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SANA President's Protest to NPR

Recently National Public Radio aired an interview with Pakistani Ambassador to the U.S. Following is the text of his letter which was aired by NPR earlier this month.

Dear Weekend Edition,

In your recent interview of Abida Hussain, the new Pakistani Ambassador to the United States, many critical issues were not addressed. While nuclear proliferation and U.S. foreign assistance are indeed important, perhaps your reporter would have performed a more thorough interview by including other subjects - the continued governmental repression of the opposition and massive abuses of civil liberties to millions of Pakistani people. Brutal human rights repression throughout Pakistan, and most particularly in the province of Sindh, has received significant international attention, and obviously should have been discussed by NPR with the charming new Ambassador.

The deterioration of the political climate is highly visible and the governmental reign of terror can be seen in the media all most on a daily basis. Censorship and intimidation of the press is now common; reporters have been beaten, stabbed, and shot at on many occasions. In February of 1991 Nawaz Sheikh, an independent journalist, was seriously beaten and wounded after publishing a story on a land scandal in his paper, "Jaago", implicating the Provincial Minister Ghulam Mohammad Milikhani. The highly respected Kamran Khan, the Karachi correspondent for the Washington Post, was later savagely attacked by government agents and was stabbed seventeen times after filing critical stories about the current Pakistani regime.

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US Congressmen tell Bush about Human Rights situation in Pakistan

Four U.S. Congressmen, including the rather 'notorious' Stephen Solarz, have drawn the attention of the U.S. President George Bush towards "continuing deterioration in human rights conditions and democratic processes" in Pakistan.

The four Congressmen include Les Aspin, Chairman House Armed Services Committee, Dante B. Fascell, Chairman House Foreign Affairs Committee, Dave McCurdy, Chairman House Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence and Stephen Solarz, Chairman Subcommittee on Asian and Pacific Affairs. Appreciating the U.S. President's efforts to prevent nuclear proliferation in South Asia, especially in the context of Pakistan's nuclear program, the Congressmen have urged Mr. Bush to take cognizance of the "issues relating to human rights and democratic development in Pakistan" which, according to these Congressmen, are "obstacles to positive relations between our two nations."

Excerpts from the letter:

"Over the last year and a half, we have been increasingly concerned by actions of the Pakistani government relating to repression of the Bhutto government, including attacks and threats on the life of former Prime Minister Bhutto herself. The human rights situation throughout Pakistan, and most particularly in the province of Sindh, has received significant international attention. The selective use of the political accountability process by the government - using special courts outside the normal judicial processes of Pakistan, for example - is of continuing concern to the U.S. Congress. Indeed, the prosecution of selective references against Ms. Bhutto and former Ministers of her government - to the exclusion of members of other political parties in Pakistan and most particularly the ruling party - raises serious questions of fairness and justice.



The disqualification of either Ms. Bhutto or members of her former government through this questionable legal procedure, which has been directly denounced by international human rights associations and the U.S. Lawyers Committee on Human Rights, now threatens the very foundations of democratic order in Pakistan, and may cause the entire Opposition to resign in protest from the National Assembly.

"Such action would receive significant international attention and obviously could impact Congressional attitudes toward U.S. assistance to Pakistan, even if the Pressler certification matter could somehow be resolved. Additionally, the stream of arrest of PPP activist recently documented by *The Washington Post*, the harassment and physical attacks of members and the almost daily reports of arrest, torture, murder, rape, and abuse directed against opposition leaders and supporters in Pakistan, is viewed in the most serious terms by many in the U.S. Congress."

"It is important that the government of Pakistan understands that the Congress of the United States is concerned about the continuing deterioration in human rights and in democratic process, and that these issues are fundamental to U.S. relations. We all wish for restoration of cordial relations between the United States and Pakistan. This would be most difficult however, if the political and human rights abuses now rampant throughout Pakistan are not ended.

Viewpoint

EDITORIAL

A Letter to President Bush

WHEREAS ... you acknowledged that abuse of human rights in Kuwait was a prime reason for your decision to use military force and to remove Iraq from Kuwait. And;

WHEREAS... you have stated that with the end of military action "we can see a new world coming into view... a world in which freedom and respect for human rights finds a home among all nations." And;

THEREFORE ... we urge you to seize the opportunity which now exists and take these two critically important steps to advance human rights:

Employ a single standard for human rights. Torture is torture - whether in Iraq, or Syria, or Israel, or China, or Lithuania, or El Salvador, or Sri Lanka, or India, or Pakistan, or anywhere on earth. The human rights measuring stick must be the same. And its application must be consistent worldwide. If the U.S. government, through its foreign relation policies, demonstrates the same concerns about human rights in all countries - both friends and foes - we will be making an impact on the lives of victims long before these abuses reach a crisis stage.

