



The Coup Western Media Ignore

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Dimitri Lascaris (DL): Good day, this is Dimitri Lascaris coming to you from Kalamata, Greece on May 22, 2026, for Reason2Resist. Today in this report, we will have the opportunity to speak with Aleema Khan, the sister of Pakistani Prime Minister Imran Khan. Prime Minister Khan is currently serving a 14-year prison sentence imposed by a Pakistani court. Before we speak with his sister, Aleema Khan, I'd like to share with you the background of the Prime Minister's highly controversial removal from power and his imprisonment. From August 2018 to April 2022, Imran Khan, a world-famous cricket champion up until that point in time, served as Pakistan's 19th Prime Minister. He contested the 2018 Pakistani general election from five constituencies and became the first in Pakistan's electoral history to win all of them. During the COVID-19 pandemic, he launched Pakistan's largest welfare programme. In February, 2022, he became the first Pakistani Prime Minister since 2002 to visit Moscow, arriving on the same day the Russian invasion of Ukraine began. During his premiership, he spoke out against Islamophobia in the Western world. In April, 2022, he became the first Pakistani Prime Minister to be removed from office through a no-confidence motion. He alleged, at the time, US involvement in his removal, blaming Washington for opposing his foreign policy that sought closer relations with China and Russia. In October, 2022 Pakistan's election commission barred him for one term from the National Assembly, and it just got worse from there. In November, he survived an assassination attempt, in May, 2023, he was arrested at the Islamabad High Court during a hearing related to corruption charges. He was released on protective bail a few days later, but was arrested again in August, 2023. He has since been sentenced to 14 years in prison.

[00:02:16] Among the many legal proceedings brought against him, Prime Minister Khan was charged with making public a classified cable or described as a cipher, which was sent to Islamabad, the capital of Pakistan, by Pakistan's ambassador to the United States in 2022. And the three-page document has since been published in full by Drop Site News. And up here, you can see the first page of the cipher. And I'm going to read to you the parts that I think are most permanent for purposes of our discussion today. And you'll see that the

ambassador in this cable is telling the government back in Islamabad the following; I'm starting at paragraph two. This is a meeting, by the way, what is being described here is a meeting between the Pakistani ambassador and the Assistant Secretary of State for South and Central Asia of the United States, Donald Lu. In that meeting, Lu was accompanied by Deputy Assistant Secretary of State Les Viguerie. Now, in paragraph two, it states as follows: At the outset, Don referred to Pakistan's position on the Ukraine crisis and said that, quote, 'people here and in Europe are quite concerned about why Pakistan is taking such an aggressively neutral position on Ukraine, if such a position is even possible. It does not seem such a neutral stand to us', close quote. He shared that in his discussions with the NSC, quote, 'it seems quite clear that this is the Prime Minister's policy', close quote. He continued that he was of the view that this was, quote, 'tied to the current political dramas in Islamabad that he, Prime Minister, needs and is trying to show a public face', close quote. I replied", and now this is the ambassador speaking, the Pakistani ambassador to Washington, "I replied that this was not a correct reading of the situation as Pakistan's position on Ukraine was a result of intense interagency consultations. Pakistan had never resorted to conducting diplomacy in public sphere. The Prime Minister's remarks during a political rally were in reaction to the public letter by European ambassadors in Islamabad which was against diplomatic etiquette and protocol. Any political leader whether in Pakistan or the US would be constrained to give a public reply in such a situation." And this is perhaps the most important paragraph of the three-page cipher. I'm only going to show you the first page in the interest of time. And the third paragraph on this page states as follows: "I asked if the reason for a strong US reaction was Pakistan's abstention in the voting in the UN General Assembly. He categorically replied the negative and said that it was due to the Prime Minister's visit to Moscow. He said that, quote, 'I think if the no-confidence vote against the Prime Minister succeeds, all will be forgiven in Washington because the Russia visit is being looked at as a decision by the prime minister. Otherwise, I think it will be tough going ahead', close quote. He then paused and said, quote, 'I cannot tell how this will be seen by Europe, but I suspect their reaction will be similar', close quote. He then said that, quote, 'Honestly, I think isolation of the Prime Minister will become very strong from Europe and the United States', close quote. Don further commented that it seemed that the Prime Minister's visit to Moscow was planned during the Beijing Olympics and that there was an attempt by the Prime Minister to meet Putin, which was not successful, and then this idea was hatched that he would go to Moscow".

