



| [Home](#) | [Biography](#) | [Testimonials](#) | [Pictures](#) | [Register](#) | [Syndication & Contact](#) |

E-mail: Password: 

AHMEDQURAISHI.COM

[India Defeated In Sri Lanka](#) | [Well Done Jam](#)

Imran Khan: A Rabble-Rouser, But For What Cause?

Published : January 21, 2008 | **Author :** Usman Ansari

Total Visits: 1631  [Print](#) |  [Email to friend](#)

[29 reviews](#) | [Write a review](#)



After Mrs. Bhutto's death, Mr. Khan is now the only remaining English-speaking Pakistani politician. When she died, so eager was he to garner media attention that he chose Mumbai in India, of all places, to discuss a matter of national importance to all Pakistanis. He is a rabble-rouser. But a country like Pakistan does not need agitators. They are destroyers. Pakistan needs statesmen, who unite and build.

By USMAN ANSARI

Monday, 21 January 2008.

WWW.AHMEDQURAISHI.COM

ISLAMABAD, Pakistan—Benazir Bhutto's death has left Imran Khan as the only Pakistani politician able to speak English coherently, a one more quirk of Pakistani politics. Khan, a cricketer turned politician, is therefore now able to monopolize the Western media like never before.

In fact so eager was he to cash in on the death of Benazir that he organized a press conference in Mumbai, India, of all places, where he issued what have become the latest in a long line of inflammatory comments, worthy of small time politicians maybe, but not statesmen.

Calling on President Musharraf to quit for the appointment of a consensus caretaker government, he also stated Pakistan was heading towards chaos, that blaming al-Qaeda for the death of Mrs. Bhutto was a convenient excuse, and that there should be a judicial enquiry into the assassination. While mentioning this last point though, he stated once again that the sacked former Chief Justice Iftikhar Mohammad Chaudry and his colleagues should be reinstated.

To an outsider this would make Khan appear to be a highly principled politician, especially the call for a judicial enquiry and the reinstatement of the sacked judges.

Having only really experienced politicians of the ilk of Bhutto and Nawaz Sharif before the 1999 coup, many Pakistanis would be forgiven for wondering if Mr. Khan is a potential saviour. After all, he is not tainted with corruption, incompetence, and mismanagement, the hallmark of the Bhutto and Sharif years.

Mr. Khan has his past and is often slated for it. Admittedly though, Khan cannot be solely pilloried for his past, or known only for his exceedingly good taste in women.

He did something amazing with his cancer hospital, yet cannot solely be known for his days as a cricketer either, no matter how successful. Those days are behind him.

He therefore has his past, for good or bad. However, it is with his present that a person must acquaint themselves.

Mr. Khan is a Pakistani politician aspiring for greater office. As a Pakistani politician he is in the company of a large number of individuals who have closets full of skeletons.

Ignoring his past, he can be judged on what he does as a politician. With his penchant for irresponsible statements, media stunts, and such, he is quite a character.

His respect for an independent judiciary, and in fact the very same men he is calling to be reinstated, is what it appears to be. Casting one's mind back last year to when President Musharraf filed his nomination papers to run for office again, Khan was one of the incensed enough to petition the Supreme Court in an effort to have the president ruled ineligible for office.

Interviewed by the national news media outside the Supreme Court with regards to the situation, Khan made great play on how he would welcome the verdict of the court if it ruled Musharraf was ineligible to stand. When asked if he would accept the decision if the court ruled Musharraf was eligible to stand, Mr. Khan became rather more coy, characteristically mumbling how he would then have to move to the next stage of attempts to oust the President through mass demonstrations and street protests.

This showed Khan for what he really was, a rabble-rouser.

Surely someone as desperate as him to pass himself off as a more honest and capable alternative to the usual Pakistani politicians should make a point of respecting and upholding the rule of law. Calling for street protests and wide scale civil unrest does nothing to help a country that is seemingly cursed with a mob-rule mentality. In places like Pakistan, rabble-rousers are dangerous people. That much was displayed for all to see in the calculated rioting that followed the assassination of Bhutto. However, a rabble-rouser is what Khan is.

He displayed this quite readily during last year's state of emergency when he went to great lengths to manipulate the media, especially the international media such as the BBC. Attempting to build a popular movement for the 'restoration of democracy' around himself, he made the mistake of choosing Lahore University as a venue to whip up a mob. Sadly for him, he fell foul of some more religiously minded

students who probably associated Khan more closely with his days as a social misfit, drinker and philanderer, rather than a person to lead them in an effort for the restoration of democracy. After being physically whipped, the rather dishevelled Khan was handed over to the custody of Lahore police.

