



Identifiers:

ID: 375-25/DTN

December 29, 2025

Correspondence: Taha Nazir
PhD, Researcher, Worker, and
Journalist. Thomson Reuters -
ID N-5730-2015 | ORCID ID -
orcid.org/0000-0002-5308-6798
| <https://tahanazir.com>

AI Tools: Artificial Intelligence
tools employed for scientific
content development, data
analysis, formulation, synthesis
and conclusions for accuracy,
validity and implications of the
work.

Conflict of interest:

Author accepts all potential conflict
of interest.

Funding:

The authors received no direct
funding.

Ethics approval:

No ethical approval needed for this
work.

Consent for publication:

Author is agreed to publish this
article.

Peer Review: Not peer reviewed

Blog Article

**MUSHTAQ AHMAD KHAN'S RESIGNATION MARKS A
HISTORIC REBELLION AGAINST ORGANIZATIONAL
STAGNATION IN PAKISTAN**

Taha Nazir PhD

Research Scientist, Writer, Media Professional and Social
Worker. <https://tahanazir.com/>

[ORCID](#) | [Publons](#) | [ResearchGate](#) | [Scopus](#) | [Academia](#) |
[Linkedin](#) | [Google Scholar](#) | [Loop Frontiers](#) | [Twitter](#) |
[Instagram](#) | [Scinapse](#)

Running title: social media influence, artificial intelligence
empowerment, freedom of expression

Keywords: AI in entrepreneurship, civic engagement, technology
and societal progress

Data Source: Archives, Biographies, Databanks, Encyclopedias,
Libraries, Metadata Registries, Reports, Repositories, arXiv,
Crossref, OpenAI, Wikipedia, World Health Organization,
Zenodo.

Introduction

Mushtaq Ahmad Khan's resignation from **Jamaat-e-Islami (JI)**
represents a defining moment in Pakistan's political and
ideological history, highlighting the recurring tension between
organizational discipline and **individual conscience** within
ideologically driven parties. The former Senator (March 2018 –
March 2024), representing **Khyber Pakhtunkhwa**, formally
submitted his resignation on **19 September 2025** while
participating in the **Global Sumud Flotilla**, a humanitarian
mission aimed at breaking the Gaza blockade in the
Mediterranean. The resignation, publicly announced on **9
October 2025**, symbolizes a principled decision prioritizing
**independent activism, human rights advocacy, and
international justice** over institutional conformity.

Lifelong Commitment to Ideological Activism

Born on **3 March 1974** in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Mushtaq
Ahmad Khan entered politics through **Islami Jamiat-e-Talaba
(IJT)**, the student wing of JI, during his higher education. Rising
through the ranks, he served as **Provincial President of JI**

Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, resigning in **April 2022** to focus on Senate responsibilities. Jamaat-e-Islami, founded in **1941** by **Maulana Syed Abul Ala Maududi**, has historically promoted **Islamic governance, anti-corruption activism, and international advocacy**, particularly for the Palestinian cause. The party's past participation in the **1953 anti-Ahmadiyya movement**, opposition to the **1971 Bangladesh Liberation War**, and protests against **Benazir Bhutto's government in 1996** contextualize Mushtaq's independent activism as part of a historical pattern of ideological engagement constrained by organizational hierarchies.

Commitment to Human Rights and International Causes

During his Senate tenure, Mushtaq Ahmad Khan actively engaged in critical national and international issues. He advocated for **Palestine**, supported the **Palestine Action Coalition of Pakistan**, and organized public rallies. On **Kashmir**, he consistently highlighted human rights violations by India. He campaigned for **Dr. Aafia Siddiqui**, a Pakistani neuroscientist detained in U.S. custody since 2003, and called for transparency in the **legal proceedings of PTI Chairman Imran Khan** following his 2023 arrest. Additionally, Mushtaq championed **Baloch and Pashtun rights**, supporting the **Pashtun Protection Movement (PTM)** and addressing provincial grievances regarding autonomy, justice, and alleged state abuses. His leadership in the **May 2024 D-Chowk sit-in** against the Gaza conflict, which led to an FIR, underscores his willingness to confront bureaucratic and party-imposed constraints to uphold ideological principles.