Now in the balance of the cipher, the ambassador goes on to explain how he tried to educate Donald Lu and his colleague from the State Department about the thinking behind Pakistan's approach to Russia. He explained carefully why so much of the US interpretation of what had gone on was mistaken and an incomplete picture of the situation. But the key language here, I mean, I think it would be disingenuous to put it mildly to suggest that this was not at least a veiled threat being issued by the US government against the Pakistani government. In essence, what Donald Lu was saying is that if the Prime Minister is not removed from office by a no-confidence vote, there are going to be serious, albeit unspecified, consequences for Pakistan, not just from the United States, but probably also from Europe as well. Now, with that as background, let's speak with the Prime Minister's sister, Aleema Khan, who has kindly

taken the opportunity to sit down with us today.

DL: So thank you very much for joining me today, Aleema. I would like to begin by asking you, first of all, about the whereabouts of Prime Minister Khan. Where is he incarcerated, and how would you describe his health and his conditions of incarceration?

Aleema Khan (AK): Well, Imran Khan is incarcerated. He's been in jail since September 2023 in a jail called Adiala, which is in the twin city to Islamabad, which from Islamabad to the jail is about 45 minutes to an hour. He's been in isolation, 100% isolation since October 2025, nearly over seven months. And his conditions, he is in an eight by ten cell. He has adjusted himself to that condition. This is the regular standard size of all the cells in the jails for the criminals. But he's being an ex-prime minister, he should have had slightly better facilities, which of course he has never asked for, he's never complained about it. All he's ever complained about is if he doesn't get books. If you're in prison and he's in isolation, generally he's in isolation because what they say is for security reasons. So, if he's in isolation most of the time in any case, the only contact he has with other human beings is if the family or the lawyers visited him. Otherwise, other prisoners in Adiala jail – my sister and I were in prison as well – but what they do is they, although we were also kept aside, we were not sort of allowed to mix with other prisoners, they open the jail cells at dawn and then they sort of lock you up again at sunset. But in Imran Khan's case, he's got absolutely no access to any other human being. He said that they've even stopped the policeman from talking to him. They've got about ten to 15 cameras around him. And in this situation, what we are really upset about – he doesn't complain, he says food it sort of covers his nutrition. He's got a stationary bicycle outside his cell. There's a little passage in which he has a stationary bicycle. And he's somebody who's always exercised at least several hours a day. He's very fit. When we met him in October, he was very fit, he's very conscious about his exercise. He'd take food for nutrition, he'll have what he thinks is required for his nutrition. For him to get a clot behind his eye, what we've discussed with so many doctors, my sister's a doctor, my cousin is a doctor and the specialists have said that you cannot get this clot. A clot will occur if you have high blood pressure or if you have a, I don't know, I think sugar, but Imran Khan doesn't have these conditions. He's got a very good blood profile. At least that's what we know from three years ago. So all we've been demanding for the past three months, you know, he complained that he had an eye condition. He told our lawyer who was sent in by the Supreme Court on the 10th of February, he told the lawyer, he's never complained, even my sister once said to him: I think you're coughing. He said: No, you're fussing. He sort of brushes it aside. He has never in all this time complained about anything. Even if he's had a cough, he sort of doesn't want you to fuss over him. And then he said, he told the lawyer, sent in by the Supreme Chief Justice of the Supreme Court, that I had a complaint for my eye for three months till a time came in December that he said I couldn't see. For two weeks he kept telling the jail superintendent that I can't see and that delay caused permanent damage to his eye because that's what the doctor who went in to see him from an official hospital [said]. Now this is an official hospital doctor who went in to see after he really made a fuss that you've got to get me a doctor I can not see from one eye. The doctor went in to examine him, he brought some equipment and he said that your eye is damaged: it's 85% is what he

measured. And this is the information Imran Khan gave to the lawyer when he was visiting him.

