

# **PERVEZ MUSHARRAF INTERVIEW**

## **INTERVIEW WITH FORMER PRESIDENT GENERAL (R) PERVEZ MUSHARRAF**

INTERVIEW BY: MUHAMMAD OWAIS RAAZI

### **TITLE HEADLINES**

- # Nawaz Sharif has become the prime minister three times and has failed all three times.
- # Democracy is which sparrow's name which politicians want to catch.
- # Nirendra Modi wants to have war by provoking Pakistan.
- # If need be Pakistan can also use nuclear weapon.
- # Taliban's have left no stone unturned in destroying Pakistan.
- # India should not put us in any test, we have passed through all tests.
- # Hamid Karzai was made President on Indian recommendation, Ashraf Ghani is supporter of Pakistan.
- # There was pressure on me from USA and India for giving Benazir Bhutto entry into Pakistan.
- #if you press Pak Army under your thumb then how it will tolerate that.
- # Some close friends have advised Nawaz Sharif to be careful about me.
- #during the sit-ins, India released water to save Nawaz government.

Question: Mr. Musharraf, you have recently given a statement in which you had said that the slogan of change which was raised by Tahir-ul- Qadri and Imran has now reached every home. What is this change? How you are seeing it? Are people knowing what meanings of change are now that this word change has reached the people?

Answer: Yes. An atmosphere for change has been created. Imran Khan and Tahir-ul- Qadri have generated movement for change to the lower level of the people. I think both of them are representing people from low level to high class and they have reached the hearts and homes of all these people. This propaganda so misunderstanding started by the government, people who are saying few thousand, few hundred people.....whom you're trying to befool by this? People or yourself? Nobody is being befooled. All understand and are seeing with their eyes that the public meetings of Tahir-ul- Qadri and Imran Khan are awakening the people rather they have awakened the people. Go Nawaz Go slogan has become a fashion now. This slogan is very popular these days. Everywhere this is being raised. In every home Go Nawaz Go is being raised. This slogan has broken records on the social media. This has become a joke. It has become very popular. I think Nawaz Sharif mostly attends functions of the army and paying attention to north etc. During sat-ins, he had even offered Eid prayers in his home and he was not seen in any

public meeting and gathering that he had participated. He was afraid that Go Nawaz Go may also be raised there.

Q: Please tell us...the whole world is remembering you, praising your tenure. One political era of Mr. Zardari has passed and now Nawaz Sharif tenure is in progress and already about two years of this tenure have passed. There is lot of difference between your tenure and today's tenure. It was a matter of one common man self-respect, there was problem of Green Passport prestige, there was issue of dollar, and economically Pakistan position was under heavy pressure. There was issue of law and order in Balochistan and there were problems of security of life and property of citizens in Karachi. There was issue of basic facilities of an ordinary man and on top of it there was matter of law and order. There were big jinn's of terrorism which were to be controlled. Today people are comparing problems of your time and of problems of today. You succeeded in all these. How you narrate this success of yours?

A: I will only say that comparing five years of Zardari and those in progress I consider this as my insult. Comparing present era with my tenure is my insult. There is no second opinion in this regard. They are at the most saying we will bring in democracy. O brother what democracy? What sort of democracy? These are all hollow sayings. Is democracy a sparrow which the politicians want to catch? Those harping of tunes of democracy should see the country and the people. What is to be done is to be done for the people. So what they have given to the people? What they had given earlier? What they are giving now? As such, it is better you do not do comparison of my time with any fake tenure.

Q: Nawaz Sharif has come out of crisis twice. Has he chalked out some special strategy?

A: Nawaz Sharif has become Prime Minister twice and both times he has failed. I've stayed with him for one year as the Army Chief. He simply has no brain. He has got hair grown on his head but I some seed should also have been put into his brain to let the mind grow. What strategy he will chalk out. He better prepare to go now.

Q: Focus of N-League has always been opposing you, its supporters throw shoes on your photos. Don't you get angry on seeing all this?

A: They have crossed all limits in showing disrespect. Followers of Nawaz Sharif are talking rubbish about me all the time and put on piles of falsehood while sitting in talk shows. I call followers of Nawaz Sharif as spoons of Nawaz Sharif, They have no sense how to talk, what is to be said and how it is to be said, they do not know the least. I say to them say whatever they want... but first see their faces and then talk afterwards. If the face is not good then at least they should learn how to talk in a good way. I'll not say except that they're not ashamed.

Q: Should those responsible for Model Town tragedy resign?

A: Model Town tragedy is an open charge sheet against the government in which Gull Butt has been made a hero. Gull Butt is a great man.

Q: So, you also remember name of Gull Butt?

