



**November 8, 2007**

## **The International Steering Committee Statement on Pakistan**

### **ISC Urges Community of Democracies to Call for the Release of Asma Jahangir and a Return to Constitutional Rule in Pakistan**

The International Steering Committee (ISC) for the Nongovernmental Process of the Community of Democracies (and friends) expresses its condemnation of Pakistan General Pervez Musharraf's suspension of the national constitution and imposition of emergency law and calls for the immediate restoration of basic political rights and civil liberties in the country.

We deplore the repressive tactics employed by military forces, and the detainment of hundreds of civil society leaders, lawyers, journalists, and members of the national judiciary. In particular, we express grave concern over the arrest of dedicated human rights defender, Asma Jahangir, who has played a special role as a member of the International Advisory Committee for the Community of Democracies country invitation process.

We call on the Community of Democracies to address the current political crisis in Pakistan during its November 15-17 ministerial meeting in Bamako, and urge it to demand the release of Ms. Jahangir and other detained members of civil society, media, judiciary, and political opposition; the resumption of constitutional rule and civil liberties; and a transition to democratic governance, with elections to be held as scheduled in January of next year.