Now they have taken him three times, I think thrice they've taken him in the middle of the night to that hospital to get some injection. We have no information about what they are giving him. We have no information as to what treatment, what blood test reports, and the only thing we've been demanding from this government since February is to take him to a private hospital, which has a very good specialist. In fact, what we know is that the doctor who's treating him is not specialised in the condition they are claiming Imran Khan has, which is a clot behind his eye. So what we don't understand is why are they not allowing him to be treated? That's all we want. We want him examined. It's very important to know what caused that clot. We have no information at all. It's secondary information, what we know. So we really need to know because it's possible, many doctors around the world have said this, that it could be a clotting agent that could have been given in this food because if it was a normal situation and it's okay. But this is the Prime Minister who is illegally in jail. And of course, once my brother said, maybe last year, he said, he gave that message to the press, he said that this man, Asim Munir, is going to kill me like Morsi was killed in jail. So of course we will be concerned. And if they've got nothing to hide, they would allow him to be taken to a proper hospital, which has better specialists, and who can examine him. That's all we ask.

DL: You just referred a moment ago, I understood, to Morsi. I think you're referring to Mohamed Morsi, the elected president of Egypt who was also removed illegally from power and who died in jail. That's right? That's who you're referring to?

AK: I think he fell and died in the court or something.

DL: Right, and now I understand that the Prime Minister's wife has also been imprisoned and has a similar health problem, is that correct?

AK: I think when we spoke to her daughter who visited her, she said it could be a glaucoma or is that what it's called? We call it motia. So it could be that, you know, which is age-related, but the official report they gave for Bushra was that it's retina detachment, so it's a different condition. And he has a clot and his wife has retina detachment, which they took her to a hospital in Pindi, where she was treated for it. But remember, we don't have details. I can't claim what treatment was given to her, what exactly the problem is, because none of our doctors have been able to have any contact with the doctors who treated Bushra Bibi or Imran Khan. So we don't really have information that is firsthand that our doctors can verify.

DL: And how often are members of the Prime Minister's family permitted to meet with him?

AK: We met him the last time on October 16th. And that's not because it was a jail – once a week families are allowed to meet him. We were able to meet him because there was a trial being conducted. He's had several trials conducted in the jail. Because of the jail trial, and it's not an open trial unless family and public and media are present; that's what's called an open trial. So technically it is the judge who allows us to come to the court. There's a community

centre at Adiala jail that has been set up like a court. So it is in the trial that we were able to meet our brother. Because otherwise our lawyer refused to continue with the case and Imran Khan's lawyer said, I will not continue if it's a closed-door trial. So that's why we were able to meet him. But once that trial ended on the 16th of October, six members of the family have been allowed to meet him every week. Six lawyers, six family members on Tuesday, and on Thursday, six party members. That means 18 people a week can meet him, 18. He has only met my sister for 20 minutes in October, I think the 28th of October, then once in November and once on the 4th of December. Now that is already five months away. After that, his lawyer was sent in by the Supreme Court as a friend of the court. That's the only way the lawyer was able to prepare a report. And that's when we found out what had happened to his eye. It was on the 10th of February. And then again, he was allowed in because he said: How can I conduct my case without discussing it with my client? So then he was allowed in maybe a month ago. That's it, two visits from the lawyer and three 20 minute visits from my sister since October 16th. He's in isolation. He's not in solitary confinement. He's in isolation, which is a crime, illegal, whether according to Pakistani law or whether international law, it's inhuman. Even the worst murderers and criminals have access to their family once a week.

