



Asian-American Network
Against Abuse of Women

General Pervez Musharraf
President of Pakistan
Pakistan Secretariat
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Dear General Pervez Musharraf:

I am writing to express my utter outrage and disgust at your statements to the Washington Post published on Sept 13, 2005. In your interview to the Post discussing rapes in Pakistan you said:” ""This has become a moneymaking concern. A lot of people say if you want to go abroad and get a visa for Canada or citizenship and be a millionaire, get yourself raped."

Your statement makes clear to me your absolute disregard and disrespect for Pakistani women who undergo the horror of sexual violence. I hardly have words to express how disappointed I am that a man of your supposed stature who touts himself as an “enlightened moderate”has set such a poor example for the men of his country. By your statements you have made clear that any woman who musters up the courage to speak publicly about sexual violence is to be maligned and discredited in the worst possible way. Your words are an open invitation to all men who choose to perpetrate such crimes against women and a glaring announcement that they can victimize women however they choose without fear and with impunity since their victims will take the blame.

Your suggestion that victims of rape are complicit in the crimes committed against them makes clear your belief that it is the women who are responsible for their plight and that the government or the people owe them nothing in terms of legal protection or support. My heart bleeds for the women of Pakistan who are condemned to having a leader who thinks so little of them and disrespects them so publicly and brazenly. With your statements, you have shamed Pakistan and Pakistani women.

Sincerely,

A concerned Pakistani

