



women's action forum خواتین محاذ عمل

WAF's Call to all political parties of Pakistan

28 November 2007

Since 1981, Women's Action Forum (WAF) has been in the forefront of the struggle for democracy and a society free of coercion and oppression with a special focus on women's and minorities' rights. It has been a supporter of the lawyers struggle for the independence of judiciary since March 2007 and has been fighting against the imposition of emergency since November 3, 2007 along with other civil society actors (lawyers, students, media, trade unions, doctors, NGOs, individuals). With them it has demanded the withdrawal of the emergency, restitution of the Constitution and full fundamental rights, removal of the curbs on the media, and most important of all, restoration of all judges holding office on Nov. 3, 2007. WAF sees an independent judiciary as an integral element of a true democratic order.

In the current situation WAF strongly believes that the forthcoming elections will be farcical and neither free nor fair. We believe that by contesting these sham elections, political parties will be legitimising the dictatorship and sabotaging the movement for real democracy. WAF therefore calls upon all political parties to:

- **boycott the elections**
- **make public commitment to the restoration of all judges holding office on 3 November, and to an independent judiciary**
- **strongly demand the revocation of eviction notices served to judges who did not take oath under the PCO.**