

The Sindh Perchar

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Military Assumes Permanent Role in Governance of Pakistan

London, July 2002, General Musharaf—the self imposed President of Pakistan—recently announced a set of ‘constitutional amendments’ legitimizing his military dictatorship. These amendments guarantee a permanent and dominant role for military in all future governments in Pakistan. These new changes grant President (Gen Musharaf) the power to dissolve Parliament and dismiss the prime minister in any future elected government. A ‘National Security Council’ having powers to sack the cabinet and dissolve parliament will be formed. It will also oversee the

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Sindhis Protest Over Thal Canal Calling it an Economic and Ecological Disaster

London, March, 2002, A big rally was organized in front of Pakistan High Commission, London on the call of Dr Safdar Sarki, the chairman of WSC on March 23, 2002 to protest against the construction of Thal canal, economic exploiting policies against Sindh, and other on-going human rights abuses of Sindh people by the Government of Pakistan. The rally was attended widely by the Sindhis and Sindh Diaspora who came from various corners of the UK. Among others who participated in-

cluded a delegation of MQM headed by Saleem Shehzad, Balach Marri (son of Sardar Khair Bux Marri) of Baloach Voice, Sussi Palijo of Sindhi Awami Tahreek, Jiji Zarina Baloach and George Anthony of Liberation, Kurdish Democratic Party (KDP) and many UK based intellectuals, writers and journalists. The participants raised the slogans against the highhandedness of Punjab, injustices to Sindh, Thal canal unfair distribution of waters, human right vio-

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Activists gathered in front of Pak High Commission in London to protest against the Construction of Thal Canal

Is Pakistan an Ally in War Against Terrorism?

Editorial Desk, 2002

Pakistan is considered as an important ally in the current international coalition against terrorism. Looking back on Pakistan’s involvement in terrorism itself, inside and outside its borders, make Pakistan a ‘shaky ally.’

All wars are to be opposed. Though on rational basis, we see that the terrorism is needed to be dealt with appropriate resistance. World does not need any more of Sept 11 incidents. However, that at this time, while preaching for peace, we must also analyze on the policies and situations

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Presidential Referendum: A "Big Sham"

London, May 2002, The recent Presidential Referendum by the General Musharaf, an army dictator in Pakistan and world’s silence and accep-

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which brought us to this war? What are the mistakes done by the world community in the past -- which terrorists exploited to propagate hate and justify the killing. What should USA, the main victim of this terrorism and a leader of the coalition on 'war against terrorism' and its allies (mainly UK) should do so that this cycle of terrorism stops and the long-lasting peace can prevail.

Sindhis living in UK, USA, India, and Sindh have expressed their solidarity with the people of United States and have prayed for the victims of this unprecedented terrorism.

People of Sindh- who have been themselves the victim of the religious fundamentalism and ethnic discrimination, are actually very contended with the fact that the *Talibanization* of their region may finally be stopped. However, the current gesture of friendliness and support to the military dictatorship in Pakistan has created the fear that this situation of terror and oppression may very well be with us in Pakistan.

It is indeed true so far Pakistan's government has been performing as an ally in the coalition against terrorism, but we believe that the sole reliance on Mr. Mushraf, who is a self-imposed President of Pakistan, would be very short-lived and may actually be counter-productive. Pakistan's current government is actually a dictatorship and it is no secret, that Pakistan has long been involved in the training, sheltering and arming the extremists groups. The US State Department's annual report on Patterns of Global terrorism during 2000 released in April 2001 clearly states Government of Pakistan's increasing support to the *Taliban* by providing them material, fuel, funding, technical assistance and military advisers. These policies of extremism have not only harmed the peoples of Pakistan and neighboring countries but have now reached to harm the people around the globe.

The military establishment of Pakistan thrives on the politics and economics of the religious nationalism. Pakistan's military works as a corporation. It also has strong pockets who believe in Pan-Islamicism. Considering these two realities, it is unlikely that Pakistan military would shun the

Pakistan's major problem like several other post-colonial states is the multi-ethnic imbalance.

war strategy with India and create true democratic structures in Pakistan. Because the very survival of this 'corporation' is the continuation of the war. Pakistani Military is the truly omnipotent force within the country.

Today they side with US, but we believe that that it is just there one more tactic to survive and flourish! Pakistan's major problem like several other post-colonial states is the multi-ethnic imbalance, Pakistan's oppressed nations that is Sindhis and Balochs mainly as well as Seraikis and Pathan to greater extent are being economically, politically and culturally subjugated by dominant ethnic group Punjab. The Pakistani military is mainly dominated by the Punjabis.

