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	OIG-00	NIMA-00	PA-00	GIWI-00	ISNE-00	DOHS-00	IRM-00
	NCTC-00	FMP-00	BBG-00	R-00	ECA-00	IIP-00	SCRS-00
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E.O. 12958: N/A

TAGS: KMDR, KPAO, OIIP, OPRC, PGOV, PREL, PK

SUBJECT: PAKISTAN MEDIA REACTION: NOVEMBER 03-05, 2007

SUMMARY: National political stories in the wake of Saturday's

imposition of the state of emergency. The UN-dominated front pages in all newspapers on Monday. These reports even over-shadowed the otherwise important development of the release of over 200 kidnapped Pakistani military soldiers in exchange of the setting free by the government of 25 militants. All newspapers reported the "countrywide crackdown" on hundreds of lawyers, human rights activists and politicians. Prime Minister Aziz's statement that "elections may be delayed for a year" was the lead stories in many newspapers. The English daily, "Dawn," front-paged U.S. Senator Biden's "threat" of a "punitive move in Congress if the Musharraf regime does not withdraw the decree imposing an emergency rule." All newspapers also highlighted Secretary Rice's statement that the "U.S. will review its financial aid package to Pakistan." Also covered was the Embassy's statement expressing "grave concern" about GoP's orders to suppress the news media and to detain lawyers, politicians, human rights activists, and others during the Proclamation of Emergency. In a front-page report, the English daily, "The Nation," reported that "notwithstanding its verbal opposition, the emergency was imposed after Bush administration's approval."

Without exception, all newspapers continued to run critical editorials denouncing the imposition of emergency in the country. The English daily, "The News," observed that "the full consequences of the new situation Pakistan has been plunged into are still to be seen. But they cannot be positive." Another English daily, "Dawn," noted that "Saturday's declaration of emergency rule has put an abrupt end to the government's policy of 'enlightened moderation,' as borne out by detention of dozens of civil society members." The Urdu daily, "Ausaf," declared that "the imposition of emergency is the very measure to stop the journey of democracy." Another Urdu daily, "Islam," wrote: "people are not ready to believe that General Musharraf will be able to steer the country towards political stability and economic progress." End Summary.

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 News Stories  
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1. "Govt. Frees 25 Militants In Exchange For 213 Hostages" "Dawn" (11/05)

"The government on Sunday freed 25 militants in exchange for the release of 213 army personnel who were held hostage in South Waziristan for more than two months, Military spokesperson Maj. Gen. Waheed Arshad confirmed."

2. "Crackdown On Lawyers, Political And HR Leaders; 1500 rounded Up" "The Nation" (11/05)

"In a large-scale crackdown against the Opposition Leaders, lawyers, journalists and human rights activists, some 1,500 people have so far been rounded up from various parts of the country following the imposition of state of emergency."

3. "Major Opposition Parties To Chalk Out Anti-emergency Plans"  
"Daily Times" (11/05)

"Major opposition parties on Sunday started consultations to chalk out strategies to resist what they described as the imposition of martial law in the garb of emergency. They also condemned the countrywide crackdown and arrests of political workers, especially in Punjab."

4. "Polls On Time Top Priority, Musharraf Tells Ruling MPs" "The News" (11/05)

"President Musharraf in his first interaction with the ruling alliance on Sunday after the proclamation of the emergency has made it abundantly clear that the holding of the general elections in a free and fair manner according to the previous schedule would be his top priority."

5. "Elections May Be Delayed For A Year: Aziz" "Dawn" (11/05)

"Prime Minister Shaukat Aziz on Sunday defended President Musharraf's move to impose a state of emergency and said general elections could be put off for up to a year."

6. "US Senator Threatens Punitive Move In Congress" "Dawn" (11/05)

"Senator Joseph R. Biden, chairman of the US Senate Foreign Relations Committee, said on Sunday that the United States should consider taking away F-16 fighter jets and other military equipment from Pakistan if the Musharraf regime does not withdraw the decree imposing an emergency rule."

7. "US Hardens Position On Emergency" "Dawn" (11/05)

"The United States appears to be hardening its position on the imposition of emergency rule, with Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice saying on Sunday that Washington will review its financial aid package to Pakistan."

8. "Rice To Visit Pakistan?" "Daily Times" (11/05)

"US Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice may arrive in Pakistan at anytime to get first-hand knowledge of the prevailing political situation, according to diplomatic sources."

