



The Law Society of  
Upper Canada | Barreau  
du Haut-Canada

July 9, 2013

Office of the Treasurer

Osgoode Hall  
130 Queen Street West  
Toronto, Ontario  
M5H 2N6

tel 416-947-3415  
fax 416-947-7609

His Excellency Prime Minister Mir Hazar Khan Khoso  
P.M. Secretariat  
Islamabad, Pakistan

Your Excellency,

**Re: Lawyer Chaudhry Zulfiqar Ali**

I write on behalf of The Law Society of Upper Canada\* to voice our concern over the death of Chaudhry Zulfiqar Ali. When serious issues of apparent injustice to lawyers and the judiciary come to our attention, we speak out.

Chaudhry Zulfiqar Ali was chief prosecutor and former deputy director of the Federal Investigation Agency. He was gunned down by unidentified assailants on May 3, 2013, near his home in Islamabad. Chaudhry Zulfiqar Ali had a reputation for determinedly pursuing cases against suspects with powerful and sometimes militant connections, despite receiving repeated death threats for his involvement in this work.

It is our understanding that Chaudhry Zulfiqar Ali was heavily involved with several high profile and dangerous prosecutions. He acted as the government's lead prosecutor in the 2008 terrorist attack in Mumbai, India, which killed 166 people. The investigation into this case involved a probe into several members of the Lashkar-e-Taiba militant group, which was ongoing at the time of his murder. Chaudhry Zulfiqar Ali was also leading the prosecution against suspects in the 2007 assassination of former Pakistani Prime Minister, Benazir Bhutto. In connection with this case, the prosecutor was pursuing charges against several suspected Taliban militants, and had recently ordered the arrest of former military ruler Pervez Musharraf. It is speculated in various news outlets that Chaudhry Zulfiqar Ali's killing may be connected to his involvement in these two particularly high profile cases.

In the ongoing war between Pakistan and internal militants, lawyers have been particularly targeted and vulnerable. The killing of Chaudhry Zulfiqar Ali is part of a similar pattern across the country where judges and lawyers have been attacked in the course of the legitimate exercise of their duties.

International human rights instruments, including the *Universal Declaration of Human Rights*, the *International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights* and the *United Nations Basic Principles on the Independence of the Judiciary*, state that judicial independence and respect for human rights are essential to advancing the rule of law.

The Law Society urges the government of Pakistan to,

- a. ensure that the ongoing state investigation into the killing of Chaudhry Zulfiqar Ali is thorough and transparent;
- b. take steps to ensure that lawyers and judges who are engaged in politically high profile cases are provided with added security unless expressly declined by the individual;
- c. publicly recognize the importance, legitimacy and independence of the work of lawyers and judges;
- d. ensure that all lawyers and judges can carry out their legitimate duties and activities in peace and security; and
- e. ensure in all circumstances respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms in accordance with human rights standards.

Yours very truly,

Thomas G. Conway  
Treasurer

*\*The Law Society of Upper Canada is the governing body for some 44,400 lawyers and 5,100 paralegals in the Province of Ontario, Canada. The Treasurer is the head of the Law Society. The mandate of the Law Society is to govern the legal profession in the public interest by upholding the independence, integrity and honour of the legal profession for the purpose of advancing the cause of justice and the rule of law.*

Cc:

His Excellency Mian Gul Akbar Zeb  
High Commissioner of Pakistan to Canada  
10 Range Road  
Ottawa, Ontario K1N 8J3