A: The whole world now remembers name of Gull Butt. His name has come into dictionary. He is very famous man. He is leading police charge. What a man he is, friend, what good things he has that he has

become a leader. He has escaped even after committing the crime. This you can judge yourself about our justice. All seeing what madness he is committing a mad man...but he escaped. Now he is roaming on roads free.

Q: Whenever Nawaz Sharif has come he has one or other problem with the army. It is clear even today that the army is not happy with him. Perhaps for the last couple of months Raheel Sharif has now started sitting with him. But inner story is different. There is general impression this all has happened because of your case and the results of this Nawaz Sharif is facing today again. Are there some people who are working as Contact Bridge between you and Nawaz Sharif?

A: As regards this, I think unfortunately Nawaz Sharif is suffering from army phobia. He has some devilish think in his mind about the army right from the beginning. During days of General Asif Nawaz when in was with him in GHQ, he was having great serious sort of issues with him also. Then came General Waheed Kakar, even then there was atmosphere of hostility between both of them. When General Jahangir Karamat came he was also removed three months earlier. When I came what happened to me you know it very well. I don't understand as to what problem he has with the army.... The army believes in defending itself remaining in its area, if you come in their area and press them with thumb then how it will tolerate...so this should not be done. This is against the interest of the country. Army is very important institution which is very organized and strong. This is an institution which knits Pakistanis together from inside and defends the borders. Then why do you attack this again and again. All this should not happen.

Second thing you said about contact between me and Nawaz Sharif, I'll only say this that some close friends have advised Nawaz Sharif to be careful about me. And this is better for him that he should not try to tease me again and again otherwise he will himself be teased.

Q: treason case was initiated against you with lot of hullah gullah, then you succeeded in taking refuge in army headquarters on excuse of medical and then that case gradually pushed into cold storage. Had all this happened under some special agreement?

A: Treason case was initiated against one who was saying Pakistan first and foremost. In the first instance this case was baseless, Factual position is before the world, to what extent I am a traitor and to what extent faithful. Secondly, I had not used excuse of medical in fact I was really sick. Case got cold because there was nothing in it and the real culprits of this case were others, not me.

Q: After all, the army had come to your help?

A: I was the Army Chief of Pakistan and I've done great work for this country and the army. It is true that the army had supported me in difficult time.

Q: What role you can play in politics of Pakistan in future?

A: Time has changed great deal. This is last turn of Nawaz Sharif. He also knows this. Government don't seem to be completing its tenure. Zardari will be confined to Sindh. Rather in Sindh also, downfall of Zardari has started. All these parties and faces have left only some time. Coming time is our time. In order top organized All Pakistan Muslim League we have contacted all Muslim Leagues except N-League. In

future APML will emerge as a very big party. We will together also support Tahir-ul- Qadri and Imran Khan and in this way Nawaz Sharif and Zardari will be out.

Q: You've said number of times that NRO was big mistake of yours. Are you really not satisfied with it?

A: There was pressure from my colleagues regarding NRO and particularly Chaudhry Brothers had advised me about NRO. There was also underground pressure of USA and India for giving Benazir entry to Pakistan, which I was feeling and which was there.....NRO is black spot on my political career. I preferred sentiments of the people because there was great support for Benazir among the people.

Q: Suspension of the Chief Justice caused your exit?

A: Removal of Iftikhar Chaudhry cost me very dearly. Had I wanted I could have become dictator and prolonged my rule but the peoples' sentiments were not then in my favour and I was subjected to media trial very badly. That's why I went with honor.

Q: You're also accused of murder of Benazir. Why?

A: Benazir was murdered by Baitullah Mehsud. I've no hand in it. I had sent her messages number of times that she can lose her life on coming to Pakistan and the same had happened.

Q: Where you see yourself in the coming time?

A: We will start a new political culture in Pakistan. There is nothing to worry about. Coming time is bringing lot many unexpected changes. We will, Inshallah, lay foundation of strong democratic tradition in Pakistan and provide relief to Pakistani nation. Nawaz Sharif has not been able to understand psyche of Pakistani people. People still remember my tenure. People of Pakistan love me greatly because during my time every man was prosperous.

Q: People say you've sold out daughter of Pakistan Afiya Siddiqui. Is this true?

A: I swear of Almighty Allah and tell you all that I don't know Afiya Siddiqui, neither I've met her ever nor I've talked to her, she was never mentioned to me nor do I know how she has gone to USA, whether she was in Afghanistan or she was picked up from Pakistan, I've no information. If people say I've sold her then it is all rubbish and nonsense.

Q: Nirendra Modi has been talking venomously about Pakistan. If you had been in power today then how you would have responded?

