

Scenario 135

DR MIRZA GOES HOSTILE (2011)

On 22nd August 2011; Pakistan's Prime Minister Gilani held a Sindh cabinet meeting at Karachi and decided to launch 'surgical operation' against the target killers of Karachi. The term 'surgical operation' moved no one except the two ministers Rehman Malik and Dr Mirza, who indulged in insults for each other on the pretext that the said operation was sure to bring zero results.

The MQM was on the warpath again, half-complaining & half-threatening while plainly accusing some of the PPP's ministers of patronizing the killers and taking '*bhatta*'. When it called for a strike, the city complied with.

The PM could have avoided saying that: '*We need to take action now; otherwise someone else would come to do the job.*' Such statements add in the anger of citizens and points towards the credibility crisis of the government.

The MQM had refused to see the PM during his visit to Karachi, but the PM should have overcome his frustration and agony – he had refused to meet the delegation of industrialists and businessmen who had come to suggest alternate remedies for the deteriorating situation.

The ANP also did not attend the meeting being angry on scrapping of the commissionerate system they had favoured. *Like MQM they [ANP] also wanted the army to be called in to restore peace in Karachi.*

In short, the PM Gilani's visit to Karachi was a failure because almost no one was pleased with his meaningless strategies. Killings, Bhatta and Qabza collectively frightened the business community as they found no way to defend their lives and assets against from multiple gangs thus were rapidly vacating Karachi with their investments; losing billions every day because of strikes and shutdowns and never-ending violence.

PPP's DR MIRZA AGAINST MQM:

The odds had started a little earlier.

On 9th April 2011; Dr Zulfiqar Mirza, Sindh Home Minister and Senior Vice President of the then ruling party PPP claimed that he had been relieved from his ministry owing to pressure from the government's coalition partner, the MQM; he was the Home Minister Sindh.

Dr Mirza revealed that the issue of target killings and extortion was just a ruse to remove him from his post. He added that the police had arrested the murderers of Geo News reporter Wali Khan Babar — the real *"culprits belonging to the MQM."*

On 13th July 2011; while addressing the media at a dinner arranged by the ANP Chief of Sindh Shahi Syed, at his residence Mardan House Karachi, Dr Zulfiqar Mirza said that:

'Firstly; Afaq Ahmed of MQM-H is the real leader of the Urdu speaking people and he is the second biggest political prisoner after Asif Ali Zardari.

'If someone says that Afaq Ahmed is a criminal and a murderer, then I will say Altaf Hussain is a 100-times bigger criminal than Afaq.'

Dr Mirza had admitted meeting with MQM-H's Chief Afaq Ahmed twice; first time when Dr Ishratul Ibad was still the governor and he had pressurized him not to reveal my meeting with Ahmed. In Dr Mirza's view, Afaq Ahmed was facing jail without being convicted of a crime. Dr Mirza had vowed to continue his fight against criminals, murderers, and extortionist.

Secondly; talking about calls for the division of Sindh, Dr Mirza said that *'no one had the courage to divide Sindh. I appeal to the people of Karachi and Hyderabad to get rid of these people who are asking for Karachi to be made a separate province'*. He added that:

- That the MQM had once held an open *jalsa* in Punjab for which huge amount was paid to each individual who had attended that event.
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The Living History of Pakistan Vol-III

- That in the press conference he only produced some documents and breaking news, still there two more boxes with him at Badin, which would be placed before the nation later.
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- That Imran Farooq was killed in September 2010 in London by the MQM activists on explicit orders of their Chief Altaf Hussain.
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- That the person who fights against MQM is killed sooner or later, but he is martyr [Shaheed].

On 28th August 2011, former Home Minister of Sindh, Dr Zulfikar Mirza addressed a crowded press conference at Karachi Press Club and termed Muttehida Qaumi Movement [MQM] a terrorist party and said the MQM did not have a 100pc mandate in Karachi and Hyderabad. He brought a copy of the Holy Qura'an along with a briefcase filled with 'documentary evidence'.

Even though he had resigned from the Provincial Assembly seat same day, Dr Mirza said that no one could take away his association from the PPP; *'even the shroud at my funeral would be the PPP flag.'*

When Mirza arrived at the press club, he said that *'the people of Lyari are residents and owners of Karachi. I have come here today for them.'* At no point, however, did he get drawn into a discussion about the Rangers operation in Lyari, just a few hours before. Dr Mirza was being followed by one Zafar Baloch, PPP's local leader from Lyari.

After a press briefing of unprecedented 150 minutes, Dr Mirza was booked by almost all leading TV channels of Pakistan terming his revelations as bomb shell. In the same evening, he attended GEO's Hamid Mir live talk show, next day Mazhar Abbas, Kashif Abbassi and Waseem Badami booked him for three separate live talks on ARY Digital News TV.

The entire nation stood behind Dr Mirza. During 3 hours interval that evening, about 40,000 Karachites attended his residence to place bouquets, rose petals and flowers for his courageous step and the police had to make special traffic arrangements for smooth traffic flow in his local precinct.