It is very sad that since last few decades Sindhis and progressive forces within Pakistan have been crying and protesting against the religious fundamentalism and oppression against smaller nations, religious minorities and women. Most of these protest were ignored, but there was still some hope. USA and UK had some limited trade embargo on Pakistan for pursuing nuclear power. EU condemned the military dictatorship and so on. But, now suddenly Pakistan and its fascist regime is being rewarded with the billions of the dollars and UK and USA and other countries like Japan are pouring money to Pakistan Military government. Even now, the progressive forces within Pakistan are not getting adequate attention in western media too. For example several Sindh and Balochistan based parties and groups have openly supported the war against terrorism but we hardly see any coverage of these elements in western media. While in the last few weeks government has imprisoned Sindhi freedom leaders.

We believe that the USA and UK must offer a only conditional support to Pakistan (if at all). And in this support they must adhere to the basic principles of democracy, justice, human rights and religious tolerance.

The influx of Afghan refugees is creating a tremendous threat to the Sindh and Baluchistan. How these two regions will support this migration not only the human migration but migration of drugs, weapons and topmost religious

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WSC and Baloch Voice Jointly Organized a Seminar in London—Speakers included Sardar Attaullah Mengal of Pakistan Oppressed Nation's Movement, Dr. Rubina Shaikh of WSC, Mr. Balach Marri of Baloch Voice, and Anothy George of Liberation

WSC ACTIVITIES

WSC Commemorates the Birth Anniversary of Saen G. M. Syed in Houston , Texas

Houston, TX, March 2002, WSC organized a gathering on March 2nd, 2002 in Houston, Texas (USA) to commemorate the 99th birth anniversary of Saen G. M. Syed. G. M. Syed was a visionary of modern Sindh. He pioneered the Sindhi freedom movement and also served as the chairman of the WSC during 1994-95. Over three decades, Saen G. M. Syed was repeatedly detained in various Pakistani prisons without trial until his death in 1995. The Amnesty International adopted him as a Prisoner of Conscience. Mr. Syed extensively wrote on Sindhi identity, Sindhi religious thoughts, and political situations in Sindh.

This meeting was attended by Dr. Safdar Sarki, Chairman WSC, Mr. Umed Laghari, Sr. Vice Chairman, WSC, Mr. Suhail Memon, leader of JSQM, and several other local activists from Texas. Mr. Suhail Memon, who is a writer of three books on Syed, said that current Pakistani setup does not provide any consolation of Sindhi people. He elaborated on the long campaign of JSQM and other parties on national and environmental rights issues. Dr. Sarki, in his speech stated that G. M. Syed upheld the building of Sindhudesh -a separate homeland for Sindhis - where all Sindhis could live in peace under a secular democratic system. He regarded Sindhis dispersed all over the world as an important part of the Sindhi nation. He considered the freedom of Sindh as a lasting solution for peace in South Asia.

The meeting passed several resolutions condemning the brutal murder of American Journalist Daniel Pearl. They also demanded from Pakistani authorities the release of JSQM leaders, Mr. Bashir Khan, cancellation of the construction of Thal Canal and the thorough investigations of the death of Ms. Uma Devi, a Sindhi Hindu college student, and the murder of Mr. Suddham Chawla, a Sindhi democracy activist.



S. Sarki, U. Laghari & S. Memon of WSC commemorating G. M. Syed's Birthday in Houston

WSC Speaks for Plight of Sindhis at UN Human Rights Session

Geneva, March 2002, The delegation of WSC, led by Ambreen Hisbani, participated in the 58th Session of UN Commission on Human Rights currently held in Geneva (March 18 -April 26, 2002). During her visit to Geneva, Ms. Hisbani met various UN officials, representatives of nongovernmental organizations, and delegates of several countries participating the

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WSC to Hold its Annual Meeting in September in London—New Executive Committee will be Elected

London, July 2002, The World Sindhi Congress (WSC) announced to organize its Annual General Body Meeting (AGM) for the year 2002 in September in London. This meeting is to be held on Saturday, September 21st, 2002, at Sindh Center, 230A Kenton Road, Harrow, Middlesex HA3 8BY, London, UK.

WSC is holding its election for a new Executive Committee (EC) for 2002-2004 in August. The new EC with take oath in this meeting.

Every year, during its AGM an international conference on important issues pertaining to Sindh is also organized. This year's conference theme is "**Challenges to National Rights Movements of Oppressed Nations of Pakistan.**"

For more information on AGM, election or the conference visit the web site <http://www.WorldSindhiCongress.org> or write to world_sindhi_congress@yahoo.com.

WSC Officers Elected as Liberation's Central Council Members

London, July 2002, A delegation of WSC attended the 48th Annual General Meeting of Liberation, an anti-imperialist organization for the colonial freedom, held on July 6th, 2002 in London. During the meeting, all the members of Liberation elected Dr. Lakho Mal Lohano, Finance Secretary of WSC, Dr. Haleem Bhatti, Secretary General of WSC, as members of CC of Liberation. Honorable Jeremy Corbyn, Member British Parliament and Chairman of Liberation presided this meeting. WSC and Liberation jointly raised the plight of Sindhis and other oppressed nations of Pakistan in various international forums. This was a fourth consecutive year when WSC representatives have been elected by general body for central leadership of Liberation.

