

JKCHR — Jammu and Kashmir Council for Human Rights

NGO in Special Consultative Status with the Economic and Social Council of the United Nations
Established in 1984



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Special Rapporteur on the promotion and protection of the right to freedom of opinion and expression
c/o Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights
United Nations Office at Geneva
1211 Geneva 10
Switzerland

By Hand, By Fax and By Email

Urgent Action

Mian Nawaz Sharif and Mian Shahbaz Sharif.

JKCHR is a stake holder in the second round of Universal Periodic Review on Pakistan and has submitted a written input in this regard.

The NGO which is in special consultative status with the UN has subscribed its interest in the Independence of Judiciary in Pakistan and Azad Kashmir in documents A/HRC/5/NGO/42 and A/HRC/6/NGO/16. The latter is part of the territory of the State of Jammu and Kashmir, (the people of which remain a subject of the Right of Self Determination at the UN) and is currently administered by Pakistan in discharge of its responsibilities under UNCIP Resolutions.

It has been reported in the leading English daily The News Islamabad, by a senior journalist Ansar Abbasi in his despatch of Thursday 5 March 2009 and earlier aired by Hamid Mir, senior journalist and Geo's anchorperson in his popular talk show titled "Capital Talk" that the Pakistan Muslim League (PML-N) has serious fears of a possible assassination attempt on Sharif brothers, namely, Mian Nawaz Sharif and Mian Shahbaz Sharif.

Mian Nawaz Sharif has remained twice Prime Minister of Pakistan and Mian Shahbaz Sharif has remained twice the chief minister of Punjab, the largest province in the federation of Pakistan.

Sharif brothers have suffered an unlawful exile at the hands of President General (r) Pervez Musharraf and again a recent judgement of the Supreme Court of Pakistan has caused a serious prejudice to their right to take part in the freely expressed politics of the country. It is important to point out that the judgement has come from a court, the independence, integrity and constitutional character of which is being disputed by the lawyers and civil society in the country. The present judiciary does not meet the constituent elements envisaged in Consensus Resolution 1998/35 of the Commission.

JKCHR has inscribed its interest in the Independence of Judiciary in Pakistan first on 13 March 2001 in regard to the tainted conviction of Ms. Benazir Bhutto and Asif Ali Zardari. JKCHR raised the question of safety of Asif Zardari, Yousuf Raza Gilani, Choudhry Mukhtar and Naveed Qamar, now holding the strings of power in Pakistan, in October 2001 during their imprisonment.

Another leading opposition leader Chaudhry Nisar Ali Khan has also told the media on Tuesday 3 March 2009 that the Sharifs faced a security threat from the present rulers and security agencies. He did not name the 'rulers'. However, Hamid Mir quoted Nawaz Sharif as saying that 'President Zardari might have become his enemy'.

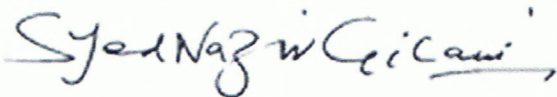
Muslim League (N) leadership and Sharif brothers are expressing fears on the reported arrival of almost 100 hardened criminals associated with Rehman Dakait (a notorious gangster) in Lahore from Karachi to cause harm to them. This *prima facie* credible and reliable information makes your intervention highly desirable for an 'Urgent Action' in regard to the safety of leadership of Muslim League (N). It is not only a case of infringement of the right to freedom of opinion and expression but it embeds a serious harm to their person as well.

You are requested to very kindly take an urgent action and seek assurance from the Government of Pakistan that there is no interference with the right to freedom of opinion and expression of Sharif brothers and that the Government takes extra measures to guarantee their safety.

Our delegation is here at the 10th Session of the Human Rights Council. For any further clarification you can contact me on 00 41 79 838 0548 or at Ph. 00 41 22 919 3939 Hotel Intercontinental Geneva. A message could be left for us either with the NGO Liaison Office or on JKCHR mail shelf in the NGO Lounge.

Please rest assured of our best regards and highest considerations.

Yours faithfully



Dr. Syed Nazir Gilani
Secretary General-JKCHR