**FAFEN Daily Factsheet: Sitting No.2 Session No.107 of the Senate**

**Senate Discusses Political Scenario in Country**

ISLAMABAD, August 11, 2014: The Upper House of the Parliament deferred most of the agenda on Private Members day and discussed the political situation in the country during 2nd sitting of its 107th session on Monday, says Free and Fair Election Network (FAFEN) in its Daily Factsheet.

A PPPP Senator moved the motion under rule 218 to discuss the prevailing situation in the country and implementation of Article 245 in the federal capital territory which was approved for discussion.

Eight Senators- PPPP (4), ANP, MQM, PML-N and PkMAP (one each)- discussed the motion for an hour and 55 minutes.

A PPPP Senator introduced the Torture, Custodial Death and Custodial Rape (Prevention and Punishment) Bill, 2014 aimed at preventing and protecting the citizens of Pakistan and all other persons for the time being in Pakistan from all acts of torture, custodial death and custodial rape. The bill was referred to the relevant committee for further review and recommendations.

The other bill- the Constitution (Amendment) Bill, 2014- introduced by the same PPPP Senator was about amending Article 247 of the Constitution. This bill was also referred to the relevant committee.

Following are some key observations of the House proceedings:

**Members’ Participation in House Proceedings**

* The Senate met for two hours and eight minutes.
* The sitting started at 1702 hours against the scheduled time of 1600 hours, witnessing a delay of an hour and two minutes.
* The Chairman presided over the entire sitting.
* The Leader of the House and the Leader of the Opposition attended the entire sitting.
* Sixteen Senators were present at the outset, 29 at the adjournment while a maximum of 36 at one point during the proceedings.
* The parliamentary leaders of PPPP, MQM, PkMAP, ANP and PML-N attended the sitting.
* Two minority members attended the sitting.
* Four members applied for leave.

**Output**

* A PPPP Senator introduced the Torture, Custodial Death and Custodial Rape (Prevention and Punishment) Bill, 2014 which was aimed to provide for the prevention of and protection of Pakistani citizens and of all other persons for the time being in Pakistan from all acts of torture, custodial death and custodial rape. This bill was referred to the relevant committee for further review and recommendations.
* The other bill- the Constitution (Amendment) Bill, 2014- introduced by the same Senator was regarding amendment of Article 247. It was also referred to the relevant committee.

**Representation and Responsiveness**

* A PPPP Senator moved a motion under rule 218 to discuss political situation in the country and implementation of Article 245 in Islamabad which was approved for discussion.
* Eight Senators- PPPP (4), ANP, MQM, PML-N and PkMAP (one each)- discussed the motion for an hour and 55 minutes.

**Order and Institutionalization**

* There were no incidents of protests, walkouts and boycotts

**Transparency**

* ‘Orders of the Day’ was available to the legislators, observers and others.
* Information on senators’ attendance was not available to the observers and the public.

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