The salient features of his speech were:

- That MQM's vote bank had been manipulated at gunpoint and not based on the freewill of people.
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The Living History of Pakistan Vol-III

- That not everyone in the MQM had a criminal nature; there were many good people like Syed Sardar Ahmad and Dr Mohammad Ali Shah in the party, but people were afraid of speaking out the truth.
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- That while listening to speeches of the MQM's London based leader Altaf Hussain, the people had to clap even they did not understand his words because they apprehended that they would have to face the music otherwise.
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-that he [Dr Mirza] had sympathies with journalists like Wali Khan Babar, reporter of the Geo, who was killed by 'some terrorists' for writing truth; five terrorists involved were from the MQM, four of them were arrested but one Liaquat, whose car was used in the killing, was still missing. The car had been in police custody.
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-that he had sympathy with the people belonging to TV news channels which could be banned at gunpoint. He assured, Liaquat would be arrested within a week or so and would be brought before media.
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- Recalling the remarks Dr Mirza had made at a party hosted by ANP Chief Shahi Syed that were followed by killings of about 15 people in Karachi, Dr Mirza held that it was negatively propagated. This was the reason he extended an apology to those who were hurt from his remarks.
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- Dr Mirza explained that he had nothing against the Urdu-speaking community. He added that his one sister was married in an Urdu-speaking family from Hyderabad - Deccan; one of his daughters-in-law was from an Urdu-speaking family; his mother-in-law was an Urdu speaker and his daughter also was going to be married in an Urdu - speaking family.

'Had I been against the Urdu-speaking community, I would not have allowed them to be married in the Urdu - speaking families.'

[On 13th July 2011; *Dr Zulfiqar Mirza had allegedly incited the Urdu speaking and Mohajir community of Pakistan by stating that when they came to Pakistan they were hungry and without clothes, the terms used were 'Bhookey Nangey' which were very demeaning and derogatory. Mr Mirza in his anger at the MQM should have refrained from including the entire Urdu speaking population and other migrant communities of Pakistan in the same bracket.*

The Living History of Pakistan Vol-III

These communities irrespective of their ethnicity made sacrifices in blood to make Pakistan a reality. His statement fanned ethnic hatred and violence and was taken as a political exploitation by coalition partners who wanted these conflicts to continue in a vicious cycle of loot, plunder and killing of innocents.

Though Dr Mirza had apologized but the MQM launched protests across the whole city against Dr Mirza's remarks. Shops, hotels, fuel stations were shut after the firing that gripped the whole city besides some areas of interior Sindh.

Soon after Dr Mirza's speech, violence erupted in several areas of the city in which at least 15 people (including a Ranger's man at Maskan Chowrangi) were killed, 20 hurt and many vehicles were torched, and shops, markets and petrol pumps were closed. Unknown men came out on the streets of Karachi and opened firing and set ablaze twenty - seven vehicles. Violence continued in many areas of the metropolis and for days.]

- Dr Mirza invited industrialists, businessmen and traders in Karachi who were overwhelmed by the MQM, to come out from MQM influence, speak out and join hands with him. 'Stop fearing the MQM; I will lead you,' Dr Mirza said.
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- Dr Mirza said the Citizens-Police Liaison Committee [CPLC] was a gift of slain Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto and its charter demanded that the organisation be headed by some non political personality but at present its head Ahmad Chinoi was a member of the *Khidmat-i-Khalq Committee*, an off shoot of MQM; visit the KKC website.
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- Dr Mirza said it was a common knowledge that KKC ambulances were used to shift arms and ammunition and kidnapped persons and bodies. He had opposed the appointment of Mr Chinoi as CPLC Chief as the latter had no credentials.
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- That once he [Dr Mirza] was sent to Nine Zero to solve a crisis but he took a stand instead of handing over a big plot at M A Jinnah Road to one of the MQM ministers, who wanted to dispose it of for about Rs:5 billion to meet the expenses of their luxurious lifestyle.
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- That the MQM leaders were also angry with him because he [Dr Mirza] had refused to recruit their recommended people in police. There were some [police] officials involved, directly or indirectly, in killings. As home minister he had suspended about 20 police offi-

cials from the ranks of police constables to the SP but they got reinstated.

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- Dr Mirza rejected the MQM allegation that he recruited 6,000 people from Lyari alone in the police. He said he recruited a total of 10,000 policemen, including 3,000 from different parts of Sindh.
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- Dr Mirza said when he took over as home minister he learnt that the expenses of the minister's office and house had been previously borne by the SHO, of the Artillery Maidan police station who used to provide also 2kg cocaine every month to his predecessors [*referring to Waseem Akhtar & Rauf Siddiqui of MQM*] for fun at dance parties.
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- Dr Mirza said one of the MQM ministers used to cover his weaknesses by reciting poetry while another who used to travel on a 50cc motorbike was now roaming around in super luxurious vehicles. The party's sector and office expenditures used to be met by police stations before he took over.
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- That when he [Dr Mirza] had taken the charge as Home Minister, there were 70 persons kidnapped but when he left the office there were about a dozen or so.

[Satesh Annad, a well-known film distributor, was kidnapped by the Taliban. The family paid Rs:10 million, while I contributed Rs:5 million and this way Sharfuddin Memon, an adviser to the home minister, brought Satish Anand back home,' Dr Mirza told.]

- Responding to questions, Dr Mirza said it was true that some accused in the Hakim Saeed murder case were freed by the Supreme Court, but who could deny the fact that Saulat Mirza who belonged to the MQM was given death sentence in the same case by the apex court.
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- That the MQM was a terrorist organization. All orders to kill people came from London and whenever they wanted to stop it, another order used to come.
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- That following the killing of an MPA of MQM by members of a banned militant outfit, between 50 to 100 people was shot dead in Karachi. Those killed were common people, who had nothing to do with the MPA's murder.

