May 28th, 2013

American Institute of Pakistan Studies (AIPS)

**Re: Final Narrative Report**

To Whom it May Concern:

In April of 2012 I was awarded a Short Term Lecture and Research Fellowship with the American Institute of Pakistan Studies. Although it took some time to arrange a visa and schedule the trip, I can confidently say that my six weeks in Pakistan in April and May of 2013 were extremely productive for me, both personally and professionally.

My graduate studies are in the field of Law and International Studies at the University of Oregon. My research focuses on how lawyers and non-lawyers alike work with (and within) judicial systems that the international community considers extremely corrupt. It focuses on perceptions and misperceptions of corruption across societies, with an emphasis on how and why different cultures define corruption differently. This culturally sensitive context helps me to better address the causes and consequences of systemic corruption in otherwise diverse regions of the world. Through my research I am also attempting to draw clearer links between corruption and impunity, and violence. My hope for this project is that it will help reframe the corruption debate so that lawyers, scholars, and policy makers see corruption as a rule of law issue, and not simply an impediment to economic growth.

Certain challenges arose early in my trip, two of which forced me to shift some of my research focus and goals. First, the limited temporal scope of my visa put me in Pakistan during the national elections, which presented both a problem and an opportunity. The timing was problematic because many of the judicial officials I had planned to interview, especially high court judges and justices of the Supreme Court, were inaccessible due to the security surrounding several high profile cases. Second, my initial contact within the Pakistani judiciary was more or less unavailable throughout the majority of my trip, due to what I understand to be personal and family problems. For these reasons I was unable to interview any Pakistani judges.

However, because the topic of my research – corruption – was also a key election issue, the timing presented me with an invaluable opportunity for studying the way the corruption debate unfolds in the Pakistani media and with the public. Everyone I interacted with throughout my visit was willing and interested in discussing the ongoing corruption problems in Pakistan, what various leaders promised to do to fix corruption, and what, if anything, could be accomplished in terms of anti-corruption initiatives. In this context the informal interviews I held with students, academics, businessmen, and others informed my research almost as much as the pre-planned interviews I conducted with members of the Pakistani bar.

My fieldwork consisted mostly of formal and informal interviews, supplemented with analysis of media and some government documents. In Islamabad and Lahore I conducted formal interviews with 7 private lawyers, 6 government officials (i.e. 2 high level civil servants and 4 members of Pakistan’s National Accountability Bureau), and 6 academics. I also conducted informal interviews with roughly two-dozen individuals that had experienced various levels of interaction with the judicial system. Throughout these discussions I learned a considerable amount about perceptions and misperceptions of corruption in Pakistan. This group consisted mostly of Pakistani students, academics, and businessmen, yet I also discussed the project with several US Embassy employees and foreigners working in the country.

Apart from my research I also presented four lectures at three Pakistani universities. Because some of my research subjects were unavailable, I focused a considerable amount of time and effort on lectures and other academic exchanges, which in turn created opportunities for me to hold informal interviews with students and faculty. These lectures were titled:

* “Corruption from a Global Perspective,” presented to graduate students and faculty at the Department of Governance and Public Policy, National University of Modern Languages (NUML), April 24th, 2013.
* “A History of US Foreign Policy in Latin America,” presented to graduate students and faculty at the Area Studies Center for Africa, North and South America, Quaid-i-Azam University, May 3, 2013.
* “Human Rights Law in the 21st Century: Challenges and Possibilities,” Presented to graduate students and faculty at the Department of Politics and International Relations, Quaid-i-Azam University, May 3, 2013.
* “The Evolution of Human Rights Law,” Presented to undergraduate and graduate students and faculty at the Department of Economics, ARID Agricultural University, Rawalpindi, May 7th, 2013.

I also presented a brief lecture and held an open dialogue regarding the education system in the United States to roughly 100 middle and high school students, all of whom were participating in a US Embassy-funded English language program at NUML. While not directly connected to my research, this was an important opportunity for cross-cultural exchange with young Pakistanis who were interested in learning more about the United States.

I am extremely grateful for the opportunity provided by AIPS and the countless other individuals who helped me to engage with Pakistanis at such an important time in our collective history. Considering all the complications that occurred before and during my trip, I feel confident that the level of professional and academic exchange I experienced was as high as could possibly be expected. Finally, on a personal note, this trip inspired in me a desire to return to South Asia in general, and Pakistan in particular, for future research and work, as I was met with nothing but kindness and hospitality throughout my stay.

Sincerely,

William H Johnson

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