This may have been rather amusing for those able to see through Khan. Rather more serious though were his actions during the Lal Masjid standoff, when he refused to see sense for the good of the nation and desist from making populist statements and in some cases outright lying for personal political gain. That is not what the situation required, what the nation needed, or what the Pakistani security personnel risking and sacrificing their lives in the operation deserved.

The Red Mosque operation was undertaken to rescue hostages from the clutches of some very determined terrorists threatening to wage a suicide bombing campaign if their twisted version of religious law was not implemented. Where the imposition of shariah law would leave Khan is another matter entirely, but his using the incident for political gain was frankly disgusting.

Taking this into consideration Khan is not exactly somebody who Pakistanis can really trust to bring them peace and political stability. His record so far shows him to be nothing but an egotistical, self-centered, power-hungry politician, willing to say and do anything for political gain.

Having finished tampering with cricket balls, he has turned his attention to tampering with politics. No longer batting for Pakistan, he only bats for himself.

Taking this into consideration, how many people really would vote for Mr. Khan if they really thought about it? I won't, for sure.

Usman Ansari is a British journalist currently based in Pakistan. He can be reached at uh_ansari@hotmail.com

Comments

Please [email](#) us to report offensive comments

All comments are in descending order, latest on top.

a shamful act of defaming our great hero. I Dont agree with what this writer has written because it sounds busharafic. the only pure and democratic rule played by any pakistani is IMRAN KHAN.....he has given many more things to pakistan than he has taken he won W CUP 92 CANCER HOSPITAL ND PROVED HIMSELF A best social worker...best politician nd best human being as whole GOD BLESS HIM we fight stand nd die for imran khan....

Posted By: Tobehonest | April 25, 2008 05:05:09 PM

I would agree cent percent with the writer and I would applaud him for writing such a thought-provoking and nice Article. As we all know that Mr. Khan is a playboy who doesn't know anything about Politics. Whatever Politics he is doing at the moment is on the money of his divorced wife. This man has no character at all. How can he lead Pakistan? The man who couldn't do justice among 11 players at Cricket. Can he do justice among 160 million Pakistanis?

Posted By: Asad Khan | January 29, 2008 03:12:06 PM

"His record so far shows him to be nothing but an egotistical, self-centered, power-hungry politician, willing to say and do anything for political gain."

5/18/2009

Ahmed Quraishi.com

Posted By: Munazza | January 28, 2008 11:09:33 PM

One minute you're calling him a rabble-rouser and lamenting Pakistanis' mob mentality; the next minute you're expressing amusement at his thrashing at the hands of students who exhibited this same mob mentality, instead of condemning their lawless actions. What should we make of that?

Posted By: Munazza | January 28, 2008 11:05:51 PM

lol,i can just laugh at your conspiracy theories:p get a life loser..or get a better job @ geo!

Posted By: abdul jabbar | January 28, 2008 01:11:34 PM

I really liked him earlier even as a politician but now after reading this I simply hate him.I feel that rather I should punch him on his face when he talked about our nuclear assets.He is such an utter loser and he will never goint to be a PM.It is right that he is a troublemaker and Govt. should take some serious steps to stop him or rather exile him.God never gives guidance to people like Imran Khan they live their lives on advantages .

Posted By: aleena | January 27, 2008 05:47:49 PM

Imran Khan! For sure he is the perfect man to lead pakistani nation, i know not now but tommrow will be his, as people of pakistan will find them sick of those bloody Generals, those corrupt polititions, who always acted like slaves to foreign powers, we need a pakistan that will talk about soverign pakistan rather than slave pakistan, that will talk about getting army out of politics for once and for all, to get rid of corrput people and hang them till death, that what we need at the moment, how can an army general rule pakistan ? no right to do so, he is getting payed by people of pakistan after collection of taxes, Lets think for a new system, what have those generals and ex polititions done for pakistan, imran khan has many things on his back, shoukat khanam hospital, polytechnic institute, many other things.. I am with him for his strong principle point on current scenario.... Inshallah he will be leading pakistan.

Posted By: Tahir Ali | January 27, 2008 08:42:35 AM

How can a Fornicator and adulterer like Imran Khan become a leader of a Muslim country. When talking about the past remember the PAST is all we have. Before he was known for cricket now he is known for HYPOCRISY.