Take action steps to abolish torture worldwide. The crisis in the gulf clearly showed that human rights violations, when ignored, are a powderkeg. If we allow massive abuses of human rights to go unchallenged for too long, the perpetrator may believe - as the Pakistani Establishment does - that it will be free to commit even more outrageous acts, including violating even the basic human rights of Sindhis. You, as President, *can - and must - set the tone by openly speaking out against torture anywhere it is discovered.* You must make it clear that good relations with the United States are not possible for governments which are responsible for human rights violations and that no exceptions will be made to this principle.

For where there is injustice, there is the seed of conflict. Where human rights are violated, there are threats to peace. We urge you to act.

Protest marches against terrorism in Sindh

Sindh has been in turmoil. Its soul is tormented by the tyrannies of Ghulam-Ishaq-Khan-Jam-Marwat administration. It is yearning for peace. To achieve this objective and to bring together the scattered and bewildered masses on one platform against the tyrants, two long marches, one headed by Mr. Rasul Bux Palijo and called the Protest March, and the other, led by Jam Saqi and called the Peace March, have taken place.

The Protest Long March which started from Sukkur on December 6, ended at the Governor's House in Karachi on January 2. A 10 man delegation of the marchers met the Acting Governor and handed over to him a memorandum of demands. There was absolutely no display of weapons at any stage of the two marches, each of which covered over 500 kilometers in 28 days.

The Awami Tehreek's Protest March started with 16 persons, 10 men and six women, and was joined by hundreds of people en-route. The purpose of the march was to create awareness among the people about what was happening to Sindh and how it was being deprived of its political and economic rights. The marchers reached Goth Natha Khan on Karachi's outskirts on the night of January 1 and began the last stage of their journey to the Governor's House on the morning of January 2. In Karachi, the march was joined by thousands of people which included a large number of women with babies in their arms.

Benazir Greets

At Baloch Colony on Shahrah-i-Faisal, the marchers were welcomed by Benazir Bhutto who walked with them for a while before leaving by air for Larkana to observe Zulfikar Ali Bhutto's birthday on January 5. Ms. Bhutto was accompanied by Syed Qaim Ali Shah, Mr. Aftab Shaaban Mirani, Mr. Abdullah Shah and others. Awami Tehreek workers garlanded Ms. Bhutto and showered rose petals on her. She called the long march as a milestone in the struggle for the restoration of democracy and human rights in Sindh.

The marchers carried banners and placards on which the following slogans were written:

*Stop torturing political prisoners
Stop conspiracy to
turn Sindhis into minority
Do not turn Sindh into a desert
Root out dacoits
Long Live Peace.*

When the marchers reached the Governor's House, they found the Aiwan-i-Sadr Road closed and ringed by a large contingent of police and rangers. The marchers then turned themselves into a meeting which was addressed by Mr. Rasul Bux Palijo. The Awami Tehreek chief said the Government, foisted by Islamabad on Sindh, was "an unholy alliance of feudal traitors and terrorists". He said these Islamabad-imposed rulers "are themselves involved in heinous crimes including murders, robberies and dacoities" and "later they falsely implicate political opponents."

Mr. Palijo said that after the assassination of Special Court Judge Nabi Sher Junejo, around 2000 political workers had been arrested from various parts of Sindh. "Could anyone justify so many arrests from Thatta to Kashmore and allegedly involved in a single murder," he asked. The rulers of Sindh had robbed the people of peace, he said.

Mr. Palijo alleged that various Government agencies were involved in patronising criminals and dacoits and were providing them with sophisticated weapons, including rockets and high explosives. He said that the Awami Tehreek would continue the struggle for the restoration of democracy in Sindh. Its next step would be a signature campaign, hunger strikes, pickets and demonstrations.

Another long march, called the Peace March, was in progress and was expected to reach Karachi on January 7 to present a memorandum to the Acting Governor.

The peace march which started from Reto, a town on the Sindh-Punjab border, on December 10 is headed by Jamhoori Tehreek leader Jam Saqi and enjoys much wider support. These marchers carried white flags of peace and avoided political slogans which were restricted to mainly "Save Sindhis from dacoits and terrorist" and "we want peace".

The peace marchers were warmly welcomed in villages, towns and cities where leaders addressed big rallies. The main theme of Jam Saqi's address was that his objective was to form a strong broad-based alliance of all political organizations in Sindh and to launch a joint struggle for the survival of Sindh and the Sindhi people.

(cont. on page 3)

He made it clear that any alliance without the PPP would not represent Sindh. Jam Saqi warned that 'secret hands' were trying to crush the people.

At Hyderabad the administration tried to create a crisis by asking the peace marchers not to pass through the MQM localities, although a few days earlier, Mr. Paliyo's marchers had passed through these areas and no untoward incident had occurred.

The Jeay Sindh Taraqqi Pasand Party (TJSTP), the Jeay Sindh Mahaz (JSM), the PPP and the Sindh Democrats group gave a historic reception to Jam Saqi when he entered Hyderabad.

