cloaking themselves as whistleblowers, such men, with own set agendas, have crossed the Lakshman Rekha at various occasions.

On the road to truth and fairness, commitment to responsible journalism is one of the most important facets. Allowing media platforms to be used by such persons to cast egregious aspersions on Courts and its judges and using invective descriptive taglines is nothing short of subversion.


On a daily basis, we see judges granting indulgence in hundreds of case, assessing social impact of important issues concerning the general public and protecting the precious constitutional rights of the citizenry. No one can be allowed to undermine the Court's authority and try to devalue the public confidence in the administration of justice to suit own agendas.

Courts have always been open to public observation and fair legitimate criticism. Judges have traditionally encouraged the open exchange of ideas and critiques regarding the legal system, as long as the objections do not jeopardise or obstruct the administration of justice. Free speech is important but cannot be used to maliciously interfere with the administration of justice. Vilification of judges and the judiciary would lead to the destruction of the system of administration of justice and will not come within the ambit of fair criticism.

Although the magnanimity of the Courts need no defence, and while men like Balwinder Singh Sekhon and Pardeep Sharma meet their own fate as law takes its own course, the Council cannot be a mute spectator as Judges suffer in silence as they cannot respond publicly to such outlandish allegations by appearing on public forums.

We need to be wary of such people who conveniently malign institutions of high repute for their own self interests.




Suvir Sidhu
Chairman