

*Committed to Strengthening
Democracy and Democratic Institutions*

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Annual Report

July 01, 2006 June 30, 2007

2006-2007



PILdAT
Pakistan Institute of
Legislative Development
And Transparency

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Democracy and Democratic Institutions*

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Abbreviations & Acronyms

CGEP	Citizens' Group on Electoral Process
CNIC	Computerized National Identity Card
COAS	Chief of Army Staff
CSO	Civil Society Organisation
DG	Director General
IPRI	Islamabad Policy Research Institutes
ISI	Inter-Services Intelligence
Lt. Gen	Lieutenant General
MMA	Muttahida Majlis-e-Amal
MNA	Member National Assembly
MPA	Member Provincial Assembly
MQM	Muttahidda Quami Movement
MYP	Member of Youth Parliament
NADRA	National Database and Registration Authority
NFC	National Finance Commission
NGO	Non-Governmental Organizaion
NIC	National Identity Card
NWFP	North West Frontier Province
PML	Pakistan Muslim League
PML-N	Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz
PPPP	Pakistan Peoples Party Parliamentarian
SDEPP	Strengthening Electoral Processes to Ensure Greater Participation
TERI	The Energy and Resource Institute
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
YP	Youth Parliament

Foreword

The PILDAT Annual Report 2006-2007 is significant this year as it showcases the fifth year of PILDAT's work and its achievements. PILDAT was established by a dedicated core team back in 2001 and it is a moment of great pride for PILDAT team that this indigenous organisation has completed five years of its modest contribution to the field of democracy and strengthening of democratic institutions.

The PILDAT Annual Report 2006-2007 covers the period from July 01, 2006 to June 30, 2007. During this year, PILDAT focussed on policy review and highlighting key issues facing the country through expert dialogue and discussion in the public domain. PILDAT's focus on conflict resolution and promoting better understanding on civil-military relations led to the Dialogue Group on Civil-Military Relations writing a letter to the President and heads of political parties to address the growing polarisation through reconciliation and restraint. The Group also covered major ground by discussing and articulating in the public domain policy alternatives on issues of national concern such as the Balochistan problem, insurgency in FATA and the Judicial Crisis from the standpoint of improving civil-military relations.

With the country expected to face a General Election in late 2007/early 2008, PILDAT directed its efforts towards facilitating a group of eminent Pakistanis to monitor the process leading up to the General Election scheduled for late 2007/early 2008. The Group, formally known as the Citizens Group on Electoral Process CGEP, was formed in December 2006 and brought together a mix of well-reputed former members of the judiciary, lawyers, academicians, media persons and members of civil society. While traditionally Pakistan welcomes international election observation teams, these observer missions arrive in Pakistan near the day of election and their reports comment on the electoral processes that have already taken place. Under the objective country conditions, PILDAT considered it crucial to monitor the process leading to the election, as early as a year before the expected polls, in order to inform and educate public opinion in case of any anomalies in the electoral process. With its focus on Elections, PILDAT also organised a National Conference on Elections that brought together key experts to share their assessment of the electoral exercise and its results, especially focussing on the role of Balochistan and the NWFP.

Owing to the under-represented role of youth in country's political and policy spheres and lack of avenues of political grooming of youth in their educational spheres, PILDAT launched the project of the first-ever Youth Parliament of Pakistan. The Youth Parliament was designed to have country-wide representation of Youth divided among the areas on the basis of population criteria used by the National Assembly of Pakistan and members were selected based on a multi-tiered selection process across Pakistan. The Youth Parliament enabled 60 young men and women, aged between 18 and 29, to face the pressure of adversarial politics and discuss issues of concern to young people in Pakistan. The experience, spanning over a year, provided the "Youth MPs or MYPs" a chance to experience life in the parliamentary spotlight and at the same time showed them how the next generation would approach parliamentary politics in Pakistan.

In addition to its objective of strengthening ties between Parliament and the people, PILDAT also partnered with international organisations to focus on the country's judicial system and its complementarity with international legal systems.

PILDAT Team interacted regularly with national and international actors, institutions, policymakers and the national and international media to highlight the organisation's position and its views on the democratic development, democratic transition and prospects of free and fair elections in the country. Members of PILDAT were represented in key national and international forums around the world to articulate a research-based, non-partisan perspective on key issues.

With this Annual Report, the entire PILDAT Team would like to thank its Board of Directors and Advisors for providing constant guidance and advice during the past 5 years, its supporters who believed in PILDAT's initiatives and its commitment to the cause of strengthening democracy in the country, public representatives elected to the National Parliament and Provincial Assemblies with which PILDAT interacted regularly, the legislative secretariats for their constant support and the news media for their coverage to PILDAT work and for utilising and disseminating PILDAT research to the people. It has been a great first 5 years and we look forward to working with you all for many more countless years in the service of Pakistan.

Ahmed Bilal Mehboob
Executive Director

Islamabad: July 2007



Basic Information

Basic Information

Name of the Organisation

Pakistan Institute of Legislative Development And Transparency PILDAT

Address

No. 7, 9th Avenue, F-8/1, Islamabad, Pakistan

Telephone

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Fax

(+92-51) 226 3078

E-mail

info@pildat.org

Website

www.pildat.org

Formation Date

November 01, 2001

Legal Entity

Society registered under the Societies Registration Act XXI of 1860

Objective

To Strengthen Democracy and Democratic Institutions

Registration Date

September 19, 2002

Auditors

Ford Rhodes Sidat Hyder & Company
(a member of Ernst & Young International)

Bankers

Bank Alfalah (Pvt.) Ltd.

Board of Advisors

The PILDAT Board of Advisors is a unique mix of prominent intellectuals, media persons, national and international Parliamentarians and academicians which regularly advise PILDAT on its programmes, oversee progress of existing programmes and act as a great resource to the organisation on an honorary basis. A brief portfolio of the members of the Board of Advisors is as under:

Senator S. M. Zafar
Chairman

Senator S. M. Zafar is a prominent lawyer and former Federal Minister of Law and Parliamentary Affairs, Pakistan. He is also the Chairman of the Human Rights Society of Pakistan and is involved with various developmental works. He is Chairman of the Senate's Functional Committee on Human Rights.



Dr. Hasan-Askari Rizvi
Member

Dr. Hasan-Askari Rizvi is an independent Political and Defence Analyst. He obtained an M.A. And Ph.D. in Political Science and International Relations from the University of Pennsylvania, USA, and an M. Phil. in Politics from the University of Leeds, UK. Earlier, he did his Masters in Political Science from the University of the Punjab, Lahore. He was Quaid-i-Azam Professor of Pakistan Studies at Columbia University, New York (December 1995-July 1999), and Allama Iqbal Professor at Heidelberg University, Germany and Research Scholar at University of New Mexico and Sandia National Laboratories, Albuquerque (2002). He was also on the Faculty of Political Science Department, University of the Punjab, Lahore, (1971-2001) where he also served as Chairman of the Department of Political Science.



Mr. Mujib-ur-Rehman Shami
Member

Mr. Mujib-ur-Rehman Shami is a senior and renowned journalist. He is Editor-in-Chief of daily "Pakistan" and has served as the elected chairman of the Council of Pakistan Newspaper Editors (CPNE). A thinker and a political analyst, Mr. Shami is a well-known intellectual of the country.



Dr. Zahid H. Bukhari
Member

Dr. Zahid H. Bukhari has a Ph.D. in Political Science from the University of Connecticut, USA and is currently serving as the Director of the programme Director, American Muslim Studies Program (AMPS) at the Georgetown University, USA.



Dr. Ijaz Shafi Gilani
Member

Dr. Ijaz Shafi Gilani is the Chairman and Chief Executive of Gallup Pakistan. He has a Ph.D. in Political Science from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT), USA. He has also served as adviser to Prime Minister and Chairman of the Prime Minister's Committee for Research and Analysis from 1991-93. Dr. Gilani has directed electoral studies for all local bodies and national elections since 1979.



Lord Nazir Ahmed of Rotherham
Member

Lord Nazir Ahmed of Rotherham is a member of the British House of Lords. Active on the international political issues, Lord Ahmed brings his sharp understanding, experience and insight of the British and International political perspective to PILDAT as a member of the Board of Advisors. He is the first person of Pakistani origin to have become a member of the House of Lords.



Dr. Donya Aziz
Member

Dr. Donya Aziz, member of the National Assembly of Pakistan, is a medical doctor by profession. Her main focus is on the public health sector and gender. She is also associated with the Association of Pakistani Physicians of North America - APPNA, and the Human Development Foundation of North America - HDFNA, organisations based in the USA. She is also the Parliamentary Secretary for the Ministry of Population Welfare.



Mr. Mohammad Sarwar
Member

Mr. Mohammad Sarwar is member of the British House of Commons from McGover, Glasgow, UK. He has the distinction of being the first Pakistani-British and Muslim MP in the UK parliament and possesses a deep insight into the political issues and parliamentary affairs of both UK and Pakistan.



Mr. Anwar Ali
Member

Mr. Anwar Ali is an Architect by profession. He is a member of the Pakistan Council of Architects and Town Planners (PCATP), the Institute of Architects (IAP) Pakistan, and the Anjuman-e-Mimaran Pakistan. He has over 31 years of experience in planning, design, supervision and management of various Architectural and planning projects in Pakistan and abroad, including legislative assembly buildings of Azad Kashmir and NWFP. Mr. Ali is President & Chief Executive of Ace-Arts (Pvt.) Ltd, an architectural and town planning consultancy firm.



Mr. Khalid Mahmood
Member

Mr. Khalid Mahmood is a British Parliamentarian of Pakistani origin from Perry Barr, Birmingham, UK. He is actively involved with various political forums in UK and extensively travels around the world for advocacy-related work.





Board of Directors

Mr. Javed Nawaz
Acting Chairman
Board of Directors

Mr. Javed Nawaz is the Managing Director of AgroDev in Oman. He is also serving as Honorary Investment Counsellor, Government of Pakistan, in Oman. He has served on the Executive Committee of the Lahore Chamber of Commerce and Industry (1980-83). He established 3 schools while he was the Chairman Board of Governors, Pakistan College, Muscat. He is a Law Graduate and has a post graduate degree in Business and Statistics. Mr. Nawaz was member of the First Group Study Exchange Team sponsored by Rotary International to visit California, USA in 1974.

Mr. Ahmed Bilal Mehboob
Secretary General

Mr. Mehboob possesses extensive experience of management of professional organisations in the public sphere. He has organised and conducted over 100 focus group studies, consultative sessions and roundtables on various issues of crucial public and policy interest in Pakistan and abroad.

Mr. Abdul Latif Mirza
Board Member

Mr. Abdul Latif Mirza has served as Manager Production Support, Technology Services, Saudi Hollandi Bank, Riyadh, Saudi Arabia, and Head, EDP Saudi Hollandi Bank, Riyadh, Saudi Arabia.

Mr. Ismet Amin Khawaja
Board Member

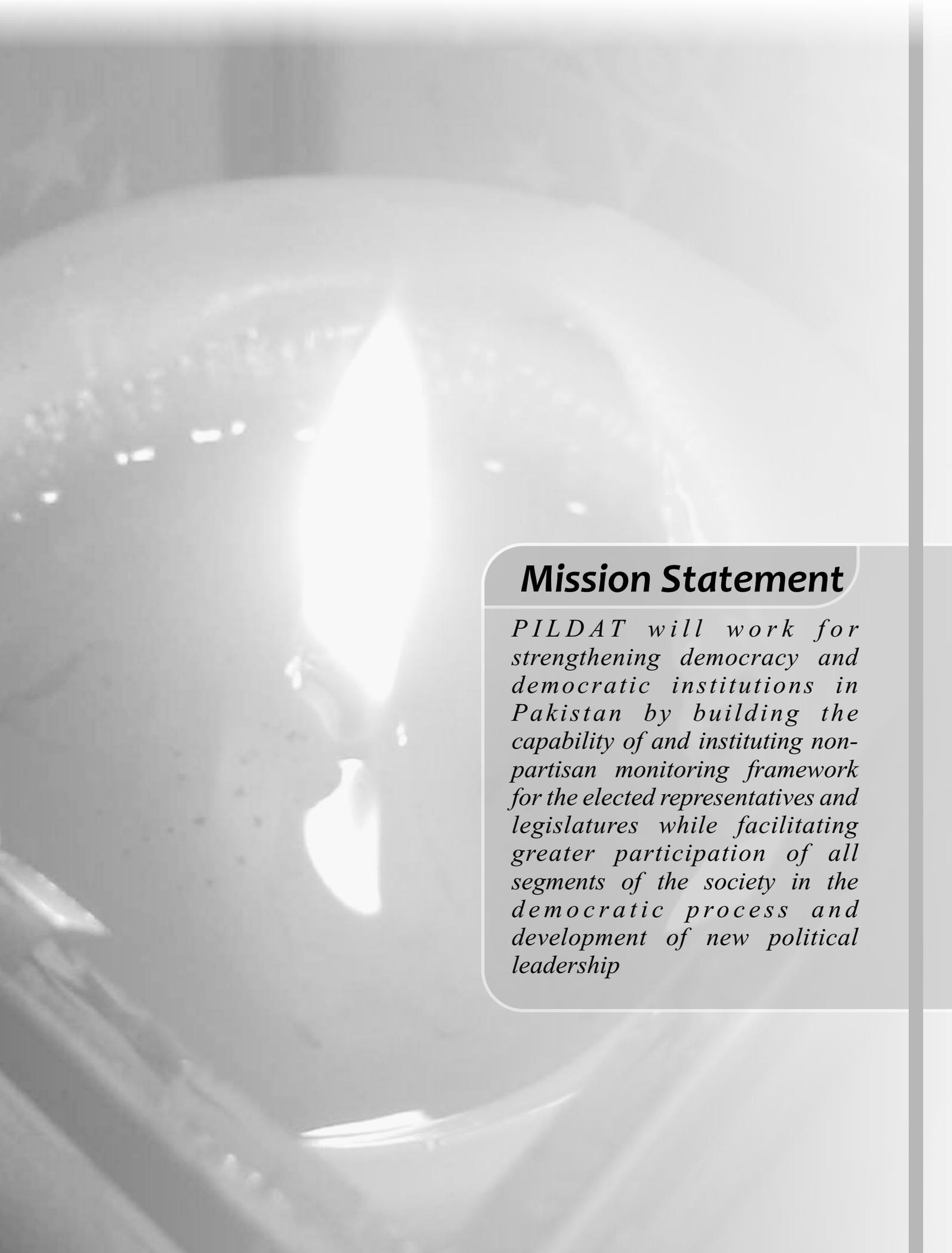
Mr. Ismet Amin Khawaja is General Manager for Foundations Building Contracting Company, Ltd. He is Chairman of the Institution of Engineers Pakistan, Eastern Province Sub-Centre, Saudi Arabia. In October 2001, he was appointed Honorary Investment Counselor for Eastern Region of Saudi Arabia by the Board of Investment, Government of Pakistan. Mr. Khawaja has been involved in a number of international projects.

