

SUPREME COURT OF PAKISTAN

PRESS RELEASE

Islamabad January 12, 2010

Certain vested interests are deliberately spreading false and baseless news of a meeting at Lahore between the Hon. Chief Justice of Pakistan and the Hon. Chief Minister, Government of the Punjab. The newspaper i.e. daily The Nation, which published this story under the caption, “tip-toe meeting”, retracted the same the following day i.e. on 11th January, 2010, in the following words:

“The Nation deeply regrets that it carried an unverified news item entitled, “Tip-toe meeting”, which suggested that Chief Justice Iftikhar Muhammad Chaudhry received Chief Minister Mian Shahbaz Sharif at his residence around midnight. The reporter has been given a strong warning for filing such an inaccurate story and asked to check his sources more carefully for the future.

Subsequent examination of the story proved to it to be baseless. Therefore, strong action will be taken against the reporter.

The Nation has deep regards and respect for the Chief Justice and all that he stands for, including the provision of justice for the people. The reporter has also reiterated his respect and regard for the Chief Justice and has stated his intention was never to in any way upset the CJ and has committed not to print anything without proper verification for the future.”

Despite this retraction, certain elements continue to hark at this false theme with malicious motives. It is once again reiterated that no such meeting took place. The story is totally false and baseless and unnecessarily casts aspersions on the apex Court, distorting its image and spoiling its good reputation, which may have serious repercussions for those who issue such statement. Any person who has credible evidence in this regard can file the same, within 3 days, before the Registrar of the Supreme Court or contradict the statement so made, falling which strict action will be initiated, against him, no matter whosoever he may be and howsoever high he may be placed.

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