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fundamentalism. How these two regions are going to handle where various religious minorities lived since centuries. In last ten years the Pakistan establishment and Afghani Taliban have worked together in creating and promoting the Pan-Islamism in the region. No doubt, for secular Sufi Sindhi feel threatened with this scenario. It is vital that the return of all Afghan refugees is guaranteed in humanitarian fashion. Otherwise, we will see a ethnic and civil war type of situation in Southern Pakistan.

Now that US and other countries together is paying around 1 Billion it must be made sure that Pakistan share this money on social welfare and poverty elimination projects especially in Sindh and Baluchistan and NWFP [Which are most affected by the war]. Aid agency must enforce Pakistan to act fairly among provinces - We know from our previous experiences that these funds will spend be unfairly spent the Punjab or Punjabi dominated army to strengthen their war mongering agenda.

Some political forces in Pakistan believe that solution to prevent future terrorism activities in this part of the world to 'decentralize Pakistan and "de-Punjabize" its Army. Decentralized state would provide stability in the region and peace for its people, neighbors and the west. Pakistan must be "de-nuclearized" or at the very least the nuclear program must be brought under multi-ethnic control as no system of command and control can be effective over Pakistan's nuclear weapons as long as it resides under on ethnic group vis-à-vis the Punjabis.

Sindhi and Baloch freedom groups in Pakistan are looking forward to join the struggle against the forces of terrorism and it is imperative that the United States support the Baloch and Sindhi freedom forces to counter the fundamentalist forces within Pakistan.

The favours which Pakistan Government is getting from world will further strengthen this military governments and will legitimize the laws and policies which are the very reason of religious intolerance and extremism we are condemning today! Currently, Pakistan has a worst record of human rights violations; there exists laws discriminating religious minorities, women, and smaller nations like Sindhi and Baloch peoples.

We believe that for long-lasting peace and justice in the region and to reduce the terrorism in the World, USA need to act on neutralizing Pakistan and its nuclear capability. Asking military government to yield to democratic and progressive norms, and letting peoples of Pakistan decide their destiny. World has to look long-term policies must keep the aspirations of the Sindhi and Baloch people and their struggle to self-determination.

This editorial is taken from the speech by Dr. Rubina Shaikh, Vice Chairperson, WSC, delivered at a seminar organized by Sindhi-Baloch Forum on the topic of "Positioning Pakistan in War Against Terrorism," held on December 2, 2001 in London.

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lations, detention of political and environmental activist and colonial exploitation of Sindh. Jiji Zarina, a famous folk singer and a political activist, sang inspirational songs of Sindh.

Participants demanded for the immediate halting of the work on this anti-environment, and illegal project and closure of all the previously built illegal canals, dams and head works on River Indus. Delegates asked to set up an international arbitration commission under the UN auspices to resolve this issue.

Finally WSC delegation presented a memorandum of demands to the authorities of Pakistan High Commission.

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tance is a sad chapter of the history

of region. This referendum was conducted to legitimize the Musharaf's military coup. Almost all political parties boycotted this referendum. The entire process from beginning to end was manipulated to guarantee the results in favor of Musharaf by giving him a five-year presidency of Pakistan. The holding of referendum is unconstitutional; the Supreme Court of Pakistan that disingenuously endorsed this referendum has Musharaf appointed judges. Opposition parties were forbidden to campaign against this referendum, entire civil bureaucracy and army were openly conditioned to rig and manipulate the results. Numerous incidents of rigging, fake voting and multiple voting have been reported in the international media. "It is big sham, a sad state of affairs, a dark day for the peoples of Pakistan and people of Sindh," said Dr. Sarki, Chairman of WSC. "A new cycle of nepotism, exploitation and autocracy has started. All these civil and army officers who participated in this rigging ought to get some favors in return!" asked Dr. Saghir Shaikh, the Deputy Secretary General of WSC. Answering his own question, Dr Shaikh said, "The rewards for army would be a continuation of war with India, so that army's job and funding are assured and guaranteed inclusion in coming governments for the politicians and bureaucrats who supported this fakery!" WSC states that there is an overwhelming domination of Punjabis (a north east province) in all spheres of power especially in the army. Sindhis fear that Musharaf's military government will continue these hegemonic policies--especially the unfair share of Indus Water and other financial resources to Sindh. While Sindh generates the majority of the fund for the federation, Sindh has the highest rate of unemployment, poverty, and suicide rate among all provinces. WSC has pleaded the International community to not condone this mockery of democracy. They demand that EU, Commonwealth, USA and UN to exert their influence in making sure that democracy is restored, human rights are respected and Sindhis and Baloch people are granted the right to self-determination.

