

Web Feature

United action for human rights in Pakistan

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People around the world took to the streets on Thursday to call for the restoration of human rights and justice in Pakistan.

Amnesty International joined forces with representatives of the legal profession and media industry to protest in support of lawyers, journalists and activists who have been detained in large numbers in the 'state of emergency' declared by General Musharraf.

As part of the global Day of Action supported by the International Federation of Journalists, demonstrations were held in Australia, Canada, India, Nepal, Norway, Paraguay, Switzerland, Turkey, the US and UK.

In London, a sizeable crowd gathered under a huge banner, holding candles and chanting messages to the Pakistan government. Irene Khan, Secretary General of Amnesty International, with Jeremy Dear, General Secretary of the National Union of Journalists and Mark Muller QC, Chair of the England and Wales Bar Council's Human Rights Committee, presented a petition to Pakistan's High Commission in London.

[box] **Demonstrations around the world**

[Slideshow: Amnesty International joins others to demonstrate on the Pakistan Emergency Global Day of Action, 16 November](#) [end box]

The petition, addressed to General Pervez Musharraf, demanded:

- full respect for freedom of expression in Pakistan
- the release of all those arbitrarily detained under the state of emergency
- reinstatement of the independent judiciary
- justice for the victims of enforced disappearance
- no introduction of military tribunals for civilians

Irene Khan said: "General Musharraf must put an end immediately to his outrageous assault on Pakistan's vibrant human rights community, institutions of justice and independent media. In the name of the "war on terror" he is destroying the very guarantors of the stability that he claims to be defending."

Jeremy Dear added: "Sales of satellite dishes and radios in Pakistan have skyrocketed in recent days, showing just how highly people value independent news. A free media is vital in maintaining public confidence in democracy and journalists must be able to work free from threats and harassment."

Elsewhere, activists braved the snow in Berne to protest in front of the Pakistan embassy. In Kathmandu, hundreds marched through the city carrying plea cards and banners. In New Delhi, several journalist groups joined Amnesty International in a rally through the busy streets of the capital city.

Amnesty International is calling for all states to immediately suspend all forms of security cooperation, including military assistance, until Pakistan lifts the emergency measures which violate international human rights law.

Read more:

[Amnesty International's Secretary General presents petition demanding human rights and justice in Pakistan](#) (Press Release, 15 November 2007)

[Bailed Pakistani activists at risk of re-arrest](#) (News, 13 November 2007)

[Hopes dashed for Pakistan's disappeared](#) (Feature, 13 November 2007)

[News: Crackdown intensifies in Pakistan](#) (News, 12 November 2007)

[Opposition defiant in Pakistan despite arrests](#) (News, 9 November 2007)

[General Musharraf cracks down on opposition](#) (News, 6 November 2007)

Picture captions [slideshow]:

At Pakistan's High Commission in London, UK

From Shankha Park and to the Pakistani Embassy in Kathmandu, Nepal.

In the snow in front of the Pakistan embassy in Berne, Switzerland.

From the cultural centre of the New Dehli, India, through various busy lanes of the city centre to Jantar Mantar, near the Parliament Street.