International Call - Pakistan: Release Ali Wazir and Mohsin Dawar, withdraw false police cases

Friday 31 May 2019, by Collective, Petition (Date first published: 30 May 2019).

On May 26, 2019 a peaceful procession in the Waziristan region led by Ali Wazir and Mohsin Dawar, both Members of National Assembly (MNAs), was fired upon by army men, leaving at least 13 dead and over forty injured.

Ali Wazir and Mohsin Dawar were elected as Members of the National Assembly (MNA) in the general elections held in 2018. They are also leaders of the Pashtun Defence Movement/Pashtun Tahfuz Movement (PTM), a mass social movement that emerged two years ago.

The PTM demands an end to military operations in the region bordering Afghanistan. This region is inhabited by ethnic Pashtuns. Their demands have brought them in conflict with the country’s powerful military. For the last two months, the military spokesperson has been passing threats to the PTM. Besides, the media were publicly advised by the military not to give any coverage to the PTM.

These threats and media black out translated into a tragic reality on May 26. On the one hand, the peaceful procession was fired upon. On the other, media unanimously reported that the PTM activists led by Ali Wazir and Mohsin Dawar attacked a military check post and ensuing violence claimed the lives of three protestors besides injuring three soldiers.

Ironically, video footages ---filmed through mobile phones---have emerged. These videos clearly show that Ali Wazir and Mohsin Dawar were fired upon from behind. While people were falling to bullets, Ali Wazir, instead of running to safety, went back to help an injured comrade. As he approached his comrade, near the checkpost, he was arrested by the military.

The next day, he was produced before the Anti-Terrorism-Court and remanded for eight days. Meantime, the entire opposition in the Parliament has demanded his release. He suffers from diabetes and high blood pressure.

There have been unconfirmed allegations of torture as well. In the event, even if he is released for now, his life remains threatened. Like the rest of the PTM leadership, he has been subjected to a vicious hate propaganda. He is being portrayed by the mainstream media and the military as a foreign agent, a traitor, and a terrorist.

Fact of the matter is, the PTM staunchly believes in non-violence while 16 members of Ali Wazir’s family, including his siblings and father, were assassinated by the Taliban owing to his family’s opposition to the Taliban. He emerged as a symbol of anti-Taliban struggle before the rise of the PTM.

We urge you to sign this petition for these democratic demands:

(1) The urgent release of Ali Wazir, Mohsin Dawar and their PTM comrades

(2) An end to vilification campaign against the PTM leadership

(3) Withdrawal of fake police cases under anti terrorist laws against Ali Wazir, Mohsin Dawar and the PTM members.
First signatures:

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Socialist Party of Malaysia (PSM), Malaysia
Masood Punjabi, trade union activist, Stockholm, Sweden
Chiara Puppo, Secretary of Women and Dissidences CECSO, Socialist Left, Argentina
Francois Preneau, trade-unionist, member of Ensemble !, France
Awais Qarni, Central Organizer Revolutionary Students Front (RSF), Pakistan
Alexandre Raguet, NPA activist, France
Asia Rahman, Politician for Vänsterpartiet (Left Party), Sweden
Mongi Rahoui, Member of the Assembly of the Representatives of the People (Parliament), Tunisia
Leonardo Nicolás Rando, ATE Delegate of the Ministry of Culture, Marcela Salas, secretary of tourism of ATE Lanus, candidate to sec for the Multicolor list of ATE, Daniela Saavedra, delegate of ATE Health Care, Argentina
Ammar Rashid, Secretary Information, Awami Workers Party Punjab, Teacher at Quid Azam University Islamabad, Singer, Pakistan
Dr Taimur Rehman, General Secretary, Pakistan Mazdoor Kissan Party, Pakistan
Vivi Reis, DNPSOL e suplente de deputada federal, Brazil
Daniela Reiß Varas, doctor, Germany
Hans-Peter Renk (solidaritéS), conseiller général (Le Locle), Switzerland
Edgardo Reynoso, trains union leader, delegate of the TBA Branch-Sarmiento, Argentina
Frédérique Riedlin, solidarity with Almi Wazeer and Mohsin Dawar, France
Rebeca Riela, economist, Uruguay
Ranier Ríos, leader of the Socialist Workers’ Movement (MST), Chile
Mariana Riscali, Tesoureira do PSOL, Brazil
Betina Rivero (Palpalá), Leonardo Rivero (Jujuy), Delegates CTA Autónoma and Congress Delegate of ATE, Argentina
Rolando Rivero and Alejandro Omarle, APUBA Delegates, Argentina
Roberto Robaina, MES Socialist Left Movement, Roberto Robaina, MES Socialist Left Movement, Vereador de Porto Alegre RS, Brazil
Sylvain Roch, member of the CGT Union, Corèze, France
Heloíse Rocha, Presidenta do PSOL/Santarém, Brazil
Victor Rodrigues, member of the PCF, France
Pedro Rosa, Sintuff union leader and leader of the Fasubra University Workers’ Federation, Brazil

Xavier Rousselin, Divisional Engineer of Agriculture and Environment, France

Pierre Rousset, Europe solidaire sans frontières (ESSF), France

Talat Rubab, editor of Labour Education, Pakistan

Daniela Saavedra, delegate of ATE Health Care, Argentina

Julia Saavedra, Board of Directors of AEJBA (Judicial CABA, Argentina

Hilda Saeed, Former chairperson Women Commission Pakistan, Women Action Forum Karachi, Pakistan

