



AMBASSADOR OF PAKISTAN

EMBASSY OF PAKISTAN
3517 International Court, N.W.
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20008
Tel: (202) 243-6500

April 14, 2010

Dear Mr. Adil Gilani,

This is with reference to your letter dated April 2, 2010.

It might be more appropriate for your organization to demand from newspapers that make allegations of corruption, evidence of their allegation.

This Embassy routinely contradicts inaccurate information carried by our newly free press. The report relating to the appointment of many lobbyists was also similarly contradicted in the newspaper in which it was originally published and you may kindly look it up just as you were able to read the original news story. The newspaper concerned had listed all Pakistani lobbyists hired over two decades and assumed wrongly that they were still on our payroll. Pakistan has only one lobbyist in the United States duly appointed by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs on the recommendation of my predecessor in accordance with government regulations and procedures.

Lobbying in the United States is also regulated by the U.S. Department of Justice, which makes available all records on request. Public procurement rules cited by you in your letter do not apply to the conduct of foreign policy and engaging a lobbyist is not comparable to a purchase order. This Embassy cannot provide evaluation reports and contract agreements with our lobbyist to your non-governmental organization but these are sent to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in accordance with rules.

In relation to your query relating to my wife Ms. Farahnaz Ispahani, MNA and her assets declaration, again I would suggest that the onus of proving any wrongdoing should lie with the newspaper that makes the allegation and not on my wife or myself. Ms. Farahnaz Ispahani, MNA, duly clarified her assets declaration in the same newspaper two days after the publication of the story that you cited.

May I, on this occasion, also draw your attention to the fundamental concept of justice which requires that the alleged prove the allegations instead of the victims of slander in newspapers being made responsible for clarifying their position. In this regard, I will draw your attention to several articles written by me long before I took over as Pakistan Ambassador to the United States on the subject of transparency in government and how organizations like yours sometimes serve to repeat media rumours and innuendo instead of contributing to eradication of corruption and wrongdoing. You may want to consider expanding your organization's activities to cover transparency in the media.

With best regards,

Yours sincerely,

Husain Haqqani

(Husain Haqqani)

Syed Asif Gilani
Transparency International - Pakistan
5-C, 2nd Floor, Khayaban-e-Ittihad, Phase VII
Defence Housing Authority,
Karachi.

Copy along with a copy of the letter under reference forwarded for information to:

- i) Chairman, PAC, Islamabad
- ii) Chairman, National Accountability Bureau, Islamabad
- iii) Auditor General of Pakistan, Islamabad
- iv) Managing Director, PPRA, Islamabad