Posted By: irfan mohammed | January 26, 2008 10:02:04 PM

I totally disagree with you , I don't wish to debate on each and every point which you have raised . But please put your hand on your heart and show me one person (that includes you also) who has done so much for Pakistan. And I am not talking about the past, I am talking about the present (cancer hospital) and university project in Mianwali. Please open your eyes and try to love your own hero's. Set a good example. we are sick and tired of so called leaders like Bhutto's, chowdries, shareifs and one and only great Altaf Husain and many more.

Posted By: MASUD | January 26, 2008 04:47:02 PM

This article reflects certain relatives that Mr. Imran Khan must overcome to help gain the respect and wisdom of the masses. Yet, there are reasons why his political party does not do as well. The main reason is simple, the major political parties such as PML-Q, PML-N, MQM and PPP use fear tactics and bribery to win elections. They may not consider their methods to be bribery, but these are challenging tactics to use to win elections. This bribery is aimed at the poor, hence why some of us have not been a witness to this. Having said that, Mr. Khan is one of the few politicians who is a man of principle. I certainly do not like the fact that he is too critical, but that's the reality of principle. He boycotted and was among the first to resign, while others were reluctant. This is something that needs to be commended. Yes, his hard-line stance against America's invasion of Western Pakistan can be controversial in the west. His anti-Musharraf agenda may be very hardlined, but at least you have someone you can trust and know what his stands are. For one thing, you must admire him for making a major investment in the young people of Pakistan. He is doing the things that are needed: To speak with the young people, Go to campuses, and lead an international movement. He is doing all three. I call him: The Barack Obama of Pakistan. He is the Change of Politics.

Posted By: Munzir Naqvi | January 26, 2008 04:28:49 PM

Imran is not an ideal person and a man can not be ideal and so are non of the Generals, Azab e Ilahies or Altaf Hussains. Anyone having such claim must be suffering from delusion of grandeur. We need a human being with all its idiosyncrasies. What is important far a leader is He/She should have an agenda which will favor the poor masses rather than the
ahmedquraishi.com/article_detail.php?i...

5/18/2009

Ahmed Quraishi.com

What is important for a leader is He/She should have an agenda which will favor the poor masses rather than the usurper/mafia don who grabs power through back door by violating their own oath of office and using official position for grabbing power and then sustaining its self in power. So Imran can be a hope for the downtrodden masses of this unfortunate nation whose precious resources are wasted on sustaining an army of Generals and their cronies.

Posted By: Orakzai | January 26, 2008 05:41:49 AM

My dear Ahmed Quraishi: Thank you for the email in which you raised the money issues. I have directed the concerned Ministry to meet your demand. After all our national exchequer is meant for these national causes like your website, so don't worry about the money. But I must say that there is need to improve your website. For the purpose use articles with fake names, make extensive alterations in the original texts, and add fake comments with new names. The names used like Yasmeen Ali, Shazad Masood, Farooq, Asif, etc. are outdated lot so introduce some new names, particularly the Goras. Last, but not the least, who says I am unpopular in my country. Here is a story to prove my popularity. "A man catches a Fish and asked to his wife to cook it. She was not able to cook it due to no Gas, no Power, no spices and no cooking oil. Man puts fish back into the river. Fish comes up and shouts GEO MUSHARAF!!!!!"

Posted By: Pervez Musharaf | January 26, 2008 02:38:08 AM

I simply refuse to take part in character assassination. Imran may not be a seasoned politician but he sure is patriotic Pakistani.

Posted By: Shakir Mumtaz | January 26, 2008 01:21:46 AM

Dear Sir, A-o-A, Problem with many people is that they consider politics like any other profession. No Sir! It is not something which can be learnt at any age and practised. It has to be learnt at the age of 5 years and your elders have to give you constant guidance. It can't be learnt at 35 years of age in any case. M. Afzal Sipra

Posted By: M. Afzal Sipra | January 25, 2008 06:15:06 AM

Imran the Arrogant can not be trusted. He is the one who has no Following won only his own seat in the Last Assembly, Took the Compensation for Five years at the End Resign ?Why he Stayed in the Assembly. DID he brought any New Bill in the Assembly. Did he Use his English Speaking Skills to Bring any change in the Judiciary of his Five Years. Now he is Supporting the MOST corrupt Judge in the history. His case was not Put up in the right way that does not Mean he was not Involve in the Corruption. People like Imran should never get any chance, If he was so much Patriotic to Pakistan why MARRY a Foreigner and Not a Poor In his Own family? That means he does not have Respect for Pakistani girls?

