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Pakistan court charges Pervez Musharraf in Benazir Bhutto murder

August 20, 2013



Pakistan's ex-military ruler Pervez Musharraf has formally been indicted over the murder of Benazir Bhutto by a court in Pakistan.

The court read out three charges of murder, conspiracy to murder and facilitation of murder to Musharraf during a brief hearing in the city of Rawalpindi.

Public prosecutor, Mohammad Azhar told reporters after the hearing, “He should be tried.”

Mr. Azhar further added, “He was charged with murder, criminal conspiracy for murder and facilitation for murder.”

The case was adjourned until August 27, after Musharraf denied the charges. “All the cases against Musharraf are fabricated. He denied all the charges,” said lawyer Afshan Adil.

Mr. Adil further added, “These charges are baseless. We are not afraid of the proceedings. We will follow legal procedures in the court.”

Scores of security forces guarded the area around the court in Rawalpindi, the city where Bhutto was killed on December 27, 2007, and roads were sealed off for Musharraf’s appearance.

Former prime minister Bhutto returned from self-imposed exile to run for office but was killed in a gun and suicide bomb attack within weeks. The government at the time blamed Pakistani Taliban militants and Musharraf has said he warned her of the danger she faced.