DL: So let's talk about his ouster from power. At the time there was, and I think the Prime Minister himself levelled an allegation that the United States government was involved in his removal from power. And of course, there is this cipher what appears to be a detailed memorandum of a meeting in March 2022 between the Pakistani ambassador to the United States and an official from the US State Department by the name of Donald Lu, which I've read it several times – I read it again today before I began speaking with you to refresh my recollection – and it seems quite clear from that cipher that the State Department Official Donald Lu, was at least making a veiled threat that Pakistan would have considerable problems with the US Government and possibly also with Europe as well if the Prime Minister was not removed from office in a no-confidence vote. Today, is it the view of Prime Minister Khan that the Americans played a role in his removal from power?

AK: We didn't know all the details with the cipher either. There's only one little paragraph that Imran Khan had quoted from the cipher. And that became a crime. That was his crime. Him, Imran Khan and the Foreign Minister Shah Mahmood Qureshi faced what is supposed to be the most expensive trial ever conducted in Pakistan; was the cipher trial. We used to sit in jail for up to ten hours a day when the trial was being conducted in the jail court. And what were the charges? They were bringing in government officials from the foreign office. What were they supposed to say? What they were claiming was that this paper, the fact that he had this paper and he didn't return it. So our lawyer told the judge that there were nine cipher copies given out. And only one was returned, which was Shah Mahmood Qureshi's copy. So nobody understands why he was in jail because his copy was returned. So there were eight, one the Prime Ministers and seven other copies, which went to the Chief of Army staff or the head of the intelligence, which never got returned. But Imran Khan and Shah Mahmood Qureshi were facing a charge which carries a death sentence for a piece of paper. And they came on television, the government officials, and they said that it's all lies and this paper doesn't exist and then comes this cipher. My brother would not lie. Everybody knows there

was something that happened. But the point is that now that we've read the cipher, and in a press talk two days ago, I said, we are so proud of our brother. That he knew like all the charges against him are because what he was trying to do was for the people of Pakistan. He's a man of peace. He's not a man of war. And he will not engage and take sides in a war; that's what's mentioned in the cipher. This is the first time we've also had a chance to read it. One, they were offended; that you should side with the US, I think, for Ukraine. My brother doesn't agree with any war. He is a man of peace. He says, you can fire the bullet, but there's no way you can ever end it. You don't know how to end it, he's always got this political solution to everything. Secondly, it was his visit to the USA [Russia]. Now that's very important. I'll point out what my brother has said. What happened was that there was this situation brewing that maybe Russia is going to war with Ukraine but what if Imran Khan was going to Russia?! He was going to get grain with a 30% discount and oil for a 30% discount. Now that's for the people of Pakistan. Now if that's not important to him most probably he might have cancelled the trip, I'm sure. But he did say that's very important because that's what my people need, my people need – you know, inflation, right? One. So, he called a meeting of what they call the National Security Council. It was reported in the press that there's a meeting that has been called, and he discussed it with everybody, the Chief of Army Staff, all the top officials, and he discussed with them that there is a situation brewing; should I go to Russia? And it was agreed in a consensus that, yes, he can proceed to Russia so that he can secure the deal. So he proceeded to Russia. He went to Moscow.

