

JFA bats for Pak scribe's freedom of expression



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Expressing concern [over](#) the Pakistan government's indirect threats to a Pakistani scribe for his recent media reports in the acclaimed newspaper Dawn, the [Journalists'](#) Forum Assam ([JFA](#)) urged the Islamabad based government to show respect to the media. The northeast [India](#) based scribes' forum argues that the Nawaz Sharif government should not act [against](#) Cyril Almeida with personal vendetta, who showed his commitment in reporting the ongoing [rift](#) between the civilian government and the military in the backdrop of Indo-Pak conflict.

It may be mentioned the Islamabad regime got angry [over](#) Almeida's report titled '[Act against militants or face international isolation](#), [civilians tell military](#)' and put him on an exit control list meaning Almeida can be stopped from leaving the country.

"I am told and have been informed and have been shown evidence that I am on the Exit Control List," twitted Almeida recently. Dawn's senior scribe however reiterated that he loves his country very much. The exclusive report was published a week after the Indian armed forces conducted a surgical strike on terrorist [camps](#) inside Pakistan occupied Kashmir. Carried out on 29 September, the unique strike was in revenge [against](#) the 18 September terror attack in Uri of J&K by the Pakistan based militants killing 19 Indian soldiers.

Later the Pakistan government issued a statement claiming the news report 'was clearly violative of universally acknowledged principles of reporting on national security issues and has risked the vital [state](#) interests through inclusion of inaccurate and misleading contents'. Prior to it, Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif had an exhausted discussion with the country's army [chief](#) General Raheel Sharif, ISI [chief](#) Lieutenant General Rizwan Akhtar, interior minister Nisar Ali Khan and Punjab [chief](#) minister Shahbaz Sharif.

The [JFA](#) pointed out that the Pakistan government should admit respect Almeida's right to report in the recognized media outlets and also urged both [New Delhi](#) and Islamabad regimes to [deal](#) with the situation affectively to prevent further escalating the violence in the border areas.

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