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BAGHBANPURA POLICE ENCOUNTER
FAKE: JUDICIAL INQUIRY
LHC DISPOSES OFF THE MATTER

LAHORE, MARCH 12, 2014:

Lahore High Court Complaint Cell has disposed off its notice “a youth killed in an alleged police encounter” as the encounter had been declared fake by the Judicial Inquiry and Secretary, Home Department, Government of the Punjab and Deputy Inspector General of Police, Operations, Lahore have been directed for necessary action against delinquent police officials in accordance with law.

According to details, a youth was killed in an alleged police encounter in Baghbanpura in January-2013. Complaint Cell took notice of the incident and directed the District & Sessions Judge Lahore to constitute a judicial inquiry to probe the matter. On this, Sessions Judge instructed Civil Judge, Imran Munir Bhatti to inquire into the matter and submit report in a month but the report was not prepared on time. Therefore, Taj Zareen, mother of deceased Muhammad Qasim, expressed concern that due to delay in inquiry, her family was un-protected. She was receiving death threats and involvement of her children in false cases.

On a press report LHC Complaint Cell again took cognizance of the issue and the Sessions Judge responded that earlier the inquiry was being conducted by Mr. Imran Ali Bhatti, the then Special Judicial Magistrate who stood transferred and now the matter was entrusted to Mr. Muhammad Zakirya, Judicial Magistrate 1st Class, Lahore. He has concluded the inquiry and observed that glaring contradictions available on the surface of record cast serious aspersions upon the veracity of the witnesses appeared before the court and has finally opined that prima-facie the encounter was not actual at all. As the needful has been done so for the time being no further action was required by the Cell on administrative side. **(MEDIA CELL)**