Earlier, on his way to Naushero Feroze, Jam Saqi's caravan was welcomed by JSTP leader, Dr. Quadir Magi's brother, Ghulam Ali. At Tharu Shah, former PPP Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah, welcoming the marchers, said: "From now on, the PPP will be with you at every step." Jam Saqi said his march was for the protection of chadar and chardiwari. He asked President Ghulam Ishaq and Jam Sadiq Ali: "If everything is well in Sindh then who has violated the honour of the daughter of a colleague of the Founder of the Nation?" He said that the Ishaq-Jam government had laid off thousands of Sindhi youth because they had been given employment by the PPP.

Viewpoint

Sindh slipping in provincial race for investment

Punjab has emerged as Pakistan's leading industrial province leaving the three other provinces far behind. In 1991, the province attracted an estimated industrial investment of Rs. 24 billion - about 60% of the total Rs. 40 billion invested in the country over the period.

The favorable law and order situation and the presence of single ethnic majority, have made the province a safe haven for investment seekers.

The investors, who a few years ago were anxious to invest their funds in Karachi and Sindh, are now extremely digusted with the deteriorating law and order problem and the sharp ethnic polarisation in the province.

Dawn

"Family background linked to Kings and Saints of Sindh"

G.M. SYED

Sindh Chief Minister Jam Sadiq Ali said he would not allow anyone to usurp the rights of Sindh and its people so long as he was the head of the Provincial Government.

Addressing a gathering at a reception held in his honor by veteran politician G. M. Syed at Haider Manzil, the Chief Minister said he had no enmity with anyone but would never compromise with the enemies of Sindh.

"Sindh is part of Pakistan and all those living here will get their due rights," he said, adding: "I will not let any traitor of Sindh go unpunished."

Mr. Qamar Bhatti, a JST leader, read out the speech of Mr. G.M. Syed in which the elderly politician said his political career "covers three quarters of the century and has seen many ups and downs of politics and history.

Mr. Syed said he had seen political affiliations and enmities changing and rechanging. However, his love and hatred, friendship and enmity revolves around Sindh and Sindh alone." In this regard, Mr. G.M. Syed said he had confronted many tyrants but never compromised on principles and was not cowed down by them.

Mr. Syed said he knew the family background of Jam Sadiq Ali which was linked with the Kings and Saints of Sindh. He said Jam Sadiq belongs to the noble family of Jam Tamachi who was a great lover of Sindh and a great philanthropist. Mr. Syed said Jam Sadiq "Has love for Sindh in his blood," and added: "There is no doubt that the Jam will not hesitate to go all-out for the rights of Sindh and its people."

Mr. G.M. Syed said his party believed in the principle of non-violence and that is why it embraced the Mohajirs when they came here. He said the Jeay Sindh believed in peaceful co-existence but lamented that differences were created among different segments of society which "is unfortunate." He said: "Both Jeay Sindh and Mohajirs support Jam Sadiq and they are with him for the sake of Sindh."

He hoped that the Jam would succeed in making Sindh an abode of love, peace, progress and prosperity.

Dawn

A morale booster from GIK

Immediately after the Prime Minister's visit, President Ghulam Ishaq Khan flew into Karachi, ostensibly to condole the death of Pir Pagara's brother and participate in a Navy function, but in fact to undo what Nawaz Sharif seemed to have achieved.

The Prime Minister tried to restore the shattered confidence of the people of Sindh in the law-enforcement agencies by making his displeasure with Irfanullah Marwat's police, especially the CIA, known to the people; removing the CIA chief and an MQM-backed DIG; instituting an inquiry into the irregularities of the Sindh Police and publicly distancing himself and his Government from the MQM, at least in the provincial sphere.

The President met the MQM and the Jam group MNA's, MPA's and Senators and assured his full support to the Jam Government by declaring that "The greater awareness should be created in the common man about the success of the (Jam) administration on various fronts." He condemned "Conspiracies to divide the coalition allies."

He preached what he himself never practices, he said that "There is need for an even-handed and non-partisan approach in dealing with law and order problems. He said that supremacy of law could be fully established only when criminal elements were dealt with equally and no-one was allowed to escape law.

Viewpoint

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Sindh Simmers

Under Federal persuasion or threats, the Sindh Chief Minister has performed a quick sommersault and placed G.M. Syed under house arrest within a day of certifying that the veteran Sindhi leader was a true patriot.

This and other related developments follow the elaborate celebration of G.M. Syed's 89th birthday at a public meeting in Karachi, where a Sindhu Desh anthem of some sort was sung and demands made for the further dismemberment of Pakistan. G.M. Syed's speech dwelt on his traditional theme of Punjabi imperialism, but went on to demand that Sindh, Balochistan, Pakhtoonkhwa and Seraiki Desh, should be made separate sovereign States.