Mr. Mohammad Haroon
Board Member

Mr. Mohammad Haroon is Senior Vice President / Assistant General Manager at United Gulf Bank, Bahrain. He has served as an Investment Banker at Investment Corporation of Pakistan at Karachi and Peshawar; Manager, Senior Manager (Development), Acting Zonal Head, Senior Manager (Credit & Marketing for Gulf); and as Commercial Manager, National Bank of Pakistan, Peshawar, Abbotabad and Bahrain, 1974-1981.

Mr. Mohammad Jameel Bajwa
Board Member

Mr. Mohammad Jameel Bajwa is Chief Engineer at National Engineering Services of Pakistan (NESPAK), one of the largest multi-disciplinary consulting firms in Pakistan. His expertise is in Infrastructure Development. He has worked in Nigeria as Project Manager of Kaduna State Housing Authority and has executed mega-scale projects in his field including housing projects in Pakistan and abroad.



Mission Statement

PILDAT will work for strengthening democracy and democratic institutions in Pakistan by building the capability of and instituting non-partisan monitoring framework for the elected representatives and legislatures while facilitating greater participation of all segments of the society in the democratic process and development of new political leadership



Activities During the Reporting Period

Dialogue on Civil-Military Relations

PILDAT's programme of Dialogue on Civil Military Relations continued during the reporting period and held 4 sittings. A brief description of the dialogue sittings is as follows:

Sixth Sitting: The Dialogue on Civil Military Relations advises the President against combining the office of the President of Pakistan with the Chief of Army Staff

The sixth sitting of the Dialogue on Civil-Military Relations was held on July 8, 2006 at Islamabad. The focus of the dialogue in the 6th sitting was consideration and finalisation of the draft letter addressed to the President / COAS General Pervez Musharraf on the state of civil-military relations in the country, specifically in the light of developments in the state of civil-military relations in the country in the past few months.

The Dialogue Group, comprising 18 prominent

of Pakistan and the Heads of political parties in Parliament urging all leaders to conduct a dialogue for peace and conciliation. This is probably the first time in the country's history that a group of such diversity including civil and senior former military officers has agreed upon the need to pursue a peaceful and orderly disengagement of the military from the political process.

The Group, after conducting a series of extensive discussions for over one and half year,



Members of Dialogue Group on Civil-Military Relations being briefed by Senator Salim Saifullah, Federal Minister for I Mr. N. C. Joshi, Additional Secretary, Rajya Sabha Inter-Provincial Coordination



Members of Dialogue Group on Civil-Military Relations

personalities from diverse professional backgrounds, most of whom have held high public office and some of whom represent political parties with divergent views, jointly addressed a letter to the President of Pakistan, Prime Minister

unanimously agreed to seek the urgent attention of the heads of the highest public offices as also the heads of political parties through the letter to help reduce the growing political polarization and to desist from taking extremist, inflexible positions. Listing 6 major issues facing the nation, the letter included advising against combining the office of the President of Pakistan with the Chief of Army Staff because it politicizes the Constitutional office of the Presidency and the institution of the Armed

Forces. At the same time, the letter urged restraint and moderation upon all leaders in order to initiate and conduct a sustained dialogue which alone can ensure a peaceful, orderly transition to complete

and authentic democracy.

Seventh Sitting: Dialogue Group on Civil Military Relation

PILDAT held the 7th sitting of Dialogue on Civil-Military Relations on August 23, 2006. The agenda of the sitting was to review the impact of the Letter written by the Group on Civil-Military Relations to the President, the Prime Minister and Heads of Political Parties as well as a discussion on the future direction of the dialogue process. The letter began receiving media attention towards the end of July 2006. The members believed that the strength of the dialogue process is its non-partisan outlook. The letter written to the President was an important milestone in the dialogue process and helped create a climate of opinion. The intent of the letter was to bring down the level of political confrontation and polarity. Intellectual activism and advocacy on political and national issues is the hallmark of the dialogue.

Eighth Sitting: Dialogue Group on Civil Military Relation



(From Left to Right) Lt. Gen. (Retd.) Asad Durrani, Mr. Tasneem Noorani, Dr. Parvez Hasan and Brig. (Mr. N. C. Joshi, Additional Secretary, Rajya Sabha Retd.) Shaukat Qadir Mr. N. C. Joshi, Additional Secretary, Rajya Sabha

The eighth sitting of the Dialogue Group on Civil Military Relations was held on November 08, 2006 at Islamabad. The Group noted with deep concern the continuing turmoil in Balochistan and

the Tribal Areas and its negative consequences for the nation. It expressed anguish about tragic loss of human lives in Bajaur and Dargai and conveyed its deepest sympathies with the families of the deceased. The Group was convinced that the manner of our participation in the international war on terror is causing deep strains and fissures in the national fabric and is polarising society. This policy requires a thorough review and modification before events overtake us again, the Group believed.

The group was also of the considered view that military operations, whether by the army or the civil armed forces, should be put on hold and a meaningful interactive dialogue started with stakeholders in Balochistan and the Tribal Areas. Concurrently, the President should invite all the political parties and informed members of civil society to discuss and evolve a national consensus on required changes in our foreign and domestic policy on all matters of vital national importance, the Group held.

The group stressed that free and fair election, leading to a return of democracy is a prerequisite for achieving national integration and removing national fissures.

Ninth Sitting: The Dialogue Group on Civil-Military Relations

The Dialogue Group on Civil-Military Relations held its 9th sitting in Islamabad on May 08, 2007. Focusing on prospective developments in the next few months which are extremely significant for

Pakistan, the Group concluded that to ensure a transition to complete and authentic democracy, the following four (4) steps are of critical urgency and importance:

1. That elections to the National Assembly and the Provincial Assemblies be held before the elections for the next Presidential term.
2. That the offices of the President and the Chief of Army Staff represent separate institutional functions of the State and that they should not be held by one and the same person.
3. That the appointment of the Chief Election Commissioner be made only after meaningful consultation with the leaders of all political parties represented in the Parliament. The empowerment of the Chief Election Commissioner and the Election Commission of Pakistan is essential for transparent elections which are not only held in fact and practice, but are also perceived by the people to be free, fair and transparent. For this purpose, it is necessary for the District Administrations to be placed under the effective control of the Chief Election Commissioner during the next elections.
4. That elections be held only under neutral and impartial caretaker governments with full authority, both at the centre and the provinces, constituted after meaningful consultation with the leaders of all political parties represented in Parliament.

The Group also deliberated on the situation arising from the Presidential Reference against the Chief Justice of Pakistan and the latter's suspension from office, the petitions filed in the Supreme Judicial Council and the Supreme Court and the latest developments. After a comprehensive review of the legal, judicial and broader political and national dimensions of the situation arising from the suspension of the Chief Justice, the Group concluded that the manner in which the Chief Justice was treated was most inappropriate and unacceptable by all norms

of civilised conduct.

In the proceedings of the meeting, the Group also deliberated on the Balochistan situation, with special reference to a paper prepared on the Balochistan Conflict by Lt. Gen. (Retd.) Abdul Qadir Baloch, former Governor of Balochistan and former Corps Commander, Quetta. Senator Salim Saifullah Khan, Federal Minister for Inter-Provincial Coordination attended this part of the session by special invitation.

The Group noted that substantial investments in physical infrastructure and in measures for socio-economic uplift are visible and measurable in Balochistan. The Group concluded that the Balochistan situation represents a serious national concern which requires a political, democratic approach respectful of the views and sentiments of all those who live in Balochistan, regardless of whether they are members of, or are represented in the Federal and Provincial legislatures. At this time, there is a need to initiate and conduct a sustained and all-inclusive dialogue that ensures participation of all segments of political and civil



(From Left to Right) Lt. Gen. (Retd.) Jamshed Gulzar, Dr. Parvez Hasan, Lt. Gen. (Retd.) Moinuddin Haider and Mr. Shafqat Mahmood

society in Balochistan. For this purpose, it is essential that any actions taken to enforce the law target only those who are using violence and that law-enforcement agencies strictly refrain from

killing and injuring innocent citizens who happen to be residents of areas where violence has occurred. At the same time, the Group also deplored the wilful destruction of infrastructure and gas pipelines through terrorist activities in Balochistan.

Citizens Group on Electoral Process CGEP

In December 2006, PILDAT facilitated a number of well-known personalities from the media, legal profession, civil society and former members of the superior judiciary and armed forces, but with no present affiliation with any political party, to form a citizens' Group to begin an independent monitoring of the coming general election in Pakistan.

Formally called '**Citizens Group on Electoral Process**', the Group was formed with the avowed goal of contributing towards the holding of free, fair and credible elections in Pakistan. The Group's objective has been to work to ensure timely identification, communication and rectification of issues relating to the electoral processes. The Group regularly monitored the performance of the institutions involved in the holding of elections and the activities of political parties and the candidates.

The Group unanimously elected Justice (Retd.) Wajih-ud-Din Ahmed, a Former Judge of the Supreme Court of Pakistan, as its Chairman. The other members of the group include Amir ul Mulk Mengal, Former Chief Justice Balochistan High Court and former Governor of Balochistan; Mr. Arif Nizami, Editor, The Nation; Lt. Gen. (Retd.) Asad Durrani, Former Director General, ISI / MI; Mr. Ghazi Salahuddin, Political Analyst, Jang Group; Mr. Hameed Haroon, CEO, Dawn Group of Newspapers; Dr. Hasan-Askari Rizvi, Political & Defence Analyst; Dr. Ijaz Shafi Gilani, Chairman, Gallup Pakistan; Mr. Javed Jabbar, Former Senator and Federal Minister for Information and Media Development; Mr. Kamran Khan, Journalist and TV Talk Show Host Geo TV; Mr. Mohammad Aslam Kazi, CEO Daily Kawish and KTN; Lt. Gen. (Retd.) Moinuddin Haider, Former Governor Sindh and Former Interior Minister; Mr. Mujib-ur-Rehman Shami,

Editor-in-Chief, Daily Pakistan; Mr. Munir A. Malik, President, Supreme Court Bar Association; Justice (Retd.) Nasira Iqbal, Former Judge, Lahore High Court; Mr. Omar Khan Afridi, Former Chief Secretary NWFP; Dr. Parvez Hassan, Renowned Lawyer; Qazi Muhammad Jamil, Former President, Supreme Court Bar Association; Mr. Rahimullah Yusufzai, Executive Editor The News, Peshawar; Mr. Shafqat Mahmood, Former Civil Service Official, Senator and Minister; Mr. Shahid Hamid, Former Governor Punjab; Mr. Sikandar Hayat Jamali, Former Chief Secretary, Balochistan; Mr. Tasneem Noorani, Former Federal Secretary Interior; Syed Talat Hussain, Director Current Affairs, Aaj TV; Mr. Ahmed Bilal Mehboob and Aasiya Riaz, Executive Director and Joint Director of PILDAT respectively.

The Group held monthly meetings at Islamabad and the provincial capitals throughout the reporting period and deliberated upon key electoral issues, carried-out, commissioned and considered background research on key electoral issues and highlighted its considered views in the



Members of the Citizens Group on Electoral Process meeting at Lahore

public domain through position papers and background studies. Following is a brief overview of its 7 meetings held during the reporting year:

Meeting 1: Formation of the CGEP

The Citizens Group on Electoral Process CGEP was formed in a meeting held by PILDAT on December 28, 2006. The eminent Pakistanis represented in the meeting finalised the name of the Group as well as its Terms of Reference and Rules of Business. The formation of the Group

was facilitated by PILDAT in the background that there is a need for indigenous monitoring of the electoral process in Pakistan as early as a year before the next general election is expected to be held (November 2007 to February 2008) to ensure active monitoring and highlighting of electoral processes leading up to General Election.

Meeting 2: Citizen's Group on Electoral Process-CGEP

In its second meeting held on January 20, 2007 at Lahore, the Citizens Group on Electoral Process considered the working paper on the Fresh Electoral Rolls being prepared by the Election Commission of Pakistan as well as Background Papers on Possible Ways to Rig Elections in Pakistan, Practice of Compulsory Voting, and Code of Conduct During Elections especially prepared by PILDAT for the CGEP. The Group also decided to intimate about the formation of the Group to major Political Parties of Pakistan. The Group also deliberated about the on-going preparation of fresh Electoral Rolls and its various aspects and decided to write a letter to the Chief



A CGEP Meeting chaired by Justice (Retd.) Wajihuddin Ahmad

Election Commissioner on the subject stressing that the early correct and complete compilation of the electoral rolls is a sine qua non for the holding of free, fair and transparent elections.

