

# ELECTION COMMISSION OF PAKISTAN

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## PRESS RELEASE

**Islamabad, the 25<sup>th</sup> November, 2016**: With reference to the Program of a private TV Channel telecast on 24<sup>th</sup> November, 2016 regarding the Hon'ble Member from Sindh, there is a need to clarify the facts and set the record straight. It is in the fitness of things to mention here that the Special Judge (Central) Lahore has already acquitted the Hon'ble Member Sindh on **15-10-2015** stating that:

“Apart from that even already some of the petitioners/accused namely **Abdul Ghaffar Soomro** and Syed Tahir Ali Shah have since retired and Qaseem Ali petitioner/accused has become incapacitated, while 8 remaining petitioners/accused being still in service are suffering the agony of appearance **in this case sans any conceivable incriminating material against them. Therefore, I do see no reason to prolong their agony merely for some misplaced whims and conjectures about their any dishonest role in the crime. Hence, seeing no legally entertainable incriminating material against the petitioner/accused, all the applications in hand are accepted and the petitioners/accused are acquitted under section 249-A Cr. P.C. from this case.**

2. In another case, the Lahore High Court, in its judgment dated **25-10-2016** has passed the following orders:

Admittedly, neither judgment passed by the Special Court has been suspended in appeal nor order has been passed by any Court to retain the petitioner's name on ECL. **Mere filing of appeal does not deprive the petitioners from their fundamental rights of freedom guaranteed under the Constitution. For reason recorded above, these petitioners are allowed. Accordingly respondents are directed to remove the names of petitioners from ECL forthwith.**

3. The direction of the Lahore High Court is pending in the Interior Division for implementation. Hon'ble Member's travel abroad did not entail any illegality as he was duly granted waiver by the competent authority. Apparently, a bid has been made to malign the credentials of the Hon'ble Member in a case in which he stands acquitted. Hon'ble Member, throughout his public service, has enjoyed reputation of integrity and fairness. Any undue insinuation and allegation is strongly rebutted.

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