

Press Release

PR No : 351

Title : President Asif Ali Zardari said that people want peace not militancy

Country : Pakistan

City :

Date : Monday, April 27, 2009

Detail : President Asif Ali Zardari said that people want peace not militancy and the peace agreement between the provincial government of NWFP and local religious leaders in Swat was made in all sincerity with the purpose to restore peace and normal life in the area. Confidence building measures from both sides will discourage hardliners and militants and will help restoring peace

He said that provincial government and local religious leaders are optimistic that efforts for peace succeed in returning normalcy in Swat in days to come. He was talking to a group of senior columnists and opinion makers of major newspapers. The President, however, emphasized that militants and extremists would not be allowed to challenge the writ of the government.

He also stressed the world for comprehensive and sustained support matching with the gravity of the challenge that Pakistan was facing due to its pivotal role in the war against terror.

The President informed the media persons that Pakistani leadership had told their interlocutors that the demand to do more and the Drone attacks were not helpful in the ongoing fight against militancy Pakistan was in need of greater help and assistance from the international community to achieve more. He expected national media and columnists to supplement government's efforts by creating awareness and mustering international support.

The President said that although there are some signs which indicate that the international community was visualizing the gaps in its strategy in the war against terror yet Pakistan would like these signs to be translated into reality as early as possible.

While commenting upon the situation in Balochistan the President said that remedial political measures are being taken to improve the conditions. The President referred to his visit to Quetta recently and deplored the unfortunate incident in Turbat contributed to increasing tension. The President said that he was in contact with the political parties as well as the government of Balochistan and the situation would improve and such incidents will not recur.

The President appreciated that all the political leaders of Pakistan were conscious of the prevailing situation in the country particularly in Swat and Balochistan and expressed optimism over the proposal for holding a national conference in order to develop consensus on security challenges confronting the nation.

The President said that he had full confidence in the determination of this people and the ability of the armed forces to eradicate the menace of militancy and defend the ideals for which this country was created. The Constitution and the collective will of nation would be the priorities for running the affairs of state, he concluded.