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**PANCHAYAT MEMBERS WHO RULED**  
**VANI A GIRL, BEHIND BARS**  
**REPORT SUBMITTED IN LHC**

**LAHORE, MAY 12, 2014:**

Lahore High Court Complaint Cell has sought complete report regarding filling of police report u/s 173 Cr.P.C. in the Court of competent jurisdiction against the arrested accused who ruled to vani and assault a girl.

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. Panchayat members 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 broke into her father's house and took her away at gunpoint and forced 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.

On a press report LHC Complaint Cell had taken cognizance of the issue and directed District & Sessions Judge Chiniot to probe into the incident and submit a detailed report within a week as to the steps taken by the police along with his own comments. The Sessions Judge has submitted an interim report stating therein that police registered a criminal case on the complaint of Sahib Bibi and arrested the culprits including Panchayat members namely Zafar, Noor, Khizar Hayat, Khan Muhammad and Gul Sher who have been sent on judicial remand. The suspects Mala and Hafiz Amanullah have got pre-arrest bail while accused Anwar and Zahid have yet to be arrested. **(MEDIA CELL)**