

The Paralysis of Justice in Pakistan

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In 2007, Benazir Bhutto was brutally assassinated in a public rally. Despite being the prime minister, the great political leader didn't get justice. Several investigations and legal proceedings were conducted, but the inefficiency of judicial system in Pakistan brought nothing in the end. This highlights the intensive paralysis of justice in Pakistan. When ~~the~~ such a high profile case couldn't get transparent investigations and failed to persecute the

culprits, how an ordinary man expect impar-
-ality from that institution. This example high-
-lights the miserable situation of justice
system in Pakistan. The paralyzed justice is
evident from prevalence of delayed proceedings
in courtroums, city courts, district courts, and
even Supreme court. Alongwith years-long case
proceedings, there is lack of accountability
of judges and widespread corruption.

The weak judiciary facilitate exploitation
of the poor by the elite. Even the judiciary
remains more focused on political matters
in Pakistan, which further weakens the
institution. The country has weak rule of
law and legal framework where discrimina-
-tion is prominent ~~for~~ in justice for ^{the rich}
or justice for the poor. Moreover, recent
amendment further tarnished the independen-
-dence of the institution. These factors

highlight the paralysis of justice in Pakistan, which significantly erodes the public confidence and bring political instability across the state. ^{However,} the system of justice ~~can~~ be improved through legal reforms, accountability and transparency of the institution. Such improvements will bring credibility of justice system and restore harmonize public trust and confidence.

Firstly, Pakistan's judiciary lacks adequate judges, number of courts and efficient infrastructure. The structural and administrative deficiency leads to ineffective management of cases. Several cases are delayed for years and years and ultimately a heavy backlog is accumulated. It is common in Pakistan, especially in lower courts such as city courts and district courts. This is evident from a report by law and justice commission of Pakistan ~~that~~ stated ^{that} almost 2 million cases were pending by 2020.

The continuous ignorance by the state is further hampering the situation. Most the cases are filed by the ordinary citizens, and years-long proceedings frustrate the public and diminish their trustⁱⁿ. Most of case, the justice^{is} delayed to the point that it becomes meaningless with the victims. they often seek alternative resolutions there. Hence, prevalence of delayed justice system and accumulation of filed cases cause paralysis of justice in Pakistan.

Secondly, lack of accountability of judges encourage them to involve in bribery and corrupt practices.

According to Transparency International's Corruption Perception Index report Pakistan's judiciary^{is} among^{one} the most corrupt institutions in the country. Corruption prevails at various levels. Lawyer and judges take bribes and make decisions that are completely unjust, and they

remain unaccountable. Lack of transparency and rule of law enable the judges to make decisions in the favour of elites and feudals. These powerful landlords, political leaders, businessmen easily buy justice. The judges then become manipulate the cases and give results in the favour of elites. Therefore, poor accountability and transparency paralyze justice in Pakistan.

Thirdly, when the state institutions work for their personal gains, and the powerful elites rule the country their gains are achieved at the expense of exploitation of public. Whether it be case of land dispute or the richer has crushed the poor under the effect of drugs, the decision in Pakistan's ^{court} comes in the favour of powerful one. The justice and impartiality is different for the poor and the rich. The poor face financial struggles, lack

of legal representations, delayed trials and political interference. While the rich and influential are able to navigate the legal system with ease ~~due~~ because of financial resources and political connections. In Pakistan fair trials are denied, and true justice for all is just a mere dream. Hence, the lack of impartiality and rule of law paralyze the justice in Pakistan.