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By Tariq Ali  
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## *New time of assassinations in Pakistan*



**Sources:** Sidecar

*The attempted assassination of former Pakistani Prime Minister Imran Khan has restored to Pakistan the memory of the political assassinations that have marked its recent history.*

The failed attempt to assassinate former Pakistani Prime Minister Imran Khan last Thursday, November 3 in Wazirabad has sparked mass demonstrations across the country. Khan was aboard his election truck participating in the long march to Islamabad led by his supporters to demand immediate elections. The bullets hit him in the leg. Was it two or three? This is the subject of debate on Pakistani television. Twelve other people were injured and a father who tried to protect his three children was killed. The dialectic of illegally or constitutionally overthrown leaders retaining their popularity makes the Pakistani military extremely nervous. Technically, the coup against Khan was legal: he lost a no-confidence vote in April. The tricks and lies hatched behind the scenes will come

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to light one of these days. Khan himself had little doubt that American pressure was behind his ouster. The US State Department strongly denied any involvement in the attack, although it did not hide its irritation at Khan's criticism of the "mess" created in Afghanistan, as well as its discomfort at Pakistan's abstention in the UN vote on sanctions imposed against Russia (the new government also abstained in the last vote on Ukraine).

A delegation of the ISI – the conglomerate of the Pakistani intelligence services – on official visit to Pentagon at the time Khan made these comments, he assured his American friends that the country's foreign and defense policy was decided by the army, not the prime minister. This is, of course, true and it has been so since General Zia-ul-Haq declared the law martial and dismissed Zulfikar Ali Bhutto in 1977. Zia promised elections in the ninety days following the coup. In that case, suggested Bhutto, who had been placed under house arrest, He had to allow all political leaders to do campaign publicly. The army accepted and Bhutto went on a tour. during which he was greeted by huge crowds (a quarter of a million in Lahore alone). The general panicked. If Bhutto was Re-elected, he would punish the coup plotters. Thus, a ruse was hatched. to accuse him of murder and get rid of him. After a rigged trial, Bhutto was hanged in 1979.

A few months ago, I remembered these scenes from the past of Pakistan. Khan's Justice Party (PTI) is very different from the Pakistan People's Party (PPP) of Bhutto in terms of composition social and political program, but the dialectic is similar. The Khan's impeachment sparked large-scale demonstrations—his supporters chanted "Jo Amrika ka yar hai, Ghaddar hai, Ghaddar hai" (Every friend of America is a traitor, a traitor)—and the PTI managed to win a series of by-elections against the new government. held in the Punjab, in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and in the city of Karachi. Khan's popularity was undoubted, but his demand for New national elections were rejected. Paradoxically, the new Unelected Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif was advised by his brother Nawaz Sharif (former Prime Minister) not to form a new government, given the situation in the country, and call elections, But the younger brother was eager to achieve power. The army He supported him, believing they needed a new government for a year. approximately to destroy the PTI (which he had helped to reach the power at first harboring the hope that Khan would be a docile politician).

Khan and the PTI now accuse Sharif, Minister of the Interior and a high-ranking general of Estar involved in the shooting. The would-be assassin has claimed that He acted on his own, because he was disappointed with politicians and with their promises unfulfilled. He's not the only one, but shooting them doesn't It will change things a lot. A corrupt and

violent elite linked to the All political parties and the army will not disappear from the overnight. The ruling classes of the country have not done practically nothing to help the poor. We don't know if the man who fired the bullets works for more sinister forces (something that Many in the country believe.) Was it a warning shot to scare away? to Khan of politics? If so, it has had the opposite effect. The The shooter claims he came up with the idea when he heard the Call to prayer that same day.

Interestingly, the word Murderer is of medieval Islamic origin. Derived from the hashashin, drugged murderers belonging to a Shiite sect created by Hassan-i-Sabbah in 1090. They were not peaceful hippies. They were professionals to salary of anyone who required his services for economic reasons, or policies. Dissolved in the thirteenth century, their ghosts seem to have entered Pakistan shortly after the formation of the country. The first Minister Liaquat Ali Khan was assassinated at a political rally in 1951. The killer, Said Akbar, was immediately killed by the veteran. Police officer Najaf Khan, who happened to be right behind him. A coincidence, police said. The result of his death was the weakening of the presence of refugees in government and in the founding party, and the rise of the Punjabi landowners to Range of decisive actors in the country. Bhutto was hanged; his daughter Benazir Bhutto was assassinated (also in Rawalpindi). Previously, your Brother Murtaza Bhutto had been ambushed and killed at the exit of his home in Karachi in extremely murky circumstances; some blamed Asif Zardari (Benazir's husband and widower, later Prime Minister).

And now an attempt to kill Khan. ¿Change this fact things? I'm afraid not. The masses are cynical, the masses are cynical, the Politicians and generals are busy making money. There's none No national alternative in sight. The Protection Movement Pashtun is the only serious group resisting overwhelming hegemony of the Pakistani intelligence services. Its deputies and Activists are often detained and tortured. PTI collaboration On this front it greatly discredits him. Just like your total inability to deal with corruption outside and within its own ranks. It would be good if some lessons were learned and that The next elections were more than just the two-bloc contest Power-hungry, struggling to increase their bank balances.

The maelstrom continues.

Source:<https://www.elsaltodiario.com/sidecar/tariq-ali-nuevo-tiempo-de-asesinatos-en-pakistan>

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