Meeting 3: Citizen's Group on Electoral Process-CGEP

In Meeting 3 of the Group on February 23, 2007 at Lahore, the Citizens Group on Electoral Process noted that it had already communicated its

concerns about the manner in which the new voters' lists were being prepared to the election commission but had not received any response so far. The Group also noted that under Article 41 of the Constitution the President, was the Head of state and represented the Unity of the Republic. The present President had also taken a constitutional oath not to engage in any political activity in his dual capacity as a member of the Armed Forces of Pakistan. Some of the previous Presidents had resigned from their political offices and parties after their election as president to ensure that all manner of people accepted them as representing in their person the unity of the federation. The group was of the view that in these circumstances it was not appropriate for the Chief of Army Staff and the President to publicly campaign for a particular political party and urged him to desist from doing so. The Group urged the Election Commission to hold an immediate inquiry into the complaints about the alleged rigging and irregularities in the recent bye-elections in Sindh in order to ensure that such complaints or rigging does not recur in the coming General Election.

Meeting 4: Citizen's Group on Electoral Process-CGEP

In its 4th Meeting held on March 31, 2007 at Islamabad, the Citizens Group on Electoral Process (CGEP) expressed grave concern over the government's stance in the matter of President's reference against the Chief Justice and the issues surrounding it. The Group observed that the manner in which Chief Justice Iftikhar Mohammad Chaudhry was treated by the Government of Pakistan is derogatory and contemptuous of the judiciary itself. Also, there is no provision in the constitution nor any precedent by which a supreme court judge can be restrained from working, made non-functional and then sent on purported compulsory leave. The group wished to place on record its disapproval of the manner and mode by which the judicial pillar of the state has been seriously damaged by the executive. It was of the considered opinion that these actions have grossly undermined the prospects of free and fair elections and specially that of the President. The group also noted with concern the pressure being exerted on the media and considered this as

a direct threat to fundamental freedoms enshrined in the constitution. While these developments were disturbing, the Group noted with deep appreciation the response of the lawyers' community and civil society. This has rekindled the hope for justice, fair play and the rule of law, the Group believed.

Meeting 5: Citizen's Group on Electoral Process-CGEP

Meeting 5 of the Citizens Group on Electoral Process (CGEP) was held on Friday, April 27, 2007 at Islamabad. The Group decided to consult with leading political parties to get their input on electoral processes. A detailed discussion took place on the topic of the election of the President from the current assemblies and the position of the group on the issue. The Group decided to compile and issue a Position Paper on the Presidential Election covering its legal, constitutional, political and moral aspects. The Group took stock of the on-going 'Judicial Crisis' and implications for the next elections and decided to keep it on the agenda for coming meetings.

Meeting 6 of the Citizens Group on Electoral Process (CGEP) was held on Monday, May 21, 2007 at Lahore. The Group reviewed various reported developments relating to the General Election and the Presidential Elections. Dr. Ijaz Shafi Gilani made a presentation on the topic of "Election Data of Pakistan as a Tool of Monitoring Electoral Fairness." The Group also discussed its draft Policy Paper on Presidential Elections and decided that after receiving the members' input, PILDAT will print the paper and release it to the media with an executive summary.

Meeting 7: Citizen's Group on Electoral Process-CGEP

The 7th Meeting of the CGEP was held on Friday, June 22, 2007 at PILDAT Office, Islamabad. The Group discussed the ongoing judicial crisis and possible scenarios. The Group also discussed what practical course could it adopt vis-à-vis the President's election which it believes is morally and constitutionally untenable. Reviewing the issues related to draft electoral rolls prepared by the ECP, the Group decided that it should prepare a

petition and move the court on the issue asking immediately for extension in the date of display period of electoral rolls. The Group also discussed and finalised a draft Code of Conduct for Elections.

National Conference: Election 2007 - Challenges & Prospects

With special focus on NWFP and Balochistan: February 26-27, 2007

Experts predicted that the electoral scenario, as

experienced in 2002 general election in the shape of MMA victory, is likely to repeat itself in the coming general elections, albeit with slight changes. They expected that instead of gaining a



(From Left to Right) Mr. Hameed Haroon and Mr. Mujib-ur-Rehman Shami at a CGEP Meeting

Meeting 6: Citizen's Group on Electoral Process-CGEP

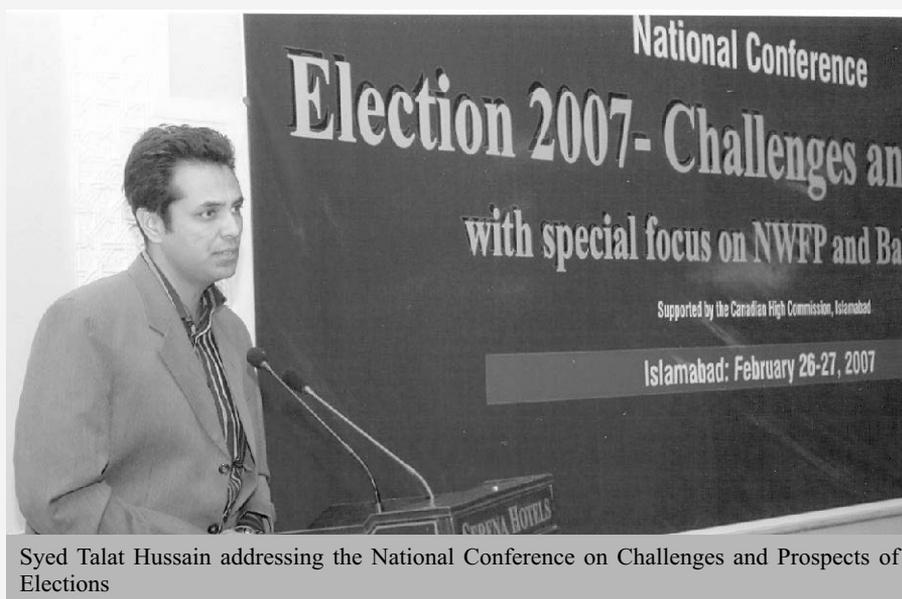
clear majority in the NWFP, the MMA is likely to form a coalition government in the province alongside the PML-Q, the arrangement that it is presently a part of in the Balochistan government. The electoral gains by the MMA will have an impact on the regional security and the perception of the regional security by the foreign powers. However, they feel that if free and fair elections are held, PPP in the NWFP and the nationalist parties in Balochistan will make sizable electoral gains.

Projections about the timing and results of next General Election largely depend on scenarios that range from Elimination of indispensable leader leading to political chaos; Neutral military holding free and fair elections; The 1997 elections model in which political parties find it difficult to build a healthy and stable relationship between the government and the opposition and the state encourages, legal and political conditions and pre-electoral processes leading to “heavy mandate” for a favoured political party; Electoral Model 2002 of a hung Parliament, which, despite its longevity, remains fragile, vulnerable to manipulation and susceptible to breakdown and lastly, the war on terror or internal security conditions leading to the declaration of emergency in the country and postponing of election by a year. These scenarios were presented by various speakers at the Conference.

The two-day National Conference was organised by PILDAT with support from the Canadian High Commission and included as speakers Prof. Dr. Adnan Sarwar, Chairman International Relations Dept; Peshawar University; Prof. Dr. Mohammad Waseem, Professor of Political Science, Social Sciences Department LUMS; Former Chairman

International Relations Dept., QAU; Dr. Saeed Shafqat, Executive Director, National Institute of Population Studies (NIPS); Adjunct Professor, School of International Affairs and Public Policy (SIPA), Columbia University, NYC, USA; Dr. Ijaz Shafi Gilani, Dean Faculty of Social Sciences, International Islamic University; Chairman, Gallup Pakistan; Mr. Sarwar Bari, National Coordinator, Pattan Development Organisation; Mr. Shafqat Mahmood, Political Analyst, Former Senator & Minister; Syed Taltat Hussain, Director News & Current Affairs, Aaj TV; Mr. Rahimullah Yusufzai, Political Analyst; Dr. Mansoor Akbar Kundi, Professor of Political Science, Balochistan University; Mr. Saleem Safi, Political Analyst; T.V. Talk Show Host; Mr. Shahzada Zulfiqar, Correspondent, Monthly Herald & The Nation, Quetta; Mr. Siddique Baloch, Editor 'Balochistan Express' Quetta and Lt. Gen. (Retd.) Talat Masood, Former Federal Secretary and Senior Political and Security Analyst.

Roundtable on Justice, Accountability and International Experience: May 02-03, 2007



Syed Talat Hussain addressing the National Conference on Challenges and Prospects of Elections

PILDAT, in partnership with the “No Peace Without Justice” (NPWJ) an international NGO, organised a Roundtable on the subject of Justice, Accountability and International Experience on

May 2-3, 2007 at Islamabad. The roundtable was organised with the objective to understand and take stock of the realities on the ground in Pakistan in terms of available non-judicial, quasi-judicial and neo-traditional accountability mechanisms and how these contribute to implementing the International Criminal Court's complementarity.

At the Conference, prominent legal minds of the country urged demilitarization of politics and economy as a way forward towards establishing rule of law and supremacy of the constitution in the country. They believed that the struggle for independence of judiciary in Pakistan has still a long way to go, but it is heartening that this struggle is gaining momentum through the courage shown by Justice Iftikhar Muhammad Chaudhry and the national movement of lawyers in his support which has the potential to bring about a change for the better.

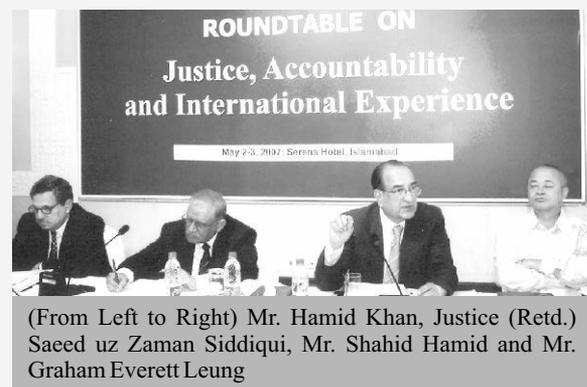
The International Conference brought together respected legal experts such as Justice (Retired) Saeed uz Zaman Siddiqui, former Chief Justice of Pakistan; Mr. Hamid Khan, Advocate Supreme Court and Former President Supreme Court Bar Association; Mr. Shahid Hamid, Advocate Supreme Court and Former Governor Punjab; Dr. Parvez Hassan, Prominent Lawyer; Mr. Ahmer Bilal Soofi, Expert in International Law; Senator Babar Awan, Advocate Supreme Court and Justice Nasira Iqbal, Former Judge and Barrister Zafar ullah Khan. The conference also brought together international legal experts from the UK, Italy, Belgium, Sierra Leone and Fiji including Ms. Alison Smith, Mr. Niccolo Figa-Talamanca, Mr. Graham Everett Leung and Mr. Abdul Rahim Kamara. Prominent participants at the roundtable conference included politicians and MPs, lawyers' community, youth representatives, the media and civil society organizations.

The Youth Parliament Pakistan

PILDAT launched the First-ever Youth Parliament of Pakistan in January 2007. The Youth Parliament, which has membership of young Pakistanis from all over the country, enabled 60 young men and women, aged between 18 and 29,

to face the pressure of adversarial politics and discuss issues of concern to young people in Pakistan. Conceived and initiated by PILDAT, the Youth Parliament Pakistan provided young MPs a chance to experience life in the parliamentary spotlight and at the same time showed them how the next generation would approach parliamentary politics in Pakistan.

Following parliamentary practices, two mock parties were created: the Green Party (the Traditionalists) and the Blue Party (the Liberals) and the young MPs needed to join one of the two parties. The majority party formed the Youth Government. Youth MPs also elected Youth Prime Minister, Ministers, Leader of the Opposition, shadow Ministers and government and opposition backbenchers. The membership of Youth Parliament has been selected from across Pakistan through an intensive evaluation and interview process by an independent steering committee including MPs, former Speakers, representative of Ministry of Youth Affairs and PILDAT. The membership reflected number of seats according to regional proportion on population basis as is the



practice in the National Assembly of Pakistan. No educational qualification criterion was set for seeking membership. Instead, the only requirement included the capacity to read, write and speak Urdu so as not to discriminate against a large population of youth of Pakistan on the basis of education and not to let the Youth Parliament become a forum for the elite.

The idea behind Youth Parliament was to inculcate in youth the values and culture of democracy as

central to effective governance in any society. The Youth Parliament has been designed to demonstrate to Youth how Parliament is able to make legislation; to debate matters of national and international concern; to demand accountability from those in government; to change government without recourse to civil disorder; and to make and enforce their own rules of conduct, practice and behaviour.

