

## **Press Release: FIA Launches Booklet on “Cyber Crime Risks, Prevention and Legal Remedies-Guidelines for Cyber Users”**

Director General Federal Investigation Agency, Dr. Sanaulah Abbasi while addressing the launching ceremony of booklet on “Guidelines for Cyber Users” reiterated FIA’s commitment to make cyber space a safer place for Pakistani users. He highlighted the fact that the cybercrimes are emerging as a challenges for law enforcement agencies across Pakistan, especially for FIA, as 80 percent of its complaints now relate to cybercrime. The magnitude of cybercrime in Pakistan can be gauged from the fact that FIA received 84,764 complaints in 2020, 300 percent more than the complaints received in 2019. FIA through its Cyber Crime Wing (CCW) is making consistent efforts to cope with this multidimensional challenge and come up to the expectations of public. For this purpose the government is providing sufficient resources to revamp digital forensics capability and human resource of CCW. As a part of strategy to effectively prevent cybercrimes this booklet has been produced to create awareness among cyber users about potential risks from criminals as well as the remedies they may avail eventually if they become victims.

He highlighted the fact that major categories of complaints pertain to financial fraud, harassment, defamation and child pornography. In each category specialized cells have been established for prevention, investigation and prosecution of these offences. The legal framework is also being strengthened in light of public feedback and judicial verdicts. Nature of cybercrime is as such that law enforcement departments cannot handle it all alone. Therefore, we have always welcomed collaboration with academia, civil society, media and community based organizations. He requested ministry of education and universities to make this booklet part of their syllabi. At the end he thanked the guests and participants, and congratulated the team behind this booklet especially Additional DG Cyber Crime Wing Mr. Ehsan Sadiq. He also thanked former DG FIA Mr. Wajid Zia for his contribution to the booklet.

Speaking on the occasion, Mr. Amaar Jaffri, Ex Additional Director General FIA, appreciated the efforts carried out by FIA in issuing the guidelines. Businesses, individuals and society at large are suffering at the hands of cyber criminals. Unsuspecting citizens not only get defrauded but also commit Cyber Crime due to ignorance of law. This booklet is the step in the right direction.

Barrister Muhammad Sarwar Khan, former secretary Law and Justice Commission of Pakistan highlighted the importance of this initiative. He termed it a comprehensive document as it encompasses all threats-from individual to national level. He hoped that it will help the law enforcement department and society as a whole to understand the threats and remedies in very simple and understandable ways.

Dr. Zia ul Qayyum, Vice Chancellor Allama Iqbal Open University (AIOU) lauded the public centric approach of FIA, evidenced through this booklet and offered to disseminate the cybersecurity awareness to the 1.2m students in particular, registered with AIOU for distant learning.

Dr. Zunaira Jalil Associate Professor Department of Cyber Security, from Air University termed the booklet very informative as real world case studies has been included in it. She also appreciated the special focus of document on crimes and risks related to children and women.

Mr. Mohiudin Wani, Additional Secretary Ministry of Education, while commenting on this launch said that this book has educative value and education department will try to make it part of school and college syllabus from the platform of National Curriculum Council. He assured of his support for spreading this awareness.

Others who spoke on the occasion included Ms. Sidrah Irshad and Mr. Shahid Awan.