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## Asif Zardari vows to fight Pakistan 'witch-hunt'

**The Pakistani president has accused his political rivals of carrying out a "witch-hunt" against him and vowed to foil any conspiracies.**

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Opposition politicians have been calling for Asif Zardari to step down since the supreme court overturned an amnesty that protected him and other senior ministers from corruption charges.

Zardari, the widower of assassinated former prime minister Benazir Bhutto, met top leaders of his Pakistan People's Party over the weekend to draw up political strategy following Wednesday's ruling.

"The PPP will use democracy and constitutionalism as its weapons to fight its adversaries and foil all conspiracies against it," he said.

Several of his aides and two of his senior ministers were also on a list of people protected by the amnesty, and they too are facing calls to quit.

But Zardari said his party would not be "blackmailed" into asking its ministers to resign on the basis of accusations.

"None of the accusations had been proved during more than a decade of witch-hunting and there is no reason why any one should resign until proved guilty of wrongdoing," a spokesman said.

Zardari has been dogged by accusations of graft from the 1990s when Bhutto was prime minister.

He says the charges were politically motivated and spent 11 years in prison despite never being convicted.