Apart from these varied elements, a large body of opinion in Sindh and elsewhere is represented by the People's Party which holds that the federal principal embodied in 1973 Constitution represents a viable scheme that can be made to work to the satisfaction of all sections of the people. Where amendments are needed, these can be introduced by consensus as was devised in the MRD formula. It is true, of course, that the unanimously adopted 1973 Constitution was not allowed to function properly, and later amendments took away from it a great deal of the support it had received originally. Of course, the post-Bhutto amendments, particularly those following the Eighth Amendment, have completely destroyed the original constitutional pattern and reduced it to a dyarchy that has taken the country back to the middle era of the British Raj.

Not surprisingly, Sindh continues to simmer. It can easily begin to boil, if its complicated situation is not dealt with on a rational democratic basis. Sindh's real problem must be tackled; putting G.M. Syed under house arrest is meaningless.

Viewpoint

Resettlement of Biharis in Seraiki Belt to be Opposed

Central President Pakistan Seraiki Party Taj Mohammad Khan Langah, told a Press conference on Sunday that his party opposed the rehabilitation of "Biharis" in the Seraiki area of Punjab.

"They are a stateless people and it is the responsibility of the United Nations High Commission for Refugees to settle them in a country other than Pakistan", he said.

He said the contention that Biharis are stranded Pakistanis was incorrect because they were not included in the agreed category of refugees as was the case with the people who migrated to Pakistan from East Punjab.

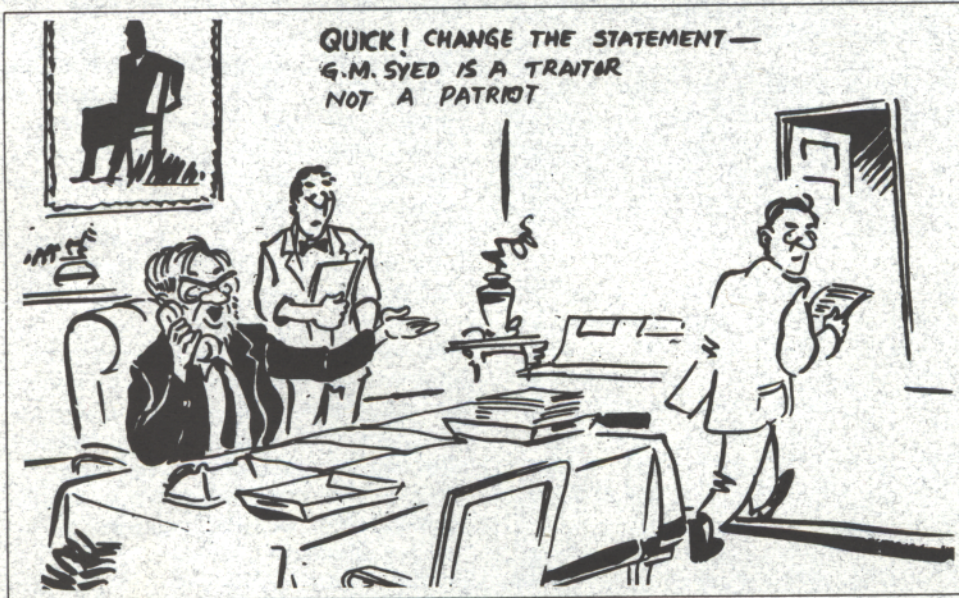
If Mr. Nawaz Sharif has any understanding with the MQM on the Bihari issue, he said they should be settled in a third country, possibly Saudi Arabia. The money collected for their repatriation could also be spent in Bangladesh for their rehabilitation, he added.

He opposed the MQM slogan that Mohajirs were a nationality. He said Mohajirs are Sindhis but they have a different life style. "All those people who are living in different provinces of Pakistan are the citizens of that province," he observed.

Mr. Langah said Seraikis would use conventional methods to achieve their objective of creating a Seraiki province. The Punjabis themselves differentiate between Seraikis and Punjabis but they were reluctant to accept the demand for a Seraiki province because it would minimize their political strength in the National Assembly, he pointed out.

He said it was in the interests of the Federation that Punjab be divided if not in three then at least in two parts to end the "hegemony" of Punjab in national politics. The third province, he said could be formed in Potohar areas.

Dawn



Unsolved problems

Syed's Jiye Sindh group represents the extremist wing of what is generally described as the nationalist movement. It betrays a narrow outlook and avoids co-operation with parties and groups willing to help meet Sindh's just demands. There are other groups in Sindh who are also totally dissatisfied with the status quo. Mumtaz Bhutto, for example, represents the confederationists who believe that Pakistan can survive only as a confederation, with each province being accepted as an autonomous entity. This thinking has gained support among those who believe that in Pakistan's conditions, the simple federal principle is not workable, because the powerful Pakistan Establishment assumes powers that are not sanctioned by the constitution and the law.

