



AMBASSADOR OF PAKISTAN

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

No. Pol-1/30/2010

4 June 2010

Dear Sir,

Kindly refer to your letter of 28 May 2010. I can confirm that contracts such as those relating to hiring of lobbyists cannot be awarded without the concurrence and approval of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. The contract with Pakistan's present lobbyist is no exception.

2. You have mentioned Rule 47 of PPRA in your letter. The rule states:

"Public access and transparency.- As soon as a contract has been awarded the procuring agency shall make all documents related to the evaluation of the bid and award of contract public: Provided that where the disclosure of any information related to the award of a contract is of proprietary nature or where the procuring agency is convinced that such disclosure shall be against the public interest, it can withhold only such information from public disclosure subject to the prior approval of the Authority."

3. Documentation pertaining to the contract is available with the Ministry. A determination whether or not disclosure of this documentation will be against the public interest is the purview of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and not of this embassy. The only lobbyist currently engaged by the Government of Pakistan to work with this embassy is Messrs. Lockelord Bissell whose appointment was recommended by my predecessor. Information about the contract with them may please be sought from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, which alone can decide to share or withhold the requisite information.

4. I however still stand by my position that hiring of a lobbying firm, like hiring a lawyer, is largely a qualitative decision. A lobbying firm helps protect and promote Pakistan's interests in Congress. It provides intelligence and serves as an outlet for putting Pakistan's perspective across to the US policy and decision makers. The success of these endeavours depends on the kind and range of the firm's contacts, the access it enjoys and the credibility it has established with the US interlocutors. These matters are not quantifiable and cannot be reduced to mere "procurement".

5. It also appears that you have not read my articles on the need for transparency. I believe that organizations such as yours do not advance transparency and in fact stifle initiative and decrease efficiency by placing the burden of proving their innocence on government functionaries, sometimes based on erroneous newspaper articles. Genuine

transparency would require that your organization approaches the matter with an open mind and is prepared to concede the inalienable right of every individual to presumption of innocence.

with regards.

Yours sincerely,

Husain Haqqani
(Husain Haqqani)

Syed Adil Gilani,
Chairman,
Transparency International-Pakistan,
Karachi.

Copies forwarded to:

- a) Chairman, Public Accounts Committee, Islamabad
- b) Registrar, Supreme Court of Pakistan, Islamabad
- c) Chairman, National Accountability Bureau, Islamabad
- d) Auditor General of Pakistan, Islamabad
- e) Managing Director, PPRA, Islamabad.