So why were they offended? I don't understand why, if Pakistan is supposed to, why Donald Lu was offended because he's doing something for his country. And in that cipher, there's another point that Donald Lu made. He said his decision was taken unilaterally by Imran Khan. Now, that means that there are officials over here who are in touch with, I don't know, Donald, whoever they're in touch with, the lobbyists, who now is telling Donald Lu, disinforming Donald Lu that this was just his decision and whoever did not want to take the responsibility although he attended the meeting with Imran Khan. Donald Lu says that we are given to understand that he took this decision unilaterally. Right? So the fact that this was staged, and there's something else Donald Lu already knew, that you have to make the vote of no confidence, you have to make that successful, right? So how does he know that about the vote of no confidence? Nobody in Pakistan knew about it, but he knew. So this must have been a discussion that informed them of this and we can go ahead and do a no-confidence on him. So basically Donald Lu agreed to it. But whoever was conspiring was in Pakistan. And obviously giving wrong information to Donald Lu, basically to create a situation. You must remember that this was when we had COVID in Pakistan. If you check, Pakistan was growing at 6% a year. I think there were only four countries which did well in COVID and that one of them was Pakistan. He managed COVID extremely well. Most of Imran Khan's time as Prime Minister, I think 50% was COVID. Now with the growing economy, it managed to reduce our debt, I think by about 18 or 20 billion dollars. So he was moving the country forward. Nobody was unhappy with it. So now we've got like, I think, minus 1%. I think the growth is less than 1%. We are in hyperinflation. We have exponential depth dependency from overseas. So, Pakistan is in a mess right now. So why was he removed? Because obviously the conspiracy was in Pakistan.

DL: But does he agree, Prime Minister Khan, that the Americans were applying pressure on elected officials to remove the Prime Minister from office by means of the no-confidence vote? Because that certainly is the strong impression I got from reading the cipher; that Donald was applying pressure. Is that also Imran Khan's view?

AK: Yeah, yes. If anybody's read, and he must have read the cipher, he would have read the cipher, obviously, that's why when he spoke with conviction is because he did it, we as public and he wasn't telling us all that was in the cipher. All he said was just this point, that this is what Donald Lu had said and he repeated it. He said it in his press talks that this is what Donald Lu said, that we'll forgive you if you – and it's the truth. So for Pakistanis who have seen this cipher, it just confirmed what Imran Khan had already told them, although there was a lot of pressure from media, from government officials that it was all a lie. There was no such paper. There was no such cipher. Imran Khan had lied. So, the cipher just confirmed it.

DL: Right. So I understand from friends and colleagues in Pakistan that there have been a lot of rumours that the authorities have offered deals to Prime Minister Khan, pursuant to which he might be released, but that he has refused all of these offers. Can you shed any light on that? Have there been any offers made to Prime Minister Khan by the current regime that would allow him to be released. And if so, is it correct that he has refused those offers and refuses to accept their terms?

AK: One offer that he did have was some people who came to him on the 4th of August 2023 and suggested to him that if he leaves the country and stays quiet for a couple of years, I think something to this effect, that's normally what they say, stay quiet for a few years and you can come back and run a government or whatever, otherwise, you will be arrested. So he said, I'm not leaving my country. The offers have generally been to leave the country. I think they're used to it. They've sent Benazir out. Everybody sort of gets onto a plane in Pakistan and leaves. It's a routine. But why would Imran Khan leave? He didn't become a Prime Minister for the sake of being a Prime Minister. Our Prime Ministers have come and blundered and looted, and their loot is sort of parked in most of these countries where they go. He said, why would I leave my country? He came for the people. He's very clear about it. What most people are not getting used to is that he genuinely cares for his people and what they're offering him is to leave the country, stay quiet. He said, no, I won't. The only thing he's asked for is rule of law. Fair and free elections. And he said, if the judges were dispensing justice, he would have never had human rights issues. This abuse that took place from that false flag event of 9th May, they're all good judges, they're very good judges, so they brought an amendment. The amendments that have been brought to Pakistan's constitution are the 26th and 27th, they're worth reading. If you get a chance, read the amendments to our constitution. The 26th amendment basically destroyed the judicial system, made them into a government department. And what they've added to it is that we can post out judges. You can't post out judges. The government posts them out. So judges who spoke up against this system that is being abused and the pressure that judges who've written that we are getting pressure from intelligence agencies, they are getting pressure, they were sent and parked and sent out to different cities. Latently and pointedly, two judges have been brought up where Imran Khan's

