

REACTION ON FORMULATIONS OF PARLIAMENTARY COMMITTEE

PRESS RELEASE

Rao Muhammad Akhtar - Private Secretary

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PROF. KHURSHID AHMAD



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Member Senate of Pakistan

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Islamabad (April 17, 2004): Senator Prof. Khurshid Ahmad has condemned the US endorsement of Sharon's plan to annex more than half of the West Bank and deny to Palestinians their right to return to their homeland.

"The shameful endorsement by President Bush and Prime Minister Tony Blair of Ariel Sharon's terrorist plan to annex more than half of the West Bank in Gaza and deny to the Palestinians their right to return to their homeland is a worst form of legitimizing imperialism and terrorism," he said.

It is ridiculous that Sharon, who is the perpetrator of massacre in Sabra and Shatila and is continuing his brutality in occupied Palestine, has come up with a so-called Israeli-Palestinian peace plan, he said and noted that "this is tantamount to theft of Palestinian land by the Israeli colonial settlers and an end to the UN Security Council Resolution 242 and whatever peace plan were pursued after that."

While Bush and Blair have endorsed and tried to legitimize this usurpation, occupation and terrorism of the Sharon regime, it is unfortunate that the entire Arab and Islamic world is sleeping against this heinous crime against the innocent people of Palestine, Professor Khurshid said.

"It is extremely disappointing that Pakistan government has kept mum on this issue, perhaps to appease its American masters," he observed and maintained that Pakistani nation condemns this Sharon-Bush-Blair offensive against its Palestinian brethren. The people of Pakistan demand that their government must "publicly and vehemently" protest against it.

"If Pakistan and OIC cannot condemn and take effective action to check this Israeli and Anglo-American terrorism against the people of Palestine at such a crucial time as the present one, I do not know when their conscious would awaken and when they would show loyalty to Muslim people and their aspirations!" Professor Khurshid Ahmad exclaimed.

Islamabad (September 30, 2004: Senator Prof. Khurshid Ahmad has expressed his shock and astonishment at the composition of the Parliamentary Committee on Baluchistan and Provincial Harmony consisting of 20 Senators and 9 MNAs which has been announced in the Press today. This is flagrant violation of the understanding at the Floor of the House.

According to Prof. Khurshid Ahmad the Resolution clearly stated that the Committee would be nominated in consultation with the Parliamentary Leaders. "I was involved in the first stage when only the Senate Committee was being formulated and it was agreed

that the Committee would have 5 MMA Senators i.e. Prof. Khurshid Ahmad, Maulana Gul Nasib, Dr. Muhammad Ismail Buledi, Dr. Azizullah Satakzai and Mr. Rehmatullah Kaker. None of us is included in the final list of the Committee”, Prof. Khurshid Ahmad explained.

He stated that MMA has over 60 MNAs and 20 Senators. Only one MNA has been taken from MMA and that too, to the best of my knowledge, without consultation of the Parliamentary Leadership. Non-consultation, arbitrary nominations and totally ignoring MMA despite initial understanding are deliberate violations of the parliamentary norms. “If the Government wants to have its way in this highhanded fashion the Opposition cannot cooperate, even to have working relationships a minimum requirement of the Parliamentary life”, he warned.

“I would like to record my protest and MMA would review any participation in a Committee that is so misbalanced and is arbitrarily constituted in violation of all parliamentary understandings”, he concluded.

PROF KHURSHID AHMAD