

OpenVoiceNews

Transparent. Unbiased. Yours.

PTI Senators Criticize Government Civil Honours List

August 17, 2025

– Categories: Politics & Government



Download IPFS

ISLAMABAD, The Senate witnessed a heated debate on Friday as opposition Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) senators sharply criticized the government's civil honours list, alleging that awards were granted to sitting ministers and political allies rather than recognizing broader civic achievements.

The session, chaired by Senate Chairman Yousaf Raza Gilani, opened with the announcement of senators receiving some of the country's highest civilian awards on August 14. Recipients included Foreign Minister Ishaq Dar, Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi, Climate Change Minister Musadik Malik, bureaucrat-turned-politician Ahad Cheema, and Sherry Rehman—figures aligned with the ruling coalition.

PTI senators questioned the list's focus, noting the limited inclusion of cultural and civic contributors. Senator Falak Naz remarked on the prominence of government officials, questioning the criteria behind some awards. Senator Humayun Mohmand highlighted the absence of prominent political figures from the opposition, while Senator Faisal Javed Khan noted that the party's digital activists were excluded from recognition.

In response, Law Minister Azam Nazeer Tarar stated that the awards acknowledged civilians and security personnel affected by recent unrest and emphasized the consideration of diplomatic accomplishments. He called for critics to exercise "magnanimity" in evaluating the honours.

The debate also touched on Independence Day government advertisements. Senator Javed raised concerns over the omission of Muhammad Ali Jinnah from recent campaigns, describing it as "a betrayal of history." Minister Tarar acknowledged the concern and announced a formal inquiry, reiterating that Quaid-e-Azam remains "our undisputed leader."

Despite tensions, the Senate passed a resolution commemorating Independence Day as the outcome of decades of political struggle. The resolution paid tribute to Pakistan's founders, constitutional architects, and armed forces. It reaffirmed a commitment to sovereignty, democratic principles, sustainable development, economic empowerment, and national unity.

The resolution also acknowledged the contributions of parliamentarians involved in framing the constitution and advancing democratic reforms. It emphasized adherence to parliamentary democracy, constitutional supremacy, and the rule of law, while honoring the sacrifices of armed forces personnel and security institutions.