The Living History of Pakistan Vol-III

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- Dr Mirza said that in response to his previous speech 15 innocent people were killed in Karachi why so.
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- That he [Dr Mirza] had already told his party leadership that Rehman Malik could not be relied upon and that only one person, Rehman Malik, was responsible for all killings in Karachi. Moreover, the Sindh Governor Ishratul Ibad was also patronizing target killers.
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- That Altaf Hussain had demanded disbanding of ISI; further alleging that MQM was patronizing killers and criminals.
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- That he [Dr Mirza] would remain a loyal worker of the PPP. If something happened to him those behind the Karachi killings and those behind the murder of Dr Imran Farooq would be responsible for it.
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- Dr Mirza expressed hope that the killers of Dr Imran Farooq, the MQM leader who was assassinated in London last year [2010], would soon be exposed and brought before the people of Pakistan.
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- That President Asif Ali Zardari was a friend to him in the past and would continue to be so in the future. Whenever the time comes, he would be the first to shed his blood for the party.
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- Speaking about Ajmal Pahari, who was accused of killing over 100 people, Dr Mirza said: *'his interrogation had revealed that the MQM knew about the Ashura blast and that the party had planned an arson attack a day prior to the blast@.*
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- That MQM's Chief Altaf Hussain told him [Dr Mirza] in London, in presence of Pir Mazharul Haq, another sitting minister of Sindh, that *'we are working on American Agenda to break up Pakistan'*. The plan was told in detail and discussions were held.

MQM's REBUTTAL TO DR MIRZA:

.....the analysis of facts: if Dr Mirza announced war against the MQM declaring them anti-Pakistan or nearly a terrorist party, no body was qualified to issue a clean chit to the PPP and ANP. At least all stake holder parties could be termed anti-human because all the three parties kept their

own gangs and groups whom they were patronizing in one way or the other, with only a difference of level or degree they were involved.

The patriot Pakistanis held consensus that Dr Mirza's deliberations were to be taken serious, at least first or last time as he urged with concern, without noting that who was saying; the matter to be considered seriously was that what was being said.

The serious things to be ascertained were:

- *If MQM's Chief Altaf Hussain had actually favoured the American plans of Breaking Pakistan while talking to Dr Mirza in presence of Pir Mazharul Haq.*
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- *If MQM had actually sent a letter in 2001 to the then British PM Tony Blair suggesting him to disband ISI of Pakistan.*
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- *If the MQM had actually told the British authorities that the MQM would continue assassinations of Afghani people as per plan.*
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- *If the MQM had been killing the innocent Pakhtuns and then used to take away their dead bodies for wrapping them in MQM flags for media propaganda campaigns.*
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- *That why the MQM had murdered GEO's reporter Wali Khan Babar.*

On the same evening of 28th August 2011; the MQM's Central Coordination Committee refuted the accusations leveled by Dr Mirza and said that:

- *'It was part of a conspiracy to create a rift among various nationalities settled in Sindh. Dr Mirza himself guilty of 'personally patronizing terrorists, target killers and kidnappers'.*
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- *Such statements would create disharmony and 'elements who oppose the MQM have been stooping to such tactics to defame the party.'*
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- *The people were 'well aware of these tactics and fake allegations', and none of the allegations against the MQM had ever been proved to be true.*
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- *During Dr Mirza's ministerial era, the traders were increasingly targeted for extortion and incidents of kidnapping for ransom increased sharply.*

The Living History of Pakistan Vol-III

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- Dr Mirza should also identify extortionists and kidnappers and their backers, besides naming the criminal elements in the *Peoples Amn Committee* who killed innocent traders in Sher Shah Scrap market; why they surrendered to the police and how many of them were from Dr Mirza's office.
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- Dr Mirza should also tell that who had compelled eyewitnesses not to recognize the killers of Sher Shah Market traders and at whose behest had terrorists of the *Peoples Amn Committee* kidnapped innocent citizens, took them to torture cells and decapitated them. He should also tell from where the hostages were recovered.
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- Dr Mirza should also tell that who was responsible for the riots in the city with the assistance of drug, land and ammunition mafias. He was directly involved in the bloodshed in the city.'

MQM's Committee said that MQM had clearly been supporting the ongoing operation against criminal elements. President Zardari should take immediate notice of Dr Mirza's provocative allegations and clarify their positions. MQM urged the people not to react to Dr Mirza's '*baseless and shameful allegations*'.

On 30th August 2011; MQM declared the aforesaid allegations baseless in general through its leader Faisal Sabzwari in a press conference. Though he had not replied each of the accusations one by one but repeated and explained the replies MQM's Coordination Committee had brought forwarded on 28th August evening [given in above paragraphs].

At the same time the onus was on Dr Mirza to place the evidences before the media and court by offering himself as a party. Dr Mirza did not move forward thus lost his credibility in media as well as in politics.

In the words of columnist Saleem Safi (referring to '*Jang*' London of 31st August 2011), there was no second opinion in admitting the ultimate shrewdness of the '*script writer & director – Mr Zardari*' of drama titled as '*Dr Mirza's unforgettable acting*' that too full of suspense.

On 6th September 2011, Mustafa Kamal held a press conference at the Khursheed Begum Secretariat in a desperate try to answer Dr Mirza's allegations. The row between MQM and Dr Zulfikar Mirza was then touching new heights day by day. Pointing towards certain live talk shows, he [Mustafa Kamal] was more critical of the electronic media anchors than Dr Mirza. He said that:

The Living History of Pakistan Vol-III

- *“Dr Mirza has placed baseless allegations on MQM and Altaf Hus-sain and urged that the evidences should be placed before the courts. The MQM lost 15000 workers during the 1992 military op-eration but never conspired against the country.*

[One voice questioned that where were they buried; any re-cords of death toll on such big scale; if MQM is seriously saying so. No answer came through.]