9. "US Concerned Over Media Curbs, Detentions" "Daily Times"  
(11/05)

"The US Embassy, expressing concern over media curbs and detention of lawyers and politicians, on Sunday urged the government to permit broadcasters resume their program and set the imprisoned political leaders and lawyers free."

10. "US Embassy Regrets Emergency" "The Post" (11/05)

"The United States is deeply disturbed by reports that President Musharraf has taken extra-constitutional steps and proclaimed a state of emergency, an official statement of the US Embassy said in Islamabad on Sunday."

11. "U.S. Consent Obtained Ahead Of Imposition Of Emergency" "Jang"  
(11/04)

"Some credible sources claimed that the Government had obtained the U.S. consent before the imposition of the state of emergency in the country. Sources said that the emergency will be lifted after November 15 when the assemblies are going to complete their constitutional tenure and elections will be held on time. Sources claimed that the Government decided to impose state of emergency as a pre-emptive action to stop the Supreme Court from a decision against President Musharraf on his re-elections."

12. "Emergency Imposed After Bush Admin Approval" "The Nation"  
(11/05)

"Notwithstanding its 'opposition in words' to the proclamation of emergency in Pakistan, the United States accepted it as a last resort for President Musharraf to stay effective in the combat against terrorism."

13. "All Fundamental Rights Not Suspended, Diplomats Told" "The Post" (11/05)

"The government has taken foreign diplomats into confidence on the imposition of state of emergency in the country and has made it clear on them that the country will continue to move ahead toward democracy despite emergency as the general elections will be held soon. Foreign Secretary Riaz Ahmad Khan gave a briefing to the ambassadors and High Commissioners in Foreign Office on Sunday."

14. "No US Plans To Suspend Military Aid To Pakistan: Pentagon"  
"The News" (11/05)

"The United States has no plans to suspend military aid to Pakistan"

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in response to a declaration of emergency by President Musharraf, a Pentagon spokesman said late on Saturday."

15. "US Envoy Phones BB" "The News" (11/05)

"US Ambassador to Pakistan Anne W Patterson conveyed on Sunday the stand of the US government regarding the emergency-plus action of General Musharraf in a telephone call to PPP Chairperson Benazir Bhutto."

16. "US Should Use Aid As Leverage, Says Benazir" "Dawn" (11/05)

"Former Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto said on Sunday that the United States should use "American aid as a leverage" and tell General Musharraf that all aid would be 'jeopardized' if his regime failed to hold elections to bring to power a government which can turn the tide against extremism."

17. "Wajih says Musharraf Acted In League With NRO Beneficiaries" "Dawn" (11/05)

"General Musharraf has declared a state of emergency in the country in league with the beneficiaries of the National Reconciliation Ordinance, says former Supreme Court judge Wajihuddin Ahmad. Mr. Ahmad said in an interview with "Dawn" that there was a strong PPP link in what had happened in the country on Saturday."

18. "Pakistan's Friends' Should Ask US To Stop Supporting Dictator: Asma" "Daily Times" (11/05)

"Human Rights Commission of Pakistan (HRCP) Chairwoman Asma Jehangir, who was put under house arrest for three months on Saturday after the proclamation of an emergency by General Pervez Musharraf, urged the "friends of Pakistan" to ask the United States "to stop supporting the instable dictator, as his lust for power is bringing the country close to a worse form of a civil strife."

19. "Musharraf Mulls to Retain Uniform Till 2012" "The Nation" (11/05)

"The government is mulling the option that President Musharraf should retain his military uniform for next five years, a private TV channel reported on Sunday."

20. "General Musharraf's Second Coup: Charge-Sheet Against Judiciary; Media 'Promoting Negativism' "Dawn" (11/04)

"In what is a virtual martial law, President Musharraf, acting as Army Chief, on Saturday imposed a state of emergency throughout Pakistan, suspended the Constitution and replaced superior courts in

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a move that could put the country's ~~UNCLASSIFIED~~ into

disarray."

21. "Musharraf Sees Threat To Country" "The News" (11/04)

"President Musharraf on Saturday declared that the state of emergency was imposed in the country to safeguard national interests and counter growing terrorism and downward trend of economy."

22. "Courts Freed 61 Terrorists: Musharraf" "The Nation" (11/04)

"President Musharraf on Saturday accused the courts of setting free 61 men who, he said, had committed terrorist acts."

23. "Emergency To End Judicial Activism" "Dawn" (11/04)

"President Musharraf on Saturday defended the proclamation of the state of emergency and said that judicial activism had brought the country to a complete standstill."

