

# **High Profile Australian Advocate Initiates Pakistan Sign-on Statement**

Monday 12 November 2007, by [Collective / Multiple signers](#), [STARY Rob](#) (Date first published: 12 November 2007).

**To our brave comrades in Pakistan**

**Rob Stary is a well known criminal lawyer who has represented militant trade unionist Craig Johnston who was jailed for being involved in a protest at a scab labour hire office. He has also represented Jack Thompson, an Australian Muslim who was arrested in Pakistan and tortured by the ISI before being jailed in Australia on trumped up terrorism charges. He is a very good ally of the radical left.**

**He met Farooq Tariq of the LPP when Farooq was in Melbourne for the October 11-14 Latin America Asia Pacific Solidarity Forum. He was very interested in the advocates movement and pro-democracy movement in Pakistan.**

**Here is his initial statement which a number of Australian activists have already begun to sign on to on to.**

**We will post an updated list of signatories and a report of Thursday's solidarity rally in Melbourne.**

**"In the footsteps of the advocates to the end of Dictatorship"**

**In struggle**

**Linda Waldron (DSP- Australia)**

## **Appeal for solidarity with Pakistani people**

We, the undersigned, in solidarity with the people of Pakistan who are once again facing severe repression under Emergency Rule imposed yet again on November 2, 2007 by the military regime of President General Pervez Musharraf, call for:

1) Immediate lifting of the State of Emergency and the censorship and curbs on media and communication which have been imposed under the Emergency Law.

2)

Immediate release of all the judges, lawyers, human rights activists, political and civil society activists and leaders who have been arrested since November 2, 2007.

3) The immediate release of Iftikhar Hussain Chaudhry and his restoration to his rightful position as Chief Justice of Pakistan, and an end to the intimidation and manipulation of the judiciary by the Musharraf regime.

4) Free and fair elections and an end to involvement of the armed forces in Pakistan politics. We stand together with the brave activists resisting this new wave of repression and call upon the Australian government to immediately recall its High Commissioner in protest, terminate all Australian support and cooperation with the Musharraf government. We urge all supporters of democracy to:

1. Add your name to this statement by emailing

solidarity\_with\_pakistani\_people@hotmail.com

2. Donate material support to the brave activists in the Labor Party Pakistan via the Peoples Power Fighting Fund: Commonwealth Bank Railway Square, 857-859 George St, Sydney. Branch number: 062026. Account number: 1006 0743.

3. Support the PROTEST at 12 noon on THURSDAY 15 NOVEMBER at the Old GPO, corner Bourke St Mall & Elizabeth Street.

STATEMENT SIGNED BY:

Rob Stary (civil liberties lawyer); Ray Gorman (CEPU-postal Victorian branch organizer); Tim Gooden (Geelong Trades Hall secretary); Peter Boyle (Democratic Socialist Party national secretary); Gary Harper; Len Cooper (CEPU Victorian secretary); Chris Spindler (AMWU organiser); Andrew Hall (CPSU governing council); Rachel Evans (Parramatta Sydney Socialist Alliance candidate & community Action against Homophobia secretary); Andrew J Silvera (UK); Sue Bolton (DSP assistant national secretary); Scott Wilson (ETU Qld organizer); Will Anderson; Turan Ertekin (Australian representative of EMEP-Labour Party in Turkey); Ray Fulcher; Dick Nichols (Socialist Alliance national convenor); Linda Waldron; John Percy (DSP national president); Jonathan Stauss; Joseph Bryan; Muhammad Qamarullah; Margarita Windisch (Victorian Senate candidate for Socialist Alliance); Martin Smith (lawyer); Ali Khan (film maker/businessman); Imran Bashir; Ali Shafique; Niels Dalgaard (member Red Green Alliance, Denmark); Umair Yousaf; Matthew Price (CPSU delegate); Paula Owen; Beatrice Bleile; Pat Donehue (NSWTF state council); Kashif Bouns; Graham Williams (AMWU organizer); Abid Satti; Bea Bassi (PSA delegate); Sue Bull (Geelong Socialist Alliance convenor); Adeel; Jill Hickson (Community Media); Akif; Ali; Pip Hinman (Socialist Alliance & DSP); Ali; Ali Anjum; Wayne

Klempel (AMWU delegate); Ali Hamza; Eva Cheng (Green Left Weekly journalist); Graham Matthews (Green Left Weekly journalist); Ali Hasnain Sayed; Mary Merkenich (AEU state councilor); Ali Kayani; Ali Naveed; Christopher Doran (University of Newcastle lecturer); Max Lane; Ali Saffique; Samantha Ner; Amir Abbasi; Stephen O'Brien (PSA delegate); Ammar Raza; Asad Zaman; Mick Bull (AMWU organizer); Asim Siddique; Aslam Waqas; Awais; Mike Byrne (CPSU delegate); Awais Massood; Awais Niazi; John Gauci (NSWTF state councilor); Ayaz Ashraf; Aziz-Ud-Din; Burhan Ali; Ch Irfan; Paul Oboohov (CPSU delegate); Fahad Iqbal Khan; Fahad Khan; Fahad Rauf; Faisal; Faisal Rana; Faran Qaiser; Fayyaz Shah; Furqan Mahmud; Ghulam Abbas; Hamid; Hasham; Hassan; Hummad Khokhar; Imran Bashir; Imran Khokhar; Imran Rana; Jhanzaib; Jibril Salahuddin; K Malik; Kamran Arshad; Kashif Baig; Kazim; Khalid; Khoulb Dogar; M Murad; M Saleem; Muazam Hussein; Muhamad Ali Jehanya; Duroyan Fertl (NSW Socialist Alliance convenor); Muqarrab Khan; Nadeem; Obaid Anwar; Qadeer Ahmed; Qasim; Raja Waqas Javed; Rehman Ali Virk; Saad Ali Khan; Sajid Mahmood; Salman; Salman Asad; Salman Yousaf; Sammy Siddiqui; Saqib Rana; Sarfraz Ahmad; Shafqat Laroka; Shahid Illyas; Shahid Iqbal; Shami; Shoaib Khan; Shoaib Khan (cricketer); Sohail Chowdary; Sultan; Suraqa Bin Zaheer; Syed Ahsan Kazmi; Syed Asad Ali Taqyi; Syed M Naqvi; Syed Mousin Ali Shah; Syed Mujahid; Syed Sharukh Abbas; Syed Tahir; Talha; Talha Bin Aman; Umair Ahmad; Umair Yousaf; Uszman; Yasir Rashid; Zahid Manzoor; Zeeshan Ahmed; Zubair Khan; Sohail Chowdhri; Pierre Rousset (Europe solidaire sans frontières — ESSF — France);