

[TO BE INTRODUCED IN THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY]

A

BILL

further to amend certain laws

WHEREAS, it is expedient further to amend certain laws for the purposes hereinafter appearing;

It is hereby enacted as follows:—

1. **Short title and commencement.**— (1) This Act may be called the Criminal Laws (Amendment) Act, 2015.

(2) It shall come into force at once.

2. **Amendment of Act XLV of 1860.**— In the Pakistan Penal Code, 1860 (Act XLV of 1860),—

(1) in section 182, for the words, commas and full stop “extend to six months, or with fine which may extend to three thousand rupees, or with both.”, the following shall be substituted, namely:—

“extend to—

- (a) seven years in case the offence in which false information is given is punishable with death;
- (b) five years in case the offence in which false information is given is punishable with imprisonment for life; or
- (c) one-fourth of the longest term of imprisonment or with fine as is provided for the offence in which false information is given and such offence is not covered under clause (a) or clause (b).”

- (2) for section 298, the following shall be substituted, namely:-

“298. Uttering words, etc. with deliberate intent to wound religious feelings.- Whoever, with deliberate intention of wounding or outraging the religious feelings of any person or inciting religious, sectarian or ethnic hatred, utters any words by using loudspeaker or sound amplifier or any other device or makes any sound in the hearing of that person or makes any gesture in the sight of that person, shall be punished with imprisonment of either description for a term which may extend to three years but shall not be less than one year, or with fine, or with both.”; and

- (3) in section 498B, for the full-stop at the end, a colon shall be substituted and thereafter the following proviso shall be added, namely:-

“Provided that in case of a female child as defined in the Child Marriage Restraint Act, 1929 (XIX of 1929), or a non-Muslim woman, the accused shall be punished with imprisonment of either description for a term which may extend to ten years but shall not be less than five years and shall also be liable to fine which may extend to one million rupees.”.

3. **Amendment of Act V of 1861.**— In the Police Act, 1861 (V of 1861), in its application to the Islamabad Capital Territory,-

- (1) in section 23, after the word “nuisances”, the semicolon, words and comma “; to prevent sectarianism and hate speech and proliferation of hate material by any person, organized group or proscribed organization” shall be inserted;
- (2) in section 29, for the words and commas “to a penalty not exceeding three months’ pay, or to imprisonment with or without hard labour, for a period not exceeding three months, or to both”, the words “to imprisonment for a term which may extend to three years and with fine” shall be substituted; and
- (3) in section 32,—
- (a) for the words “the last three preceding sections” the words, figures

and comma "section 30, 30A or section 31" shall be substituted; and

- (b) for the words "a fine not exceeding two hundred rupees" the words "imprisonment for a term which may extend to three years and with fine" shall be substituted.

4. **Amendment of Schedule-II, Act V of 1898.**— In the Code of Criminal Procedure, 1898 (Act V of 1898), in Schedule-II, in the Table, in column 1,-

- (1) against section 182, for the entry in column 7 and 8, the following shall be substituted, namely:-

7	8
"extend to—	
(a) seven years in case the offence in which false information is given is punishable with death;	Court of Sessions
(b) five years in case the offence in which false information is given is punishable with imprisonment for life; or	Court of Sessions
(c) one-fourth of the longest term of imprisonment or with fine as is provided for the offence in which false information is given and such offence is not covered under clause (a) or clause (b)."	Magistrate of the first class

- (2) against section 298, for the entry in column 7, the following shall be substituted, namely:-

"imprisonment of either description for a term which may extend to three years but shall not be less than one year, or with fine, or with both.";

- (3) against section 498B, in column 7, after the figure "500,000/-", the words "and in case of a female child or a non-Muslim woman, imprisonment upto ten years and not less than five years and fine upto one million rupees" shall be inserted; and

STATEMENT OF OBJECT AND REASONS

The whole Nation is suffering from the trauma of brutal terrorist attacks. Terrorism, sectarianism and extremism have gripped the whole country and these acts have become the order of the day. The country is passing through an extraordinary situation which requires stringent measures to be taken in order to curb this menace which has infiltrated into our society. Some drastic amendments were made in the Anti-terrorism Act, 1997 in the year 2013 and also in the year 2014. The Protection of Pakistan Act, 2014 was also passed after heated debates during its enforcement as an Ordinance. The sole purpose behind all this was to provide protection for people of Pakistan and prevention of acts threatening the security of Pakistan.

2. In these extraordinary circumstances the leadership of all the parliamentary parties have resolved upon for taking special measures to root out the evil of terrorism from the country with an exemplary deterrence. This noble objective cannot be achieved without strengthening the criminal justice system, the Police and the law of evidence. Therefore, some amendments are proposed in the Pakistan Penal Code, 1860 (Act XI.V of 1860), the Police Act, 1861 (V of 1861), the Code of Criminal Procedure, 1898 (Act V of 1898), the Qanoon-e-Shahdat, 1984 (P.O.No.10 of 1984), and the Protection of Pakistan Act, 2014 (X of 2014) to achieve these objectives.

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and Narcotics Control