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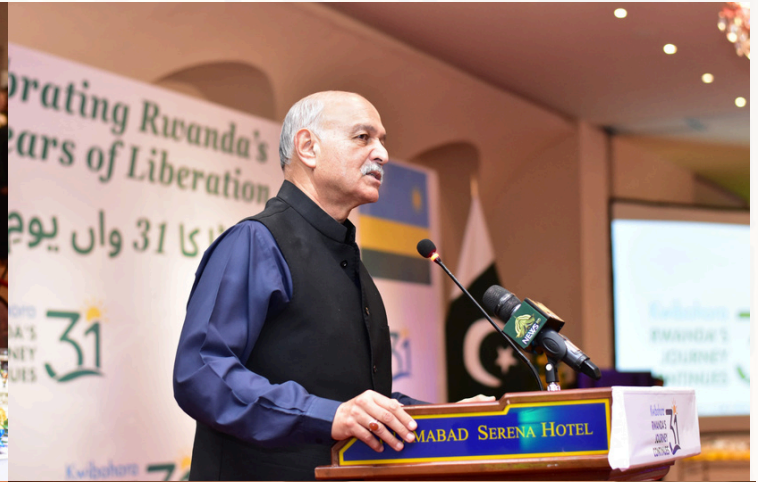
“PROMOTING PAKISTAN-AFRICA RELATIONS THROUGH REVIVAL OF THE BANDUNG SPIRIT OF AFRO-ASIAN SOLIDARITY”

ISSI-PAIDAR Commemorate Rwanda's Liberation Day



President PAIDAR, Senator Mushahid Hussain Sayed, in his remarks, emphasized the significance of commemorating Rwanda's Liberation Day, not only as a moment of national pride, but as a tribute to the resilience and strength of the Rwandan people. He praised President Paul Kagame and Rwanda's leadership for their critical role in unifying the country and steering it toward progress after the 1994 genocide, which the Rwandan nation courageously ended through its own efforts. Reflecting on global injustices, he noted that the world has witnessed three major genocides in the last three decades— Rwanda, Bosnia, and the ongoing one in Gaza and highlighted the double-standards of the international system. He commended the growing Pakistan–Rwanda relationship in diverse areas from political to economic to defence, and called for deeper South-South cooperation, underscoring the potential for enhanced engagement between Pakistan, Rwanda, and the broader African continent.

President PAIDAR Attends Rwanda's 31st Liberation Day Reception as Chief Guest



PAIDAR - ISSI Celebrates Somalia's Independence Day



President PAIDAR, Senator Mushahid Hussain Sayed, marked Somalia's National Day at an event jointly hosted by Institute of Strategic Studies Islamabad (ISSI), Center for Afghanistan, Middle East & Africa (CAMEA), and Pakistan Africa Institute of Development & Research (PAIDAR), hailing the "blood-cemented solidarity" between Pakistan and the Horn of Africa. Flanked by Acting Somali Ambassador Yasin Mohammed and the Dean of the African Diplomatic Corps, he recalled Pakistani peacekeepers who fell in Mogadishu and Pakistan's military aid during the 1978 Ogaden conflict as proof that "Islamabad has always stood by Mogadishu in its hour of need." Urging a revival of bilateral ties, the Senator called on the Foreign Office to reopen Pakistan's embassy in Mogadishu and pledged to lead a think-tank delegation there, adding that Pakistan should benefit from the US \$250 million Somalis spend annually on medical tourism in India: "Those dollars should come to Pakistani hospitals, not across the border, given our Islamic Solidarity."

Pivoting to Africa's wider renaissance, Mushahid praised the recent Rwanda-DR Congo peace deal as "a beacon of hope for a continent on the rise" and reminded diplomats that Pakistan had backed liberation movements in Morocco, Algeria and Tunisia from day one. "The global centre of gravity is shifting from West to East—and Africa and Pakistan are at the heart of this new Global South," he said. With both nations now on the UN Security Council, the senator proposed deeper cooperation in security, trade and education, noting that Pakistan already hosts the largest cohort of Somali students worldwide. "Together we will build a better tomorrow, one that turns common struggles into shared success," he concluded.



