


NEW ORLEANS
BAR ASSOCIATION

BOARD OF DIRECTORS
November 13, 2007

RESOLUTION AGAINST ATTACKS ON RULE OF LAW IN PAKISTAN

WHEREAS, the mission of the New Orleans Bar Association is to preserve the dignity and the viability of the Rule of Law in post-Katrina New Orleans, thereby providing the Bench and Bar and community-at-large a belief in the City's future;

WHEREAS, the New Orleans Bar Association is deeply disturbed by the recent events that have occurred in Pakistan. Pakistani President Pervez Musharraf has suspended the national constitution, dissolved the Pakistani Supreme Court, and detained eight members of the Supreme Court. This comes after the already tenuous situation created by Musharraf's suspension of the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court in March 2007. These actions have created a perilous situation and undermine the ideals of a free and democratic society.

WHEREAS, thousands of Pakistani lawyers have participated in demonstrations against these actions and many have been imprisoned as a result of their participation. However, the demonstrations continue, along with reports of unlawful detentions and public beatings. These incidents have aroused worldwide opposition to President Musharraf's emergency actions.

WHEREAS, a legitimate and independent judiciary is crucial to the existence of a free and orderly society. A democratic government operates by respecting and following the rule of law. When the rule of law is ignored and the judiciary is no longer independent, a true democratic society cannot exist.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, the New Orleans Bar Association sees these actions by Musharraf's government as an attack on the legal system and all those that oppose governmental pressure. We join with the American Bar Association and other bar associations around the country to urge President Musharraf to rescind his actions and reinstate the constitutional order and rule of law immediately.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that we also urge that the police free those people being detained without charges. Justice can only exist for the people of Pakistan when Musharraf's emergency rule is lifted.


President
New Orleans Bar Association