

International Virtual Conference Highlights Press Freedom, Media Responsibility

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**Report: Dr. Abdul Rehman Usama**

Pak Media Journalists Forum International (PMJFI), the largest organization of overseas Pakistani journalists worldwide, organized an international virtual conference on the occasion of World Press Freedom Day, emphasizing the importance of press freedom and responsible journalism.

The conference was attended by journalists, media professionals, analysts, ambassadors, and experts from across the globe, along with PMJFI members and office bearers. The session was presided over by Chairman Ch. Noorul Hassan Gujjar and President Dr. Abdul Rehman Usama, while renowned anchorperson Rameen Mehmood moderated the event. Special guests included Chairman Overseas Pakistani Foundation (OPF) Syed Qamar Raza and Chairman Overseas Pakistani Commission Barrister Amjad Malik.

Among prominent participants were Dr. Salman Amin, Head, School of Media and Communication Studies, Minhaj University, and Dr. Majid Ul Ghafar, Chairman, Department of Media and Communication Studies, who shared valuable insights on the role of responsible media in modern society.

Speakers highlighted that free journalism is essential for promoting democratic values, ensuring transparency, and strengthening accountability. They expressed concern over growing challenges faced by journalists globally, including censorship, misinformation, professional risks, and restrictions on freedom of expression.

The participants emphasized that World Press Freedom Day serves as a reminder of the fundamental right to freedom of expression and the vital role of journalism in building an informed society. They stressed the need for unity among journalists and adherence to professional

ethics.

The chief guests, Syed Qamar Raza and Barrister Amjad Malik, stated that the Government of Pakistan is making efforts to support overseas journalists and address their concerns. They acknowledged the role of overseas Pakistanis as ambassadors who project a positive image of the country worldwide and termed the conference an important step toward promoting professional standards and global awareness regarding press freedom.

The conference was also attended by distinguished personalities including Dr. Malik Nadeem Abid, UN Human Rights Ambassador to the United States; Ambassador Mohammad Kamran Akhtar, Pakistan's Ambassador to Austria; Ambassador Saqlain Syeda, Pakistan's Ambassador to Germany; Vice Chancellor of Hazara University Dr. Ikramullah Khan; President of Universal Peace Federation Austria Peter Haider; renowned Saudi journalist Dr. Samira Aziz; American journalist Hina Lotus; Pakistani-American politician Shazia Shah; journalist Muhammad Amir Siddique from Vienna; Nigerian journalist Timothy; Geo News anchor Faraz Ahmad; TV host Dr. Umar Riaz Abbasi; officials of the UK Press Club, and others.

Editor's Note:

Haroon Rashid Qureshi, Editor-in-Chief of Rahbar Kisan International, expressed his pleasure in being part of such a prestigious journalists' forum. He said it is an honor to engage with a global network of media professionals committed to upholding press freedom and ethical journalism. He appreciated PMJFI's efforts in bringing together voices from around the world and emphasized that collaboration among journalists is vital to promote truth, credibility, and responsible reporting in today's rapidly evolving media landscape.

The Chairman of Pak Media Journalist Forum International Chaudhry Noorul Hassan Gujjar and President Dr. Abdul Rehman Usama jointly emphasized that World Press Freedom Day is not just a day, but a reminder of the fundamental right to freedom of expression and the important role of journalism in building an informed society. They called unity among journalists and the protection of professional ethics extremely important.



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