- *The MQM does not need a certificate of patriotism from anyone.*
- *That Dr Mirza's allegations are baseless that MQM Chief Altaf Hus-sain had written to former British Prime Minister Tony Blair and asked for his assistance in disbanding the ISI.*

A similar letter had been attributed to slain Pakistan Peoples Party leader Benazir Bhutto, a letter that she had allegedly written to an American senator, Peter Galbraith. The MQM believes that the let-ter attributed to Bhutto was also fake.

- *Dr Mirza was the home minister Sindh when MQM's Senator Babar Khan Ghauri had stolen 'thousands of containers carrying Nato supplies'; he should have lodged an FIR for that act and that why were NATO forces silent over theft on such a huge scale?*
- *Dr Mirza's confession of issuing 300,000 arms licenses, "not for ae-rial firing at celebrations," should also be taken notice of as he was actually the one conspiring against Pakistan's integrity and sover-eignty.*
- *The Supreme Court should probe into the recovery of 18 people from the custody of target killers. The chief justice should ask the federal and provincial governments who rescued the hostages, whom they had contacted and on whose orders the kidnappers re-leased the abducted people.*
- *Lashkar Raisani, the PPP's Baloch leader had placed allegations on MQM and the media for producing one Baloch suspect but did not speak against targeted killings of other ethnicities."*

Mustafa Kamal said that, under the MQM, the city benefited from develop-ment of infrastructure and all ethnicities had benefited because of this and during his time, the MQM also controlled the province's police force and no one had even heard of the expression 'target killings'.

The Living History of Pakistan Vol-III

The deep analysis of the said Dr Mirza's report showed that there was more material against the PPP's workers, their militant factions and gangsters having refuge in the PPP to misuse their big names but the same was deliberately flushed aside.

PPP & MQM have a long history of affiliations and accusations. MQM's Chief Altaf Hussain had once commented that the PPP's second term of government was a failure in itself. The party and Bhuttos could not control the affairs in their premiership and thus they were bound to be fired.

Going back to the *address of Altaf Hussain dated 15th February 2001*, on telephone from London to his party workers in Pakistan, it is on record that:

'.....Why Benazir Bhutto and the leadership of Pakistan Peoples Party did not investigate the death of Mr Z A Bhutto and his son Murtaza Bhutto in her own ruling times. The death of Shah Nawaz Bhutto under mysterious circumstances was not investigated and facts were not brought to light.

Mir Murtaza Bhutto was assassinated during Benazir Bhutto's premiership but she had not informed even to her own diehard party workers as to who was responsible for this heinous crime. She talks about hidden hands but why she does not point out the names of those hidden hands?'

DR's CHARGE SHEET AGAINST PPP:

Interestingly Dr Zulfiqar Mirza's two resignations from portfolios of Sindh PPP's Vice President & the Senior Minister Sindh were accepted by the CM Sindh within twenty minutes; one resignation from his basic membership from the PPP was immediately referred to the President Zardari which was accepted on the same evening.

The second one, from the Sindh Assembly seat of PS 57 [Badin] was on the way to the Speaker Sindh Assembly on the first day but was accepted next day. According to Dr Mirza, it was equivalent to '*Nishan-e Haider*' that my resignations were accepted immediately after the same were tendered.

Amongst the PPP high-ups he had already lost all the stakes at least apparently because of his 'declaration' that if a single cabinet member of Federa-

tion or Sindh, said that he liked Rehman Malik, he [Dr Mirza] would stand liable to be hanged; his PPP colleagues took remarks un-ethical.

The news-media made all the cards open on behalf of the Presidency and the PPP's high command simply disowned Dr Mirza's debate in the name of party discipline issue. The PPP declared and continued extending offers of *'mufahimat'* towards MQM but the PPP's stalwarts, perhaps purposefully, avoided to comment on the truthfulness of the accusations whatsoever leveled by Dr Mirza. The general perception prevailed that

President Zardari was again playing with the cords from behind the scene' it was widely presumed. Dr Mirza's accusations were:

- That the Interior Minister Rehman Malik is Pakistan's enemy and if Pakistan breaks up, Rehman Malik will be responsible for it.
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- That Rehman Malik has nothing at stake in Pakistan; no land, no home, no property, family living in London, then on whose agenda is he working in Pakistan.
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- Dr Mirza held Rehman Malik responsible for leading a 'ridiculous Karachi operation' and for being primarily committed to keep the MQM on board, giving them all secret information before hand whenever an operation was planned to keep order in city.
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- Dr Mirza alleged, referring to Rehman Malik that *'the president's right-hand man is hand in glove with the killers of innocent citizens of Karachi.'*
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- Dr Mirza pointed towards and named Rehman Malik while demanding appropriate action against him by saying that:

'I have rolled the ball, now the ball is in the court of the president, army chief, the ISI chief, the PM, the speaker of parliament and the chairman of the senate; the moment the CJP asks me to present myself in court, I will do so.'