Establishment and facilitation of the Youth Parliament has been part of PILDAT's focus on Youth in the country and Youth's awareness education and training in the norms of politics and democracy. PILDAT strongly feels that sustainable democracy and the sustainability of sound democratic institutions in Pakistan is not possible without youth's involvement in the democratic and political process even if this involvement is simply as a citizen or voter. Following is a brief detail of the sessions of Youth Parliament held during the year:

First Session of the Youth Parliament:



Members of Youth Parliament Pakistan during a Parliamentary Committee Meeting

January 24-28, 2007

The First-ever Youth Parliament of Pakistan held its first session at Islamabad from January 24 to January 28, 2007. The first session began with an orientation session for young MPs briefing them on their roles and responsibilities as members in the light of Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business of Youth Parliament Pakistan. The Youth Parliament was formally inaugurated by Senator Mohammedmian Soomro, Chairman Senate, as the patron of the Youth Parliament. The first

session of the Youth Parliament held 4 sittings. The Members of Youth Parliament were administered oath by the Speaker. The Youth Parliament also elected its Prime Minister and Mr. Basil Nabi Malik, (Constituency Number YP-50-SINDH03), belonging to the Blue Party, commanded the confidence of the House as the Youth Prime Minister. Ms. Mariam Raza Zaidi was elected as the Leader of the Opposition Youth Parliament while Ms. Mehvish Muneera Ismail was elected as the Deputy Speaker of Youth Parliament. The Youth Parliament held a discussion on the State of Youth in the country demanding of the Government of Pakistan to seek Youth Parliament's debate and input on the draft Youth Policy lying with the federal cabinet for its approval. It also passed a resolution condemning the terrorist incident following the news of the terrorist incident in Islamabad and called for meaningful investigation of the incident. Youth MPs moved resolutions and held discussions in the house on issues such as the state of poverty and unemployment in the Youth of Balochistan due to which the Youth is falling prey to various ills; the Government of Pakistan to take effective and necessary steps to ensure that all buildings in Pakistan are made accessible to physically-challenged special persons; abolish the current Zakat system of Pakistan and should instead invest this money in the District, Tehsil and Union Council levels to develop the small industries that can be used to create jobs for the youth of Pakistan; the Government of Pakistan to ban vulgarity and obscenity in the media; minimise the availability and use of such media and put a ban on all internet cafes offering internet access in private cabins as they are unregulated and unchecked and young individuals are using them for unethical and obscene purposes, etc. The Youth Prime Minister also announced his cabinet which was administered oath by the Speaker Youth Parliament. The Youth Cabinet includes Mr. Arif Mahmood Chaudhary (YP21-Punjab03), Minister for Finance, Planning Affairs and Economics; Mr. Liaqat Ali Shahwani (YP03-Balochistan02), Minister for Foreign Affairs and Defence; Mr. Mustafa Hyder Sayed (YP08-ICT03) Minister for Culture, Sports and Youth Affairs; Mr. Osama Azeem Chaudhary (YP09-ICT04) Minister for Information Mr. Qasim Khan

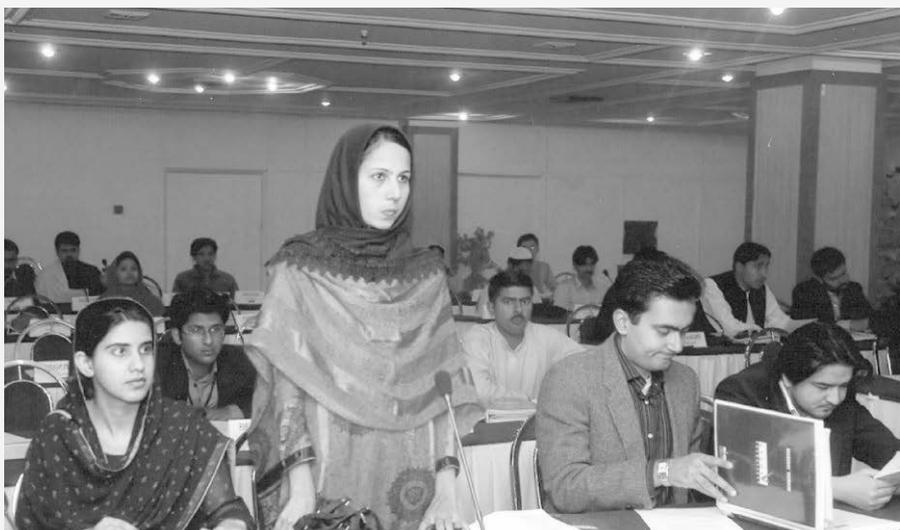
Badini (YP04-Balochistan03), Minister for Education, Health and Environment and Syed Ali Raza (YP44-Punjab26), Minister for Law, Parliamentary Affairs and Human Rights. The Opposition youth party also announced its shadow cabinet including Mr. Ajmal Shah Din (YP20-Punjab02) Shadow Minister for Information; Mr. Jawdat Bilal (YP29-Punjab11), Shadow Minister for Foreign Affairs & Defence; Mr. Rafi Ullah Khan (YP16-NWFP05) Shadow Minister for Education, Health and Environment; Mr. Saif Ullah Khan (YP42-Punjab24), Shadow Minister for Finance, Planning Affairs and Economics, Ms. Saira Soomro (YP58-Sindh11) Shadow Minister for Law, Parliamentary Affairs and Human Rights and Ms. Sidra Tariq (YP17-NWFP06) as Shadow Minister for Culture, Sports and Youth Affairs. The Youth Minister for Law, Parliamentary Affairs and Human Rights moved the motion to elect Parliamentary committees. Members for 7 committees including Committees on Foreign Affairs & Defence, Law and Human Rights & Parliamentary Affairs, Culture, Sports and Youth Affairs, Education, Health and Environment, Finance, Planning Affairs, Economics,

The second session of the Youth Parliament was chaired by Former Speaker Mr. Gohar Ayub. Dr. Ishrat Hussain, Chairman National Commission on Governance Reforms, addressed the members of the Youth Parliament as a Guest Speaker. The House discussed the Draft Youth Policy of Pakistan to offer proposals to further improve it and also discussed the issue of Federalism and Provincial Autonomy to offer proposals to address the current challenges to Federalism and demands for increased quantum of Provincial Autonomy and contribute to the resolution of these issues. The various sittings witnessed active participation of all MYPs in the debate with the opposition and government benches engaged in presenting their cases vociferously. The MYPs were hosted by Senator Mushahid Hussain Sayed, Chairman Senate Committee on Foreign Affairs, at a luncheon in their honour.

Third Session of the Youth Parliament: May 09-13, 2007

The third session of the Youth Parliament was presided over by former Speaker National Assembly of Pakistan Mr. Illahi Bux Soomro. Senator Mian Raza Rabbani, Leader of the Opposition in the Senate of Pakistan, addressed the members of the Youth Parliament on the subject of the “State of Democracy in Pakistan and the Way Forward” as a Guest Speaker while Mr. Javed Hasan Aly, Former Task Leader, New Education Policy Review, addressed the members on the “State of Education and the New Education Policy” coinciding with the topics of debate at the third session. The MYPs

visited the National Assembly of Pakistan and observed the proceedings of the House and engaged in an informal discussion with the National Assembly Secretariat staff on issues related to parliamentary practices and procedures.



Senator Mohammedmian Soomro, Chairman Senate and Patron Youth Parliament Pakistan addressing Youth MPs

Information and Ethics were elected.

Second Session of the Youth Parliament: March 01-05, 2007

The Youth Prime Minister who had accepted the resignations of his six-member cabinet after adjournment of session two announced his new six-member cabinet at the commencement of session three. The six Standing Committees (SCs) on Foreign Affairs & Defence; Culture, Sports and Youth Affairs; Education, Health and Environment; Finance, Planning and Economic Affairs; Information; and Law, Parliamentary Affairs and Human Rights also held meetings during the session.

YPF Consultative Meeting Improving Electoral Participation of Youth

The Young Parliamentarians Forum YPF, in a meeting held on August 24, 2006 noted that in such a strained atmosphere between parties, young MPs from different parties can work together on issues of mutual interest. In the light of coming election, all parties want free fair and credible. This group can work together as a pressure group to talk of improving young people's participation; lobby within parties and with ECP, etc. On a resolution moved by various members of the YPF, the members present on the occasion elected Dr. Donya Aziz as the new Secretary General of the Group.

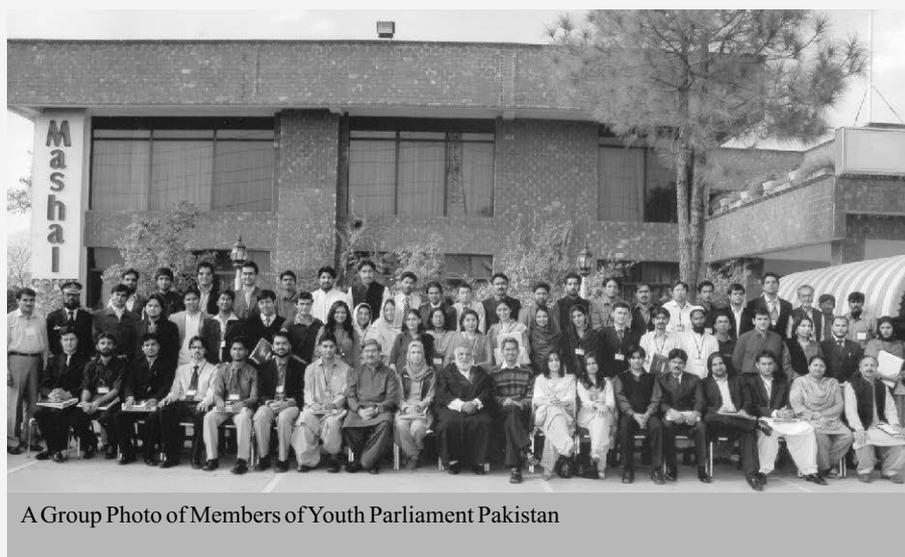
Parliamentarians form bi-Partisan Group on Inter-Faith Relations

PILDAT arranged a Consultation on the formation of Proposed Parliamentary Group on Minorities' Issues on September 06, 2006.

Representatives from the major political parties, minority wings shared their views regarding the role, scope and objectives of the Group on Minorities' issues, proposed structure of the

Group and the role that group can play in improving participation of minorities in the electoral process of the Pakistan.

On October 09, 2006, Parliamentarians from both sides of the divide in the Parliament formally joined hands to form a bi-partisan group to address issues regarding Inter-faith relations and to promote harmony among followers of various faiths in Pakistan. The Group, which has been named Parliamentary Group on Inter-Faith Relations, formally met in Islamabad at the invitation of PILDAT and elected Mr. Akram Masih Gill, MNA (PML) as its Chairman; Mr. Ramesh Lal, MNA (PPPP) as Senior Vice Chairman; Ms. Asiya Nasir, MNA (MMA) as Secretary General; Ms. Riffat Javed Kahlon, MNA (PML) as Additional Secretary General and Mr. Dev Das, MNA (MQM) as Information Secretary. The Group discussed ways and means to enhance the participation of religious minorities in the electoral process both as candidates and voters. It was observed that the non-Muslim communities' voter turn-out is less than the national average and they field less candidates in the election. The Group decided to recommend to



A Group Photo of Members of Youth Parliament Pakistan

the political parties to adopt a unanimous position about increasing the number of reserved seats for non-Muslim communities in the National and Provincial Assemblies and introducing reserved

seats for non-Muslim communities in the Senate.

Reforms to Improve Electoral Participation of Women, Youth and Non-Muslim Communities

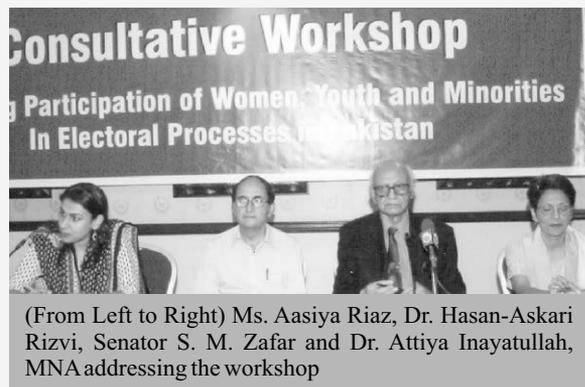
Ahead of the General Election 2007/2008, PILDAT carried out extensive work in the area of improving electoral participation of traditionally disadvantaged sections of the society including Women and Non-Muslim Communities as well as Youth whose participation levels have been deficient in successive elections in the country. PILDAT, under a project supported by the ECP/UNDP's "Strengthening Electoral Processes to Ensure Greater Participation" has been working in the area of facilitating the introduction of more inclusive policies and practices on the part of leading players to ensure that Women, Youth and non-Muslim communities, under-represented in terms of their electoral participation both as voters and as candidates, are given equal opportunities and a level playing field for maximum electoral participation in Pakistan. The real goals of PILDAT's work in this field have been to first study and understand the patterns, cultural and religious barriers, and impediments affecting electoral participation of these communities and later lobby for required reforms. PILDAT's focus has been to work alongside parliamentary groups on Women, Youth and Non-Muslims (Parliamentary Groups on Inter-Faith Relations) as well as a wider range of society including community representatives, media, government and the civil society organisations, etc. to identify and highlight these impediments and together with these groups, lobby for specific reforms.

PILDAT adopted the following, multi-step approach in identifying various impediments and condensing various reform proposals towards improving electoral participation of Women, Youth and Non-Muslims:

1. Study, Discussions and Meetings with Pakistani MPs and party officials from various wings of the major political parties in various groups facilitated by PILDAT including the Parliamentary Consultative

Group on Women's Issues (PCGWI), the Young Parliamentarians' Forum (YPF) and the Parliamentary Group on Inter-Faith Relations (PGIFR). In addition, we also benefited from the Focus Group Discussions held with Youth, Women and Non-Muslim communities under a different project.

2. Research, compilation and dissemination of a Background Paper "Impediments in effective participation of Women, Youth and Minorities in the Electoral Processes in Pakistan" in order to set-off the debate by providing it with a researched perspective from the communities under discussion
3. Consultative Workshops in provincial capitals of Punjab, Sindh, Balochistan and Peshawar including legislators, political party representatives, community representatives, government, the Election Commission, CSOs and the media
4. Discussion Paper on Proposed Reforms to Improve Electoral Participation of Women, Youth and Non-Muslim Communities which drew from discussions with MPs, various political parties and the conclusions of the



(From Left to Right) Ms. Aasiya Riaz, Dr. Hasan-Askari Rizvi, Senator S. M. Zafar and Dr. Attiya Inayatullah, MNA addressing the workshop

consultative workshops at the provincial capitals to identify legal and procedural reform in support of improving electoral participation of Women, Youth and Non-Muslim communities

5. Concluding Workshop to present reform proposals to the ECP, media and other stakeholders and representative groups

Following is a brief overview of various consultative workshops held to achieve the

objectives:

Consultative Workshop at Lahore:

October 09, 2006

The Consultative Workshop on the topic of Improving Participation of Women, Youth and Minorities in Electoral Processes in Pakistan was organised by PILDAT in Lahore on Monday, October 09, 2006. Female and male members of Provincial Assembly of Punjab, Women MNAs, representatives of Religious Minorities and Youth as well as civil society groups participated in the Consultative Workshop. In addition, the Provincial Election Commission of Punjab was represented by the Provincial Election Commissioner and his colleagues while media organisations were also part of the consultative process.