24. "Justice Dogar New CJ; A Number Of Judges Opt Out" "Dawn" (11/04)

"A majority of the Supreme Court as well as the Provincial High Court Judges either refused or were not invited to take oath under the Provisional Constitutional Order (PCO) issued after the proclamation of the state of emergency here on Saturday. Justice Abdul Hameed Dogar, who is the fourth in line in the seniority list, was sworn in as the new Chief Justice of Pakistan by President Musharraf."

25. "Musharraf Asked To Quit Army Post" "Dawn" (11/04)

"The White House on Saturday asked General Musharraf to quit the army office before he is sworn in as the president and hold parliamentary elections as scheduled."

26. "US 'Disturbed', UK 'Gravely Concerned'" "Daily Times", "The Nation" (11/04)

"The US has said that it is "deeply disturbed" that President Pervez Musharraf has declared a state of emergency, calling it a sharp step backward for democracy. State Department spokesman Sean McCormack said in a statement that Musharraf had promised to hold elections in January and the US was urging him to do so."

27. "All Private TV Channels Service Blocked" "The Nation" (11/04)

"With the proclamation of state of emergency in the country on

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Saturday, the government suspended the cable service of all private TV channels apparently in an attempt to stop them airing the news of state of emergency."

28. "Emergency, A Crime Against Nation: APDM" "The Nation" (11/04)

"Leaders of the All Party Democratic Movement, while condemning the imposition of the emergency, have observed that the act of general Musharraf is unconstitutional, and he has committed a crime against the nation"

29. "Major Parties, Lawyers Condemn Imposition Of Emergency" "The News" (11/04)

"Major political parties and lawyers termed the imposition of emergency in the country as illegal and unconstitutional, declaring to resist the move by joining hands with all democracy-loving forces."

30. "Crackdown On Lawyers" "Dawn" (11/04)

"In a countrywide crackdown, the government detained several political leaders, lawyers and civil rights activists in their houses on Saturday to stop them from taking any action against the imposition of emergency."

31. "Benazir Calls It Martial Law On Dash Back Home" "Dawn" (11/04)

"Pakistan People's Party Chairperson Benazir Bhutto has termed the promulgation of emergency and the PCO yet another martial law and called for reversal of the order and restoration of the Constitution. Ms. Bhutto argued that the Chief of the Army Staff had no powers under the Constitution to clamp an emergency."

32. "Ordinances To Regulate Media" "The News" (11/04)

"The government issued tough new changes in the media policy on Saturday stopping the media from criticizing the head of the state, military or judiciary or showing bodies of the suicide bombers or their victims. In separate ordinances issued after the imposition of the emergency, government issued guidelines for anchor persons and hosts of television channels."

33. "Half-Baked Martial Law For The Second Time" "Dawn" (11/04)

"General Pervez Musharraf has earned the dubious distinction of being the first-ever Army chief in the country's history to have suspended the Constitution twice and imposed a half-baked martial law against his own government. Interestingly, on both occasions he

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took this extra-constitutional step to ~~UNCLASSIFIED~~ down office - previously as the Army chief and now his Presidency."

34. "Swat Militants Free 120 Troops" "Daily Times" (11/04)

"Pro-Taliban militants in Swat captured 120 security forces personnel on Friday night but freed them on Saturday after disarming them."

35. "Militants Free 48 FC Troops, Claim Capture Of Another 100" "The News" (11/03)

"Militants fighting security forces in the restive Swat valley set free 48 paramilitary Frontier Corps soldiers on Friday after presenting them before the media and claimed to have captured more than 100 troops in Matta Town."

36. "Drone Missile Kills Five Near Miramshah" "Dawn" (11/03)

"Five people were killed and six others wounded when a missile, allegedly fired from a US drone, hit a suspected militant compound near the Pak-Afghan border in the restive North Waziristan agency on Friday."

37. "Missile Attack In Waziristan Kills Nine" "Daily Times" (11/03)

"A missile strike destroyed an insurgent hideout in North Waziristan at a house once owned by the late military chief of the Taliban, killing nine people, witnesses and sources said."

38. "US Offers Intelligence Sharing To Tackle Suicide Attacks" "The Nation" (11/03)

"The United States of America on Friday offered its assistance to Pakistan to counter the recent spate of suicide attacks and

worsening security situation in Swat and tribal areas, through intelligence sharing."

