

STATE OF EMERGENCY AND CRACKDOWN

Lift emergency, restore democracy, demands citizens' group

Monday 5 November 2007, by [Collective / Multiple signers](#) (Date first published: 3 November 2007).

KARACHI, Nov 3, 2007: Participants at a meeting of concerned citizens held to discuss a citizens' charter for democracy expressed outrage at the imposition of emergency. They condemned it as an unjustified step and demanded that it be lifted with immediate effect.

The group opposed the extreme measures being taken in the name of emergency, including the oath that judges have been asked to take, the Judges' Colony in Islamabad being sealed off and the television channels being taken off air. The meeting, attended by various concerned citizens from different sectors of society, termed the imposition of emergency as part of the intimidating tactics being used to pressurise the judiciary in light of the forthcoming judgement on the presidential elections.

The group has resolved to join the lawyers and other citizens demanding the lifting of emergency, and holding of free and fair elections under an interim government. The meeting included members of Pur Aman Karachi (Uzma Noorani of Human Rights Commission of Pakistan, Anis Haroon of Aurat Foundation, and artist & curator Niilofur Farrukh) besides several other citizens including businessman Nadeem Khalid, consultant Naeem Sadiq, Asad Umar from the corporate sector, political science professor Sahar Shafqat, human rights lawyer Abira Ashfaq, educationist Tahseen Hussain, student Haya Hussain, blogger Awab Alvi, and journalists, Shahid Husain and Beena Sarwar.

P.S.

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