



TRANSPARENCY INTERNATIONAL - PAKISTAN

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Mr. Rashid Mahmood Langrial,
Chairman
Federal Board of Revenue
Islamabad

**Subject: Complaint Against Allegations of Financial Irregularities, Tax Fraud and Bribery at
Dry-Port and Container-Freight-Station (CFS), Karachi**

Dear Sir,

Transparency International Pakistan has received a complaint against allegations of financial irregularities in dry-port and container freight station (CFS) sector in two facilities BOML Container Freight Station (West Wharf) and Al-Hamd International Container Terminal (Hawks Bay Road), Karachi.

The complainant has made the following allegations:

1. The ports pay kickbacks to their own customers (freight forwarders), which are shown in commercial offers as "Storage Share / Refund."
2. The payments are funded through fake invoicing with the facilities' suppliers, who reimburse the amounts in cash. This results in off-book cash and keeping the corresponding income out of the accounts and formal tax.
3. Agents acting for freight forwarders are encouraged to seek fee "waivers" or under-invoicing at the customer-service counters, which is paid in cash. This allows the excess to be split between agent and facility.
4. The reduced invoice is generated through the collusion of officials to ensure that the accounts reflect the suppressed figure.
5. Complainant alleges that while the issue is prevalent at many dry ports but particularly at two facilities in Karachi namely BOML Container Freight Station (West Wharf) and Al-Hamd International Container Terminal (Hawks Bay Road), Karachi.
6. These practices are costing the national exchequer billions of rupees.

Transparency International Pakistan Comments and Recommendations

Transparency International Pakistan has reviewed the contents of the complaint. TI Pakistan requests the Chairman FBR to look into the serious allegations of the complaints and if found correct, take action in accordance with the applicable rules.

Transparency International Pakistan is striving for across-the-board application of Rule of Law, which is the only way to stop corruption and achieve zero tolerance against corruption.

Regards,

Advocate Daniyal Muzaffar,
Trustee/Legal Advisor
Transparency International Pakistan

Copies forwarded for the information with request to take action under their mandate to:

1. Advisor to PM, PM House, Islamabad.
2. Chairman, Prime Minister Inspection Commission, Islamabad.



Note:

This is to clarify that Transparency International Pakistan is not a complainant, it acts as a whistleblower and operate under Article 19-A, of the Constitution of Pakistan which gives the right to public to know how government is being run by public officers. Article 19-A makes the right to access of information pertaining to a public authority a fundamental right, and a three-member bench in case of Mukhtar Ahmad Ali vs the Registrar, Supreme Court of Pakistan, Islamabad, headed by Chief Justice Qazi Faez Isa in the landmark judgment on 16 October 2023, in CP No. 3532/2023, has declared that

“What previously may have been on a need-to-know basis Article 19A of the Constitution has transformed it to a right-to-know, and the Access to information is no longer a discretion granted through occasional benevolence, but is now a fundamental right available with every Pakistani which right may be invoked under Article 19A of the Constitution”