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JI sees Taseer's assassin in 'seventh heaven'

By: Shamim Bano 1/5/2010

In a shockingly blunt endorsement of Punjab Governor Salmaan Taseer's assassination, Ameer Jamat-e-Islami in Sindh Asadullah Bhutto has declared that the assassin will directly go to the "seventh heaven".

He said this after a press conference addressed by JI Ameer Munawar Hasan at Idara-e-Noor-e-Haq on Tuesday. The press conference ended abruptly when a JI spokesman Sarfaraz Ahmad broke the news of Taseer's assassination to Munawar. "Is he alive?" was his first reaction.

"Whoever has killed him is a pious man and will go directly to heaven," replied Bhutto to a question put forward by this correspondent.

He even went on to say that Taseer would not have got killed if the government had replaced him. "Aasia Bibi will suffer the same fate if the punishment awarded to her by the court for using derogatory remarks against Hazrat Mohammed Mustafa (PBUH) is not implemented," he added.

Earlier, during the press conference, Syed Munawar Hasan said that the Muttahida Qaumi Movement (MQM) should also clear its position in Sindh after parting ways with the government at the Centre.

He said that Altaf Hussain's party's stand would sound vague unless all members of his party resign, including the governor, resign and sit on the opposition benches. He said Altaf had twice contacted him on the phone to discuss the political situation.

He was in favour of the government completing its five-year tenure, but he added the people should be provided with some relief by reducing the inflation rate and addressing unemployment issues.

He informed the media that his party would stage a sit-in in Peshawar on January 23 against the forced disappearances and drone attacks.