Sindh also has to deal with complicated socio-economic issues; and the facilities provided to settlers have created ethnic problems that have been handled very badly by dictatorial misrule. Also the imbalance in development in Sindh's different regions, the total neglect of the countryside, has created a rift between different sections of the people. All these matters need to be dealt with, but nothing can be done as long as Sindh is denied its right to representative government through free elections. The current crisis arises from the fact that the Federal authorities have decided that Sindh should not be allowed to take its own decisions, and that its straps will be appointed by the Establishment - being judged solely on the basis of their ability to fight the Peoples' Party and keep it out of normal political life.

6 Sindhi girl students expelled

Six Sindhi girl students out of the 20, who were injured during the attack of group of urban-based linguistic organisation in Ibne-Rushid Girls College Mirpur Khas on January 14, have been expelled from the school by issuing their transfer certificates on Saturday.

According to reports from Mirpur Khas, two Sindhi girls of the school, who were injured in the attack of the armed activists of an urban-based organization, were astonished to know on Saturday that the administration of the college, contrary to taking action against those girls who brought the armed outsiders in the premises of the college, have decided to expel six of the injured Sindhi girl students by issuing their transfer certificates. Three of the six girls who have been expelled from the college are: Aysha Narcjo, Fatima and Bakhtawar.

Meanwhile, local political leaders have condemned the action of the administration having taken this step on the behest of the said urban-based organisation.

F.P. Bureau Report

Human Rights British Envoy Visits Sindh

British diplomat, Martin Rooper is in Sindh and he is meeting political personalities in connection with the violations of human rights in Sindh, especially in Sukkur and Larkana.

In this connection, he met Secretary-General of Awami Tahreek, Nizam Baloch today and collected facts and figures about human rights violations in Sindh.

It may be recalled British Minister of Interior when visiting Pakistan few days ago, said human rights violations were being committed in Sindh. But the government of Sindh blatantly belied his statement.

It is quite significant that the British diplomat's tour of Sindh, is of a fact-finding nature.

F.P. Bureau Report

HRCF on human rights in Sindh

The 43rd Anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights was jointly organised by Human Rights Commission of Pakistan and Amnesty International, Hyderabad Chapter, on 10th December, 1991.

Mr. Shakil Pathan, Mustaq Mirani, Liaqat Aziz, Taj Joyo, Tahir Bin Yousif, Zafar Rajput and others spoke on the violations of human rights in Sindh and other provinces of the country.

The following resolutions were unanimously passed.

Violations of human rights in Pakistan in general and in Sindh in particular should be stopped.

All political prisoners should be released and the people and media should not be deceived by declaring them prisoners arrested under criminal offenses.

The rape and criminal assault on Veena Hayat, Khurshid Begum, Rahila Tawana, Subhan Rajpar, and other women are condemned and it is demanded that the culprits should be arrested and punished.

The torture of villagers in villages of Sindh by police, rangers and other law enforcing agencies should be stopped and judicial enquiry be started against these agencies.

The relatives of wanted people should not be arrested, in Sindh particularly

Without an arrest warrant the people should not be arrested, in Sindh particularly.

The violence against journalist and press should be stopped and they should be given freedom. We condemn the violence against Zafar Abbas, Shabir Bhutto, Shaheen Sehbbhai, Kamran Khan, Nawaz Shaikh, Pandhi Khan Mallah, Ch. Ghulam Hussain and others.

The special courts and dual judiciary system should be stopped.

The Huddod Ordinance should be repealed.

The minorities particularly Hindus in Sindh should be protected and separate electorate system for minorities should be abolished.

Prof. Amir Ali Qadri, professor at Sindh Agricultural University, Tando Jam should be reinstated.

Termination of services of government employees on political grounds in Sindh should be stopped and the terminated employees be reinstated.

2nd phase of census in Sindh postponed

The second phase of census, which was to start on February 22, as per revised schedule, has been postponed indefinitely, it is reliably learnt.

A decision to this effect is said to have been taken by federal government authorities at the highest level. However, so far their reasons for taking this "surprising" decision could not be made known.

Earlier, according to informed circles, federal government contacted provincial governments recently to ask their opinion as to whether the second phase of national census be conducted as per revised schedule or be postponed. It is said, that Sindh government, in response to the said query, had expressed its determination to go ahead with the program to conduct the second phase of the census, and has almost finalised all preparations to do the needful. However, it could not be known as to what was the opinion of other provincial governments.

It may be mentioned that first phase of census was conducted in early 1991 and its second phase i.e. enumerations of individuals was scheduled to start in March 1991. But this phase was postponed in the background of the reports that the results of the first phase i.e. counting houses in Sindh and Balochistan was suspended. Such reports caused strong reaction particularly in Sindh, and different political parties and organizations in Sindh have all along been demanding to release the results of the first phase of census. In the meantime, government announced revised schedule of census by which second phase was scheduled to start February 22, and was to end by March 2.