Should Pakistan Be Broken Up? - Gul Agha

The 20th century was a time of the collapse of colonialism -- perhaps no event marked the collapse more than the end of British rule in the Indian subcontinent in 1947. A large number of new states were created in this period and the concept of international law was conceived. International law represented a compromise between powerful countries and their interests, and the fears of newly decolonized countries. Unfortunately, the idea of protecting existing boundaries between states -- viewed as the principal means to maintain peace -- took primacy over individual human rights as well as the cultural and historic rights of different nations. Since the end of the cold war, fortunately the idea of using international law to promote human rights has been gaining strength.

The borders of many new states were drawn arbitrarily -- ignoring the history, language and culture of the peoples affected. Pakistan is one such state -- created by a colonial power, it is a state devoid of any historical or cultural basis. The current premise of policy makers in many countries is predicated on the notion that the continued existence of Pakistan can contribute to regional stability and promote global security. It is a premise that needs to be carefully examined.

History of Pakistan

In the 1930s, the Indian movement for independence had gained considerable momentum. As a means of postponing their day of departure, British colonialists promoted a Muslim leadership which encouraged religious divisions in the subcontinent. Later the British found it expedient -- and apparently beneficial to their geo-strategic interests -- to create an oddly shaped Muslim majority state, separated into two "wings" more than a thousand miles apart.

Pakistan had problems since its inception. One small ethnic group of migrants, Urdu speakers from Northern India who call themselves 'Mohajirs', initially dominated its bureaucracy and government. Another ethnic group, Punjabi speakers representing about 20% of the population, dominated its Military, while a third, Bengali speakers, constituted its majority. Power resided in the first two ethnic groups and their control of the state led to a rebellion among the majority Bengali speakers. After a quarter century of strife and ruthless attempts to suppress the Bengali majority, including a genocide, Bangladesh was created. Thus Pakistan was partitioned into two separate states, one of which retained the name.

Pakistan's Ethnic Groups

The truncated borders of Pakistan consist of four major ethnic groups -- Punjabis, Sindhis, Pushtuns, and Baluchis -- and several other ethnic groups, Mohajirs in southern cities of Karachi and Hyderabad, Kashmiris in the North, and Seraiki speaking groups in the middle.

Pakistan borders four countries, Afghanistan, Iran, China and India. The border with each of these coun-

tries is problematic. The border with Afghanistan is based on the so-called Durand Line -- arbitrarily demarcated by the British in the 19th century. Pushtuns, who were historically united, live on both sides of this mountainous border. The border with Iran is mostly populated by Baluch tribes who live in a large sparsely populated desert on both sides of the border. The Baluchis in Pakistan demanded autonomy in the 1970s and thousands were massacred by the Pakistan military.

The border with India runs through three distinct regions. To the north is the former kingdom of Jammu and Kashmir, a focus of much contention and dispute. The division of Kashmir between India and Pakistan is against their will. The Pakistani-occupied part of Kashmir borders not only India, but also the Chinese occupied region of Uighurs. On the Pakistani side of the Kashmir border, there are also several other ethnic groups besides the Kashmiris, such as the Gilgitis and Baltistanis.

In the middle of Pakistan are Punjabis, who now represent about 40% of the population, and constitute 90% of the military. Punjab was partitioned on the basis of religion, and Punjabis seem quite satisfied with this division. It is an area which saw many massacres on the basis of creed -- and the bloodletting resulted in 'ethnic' cleansing on both sides of the border. South of the Punjab live Seraiki speaking people, some of whom bear greater affinity to Sindhis.

The southern border with India runs through Sindh. The majority of Sindh's over 30 million people live in the valley carved by the once mighty Indus river. Sindh's western region is part of the Great Indian Desert of Thar, through which a border was drawn more or less arbitrarily. Sindh's southern boundary is marked by the Indian Ocean and Kutch, a region that has close linguistic and cultural affinity to Sindh, but is now a part of India.

The Aspirations of the Sindhis

Sindhis are predominantly sufis who believe in harmony and tolerance in the matter of religion. Before the partition of India, the majority of Sindhis consistently voted against candidates supporting Pakistan. Although the British colonialists used their considerable power and influence to support the pro-Pakistan candidates in 1946, such candidates succeeded in obtaining only about 40% of the popular vote.

By gerrymandering the electorate, the colonialists managed the election of a majority in the Sindh Assembly which favored joining Pakistan. The Sindhi vote for Pakistan was also facilitated by the now famous 'Lahore Resolution' passed by the Muslim League -- this resolution promised "autonomy and sovereignty of constituent units" and "protection of religious minorities". Sindhis have strongly resented Pakistan, whose policies since inception have been the very anti-thesis of both these principles.