case is put in front of them. Fourteen months, fifteen months now, the Lord (?) says that Imran Khan and Bhushra Bibi, the judges that are against them are so flimsy that their bail should be heard in the High Court. 17 times it's been adjourned. We've been there 17 times, stood in front of the judge: Oh, today the prosecutor didn't turn up. Oh, by the way, today there's a holiday. So 17 times we've gone there in 15 months. And then the judge turns around and says to the High-Court judge, who's specially brought in by Imran Khan, that, oh, by the way, I don't think I want to hear the bail. I want to go directly to the appeal. Everybody knows he wants to uphold the conviction, which then goes to a Supreme Court, a new department created under this new constitutional amendment, where Imran Khan's conviction of 14 years will be upheld. And that is not for Pakistanis. Pakistanis all know that our judicial system is destroyed. These are technical reasons that they can present to other governments overseas. There is no rule of law. I'm talking to you right now.

So if Imran Khan can sit in jail for his country, so can all of us make a little contribution to our country too. So when I speak to you, there's a chance that they'll pick me up tomorrow. I've already got 60 cases on me and one that they want to convict me and send me to jail for five years. Everybody knows the conviction time frame also. But we want to speak for this great man, that's Imran Khan, and we are so proud of him. Because when the cipher came out, all you see in the ciphers is a man who stood for his people in this country. That's what we see in this cipher. You might say it's a conspiracy, but what we see is a man who believes – he's walking the dog, basically. He believes in the rule of law. He said only three things for three years we visited him. You go out and tell everybody. There is no solution to war. When they started attacking Afghanistan, he was so upset. I mean, that country suffered for 50 years. He said, there's no solution to terrorism unless nine times, once I told him, I said, listen, this is the fifth time you're sending this message out for the media. He said you will repeat it again. And he did it nine times. What he said was, you have attacked Afghanistan for no reason at all. The solution to terrorism – in Imran Khan's time, terrorism had nearly disappeared, right? So he said the only solution to peace on our borders is that the local population on both sides because they're related to each other on both sides of the border in Afghanistan and Pakistan, he said local people and the two governments have to sit together and then they will find a solution. They will control terrorism. But this is not a solution that you go and bomb Afghanistan. You are inciting them. And he did not agree with it and he was very upset about it. So he's the man of peace, that's all I'm saying. And these are the messages he sent out. I'm just letting you know that he's a person who believes in peace, he believes in political solutions. He says that you can fire a bullet but you will not know how to end it. There's always got to be a political solution.

DL: Let's talk then about another war happening on Pakistan's borders. And of course, that's the war in Iran. We have been told that the current Pakistani regime is attempting to mediate a resolution between the Islamic Republic and the United States. A number of very important elements to this for Pakistan; Pakistan imports a great deal of oil from West Asia. Its access to that oil is now being restricted because of the situation in the Strait of Hormuz. Also Israel has made quite threatening noises vis-a-vis Pakistan and also to Turkey. And we are also told, I've seen reports that the Pakistani military just sent troops and aircraft, warplanes, to Saudi

Arabia. In your view, Aleema, if Imran Khan were in power today, actually exercising the functions of the Prime Minister, how would he be dealing with the situation in Iran?

AK: I think if he stepped in as a facilitator, a lot of things might not have happened in the first place. But Iran was attacked by Israel. I mean what happened in Gaza, and then what happened, I mean, they bombed a school, 160 children, little children died in that first bomb. That's inhuman. That is a war crime. So Iran is not the one who went to war. So generally, if you ask me, all Pakistan, if you ask Pakistanis, they will stand with the victim. And the victim is Iran in this case. And it's about the sentiment of people. And yes, there should be peace. And yes everybody should try that there should be peace. But I think Pakistan, the government signed a peace accord with Saudi Arabia to protect their facilities. So maybe that's why they protect the facilities against, I don't know, Iran? So this is getting complicated even for the people in the region. But Israel, what they've done in Gaza, that has affected not just Pakistan, that is affected people globally. It was inhuman, the way they were killing, the children were being killed. And we've all seen the footage. So it's not just about being Pakistani, it's anywhere in the world you go. The site of the massacre, the genocide in Gaza has affected the whole world actually. So after that, when you attack Iran, and that bomb that fell on the children, that will hurt any human being. We have to be inhuman not to feel it. So the anger will be directed at anybody who kills children, basically. So I'm an angry person because I can't watch that footage. It just breaks my heart. So we are human beings and we feel, and this is not acceptable. This should not happen. And it's up to the superpowers and the countries which sit in the UN. They should not have let this happen. Israel should never have done this. And now they are looking for a way to end the war, which is actually very good news that they should end it. They should have never started it, but now they should end it. So I hope they find a solution.

