

110TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. RES. 810

Calling for an end to the state of emergency in Pakistan.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

NOVEMBER 8, 2007

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas (for herself, Mr. BURTON of Indiana, Mr. DELAHUNT, Mr. CROWLEY, Mr. TOWNS, Mr. RUSH, Mr. PASCRELL, Mr. ELLISON, Mr. HONDA, Mr. HASTINGS of Florida, Mr. WU, Mr. CUMMINGS, Ms. WATSON, Mr. AL GREEN of Texas, Ms. WOOLSEY, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Mr. MEEKS of New York, Mr. BUTTERFIELD, Mr. CHABOT, Ms. LINDA T. SÁNCHEZ of California, and Mr. BILIRAKIS) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Affairs

RESOLUTION

Calling for an end to the state of emergency in Pakistan.

Whereas, on November 3, 2007, Pakistani President Pervez Musharraf issued a “proclamation of emergency,” suspended Pakistan’s constitution, restricted the media, and reportedly made hundreds of “preventative arrests”;

Whereas the proclamation cites a “grave threat to the life and property of the citizens of Pakistan” posed by a “visible ascendancy in the activities of extremists and incidents of terrorist attacks,” and it states that the Pakistani constitution “shall remain in abeyance”;

Whereas this proclamation comes as the Supreme Court of Pakistan was due to rule on the legality of President Musharraf's reelection last month, and as President Musharraf was due to give up his military post this month;

Whereas opposition leaders and activists have been targeted for detention under the emergency rule, Pakistan's Supreme Court chief justice was dismissed after he refused to endorse the emergency order and labeled it "unconstitutional," senior lawyers were detained, and the active head of the party of exiled former Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif was arrested;

Whereas President Musharraf defended his actions as a response to a rise in extremism in Pakistan, citing militant violence and a judiciary which has paralyzed the government;

Whereas the Pakistani Government initially suggested that parliamentary elections, due in mid-January 2008, could be delayed by over a year, but Prime Minister Shaukat Aziz stated on November 5, 2007, that the elections would go forward as planned;

Whereas Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice has stated that the Bush administration is reviewing United States aid to Pakistan in the aftermath of President Musharraf's proclamation;

Whereas all non-state television stations and some radio channels have been taken off the air, and while independent newspapers have been allowed to continue to publish, the media restrictions imposed by the emergency proclamation severely restrict what they can report;

Whereas President Musharraf previously pledged to resign from his military post, but he told foreign diplomats on November 5, 2007, that he would not step down as head of the military until “we correct these pillars in judiciary and the executive and the parliament”; and

Whereas Pakistan continues to be a key ally in the global struggle against terrorism, with Pakistan’s strategically important location and the support of President Musharraf playing a decisive role in helping to remove the Taliban regime from Afghanistan, and Pakistan capturing hundreds of suspected al-Qaeda terrorists: Now, therefore, be it

1 *Resolved*, That the House of Representatives—

2 (1) expresses its opposition to the declaration of
3 a state of emergency by President Pervez Musharraf
4 and calls for a return to constitutional order;

5 (2) strongly urges the Government of Pakistan
6 to ensure that elections are held in January 2008,
7 as scheduled, and are not delayed by the emergency
8 proclamation and calls on the Election Commission
9 of Pakistan to take the basic steps needed to ensure
10 that these elections are free and fair;

11 (3) calls for security for the Pakistan’s opposi-
12 tion leaders, including former Prime Minister
13 Benazir Bhutto;

14 (4) urges the Government of Pakistan to imme-
15 diately release those individuals who are being de-
16 tained without being charged;

1 (5) calls for the immediate restoration of Paki-
2 stan's independent judiciary, including reinstating
3 Chief Justice Iftikhar Chaudhry, ending the practice
4 of arbitrary arrest and detention, and allowing sus-
5 pects customary access to lawyers;

6 (6) calls on the Government of Pakistan to end
7 media restrictions, including bans on non-state tele-
8 vision and radio stations and limitations on what
9 independent newspapers can print;

10 (7) calls for the President of the United States,
11 the Department of State, and the United States
12 Agency for International Development to review
13 United States aid to Pakistan in the aftermath of
14 President Musharaff's proclamation;

15 (8) calls for the administration to make aid to
16 Pakistan conditional on the protection of human and
17 constitutional rights during this state of emergency;

18 (9) strongly supports the protection of human
19 rights in Pakistan; and

20 (10) calls for the appointment of a diplomatic
21 team, comprised of high-ranking representatives of
22 the Department of State and the Department of De-
23 fense, along with the appointment of a Presidential
24 Special Envoy for Pakistan, to engage in detailed
25 negotiations with President Musharraf and other

- 1 Pakistani leaders on the restoration of constitutional
- 2 order, democracy, and civil rights.