The Current Situation

Pakistan today is held together by a powerful military which directly consumes 70% of its budget after debt payments. The military has gained strength by opportunistically aligning itself with the United States, China and Saudi Arabia. It has directly ruled the country for most of its history and has cultivated relations with the fundamentalist Islamist clergy to strengthen its hold on power. In fact, the military is a bastion of Islamists who are influenced by fundamentalist movements such as Wahabism and Deobandism --

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the same movements which hold sway among large numbers of Pakistani Punjabis.

In fact, the Pakistan military is a key source of instability in the region. Internally, it has repeatedly destabilized elected governments. It was the primary supporter of the Taliban in Afghanistan, responsible for bringing them into power. Recently, an American official was quoted as saying that the U.S. did not realize how critical the Pakistanis were in propping up the Taliban -- when that support was finally withdrawn four weeks after the start of the American bombing, the Taliban regime collapsed. ISI, Pakistan military's intelligence service is believed to have been deeply involved in heroin smuggling operations -- with such operations providing the bulk of its operating budget. And the ISI continues to sponsor terrorism against neighboring India.

The Future of Pakistan

Despite the diabolical role of the Pakistan military, it has been an axiom of faith among policy makers in the U.S., and even in arch rival India, that the continuation of Pakistan is desirable, even necessary, for stability in the region. Several reasons are commonly advanced for this position: the dissolution of Pakistan would encourage divisions within India; it would result in an uncertain future for nuclear weapons now in the hands of the stable Pakistan military, and a view among the U.S. policymakers that the Pakistani state can serve as a useful client or proxy in the war against terrorism. None of these reasons stands up to closer scrutiny.

India has largely succeeded in its national integration through democracy, federalism, and building of strong independent institutions such as the judiciary and the media. Its future will depend on the continuing strength of these internal institutions in addressing its needs. No doubt these needs are many, some visible ones such as increased economic growth and improved efficiency in the distribution of goods, and some less visible ones such as cultural and linguistic protection for smaller ethnic groups.

Nuclear weapons in the hands of Pakistan pose a danger to peace, not only in South Asia but elsewhere. Policy makers are lulled into complacency by the experience of the cold war where the doctrine of 'Mutually Assured Destruction' kept the superpowers from directly waging war. In fact, such analogizing fails to appreciate the psychology of the forces at work in the Pakistan military. During the cold war, the superpowers -- fearful of a nuclear holocaust -- avoided direct conflict with each other. On the other hand, emboldened by its possession of nuclear weapons, the Pakistan military not only increased its support for terrorism against India, it directly attacked India in Kargil -- gambling that India will not want to escalate the fight by employing its conventional superiority in new theaters of war.

It may seem far fetched to the rational mind that some Islamist faction within the military could seize and smuggle nuclear weapons or materials for use in 'jihad' against India, Israel or a Western power. In fact, given an understanding of the type of religious fanaticism common in the Pakistan military at all levels, it is likely not a question of 'if' but 'when', left unchecked, such a scenario will unfold. The moral barometer of the military can be appreciated by observing that it is the very same unreconstructed and unrepentant military that massacred millions of people in Bangladesh and provided logistic support to the Taliban and Al-Qaeda terrorists in Afghanistan.

Those who believe that it is possible to bribe or browbeat Pakistan into a compliant client state have been missing the elaborate game of charade played for long by the Pakistani military. While it is a state that chose to support the international coalition against terrorism when and where it had no choice, in the long run the prejudices of its dominant ethnic group will be reflected in its covert policies. Sure, the Pakistan military provided visible support to the coalition -- but in all likelihood, the military also covertly organized pro-Taliban, anti-U.S. demonstration to exaggerate its own role. And the Pakistani dictator General Musharraf, justifying his decision to support the coalition, implied that it was a tactical compromise on the way to securing an eventual 'victory against the infidels and the Jews.' It should be clear where the real goals of Pakistan lie, despite protestations to get increased aid from the West and strengthen its own institution while continuing to build Islamist proxy forces.

What Replaces Pakistan?

Dissolution of Pakistan will largely bring things back into their natural national and ethnic boundaries. The Pushtun areas of Pakistan belong with the newly liberated Afghanistan. Kashmiris in India already enjoy numerous unique protections, e.g. against encroachment by migration from other parts of India. A unified Kashmir will be able to negotiate ways of maintaining its identity in India. Distinct ethnic regions in the Pakistani occupied part of the former kingdom of Kashmir, such as Baltistan and Gilgit, could enjoy greater autonomy.

A successor Pakistani Punjabi state would be far easier to contain. Bounded within plains that are easy to penetrate and police, stripped of 80% of the resources now consumed by its military, it would be far less menacing. Ironically, freed of its militaristic pretensions, it could enjoy greater economic growth and prosperity in the long run by embracing a more peaceful ideology.

