

18. COUNCIL OF ISLAMIC IDEOLOGY [CII]

Under **Article 228** of the Constitution, the Council of Islamic Ideology [CII] in Pakistan is a ***statutory advisory body*** established to ensure that national laws align with the Quran and Sunnah. Its members are appointed by the President, ***its findings are non-binding recommendations***, and its sphere of performance is limited to the ***ADVISORY NATURE only***. Details are:

- The President of Pakistan appoints between 8 and 20 members, including a Chairman, for a standard term. The Presidents only sign the recommended persons' LIST sent by the Prime Minister.
- However, the selection ensures representation from different schools of Islamic jurisprudence. Members include prominent Islamic scholars (at least one-third with 15+ years of research experience), at least two current or former judges from the Supreme Court or High Courts, and at least one female member. Experts in economics, law, or public administration are also included.

UNDER the NEW CHARTER:

- NO FUNDS OR BUDGET will be allocated to the CII to save the poor nation's kitty because it's of NO SOLID BENEFIT FOR the PEOPLES OF PAKISTAN.
- The salaries, perks, security apparatus & personnel, vehicles and protocol arrangements of the Chairman & the members WILL BE STOPPED / WITHDRAWN with

immediate effect – to save the expenditures and FINANCES of govt of Pakistan.

- Because the CII is mandated directly by **Article 228 of the Constitution** of Pakistan, its existence cannot be easily dismantled by any ruling party; no matter which political party takes power.

Thus, ***the viable solution at the moment is...*** That the Chairman & the members are the top-heads of their respective Islamic [or other] Organizations AND the Judges are getting substantial pensions – SO THEY WILL BE ASKED TO CONTINUE WITH THEIR ROLES AS VOLUNTEERS – Of course, being attached with the CII is otherwise an honour & a matter of PRIDE.

- The CII's role is of **ADVISORY NATURE** for the Parliament only [*to see if some law is NOT made or passed against injunctions of Islam*]. As the members, both ladies & gentlemen, are educated enough to understand this limitation – THUS, in 53 years (after 1973), NEVER an occasion appeared violating this fundamental principle by any one on the floor.
- Since its inception in 1973 till today, the parliament is always comprised of [proportionately relevant] top ULEMAS & ISLAMIC SCHOLARS of various politico-religious parties of the country like Jamiat-e-Ulema-e-Pakistan [JUP], Jamiat-e-Ulema-e-Islam [JUI] in TWO factions, Jama't-e-Islami [JI], Majlis Wahdat-e-Muslimeen (MWM), Tehreek-e-Jafaria Pakistan (TJP), Sunni Ittehad Council (SIC), and an alliance named Muttahida Majlis-e-Amal (MMA) etc.

- THE CII MEMBERS WERE SELDOM MORE ACKNOWLEDGED OR BETTER QUALIFIED THAN THE MNAs OF THESE PARTIES.

Most important: The Council of Islamic Ideology (CII) has submitted 120+ formal reports to the federal governments and parliament since its inception, but NONE of its major recommendations have been FORMALLY PROCESSED OR FULLY PASSED INTO LAW by the Parliament of Pakistan; CII's OFFICIAL WEBSITE is referred.

- The CII has been issuing fatwas [Islamic Decrees] on contemporary dilemmas, such as ***accepting test-tube births, permitting DNA evidence as supplementary proof in criminal trials, and ruling against human cloning and sex-reassignment surgery.***

[IN FACT THE SAID SUBJECTS ARE PURELY RELATED WITH FORENSIC & MEDICAL RESEARCH FIELDS – AND NEEDED NO RELIGIOUS GUIDANCE WHATSOEVER.]

- CII, in the past, has also been surfaced in **controversial Debates** on social issues, including ***child marriage, digital restrictions like VPN usage, and women's rights frameworks*** etc.

[CII's REPORTS ON SUCH OLD vs RISING TRENDS were NOT to contribute any benefit to our poor nation.]

- **Bridge-Building:** Being a single consultative body with Constitutional backing, it TOTALLY FAILED to mitigate ***or lessen sectarian friction*** offering a unified platform for traditional scholars to dialogue with state administrators.
 - **Limitations:** Because its opinions are purely advisory and non-binding, its real-world impact could NEVER GET the political acceptance of the Parliament for adoption.
 - **Massive Legislative Reluctance:** The vast majority of the CII's reports submitted over the decades have ***historically gathered dust***, remaining un-debated by lawmakers.
 - Historically, at times CII recommendations made it into actual Pakistani law [such as parts of the Hudood Ordinances or Islamic banking frameworks] ***occurred primarily during Gen Zia-ul-Haq's administration - rather than through democratic acts of Parliament.***

THE ANNUAL BUDGET & PERKS

The average annual budget allotted to the Council of Islamic Ideology (CII) **ranges between PKR 100 million to PKR 150 million**. In 2016-17, its budget was PKR 99.63 million to fund its yearly operations. That budget was for a strength of 133 CII staffs, including 52 officers and 81 other employees.

- Roughly **35% to 40%** of the budget covers the salaries of the permanent staff. ***A significant portion of the budget goes toward paying the***

allowances, honorariums, and meeting expenses of the 8 to 20 council members who travel to Islamabad for sessions.

- ***The remaining funds are used to maintain their specialized research library, publish their voluminous annual statutory reports, and host Islamic jurisprudence seminars. BUT, the fact remains that such CONSTITUTIONAL BODY is NOT meant for RESEARCH ON ISLAMIC TOPICS – for that each Pakistani university is equipped with far-better arrangements.***

The **Chairman and the Board Members** enjoy substantial state perks, institutional privileges and high political capital:

- **Federal Minister Status:** The Chairman of the CII is traditionally granted the official status and protocol equivalent to a **Federal Minister** of Pakistan.
- **Official Perks:** This status guarantees the Chairman a government-maintained luxury vehicle, a dedicated security detail, official residence privileges in Islamabad, and free medical care for their families.
- **Judicial & Public Footprint:** Regular council members, who include retired Supreme Court judges and scholars, ***receive high-grade state guest protocol, paid travel / lodging in Islamabad during active sessions, and official security.***

....AND WHAT IS CII'S MENTIONABLE CONTRIBUTION?
THE GOVERNMENTS & PARLIAMENT SHOULD THINK...