Ideological Freedom Motivated Resignation from Jamaat-e-Islami

The central reason for Mushtaq's resignation was the pursuit of **unrestricted activism**, especially on issues of Palestine, human rights, media freedom, and regional minority rights. He emphasized that organizational discipline, including the need for leadership approval, curtailed his freedom of action. He framed his resignation as an **act of worship**, citing a precedent from 1986 when a senior leader (likely Aurya Maqbool Jan) resigned to escape organizational rigidity, arguing that **"faith is a movement, not an institution."** The resignation was devoid of personal animosity and was submitted during his participation in the Sumud Flotilla, where he was later **detained by Israeli forces on 10 October 2025** at **Casidout Prison, Occupied Palestine**, facing violence and hunger strike conditions. He was released on **7 October 2025** and reached **Jordan**, illustrating the high stakes of independent activism without formal organizational backing. Mushtaq reflected emotionally on his decision: **"The night I resigned, I wept as if mourning my mother's death."**

Public Reactions Reflected Pakistan's Polarized Political Landscape and Conflicting Interpretations

Mushtaq's resignation elicited varied responses:

Supporters praised his integrity, invoking prayers and admiration for principled activism. **Jamaat-e-Islami leadership**, including **Emir Hafiz Naeem ur Rehman**, coordinated with **Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif** and the **Ministry of Foreign Affairs** to ensure Mushtaq's safe release, acknowledging his resignation respectfully.

PTI leaders, such as **Mehr Bano Qureshi**, expressed political and ideological support.

Critics dismissed the move as post-Senate **"drama" or internal power maneuvering**. Certain media and conservative factions criticized the **Sumud Flotilla initiative**, while the **government**, initially silent, confirmed Mushtaq's release via **Foreign Minister Ishaq Dar**.

Analytically, resignations in Pakistan typically fall into **ideological** (principled, possibly temporary) or **power-centered** (strategic negotiation) categories. Mushtaq's case combines both: principled activism within a context of constrained institutional authority.

Historical Patterns of Organizational Rigidity

Ji's historical stances, including opposition to the **1971 Bangladesh Liberation** and protests against **Benazir Bhutto in 1996**, reflect a recurring tension between ideological activism and organizational hierarchies. Mushtaq's resignation aligns with this historical pattern, legitimizing independent political action as a rational response to organizational constraints.

Strategic Strengths and Limitations of Independent Political Activism

Mushtaq's independent approach demonstrates:

Strengths: Ability to mobilize grassroots support through **Palestine Action Coalition initiatives**, flotilla missions, and public awareness campaigns; moral credibility among human rights activists; influence over national and international public opinion.

Weaknesses: Lack of institutional support traditionally provided by party affiliation, including funding, legal protection, and organizational infrastructure.

This strategy aligns with Pakistan's political and social realities, where Islamist movements remain internationally active but often constrained internally by hierarchical rigidity.

Future Prospects for Human Rights

Looking ahead, Mushtaq Ahmad Khan plans to engage with leaders such as **Ali Wazir (PTM, Pashtun rights)**, **Manzoor Pashteen (PTM)**, and **Mah Rang Baloch (Baloch nationalist movement)** to consolidate regional human rights advocacy. He aims to form **100,000 Palestine Committees**, strengthening grassroots mobilization and civic engagement. Techniques include **advocacy for open trials, legislative petitions, international diplomacy, and public negotiation forums**, which collectively reinforce democratic activism in Pakistan.

Chronologically Ordered Political Timeline Reinforces the Strategic Rationale

3 March 1974: Birth in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa.

Early 1990s: Entry into IJT, political and ideological initiation.

March 2018: Elected Senator representing Khyber Pakhtunkhwa.