As a follow-up of this announcement, Sindh cabinet at its meeting held by the end of last month approved their revised schedule as prepared by the federal government and it was also decided to form a six-member committee comprising of the representatives to be nominated by Sindh chief minister and MQM.

Frontier Post

Sindh Crime Statistics

1,160 persons were kidnapped for ransom in 1991.

The incidents of kidnapping for ransom in the province showed an increase of 57% in 1991, official statistics up to December 15, 1991 indicated.

According to these figures 1,160 persons were kidnapped for ransom in 1991 as against 740 in the corresponding period of 1990.

Of them, 779 persons were recovered in 1991 as against 409 in 1990.

The incidents of dacoities in Sindh, however, decreased by 28% in 1990-91. The dacoities committed numbered 252 up to December 15 as against 360 cases registered in the same period of 1990.

As regards cases of kidnapping and abduction, the figures showed a fall of 24% i.e. from 890 cases in 1990 to 675 cases in 1991.

In the same period of 1990 and 91 up to December 15, the police seized 286 automatic weapons in 1990, which rose to 432 in 1991. The semi-automatic weapons seized in 1990 numbered 5,558 whereas in 1991, police captured 5,159 weapons (showing a decrease of 7%). The ammunition seized in 1990 accounted for 49,872 magazines/bullets and 73,980 in 1991 (showing an increase of 48%).

During the same period, the number of police encounters with dacoits increased by 69% i.e. it rose from 293 in '90 to 495 in 1991 in which 297 dacoits were killed in 1991; as against 143 in 1990 (showing an increase of killing by 108%).

The number of dacoits arrested was 900 in 1991 as against 752 in 1990 showing an increase of 20%.

According to these statistics more police officers were killed in 1991 i.e. 73 as against 37 in 1990, showing an increase of 97%. As many as 133 police officers were hurt in encounters in 1991 as against 75 in 1990 - an increase of 77%.

Sindh Government had notified 195 dacoits as proclaimed offenders terming them as most wanted outlaws for whose arrest a total of Rs 124.5 million was announced as "Head Money"

Dawn.

Presidents Letter

(continued from page 1)

The increasing number of political arrest, torture and death of Pakistani people in political custody is alarming and of the greatest concern. In the recent Amnesty International Human Rights in Pakistan report there are hundreds of detailed accounts of unspeakable torture and abuse. In one case a senior Sindh community leader and his son were arrested and detained by the government on unspecified charges. The boys sexual organ was tied with a thin pipe and he was forced to drink large quantities of water, until his bladder ruptured, and he died. And now a new form of terrorism has been concocted by the current government of Pakistan - the use of politically motivated rape to extract confessions from women against opposition figures in the country. Brutal gang rapes conducted by police and other government officers against democratic leaders in the country have become common place and have been strongly condemned by human rights groups within Pakistan and around the world. It would have been totally appropriate for the new female Ambassador of Pakistan to have been questioned about these atrocities.

The deterioration of human rights and democracy in Pakistan recently prompted four important committee chairmen in the U.S. House of Representatives - Les Aspin of the House Armed Service Committee, Dante Fascell of the House Foreign Affairs Committee, Dave McGurdy of the House Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence, and Stephen Solarz of the Subcommittee on Asian and Pacific Affairs - to protest to President Bush. The last paragraph of their letter well summarizes the current political situation in Pakistan and should have been included in the NPR interview of Ms. Hussain. The committee chairs wrote: "It is important that the government of Pakistan understand that the Congress of the United States is concerned about the continuing deterioration in human rights conditions and democratic processes, and that these issues are fundamental to U.S. relations with other nations in the post-Cold War period. We all wish for restoration of cordial relations between the United States and Pakistan. This would be most difficult, however, if the political and human rights abuses now rampant throughout Pakistan are not ended."

Tragically, Pakistan has fallen back into repression and tyranny, and the brutality in the province of Sindh approaches Nazi-like proportions. A thorough and well-balanced interview might have offered your audience a clearer and more accurate picture of the current situation in Pakistan, the reality of which is very different from the flowery and simple presentation of Ambassador Hussain. I hope that my criticism is taken constructively and will help to broaden any further information you might broadcast concerning Pakistan in the future, and in some small way contributes to easing the suffering and pain of the innocent and defenseless people of Pakistan at the hands of the military-backed regime.

Thank you.

Dr. A.W. Bhatti

Feb. 6, 1992

The G.M. Syed Affair

Within a week of President Ghulam Ishaq Khan's chosen Sindh Chief Minister, Jam Sadiq Ali, having bestowed a certificate of patriotism on Jeay Sindh Rehbar G.M. Syed, the Sindh nationalist leader was arrested on a treason charge. And according to IJI Law Minister Choudhry Abdul Ghafoor, Syed would be tried by a speedy trial court. However, the arrest was made under MPO for detention for 30 days.

