

**THE AZAD GOVT. OF THE STATE OF JAMMU & KASHMIR,
LAW & PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS SECRETARIAT,
MUZAFFARABAD.**

Dated the March 9, 1978.

No. 865/SL/78. The following Ordinance made by the President on the 8th day of March, 1978, is hereby published for general information:-

(ORDINANCE VIII OF 1978)

AN

ORDINANCE

to provide for speedy trial of certain offences committed or attempted to be committed by the holders of representative offices

WHEREAS it is expedient to provide for speedy trial of certain offences committed or attempted to be committed by the holders of representative offices in the manner hereinafter appearing;

AND WHEREAS the President is satisfied that circumstances exist which render it necessary to take immediate action;

NOW, THEREFORE, in exercise of the powers conferred by sub-section (1) of Section 41 of the Azad Jammu and Kashmir Interim Constitution Act, 1974, the President is pleased to make and promulgate the following Ordinance:-

1. **Short title, extent and commencement:-** (1) This Ordinance may be called the Holders of Representative Offices (Trial of Offences) Ordinance, 1978.
 - (2) It extends to the whole of Azad Jammu and Kashmir and shall apply to all State Subjects wherever they may be.
 - (3) It shall come into force at once.
2. **Definitions:-** In this Ordinance, unless there is anything repugnant in the subject or context,-

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- (a) 'Assembly' means the Legislative Assembly of Azad Jammu and Kashmir;
 - (b) 'Chief Executive' means the Chief Executive of Azad Jammu and Kashmir;
 - (c) 'Council' means the Azad Jammu and Kashmir Council Constituted under the Azad Jammu and Kashmir Interim Constitution Act, 1974;
 - (d) 'Government' means the Azad Government of the State of Jammu and Kashmir;
 - (e) 'Holder of representative office' means a person who is holding, or has held,-
 - (i) under the Azad Jammu and Kashmir Government Act, 1970, the office of Minister or member of the Legislative Assembly; or
 - (ii) under the Azad Jammu and Kashmir Interim Constitution Act, 1974, the office of Prime Minister, Minister, Advisor of the Council or member of the Assembly or of the Council;
 - (f) 'President' means the President of Azad Jammu and Kashmir;
 - (g) "Scheduled offence' means an offence specified in the Schedule;
 - (h) 'Special Court' means a Special Court established under Section 4 of this Ordinance; and
 - (i) 'Supreme Court' means the Supreme Court of Azad Jammu and Kashmir.
3. **Ordinance not to derogate from other laws.**- The provisions of this Ordinance shall be in addition to, and not in derogation of, any other law for the time being in force, and nothing contained herein shall exempt any holder of representative office from any proceeding which might, apart from this Ordinance, be instituted against him.
4. **Establishment of Special Courts.**- (1) The President may, by notification in the Official Gazette, establish one or more Special Courts for the purposes of this Ordinance.

(2) Each Special Court shall consist of a person who is or has been a Judge of Supreme Court or High Court.

5. **Offence to be tried by Special Court.**- (1) Notwithstanding anything contained in the Code of Criminal Procedure, 1898 (Act V of 1898), or in any other law for the time being in force, a scheduled offence committed by a holder of representative office shall be tried exclusively by a Special Court.

(2) The Special Court shall not take cognizance of an offence triable by it except with the previous sanction of the Government.

(3) A person who is convicted for a scheduled, offence shall stand disqualified for a period of seven years from being elected or chosen as a member of Assembly or of the Council.

6. **Powers and procedure of Special Court.**- (1) A Special Court may pass any sentence authorised by law and shall have all the powers conferred by the Code of Criminal Procedure, 1898 (Act V of 1898), on a High-Court exercising original jurisdiction.

(2) Notwithstanding anything contained in any other law for the time being in force, a Special Court shall have power to conduct its proceedings and regulate its procedure in all respects as it deems fit.

