

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

Friday 31 May 2019, by [Collective / Multiple signers](#), [Petition / Sign-on Letter](#) (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 checkpoint, 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:

Serge Aberdam, historian, France

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Saeed Ahmed, Pakistan Trade Union Defense Campaign, Pakistan

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Geral Jan Omelio, Youth Section, Philippines

Nahuel Orellana, Board of Directors of CTA Autónoma of Lomas de Zamora, Argentina

Marcio Ornelas, Presidente do PSOL São Gonçalo, Brazil

Victor Ottoboni, Secretary of minutes and press of the Union of Tire Workers of Argentina

Priscila Ottón and Pablo Ottón, Subdelegates of ATEN (teachers union of Neuquén), Argentina

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Ömer F. Oyal, writer, Turkey

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Guillermo Pacagnini, General Secretary of CICOP, Trade Union Association of Health Professionals of the Province of Buenos Aires, Argentina

Naíde Pacheco, Presidenta do PSOL/Marabá, Brazil

Luciano Palagano, Executiva Estadual CSP-Conlutas e militante MES/PR, Brazil

Ugo Palheta, Sociologist, Assistant professor, Lille University, and director of the online magazine *Contretemps*, France

Jaime Pastor, Professor, Political Sciences (Spanish State) and editor of the magazine *Viento Sur*

Rince M Paulose, in solidarity with Ali Wazeer and Mohsin Dawar, India

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Chantal Pottier, member of the NPA, France

Joël Pottier, member of the NPA, France

Mutiara Ika Pratiwi, National Secretary of Perempuan Mahardhika, Indonesia

François Preneau, retired, trade unionist and member of Ensemble !, France

Socialist Party of Malaysia (PSM), Malaysia

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François 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

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Sukla Sen, Peace Activist, India

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Umar Shahid, Information Secretary, PTUDC, Pakistan

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

Michał Siermiński, doctorant en philosophie, Pologne

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University Teachers Alternative, Argentina

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Christian Varin, Fourth International

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Ahmad Waqas Goraya, Abducted activists living now in exile, Pakistan / The Netherlands

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Peter Widén, Socialist Party, Suède

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Vivi Widyawati, Perempuan Mahardhika, Jakarta, Indonesia

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Nora Zaldua, Massacre Commission of La Plata, Buenos Aires, Argentina

Susana Zaldua, Massacre Commission of La Plata, Buenos Aires, Argentina

Luis Zamora, Autodeterminación y Libertad, Argentina

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