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## *Pakistan, the return of the old ghosts*



**Sources:** Rebellion

*Last Thursday, February 8, 128 million Pakistanis, with their vote, tried to reactivate their country's democracy, paralyzed since April 2022 after the constitutional coup against Prime Minister Imran Khan, today sentenced to 14 years in prison and awaiting 100 more judicial processes, so he was barred from running for any public office. Since then, and as for most of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan's 77-year existence, the country's real power has returned to the military, which has never allowed any civilian government to finish its term.*

After Khan's ouster, the same assembly nominated Anwar ul Haq Kakar, an obscure parliamentarian from Balochistan, as head of the interim government tasked with preparing the country for elections.

The same fate befell Khan's wife and a Pakistan *Tehreek-e-Insaf* (PTI or Pakistan Movement (See: Pakistan: The Last Stitch Against Khan.)

In this way, added to the persecution of their that included a wide range of examples that have ranged from assassinations, arbitrary arrests, banning of rallies and advertising, in addition to the removal of the symbol of the party - a cricket bat - no small element if it is It takes into account that 40 percent of Pakistan's 240 million people are illiterate, so the party badges functioned as a saint and sign for the voters.

Beyond the effort, the *establishment* achieved its goal only partially. Despite the fact that the PTI was not able to formally run, but many of its candidates did. appearing as "independents" in different areas of the country. And in spite of the the few resources they had at their disposal carried out strong campaigns on social networks and video screens in the middle of public squares with speeches by Khan in the prison, they have achieved excellent results. To such an extent that this would be the reason why they still can't The results were announced almost a day after the polling stations closed.

An action that was accompanied by the closure of the Internet and mobile phone service for the most part of the country for practically the entire day Thursday.

For the Pakistani electorate, there is only one "more" of the same", taking into account that the old ghosts have returned and of them who has already proclaimed himself the winner of the election, none other than the *Muslim League of Pakistan-Nawaz (PML-N)* of the already three times Prime Minister and three times overthrown by the army Nawaz Sharif. Nawaz has reached this stage after a He was exiled for four years in England, as he had several trials in his country because of accusations of corruption. Finally, after reaching an agreement with the military leadership, he returned last October, he managed to have his causes cleared of him, and put himself in Race for a fourth term. The manoeuvre is so far-reaching that it has left Of course, beyond the blatant support of the military, they have assured him, And they have ensured electoral victory.

Sharif's Marriage And the military isn't a lifetime contract either, since the possible first The minister has betrayed the uniformed officers on several occasions. every time he came to power he was finally expelled by military coups, of course blessed from Washington, since apart from the brief interregnum of the four years of Khan's government (2018-2022), the U.S. embassy is a fundamental power within the *Islamic* nation.

Another of those who have bid in the elections, with Another member of the Bhutto dynasty, the *People's Party of Pakistan (PPP)*, Bilawal Bhutto-Zardari, son of the former President Asif Ali Zardari and two-time former Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto, assassinated during the December 2007 election campaign. A fate The tragic story of the family, opened by Benazir's father, Zulfikar Ali Bhutto, president He was Prime Minister

of the country from 1971 to 1973 and Prime Minister from 1933 until he was overthrown In 1977 and after two years in prison he was hanged in 1979.

On the run to reach a majority of the 266 seats in the *National Assembly*, 134 are needed to secure a majority. although a coalition can also be formed to reach that number, from where The authorities that will govern the country for the next five years will emerge. Also the legislatures of the country's four provinces (Balochistan, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP), Punjab, and Gilgit-Baltistan)

### **Terror also chooses**

Beyond Whoever prevails, the winner will face an excessively complex landscape in the context of a gigantic foreign debt, with uncontrollable inflation, in addition to the fact that Pakistan is suffering the consequences of climate change with droughts, floods and heat waves close to 50 degrees.

As if all that Not to mention that, three of its four international borders are under threat by latent conflicts that could explode at any moment. North Afghanistan, with which it shares some 2,500 kilometers that are used by the *Tehrik-i Taliban Pakistan* group, (TTP) through which their fighters enter to carry out attacks on a constant basis, which has already provoked several clashes, per hour only diplomats, with the *mullahs* of Kabul, who deny support for the *mujahideen* of the TTP.

To the south, 2,240 with India, with whom Islamabad has had a complex relationship which includes three wars and thousands of border incidents since partition of 1947, over the Kashmir issue. In addition, the almost 1,000 kilometers that shared with Iran, to the west, have been complicated in recent years by the Balochistan independence groups, which operate both sides of the border. Meanwhile, the 500 kilometers with China, to the east, although they are This could change if the new government accedes to the pressures from the United States to encourage some kind of agitation against Beijing.

In this context, the internal violence that during 2023 caused more than 1,000 deaths throughout the The country, mainly due to the actions of the TTP, is the most pressing.

There's a mean dozen groups that operate in an irrelevant manner, although, as in so many opportunities, they could become the executive arm of some political enemy of the new government, which is not the case with *Daesh Khorasan*, one of the most important *Khatibas* operating interchangeably in India, Iran and Pakistan and which has just been awarded the three bomb attacks the day before the election.

The first two in southwestern Balochistan, and the other in Karachi, the most populous city in the world. country, capital of Sindh province, which left a total of about 50 dead.

In addition, during the the day on which the election took place, despite the fact that the army had arranged 130,000 men for its guard, more than 50 attacks have been reported terrorists that left a dozen dead and 40 wounded. Ten of the Dead They were members of the security forces. The actions were mainly carried out in the provinces of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP) and Balochistan, coincidentally both bordering Afghanistan. According to the Army, they neutralized dozens of "threats and in different operations had killed five terrorists.

As long as all Sources indicate that independent candidates are prevailing who, being able to circumvent the obstacles, managed to apply to represent finally to Imran de Khan's *Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf*, the old ghosts of old hover over Pakistan.

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