

Date: 05 September 2019

To,  
Mr. Imran Khan  
Honorable Prime Minister of Pakistan

**Subject: Request to expedite the enactment of data protection & privacy legislation and creation of interim mechanisms for protection**

Mr. Prime Minister,

With utmost respect, we want to draw your attention to the continued violations of the citizen's rights of privacy, especially in context of leaks of citizen's digital data. The constitution of Pakistan enshrines the right to privacy as a fundamental right of citizens of Pakistan under Article 14(1) that states "the dignity of man and, subject to law, the privacy of home, shall be inviolable". However, the legal justice system in Pakistan has failed to create appropriate mechanisms to ensure the protection of this right. There are no legal guidelines for state and private entities collecting citizen data and consequently, no legal liabilities for those who are responsible for leaking and public sharing of citizen's private data and information.

We have seen instances of leaks of citizen's identity information from state institutions like NADRA and Punjab IT Board and we continue to see violations of citizen's privacy and dignity by planned leaks of videos and photographs recorded by security & CCTV cameras. Within this context, we request you to:

1. Issue directives to the Ministry of Information Technology and Telecommunications (MOITT) to expedite Personal Data Protection and Privacy Bill and ensure that the draft law is brought in line with globally prevalent human rights standards and tabled in parliament at the earliest
2. To direct the cabinet to frame and issue interim notifications devising an interim plan to protect citizens right of privacy, especially by making owner's of digital databases responsible for the protection and safeguard of citizen's data.
3. We also request you to issue orders to all Federal public departments and institutions to publicly declare their privacy and data protection policy, including through their websites and nominate focal persons to whom citizens can take privacy related grievances

We strongly feel that this is an issue that has a direct impact on enjoyment of citizen's right to privacy and dignity and hope that you consider our request and recommendations.

Undersigned,

**Sadaf Khan**  
Co-founder, Media Matters for Democracy

