

MEDIA RELEASE

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Pakistanis protest against Saudi involvement in the deportation of former Prime Minister

Pakistanis living in Britain gathered outside the Saudi Arabian embassy in London to protest against the Saudi government's involvement in deportation of Mian Nawaz Sharif from Pakistan. Protestors were agitated that the Saudi government, by sending its envoy Abdullah bin Muqrin to Islamabad and collaborating with the Pakistani government showed complete disregard and disrespect to the Supreme Court ruling which allowed Mr. Sharif to return to Pakistan.

The protestors comprised students, professionals, academics, journalists and other members of the civil society.

A number of protestors made it clear that they were not protesting in favour of Mr. Sharif or any other politician, but were in fact expressing their anger over the insult that had been rendered to the Supreme Court and the people of Pakistan.

“Traditionally, Pakistanis have always looked towards the Saudi government with reverence. However, that does not entitle the Saudis to act in a way which insults the will of the people and the laws of Pakistan. The Saudis should desist from taking undue advantage of their position owing to the location of the holy sites” they added.

Some of the more enthusiastic protestors went further to say that the people of Pakistan, having achieved independence through a political and democratic struggle, despite their problems, still aspire for genuine democracy and the rule of law, two values that the Saudis are not familiar with. Hence their disregard for these values.

Many of the protestors carried placards and chanted slogans against the US, Saudi and Musharraf “autocratic axis” which, they alleged, was conspiring to undermine the will of the people of Pakistan and its laws.

The protestors also presented a letter to the concerned officer at the embassy to register their protest.