



Asian-American Network
Against Abuse of Women

HELP STOP “TALIBANIZATION OF PAKISTAN”!

On July 14, 2005, the MMA (Muttahida Majlis-e-Amal) passed the Hasba Bill into law. Under the Hasba Bill a moral police will be established in the Province that will insure that all people behave according to Islamic teachings in public places. A MMA memo released to the Press vows to “introduce Taliban-style governance in Pakistan.” The text of the Bill not only establishes a “moral police” but also insures that any decisions made by the “mohtasib” or moral ombudsman but also that “no court or authority shall be competent to question the legal status of the proceedings before a Mohtasib.” Under the auspices of this Bill, the MMA now has the authority to enforce their version of Islam on all citizens.

ANAA team is deeply saddened by this turn of events. The implementation of this Bill will have grave consequences for the status of women in Pakistan. The ambiguous wording of the text with the mohtasib having powers to enforce “Islamic values and etiquettes” means that anything that does not accord with the MMA’s extremist version of Islam can be prohibited and the prohibition cannot be challenged by the judiciary.

The Bill has received criticism from both the Pakistan Muslim League (N) and the Pakistan People’s Party. However, the MMA is raising constitutionally based arguments on the autonomy of the provincial governments to argue against the possibility of interference from the central government.

ANAA in solidarity with the many civil society organization working in Pakistan is extremely outraged by the passage of the Hasba Bill into law. Instead of paving the way for a future of empowerment for the women of Pakistan, the Bill will have the effect of dragging Pakistani women back into the medieval ages. We urge all who read this Bill to email General Pervez Musharraf and urge him not to sign the bill into law. The President can be emailed at:

<http://www.presidentofpakistan.gov.pk/WTPresidentMessage.aspx>

Please CC your letter to 4anaapk@gmail.com

ABOUT ANAA

ANAA is a network of men and women committed to defending the rights of women against cultural and social abuse. We plan to promote public awareness and dialogue about human rights and social justice for Pakistani women. In particular, we advocate repealment of laws that are discriminatory towards women.

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