- That Rehman Malik got Senator's seat from Sindh quota after making fool of innocent Sindhis.
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- That when Rehman Malik comes in Karachi, all cabinet goes zero valued whereas the people of Sialkot [*birth place of Rehman Malik*] never owned him.
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The Living History of Pakistan Vol-III

- That all the tragedies relating with Karachi situation has been the off-shoot of our PPP's '*mufahimat policy*' which was used by the MQM to blackmail the whole political system. During the last three years he had lifted 3000 dead bodies in the name of '*mufahimat*'; now enough is enough.
 - That was a direct attack on his leader President Zardari.
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- That he (Dr Mirza) was not sponsored by anyone. He himself preferred to speak out loudly because since a decade all talks about Karachi have been done in an atmosphere of '*threat, risk, jeopardy and congestion*' in media and all judicial, political and defence meetings.
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- When asked that why he (Dr Mirza) did not opt to name PPP, ANP and extreme religious groups in worsening Karachi situations, Dr Mirza said that '*MQM is a cancer whereas the other parties and groups are having minor curable ailments*'.

In the later episode, Dr Mirza said too much while putting his hands on the Holy Qua'an and sometimes keeping the Holy Book on his head; a Muslim could not think of disbelieving Dr Mirza's words. Once in the past Mr Zardari had done the same act to attract Nawaz Sharif's yes in the Judge's matter in May 2008. Keeping in view that sorrowful episode, Dr Mirza also supplemented his 'revelations' in the following core issues:

- That while Dr Mirza, during press conference, was declaring Mr Zardari as his enlightened leader, was he saying the truth and his conscience was crystal clear in the light of Qua'anic spirits.
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- That while Dr Mirza felt his nationalist feelings hurt over MQM's plans for Pakistan, why his feelings kept sleeping when he had raised '*Pakistan na khapa'y*' shouts with Zardari three years earlier.
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- That under what circumstances he had tolerated MQM and Rehman Malik as his coalition partners for the earlier three years when he knew both since 2001 while they both were in London.
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- That why army and ISI Chiefs were not convinced with his briefings when he had met them twice each time for about 150 minutes.
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- Why Dr Mirza had never spoken about Lyari Gangs and '*Peoples Amn Committees*' for their high handedness during three years of his ministerial slot which had also played a dirty role in Karachi politics; why only MQM was accused.

The Living History of Pakistan Vol-III

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- Why, being the Home Minister, Dr Mirza had overlooked the murderers of Wali Khan Babar, never mind from which party they belonged. There were other ways also to get the culprits before law. Why declared open so late.
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- If Rehman Malik was neither supported by the PPP nor voted by the peoples of Pakistan then why Dr Mirza had not raised his loud voice in the beginning. He should have convinced his friend Mr Zardari not to approve RM as Senator.

Federal Interior Minister Rehman Malik, however, told the media that Dr Zulfiqar Mirza was [just like] his younger brother and that he did not mind the latter's statements. On the other hand, the PPP also disowned the statement of Dr Mirza and termed it an unacceptable violation of the party discipline and contrary to the well thought out policy of reconciliation.

In this regard a statement was issued from the Presidency following a meeting chaired by Mr Zardari and attended by CM Sindh Syed Qaim Ali Shah, Speaker Sindh Assembly Nisar Ahmed Khuhro, Pir Mazhar-ul-Haq, Mir Nadir Magsi, Sharjeel Memon, Manzoor Hussain Wasan, Muhammad Ayaz Soomro, Agha Siraj Durrani, Abdul Qadir Patel, Syed Khursheed Shah, Qamar Zaman Kaira, Ms. Rukhsana Bangash and Spokesperson Farhatullah Babar.

Nasim Zehra gave her candid analysis in *The Express Tribune* of 29th August 2011 saying that Dr Mirza made some very bold revelations against his friends, even if troubled, political ally [MQM] as well as his friend's closest and most handy aide, Rehman Malik. Mr Zardari might be facing the biggest challenge of his political career to deal with such '*load-ed charge sheet*'.

Dr Mirza gave specific information along with alleged evidence, against all those he accused declaring the ongoing operation as meaningless and that the real killers were not being apprehended. Dr Mirza's disclosures had raised many questions for the government to answer.

"Firstly that why Rehman Malik has gone defensive against the allegations made by Dr Mirza.

Secondly that if MQM has proof to deny that Dr Eshratul-Ibad had passed the orders to release those rampant killers and kidnappers that Dr Mirza claimed he had once taken in police custody.

The Living History of Pakistan Vol-III

Thirdly that if the ANP is totally out of this killing game. Well, what Dr Mirza exposed was already known to many of us, but we, the true Muslims of Pakistan, don't have the courage to stand up against the oppressions and tyrannies he quoted."

Dr Mirza's attack has put the MQM under pressure providing political leverage to the PPP in its ongoing negotiations with that party. The claims made by him would also potentially strengthen the PPP's hand in the Supreme Court's *suo motu* hearing on the Karachi target killing. The SC bench at Karachi would feel bound to call Dr Mirza to place relevant documents before it as he himself offered to divulge.

If Dr Mirza could prove Altaf Hussain's statement about helping America to break Pakistan, and he could convince the ISI, Army Chief or the apex court then SC and Army would have no option but to ban MQM and try its entire leadership under Article 6 for high treason.

The situation had cropped up that neither Dr Mirza could easily be ignored nor the President or the Supreme Court or even the ISI could find it easy to brush aside the accusations displayed against Rehman Malik. But what happened next; there was a pin drop silence in atmosphere surrounding MQM and Rehman Malik's dubious personality.

ALL POLITICIANS CRITICISED PPP:

Almost all political parties of Pakistan demanded thorough probe into allegations leveled by Dr Mirza against PPP's own Federal Interior Minister Rehman Malik and the MQM, with many calling upon the Chief Justice to call Dr Mirza in the apex court to submit evidence as offered by himself voluntarily.