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The Future of Sindh

What about the future of Sindh and Pakistan-occupied Baluchistan? Baluchistan is a desert area, though rich in some mineral deposits. The bulk of Baluchi population lives on the border of Sindh and has enjoyed free movement and interchange with the Sindhi people. It is likely that the fate of these two regions is tied together, as it was in older times.

Sindh is rich in agriculture, has deposits of oil, coal and gas, and a well-developed port. It is the most industrialized region in the neighborhood. Shorn of the huge subsidy claimed by Punjab and its military, Sindh is likely to see rapid economic growth. This growth will be aided and abetted by the large number of expatriate Sindhi entrepreneurs and industrialists, including some billionaires. Sindhis have an ancient mercantile tradition, and their emphasis on pragmatism, tolerance and harmony are all useful attributes in a modern economy.

Should Sindh be a Part of India?

There are a number of arguments in favor of Sindh joining the Indian union. India is a secular, democratic country which is well-suited to the psyche of the sufi-minded Sindhis. Four months after the creation of Pakistan, 20% of the population of Sindh was forced to migrate to India when hordes of refugees were encouraged by the Pakistani government to riot in hitherto peaceful Sindhi cities. Many of these Sindhis have settled in India and, after a long arduous struggle, they have prospered. While the diaspora

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SINDHIS AROUND THE WORLD

SANA & WSC Celebrated "Sindhi Language Day"

Sacramento, CA, March 2002, Sindhis from all over the North California gathered in Sacramento for the celebration of March 4th as a Sindhi Language Day, the event organized by WSC and Sindhi Association of North America. The Sindhis belonging to all ages participated in this gathering to praise the historical movement led by Sindhi students in 1967.

The evening started with the welcoming speech made by Saghir Shaikh, Deputy General Secretary of WSC, who emphasized on the importance of Sindhi Language Day and the remembrance of the March 4th struggle.

Recollecting the history of March 4th from his very own experience, Dr. Shaukat Ansari, Treasurer of SANA explained the inspirations and importance of this movement. This was followed by the recitation of poetry from Shaikh Ayaz, excerpts reading from Keerat Babani and other Sindhi writers, Dinner, and a *Kachebri*.

Various books, pamphlets, and newsletters were also exhibited. The participants resolved to increase the involvement of Sindhi language and culture in their daily lives to improve the essence of *Sindhayat*.

WSC Representative Speaks at Writer's World in Karachi, Sindh

Karachi, March 2002, Writers World Karachi organized a get-together with the guest speaker Dr. Saghir Ahmed Shaikh, Deputy Secretary General of World Sindhi Congress (WSC). Dr. Shaikh is from USA and was recently on his visit to Karachi and other parts of Sindh. During his lecture he described the role of overseas Sindhi organizations in raising awareness regarding Sindh and Sindhi Rights at international forums and uniting the Sindhi Diaspora. The meeting attended by notable writers and activists: Dr. Nasreen Shaikh, Yousuf hyder shaikh, Amir Abro, Saeeda Metlo, Rauf Nizamani, Dr. Shams Soomro, Chander Keswani, Anwer Abro, Khadim Husain Soomro, Younus Mahar and Jan Khaskheli. An open discussion on various matters related to Sindh and the role of overseas organizations in the prevailing situation was followed by Dr. Shaikh's speech.

World Sindhi Samellan Held in Indore

Indore, India, December 2001, More than three thousands delegates belonging to thirty six organizations gathered in late December in Indore, India for one of the biggest Sindhi get-together outside Sindh. Important resolutions regarding the Sindhi rights in India as well as in Pakistan were passed. Several cultural and academic sessions were held. Dr. Niranjan Dudani of USA was one the chief organizers of this event. Dr. Lakhu Luhano of WSC also participated in its organizing committee in UK.

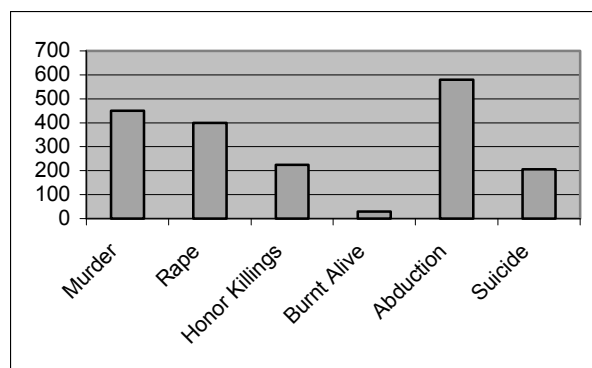
WSI Renounces First use of Nuclear Weapons by Pakistan

Washington, DC, June 2002, The World Sindhi Institute (WSI)—a democracy and human rights advocacy and watch group—holds that the present dangerous impasse in South Asia is the direct result of Pakistan army's policy of aligning with forces of religious extremism and international terrorism. It has long been ignored by the world community that the Pakistan army is not a national army. It comprises predominantly of Punjabis, an ethnic group hailing from Pakistan's central province of Punjab. This Punjabi army of Pakistan has usurped power and is in illegal occupation of Pakistan. In doing so it is only catering to the interests of a minority but dominant oligarchy and denies power sharing with any other ethnic groups of Pakistan.

