

# AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL PRESS RELEASE

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## **Pakistan: Amnesty International condemns assassination of Benazir Bhutto and Pakistan People's Party workers**

Amnesty International this afternoon strongly condemned the assassination of former Pakistan Prime Minister and chairperson of the Pakistan People's Party (PPP) Benazir Bhutto and 15 PPP party workers.

"It is shocking to see someone's life cut short in such a brutal way. Attacks such as these can never be justified. They violate international law and the rules of democratic behaviour," said Catherine Baber, Director of Amnesty International's Asia-Pacific Programme.

Ms Bhutto died after being shot in the neck and chest shortly after addressing an election rally. Her attacker then reportedly blew himself up.

"We know that the government of President Musharraf will find itself under enormous pressure to go after the culprits and to keep the country calm and stable but Amnesty International calls on President Musharraf -- and on the security forces -- to exercise restraint and uphold the rule of law. The killing of Benazir Bhutto must not be allowed to become a setback to civilian governance or indeed lead to a further crackdown on civil liberties," said Catherine Baber.  
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