

WHAT IS GENERAL MUSHARRAF DOING AT STANFORD?

Pakistan's Pinochet should be in Prison, not a Prestigious Speaker at Stanford

It is both ironic and pathetic that a former U.S.-backed military dictator who played a central role in perpetuating terror in Pakistan is allowed by a prestigious university like Stanford to lecture on the subject. In 1999, Pakistan was a stable country with a moderate political party in power. There were no suicide bombings, and no abductions by extremists. By 2007, Pakistan was among the world's most dangerous places. This transformation is the result of Musharraf's disastrous rule, and U.S. support for him.

Pakistan has received \$11 billion from the U.S. in direct aid for fighting terrorism, funds that he diverted in efforts to retain his support within the army, upgrade weapons to be used against India, and unleash systematic violence against his political opponents. Further, both the U.S. and Pakistan under Musharraf have colluded in the brutal bombing of Pakistan's north-western regions as part of the "war on terror," a counterproductive strategy that has strengthened the appeal of the Taliban for locals. Funding a military dictator and undertaking imperialist military campaigns have thus strengthened both the culture of militarism and militancy in Pakistan. The way to achieve peace and stability is to strengthen the rule of law, real democracy and social justice. The U.S.-Musharraf alliance has done just the opposite.

A Holistic Approach to Terrorism must begin with Holistic Accountability

QUESTION and ANALYZE the role of General Musharraf in Pakistan

HOLD HIM and U.S OFFICIALS ACCOUNTABLE

5 questions that Musharraf needs to answer & crimes that he must be tried for:

1 Abductions and Torture of "Missing People"

How would you feel, General, if your son was illegally abducted, tortured, and remained missing with no case and no trace? Under the garb of fighting the war on "terror," your military-intelligence regime kidnapped and brutalized 700 "disappeared" Pakistani citizens – these are just the documented ones – many of whom are secular-liberal Baloch and Sindhi students, journalists, poets, and political activists. Are they all terrorists? Who gave you the right to terrorize citizens and then have the audacity to speak about preventing terrorism?

2 Supporting Talibanization

How do you claim to protect Pakistan and the world from terrorism when the Pakistani military and ISI under you has continued to fund jihadi organizations? In 2002, in particular, you undertook sham elections in which secular-nationalist parties were banned, and – in line with the military-mullah alliance that has been in place since the 80s – you deliberately paved the way for religious parties to form a government in a Pakistani province for the first time in the history of the country. The North-West Frontier, since, has gradually descended into the most brutal form of Talibanization. Why is it that the government under you was so efficient in banning media and abducting reporters associated with KTN and Sindh TV, while Maluvi Fazlullah's FM radio in Swat and Bajaur Agency was allowed to operate freely? Maulvi Fazlullah now runs his parallel Taliban state in Swat.

3 Sabotaging the Democratic Process and Rule of Law

You illegally dismissed the elected Parliament of Pakistan in 1999 and then ruled for 9 years – a corrupt military dictatorship in which military officials grabbed state funds, land and power, and became entrenched in running everything from the bureaucracy to academic institutions. You committed treason again by imposing emergency in November 2007, this time launching a wholesale slaughter of the judicial branch of government – illegally dismissing and detaining more than 50 judges including the Chief Justice of Pakistan, arresting thousands of lawyers, students, human rights activists, and political party workers, and introducing draconian laws for court-marshalling citizens. *Your pretext?* The judges were releasing terrorists! *The real cause?* They were investigating the “missing people” case amongst others, and questioning your regime’s use of illegal abductions and torture i.e. they were protecting the public from your terrorism.

4 External military violence: The Kargil crisis of 1999

Your reckless military attack in Kargil in 1999 – in which Pakistani soldiers as well as hired fighters posed as mujahideen and attacked Indian-administered Kashmir – was undertaken without any regard for parliamentary process as well as the ongoing peace process with India. It brought India and Pakistan to near-war, caused the death of more than a thousand Pakistani soldiers and 500 Indian soldiers, and displaced hundreds of borders citizens.

5 Internal military violence: Bombing of Lal Masjid, Balochistan, Waziristan, Bajaur

Your sordid military campaigns are too many to count. You launched fighter jets and gunship helicopters to openly kill hundreds of Balochis as well as the prominent nationalist leader of Balochistan, Nawab Akbar Khan Bugti, who had served as the Chief Minister of Baluchistan, and was also an elected member of the National Assembly. Baloch nationalists had been rightly resisting the illegal control of their land and resources by your government. For years you support religious militancy, and then launch bombing campaigns on Lal Masjid in Islamabad, Waziristan and Bajaur under the “war on terror”, killing hundreds of innocent civilians while tacitly letting the big Taliban loose. Your bombing campaigns in the North-West Frontier Province have paved the way for the biggest Internally Displaced People (IDP) crisis in our history, with more than half a million people fleeing the region. You actively supported MQM violence on May 12, 2007 in Karachi, as MQM unleashed its violence on citizens and the media for its support of the lawyers’ movement.

Isn't this militarism the worst form of state terrorism; in fact, the very root of terrorism?

Useful links

Kin and Rights Groups Search for Pakistan's missing
<http://www.nytimes.com/2007/01/14/world/asia/14pakistan.html>

The Failure in the War on Terror, It's not Osama but
Musharraf
<http://www.thecrimson.com/article.aspx?ref=522121>

Endorsing Organizations

- Action for a Progressive Pakistan
progpak.wordpress.com
- Asian American Network Against Abuse of Human Rights
4anaa.org
- Friends of South Asia
friendsofsouthasia.org
- Pakistani American Congress
pacusa.org
- South Asian Network for Secularism and Democracy
sansad.org
- South Asian Solidarity Initiative
press@southasiainitiative.org
- San Jose Peace & Justice Center
sanjosepeace.org

You have to stand guard over the development and maintenance of democracy, social justice and the equality of mankind in your own native soil.

--Mohammed Ali Jinnah, founder of Pakistan