DL: And do you believe that your brother Imran Khan shares your view that in this war, Iran is a victim of Israeli US aggression?

AK: My brother would not know this has happened, right? But I can tell you that if we, all Pakistanis, feel the same way, everybody should feel the same way that Iran was attacked by Israel and America followed Israel. And that's wrong. Why would you go and bomb a school? And they've lost thousands of people. So Iran, it's not a solution. People will side with the victim. And as far as I can assure you that across our region, everybody will be, the people of the countries, actually, will be with the victim. And the victim is Iran.

DL: So today, Aleema, Pakistan appears to be in a difficult situation. Since Prime Minister Khan was removed and the subsequent rigging of the elections, public confidence, I understand, in the current government is extremely low. The government doesn't seem to have any real mandate to make any difficult decisions. Investor confidence has plummeted. The economy is in shambles. And as far as I can tell, Prime Minister Khan remains the most popular political leader in Pakistan by a significant margin. What do you believe is the best way forward for the country?

AK: You see why would they isolate him? You know, the last message that has come, first

they said leave the country. Now the level of desperation has reached that point that they don't want any message coming out. So Bushra Bibi's daughter, his wife's daughter, visited her. So we would ask: What did Bushra Bibi say about Imran Khan's health, his eye? So she told us. And I told the media, or Bushra's sister, who is not in Pakistan, she may have tweeted about it, and the condition they're putting is that you can't bring a single word out of the jail. So I mean, we were told a few days ago that the only way you can visit him is that not a word comes out. And maybe one sister visits. I said, is that a lollipop? All we're asking for is that he should be taken to hospital and treated. I mean, you take away what is legally his right, lawfully his right. And now it's such a lawless situation right now that they're negotiating on what they feel they want to offer. It's ridiculous. There's such a breakdown of rule of law. How can you have confidence? You should see 3 million people have left Pakistan in two years, three million. That's your brain drain. Why are they leaving? Not because they're hungry, they're frightened that they will never get justice once they go to court. Of course there's no confidence in this government. So where does fascism come from? It comes from when they are paranoid about their own people. And there's a lot of people. We have got 250 million Pakistanis in Pakistan. Now they're scared. Now, they're scared of Imran Khan's voice. You're saying the substantial majority? I think 90% of people are so committed to him. You know why they're committed? Not because he's a cult, because he's standing for them, because he is sitting in jail for them. They know that he can leave the jail any time he wants, provided he keeps his mouth shut, as one condition, leave the country and live happily ever after, as the other condition. They are offering him, sometimes we've heard, if you go away for two years, stay out of the country, stay quiet, don't open your mouth while they plunder, he said no. He said, no, I will never bow, his exact words, I will repeat them, and when I say he says this, he's not a politician, when he says something, he says it with a conviction, and he said, I would never bow my head to tyranny. I'd rather die in jail, one. Because that's who he is. Secondly, he sent a message maybe with my sister. He said go and tell everybody. The time now it's either liberty or death. This is what it is for himself. And he said: If you do not stand up against tyranny now, that was his message in December, if you don't stand up against tyranny, not only will you be the slaves to the current mafia, elite mafia, but so will your children be slaves to their children. That's the message he sent. After that, all our sort of meetings have been blocked. So I think the new messages that's coming from them, what I've read in social media or some bloggers have written, that they're saying if you say absolutely silent, don't come out and say anything, we'll allow you to meet him. We are interested in having him taken to a hospital and being treated. That's our priority. We've said it publicly. We've told the political party, Imran Khan's political leaders, that all we want is to create pressure. Create pressure on this government so that they take him to hospital. That's what we're asking for right now, for his health. They are very scared by him. Let me tell you, you've got to be really scared to resort to such things. Imagine that if you meet him, you cannot bring a single word out of Imran Khan. That's all they're worried about – they're so scared of him. They're so scared of Imran Khan. And we will not allow, and we've said it, you hear, you've already damaged his eye, you think we'll forgive anybody who's responsible for that? No, we won't. So you're not going to forgive them. Even if my brother forgives them, Pakistanis won't forgive these people, but they have to be careful. If they've hurt him any more than they've done already, they'll have to face the consequences and why shouldn't they

