

RAHBAR KISAN INTERNATIONAL

SC holds full court session after IHC judges seek action against intervention by agencies

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ISLAMABAD:

Bar associations across Pakistan have demanded the Supreme Court's (SC) intervention over the letter written by six Islamabad High Court (IHC) judges regarding the interference of spy agencies in judicial functions. In response to the demands, Chief Justice of Pakistan (CJP) Qazi Faez Isa

convened a full court session. Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif and Law Minister Azam Nazeer Tarar will also hold a meeting with CJP Isa and senior judge Justice Syed Mansoor Ali Shah. The meeting will take place at the Supreme Court at 2pm. Earlier, a meeting was also held between Attorney General for Pakistan Mansoor Awan, Law Minister Azam Nazeer Tarar and CJP Isa. The judicial trio discussed the letter by the six IHC judges. The Supreme Court Bar Association of Pakistan (SCBAP) threw its weight behind the judges and reiterated its “unwavering support for the judiciary as an institution and for the Honorable Judges of the Islamabad High Court”. The SCBAP not only condemned the alleged interference but also stated that it “requires serious actions by the judiciary as an institution”.

The Sindh High Court Bar Association (SHCBA) strongly condemned interference by the “executive branch or operatives of intelligence agencies in the judicial functions” of the courts to obtain favoured outcomes in cases or politically motivated cases. The association called for the establishment of institutional mechanisms to safeguard the independence of the judiciary, including measures to protect judges from threats and external influence and strengthen accountability mechanisms. The Balochistan Bar Council also stated that the allegations levelled by the IHC judges are worrisome and that former judge Shaukat Siddiqui had also expressed concerns regarding intervention by the country’s spy agencies. The Council demanded that the

apex court take suo motu notice of the letter and urged the Pakistan Bar Council (PBC) to call an immediate lawyers convention to put forward a future course of action. The Islamabad High Court Bar Association (IHCBAR) also backed the letter by condemning the interference in judicial actions demanding that the institution and its outcomes be made transparent and unbiased. The association also expressed their commitment to act as a vanguard in any movement aimed at securing the independence of the judiciary and Constitution. The apex court was also moved to order a high-powered inquiry commission to probe the allegations by a member of the Lahore High Court Bar Association.

The petitioner prayed for strict action against those found guilty of misconduct, stating that the allegations were a matter of public interest at large and those struggling for an independent, powerful and transparent judiciary. It further said that the judges' allegations have put the army and the judiciary in the public's spotlight as both institutions are the backbone of Pakistan.