Participants of the workshop generally felt that due to continuous disruption in democracy and deficit of trust in the Election Commission of Pakistan people felt that their vote did not matter. Participants exchanged accusations whether it



Mr. Ahmed Bilal Mehboob and MNA Mr. Rauf Mengal during the Workshop at Quetta

was largely the alleged role of military and its intelligence-affiliates in electoral processes that contributed to voter apathy in the country or it was the lack of performance by political parties when in power that resulted in people's disengagement and distrust in the electoral processes. There was a general agreement by the participants that while political parties need to play a greater role in facilitating citizen's participation in electoral processes, the military should not play a role in

politics of Pakistan and the political cells in the military intelligence agencies should be closed forthwith.

Quota system for female representation was generally hailed, but this should be timed for a fixed duration while political parties should allocate a certain percentage of their general seats for direct election by women to improve political participation. Efforts were required, both by Election Commission and Political Parties to educate women in cities as well as in rural and far-flung areas of the country to not only register as voters and vote for their choice but also participate in elections as candidates. Physical barriers such as distance to polling stations needed to be removed by not only increasing the number of polling stations in the country but by also reducing the number of voters in each polling station. Lack of political education and absence of avenues was considered a chief reason for the growing disinterest of Pakistani youth in politics. Special measures needed to be undertaken to make youth politically aware through introduction of subjects such as civics and Pakistan studies at all levels of education for youth. Participants from non-Muslim communities felt that they are not treated as equal citizens due to the appendage of "minorities" attached to them. It was said that instead of quota for seats in the legislatures and local government, political parties should allocate seats for direct election of non-Muslim communities.

Consultative Workshop at Karachi:

November 01, 2006

The Consultative Workshop at Karachi was a means to consult various stakeholders belonging to the province of Sindh on the need to improve electoral participation of marginalised communities and discuss plausible avenues for facilitating effective electoral participation.

Participants of the workshop felt that due to continuous disruption in democracy and deficit of trust in the Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP), citizens no longer have a faith in the efficacy of their vote. They believed that alongside ECP, there are other state agencies including the

military and the intelligence agencies that play a leading role in rigging the election. Not absolving political parties of their role in election, it was pointed out that parties in power in a city or province or the country also indulge in “managing” the election through tilting the balance in their favour. They demanded ECP to develop a permanent Code of Conduct that all parties should agree to and implement that code of conduct right from this stage instead of applying it a week before election. No state institution and office bearers, including the President of the Country, Prime Minister, Chief Ministers and others should be excluded from the application of the code of conduct.

Consultative Workshop at Quetta: November 03, 2006

Given the peculiar conditions in Baluchistan, the Consultative Workshop held at Quetta, on was different from the earlier workshops held in different provincial capitals to consult various stakeholders on the need to improve electoral participation of marginalised communities and



Women Participants of Consultative Workshop

discuss plausible avenues for facilitating effective electoral participation. The workshop highlighted issues of provincial autonomy and democracy more than the focus on the topic of the workshop.

This, however, highlights two aspects: first the crucial responsibility of the government and the ECP in building trust and confidence amongst the people of Baluchistan that they have a level-playing field as the other provinces and that the issues of deficit of trust in the governance and election process work as key factors for people against their effective electoral participation.

Consultative Workshop at Peshawar: January 10, 2007

The Consultative Workshop held by PILDAT at Peshawar brought forward the view from a diverse group of participants that it is the cultural barriers, a feudal mind set and a lack of trust in the Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) that contributes to the declining levels of electoral participation of women, youth and non-Muslims. The mindset of men as heads of families is such that they disallow effective participation of women in the electoral process. Combined with the role of local imams of mosques who issue fatwas that women participation in elections is against the Islamic injunctions, very little space is left for women to

even attempt to participate in elections. Women voters are further disenfranchised when they can not even be registered as voters without computerised national identity cards (CNIC).

Participants also felt that citizens no longer have a faith in the efficacy of their vote. When a President in Uniform, as the head of state and a non-partisan symbol of unity of federation has started to go around canvassing for the party in government, people have

no faith that even the forthcoming election will be held on free and fair basis. The ECP, it was said, acts as a mere spectator in the entire process while knowing fully well the anomalies created by

powers-that-be in the electoral process. The real reform, participants felt, is required not in the powers of the ECP, but its ability to exercise those powers to uphold the law.

Consultation on Draft Reforms to Improve Electoral Participation of Women, Youth and None-Muslims

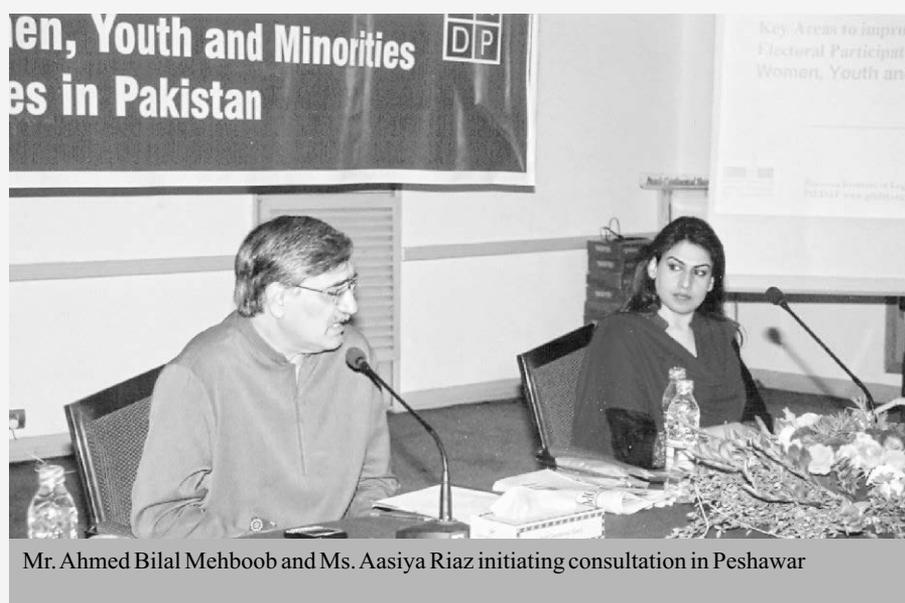
On February 22, 2007, PILDAT hosted a consultation on Draft Reforms to improve electoral participation of Women, Youth and Non-Muslims with a group of MPs belonging to parliamentary groups on Youth, Women, and Inter-Faith Relations as well as representatives of various political parties. The objective behind the consultation was to get the input of various stakeholders on the draft reforms that had been gleaned from various group discussions that PILDAT held with Parliamentary Groups on Women Issues, Youth and Inter-faith Relations, representatives of major political parties and through consultative workshops held at 4 provincial capitals of the country involving regional stakeholders. Various MPs from the leading political parties, office bearers of various political parties and representatives of women, youth and Non-Muslim communities participated in the consultation. The draft Discussion Paper on proposed reforms was finalised through the consultation.

Concluding Workshop: Reforms to Improving Electoral Participation of Women, Youth and Minorities; Islamabad: April 12, 2007

“The Election Commission of Pakistan will incorporate the major reform proposals presented

and endorsed by the major political parties including the PML, PML-N, PPPP and the MQM, to improve electoral participation of Women, Youth and Non-Muslims.” These views were expressed by Mr. K. M. Dilshad, Secretary Election Commission of Pakistan at a PILDAT Workshop on the topic of Reforms for Improving Electoral Participation of Women, Youth and Non-Muslims held at Islamabad on April 12, 2007. The Secretary ECP was presenting his concluding remarks at the workshop which was attended by MNAs from various political parties, senior party leadership of major parties and representatives and office bearers of various parties, civil society organisations, youth groups and the media.

The Workshop, a consultative dialogue amongst major political parties on the issue of improving electoral participation of disadvantaged communities brought together MPs from leading political parties including Mr. Abid Sher Ali, MNA (PML-N); Mr. Akram Masih Gill, MNA (PML); Dr. Donya Aziz, MNA (PML); Mr. Farooq Amjad Mir, MNA (PML); Ms. Fauzia Habib, MNA (PPPP); Ms. Fauzia Wahab, MNA (PPPP);



Mr. Ahmed Bilal Mehboob and Ms. Aasiya Riaz initiating consultation in Peshawar

Mr. Haroon Ihsan Paracha, MNA (PML); Mr. M. P. Bhandara, MNA (PML); Ms. Maimoona Hashmi, MNA (PML-N); Senator Nisar A. Memon (PML); Mr. Pervaiz Malik, MNA (PML);

Ms. Tehmina Dastee, MNA (PML) and Ms. Tehmina Daultana, MNA (PML-N). Prominent among the participants included Mr. Ahsan Iqbal, Chief Coordinator & Information Secretary of the PML-N, Ms. Farzana Malik, Central Information Secretary, PML and office bearers from the PML, PML-N, PPPP and the MQM.

Presenting their inputs, various MPs, including those belonging to the ruling coalition, believed that the ECP has to improve people's faith and perception in its capacities to hold free and fair elections. Suggestions such as introducing a public funding system of political parties and candidates, a stringent code of conduct created through consultation with major parties, the use of electronic voting machines, online voting and the use of new technologies to make elections more participatory and free and fair were put forward by various parties. The youth groups suggested that not only parties' manifestos should be made part of the curricula at the college and university levels, but the electronic media favourite with youngsters should carry political awareness and education messages to prepare the youth for leadership roles. Mr. Ahsan Iqbal suggested that the ECP should make it mandatory for political parties that when the parties file their assets, the parties should describe what specific steps the parties took during the year to improve electoral participation of Women, Youth and Non-Muslims. He said that with the advent of mobile technology, the ECP should allow citizens to send mobile phone videos, pictures and SMS messages to warn the ECP of rigging during election.

Parliamentary Consultative Group on Women's Issues PCGWI

Since May 2004, PILDAT has facilitated the formation of a Parliamentary Consultative Group on Women's Issues (PCGWI). PILDAT, in its independent and non-partisan capacity, acts as the secretariat of the PCGWI. A total of 90 Parliamentarians started the group (of whom 67 are women) which now has a membership of over 100 MPs. Following meetings of PCGWI were held during the reporting period:

6th Meeting of PCGWI: August 16, 2006

The 6th meeting of the Parliamentary Consultative Group on Women's Issues - PCGWI was held on August 16, 2006 at Islamabad. The PCGWI membership had identified three themes for PCGWI to support in the year ahead. These included Free and Fair General Elections, Issues of Balochistan Province and the Millennium Development Goals. The 6th meeting included a presentation on each of these issues for PCGWI members so that members can develop a clearer understanding on the significance of these issues as well as help them in deciding what role they can play in support of these issues. Mr. Sikandar Hayat Jamali, former Chief Secretary Balochistan and former Federal Secretary made a presentation on the topic of Grievances of the Balochistan Province, Kunwar Muhammad Dilshad, Secretary Election Commission of Pakistan, delivered a talk on Ensuring Free, Fair and Credible General Election and Effective Women Participation and Mr. Sajjad Akhtar, Director Centre for Research on Poverty Reduction and Income Distribution-CRPRID briefed PCGWI members on the



(From Left to Right) Mr. Pervaiz Malik, MNA, Mrs. Shaista Malik, Ms. Maimoona Hashmi, MNA and Ms. Fauzia Wahab, MNA

Significance of the Millennium Development Goals and Progress made in Achieving MDGs in Pakistan.

7th Meeting of PCGWI: February 12, 2007

In the 7th Meeting of the Parliamentary Consultative Group on Women's Issues-PCGWI,

held on February 12, 2007, at Islamabad participating women Parliamentarians across party lines joined by many of their male colleagues and intellectuals from Balochistan and elsewhere resolved to work for the peaceful resolution of issues facing Balochistan. Taking up the Balochistan Issue as their primary focus, the PCGWI heard briefings from noted experts and intellectuals. The meeting was chaired by Senator Jan Jamali, Deputy Chairman of the Senate of Pakistan while the speakers included Barrister Faez Isa, Mr. Fasih Iqbal, Former Senator and current President of Council of Pakistan Newspapers Editors (CPNE) and Dr. Gulfaraz Ahmad, Former Federal Secretary of Petroleum and Member of the National Finance Commission (NFC).

8th Meeting of PCGWI: February 20, 2007

The 8th PCGWI meeting held at Islamabad saw Parliamentarians across party lines together with their colleagues from Sindh, Punjab and the NWFP united to form a Task Force on Balochistan



Members of PCGWI discussing Balochistan Issues

to work for the peaceful resolution of issues facing the province. Members of the PCGWI met for the second time in one week to hear the various points of views on the key issues facing Balochistan identified in the last meeting as well as the response of key government officials on these issues. The meeting on the topic of 'Dialogue on Balochistan' chaired by Senator Mir Jan Muhammad Jamali, Deputy Chairman Senate was addressed by Senator Mir Muhammed Naseer Khan Mengal, Minister of State for Petroleum and

Natural Resources; Maulana Mohammad Khan Sherani, MNA, MMA; Dr. Noor Jehan Panezai, MNA, PML; and Dr. Gulfaraz Ahmed, Former Secretary Petroleum and Member National Finance Commission. The Task Force to be chaired by Senator Jan Jamali resolved to lobby, coordinate, network and liaise with key stakeholders and media as well as the special Parliamentary Committee on Balochistan in order to develop a better understanding of conflicting positions and contribute to the resolution of the conflict situation in Balochistan. The members agreed to meet on a regular basis to take up the Balochistan Issue as a case study as part of the initiative to bring in a change in the political, economic and social life of Pakistan.