face the consequences? We are not feeling very generous about the way they are behaving. They pick up anybody they want. They beat up anybody they want, but people have lost fear, too. With the whole elected parliament and Imran Khan as a government and one of the provinces called Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, so the Chief Minister of the province called his whole cabinet the 92 members of the cabinet, then the members of parliament, there are about 80 Pakistan in the National Assembly, 102 members, I think about 80 came from Punjab, there were 300 lawmakers, nearly 300 lawmakers coming to Islamabad, not Islamabad but trying to get to the jail to show solidarity with their leader and be present over there. They blocked the whole of Islamabad. They brought in the rangers against your own lawmakers. These are not terrorists. The police standing in front of us was anti-terrorist police. But when you meet the policeman, they all were saying, I mean, the police standing over there saying, we are all with Imran Khan. The police, they don't want to sort of be part of this. They said, we're all with Imran Khan. The women police were telling us that we are all with Imran Khan. The police are with Imran Khan, the military people are with Imran Khan. That's why a few of them are paranoid right now.

DL: Well, I can't thank you enough, Aleema, for having this conversation with us today. I know it's a very dangerous environment for you personally, and I greatly, and I know I speak on behalf of our audience, I greatly appreciate the courage you've shown and speaking so candidly with us today, and on behalf of my colleagues at Reason2Resist and the people who watch our programme, please convey to Prime Minister Khan our respect and our best wishes. And we look forward to the day that he is free again.

AK: Inshallah, we will make sure that we get him free. If they think they're going to do this to him, it's not going to happen. This country is not going to let it. They are worried, the people sitting in government should be worried. So they are sort of caught between trying to – here they are facilitating another country. They're protecting other countries. And here you are calling your own people terrorists and your own lawmakers terrorists. So it's not a sustainable situation for them. And we are not going anywhere. We are going to fight. And we've already said it. They fired rubber bullets at us the day before yesterday. People didn't move. It wasn't just the members of parliament. They came from both sides. They were public that had come in, because there was a neighbourhood they had stopped us in; so people joined. There were children over there. And when you fire rubber bullets at people, you disperse them, it's not going to last. We injured two members of their assembly, so it's not sustainable. And we are happy to say that this country is going to stand strong, and it's an ideology. There's a change. A change has come in the thinking of people. Slavery, as Imran Khan knew, is in the head, he says it's in your head. You can change that. So the change Imran Khan has brought is in the thinking and what has facilitated that change is social media. It's young people, but like somebody like myself doesn't know how to use social media very well, but the young people understand freedom now, not just in Pakistan. They understand what's happening across the world and the older generations will have to adjust themselves. So this thing about invading countries, maybe the younger generation will bring a change. I think it's a younger generation and your social media which will bring peace in the world.

DL: Inshallah. Thank you again very much. It was a pleasure speaking with you today.

AK: Thank you. Thanks for having me.

DL: Thank you.

END

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