

PRESS RELEASE
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Benazir Bhutto
Leader of the Opposition
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Taliban's Harsh Justice Sought by Pakistan's Sharif

*Bhutto appeals for International pressure
to halt spread of Fundamentalism in Pakistan*

ISLAMABAD -- Benazir Bhutto, Leader of the Opposition in Pakistan and Chair of the Pakistan People's Party, sent an appeal today to international human rights groups, leaders of multilateral organizations, British Prime Minister Tony Blair, Members of British Parliament and other world leaders seeking increased international opposition to the Sharif regime's intent to impose a taliban-like system of justice within Pakistan.

Ms. Bhutto urged world leaders "to send a strong message to the Sharif regime that the Taliban system of justice is as unacceptable to the international community in Pakistan as it is in Afghanistan."

Prime Minister Sharif, on November 16th, stated his intention to emulate in Pakistan the Taliban's system of justice, which includes summary executions or dismemberment without due process and dramatically curtailed rights for women and minorities.

The Taliban system of justice, if implemented, would be included in the 15th Amendment bill now being proposed for Pakistan by the Sharif regime. This amendment, now before Pakistan's Senate, would supercede and suspend the constitution at any time based on the Prime Minister's personal opinion of 'what is right and what is wrong'.

In her letter, Ms. Bhutto stated that "The loss of our liberal constitution and the imposition of the barbaric Taliban-style justice in Pakistan are a direct affront to the pluralistic and tolerant democracy of our country, as well as threatening to the millions of minorities, ethnic and religious, now in Pakistan. While we, in Opposition, will do all we can within our power to thwart these actions, additional voices from the international community must be raised against the reactionary and extremist goals of Mr. Sharif."

The letters and additional information are available at:

<http://www.clark.net/pakistan>

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