9th Meeting of PCGWI: April 23, 2007

At the 9th meeting of the PCGWI held on April 23, 2007 at Islamabad participating parliamentarians shared their views on some of the suggestions put forward by the Task Force on Balochistan on the recommendations related to the resolution of issues related to Balochistan province to be adopted by the PCGWI membership. A cross-party drafting committee chaired by Dr. Noor Jehan Panezai, Deputy Chairperson of the Task Force on Balochistan was formed to finalise the draft recommendations and present them at the next meeting for adoption by the members.

The meeting chaired by Senator Jan Mohammad Jamali, Deputy Chairman Senate was attended by Parliamentarians from major political parties including Kunwar Khalid Yunus, MNA, MQM; Mohammad Laeeq Khan, MNA, MMA; Ms. Jamila Ahmed, MNA, MMA; Ms. Belum Hasnain, MNA, PPPP; Ms. Bilqees Saif, MNA, MMA; Ms. Kaniz Ayesha Munawar, MNA, MMA; Ms. Nafeesa Munawar Raja, MNA, PPPP; Ms. Yasmeen Rehman, MNA, PPPP; Muhammad Husain Mehanti, MNA, MMA; Sardar Ayaz Sadiq, MNA, PML-N; Sayyed Bakhtiar Maani, MNA, MMA; Mrs Rehana Yahya Baloch, Senator, PML; Hafiz Rasheed Ahmed, Senator, Independent and Ms. Fauzia Fakhar uz Zamman Khan, Senator, PML.

10th Meeting of PCGWI: June 20, 2007

The 10th meeting of the PCGWI was held on June 20, 2007 at Islamabad. The final recommendations for the resolution of issues related to the Balochistan province prepared by the cross-party sub-committee of the Task Force on Balochistan chaired by Dr. Noor Jehan Panezai were presented and finalised incorporating further inputs of participating parliamentarians. The final version of these recommendations endorsed by the multi-party, multi-province and multi-ethnic PCGWI membership would be sent to the office of the President and Prime Minister, Federal and provincial governments and political parties for their implementation.

Parliamentarians from major political parties participated in this meeting included: Dr. Attiya Inayatullah, MNA, PML; Haji Gul Muhammad Dummer, MNA, MMA; Ms. Mehnaz Raffi, MNA, PML; Muhammad Husain Mehanti, MNA, MMA; Muhammad Laeeque Khan, MNA, MMA; Ms Tehmina Dasti, MNA, PML; Ms Tehmina Daultana, MNA, PML-N; and Mrs Rehana Yahya,



Ms. Mehnaz Raffi, MNA and Dr. Attiya Inayatullah, MNA at one of PCGWI Meetings

Baloch, Senator, PML.

First Meeting of the PCGWI Task Force on Balochistan: March 22, 2007

The cross-party PCGWI Task Force on

Balochistan TFB chaired by Senator Jan Muhammad Jamali, Deputy Chairman Senate of Pakistan formed at the 7th PCGWI meeting held on February 12, 2007 in Islamabad to lobby, coordinate, network and liaise with key stakeholders in order to contribute to an informed public discourse on the subject and the resolution of conflicts related to Balochistan province as well as to prepare recommendations for addressing these conflicts held its 1st meeting on March 22, 2007 at Islamabad. The TFB members represent the major political parties including the PML, PPP, PML-N, MQM, MMA, and Balochistan National Party-Awami, and BNP-M. At the first meeting it was decided that in order to prepare recommendations for addressing issues related to Balochistan a comparative review and analysis be undertaken of the recommendations prepared by the Parliamentary sub-committee on Balochistan on Current Issues headed by Senator Mushahid Hussain Sayed; Parliamentary sub-committee on Balochistan on Inter-Provincial Harmony headed by Senator Wasim Sajjad; and the Bill to amend the Constitution of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan presented in the National Assembly by Mr. Abdul Mujeeb Pirzada, MNA. It also discussed the strategy to be undertaken for lobbying with media to highlight and disseminate an informed debate on Balochistan issue

The meeting was attended by representatives of major political parties and prominent parliamentarians from Balochistan. The participating parliamentarians included Mir Jan Muhammad Khan Jamali, Deputy Chairman Senate; Maulana Muhammaad

Khan Sherani, Member of National Assembly, MMA; Ms. Mehnaz Raffi, Member of National Assembly, PML-Q; Ms. Fauzia Habib, Member of

National Assembly, PPPP; Ms. Bilqees Saif, Member of National Assembly, MMA; and Senator Mohammad Ali Brohi, MQM.

Second Meeting of PCGWI Task Force on Balochistan: April 23, 2007

The meeting reviewed the comparative analysis prepared of the recommendations of the two Parliamentary sub-committees on Balochistan on Current Issues headed by Senator Mushahid Hussain Sayed and on Inter-Provincial Harmony headed by Senator Wasim Sajjad; as well as the Bill to amend the Constitution of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan presented in the National Assembly by Mr. Abdul Mujeeb Pirzada, MNA. Based on this review and in light of the status of implementation of these recommendations suggestions were put forth for the resolution of issues relating to Balochistan Province. A cross-party sub-committee headed by Dr. Noor Jehan Panezai, Deputy Chair of the TFB was formed to prepare the draft recommendations incorporating the suggestions of the TFB.

PCGWI Steering Committee on Sustainability

As part of the PCGWI objectives to initiate a process of sustainability of this cross-party Group, a Steering Committee on Sustainability SCS of 8 PCGWI members was formed at the 7th PCGWI meeting held on February 12, 2007. The membership included representation of major political parties including the PML-Q, the PPPP, the MQM, and the MMA. Members of the Steering Committee on Sustainability included Dr. Attiya Inayatullah, MNA-PML-Q; Dr. Azra Fazal Pechuho, MNA, PPPP; Ms. Mehnaz Raffi, MNA,

PML-Q; Mir Muhammad Naseer Mengal, Federal Minister of State for Petroleum and Natural Resources; Senator Rehana Yahya Baloch, PML; Dr. Muhammad Farooq Sattar, Parliamentary Leader in the National Assembly-MQM; Mr. Muhammad Hussain Mehanti, MNA, MMA; Ms. Yasmeen Rehman., MNA, PPPP. Three meetings of the PCGWI SCS were held from March June 2007 on March 20, June 08 and June 23, 2007.

Parliament-Civil Society Connect on Labour Issues

Under its initiative to sensitise civil society and the Parliament to the need to interact with each other on key policy issues and legislative agenda, PILDAT carried out a project to brief Members of Parliament and Provincial Assemblies on the need to focus on Labour Issues. The initiative, supported by the Solidarity Center, brought public representatives to interact with labour leaders and labour representative organisations so as to create a better understanding of labour issues in the country and devising suitable and representative



Male MPs and Members of PCGWI

policies and legislations to address them. Following activities were held during the reporting period in this regard:

Orientation Session for Leadership of Pakistan Workers Federation (PWF)

PILDAT held an orientation session on December 7, 2006 at Lahore for the top leadership of the Pakistan Workers Federation which has emerged as the largest nation-wide trade union after the merger of three large labour organisations in 2005. The PWF head-quartered in the Bakhtiar Labour Hall at Lahore has a countrywide membership in excess of 880, 000 and 8 Regional offices.

The 2-part session included an in-depth introduction to the political structure of the country and practical strategies to enhance labour interaction with the politicians and elected legislatures. Possible strategies to be adopted by the PWF in the coming election season were also debated during the inter-active session with the PWF leadership. The session was attended by Chaudhry Talib Nawaz, President; Mr. Mohammad Ahmed, Chairman; Mr. Khurshid Ahmed, General Secretary and 17 other office holders from the 8 regional offices of the PWF covering Balochistan, North and South NWFP; North, Central and South Punjab; North and South Sindh and the Head Offices at Lahore. Inter-active discussions formed a part of the session. Dr. Sabur Ghayur, Chairman, Policy Planning Cell at the Ministry of Labour, Manpower and Overseas Pakistanis attended the session at special invitation and addressed the leadership on the significance of engagement with the parliament and political leadership.

Briefing for NWFP MPAs on Understanding the Labour Issues in Pakistan

PILDAT, with the support of Solidarity Center, organised a briefing session for Members of the NWFP Assembly titled “Understanding the Labour Issues in Pakistan” on April 26, 2007 at Peshawar. Briefings on various issues concerning labour to highlight the much needed legislation and/or proper implementation of the exciting policies were given by Dr. Sabur Ghayur, Chairman Policy Planning Cell, Ministry of Labour, Manpower and Overseas Pakistanis,

Government of Pakistan, Mr. Haji Mohammad Javed, chairman WEBCOP, NWFP Chapter, Chaudhry Talib Nawaz, President PWF and Mr. Zahoor Awan, Deputy General Secretary PWF.

A total of 64 participants (58 male, 06 female) which included 17 provincial legislators (13 male, 4 female) attended the briefing session. These included legislators, business and labour leaders and NGO representatives. PILDAT also distributed the recently updated briefing paper on “Understanding Labour Issues in Pakistan” among the participants.

Sindh MPAs should focus on Labour Issues

The MPAs and parties represented in the Sindh Provincial Assembly need to play an active role to understand highlight and address issues relating to labour in the province. The Assembly has the powers to pass legislation, amend existing laws as well as review the application of existing laws by the executive, although it usually resorts to simply passing resolutions for the attention of the central



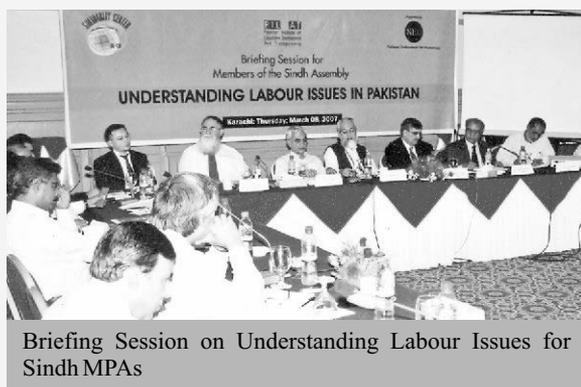
Senator Jan Muhammad Jamali, Deputy Speaker Senate chairing PCGWI meeting

government. These views were expressed by various speakers at the PILDAT Briefing Session for Sindh MPAs on the topic of Understanding Labour Issues in Pakistan on March 08, 2007.

In the first session, Dr. Ali Ercelan, Acting Director Pakistan Institute for Labour Education & Research (PILER) presented an overview of the Labour Policy and the State of Labour in Pakistan. Talking on the subject of Major Labour Issues in Pakistan and the Need for a Legislative Agenda on

Labour, Mr. Ahsan Ullah Khan, Chairman WEBCOP said that growth in economy depends on the prosperity of the employer and the employee but whereas the growth rate in the country has increased up to 80%, the employment rate is stagnant. The assemblies have to play their roles of legislation and oversight and even the minimum wages rate of Rs. 4000 is not being paid to workers by many industries. Legislative committees need to hold public hearings involving labour representatives to better understand their issues. Mr. Zahoor Awan, General Secretary Pakistan Workers Federation said that privatisation is fine in theory but it is not being carried out in a transparent manner by the government.

In concluding the session, Mr. Hameedullah, MPA and Chairman Standing Committee on Labour as chair of the session said that the government minister should have been present to give government perspective. He criticized the procedure and various examples of privatisation in the country. He said that creation and affiliation of unions was part of fundamental of rights of the people of Pakistan Thirty-two attendees including



Briefing Session on Understanding Labour Issues for Sindh MPAs

major political parties as like MMA, MQM, PML-F and PPPP and the representatives, from different organizations shared their views in this workshop.

Electoral Violence and Electoral Dispute Resolution: Focus Group Discussion with Youth

PILDAT as part of the UNDP supported regional

study on Electoral Violence and Dispute Resolution in Asia and Pacific carried out a study on Electoral Violence and Dispute Resolution in Pakistan. A special Focus Group discussion was held with Youth representatives as a part of the study on July 31, 2006 at Islamabad.

The discussion revealed that although youth are generally aware of their right to vote, with many being registered voters, majority of them are not interested in taking part in elections in the country. Many of those registered as voters chose not to cast their vote or voted only due to influence or pressure of family, biraderi or other links. Majority of them also thought the general and local government elections in the country to have been rigged and not conducted in a free, fair and credible manner. They felt that there is no transparency in the election process. Some also expressed that it was difficult to judge fairness of election, however they stressed that elections are not perceived as being free and fair. Few pointed out that elections could only be fair if there were more specific rules enforced for their conduct. Working of the Election Commission was seen by all to be influenced and controlled by the government and thereby reducing its credibility as an independent body. This further contributed to their lack of interest and participation in the electoral process in the country. One of the reasons for the disillusionment of youth was highlighted as the continued involvement of the military in politics and to some extent the credibility of the political parties and politicians in such processes. It was also felt that holding of credible elections in the country was not something they saw happening in the future. There was lack of advocacy programmes for informing the public on electoral processes.

Training Workshop on Conflict Management and Negotiation Styles for Pakistani Women MPs

A one-day workshop for Women Parliamentarians and Politicians on “Conflict Management and Negotiation Styles” was organised by PILDAT with support from the Friedrich Ebert Stiftung, Pakistan Office on August 7, 2006 at Islamabad.