Posted By: Pkhan | January 24, 2008 11:44:38 PM

Thank you Mr Usman Ansari. To have given me a chance to correct some of the mythology that the west panders for themselves with the help of - a word hot straight from the media - PRESSTITUTES though I think prostitutes, self censorship is more known to all. To an outsider this would make Khan appear to be a highly principled politician, especially the call for a judicial enquiry and the reinstatement of the sacked judges. Take a good look at the international scene. Especially the judiciary. In Europe the judiciary can best be described as a contraception to justice. They are at best ventriloquists - they nominate democracy but advocate gunboat democracy for Ummah, they speak about freedom of speech when they mean - offend, abuse, insult ... I think you get the idea. So please stop the west mythology. They are even more barbaric, corrupt and ruthless and atrocious than you can imagine. Look at the genocide of Gaza. The letter from Caritas was sent on 17th Jan to ALL the members of EU parliament and yet today 24 Jan they took no action Posted on one of the groups: Moderator: I applaud your good sense. Pakistan has brilliant wise honourable people and you should delete the trollers

Posted By: Fedayeen | January 24, 2008 04:46:00 AM

Imran Khan opted Indian platform for his news conference was due to the fact that he could not have done so through Pakistani media channels because of restriction placed by Pakistan Government. I will not go into the details whether his action was good or bad. Let intellectual personalities decide this. But he was forced to do so because of lack of freedom in his own country. People are talking about him being hungry for political power. Please let me know who in our democratic country is not hungry for political power? Late Zia ul Haq ruled the country for over 10 years. Late Ayub Khan ruled it for also same period of time. President Musharaf is also following the same trend. He has presently completed 8 years in power and is looking for another 5 years. Late BB and Nawaz Sharif - they also had double turn in power. Late Zulfikar Ali Bhutto

ahmedquraishi.com/article_detail.php?i...

5/18/2009

Ahmed Quraishi.com

and is looking for another 5 years. Late BB and Nawaz Sharif - they also had double turn in power. Late Zulfikar Ali Bhutto also had enough time in power. So, why not Imran Khan would also wish for the political power? No doubt Imran Khan is an educated personality and he has proved himself in the field of cricket game by winning world cup for Pakistan in 1992, and secondly by completing his project of cancer hospital - which could also be termed as a big achievement. I am sure no one would deny from his these famous victories. And as author has rightly said that he is now only Pakistani politician left who can fluently speak English. So, I think we should take this positively as he can bring attention of international community to Pakistan through his effective communication skills. So, in my view there is no harm if he gets chance to rule the country as long as his presence in power remains beneficial for the country. Lot of incompetent personalities have got chance to rule the country in the past, so why to let Imran Khan who is UK-studied personality to prove himself for our dear Pakistan. At the end, this will be public's decision to vote him or not.

Posted By: Aamir Larik | January 24, 2008 03:46:38 AM

Mr. Mirza ask any of the poorest being treated in SKH, they would tell you how pathetic it is to compare Imran Khan with ordinary thugs or plunderers which you referred to. After single handedly ruling this country why is there a need to explain to the world that Pakistan is not a failed State? Puppets like Mr. Musharaf why felt a need to bring NRO to forgive plunderers? Why a poor man and woman had to stand up during day time to get ATTA and night time sleep in darkness? You can blame it on smuggling but who holds the responsibility? Why we have no electricity, water, natural gas etc. Were eight years not enough to avoid this situation? Can you name any of institution which we are proud of now? including Army Who is responsible???? In any civilized society it is the person who holds the office!!!! Who is INCHARGE in Pakistan? Try answering these questions honestly. I want my honorable & respectable ARMY back! I want my Unity back! I want rule of law in my country back!

Posted By: Zahid Kanwar | January 23, 2008 07:16:38 PM

Mr. Kanwar you make a point about the hospital and cricket but it stops there. A top Pakistani vacationing in a country dedicated to our destruction is disgusting and unpatriotic enough, but then to hold a press conference there about a matter of national importance is reprehensible. His past and his philanthropy do not qualify him to lead our nation. By the way, there are plenty of dishonest men, criminals, thugs and plunderers who love their mothers just as much as Immy loved his. Immy is an outright liar and self serving politician of the lowest sort. Just yesterday he told an American senator to cut our aid while he continues to bark that President Musharraf is doing US bidding. God help us if this idiot comes to power.

