



Dedicated to a progressive & politically stable Pakistan & strong US-Pakistan relations

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Your Support

Dear Readers,

As Pakistan's leadership over the last sixty-five years continued plundering institutions to suit its various agendas, never paying attention to the basic need for nation building and never evolving a baseline vision acceptable to the diverse cultures that Pakistan harbors, the nation's elite citizens, the intellectual capital of Pakistani society, talked and expressed their concerns – but they never really contributed any significant efforts to help their fellow Pakistanis govern themselves and avoid being thrown into a state of flux with every change in administration or shift in political alliance. Similarly, numerous writers, thinkers, and journalists produced valuable discourse, but they too fell short of producing the social progress they desired. In fact, an overwhelming portion of society adopted the same self-serving acts for which they criticized the leadership.

While many individuals and organizations are indeed helping to deal with the challenges of widespread poverty, deficient healthcare, underdevelopment, and underinvestment, among others, the greatest tragedy is the lack of a grassroots effort to cultivate awareness and help evolve the desperately needed leadership for future generations.

It is time for well-intentioned Pakistanis that are genuinely interested in seeing their country become a progressive, stable, and respected nation to mobilize and help produce the sons and daughters that the *Baba-i-Qaum* envisioned.

For this reason, the INDUS Board of Directors decided earlier this month to offer lifetime membership, creating an effective way of forming a nucleus of supporters for INDUS objectives. I had the honor of enrolling as the first INDUS Life Member. I urge you to do the same. Be with us for life and help us evolve the selfless, the passionate, and the needed political leadership required to run Pakistan.

Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

Mujahid Ali
Director Membership & Administration

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Our Focus

Youth Leadership Development

Creating campus-based, strictly nonpolitical Student Government Associations that offer Executive, Legislative & Judiciary functions experiences on campus.

Cultivating Early Awareness

Aimed at increasing youngsters' awareness of the rights and responsibilities of citizenship – nation building at a very impressionable age – resulting in the evolution of future leadership and yielding real benefits to the nation.

Pakistan Civil Liberties Union - PCLU

Supporting the formation of a PCLU to produce ethical, selfless, and passionate future leaders.

"Real Time" Policy Research

Campus based political and social science research on policy issues leading to social, cultural, and political reform, and as-needed support for implementation.



The Extremist Mindset & Culture of Militancy

Athar Javaid
President of INDUS

The ability to protest peacefully and voice truthful opinions without fear of arbitrary repercussions, reprisals, and imprisonment are cornerstones of most civil societies. And if the recent month-long political sit-ins are any indication, Pakistan is no exception – even despite the country’s crisscross pattern of governance, deep-seated corruption, and less than fully credible governing institutions.

There is however a troubling indifference when it comes to adjudicating matters of religion and faith. Despite Pakistan’s diversity and the different shades of belief that have always existed, religious intolerance and radicalization have swelled over the last two decades. Zahid Hussain, in an [op-ed](#) in the daily newspaper DAWN, makes the case well:

The divide at the Islamabad High Court when it finally resumed the hearing of Mumtaz Qadri’s petition against his conviction was palpable. Those condoning murder in the name of religion stood on one side — against those prevented from standing on the side of justice out of sheer fear.

The number of lawyers coming out in defense of the late governor Salmaan Taseer’s assassin outnumbered evens the security personnel deployed around the court that day. But no one was willing to appear for the prosecution.

No sight could be more decadent than lawyers led by a former high court chief justice and another retired judge standing by a self-confessed murderer. It was perhaps the most shameful moment for a nation when a killer is lauded as a ‘soldier of Islam’.

Many others who were at the forefront of the lawyers’ movement — heralded as the ‘black coat revolution’ that paved the way for the country’s return to democracy — maintained a criminal silence while their colleagues idolized blatant brutality. Has the bar association, which would otherwise have been active in the struggle for rule of law, condemned the actions of its members? On trial is our country’s system of justice.

How has a country that has otherwise been progressive, with demonstrated capabilities in all walks of life, come to such a sorry state? The situation has virtually forced everyone to give in to enslavement by religious extremism and intolerance.

This did not happen overnight. It is indisputably an outcome of decades of moral bankruptcy – of both political leaders and society at large. (The murder of the lawyer and human rights activist Rashid Rehman, for defending a university professor charged for blasphemy, is a prime example.) More alarming still is the question that now surrounds the decisions of some of Pakistan’s most senior judges: Have their rulings and roles been influenced by religious extremism or out of fear for their lives?

It would therefore be logical to conclude that radical Islamists have successfully manipulated logic and moderation through extremism, tactics of fear, and the threat of reprisal. Many respected Islamic scholars who challenged the extremist mindset have either been killed or forced to leave the country.

Against this backdrop, amidst the deplorable and tragic Peshawar Army Public School genocide and the steady and alarming decline of a culture of mutual respect and tolerance, it was indeed refreshing to see popular sentiment, for once, unified against extremism. It was gratifying to see Mr. Mohammed Jibran Nasir, young activist lawyer, rising to the challenge and leading a movement to awaken the silent majority to the dangers of its reticence.

