

**ORDER SHEET**  
**IN THE HIGH COURT OF SINDH, KARACHI**  
 C. P. No. D-5839 of 2021

Date	Order with signature of Judge
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FOR DIRECTIONS

For orders as to maintainability of Petition.

07.10.2021.

Mr. Muhammad Hanif, Advocate for the Petitioner.

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**YOUSUF ALI SAYEED, J.** The Petitioner, who ostensibly professes to have come forward in the ‘public interest’, has invoked the jurisdiction of this Court under Article 199 of the Constitution seeking the imposition of a blanket ban on ‘social media news channels’, as so termed by him, with WhatsApp, Facebook, Twitter, Instagram and YouTube being specifically identified in that regard.

As per the pleadings, the Petitioner’s case is that he has observed that some unknown persons are disseminating false, fake, fabricated and bogus news through such channels so as to personally enrich themselves whilst damaging the reputation of respectable persons in the estimation of right thinking members of society. Paradoxically it has also been generally averred that the dissemination of such news by the said unknown persons has also caused damage of millions of rupees to the various licensed news channels operating in the country, as well as to the Federal Exchequer.

Upon reading the Memo of Petition, we had observed at the very outset that the Petitioner has made completely vague and general allegations without specifying any particular instance or example of what he categorized to be fake news and had not even claimed to have been the target of such act on the part of any persons through such social media platforms, and that the Petition was even otherwise not justiciable within the established parameters of Article 199 of the Constitution. Although, we had expressed such reservations, learned counsel for the Petitioner nonetheless opted to pursue the

matter, and proceeded with his submissions, but merely regurgitated the averments set out in the pleadings.

Under the given circumstances, it is apparent that the Petitioner has no locus standi as it is well settled that even in order to satisfy the requirements of an 'aggrieved person' in public interest litigation under Article 199 of the Constitution, a Petitioner has to at least disclose a personal interest in the performance of a legal duty owed to him, which if not performed would result in the loss of some personal benefit or advantage or curtailment of a privilege in liberty or franchise. That element is conspicuously absent in the instant case. As such, it is apparent that the Petition is not maintainable, which stands dismissed in limine with cost of Rs.20,000/- to be deposited in the High Court Clinic within seven days from the date of this order.

JUDGE

CHIEF JUSTICE

MUBASHIR