WSI holds that the greatest threat to the region comes from the policy of first strike of nuclear weapons by the Pakistan army. Peoples of Pakistan do not give this unrepresentative government the right to use nuclear weapons, and engulf the region into a holocaust. The possession of nuclear arsenal is being used by Pakistan army as blackmail against USA and the West and as inflicting terror in the region. WSI calls upon the world community to declare the use of nuclear weapons by any government to be a crime against humanity and pressurize General Musharaf to renounce first use of nuclear weapons.

WSI believes that only reconstituting Pakistan into a democratic, decentralized and secular state, with a truly national army, can create stability and lasting peace in South Asia. By further ignoring the evil designs of Pakistan army, the world will fail in its struggle against international terrorism and may push the region toward nuclear inferno.

Violence Against Women in Sindh in 2000



Courtesy of Sindh Watch a magazine of The World Sindhi Institute. They recently published a Special Issue on Violence Against Women. For information contact WSIHQ@worldsindhi.org

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session. Ms. Hisbani got an opportunity to read and submit statements on Item 11 (Human rights and fundamental freedoms). In her brief position statement she condemned the undemocratic military rule in Pakistan and underscored the systematic persecution of intellectuals and journalists by the Government of Pakistan. She also highlighted the unfair distribution of finances and grants as well as unfair distribution of Indus River water by the federal government of Pakistan among provinces. She stated that Sindh is at a disadvantaged status in current set up of Pakistan and demanded that the Right of Self-determination be granted to Sindh as promised in the 1940 resolution of Pakistan.

Ms. Hisbani was also invited on a separate briefing on Human Rights Situation in Sindh arranged by UN registered NGO in Geneva. In her comprehensive briefing she highlighted Sindh peoples struggle for equal water rights and against the construction of Thal Canal, releasing of political prisoners, increasing unemployment and suicidal cases among Sindh youths, and increasing number of violent incidents against women and children.

In addition, Ms. Hisbani participated in several discussions in various seminars on human rights situations in different parts of world. She presented, wherever possible, the plight of Sindh people in these discussions.

Since last twelve years, WSC have been regularly participating in this important UN event. WSC considers this participation as an important achievement because Sindhis get chance to present their case in front of international community and challenge the "official" governmental stands of Pakistan. Copies of her statements and speech are available on <http://www.WorldSindhiCongress.org>.

(Continued from page 1 - Military Assumes Permanent Role)

country's governments. This council consists of ten members out of which eight will be appointed by the President and two will be elected. This council comprises of President (Gen Musharaf himself), Prime Minister, the Opposition Leader, four Provincial Governors (appointed by the President), four military service chiefs and will be presided by General Musharaf himself.

In addition all important positions like the armed forces' chiefs as well as the vice chiefs, head of the National Accountability Bureau, Chief Election Commissioner, Auditor-General and several other judicial, financial, economic and legislative positions will be appointed by the president.

Just two months ago in May, General Musharaf conducted the Presidential referendum to elect himself the President of Pakistan for five years. The recent announcement secures his fragile position by making sure that all military and other officials and institutions remain loyal to him. It is indeed a very bad news for Pakistan which has remained under military rule for more than 40 years of it 54 years of so-called freedom.

WSC Condemns the Assault and Arrest of Sindhi Activists

London, July, 2002, WSC expresses its extreme concern over the assault and arrest of Sindhi activists. Hundred of Sindhi activists and leaders, belonging to JSQM and other political groups were brutally assaulted and arrested by police in Larkano last week. These activists were gathered for a peaceful protest march.

All major political groups in Sindh including JSQM, AT, JSM, MQM, STPP and SNP are demanding to federal government for a fair distribution policy of Indus River water and stopping of the anti-environmental schemes on River Indus. The schemes like Thal Canal would divert away the water from Sindh causing severe economic and ecological disasters and drainage schemes like RBOD and LBOD would bring the toxic water from Northern areas into the lower riparian of Indus River in Sindh.

Dr. Safdar Sarki, Chairman WSC, reassured his solidarity to Sindhi people's struggle for the fair water distribution of Indus River water and stopping of these environmentally hazardous projects. In March 2002 WSC staged a protest demo in London in front of Pakistan High Commission and presented a Memorandum to the High Commissioner. To this date this memo has never been acknowledged by the commissioner's office.

(Continued from page 6 - Should Pakistan be Broken Up?)

