

INTERVIEW WITH THE VOICE OF AMERICA

Dear Syed Wajid Ali

Reference you call on my mobile this evening, I am sending herewith some material as an introduction to the program of the Pakistan Jamhoori Tehreek and my comments on the Imposition of Emergency in Pakistan, as desired.

The Pakistan Jamhoori Tehreek is a political movement for bringing about a democratic revolution in the present spurious system of governance in Pakistan. To change the system, the basic unit of the society viz. the individual will have to change his/her mindset first, both in the ideological and social fields.

In the estimation of the Tehreek, the society abounds with learned and good people, only that persistent efforts will have to be made to discover such people, create mutual confidence in each other by personal example, and join them together for initiating a planned and concerted effort for the humanitarian cause.

The Tehreek has formulated a three-pronged plan: first, to create mass political awareness at the grassroots level; two, to create new honest and capable leaders from the lower and middle classes to replace the present power-hungry elite of the vested interests; and three, to monitor the activities of the political parties and governments, while cooperating and coordinating with them in the good things they do, and to oppose them if they indulge in activities harmful to the interests of the people. Keeping within these parameters, the Tehreek will adopt a policy of conciliation and achieving consensus on basic national issues.

No political party in Pakistan is following this agenda given above at present.. Political parties in general try to befool the people by raising catchy slogans at election time, and not attending to their dire problems during their ruler ship.

The Tehreek will try to pass on to the political leaders and the rulers our concept of pro-people democratic governance which, we believe, will not only be instrumental in bringing about good governance in Pakistan, but will also contribute to democratic political thought in other countries, and to world peace.

As far as the 'Emergency' is concerned its effect on the politics of the opposition will not be an effective hindrance in political advancement of the country because it is based on total falsehood and thoroughly illegal and unconstitutional steps; it has no legs to stand upon. The moment the emergency is lifted, the political activists will come into the open and all the wrong steps taken by General Musharraf to undermine the judiciary, which is the sole deterrent in the enslavement of the people, who are born free, to the coterie of vested interests in power. I do agree that the pace of the opposition parties in organizing themselves and reaching the people at their doorsteps has been a bit slow but now, even during the emergency, they are feverishly engaged in creating unity in their ranks for restoration of political ruler ship, while clearing themselves of black-sheep, and Pakistan Jamhoori Tehreek is playing its desired role in this respect. Before the elections they will be able to prepare themselves well, and even during the elections they will give a good demonstration of their popularity with the people. After all, the ambitious military generals cannot validly replace the political parties in the estimation of the people at large for all times.

With regards, Safdar Hasan Siddiqi, Convenor PJT