The workshop was conducted by Ms. Nina Sughrue, a leading international specialist in conflict management who has been involved in the coordination and implementation of conflict resolution training programmes in Asia and the Middle East. Ms. Sughrue pointed out that mediation skills are crucial to undertaking peaceful negotiations and to conflict resolution. She added that in order to be a good negotiator one needed to understand one's own negotiation styles as well as the other side's styles of negotiating. Highlighting the importance of negotiating skills in managing and resolving differences, she stressed the importance of understanding your and the other party's position and interests in the negotiation process.

The participants evinced a keen interest and actively participated in the group discussions and self assessment sessions as well as involvement in a series of negotiation simulation exercises. They highlighted the current conflict situations in Pakistan such as in Balochistan and expressed interest in being involved in the resolution of these conflicts. There were twenty-nine attendees

participated in the workshop.

Electoral Violence and Electoral Dispute Resolution: Focus Group Discussion with Women

As part of the UNDP supported regional study on Electoral Violence and Dispute Resolution in Asia and Pacific and in light of the significance of making efforts for ensuring free, fair and credible elections in the country, PILDAT held a Focus Group Discussion with Women in Peshawar on Friday August 18, 2006 to share and learn from their perceptions and understanding of electoral violence and dispute issues.

The focus group discussion brought together a diverse group of Pakistani women representing students, young professionals, NGOs, research institutions, members of Parliament, elected local government political activists and public sector employees.

On women's low level of participation in elections the consensus was that in most areas of the country women do cast their vote. Lower voter turn out of women was mostly seen to be due to lack of awareness on the part of women, location of polling stations, low levels of literacy combined with lack of a political culture among women. However violence during elections was not seen as having a significant impact on women's voting behaviour. It was observed that only in some parts of the country were women stopped to

cast their vote. The main reason for this was identified as socio-cultural and religious constraints. Some were of the opinion that not allowing women to vote was also a reflection of a



Consultative Workshop on Understanding Electoral Violence and Electoral Dispute Resolution

including Women parliamentarians and politicians from all major parties, for instance: PML, PML-N, PPP, MQM, MMAP and PTI

form of violence. They felt that more concerted efforts could be taken to deal with this issue of women's exclusion from participating in elections, both as voters and candidates.

PILDAT also prepared the Pakistan Country Chapter of the study titled Electoral Violence and Dispute Resolution in Asia-Pacific Countries as a result of these activities.

Seminar on the Art and Science of Political Lobbying

PILDAT held a seminar on the Art and Science of Lobbying at Islamabad on August 22, 2006 for the benefit of women MPs, chairs of parliamentary committees and office bearers of political parties. Ms. Roselyn O'Connell, President, National Women's Political Caucus, USA, led the seminar. Ms. Roselyn O'Connell is a noted trainer and speaker for Political Campaign development in the U.S. and worldwide. Ms. O'Connell shared her experiences and lobbying techniques specially focusing on women MPs and Committee Chairs. She answered various questions of participants as well.

Focus Group Discussion with Minority Communities Study on Electoral Violence and Electoral Dispute Resolution

PILDAT as part of the UNDP supported regional study on Electoral Violence and Dispute Resolution in Asia and Pacific, carried out a study on Electoral Violence and Dispute Resolution in

Pakistan. This Focus Group Discussion with religious minority communities formed part of this study and was held at Karachi on August 31, 2006.

The discussions sought to probe factors that help determine Minority Communities' perceptions and understanding related to electoral issues, in particular electoral violence and dispute resolution issues. The discussion revealed that the Minority Communities perceive themselves to be a relatively more vulnerable segment of the society; they also see themselves as softer targets and thus more frequently harassed, threatened, pressurised and made targets of violence during the electoral process in the country. Majority of the participants opined that the Minority communities suffered from a sense of insecurity and fear and thus were coerced and maltreated by the political leaders of their communities. It was strongly stressed that they have to be brought at par with other segments of society and meshed into the fabric of Pakistani society with the concept of minority to be phased out of the thought process.



Ms. Nina Sughrue addressing Workshop for Women MPs on Conflict Management

PILDAT Forum: A Conversation with Mr. Robert Hathaway, Visiting US Scholar on “Trouble Aplenty: George W. Bush, US Foreign Policy and a Restless Domestic Constituency”

United States has to find a way to build a long-term relationship with Pakistan that is on the side of democratic aspirations of the people of Pakistan, said Mr. Robert Hathaway, Director, Asia Program, Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars, USA while speaking at a PILDAT forum on October 31, 2006. Speaking on the topic of “Trouble Aplenty: George W. Bush, US Foreign Policy, and a Restless Domestic Constituency” Mr. Hathaway said that it is not just in United States interest but in the interest of Pakistan to have a long-term relationship between the two countries. At present, the leadership of both countries describes the relationship to be excellent and long-term but it is far from true, he said. There is a very narrow base of relationship which is worsening with the deteriorating situation in Afghanistan, he believed. On the domestic front, with American men and women dying in Afghanistan, there will be finger pointing towards the causes of that and that finger will point towards Pakistan too, he added.

Prominent among the participants were Senator Nisar A. Memon (PML); Mr. Shah Mahmood Qureshi, MNA (PPPP); Dr. Doniya Aziz, MNA (PML); Ms. Sherry Rehman, MNA (PPPP); Lt. Gen. (Retd.) Asad Durrani, Former DG ISI; Ambassador (Retd.) Javid Hussain; Prof. Rasheed Ahmad, IPRI; Ambassador (Retd.) Tayyab Siddiqui; Mr. Mosharraf Zaidi, DFID, Mr. James Williams and Ms. Ayesha Salam from the USA Embassy, Islamabad. Former US Ambassador to Pakistan and currently the Senior Policy Advisor at the Woodrow Wilson International Center, Mr. William B. Milam was also present at the discussion.

Pakistani MPs' tête-à-tête with the DFID Governance Head

On March 21, 2007, PILDAT organised a

discussion of select group of Pakistani Members of Parliament belonging to different political parties with Mr. Mark Robinson, Head of Governance for the British Government's Department for International Development (DFID). The interaction mainly focussed on issues of Governance and the Forthcoming Election in Pakistan. Mr. Robinson, a respected academic and practitioner in the area of governance and public policy with an extensive knowledge of South Asia and Pakistan interacted with Pakistani MPs sharing their views on the prospects for a free and fair election in Pakistan. He also outlined broad policy objectives of the governance programmes of DFID for Pakistan and sought the MPs' views on areas that DFID should focus on.

Roundtable Discussion: Understanding Muslim-West Relations

PILDAT held a Roundtable Discussion on Understanding Muslims-West Relations with a visiting delegation of British Muslims in cooperation with the British High Commission



Participant of a Conversation with Mr. Robert Hathaway

Islamabad on April 30, 2007. The roundtable discussion was moderated by Mr. Ahmed Bilal Mehboob and highlighted various areas that Pakistani Muslims and British Muslims of Pakistani origin needed to work on.

The eight-member delegation of British Muslims was visiting Pakistan from April 28 May 5, 2007 to help in understanding and tackling extremism in both Pakistan and the UK and to provide a first-

hand account of the life of Muslims in Britain. The British delegation included Dr. Shazia Malik, Obstetrician and Gynaecologist, involved in Community work, particularly in education, women's health and inter-faith work; Dr. Tahir Abbas, Founding Director of Birmingham University's Centre for the Study of Ethnicity and Culture and specialist on multiculturalism and British Muslims; Mr. Jehangir Malik, UK Director of Islamic Relief; Ms. Rabia Malik, psychiatrist by profession and also an activist for the progressive City Circle Group and Mr. Shaaz Mahboob who has written on Muslim issues for The Guardian, The Times, The Telegraph and for Dawn in Pakistan as well as involved with the Muslims for Secular Democracy group.

The discussants from Pakistan included Dr. Ijaz Shafi Gilani, Chairman Gallup Pakistan/ Dean Faculty of Social Sciences, International Islamic University, Islamabad; Dr. Anis Ahmed, International Islamic University, Islamabad; Mr. Zafarullah Khan, Barrister, Jurisconsult, Islamabad; Ms. Maryam Rab, Deputy Registrar, Fatima Jinnah University, Rawalpindi; Ms.



Roundtable Discussion on Understanding Muslim-West Relations

Maryam Zaidi; Leader of the Green Party/Leader of the Opposition Youth Parliament Pakistan; Ms. Atiqa Nagra; and Mr. Jawad Ali Latif, members of Youth Parliament Pakistan.

Briefing Session on Pakistani Young Parliamentarians' Study Tour to India

Young Parliamentarians, who accompanied a Parliamentary Study Tour to India in March 2007 under the auspices of PILDAT, shared their learning and experiences at a Briefing Session on Monday, May 07, 2007 at Islamabad. The MPs specially talk about institutions that streamline Indian democracy including the Election Commission of India, the Indian Parliamentary procedures and the role of academics and think tanks in influencing legislative agenda in India.

PILDAT organised the Study Tour of Young Pakistani MPs from March 26-31, 2007 with a special focus on their learning and interaction on Indian Parliamentary systems and procedures, the working of the Election Commission of India, the Role of Academicians and Think Tanks in India in influencing legislative and policy-making agenda and parliamentary support institutions working outside the sphere of government in India to assist the Indian MPs in their responsibilities of legislation, representation and oversight. The objective of the study tour was to orient Pakistani MPs to various institutions and systems that streamline Indian democracy and to learn lessons that can be applied to Pakistan for strengthening governance institutions. The study tour was supported by the British High Commission, Islamabad.

The Young Parliamentarians who accompanied the study tour and presented their learning at the Briefing Session included Mr. Nabil Gabol, MNA; President Young Parliamentarians' Forum; Dr. Atta-ur-Rehman, MNA; Vice President Young Parliamentarians' Forum; Dr. Donya Aziz, MNA; Secretary Young Parliamentarians' Forum; Ms. Asiya Nasir, MNA; Joint Secretary Young Parliamentarians' Forum; Syed Haider Abbas Rizvi, MNA; Treasurer Young Parliamentarians' Forum; Mr.

Haroon Ihsan Piracha, MNA; Member Young Parliamentarians' Forum; Syed Bakhtiar Maani, MNA, Member Young Parliamentarians' Forum and Senator Hafiz Rasheed Ahmad, Member Young Parliamentarians' Forum.

Study Visits

The Pakistani Young Parliamentarian's Delegation Study Tour to India: March 26-31, 2007

The Parliamentary Study Tour of Young Pakistani Members of Parliament to India was undertaken by PILDAT so as to provide an opportunity to Pakistani MPs to learn from and share best practices of the legislative and democratic tools that streamline Indian Parliamentary democracy.

The major objective of the Study Tour was to provide Young Pakistani legislators with an opportunity to learn from the tools, techniques and best practices of the Indian legislative and democratic system. Since both countries India and

the above objectives, provided the delegates with an opportunity to discuss the tools, techniques and technologies which support the legislative process, understand the Indian electoral system and the role and performance of Indian electoral institution, exchange of ideas with young Indian MPs and with academics and institutions facilitating and reviewing political & legislative agenda in India.

Following Young MPs and members of the Young Parliamentarians' Forum comprised the delegation. An effort was made to include all major parties represented in the delegation, however due to certain political preoccupations of the PML-N and PPP, required numbers from these parties could not participate. The delegation included: Ms. Asiya Nasir, MNA, MMA; Dr. Attar-Rehman, MNA, MMA; Dr. Donya Aziz, MNA, PML; Senator Hafiz Rasheed Ahmed, Independent; Mr. Haroon Ihsan Piracha, MNA, PML; Mr. Nabil Ahmed Gabol, MNA, PPP; Sayyed Bakhtiar Maani, MNA, MMA; Syed Haider Abbas Rizvi, MNA, MQM; Mr. Ahmed Bilal Mehboob, Executive Director, PILDAT and Ms. Aasiya Riaz, Joint Director PILDAT.



Mr. N. C. Joshi, Additional Secretary, Rajya Sabha, Mr. Mr. G. C. Malhotra, Former Secretary-General, Lok Sabha and Mr. Nabeel Gabol, MNA

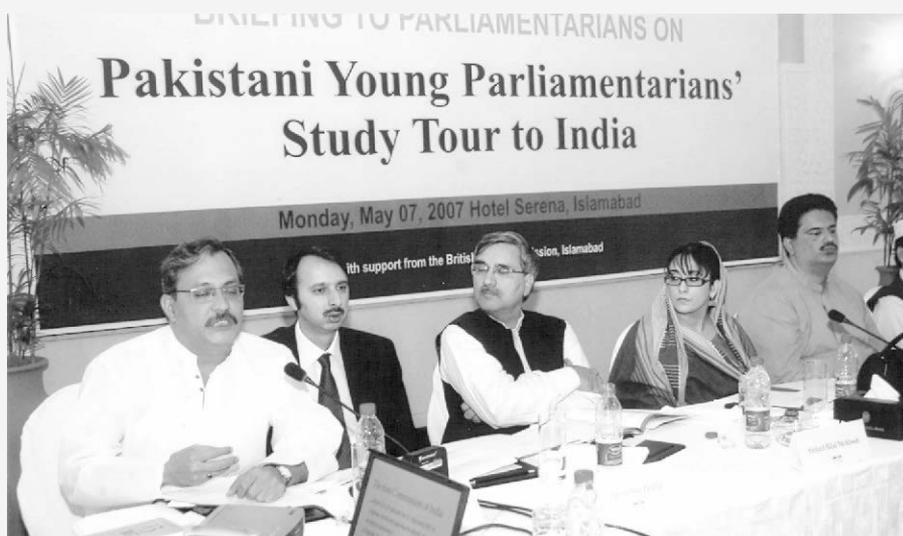
Pakistan exist as post-colonial developing polities that inherited the British Parliamentary system of governance, PILDAT felt that an exchange of ideas, practises and valuable experiences will be useful.

