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NDI STATEMENT ON THE ASSASSINATION OF BENAZIR BHUTTO

WASHINGTON, DC – The National Democratic Institute is deeply saddened by the assassination of former Pakistan Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto and the deaths of her supporters. The Institute extends its heartfelt condolences to the family and friends of Ms. Bhutto and those who were killed alongside her.

“Benazir Bhutto represented the hopes of the Pakistani people for a return to democracy, as she did in 1988 when she became the first woman to lead a Muslim country,” said NDI Chairman Madeleine K. Albright. “The Institute was proud to have bestowed its 1989 W. Averell Harriman Democracy Award on the then-prime minister.”

Bhutto was a fearless and passionate advocate for peace, moderation, reconciliation, and engagement with the community of democratic nations. Through its ongoing work in Pakistan, NDI remains committed to the principles for which Bhutto stood, and believes that her vision of a democratic and stable Pakistan will be realized.

Former Senate Majority Leader and NDI Board Member Tom Daschle, who led the Institute’s October pre-election mission to Pakistan, condemned the tragedy, and said that “the Pakistani people should know that we remain committed to our relationship and our shared fight for democracy and against extremists that threaten them and us.”

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