But now, nearly two months after the Peshawar tragedy, it is somewhat disappointing to see that only a limited number of people have come forward to back his efforts. For Pakistan, I hope and pray that Mr. Nasir gains substantial support in the coming months and upends the extremist mindset and the culture of militancy – so pervasive and yet despised.

Until we rid Pakistan of religious bigotry, racial, cultural, and economic injustice -- until ours is among the most tolerant, civilized, and liberal Islamic societies in the world -- our movement must continue.

Now is the time. The opportunity is before us.

INDUS - This Month

Informal discussions during a small INDUS gathering in December led to a meeting at the Paul H. Nitze School of Advanced International Studies (SAIS) at Johns Hopkins University. Dr. Walter Andersen, the director of the South Asia Studies Program, along with Ambassador Touqir Hussain, a former senior diplomat from Pakistan and adjunct professor at SAIS, graciously invited INDUS President Mr. Athar Javaid, Senior INDUS Advisor Mr. Shezad Habib, and Mr. David Silverman to meet and discuss how INDUS, through redefining itself as organization, can help support a progressive and politically stable Pakistan and strong US-Pakistan bilateral relations. Based on this discussion, a one-year INDUS action plan was drafted, reviewed, and then finalized during a February 2 meeting.

INDUS looks forward to sharing its 2015 action plan during its annual meeting in March and

highlighting developments and initiatives in this monthly newsletter.

News Review



Mohammad Jibrán Nasir

Buzzfeed interviewed the lawyer, activist, and independent politician, who was named by Foreign Policy magazine in 2013 as one of three Pakistanis doing inspirational work against sectarian violence. He pinpointed one of the challenges Pakistan faces during his interview: "You hear the term 'silent majority' so often in Pakistan. It's the worst thing we can be. With all our education and exposure if we still can't speak the truth, what can we do?" Read the rest of the interview [here](#).

And for more of Mr. Nasir's thoughts, visit his blog theindusripple.blogspot.com and follow him on Twitter - [@MJibránNasir](https://twitter.com/MJibránNasir)

State Ambivalence towards Jihadi Groups in Pakistan

Fredric Grare, Carnegie Endowment for International Peace

Mr. Grare, Carnegie's director of its South Asia Program, [writes](#) that the Peshawar school massacre "was a brutal reminder of the challenges facing the ongoing counter-terrorist operations on the Afghan-Pakistani border. But it also highlights the persistent ambivalence of the security establishment and some parts of Pakistani society toward terrorism."

Our Fleeting Resolve

Babar Sattar, High Court Advocate, Pakistan

The lawyer and regular columnist for DAWN [asks](#), who will build a narrative against non-TTP terror in Pakistan? Mr. Sattar writes that "our post-Peshawar moment of hope and resolve has dissipated. It is becoming evident that our civil-military elite hasn't given up its policy of prevarication on terror." He chastises Pakistani society for accepting violence against certain groups – the children in Shikarpur, the Hazara kids in Quetta, the Shia all over Pakistan – and asks, "Is violence less loathsome if motivated by biases of faith or when victims are identified as the 'other' on the grounds of faith?"

Special Envoy and Coordinator for Strategic Counterterrorism Communications

U.S. Department of State

Mr. Rashad Hussain was [appointed](#) as the U.S. Special Envoy and Coordinator for Strategic Counterterrorism Communications. Special Envoy Hussain will lead a staff drawn from a number of U.S. departments and agencies to expand international engagement and partnerships to counter violent extremism and to develop strategic counterterrorism communications around the world. Hussain will also serve as Coordinator of the Center for Strategic Counterterrorism Communications.

Western companies continue to exit Pakistan citing corruption

Pakistan Herald

According to [reporting](#), "It's not just the increasing cost of doing business in Pakistan driving away western investment. It is the ease of conducting business that is becoming a problem for many companies." Walt Disney pulled approximately \$200 million dollars' worth of yearly textile production from Pakistan and put the country on a banned list of approved supplier countries.

What ISIS Really Wants

Grame Wood, Contributing Editor

Mr. Wood, [writing for The Atlantic](#), says "that online voices have been essential to spreading propaganda and ensuring that newcomers know what to believe." He notes how, in December, The New York Times published confidential comments by Major General Michael K. Nagata, the Special Operations commander for the United States in the Middle East, who admitted that he had hardly begun figuring out the Islamic State's appeal. "We have not defeated the idea," he said. "We do not even understand the idea."

Civil society protesters end sit-in after govt assurance

Yumna Rafi, Reporter for DAWN

According to [reporting](#), a 31-hour-long sit-in by civil society members led by Mohammad Jibrán Nasir near the Chief Ministers House in Karachi ended after the government accepted the terms put forward by the protesters to publicly ban activities of the Ahle Sunnat Wal Jamaat (ASWJ). However, following the government announcement banning them, which also restricts them from carrying out mass processions, the ASWJ announced a rally later that week from Lasbela Chowk to Gurumandir.



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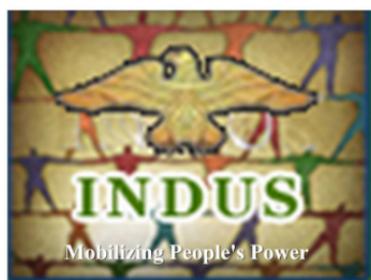
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