39. "Musharraf Rejects CENTCOM Chief's Offer Of Troops" "Daily Times", "The Post", "Pakistan Observer" (11/03)

"The US Central Command (CENTCOM) chief Admiral William J Fallon on Friday offered the US forces' assistance in fighting Taliban elements in the Tribal Areas and Swat to President Musharraf, but Musharraf rejected the offer, saying only Pakistani troops would be allowed to conduct operations inside the country, Online reported quoting sources."

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40. "US Friendship Costs Pakistan Deal" ~~UNCLASSIFIED~~ "The News"  
(11/03)

"Pakistan is paying a heavy price for being US ally in war against terrorism but it would continue its efforts to stamp out roots of terrorism, said President Musharraf."

41. "US To Continue Working With Pakistan Against Terrorism" "Daily Times" (11/03)

"The US will continue to work with the Pakistan government to help it respond to terror threats posed by the Taliban and Al Qaeda, US State Department deputy spokesman Tom Casey said on Friday."

42. "US Consulate Holds Journalism Training Workshop On Election Coverage in Khanewal" "Daily Times" (11/03)

"Renowned U.S. journalist and author Arnold R. Isaacs conducted a workshop for local journalists on 'election coverage' in Khanewal at the Jinnah Library on Friday, according to a press release issued by the US Embassy in Islamabad."

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Editorials/Op-eds  
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43. "Age Of Darkness," an editorial in the English daily, "The News" (11/05)

"The full consequences of the new situation Pakistan has been plunged into are still to be seen. But they cannot be positive. As such, in the current scenario, one can only hope the present phase is kept as short as possible and full constitutional rule restored before the passage of too many weeks or months of darkness."

44. "Beyond Emergency Rule," an editorial in the English daily, "Dawn" (11/05)

"Saturday's declaration of emergency rule has put an abrupt end to the government's policy of 'enlightened moderation,' as borne out by detention of dozens of civil society members within 24 hours of the proclamation."

45. "Imposition Of Emergency And Suspension Of Fundamental Rights," an editorial in the Urdu daily, "Ausaf" (11/05)

"The question is whether the decision of sending the honorable judges to home will help improve the situation in Waziristan and Swat or other parts of the country? And whether this state of emergency will help stop suicide attacks? The imposition of

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emergency is the very measure to stop ~~UNCLASSIFIED~~ democracy."

46. "Following Imposition Of State Of Emergency," an editorial in the Urdu daily, "Islam" (11/05)

"President Musharraf has admitted his failures of last eight years while convincing the nation on his case for imposition of state of emergency. He clearly stated that the country is passing through a political, constitutional and economic crisis. Now, people are not ready to believe that General Musharraf will be able to steer the country towards political stability and economic progress."

47. "State Of Emergency Should Not Prolong," an editorial in the Urdu daily, "Jang" (11/05)

"The state of affairs was serious enough or not is a debatable issue. However, it is a hard reality that the constitution has been suspended yet again. No one likes ultra-constitutional measures, nor are these the only panacea of our all troubles. Nonetheless, if the Government resolves all contentious issues speedily and move towards the free and fair general elections, people and history may possibly gulp down this decision as a bitter pill."

48. "Emergency Or Vengeful Martial Law?," an editorial in the Urdu daily, "Nawa-i-Waqt" (11/05)

"Even the U.S. and EU have not accepted the justification President Musharraf has provided for the imposition of emergency, or as constitutional experts call it, martial law... Although President Musharraf has temporarily succeeded in enforcing his will it will not be easy to continue this for long."

49. "Is Emergency The Solution?," an editorial in the Urdu daily, "Express" (11/05)

"Pakistan's credibility at the international level has been damaged due to the imposition of emergency. It will not have a positive impact at the domestic level either. Hence the duration of the emergency must be kept extremely short so the country can move towards democracy."

50. "In The Name Of "Emergency," an editorial in the Urdu daily, "Pakistan" (11/05)

"The entire country is grieved [at the imposition of emergency], the reasons are different for everyone. What cannot be denied is that this is a very unfortunate turn of events, a great tragedy."

51. "Imposition Of Emergency," an editorial in the Urdu daily, "Din" (11/05)

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"[When he made the speech] the President should have also announced the duration of the emergency so that the uncertainty and doubt in the nation's mind could have been alleviated."

52. "New Crisis," an editorial in the Urdu daily, "Jasarat" (11/05)

"The imposition of emergency has produced a new crisis in the country. This is by all means a national loss to Pakistan."