Senator Azim Tariq of the PML[Q] said that *'...the timing is perfect since the Supreme Court begins a hearing on the violence in Karachi on 29th August [2011], the nation will soon learn who is telling the truth.'*

The ANP, the party that was one of the MQM's biggest rivals in Karachi, seemed to be practically excited at Dr Mirza's allegations against MQM. Senator Haji Adeel of the ANP said:

'Dr Mirza has offered his testimony to the Supreme Court. I think that the court should take him up on his offer and ask him to sub-

The Living History of Pakistan Vol-III

mit evidence for his allegations, especially for MQM's alleged secessionist tendencies.

The allegations that Altaf Hussain is a partner of the Americans in conspiracies to break Pakistan are alarming. It is high treason and the president, chief justice and military chief should investigate them.'

Further, ANP Chief Asfand Yar Wali, in a press gathering, took Dr Mirza's talk seriously and asked the MQM leadership to come open and refute the allegations levelled against them at least to the satisfactions of Karachites belonging to the ANP.

Imran Khan of Pakistan *Tehrik-e-Insaaf* [PTI] also chose to focus on the allegations against the MQM, calling them *shocking* and *treasonous* and demanding an investigation. The PML[N] preferred to concentrate on the allegations against Rehman Malik, the Interior Minister and called for an independent investigation against him especially of being on the pay-role of American CIA. Senator Mushahidullah Khan of PML[N] held that:

'These were startling revelations. His allegations were so alarming that nobody should try to sweep things under the carpet. People whom he accused must come forward to prove him wrong. All will have to respond to these accusations.'

However, the PML[N] still blamed President Asif Ali Zardari for most of the problems in Karachi. Nationalist parties of Sindh also supported Dr Mirza's stance. Dr Qadir Magsi, Chairman *Sindh Taraqi Pasand Party* [STPP] opined that:

'Zulfiqar Mirza watched the crimes happen silently for three and a half years and has finally repented. We trust every word Mirza spoke because he held the Holy Quran in his hands. President Zardari should take action against the allegations made by Mirza.'

Dr Qadir Magsi, during a press conference on 29th August, had also demanded an enquiry into the statement given by Dr Zulfiqar Mirza conducted by the high court. If the statement of Dr Mirza is true, the MQM and *Khidmat-e-Khalq* Foundation must be banned, and if it is false, then Dr Zulfiqar Mirza ought to be hanged.

The STPP Chief declared that Imran Farooq was assassinated by the MQM, the ongoing surgical operation in Karachi was a fraud and that whatever Dr

The Living History of Pakistan Vol-III

Mirza said was true because he revealed it under an oath on the Holy Qura'an. He also urged that:

'Zardari should offer an apology to the nation because he has betrayed Sindh and demanded that Interior Minister Rehman Malik and Sindh Governor Dr Ishratul Ebad should be arrested.'

Awami Tehreek's Ayaz Latif Palijo said that 'Mirza's revelations show that the government was well aware of who was doing what.'

Throughout Pakistan, Dr Mirza's speech was heard with interest and sudden shocks. The general populace held the exposure made as right and they trusted every word Mirza spoke because he held the Holy Quran in his hands especially in the holy month of Ramadan. Govt should take notice of every word and clear its stance.

Some voices were there that it was a fabricated scene to now oust Rehman Malik from the scene and Zardari was backing Mirza for this. Some opined that after this speech MQM would demand action against Mirza; Mr Zardari would agree to do that then MQM would be happy and join the govt. So it might be a pre planned thing and in Pakistan any thing is possible anytime.

However, Dr Mirza had pushed the ball in MQM's court; it was the responsibility of MQM to defend themselves if their hands were clean.

Almost at the same time, the Federal Interior Minister Rehman Malik was holding another press conference at State Guest House Karachi, explaining the strategy behind launching targeted operations in Karachi. Mr Malik told the media that:

'The business community vowed to strike and decided to leave the country. Everybody was talking about calling the army in to control the situation. In this scenario, the prime minister and Sindh chief minister directed me to devise the strategy. So.....decided that targeted operations will be continued.'

'Targeted operations based on 'real-time intelligence' under my supervision were being carried out in Karachi. I issued clear instructions.....'

In fact there was nothing like operation being conducted in Karachi – *it was all to betray the poor Karachiites by lip service.* See the statistics of 2011-12, the reported crimes under target killings, kidnapping for

The Living History of Pakistan Vol-III

ransom, extortion, weapons and drug business remained at highest level during the last three decades.

Federal Interior Minister Rehman Malik told media that the residents of Lyari had opposed the operation but they continued. The government had information that 18 Urdu speaking people were abducted and being held near Lyari and an immediate operation was needed there. The Rangers got those people freed at last.

'This operation is not against Lyari and its people but against criminal factors,' the media persons were told but only 103 suspects [not target killers or *bhatta* mafia etc] were arrested from Allama Iqbal Colony, Zehri Para, Dhobi Ghat, Usmanabad and Jinnahabad areas of Karachi. The government vowed to continue operation – but it was only an eye wash activity as the heinous crime continued as before in all no-go areas of the city.

Dr MIRZA's NEW ALLEGATIONS:

On 30th August 2011; while addressing another press conference at Hyderabad Press Club, Dr Zulfiqar Mirza once again lashed out at MQM and accused one of its former ministers, Babar Ghauri, of being involved in missing NATO containers from the Karachi port. Dr Mirza alleged:

- That the MQM wanted to rule Sindh.
-
- That thousands of containers of arms and ammunition went missing in Karachi, accusing former minister for ports and shipping and senior MQM leader Babur Ghauri of being responsible for their disappearance.
-
- That Mr Ghauri became the biggest real estate tycoon in Karachi from being nothing at all during Gen Musharraf's rule.