(3) No trial before a Special Court shall be adjourned for any purpose unless the Special Court is of opinion that the adjournment is necessary in the interests of justice, and, in particular, no trial shall be adjourned by reason of the absence of the accused person due to illness, or if the absence of the accused or his Council has been brought about by the accused person himself, or if the behaviour of the accused person prior to such absence has been, in the opinion of the Special Court, such as to impede the course of justice but, in any such case, the Special Court shall proceed with the trial after taking necessary steps to appoint an advocate to defend any such accused person.

(4) A Special Court shall not, merely by reason of a change in its composition, be bound to recall and rehear any witness who has given evidence and may act on the evidence already recorded by or produced before it.

(5) A Special Court shall have the powers of a High Court to punish its own contempt.

(6) Notwithstanding any thing contained in the Code of Criminal Procedure, 1898 (Act V of 1898), when a person is accused of more offences than one, he may be charged with, and tried at one trial, for any number of them, irrespective of the kind of such offences or of the time at which, or the person in respect of whom, any of them may have been committed.

7. **Accused person to be competent witness:-** Any person charged with a scheduled offence shall be a competent witness for the defence and may give evidence on oath in disproof of the charges made against him or any person together with him at the same trial :

Provided that –

- (a) he shall not be called as a witness except on his own request,
- (b) his failure to give evidence shall not be made the subject of any comment by the prosecution or give rise to any presumption against him or any person charged with him at the same trial,
- (c) he shall not be asked, and if asked shall not be required to answer, any question tending to show that he has committed or been convicted of any offence other than the offence which he is charged, or is of bad character, unless
 - (i) to proof that he has committed or been convicted of such offence is admissible in evidence to show that he is guilty of the offence with which he is charged, or
 - (ii) he has personally or by his pleader asked questions from any witness or the prosecution with a view to establish his own good character, or has given evidence of his good character, or the nature or conduct of the defence is such as to involve imputations on the character of the prosecutor or of any witness for prosecution, or
 - (iii) he has given evidence against any other person charged with the same offence.

8. **Public Prosecutor:-** The Government may appoint one or more Special Public Prosecutors to conduct the prosecution in a case triable by a Special Court and every such Special Public Prosecutor shall be deemed to be a Public Prosecutor for the

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purposes of the Code of Criminal Procedure, 1898 (Act V of 1898).

9. **Appeal:-** Any person sentenced by a Special Court under this Ordinance may, within thirty days of the decision of the Special Court, prefer an appeal to the Supreme Court.
10. **Bar of jurisdiction:-** Save as provided in Section 9, no Court shall have any jurisdiction of any kind in respect of any order, sentence or proceedings of a Special Court.
11. **Power to amend the Schedule:-** The Government may, by notification in the official Gazette, omit any entry from, or add any entry to , the Schedule.

THE SCHEDULE
(See Section 2 and 11)

1. Offences punishable under Sections 403 to 406, 417 to 420, 465 to 468, 471 and 477-A of the Penal Code (Act XLV of 1853), and as attempts, abetments and conspiracies in relation thereto or connected therewith.
2. Offences punishable under the Arms Act, 1878 (II of 1878).
3. Offences punishable under the Income Tax Act, 1922 (XI of 1922).
4. Offences punishable under the Official Secrets Act, 1923 (XIX of 1923),
5. Offences punishable under the Forest Regulation, 1930 (II of 1930).
6. Offences punishable under the Foreign Exchange Regulation Act, 1947 (VII of 1947).
7. Offences punishable under the Official Misdemeanor Act, 1948.
8. Offences punishable under the Prevention of Corruption Act, 1950 and as attempts, abetments and conspiracies in relation thereto or connected therewith.
9. Offences punishable under the Waqf Properties Act, 1960 (IX of 1960).
10. Offences punishable under the Evacuee Property (Multiple Allotment) Act, 1961 (I of 1961).
11. Offences punishable under the Public Office (Misconduct) Ordinance, 1965 (I of 1965).
12. Offences punishable under the Legislative Assembly (Elections) Ordinance, 1970 (X of 1970).

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13. Offences punishable under the Cooperative Banks (Repayment and Recovery of Loans) Ordinance, 1977.

Sd/- (Mohammad Ibrahim Khan)
President,
Azad Jammu & Kashmir.

Sd/- (Sardar Aftab Ahmed Khan)
Secretary Law.