



With compliments
Assistant Registrar, Media
Lahore High Court, Lahore.
Cell No. 0303-4445423

LHC NOTICE:
PANCHAYAT RULLED TO VANI A
GIRL AND MOLESTED HER

LAHORE, APRIL 17, 2014:

On Wednesday, Lahore High Court Complaint Cell took notice of a press report on administrative side that a woman was declared vani by a panchayat and assaulted in Muhammadwala.

The Cell has directed the District & Sessions Judge, Chiniot to look into the matter and submit a detailed report regarding steps taken by police along with his own comments within a week.

According to details, a woman, resident of Mawar Bhattian, was reportedly declared vani under a panchayat ruling. Her brother Sana Ullah had married a woman, Bilqees Bibi without her family's approval. Members of the panchayat Gul Sher, Amanullah, Sikandar, Zafar, Anwar and Nasir, among others, had ordered the victim to be married to Zahid, brother of Bilqees Bib but her family refused to accept the panchayat's ruling. In retaliation panchayat members forced their way into her father's house and took her away at gunpoint and solemnized her nikah with Zahid. After five days, Zahid divorced her and handed her over to his uncle, who took her to his haveli where he and three others molested her. The victim was later tied to a tree naked and her family was informed that she would be released after retrieval of their love-marriage woman. People of the area rescued her and produced before the Area Magistrate who ordered for registration of case and medical checkup of the victim girl. Affected family alleged that police were informed at every stage who advised for returning the newly married women instead of seeking help. On the other hand, police claimed that they have also started investigation of the case. **(MEDIA CELL)**