

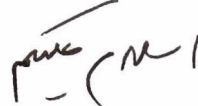


Mohammad Nawaz Sharif

10th November 2007

Mohtarama Benazir Bhutto
Chairperson
Pakistan Peoples' Party
Islamabad
Pakistan

Dear Benazir Sahiba,



Today Pakistan is facing grave crises. These are, without a shadow of doubt, the most critical times in the history of our beloved country. Things have reached such a state that it has become incumbent on all Pakistanis — men and women, young and old — who have faith in the country's constitution and democratic principles to play their role. There can be no two opinions that in this fast-changing scenario, politicians have to unite in order to fulfill their national obligations, failing which history will never forgive us.

I have received your messages expressing your desire to strike a common ground and forge a coalition of all opposition parties including the holding of an All Parties Conference for the purpose of achieving this objective.

It is my resolute conviction that after Pervez Musharraf's abrogation of the Constitution on November 3, 2007, and the sacking of Chief Justice Iftikhar Muhammad Chaudhry together with other Supreme and High Court judges through a Provisional Constitutional Order, the necessity of the opposition parties taking a united stand against the brutal actions of Pervez Musharraf has become inevitable.

The formation of the Alliance for the Restoration of Democracy (ARD) was the first step in our march towards the revival of democracy. This struggle took an even more concrete shape when we together signed the Charter of Democracy. Our moves were



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wholeheartedly endorsed not only by the constituents of the ARD but by the common man, media, intelligentsia, civil society, human rights associations, opposition parties and the international community as well. Supremacy of the Constitution and Parliament, restoration of democracy, independence of the Judiciary, freedom of the Media, and a complete and permanent end to the role of the army and intelligence agencies in the country's political sphere were the foundations on which our cooperation rested. The All-Parties Conference hosted by PML (N) in London in July 2007 was another step in this direction. I am glad that you have now finally realized the efficacy of holding an All Parties Conference and forming a united opposition front against dictatorship.

You have announced your plan to take out a long march from Lahore on November 13 in case Musharraf fails to fulfill his promises. As we are not aware of their nature, we would appreciate if you could take us into confidence about the details of those promises.

Meanwhile, I have already spoken to several members of the APDM about your proposal. And I shall contact the remaining in the next couple of days because they are under arrest and hence not contactable.

The APDM members that I have already spoken to feel that for any front to succeed would very clearly require the following objectives:

1. The Constitution of Pakistan should return to its original form as it stood on Oct. 12, 1999.
2. Immediate withdrawal of PCO, lifting of Martial Law/Emergency but, most importantly, reinstatement of Chief Justice Iftikhar Muhammad Chaudhry and all other judges of the Supreme Court and High Courts prior to the proclamation of the PCO on Nov. 3, 2007. Let us not forget that the removal of the chief justice and other judges was the one and the only objective of imposing Martial Law/Emergency. It will be inconceivable to ignore the noble movement led by our lawyers, civil society and democratic forces from March 9 to July 20 which had the involvement of people from Khyber to Karachi. And what happened on May 12 in Karachi? Can the nation ignore the sacrifice of 48 people who laid their precious lives for an independent judiciary in Pakistan?
3. Complete freedom of the media and immediate release of all those who have been arrested in the aftermath of the events of November 3, 2007.



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4. Free and fair elections by an independent, effective and impartial Election Commission under a neutral caretaker set up to be appointed in consultation with the united opposition. Indeed, no credible elections are possible under the current handpicked judiciary and a subservient Election Commission.

As you are already aware that our party stands committed to the above agenda. I have made this abundantly clear to the media in the last few days. I will appreciate if you can also confirm your acceptance of the aforementioned four-point agenda for the proposed All Parties Conference.

Lastly, I sincerely believe that in order to achieve the aforesaid agenda, all the political forces need to abandon all contacts with the establishment and the dictator.

With warm regards,

Yours sincerely,

Muhammad Nawaz Sharif

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