The arrest came as a consequence of speeches made by the Rehbar and other leaders at the 89th birth anniversary of Syed on January 17, in which disintegration of Pakistan was publicly advocated. Syed in his speech had said that "Pakistan and Sindh cannot go together." Same was the rhetoric of all other speeches.

In fact what Syed said on Jan. 17 was not new and was known to Islamabad earlier when the permission to hold the meeting was given, as he has been saying the same thing for a long time. And in pursuance of that policy he visited India with the permission of Gen. Zia and there he had sought military assistance from Rajiv Gandhi, which he had refused.

Zia sends Bouquets

Despite all these known facts, Gen. Zia had sent bouquets to Syed in the hospital and Ghulam Ishaq Khan had encouraged his chosen Chief Minister to seek Syed's support.

Syed Affair

(Continued)

Jam Sadiq Ali, on the advice of Ghulam Ishaq Khan, launched a campaign "to make people aware of his success", and told hundreds of journalists, called from all over Pakistan at a cost of about a million rupees on three consecutive days (Jan 14, 15, 16) at three separate luncheons, that Syed was a true Pakistani, a patriot, and he had never heard Syed mention Sindhudesh.

It was for the first time under the patronage of Jam that Syed and his supporters moved out of Sann to Karachi to hold his annual birthday ceremony at Nishtar Park in the stronghold of the MQM, Jam Sadiq's ally in the coalition. The administration provided all possible help for the meeting. Chief Minister's Special Assistant on Political Affairs Ghazi Salahuddin represented the Jam at the meeting. It was a different matter that he was later dismissed.

Why did the IJI government endear itself to Syed and his Jeay Sindh Mahaz whose sympathisers are also in the coalition? The explanation came from none other than the son of G.M. Syed, Amir Haider Shah, MPA, himself. He said that he and his family had no old traditional relations with the Jam (as the Hala family claims to have), but the basis of their relations was anti-PPP stance. Thus hostility to PPP was considered reason enough for an alliance between the federalist of Ghulam Ishaq Khan and IJI and the separatist of G.M. Syed.

It is this soft corner for Syed and expediency of having a patch-up in future which prevented authorities from claiming responsibility for Syed's arrest. Initially it was given out that the arrest was ordered by Interior Minister Shujaat Hussain. Later this was modified to say that it was the Jam who ordered the arrest. Subsequently it was given out that the President himself took the initiative and the arrest was effected without the knowledge of Shujaat and the Jam. No official handout was issued in this connection.

It may be recalled that when the IJI came to power through the rigged elections, Syed was under arrest, facing a treason charge for burning the National Flag. The IJI Government of Nawaz Sharif had released Syed, withdrawn the case and entered into alliance with his supporters to suppress the federalist Peoples Party.

It was in this background that Syed, while receiving his detention order, is reported to have observed that the Jam and Nawaz Sharif were great hypocrites. Syed's support to the Jam Government was quite consistent with his policy because he was reported as saying: "The way Jam Sadiq Ali was ruling Sindh, the goal of Sindhudesh is being brought ever closer." Syed was motivated by the same consideration when he showered praises at Gen. Zia.

While there was an uproar in the country on the text and tenor of the speeches made at the birthday meeting, the MQM leadership, which is otherwise very vocal and keeps newspapers all the time under pressure for publishing its long badly written statements, maintained a studied silence and made no show of its patriotism.

The reason for this silence is that the responsibility of what has happened falls directly on the Jam -- the darling of the MQM -- who befriended Syed, gave a certificate of patriotism only a day prior to the birthday meeting and made all arrangements for the occasion. Any participation of the MQM in the debate would weaken the position of the Jam.

Despite all the noise and fury of the IJI Ministers against G.M. Syed's speeches, political observers believe it is all a *nura kushthi* and that not only Syed and his associates will not be prosecuted by a speedy trial court but the cases will soon be withdrawn and the Jam-Marwat clique will be sending bouquets to the octogenarian nationalist and seeking his favors in the achievement of the mutual goal -- the destruction of the federalist forces in the province.

The Jeay Sindh Mahaz observed a strike on Jan. 22 to protest the pattern of the recent past when the province displayed its wounds of ethnic polarisation. The strike was complete in localities dominated by the Sindhi-speaking people, partial in mixed areas and a failure in localities dominated by the Urdu-speaking people. Main shopping centers and offices in Karachi, Hyderabad and Sukkur remained open and business was normal.

Letters to the Editor
or
Community Corner
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COMMUNITY CORNER

OBITUARY

Fauzia Abbasi wife of Mr. Saeed Kazi and Daughter of Kazi Abid of Hyderabad expired on 2-9-92 in Los Angeles. SANA expresses its heart felt sympathies with the bereaved family.

Mr. Nazir Mughal of New York has had a heart attack recently. We all wish him well...

