QUETTA: Journalists walked out of the Balochistan Assembly and staged a demonstration outside the assembly building Tuesday to protest against the killing of Waqt News reporter Munir Shakir. However, the media personnel called off

their protest when the Balochistan government assured them of constituting a committee to probe the assassination. Shakir was shot dead by unidentified people on August 14 in Khuzdar.

The assurance was given by a group of provincial ministers to Balochistan Union of Journalists (BUJ) President Essa Tareen and General Secretary Hammadullah Seyapad outside the assembly.

Earlier, the journalists staged a walkout from the assembly, which was followed by a demonstration outside the assembly building against the murder of their colleague. The protest was arranged by Balochistan Union of Journalists to express the solidarity with the bereaved family.

After Balochistan Health Minister Ainullah Shams drew the attention of the chair towards the protest, PA Speaker Muhammad Aslam Bhootani asked the provincial ministers to redress the grievance of journalists.

The provincial ministers including Shams, Mir Abdur Rahman Mengal, Mir Hamal Kalmati and Mir Shanawaz Marri, came to negotiate with the protesting media personnel. The BUJ president told the ministers that 13 journalists were killed in Balochistan in last five years, but the government failed to provide security to them.

He said no compensation except in one case was given to the bereaved families.He demanded the government constitute a body to probe the murder of Shakir, announce compensation and provide security to working journalists.

The provincial ministers conveyed the message of the speaker, assuring that the provincial government would take step to fulfill their demands. After the assurance, the journalists called off their demonstration and returned to assembly session.

Local Reporter