53. "State Of Emergency And Our Responsibilities," an editorial in the Urdu daily, "Mashriq" (11/05)

"Following July 20, our politicians moved the Supreme Court of Pakistan for every trivial and insignificant issue, and this approach created a clash-like situation between the two organs of the state - the executive and the judiciary. Now, it is the shared responsibility of the Government, the opposition, the judiciary, the executive and the legislature to give preference to national interest on all things, or else this situation can put the national security and territorial integrity in danger."

54. "Wages Of Confrontation," an editorial in the English daily, "Daily Times" (11/05)

"Until now, the declared intent of President General Musharraf was to complete the "third phase" of holding elections. Now some ministers are saying that the general elections can be postponed in view of the deteriorating law and order situation posed by both the terrorists and the confrontationists. But this should not happen. While he copes with Al Qaeda, he must be held to his pledge to hold free and fair elections as originally promised in January 2008. If they are postponed, the crisis will deepen."

55. "The Inevitable Has Happened," an editorial in the English daily, "Pakistan Observer" (11/05)

"It should be very clear to the President that in the 21st century the days of Martial Law or emergency are over and by doing so we are making Pakistan a laughing stock in the comity of nations."

56. "Simply Unconvincing," an editorial in the English daily, "The Nation" (11/05)

"The assertion that the country would be "governed, as nearly as may, in accordance with the Constitution" is hardly convincing especially when seven of the articles related to fundamental rights would remain suspended and the President has been empowered to amend

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57. "Going Too Far," an editorial in the English daily, "The Nation" (11/05)

"The pity in the imposition of emergency with its restrictive ordinances insofar as they impinge on the freedom of expression is that one of the principal symbols of democratic governance - a vibrant, independent media - the regime would flaunt as unprecedented in the history of Pakistan has been removed with a single stroke."

58. "Draconian Step," an editorial in the English daily, "The Nation" (11/04)

"This government having lost its focus on crucial issues should not ignore the serious consequences of the extra-constitutional measure it has finally resorted to. Any measures that are likely to lead to the postponement of the elections, suspension of fundamental rights or emasculation of the courts would be strongly resisted."

59. "Black Saturday," an editorial in the English daily, "The News" (11/04)

"It will be difficult to remove public doubts that it has only been imposed to target a superior judiciary that has finally found some spine and is carrying out its constitutional role of acting as a watchdog on the executive, which in Pakistan's case was often overstepping its constitutionally-defined authority. The future is not looking good -- not least because the president's move is bound to have massive repercussions and a severe response from all segments of civil society."

60. "Another Move Towards Absolutism," an editorial in the English daily, "Dawn" (11/04)

"So we are back to square one. Back to October 12, 1999. All the gains over the years have gone down the drain. All this talk about the forward thrust towards democracy, about the impending 'third phase' of the political process and the lip service to the sanctity of judiciary turned out to be one great deception."

61. "U.S. Offer Of Help In Swat Adds Insult To Injury," an editorial in the Urdu daily, "Mashriq" (11/04)

"The U.S. desire to take action against local Taliban in Swat is tantamount to interference in Pakistan's internal matters. It is surprising that the combined forces of 37 countries are unable to control or improve security situation in Afghanistan but instead of

admitting their failure in Afghanistan ~~UNCLASSIFIED~~ to look for a pretext to intervene in Pakistan's affairs is ridiculous."

62. "Reversal In Swat And The Residual State," an editorial in the English daily, "Daily Times" (11/04)

"The latest development in this direction of invited or uninvited "intervention-in-failed-state" development has come in the shape of the "offer" of US forces "to fight the Taliban elements in the Tribal Areas and Swat" by the US Central Command (CENTCOM) chief, Admiral William J. Fallon, to President Musharraf. It is quite clear what direction the national crisis is taking. The central concern is not democracy and civil-military relations but the survival of the state and, ironically, within the consensus that wishes to ignore the state are also those who actually want the federation to come to an end."

63. "Sins Of Our Past," an editorial in the English daily, "The Post" (11/04)

"The increased militancy is in part due to the faulty policies of the establishment. The government must make the people, especially soldiers, understand that this is our war now. Only then can we combat this menace of terrorism with a firm hand."

64. "A Doomed Operation?," an editorial in the English daily, "Dawn" (11/03)

"The government for all practical purposes is paralyzed on how to resolve the issue. This is because the paramilitary operation now under way was launched at least a few months later than it should have been. It is time to take the military operation to its logical end, but with careful circumspection."

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