



Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf

Core Committee Statement

2 August 2024

- 1. The PTI Core Committee condemns the continued practice of enforced disappearances for political ends by the government, that has gone from extreme to extreme within the past two years and will cause lasting and long-term damage to the rule of law in Pakistan.** In the past few weeks, several social media activists and their families have been abducted, including the brothers of Shahbaz Gill and of Azhar Mashwani. Since the Supreme Court decision giving PTI's reserved seats back to PTI, many of the MNAs still technically classified as independent have started receiving threats from what appear to be operatives of the government or the State, to change loyalty. Particularly disgusting is the attempt to contrive an enforced disappearance of our MNA from Mandi Bahauddin, Haji Imtiaz Ahmed, using the pretext of a staged police encounter. This culture of enforced disappearances across Pakistan is only eroding the credibility of the State with its own people and must stop immediately.
- 2. Similarly, the decision of the Supreme Court on reserved seats must be respected in letter and spirit by the government, and the threats to PTI MNAs to change loyalty must stop.** No action to date has dented either the popular support that PTI enjoys, or the steadfastness of its parliamentarians, leadership and workers, and continued efforts will only serve to erode the shreds of credibility of a Form 47 government that already has no legal foundations to stand on.
- 3. In addition to the intimidatory threats to PTI MNAs, Nawaz Sharif and Shahbaz Sharif's acceptability with the public has hit such a low, and their need to use malafide legislation to protect their theft of the public mandate on February 8, that PMLN is attempting to pass a laughable piece of legislation through parliament because they fear the unravelling of their electoral theft.** Not only is this legislation in contempt of the Supreme Court decision on reserved seats that has exposed the malafide efforts of the Election Commission of Pakistan to engineer the 2024 elections against PTI, but it will also not stand legal scrutiny through the courts, because the legislation is attempting to block retrospectively, PTI members wrongly classified as independents by the ECP from rejoining the party. Note that this situation came because the Election Commission misinterpreted a judgment of the Supreme Court, with malafide intent, as has been clear from action after action to try and prevent PTI from contesting elections and winning. PTI will challenge these amendments to the Election Act 2017 in court.

It is a pity that three-time Prime Minister, who popularized the slogan *Vote ko Izzat Do* (Respect the sanctity of the vote), is now reduced individually to both disgracefully accepting a win on his own seat because of 100,000 votes added to his tally through the most amateur rigging, as exposed in an independent audit by Pattan, and whose party is reduced to hanging to the coat tails of power by desperately bulldozing malafide legislation to protect its theft.



4. **PTI's Core Committee** expresses grave concern about their septuagenarian Information Secretary, Raof Hasan, on whom yet another FIR has been filed. After obtaining bail in two FIRS, Raof Hasan today appeared exceptionally frail after spending 24 hours in jail. Remember that this is a 75-year-old cancer survivor, who has served the country well by leading a regional think tank focused on efforts towards peace, being accused of links with terror and anti-state organisations. Remember also that the same Raof Hasan was subjected last month to an assassination attempt and that he was exceptionally lucky to have survived. While this fascist government has made no efforts to catch those who attacked Raof Hasan, it sees fit to charge a decent, 75-year-old man with terrorism.

Note that none of this state intimidation has made any dent in PTI's support. Today, thankfully, many of the professional PTI staff from our head office were released on bail after being arrested several days ago on similarly disgraceful charges, and the passion with which they showed their support for Imran Khan in the PTI office shows that the attempts of the government and the state to create fear amongst PTI supporters and to silence them, and for this to somehow make people quit supporting Imran Khan is only having the opposite effect. PTI will continue to stand for the return of the rule of law in Pakistan, for which our leader Imran Khan has accepted illegal confinement in jail, because this is now the larger cause on which depends Pakistan's progress, and Insha'Allah we shall succeed.

5. **The Core Committee has condemned the government's efforts to implicate Prime Minister Imran Khan and his wife Bushra Bibi in multiple cases related to 9th May, despite it being clear in various bail and remand applications that the government has absolutely no evidence to support their accusations.** The attempts to implicate Bushra Bibi, a housewife, in 11 cases related to 9th May, after the disgraceful Iddat case, should be a matter of shame for the government. Imran Khan's detention has already been declared illegal by the UN Working Group on Arbitrary Detentions. Imran Khan is only being detained because the government fears the crumbling of its government built on a house of cards, with absolutely no basis, and must be released immediately. The government's standing is evident from the fact that not only did they deny access to renowned journalist Charles Glass to meet Imran Khan, but they also hurriedly canceled his visa and deported him out of the country.
6. **The PTI Core Committee unequivocally condemns of the assassinations by Israel of Palestinian leaders Ismael Haniyeh in Iran and in Fuad Shukr in Lebanon over the last two days, and condemns the extra-territorial assassinations carried out by Israel outside of its territory.** The world's failure to stop the war in Gaza over the last ten months is a failure of its responsibility to the Palestinians, a cause that Prime Minister Imran Khan has been unequivocal about and has never minced words on.
7. **The Core Committee expresses its condolences to the family of founding PTI member Dr Shahid Siddique Khan, who was shot in cold blood after Friday prayers today in Lahore.** Shahid served Imran Khan and PTI for decades and was a philanthropist with immense services to society. We demand that the Government ensure that this matter be immediately and transparently investigated, and the culprits given exemplary punishment.
8. **The Core Committee resolved to make our jalsa in Swabi, on the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa – Punjab border – a resounding success,** and appeals to all PTI workers across the country, and particularly those in adjoining areas, as well as ordinary citizens to attend in large numbers.