The study tour programme, designed in the light of

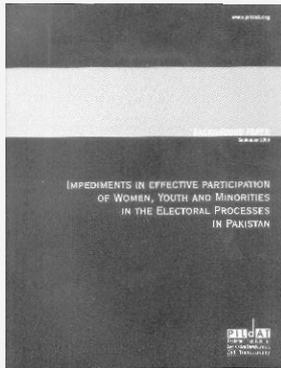
The delegation had its first Group Discussion on Key Features and Rules of Procedure of the Indian Parliament with officials of Rajya Sabha and Lok Sabha. The delegation had its second Group Discussion on Key Features of the Indian Electoral System with Dr. M. S. Gill, member of Rajya Sabha and former Election Commissioner of India. The next appointment of the delegation was its interaction with the Indian counterparts, the Indian Parliamentary

Forum on Youth. The Forum, chaired by Mr. Naveen Jindal, MP, held detailed discussion with the Pakistani delegation of Young Parliamentarians Forum on issues of concern to youth in both countries. The Pakistani delegation

had a visit to The Energy and Resource Institute TERI, the leading environmental NGO of India. The members were briefed by TERI about its various initiatives in the areas of sustainable development and alternative energy in India. At a dinner hosted by the Director of the CSDS, the MPs had an opportunity to interact in detail with leading intellectuals and political scientists of India and discussed various issues that define Indian democracy and the Indian experience. The Pakistani delegation had a detailed interaction with the Chief Election Commissioner of India Mr. N. Gopalaswami and the Indian Election Commissioners at the Election Commission of India offices, Delhi. The delegation called upon the Deputy Speaker Lok Sabha Shri Charnjit Singh and held discussion on Indian Parliamentary rules and practices. The Pakistani delegation was given a detailed tour of the Indian Parliament and its various facilities. In yet another interaction the Pakistani delegation interacted with the faculty and students of the Centre for Political Studies, JNU. The Pakistani delegation met with the team of the PRS Legislative Research, an independent civil-society initiative in India that works on providing background research and non-partisan analysis of legislation in the Indian Parliament.

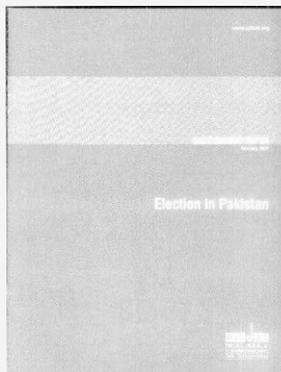


Syed Haider Abbas Rizvi (left) sharing his experiences of Study Tour to India at the Briefing Session

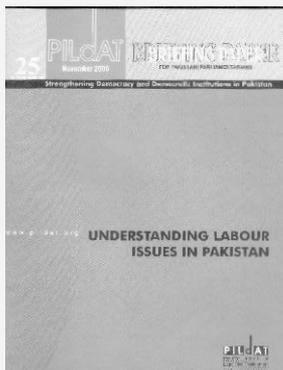


Background Papers

Background Paper on **Impediments in effective participation of Women, Youth and Non-Muslims in the Electoral Process in Pakistan.** September 2006. English: 19 Pages. Supported by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) under the project “Strengthening Electoral Process to Ensure Greater Participation.”



Background Paper on **Election in Pakistan.** February 2007. English: 23 Pages. Supported by the Canadian High Commission, Islamabad.

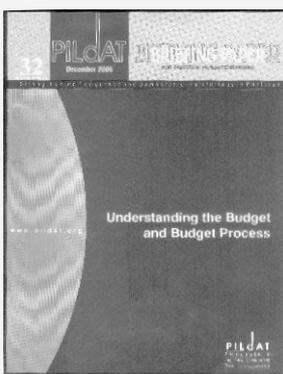


Briefing Papers

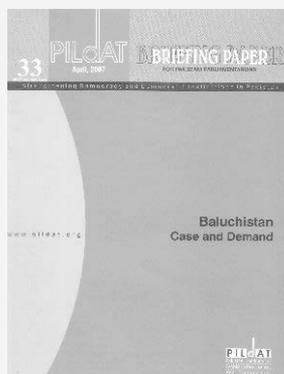
Briefing Paper No. 25: Understanding Labour Issues in Pakistan. November 2006. English: 23 Pages. Supported by the American Center for International Labour Solidarity, Pakistan.



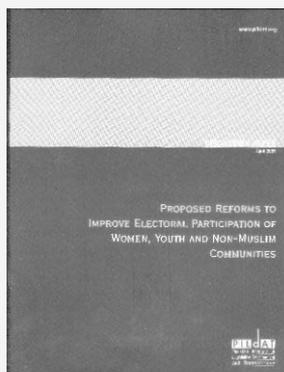
Briefing Paper No. 31: Dynamics of Federalism in Pakistan: Current Challenges and the Future Direction. December 2006. English: 31 Pages. Supported by the Global Opportunities Fund, Foreign and Commonwealth Office, UK through the British High Commission, Islamabad.



Briefing Paper No. 32: Understanding the Budget and Budget Process. December 2006. English: 30 Pages. Supported by the Global Opportunities Fund, Foreign and Commonwealth Office, UK through the British High Commission, Islamabad.



Briefing Paper No. 33: Balochistan Case and Demand. April 2007. English: 28 Pages. Supported by the Global Opportunities Fund, Foreign and Commonwealth Office, UK through the British High Commission, Islamabad.



Discussion Papers

Discussion Paper on **Proposed Reforms to Improve Electoral Participation of Women, Youth and Non-Muslims Communities**. April 2007. English: 11 Pages. Supported by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) under the project “Strengthening Electoral Process to Ensure Greater Participation.”



Position Papers

Citizens Group on Electoral Process CGEP Position Paper on **Fresh Electoral Rolls in Pakistan**. June 2007. English: 12 Pages.

Citizens Group on Electoral Process CGEP Position Paper on **Presidential Elections 2007: Constitutional, Political, and Ethical Aspects of General Pervez Musharraf Seeking Election for Another Term**. June 2007. English & Urdu: 16 Pages. Supported by the Friedrich Ebert Stiftung, Islamabad.

Handbooks and Booklets



Introductory Booklet **The Youth Parliament Pakistan**. January 2007. English: 46 Pages. **Supported by the Global Opportunities Fund, Foreign and Commonwealth Office, UK through the British High Commission, Islamabad and the Friedrich Ebert Stiftung, Islamabad.**

Introductory Booklet **The Pakistani Young**



Reports

Report of **Dialogue Between the Muslim World and the West** by **Youth Representatives from Pakistan & the UK**. November 2006. English: 266 Pages. **Supported by the** Global Opportunities Fund, Foreign and Commonwealth Office, UK **through the British High Commission, Islamabad.**

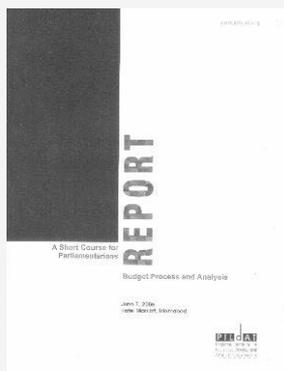


Report of the **Short Course for Parliamentarians: How to be an Effective Parliamentarian?** December 2006. English: 61 Pages. **Supported by the** Global Opportunities Fund, Foreign and Commonwealth Office, UK **through the British High Commission, Islamabad.**



Report of the the **Short Course for Women Chairs and Staff of Parliamentary Committees: Use of Research, Media and Civil Society Organizations to enhance Effectiveness of Parliamentary Committees**. December 2006. English: 65 Pages. **Supported by the** Global Opportunities Fund, Foreign and Commonwealth Office, UK **through the British High Commission, Islamabad.**

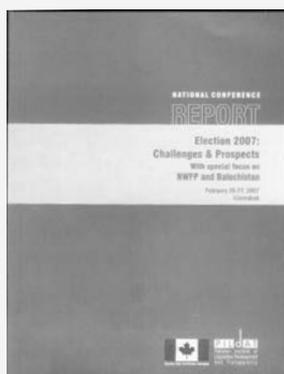




Report of the **Short Course for Parliamentarians: Budget Process and Analysis**. January 2007. English: 65 Pages. **Supported by the Global Opportunities Fund, Foreign and Commonwealth Office, UK through the British High Commission, Islamabad.**

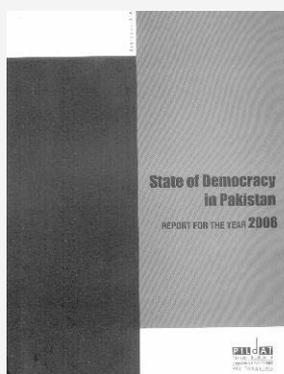


Report of the **Pakistani Young Parliamentarians' Delegation: Study Tour to India**. April 2007. English: 32 Pages. **Supported by the Global Opportunities Fund, Foreign and Commonwealth Office, UK through the British High Commission, Islamabad.**



Report of the **National Conference: Election 2007: Challenges & Prospects with Special Focus on NWFP and Balochistan**. April 2007. English: 115 Pages. **Supported by the Canadian High Commission, Islamabad.**

State of Democracy Report



State of Democracy in Pakistan: Report for the Year 2006. January 2007. English: 125 Pages. **Supported by the Friedrich Ebert Stiftung, Islamabad.**



**Auditors' Report and
Financial Statements**

Deloitte.

M. Yousuf Adil Saleem & Co
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AUDITORS' REPORT TO THE MEMBERS

We have audited the annexed balance sheet of the Pakistan Institute of Legislative Development and Transparency ("the Society") as at June 30, 2007 and the related income and expenditure account and cash flow statement together with the notes forming part thereof (here-in-after referred to as the "financial statements" for the year then ended).

It is the responsibility of the Board of Directors to establish and maintain a system of internal control, and prepare and present the financial statements in conformity with the approved accounting standards as applicable in Pakistan. Our responsibility is to express an opinion on these financial statements based on our audit.

We conducted our audit in accordance with generally accepted auditing standards. Those standards require that we plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements are free of material misstatement. An audit includes examining on a test basis, evidence supporting the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. An audit also includes assessing the accounting policies used and significant estimates made by management, as well as evaluating the overall presentation of the financial statements. We believe that our audit provides a reasonable basis for our opinion.

In our opinion the financial statements present fairly in all material respects the financial position of the Society as at June 30, 2007 and of its surplus and cash flow for the year then ended in accordance with the approved accounting standards as applicable in Pakistan.



Date:
Islamabad

Chartered Accountants

Member of
Deloitte Touche Tohmatsu

PAKISTAN INSTITUTE OF LEGISLATIVE DEVELOPMENT AND TRANSPARENCY
BALANCE SHEET
AS AT JUNE 30, 2007

	Note	2007 (Rupees)	2006
Property, plant and equipment	4	3,868,439	4,774,102
Current assets			
Advances, deposits and prepayments	5	219,076	349,876
Cash and bank balances	6	16,012,648	14,037,411
		16,231,724	14,387,287
Current liabilities			
Due to related party	7	758,870	758,870
Accrued and others liabilities	8	287,876	379,046
		1,046,746	1,137,916
Net current assets		15,184,978	13,249,371
Net assets		19,053,417	18,023,473
Represented by:			
General fund account		18,023,473	7,648,306
Surplus for the year		1,029,944	10,375,167
		19,053,417	18,023,473

The annexed notes from 1 to 16 form an integral part of these financial statements.

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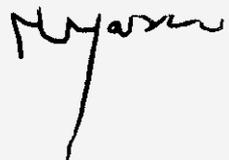
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Secretary General

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Chairman

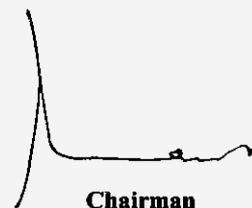
PAKISTAN INSTITUTE OF LEGISLATIVE DEVELOPMENT AND TRANSPARENCY
INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT
FOR THE YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2007

	Note	2007 (Rupees)	2006
Income	9	29,948,168	31,534,827
Expenditure			
Workshop and seminar expenses	10	11,410,599	6,475,745
Operational, support service and administrative expenses	11	15,846,513	14,677,260
Study tour	12	1,648,476	-
Finance costs	13	12,636	6,655
		28,918,224	21,159,660
Surplus for the year		<u>1,029,944</u>	<u>10,375,167</u>

The annexed notes from 1 to 16 form an integral part of these financial statements.




Secretary General

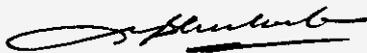


Chairman

PAKISTAN INSTITUTE OF LEGISLATIVE DEVELOPMENT AND TRANSPARENCY
CASH FLOW STATEMENT
FOR THE YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2007

	Note	2007	2006
		(Rupees)	
CASH FLOWS FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES			
Surplus for the year		1,029,944	10,375,167
Adjustments for:			
Depreciation		958,063	1,231,038
Finance costs		12,636	6,655
Assets written off		-	132,878
		<u>2,000,643</u>	<u>11,745,738</u>
Decrease/(increase) in advances, deposits and prepayments		130,800	(185,898)
Decrease in accrued and other liabilities		<u>(91,170)</u>	<u>(878,452)</u>
Cash generated from operations		2,040,273	10,681,388
Finance costs		<u>(12,636)</u>	<u>(6,655)</u>
Net cash from operating activities		2,027,637	10,674,733
CASH FLOWS FROM INVESTING ACTIVITIES			
Purchase of property, plant and equipment		<u>(52,400)</u>	<u>(1,257,725)</u>
Net cash used in investing activities		(52,400)	(1,257,725)
Net increase in cash and cash equivalents		1,975,237	9,417,008
Cash and cash equivalents at beginning of year		<u>14,037,411</u>	<u>4,620,403</u>
Cash and cash equivalents at end of year	6	<u><u>16,012,648</u></u>	<u><u>14,037,411</u></u>

The annexed notes from 1 to 16 form an integral part of these financial statements.


Secretary General



Chairman



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