IN THE SUPREME COURT OF PAKISTAN

(Original Jurisdiction)

PRESENT:

Mr. Justice Umar Ata Bandial, CJ

Mr. Justice Ijaz ul Ahsan

Mr. Justice Sayyed Mazahar Ali Akbar Naqvi

Mr. Justice Jamal Khan Mandokhail

Mr. Justice Muhammad Ali Mazhar

SUO MOTO CASE NO.3 OF 2022

(Re: Independent and Transparent Investigation into the Murder of Renowned Journalist, Mr. Arshad Sharif in Kenya).

In attendance:

Ch. Aamir Rehman, Addl. AGP

Dr. Akbar Nasir, IG ICT

Mr. Awais Ahmad, DIG

Mian Shahbaz, IO

Mr. Irfan, Director Law M/o Information

Mr. Israr Ahmad Khan, Director Law FIA

Mr. Wagas Rasool, Deputy Director Law

Mr. M. Syrus Sajjad Qazi, Addl. Secretary M/o Foreign Affairs

Mr. Murad Wazir, DG M/o Foreign Affairs

Mr. Asad Khan Burki, LA M/o Foreign Affairs

Syed Faraz Raza, ALA M/o Foreign Affairs

Date of Hearing: 05.01.2023

ORDER

The learned Addl. Attorney General has referred to the report filed by the Special Joint Investigation Team ("SJIT") on 04.01.2023 which recounts the progress made so far in its investigative work since constitution of the SJIT on 07.12.2022. He has informed us that the Federal Government has provided requisite funds for investigative work to be done by the SJIT in two foreign countries, namely, UAE and Kenya. Requests for Mutual Legal Assistance ("MLA") to the government in these countries were issued by the Federal Government on 04.01.2023. In this behalf he acknowledges that the Foreign Office is cooperating fully to secure the requisite help and collaboration of

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the concerned police/investigative authorities in both foreign

States for the SJIT. As soon as the MLA requests are responded

favourably by the two foreign governments, the SJIT shall be

visiting the said States for commencing their investigation

abroad.

2. We note that the SJIT has performed some

investigative work within Pakistan. 41 witnesses are reported to

have been examined by it so far. The real issues of the cause and

perpetrators of the assassination of Mr. Arshad Sharif would be

unravelled after the relevant evidence available abroad in the

afore-noted two countries is collected. We expect that the SJIT is

fully prepared with its priorities, scenarios and areas of inquiry in

the investigation and the persons and material that would be

relevant and useful solving the crimes committed. The learned

Addl. Attorney General submits that a month's time may be given

for the next report of the SJIT. Relist in the first week of

February, 2023.

CHIEF JUSTICE

JUDGE

JUDGE

JUDGE

JUDGE

Islamabad 05.01.2023 Rashid+Naseer