افغانستان آزاد ــ آزاد افغانستان

www.afgazad.com afgazad@gmail.com European Languages

By Faroog Tarig 15.04.2023

Pakistan collapses



Sources: 1resisto.com/ [Image: DIARIOCONVOS, March 8, 2023. Around 2,000 women mobilized in the Pakistani city of Lahore despite efforts by the authorities to ban protests.] Pakistan is facing one of the worst economic and political crises today. The political crisis is best manifested by the fact that almost half of the members of the National Assembly (lower house of parliament) have resigned, while two of the four provincial parliaments were dissolved a year before elections scheduled for October this year.

The two parliaments provincials, in the provinces of Punjab and Khyber-Pukhtoonkhwa, were dissolved by former Prime Minister Imran Khan. His Pakistan Party Justice Party (PTI) had the majority in these two chambers. He had the Hope that the dissolution of two

provincial parliaments would force the Federal government to announce early general elections.

The provisional governments of These two provinces have refused to call elections, which otherwise shall be carried out within 90 days of the dissolution of the assemblies. This delay is a violation of the constitution of Pakistan. The pretext for delaying the elections is the lack of funds. But a popular perception is: delay is a manipulation of the army. The army fears a PTI victory in the elections. Ironically, in 2018, the military was accused of manipulating elections to ensure Imran Khan's victory.

There is a great political maneuver at the judicial level. The Presidents of the Supreme Court and the Court Superior of Lahore are supporters of Imran Khan. This has been stated verdicts issued by judges in various political cases.

Every time the PTI moves the Court, everyone knows the verdict in advance. For example, a court of the three-judge Supreme Court, known for supporting Imran Khan, ordered on 4 April to hold elections in Punjab province on 14 April May of this year. However, this 3-member tribunal initially It included nine judges. Those who did not support Imran Khan were eliminated through maneuvers. Supreme Court justices are issuing Contradictory statements.

The judiciary is so divided like any other institution in the country.

The federal government and the Punjab's caretaker government rejected the Supreme Court's decision with regarding the May 14 elections. A public conflict between the Court Supreme Court and the federal government are aggravating the political crisis.

State institutions they are replete with pro-PTI and pro-Muslim League elements. The League Muslim, controlled by the Sharif dynasty, currently rules in coalition with the Pakistan People's Party (the party of the Bhutto dynasty).

The Supreme Court has the power to dismiss the current government on the charge of contempt of court. Without But the question is: who would take care of a collapsing Pakistan?

The specter of the military takeover Power is often under discussion. The turbulent political history of Pakistan is marked by 32 years of direct military rule since the Independence in 1947. When he is not in power, the military controls from behind. At present, the military establishment masquerades as 'neutral'.

In fact, as stated previously, the 2018 general election that led Imran Khan to Power was manipulated by the military establishment in their favor. When the The military withdrew support for Imran Khan in early 2022, his Government collapsed.

Imran Khan tried to find scapegoats for his downfall blaming, first of all, on the US, then to the military establishment and many others in their narratives always Changing. He is derided as a "U-turn" man. Every His new speech contradicts the previous one.

Imran Khan was replaced by a coalition government of Shahbaz Sharif, at the head of the Muslim League (after his older brother and three-time Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif out of politics in 2018). When Mr. Sharif tried to Implementing IMF conditions, Imran Khan regained popularity by obtaining negative support.

The IMF has become very unpopular in Pakistan among the masses. Whenever there was an increase in Unprecedented prices announced by the government, the reason for the IMF. The only pretext to justify the IMF's conditions on the part of the PML-led coalition government is: 'if we do not comply with the IMF conditions, Pakistan will go bankrupt." The masses have already Bankrupt, the state also in real terms, but an announcement has been delayed formal in this regard.

Along with serious crises A new resurgence of fundamentalism is visible religious. For example, the Tehreek Taliban terrorist attacks Pakistan (TTP) has multiplied. The TTP is an offshoot of the Taliban Afghan. They are attacking the police and military forces. Have safe havens in Afghanistan under a very helpful Taliban government.

Imran Khan, in his last days In power, he freed hundreds of detained Pakistani Taliban, reportedly in their attempt to maintain a peace dialogue. In fact, known as Taliban Khan, he and some of his military sponsors sympathize with the Taliban. Now the security forces are paying the price for this strategy.

Economic crises are a lot more serious than the political crisis. The coalition government is implementing the IMF's anti-people conditions by raising the prices of the oil, gas, electricity, general sales tax and all other consumer items.

The Pakistani rupee is losing value almost daily against the US dollar and other currencies Foreign. On April 7, one dollar sells for more than 290 rupees, versus at 150 a year ago.

There are hundreds of containers full of imported goods in the port of Karachi waiting to be Dispatched. The government has refused to settle the fees to be paid in dollars for these imported items.

There have been a number of indirect taxes on almost all edible goods and articles of daily consumption for the last six months. Several have been imposed Minimum budgets to people, sometimes announced without prior notice.

The villages are collapsing like Pakistan under huge economic burden without increasing salaries or any compensation.

Pakistan is doing everything possible to meet the IMF's conditions for obtaining the last

quota of \$2 billion from a \$6 billion loan negotiated by the previous government of Imran

Khan in 2019. This is the 23rd time that Pakistan takes a loan from the IMF.

Servicing of the external debt of Pakistan increased 70 percent in the first two quarters of

2022-23. Pakistan paid USD 10.21 billion in debt service external during this period. This

at a time when Pakistan was witness to the worst climate disaster during 2022. Instead of

suspending due to climate calamity, the IMF increased its pressure to pay more than last

year.

Foreign exchange reserves are at an all-time low. The foreign exchange reserves of the

central bank of Pakistan has been reduced to 4200 million dollars due to the recent

payment of external debt.

To please the IMF and deliver With the conditions, Pakistan raised the interest rate to a

record 21 percent. hundred. Wholesale inflation is at an all-time high: 37.5 per cent.

hundred, the highest since 1973. The result is a real disaster for the working class and the

Pakistani middle class.

Inequalities are in all-time highs in Pakistan. Deregulation, privatisation, liberalization and

lower progressive taxes contributed to this extreme inequality. According to a survey, the

average income of the most Rich is more than 16 times the average of the poorest.

According to an OXFAM report, the 1 The top percent of the country has more wealth

than the bottom 70 percent of the country's the population.

The economy of Pakistan grows by just 0.4 percent in the current fiscal year ending in

June 2023. By all measures, Pakistan is performing poorly compared to other South Asian

countries.

There's none Hope among people that things will get better. The ruling elite of Pakistan

has failed miserably to solve the basic problems of masses such as free education, health

and employment. An agenda Alternative political and economic in favor of the people is

the need for Moment. The progressive forces are weak but try to fill the vacuum in some

areas of the working class.

Farooq Tariq was until 2019 successively general secretary and then national spokesman

of the Awami Workers' Party formed in 2012 by the union of three existing parties. He was

previously the national spokesman for the Pakistan Labour

Party, http://www.laborpakistan.org/

Source: https://1resisto.com/2023/04/09/pakistan-colapsando/

Rebelion 14.04.2023