Yohichi Sakai, Japan Revolutionary Communist League, Japan

Akrour Mohad Saddek, President of the Municipal People’s Assembly (Townhall) of Barbacha-Béjaia, Algeria

Olivier Salles, member of Ensemble !, France

Catherine Samary, Economist, France

Edgard Sánchez, PRT (Partido Revolucionario de los Trabajadores), Mexico

Lucien Sanchez, retired, NPA, Toulouse, France

Marcelo Santana, Direção do Sinpro Teachers Union, Brazil

Ma. Gittel Saquilabon, SUMPAY Mindanao, Iligan City, Mindanao, Philippines

Patrick Saurin, member CADTM-France

Jakob Schäfer, activist in the trade union left, Germany

Michael Schembri, trade union advocate and a gay left activist, Australia

Mónica Schlotthauer, trains union delegate and congresswoman, Socialist Left-Left Front (FIT), Argentina

Helmut Schmitt, Member of the IGBCE (Trade Union for mining, chemicals and energy industries), Weinhein, Germany

Sukla Sen, Peace Activist, India

Danilo Serafim, Secretária Executiva Nacional da CSP-Conlutas, Brazil

Mônica Seixas, Deputada Estadual do PSOL SP, Brazil

Nisar Shah, Jammu Kashmir Awami Workers Party, Kashmir (Pakistan side)

Umar Shahid, Information Secretary, PTUDC, Pakistan

Ferida Sher, Activist (retired from Development activism), Lahore, Pakistan

Michal Siermiński, doctorant en philosophie, Pologne

Jurandir Silva, PSOL Pelotas, Brazil

Rubén “Pollo” Sobrero, Secretary General, Trains Union West Section-Haedo, Argentina
Sindy Soler, MTWRC- Cotabato City, Mindanao, Philippines

Soren Sondergaard, Member of the Parliament, Denmark

Bambi Soumar, member of the CADTM/Senegal

Adama Soumaré, Alternatives, Senegal

Alda Sousa, former Member of the European Parliament, Left Bloc, Portugal

Heitor Sousa, Member of the Parliament, Left Bloc, Portugal

Camila Souza, Executiva Municipal do PSOL do Rio de Janeiro e dirigente GTN Juntos!, Brazil

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Nicolas Springer, member of FSU trade union, France

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Petra Stanius, United Services Trade Union (ver.di), Germany

Marcin Starnawski, academic teacher and translator, Poland

State Workers Alternative - Lilac Orange List ATE, Argentina

Dr. Farooq Sulehria, Assistant Professor, Beaconhouse National University Lahore, Pakistan

Kolja Swingle, member of DIE LINKE party, Germany

Abbas Syed, Academic, Pakistan

Paweł Szelegieniec, Political Scientist, Poland

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Mansoor Tareen, organizer of PTM-Sweden

Farooq Tariq, Spokesperson, Awami Workers Party, Pakistan

Teachers Alternative, Argentina

Mohammed Tehseen, Executive director, South Asia Partnership

Bernhard Thiesing, Member Public Service Union Ver.di, Germany

Janne Toft-Lind, Member of the Zeland Regional Council, Red-Green Alliance (Enhedslisten), Denmark

Francisco Torres, Secretary of the National Federation of Teachers, FND-CTA Autónoma, Argentina

Yennah Torres, peace activist, Mindanao, Philippines
Juan Tortosa, solidarités, Switzerland
Eric Toussaint, CADTM International Spokesperson
Josette Trat, Sociologist, France
Rafael Trujano Fermoso, Jubilado, Sindicato de Telefonistas de la República Mexicana, Mexico
Anwar Ul Haq, Economist, Pakistan
Zafar Ullah, Member of Pakistan Trade Union Defence Campaign, Islamabad, Pakistan
University Teachers Alternative, Argentina
Miguel Urbán Crespo, Member of the European Parliament, Spanish State
Ingrid Urrutia, General Secretary of ATE INCAA Local Board, Argentina
Murat Uyurkulak, writer, Turkey
Jesus Uzkudun Illarramendi Activista social por la Salud Laboral Euskal Herria, Euskadi
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Alejandra Vaca, Secretary of Gender of UTS, Argentina
Gastón Vacchiani, Secretary General UTS (Union of Health Workers) Córdoba, Argentina
Roseline Vachetta, former Member of the European Parliament, France
Charlotte Valløe, in solidarity with Ali Wazeer and Mohsin Dawar, Denmark
Achin Vanaik, Retired Professor of International Relations and Global Politics, former Head of the Department of Political Science and former Dean of the Faculty of Social Sciences, University of Delhi, India
Julien Vanhove, CADTM Belgium
Christian Varin, Fourth International
Paulo Vasallo and Alejandro Parlante, Municipal Delegates of Rosario, Argentina
Priscilla Vásquez, national leader of the social security workers, Panama
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Marie-Christine Vergiat, Human Rights activist, Member of the European Parliament, European Left, France
Pietje Vervest, Transnational Institute, The Netherlands
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Gérard Vidal, photographer, director, France
Laerson Vidal, Presidente da Ap-Ler e dirigente MES/Paraná, Brazil
Luigi Viglino, Sinistra Anticapitalista, Italy
José Villa, local commission SIAT TENARIS, Argentina
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Nora Zaldua, Massacre Commission of La Plata, Buenos Aires, Argentina
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Luis Zamora, Autodeterminación y Libertad, Argentina
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