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Pakistan court bars Musharraf from elections

**Ex-military ruler, who came back from four years of self-exile, cannot contest
May 11 polls, his lawyer says.**

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Pervez Musharraf, Pakistan's former military ruler, has been barred from running for parliament in the only seat he had been approved to contest, his lawyer has said.

Musharraf returned to Pakistan last month after more than four years of self-exile to take part in the May 11 general election, but the former army chief has been at the centre of numerous political and legal difficulties since his return.

"Yes, his paper has been rejected by the high court. We will file an appeal in the Supreme Court," Musharraf's lawyer Ahmed Raza Kasuri said on Tuesday.

The former president on Monday unveiled the manifesto of his All Pakistan Muslim League (APML) party, promising to lead the crisis-ridden country towards prosperity, despite the "hurdles" in his way.

He had filed nomination papers from four constituencies of the National Assembly, the Lower House of Parliament: Chitral, Islamabad, Kasur and Karachi.

However, the returning officers rejected his papers for Islamabad, Kasur and Karachi on the basis of articles 62 and 63 of the Constitution for imposing emergency in the country in 2007 and for keeping judges under unlawful detention.

The Supreme Court is hearing a separate petition from lawyers demanding that Musharraf, who ruled Pakistan from 1999-2008, face trial for treason.

Meanwhile, a Pakistani official said a bomb in the country's southwest hit a convoy of vehicles carrying a candidate in the country's upcoming parliamentary election, killing three people and wounding seven others