A: Nirendra Modi is anti-Pakistan. He wants to start war by provoking Pakistan. Pakistan is ready to face any threat any time. If need be Pakistan will be hesitate is using nuclear weapon. Modi is not anti-Pakistan he is also anti-Islam. Violations being committed on control line are intended to provoke Pakistan. In Kathmandu I myself had gone and shook hand with Atal Bihari Vajpayee but India took it as a weakness or per force of Pakistan. Anger is rising among Pakistanis over provocative shelling on Control Line every other day. India should not put us to any test, we've passed all tests. Modi government should better come to its senses. Beginning of Modi is not good. He is being regarded in Pakistan as anti-Muslim and anti-Pakistan.

Q: Has India sabotaged peace talks intentionally?

A: India wants to destabilize Pakistan through proxy war. India is also responsible for deadlock in peace talks. Pakistan is every time ready for its defense. Pakistan army is not so weak that it may not respond to India in any manner. Pakistan army is very strong army and it has not gone weak at any stage. Its activities in FATA and Frontier are worth appreciable and it has proved it has every capability of tackling internal and external threats. We're keeping our eyes on Indian borders. India should not be mistaken that we've become weak or we don't have the strength to face the difficulties we're facing. With the blessings of Almighty Allah, Alhamdulillah, Pakistan army is the strongest army of the world. Indian army is bigger than us in numbers but it should not in any misgiving about us. Till such Nirendra Modi don't change its thinking about Pakistan he will continue facing humiliation.

Q: I see there is one internal weakness without ourselves and secondly India is using full force on border. How do you see position of Pakistan about this time?

A: External aggression takes place only when there is internal weakness, as a result of this foreign aggression takes place. If you're strong internally then nobody can dare hurl threats on Pakistan from outside. We're being treated ours is the country like Israel Lebanon anyone can come and attack etc. With the blessings of Almighty Allah such things cannot happen here. India should not be mistaken that it will pressurize Pakistan... so internally we should be strong.

Q: Mr. Modi some months back had said teach Pakistan lesson and bullets be rained on them that they know. Mr. Nawaz Sharif had even very enthusiastically participated in oath taking of Modi and he was welcomed by Nirendra Modi also. Then after some time the Indian Prime Minister threatened to teach Pakistan lesson and his attitude remains the same even today. But our government is not giving any reply to India, even the Prime Minister is not giving any reaction in this regard. What is the reason for this?

A: I don't believe in conspiracy theory but people are talking something very strange that Modi government supports Nawaz Sharif government internally or symbolically. Whenever Nawaz Sharif gets into some difficulty then tension is seen on Indian border. It appears that Modi is supporter of Nawaz Sharif from inside. During the sit-ins also when days of Nawaz Sharif government were being numbered then India started indiscriminate shelling on the borders, then to rescue Nawaz Sharif government India released water. All these things are talking of the people apart from any intelligence and just possible these may be wrong. But as far as Modi is concerned, even prior to his becoming the Prime Minister his was a very clear role and then also he was regarded as deadly anti-Muslims and anti-Pakistan. When he became the Prime Minister it appeared to me that desire for peace will not be there anymore and threats of Indo-Pakistan war will keep on increasing. When Nirendra Modi was the Chief Minister of Gujarat he had ordered massacre of the Muslims there, which is before the whole world. So there no doubt that he is an old habitual of taking revenge from the Muslims. Now that he has occupied bigger seat he has started showing his real colors. He is firm in his commitment and has no problem. But what is itching us that we go running to meet him. Nawaz Sharif had run to Modi's function.... And I think Nawaz Sharif had also invited Mr. Nirendra Modi in his oath taking ceremony ... but he had not come then what respect was left, brother. What is the need for such hollow brotherhood?

Q: Nawaz Sharif had gone as a goodwill gesture.

A: What goodwill gesture? Leave this brother. We are Muslims. We don't believe that if someone slaps us then we ask him to give us another on other side of the face. We know how to give befitting and strong reply and this should be done so that next time nobody slaps us. We are also that India is trying to move ahead in Kashmir also. We can teach them Kargil like lesson again also. If Pakistan is strong internally then we've so much force that what they're doing on the border we can double reply to that.

Q: It means that Pakistan army has become so strong that it can take Kashmir?

A: Yes. Quite right. We do not have only army power but also many other sources as well for Kashmir. Are you not seeing that people in occupied Kashmir are already in uprising against India and we've also Mujahedeen for sending there. Millions of people here are ready to join the fight of their Kashmiri brethren, people there also need just a signal to stand up all of them. So it is better that India should stop making wrong estimates. About this time our only weakness is that we do not have a strong government.

Q: India can think about attacking Pakistan?