Sindhis no doubt enjoy the moral and legal right of return, it is unlikely that a majority of them would now opt to migrate back to their ancestral homes. Under the circumstances, the unification of Sindh with India would allow the two groups of Sindhis to easily interact and support each other.

Unfortunately, Sindh cannot afford to unify with India in the near future. The greatest threat to Sindhis is demographic - up to a quarter of those living in Sindh are Mohajirs, Muslims who migrated from Northern Indian provinces such as Uttar Pradesh and Bihar. The population of areas where they immigrated from continues to increase rapidly while the economic growth of those areas remains stunted. The linguistic, cultural and religious affinity of Mohajirs with their brethren in North India could make Sindh a magnet for further immigration unless Sindh is able to exercise vigorous control of its borders.

An independent Sindh will serve as a natural conduit for oil and gas pipelines from energy rich Central Asia to energy starved South Asia. Without an entrenched bureaucracy, Sindh will rapidly lead the way to economic expansion in South Asia. Most significantly for the rest of the world, given its long peaceful sufi tradition, an independent Sindh will provide a bulwark against fanaticism and promote peace and prosperity.

Policy makers would do well to focus their energy on the

**More WSC activities on website:
<http://www.WorldSindhiCongress.org>**

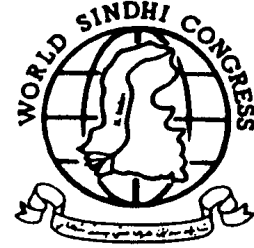
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Call for Papers
International Conference on Sindh
**“Challenges to the National Rights Movements of Op-
pressed Nations of Pakistan”**
Saturday, September 21st, 2002, London, UK

The World Sindhi Congress (WSC) is a UK/USA based human rights advocacy organizations. Its main objective is to create a better understanding among the international community about the disadvantaged status of Sindhis in Pakistan and about Sindhi peoples struggles for their human rights, including the right to self-determination. WSC is a registered company in England and Wales, and Kentucky, USA, organized to carry out non-profit activities only.

Every year WSC organizes an international conference during its Annual General Body Meeting. Current political situations in Pakistan are very alarming. The country is under de-facto martial law, and fundamental rights of peoples are being denied. Military has 'legitimatised' its illegal rule through a sham Presidential Referendum and through the manipulation of the constitution. Currently, USA and other European countries see Pakistan as their ally in 'War Against Terrorism.' Pakistani establishment cunningly uses this newfound legitimacy and resources into strengthening

its authoritarian rule, hegemony of Punjab, and subjugation of its oppressed peoples -- especially Sindhi and Baloch nations.

National rights movements for Oppressed nations i.e. Sindhi, Baloch, Pakhtun, and Seraiki are as old as Pakistan itself. These nations joined Pakistan on the basis of '1940 Pakistan Resolution', which guaranteed the sovereignty to its constituent units. More than five decades have passed and these nations still strive for their autonomy.

Most of these movements are being carried out in peaceful manner despite the frequent aggression of State agencies. For example in Sindh since last two years a collective and peaceful campaigns in forms of hunger strikes, long marches and peaceful protests against the unfair policies of water distribution, the under-representation of Sindhis in government jobs, and plundering of resources of Sindh. All sectors of Sindhi population are demanding economic and political sovereignty of Sindh.

What are the challenges involved in these struggles for national rights? What role does the international community has to play in these oppressed peoples' struggle for peace, justice and liberty? In general, this conference will provide a forum to discuss challenges involved in achieving cultural,

economic and political sovereignty of the nations oppressed under the current political boundaries of Pakistan.

We request your participation in the upcoming conference and invite you to present a speech or paper relevant to this year's theme. For more information on World Sindhi Congress, please visit our web site at <http://www.WorldSindhiCongress.org>.

Venue Information: 'Conway Hall,' Brockway Room, 25 Red Lion Square, London (Tel: 0207 242 8032).

Send Papers to: Dr. Lakhu Luhano,

22 Newfields, Welwyn Garden City,

Herts AL8 6YT UK London, UK

Phone: +44-1274-742609

Email: lakhu@ntlworld.com

Last date for submission of proposals:
15th of August 2002

For more information contact:

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Cyber Sindh

- ◆ **E-Campaign** for Water Scarcity in Sindh:
<http://www.Sindhlink.net/wsc/indusriver.html>
- ◆ **Email groups**
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- ◆ **Web pages**
 - Sufi music at <http://www.SufiMusic.org>
 - Indus River Resources <http://www.SaveIndus.org>
 - Resources on Sindh <http://www.FreeSindh.org>
 - Portal to political resources on Sindh <http://www.SindhLink.net>
 - Sindhi Diaspora (India) <http://www.sindhiinfo.com>
 - Sindhi Poetry <http://www.sindhipoetry.com-2.com>
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