Nadeem Qaurar is back from Pakistan after one month stay...

Dr. Shabbir Shaikh, Editor of SANGAT remains in Pakistan attending to his mother who is recuperating from her heart attack. He is expected to return very soon...

Sindh Governor had a triple by-pass surgery in New York recently. Before his surgery, on an invitation from Dr. Nazir Mughal, he visited Edinboro University in PA. Dr. Mughal also took the Governor to Canada to meet Dr. Badar Afghan to discuss the state of educational projects in Sindh...

Vice Chancellor Sindh University R.A. Shah is presently on a 3 week tour of the U.S...

Mahmood Qalbani SANA Gen. Sec. has said that a block of rooms has been reserved at the Hotel Marriot at Los Angeles Airport. Telephone 213-641-5700, please call or write to the hotel directly to reserve your accommodations. Be sure to mention the SANA name to receive the discounted rate of \$59 per day. The annual convention will be held on July 4th & 5th this year.

SANA
Annual Convention
July 4th & 5th 1992
Los Angeles CA.
Make Your
Reservations Now

Sindhi Medical Association of North America is holding its annual convention in Chicago, IL, on the 2nd and 3rd of May. This convention is sponsored by the Pharmaceutical Companies.

The Month

News in brief

Pakistan and India exchange lists of nuclear facilities following agreement to abstain from attacking each other's installations...

Ban on recruitment to Government jobs ends; merit promised as sole criterion...

MQM dissidents expose Sindh Government's partisan recruitment policy...

Jamaat-i-Islami Quazi Hussain objects to Pakistani COAS's contact with King Zahir Shah...

Bhutto's 65th birth anniversary observed in the country by PPP...

Lahore High Court rules against President's power of commuting death sentences because of Qisas and Diyat law...

MQM dissidents criticize Sindh Assembly Speaker for bias...

Sindh Assembly Speaker refuses to accept resignations of two dissident PPP MPA's...

Former COAS Aslam Beg calls for support to Kashmiris struggle, but wants war with India to be avoided...

Federal Government increases electricity rates countrywide, except for Karachi, by 2.5%, notification issued...

Larkana bomb blast; two killed...

Mumtaz Bhutto and group joins Jeay Sindh Progressive Party...

COAS Asif Nawaz reveals that U.S. has agreed to supply soft spare parts...

All-Parties Conference demands fresh polls under interim government; plan to launch movement to oust present regime...

President and Prime Minister hold consultations on Sindh situation...

Frontier Assembly demands G.M. Syed's trial; ANP oppose move...

IJI and MQM reach three-point accord...

Lt. Gen. Hameed Gul retired following refusal to accept new appointment...

Private postal system inaugurated in Karachi...

Jam Sadiq Ali declares that destinies of Sindh and Pakistan are linked; some Jeay Sindh activists arrested...

Dacoits injured retired Major, kill wife, in looting Defense Society residence; 5 other dacoities reported in Lahore...

Bishop Malik express deep concern over murder of Christian teacher in Faisalabad...

Dacoits kidnap 29 persons in Sindh; including 10 women from Pir Pagara's village...

PSF and Jeay Sindh calls for strike in Sindh; 6 killed in bomb blast; two trains attacked...

On Bacha Khan's fourth death anniversary meeting, Wali Khan threatens to blow up Kalabagh Dam if built, says Durand line has been wiped out...

MQM Councilor in Hyderabad shot dead...

Nawabzada Nasrullah Khan decides to file two references against the Prime Minister...

PNP decides to leave Opposition and side with IJI Government...

Encounter with dacoits near Dadu; 7 police officers and men, 5 Dacoits killed...

Balochistan newsmen protest against attack on Quetta reporter of English daily...

Four doctors and one compounder kidnapped from LMCH Jamshoro in presence of Rangers...

Khurshid Begum, victim of rape by Karachi police, appeals to Punjabis for help against criminals...

Jamaat Amir Qazi wants Pakistan to explode nuclear bomb...

President Ishaq refuses to keep appointment with U.S. Senator Pressler; Prime Minister also avoids meeting him. Pressler meets Senate Chairman Sajjad...

Foreign Office reiterates peaceful nuclear policy; criticizes Pressler for discriminatory attitude...

All-parties Conference formally files two references against Nawaz Sharif with regard to misuse of powers for financial benefits...

Prime Minister orders probe into conduct of former Sindh DIG Sami Marwat...

Benazir Bhutto blames President Ishaq for trying to force Sindhis to opt out of federation...

Akbar Bugti urges President Ishaq to use emergency powers to "normalize situation"...

Pakistan stops supply of arms to Afghan rebels...

Foreign Office opposes expansion of Security Council and making India a permanent member...

Foreign Office denies any change of policy on recognition of Israel...

MQM activist shot dead in Nawab Shah...

Bolan Mail stopped and 60 passengers kidnapped...

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