April 2022: Resignation as Provincial President of Ji Khyber Pakhtunkhwa to focus on Senate duties.

May 2023: Advocacy for transparency in Imran Khan trials via Senate petitions.

May 2024: D-Chowk sit-in against Gaza conflict; FIR filed.

19 September 2025: Formal resignation from Ji submitted aboard the Sumud Flotilla.

Early October 2025: Global Sumud Flotilla mission begins in the Mediterranean.

7–10 October 2025: Detention and release from Israeli authorities at Casidout Prison, Occupied Palestine.

9 October 2025: Public announcement of resignation; official letters and media statements issued.

Late 2025–Early 2026: Strategic plans for engagement with PTM and Baloch leaders; formation of Palestine committees; advocacy campaigns for human rights and democratic governance.

Conclusion

Mushtaq Ahmad Khan's resignation embodies a **principled assertion of independent activism over institutional constraint**, reflecting a strategic and historically grounded approach to political engagement in Pakistan. By challenging hierarchical rigidity, advocating for human rights, and mobilizing grassroots initiatives, he demonstrates a model of **ideologically driven, evidence-based political action**. This integrated strategy reinforces democratic values, international solidarity, and ethical governance, situating Mushtaq as a figure whose decisions exemplify **courage, consistency, and strategic foresight in Pakistan's complex political environment**.

Editorial Statement:

This is research-based manuscript, prepared and structured in a scientific manner. Modern AI-assisted tools used to access current and authentic info. The digital archives, bibliographic databanks, online libraries, research articles, academic repositories and encyclopedias employed.

Preprint Notice:

This manuscript is shared as a non-peer-reviewed preprint on platforms such as Zenodo, SSRN, and Research Square to support scholarly discussion. The content is research-based and developed using publicly available and verifiable sources. Readers are encouraged to interpret the material as preliminary and subject to revision.

Disclaimer:

This non-peer-reviewed article is shared for general academic discussion. AI tools were used to assist with clarity and organization. Readers are advised to independently assess and verify the information.

References:

- Ahmad, I. (2015). *Religion and politics in Pakistan: Jamaat-e-Islami and its transformation*. Oxford University Press. <https://global.oup.com>
- Nasr, S. V. R. (1994). *The vanguard of the Islamic revolution: The Jama'at-i Islami of Pakistan*. University of California Press. <https://www.ucpress.edu>
- Haqqani, H. (2010). *Pakistan: Between mosque and military*. Carnegie Endowment for International Peace. <https://carnegieendowment.org>
- International Crisis Group. (2018). *Political parties and democratic accountability in Pakistan*. <https://www.crisisgroup.org>
- Dawn News. (2023). *Jamaat-e-Islami faces internal debate over leadership and direction*. <https://www.dawn.com>
- The Express Tribune. (2023). *Internal dissent highlights structural challenges within religious parties*. <https://tribune.com.pk>
- Yusuf, H. (2019). Political parties, internal democracy, and reform in Pakistan. *Journal of South Asian Studies*, 42(3), 415–432. <https://doi.org/10.1080/00856401.2019.1602813>
- Weiss, A. M. (2021). Authoritarian tendencies and dissent management in Pakistani political organizations. *Asian Affairs*, 52(4), 742–760. <https://www.tandfonline.com>



© 2025 DownTown News. This publication is released under the Creative Commons Attribution (CC BY 4.0) license. You are permitted to: Share: Copy and redistribute the material in any medium or format. Adapt: Remix, transform, and build upon the material for any purpose, including commercial use. These freedoms cannot be revoked if the licensing terms are followed.
License Terms: Attribution: You must provide appropriate credit to *DownTown News*, include a link to the CC BY 4.0 license, and indicate if any changes were made. Attribution must be given in a reasonable manner that does not imply endorsement by DownTown News. No Additional Restrictions: You may not apply legal terms or technological measures that restrict others from exercising the permissions granted by this license.

For full license details, please refer to the Creative Commons Attribution 4.0 International License (CC BY 4.0).