Dr Mirza announced quitting politics. He was retiring from politics, but some elements were intriguing to get his basic membership of PPP cancelled. However, he denied rumours of leaving Pakistan and also going into hiding.

Dr Mirza had served the armed forces for four years but was sacked when he did not cast his vote in the referendum of Gen Ziaul Haq, then he had not opted to go into hiding, how could he behave like that in 2011. He

vowed to fight for the rights of Sindh and urged youths of the province to strengthen his hands.

On 2nd September 2011; in a sizzling speech at the end of hour's long rally across the city which ended at Lyari, Dr Mirza released another instalment of allegations at a massive public gathering in Lyari:

- That he had apprehended target killers from 'sector offices' of MQM with heavy arms and ammunition but had to release them on Rehman Malik's orders.
-
- That Malik had warned him that *'the army and the ISI would topple the government if target killers were arrested. I released the killers because I wanted to see Pakistan flourish.'*
-
- That Rehman Malik is Jewish and an American agent working to destroy Pakistan and this drama would continue until the disintegration of Pakistan.
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- That he [Dr Mirza] was 'proud' to have issued 300,000 weapon licenses during his tenure of Home Minister Sindh. *'I gave the arms licenses to the people of Karachi, not for aerial firing at wedding ceremonies but for times like these when no one is safe.'*
-
- That he would expose the name of the 'airhostess' for whom Rehman Malik visited Karachi frequently.

The public gathering in Lyari, termed the largest since Benazir's rally in the area after 1987, was also addressed, besides Dr Mirza, by chief of Sindh Nationalist Party [SNP] Ameer Bhumbhro and key leaders of the defunct People's *Amn* Committee Uzair Baloch and Zafar Baloch.

In the same row they all launched their attacks on Rehman Malik and the MQM. Uzair Baloch specifically expressed his dissatisfaction at the PPP leadership and Mr Malik for conducting an operation in Lyari. He also blamed former MNA Nabeel Gabol, elected from Lyari, for the negative image of the area.

Dr Mirza was taken to Lyari from Bin Qasim town in a massive procession organized by his political companions, mainly from the PPP and Sindhi nationalist parties, who were well 'armed and displayed automatic weapons openly.' Supporters bearing flags of SNP, ANP, Punjabi Pukhtoon Ittehad [PPI] and the PPP were visibly seen. Started early that day, the procession reached the venue, Chakiwara Chowk in Lyari, at around 8pm.

The Living History of Pakistan Vol-III

After 28-30th August 2011's press conferences at Karachi and Hyderabad Press Clubs, Dr Zulfikar Mirza preferred to travel into the interior Sindh and addressed people's gatherings and groups. The grave allegations continued to surface as his frankness opened a new venue for general public and media which also boosted Dr Mirza's popular momentum.

While Dr Mirza was addressing a public gathering at his residence in his home constituency of Badin, he tried to flare up ethnic sentiments by saying that:

'.....time has gone when Sindhis were killed, the soldiers of Benazir Bhutto will not let this happen (any more). For every innocent life taken in Karachi, five looters and terrorists would be killed. I have given courage to millions of people to speak up and stand against the tyranny.'

Dr Mirza appealed to 'the people of Sindh [to use arms] to save Pakistan'. Continuing his outburst against the MQM, Dr Mirza said:

- That reconciliation is not possible with a political party that is trying to break Pakistan. *'A website will soon be uploaded with all evidence against the MQM. I am yet to unveil 90 percent of the information I have.'*
-
- That *'Ishratul Ebad is the most corrupt governor the province ever had.'* The Chairman Malir Development Authority had admitted during an investigation that Ebad was his partner in the project and was allotted 27,000 plots in the scheme.

He once more reiterated that he had turned down MQM's request for inducting 6,000 'criminals' in the police force.

The media covered Dr Mirza's speeches and rallies with much interest while recollecting pieces of Dr Mirza's thunderous speech on the Sindh Assembly's floor in which he had abused a respectable media personality in indescribable filthy language.

Also recalling the moments when in the same streets of Karachi media reporters were brutally beaten and their cameras were broken and kicked off by the same like followers of Dr Mirza. Even if they were not PPP workers but being the incharge Home Minister it was obligatory for Dr Mirza to take cognizance of those events of high handedness with media persons.

The Living History of Pakistan Vol-III

The intelligentsia also expected that if and when Dr Mirza is called before the Supreme Court to place available evidence before the bench regarding serious allegations against the MQM and sitting Federal Interior Minister Rehman Malik, the Pakistan lover of today would also be asked to explain:

- That what he (Dr Mirza) used to say about the 'rogue ISI' while commenting upon plus points of 'Charter of democracy' during 2007-08.
-
- That if he had not openly announced at the funeral occasion of Benazir Bhutto: *'I wanted to break such Pakistan and I had decided to go ahead for that but Mr Zardari had asked me to refrain from such plans.'*
-
- That if he [Dr Mirza] had not termed members of Peoples Amn Committees as his sons saying; *'if they are criminals then I'm the biggest criminal of all.'*
-
- That if he had not shouted: *'if there would be any action against the PPP in Punjab, I'll put all PML[N] offices of Sindh on fire.'*
-
- That why he [Dr Mirza] had recruited 10,000 Sindhi in Police but had not given even a single seat to the MQM. Where the merit had gone then? The requirement was of merit under the rules and not of being Sindhi or MQM.
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- That if he [Dr Mirza] could brief the nation that who were responsible for *'Pakka Qila Operations of Hyderabad'* during 1988 and 1990.
-
- That if he [Dr Mirza] could produce evidence that how many people were killed in Sindh within next four days of Benazir Bhutto's assassination in Rawalpindi on 27th December 2007.

