



November 14, 2007

Media Release

The Federation of Law Societies of Canada adds its voice to international condemnation of the attack on the Rule of Law by the Government of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan

OTTAWA – The Federation of Law Societies of Canada, the representative of the governing bodies of Canada’s 95,000 lawyers and 3,500 Quebec notaries, has added its voice to the international outcry over the attack by the Government of Pakistan on the rule of law.

In a letter to General Pervez Musharraf, President of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan, the Federation decried the suspension of Pakistan’s constitution, the dismissal of members of the judiciary, including the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court, the government’s suppression of peaceful protest, and the detention of thousands of individuals. A copy of the Federation’s letter may be viewed at www.flsc.ca.

“The rule of law and with it an independent judiciary and an independent bar are cornerstones of democracy. The arrest of hundreds of lawyers, whose duty it is to act as advocates of the rule of law and the proper administration of justice, and the suspension of many members of the judiciary is deeply disturbing,” said Michael W. Milani, Q.C., President of the Federation.

The Federation encourages the Government of Canada to continue its efforts to persuade President Musharraf to immediately restore the rule of law, reinstate the country’s constitution and demonstrate respect for the human rights of the citizens of Pakistan.

The Federation of Law Societies of Canada is the national coordinating body of the 14 provincial and territorial governing bodies of the legal profession in Canada. Our member law societies are charged with the responsibility of governing Canada’s 95,000 lawyers and 3,500 notaries in Quebec in the public interest. The Federation is a leading voice on a wide range of issues of national and international importance involving justice and regulatory matters critical to the protection of the public.

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