Posted By: Zak Mirza | January 23, 2008 06:18:57 PM

Imran is one of the proud son of this unfortunate nation, which has been under seige by dictators like General Musharaf. Bhutto thought Pakistan would not survive without him, HE WAS WRONG. Zia -ul-Haq thought he is most important for integrity of Pakistan, HE WAS WRONG. Musharaf think he is only hope for people of Pakistan, HE IS People like Imran Khan represent a new light in the bleak Political Horizon of Pakistan, he might not be ideal person but put your hand on your heart and try answering this question? A person who loved his mother so much that her death motivated him to save other's, would he not honestly serve his motherland?

Posted By: Zahid Kanwar | January 22, 2008 07:00:00 PM

Like many others, I initially supported Imran Khan and thought he was a genuinely good guy. But I soon saw his hypocrisy and double faced attitude. During the Lal Masjid crises, Imran Khan basically denied the existence of extremists and blamed the whole thing on a government conspiracy. In this instance he was caught telling a bald faced lie. Not once did he apologise for telling a lie. I recall seeing him on a Western news channel (either BBC or CNN, can't remember) in which Imran Khan presented the whole crises cynically and said words along the lines of "it's a joke, women with sticks out on the streets...its unbelievable." His proposal was that the government was deliberately playing a game in order to divert attention away from other issues. Now that we all know that Imran Khan lied, when was the last time anyone heard him apologise? How anyone can trust such an open liar is just amazing. The problem with Imran Khan is that besides being a hypocrite (maintaining a playboy lifestyle and supporting the Taliban like folks at the same time), there is no sense of balance and reasonableness from Imran Khan. If he decides to oppose someone he goes to the extreme, overlooking all positive points and evoking conspiracies every other second.

5/18/2009

Ahmed Quraishi.com

Posted By: M.S. | January 22, 2008 03:16:54 PM

But Imran Khan is much much better than Pervez Musharraf

Posted By: Asif | January 22, 2008 10:08:09 AM

But I must say that Imran Khan is the greatest, as a player, as a politician and as a critic to the present government.

Posted By: Tariq M. Haider | January 22, 2008 08:42:54 AM

TO ALL OUR GUESTS: It is unfortunate that some guests on this forum are abusing the freedom of intellectual debate and discussion provided on this forum without any of the checks normally found on similar forums. We understand that the standard of Pakistani politics closely reflects the standard of our politicians, which is generally not very high. But we also know that ordinary Pakistanis are different. We deserve better. Let us rise above the standard of cheap politics imposed on all of us by the politicians in this country, in or out of government. We encourage direct, intelligent, and informed criticism of the government, the opposition, politicians and everyone. Our only red line is Pakistan. Also, please do not post entire articles that belong to other authors and/or publications. One gentleman is constantly posting an entire article that targets the President of Pakistan. It would be better to post direct criticism of the President instead of posting an entire piece that belongs to someone else. Let's demonstrate that we, the Pakistanis, can differ in our politics but without getting personal or resorting to offensive language. We, all of us, are better than that.

Posted By: WEBMASTER | January 22, 2008 07:56:10 AM

I used to like Imran a lot as captain of Pakistan cricket team, and respect him as a leader. When he joined politics, his true nature came to fore. He is so self centered, he destroyed his marriage, to a lady how reverted to Islam. If he can not save his marriage, what he can do to country. I saw that press conference on Sahara tv., in which he said about Pakistan's nuclear assests, that, they are un safe, and then posed a question, how a government who can not protect one person (bb) can protect its nuclear assests, to the utmost glee of the interviewer.

Posted By: Tariq M. Haider | January 22, 2008 07:32:05 AM

Imran had a chance but proved himself to be a wannabe who is best ignored. He does not deserve the press coverage he is given. Let him rest and play.

Posted By: Parvez Amin | January 21, 2008 05:09:13 PM

I liked Imran Khan before but since he had join hands with the person who used Private Investigators to expose him and Sita White case, (Nawaz Sharif), I came to conclusion that he is no better. Among all these corrupt looter, Musharraf stands as a much much better choice.

Posted By: Farooq | January 21, 2008 12:34:00 PM

Imran Khan is such a loser.

Posted By: sohail | January 21, 2008 10:25:08 AM

I liked Khan initially but i now i think he is just a trouble maker. I was really upset when i saw him speaking from india against Pakistan.

Posted By: Asif | January 21, 2008 09:13:15 AM

[Login to post you comments](#) | [Create an account](#)