Of course, some judicial commission was to be nominated or the Supreme Court could have sorted out factors responsible for worsening situation of Karachi with the above legitimate questions, from both Dr Mirza's side and PPP's opposing factions, should have to be answered with all diligence and concern.

PPP's MINISTER – NO GOOD:

The Living History of Pakistan Vol-III

In the meantime, media again pointed out that Rehman Malik should at least behave in a responsible way while issuing statements. The general populace felt embarrassed while reading leading captions in newspapers regarding his 'dreadful statements'. The analysis of his recent statements comes as under:

- After every suicidal bomb blast, Mr Malik's statement comes that *'the suicide bombers have gone frustrated after government's powerful policies; this suicidal event is the proof of beginning of their retreat.'*
-
- After every terrorist attack, Mr Malik's statement would appear that *'soon all terrorists would face government's wrath; strategy has been worked out.'* Next day, accepting challenge of Mr Malik, the terrorists despatch another instalment of 20 dead bodies.
-
- After each tour of Karachi, Mr Malik's statement invariably tells us that *'we have successfully planned to root out target killing from Karachi; soon the people would see results.'* The result comes the very next day when the media finds 26 dead bodies in different corners of the city and no case stands registered in police stations.
-
- We have reached the dens of killers and terrorist groups but never we find any news that whether those dens have ever been raided. The killing of dozens more during that night makes worse morning for Karachites.
-
- In early August [2011], an announcement was made that Karachi would be de-weaponised till 31st August. All were delighted but the scheme never been told that how it would be done. Then told that the weapon's licenses would be de-regularised and the national ID cards would be utilised.

No details for implementing the words were brought forwarded. Now Rehman Malik has made another announcement that the de-weaponising process would be completed till 30th September 2011 but with what strategy and effort, no body knows.

Rehman Malik's strange and amusing claims:

- *75% killings of Karachi are done by wives, fiancés and paramours;*
- *Israeli ammunition has been traced out but never mind the US is with us;*
- *Indian and Afghan consulates are sponsoring terrorism in Pakistan*

- *People applauded and appreciated PPP's 'indiscriminate operation'.*

Mr Malik had been issuing the same like media thrills about terrorist attacks in FATA since 2008 at least. He used to issue a statement daily that the '*kamar*' [back] of terrorists had been broken but next day, the terrorists were found attacking either a security check post or some mosque in a cantonment or some army ammunition depot or at least kidnapping tens of armed soldiers some where to slap on the face of Mr Malik's warnings and strategies.

In the above explained scenario, the relationship between MQM & the PPP was better explained by one Irshad Arif in the daily 'Jang' dated 3rd September 2011 conveying that:

Mr Zardari has been trying to weigh the living frogs of MQM but could not succeed in three years because every time frogs kept on jumping out of weighing pans on one pretext or the other.'

The PPP continued with that odd weighing game because of tolerance exhibited by the ANP's *Pakhtuns* and *Punjabis* as they never raised any objection over MQM vs PPP deals, though humiliating at times; but in that killing extravaganza both later factions got furious too because during those months the Southern Punjab and Khyber PK had received bulky chunks of dead bodies from Karachi.

The said situation brought some sudden but major changes in the contemporary politics:

- Firstly: The emergence of '*Saraiki Suba Tehreek*', which was purposefully taken to the peak during the past 100 days with internal and disguised support of PM Gilani, with a cogent factor in mind that his son Syed A Qadir Gilani MPA would be the first Chief Minister, got suppressed under roaring alarms of Karachi. The Saraiki voice was swept under the carpet for indefinite time span.
-
- Secondly: '*PPP Sindh Card*' was snatched away by certain rising Sindhi Nationalist parties. Somewhere parallel but outrageous voices were noted with concern threatening PPP's long standing existence in rural Sindh which had been in fact created and caused by PPP's own 'angry factions'.
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- Thirdly: When PML[Q] joined hands with the PPP, the traditional workers of PPP dissented fearing that PML[Q] would perhaps

The Living History of Pakistan Vol-III

blackmail PPP, like MQM had been doing, to get more shares in the Federal and Provincial cabinets and influential slots.

Dr Mirza's press conferences made open all those suspicions and fears which had continuously been talked about by PPP's Punjabi, Sindhi and Pakhtun leaders in their party camera meetings. They always remained reserved for saying any odd word about MQM or its leadership but Dr Mirza provided leads for the PPP leadership to modify their future plans if they wanted to do so.

However, nothing went new or wrong in Pakistan's history as, on Mr Zardari's instructions, PPP's Federal Minister Khurshid Shah was there to negotiate further course of action with MQM as scheduled on 4th September 2011. '*Mufahamat*' policy was upheld, as it was hoped.

However, the same vulnerable question: that whether Dr Mirza's deliberations were sponsored by the Presidency or he had taken this odd decision at his own. Time replied it with hidden 'yes' because:

1. on that Sindh Assembly's seat from Badin, Dr Mirza's son was re-elected as MPA.
2. Dr Mirza's wife, Dr Fehmida Mirza, continued as Speaker National Assembly till completion of his full term – of course with ever smiling wish of President Zardari.

If the first hypothesis was correct then how and why Dr Mirza considered 28th August [2011] as an appropriate date – *yeh kahani phir sahee....*