A: India has made several attempts to attack Pakistan. India was going to attack Pakistan in 2002. When I ordered that deploy our forces on the border before its attack, then it realized that how strong is our intelligence. Today also India has same thinking and can attack Pakistan any time but before doing that India itself would be under attack.

Q: Now it has become clear that India is fanning terrorism and separatism in Balochistan. What do you say?

A: Today many Baloch tribes have taken refuge and living in Russia and India and they are getting training in India. RAW is playing its game in Balochistan. India wants to separate Balochistan from Pakistan and USA is also perhaps happy over this. India is creating obstacles in the way of progress of Pakistan and sees Gwadar Port project as its death.

Q: USA charge is that Haqqani network was promoted during your tenure?

A: Haqqani network is Afghan. In its group also all are Afghans. They have no right to use soil of Pakistan for their purposes. As such we should not put ourselves in danger. If they're in Pakistan then they should go from here and if they are in Afghanistan then their coming and going be stopped. Some solution of this must be found and apprehensions of USA about Pakistan be allayed.

Q: What role of Afghanistan you see in the context of Pakistan?

A: Ashraf Ghani is a good supporter of Pakistan. He will not give preference to India over interests of Pakistan. Hamid Karzai was very much anti- Pakistan and he worked a great deal against Pakistan. During his tenure India had opened many secret High Commissions in Afghanistan from where India is spearheading its activities in Frontier and Balochistan till now. Role of Karzai has never been liked by Pak army. Karzai was made Afghan President on the recommendation of India. Karzai should not have adopted such anti-Pakistan though he himself had lived in Pakistan for long period and his family had lived on this land.

Q: Government had previously also created atmosphere for negotiations with the Taliban's. Can such a situation be developed in future also again?

A: Negotiations or meeting with Tehrik-e-Taliban Pakistan should absolutely not be held. They have left no stone unturned in destroying Pakistan. They should not be given any concession. TTP has slaughtered our men publicly. They had set ablaze thirteen girls schools between March to September 2008. They had also completely burnt entire Malam Jabba resort which was developed by Austria. So, how negotiations be held with them. Recently they have done highly inhuman act on Peshawar Army School. All these are quite shameful things. Doing negotiations with such terrorists? This shows the weakness of the government and its failure and in turn they are boosted. So, no meeting or negotiations be held with them. Pakistan Army has launched Zarb-e-Azb operation against them and has achieved many targets. Terrorists have suffered many setbacks and reverses due to this operation and they are finding no place to hide. In such circumstances now, question does not arise about negotiations with them.

Q: Army Courts have been constituted for taking the terrorists to their logical conclusion. But so far no terrorist has been tried by them nor has anyone been convicted to hanging. Do you think that the Army Courts have been set up merely as showpieces or the government will do something for implementation on the National Action Plan?

A: Government has approved 21<sup>st</sup> Amendment, also formulated the National Action Plan and constituted Army Courts as well. But the intention of the government is not clear. The government is not serious in implementation of National Action Plan. Army Courts should hang all sorts of terrorists.

---

## HEADLINES

# I have not sold Dr. Afiya Siddiqui.

# Modi is against Pakistan and Islam both.

# Terrorists have suffered great reverses due to Operation Zarb-e-Azb.

# Alhamdulillah, Pakistan Army is the strongest army of the world.

# Go Nawaz Go slogan has today become a fashion.

# Till Narendra Modi changes its thinking about Pakistan he will be facing humiliation.

# Presently our only weakness is that we do not have a strong government.

# Whenever Nawaz Sharif is in difficulty, tension is seen on Indian border.

# Imran Khan and Tahir-ul- Qadri have generated movement for change among the people.

# Hamid Karzai was very much anti-Pakistan, he had worked a lot against Pakistan.

# Indian Army is bigger than ours in number but it should not be in any misunderstanding.

# During my tenure every person was prosperous, people remember me even today.

# Had I wanted I could have prolonged my rule by becoming a dictator.

#The government is not serious in implementation of National Action Plan.

# NRO is a black spot on my political career.

# Benazir Bhutto was murdered by Baitullah Masood.

# India can attack Pakistan any time but before this it would be under attack itself.

#This is last turn of Nawaz Sharif, government do not seem to be completing its tenure.

# Mian Sahib should not tease me time and again otherwise he will himself be teased.

# Treason case was initiated against one saying Pakistan first and foremost.

# Modi's beginning not good, he is being regarded in Pakistan as anti-Muslim and anti-Pakistan.

# Army Courts should award sentence of hanging to all sorts of terrorists.

#Nawaz Sharif is having problem with the army every time, unfortunately he is suffering from army phobia.

# APML together will support Tahir-ul- Qadri and Imran Khan.

---