



TANZEEM E ISLAMI

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**The sentencing of General Faiz Hameed has set a positive precedent of internal accountability within military institutions.
Former and serving senior officials must also be brought within the ambit of law.
(Shujauddin Shaikh)**

Lahore (PR): This was stated by the Ameer of Tanzeem-e-Islami, **Shujauddin Shaikh**, in a statement. He said that awarding General Faiz Hameed fourteen years of rigorous imprisonment following a court martial has established a good tradition of self-accountability within military institutions, and that the other accomplices of the convicted individual, including former and serving senior officials, must also be brought within the accountability process. He said that Islam gives a clear command that no person, regardless of how high their rank or position may be, is above accountability; the Prophet Muhammad (SAAW) and, after his passing, the Rightly Guided Caliphs set enduring practical examples of this principle, which remain a guiding principle for us today. He recalled the well-known incident in which a woman – named Fatimah from a prominent family of the Banu Makhzum – was proven guilty of theft and the prescribed punishment was enforced upon her; when some people sought leniency based on her lineage, the Prophet (SAAW) declared that earlier nations were destroyed because they spared the influential when they committed crimes but punished the weak, and that even if Fatimah bint Muhammad (SAAW) had committed theft, the Qur’anic punishment would have been carried out upon her. He added that the era of the Rightly Guided Caliphs likewise provides countless examples of impartial accountability.

Shujauddin Shaikh said that punishing a former general after his crimes were proven marks the beginning of a necessary and healthy tradition, and stressed that it is imperative to bring to justice all past and present offenders occupying key political, military, judicial, and bureaucratic positions – particularly those who looted the national treasury through corruption – ensuring not only that they receive exemplary punishment but that the stolen wealth is recovered and spent on public welfare. He said that for the survival and security of the country it is essential that state institutions operate strictly within the bounds of the Constitution and the law; the state must act like a mother, rulers must deal with the citizens with compassion, and the use of violence against those peacefully protesting for their rights must be completely avoided. He further said that national security demands that all acknowledge their mistakes, that the grievances of disaffected segments be addressed, and that dialogue be adopted as the path forward; action in accordance with the Constitution and the law should be taken only against those whose involvement in cognizable crimes is clearly established. In this, he said, lies safety for all, and through this very approach and strategy the internal and external enemies of the state can be defeated.

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