PAIDAR - ISSI hosts event commemorating Egypt's 'Revolution Day'



President PAIDAR, Senator Mushahid Hussain Sayed, highlighted Pakistan's enduring and historic ties with Egypt, calling it a "civilisational state with a history of 5,000 years" and the true "strategic, political, intellectual and cultural centre of gravity in the Arab world." Sharing his personal journey, he recalled studying "Nasser's Egypt" during his time at Georgetown University under the former US Ambassador to Egypt, John Espero. "As a Nasserite, Jamal Abdul Nasser was our hero, his revolution on 23rd July 1952 inspired sovereignty, anti-imperialism, and a new spirit for the Third World," he said, adding that his connection with Egypt is also deeply personal, with family ties and decades of engagement as a journalist, political leader and friend of the Egyptian people.

Senator Mushahid reflected on Egypt's three landmark contributions to modern history: the 1952 revolution that overturned the status quo, the 1956 nationalisation of the Suez Canal which he described as "a heroic act of defiance and courage," and the 1973 Ramadan War which "shattered the myth of Israeli invincibility and turned the tide in favour of the Palestinian cause." He emphasised Pakistan's solidarity during these historic moments, recalling how "the biggest demonstrations in the Muslim world for Nasser were held in Karachi," and how Pakistani pilots stood shoulder to shoulder with Egypt's air force. "These events remind us that Egypt's strength has always been a beacon for the wider Muslim world," he added.

Highlighting the people-to-people bond, Senator Mushahid reminded the audience that Quaid-e-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah's only foreign visit apart from the UK was to Cairo in 1946, where he met Egypt's leadership and the Mufti of Palestine. "This is not just diplomacy. it's camaraderie based on common interests and shared values," he stressed. He noted how the Islamic Summit in Lahore recognised the PLO as the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people, thanks in part to Egypt's pivotal role.



Pakistan-Africa Relations

- Pakistan's links with Africa predate the creation of the country in 1947 as the Founder of Pakistan, Quaid-e-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah visited Egypt in 1946 which laid the foundation of building this common bond;
- Pakistan has the honour of strongly supporting the freedom struggles of Algeria, Tunisia and Morocco in the 1950s, even providing Pakistani diplomatic passports to their leaders during the anti-colonial struggle;
- Pakistan supported the struggle for independence of Libya and Eritrea at the United Nations and provided military, diplomatic and political support to the liberation movements of ANC in South Africa, ZANU-PF in Zimbabwe and SWAPO in Namibia;
- Pakistan was at the forefront of opposing the racist apartheid regimes in South Africa and Rhodesia;
- Pakistan helped in military training, administrative capacity building, plus providing scholarships to students, technical expertise in areas of health, education and law to the newly independent African states.
- Pakistan has 60 year track record of the Pakistan Army serving Africa through participation in UN Peacekeeping Operations.
- Pakistani people have always had an affinity with struggles of people of Africa: in 1960, after the assassination of Patrice Lumumba, there was a huge solidarity demonstration in Lahore & one of the most famous poems of Pakistani popular poet, Faiz Ahmed Faiz, is 'Come Back Africa'.

Aims of PAIDAR

- **Rejuvenate** the historical bonds of solidarity between Pakistan and Africa which were cemented during Pakistan's support to freedom movements in Africa.
- **Restore** Pakistan's foreign policy priority orientation and involvement in Africa given common interests and centrality of Africa to the resurgence of the Global South in 21st century;
- **Revive** Pakistan-Africa relations through people-to-people exchanges and business-to-business connectivity.

Pakistan's efforts in Africa

- Pakistan played a pivotal role in supporting the liberation movements of Algeria, Tunisia, Morocco, Libya, and Eritrea during their anti-colonial struggles, offering **diplomatic passports** and backing at the United Nations.
- Pakistan has consistently extended **humanitarian aid** to African countries during times of crisis, providing relief assistance, medical aid, and disaster response support.
- Pakistan staunchly **opposed apartheid regimes** in South Africa and Rhodesia, providing military, diplomatic, and political support to movements like the ANC, ZANU-PF, and SWAPO.
- With a 60-year track record, the Pakistan Army has been instrumental in serving Africa through participation in **UN Peacekeeping Operations**, contributing to regional stability and conflict resolution.
- Pakistan actively contributed to the **development of newly independent** African states, offering military training, administrative capacity building, scholarships, and technical expertise in crucial areas such as health, education, and law.
- Pakistan has supported **healthcare initiatives** in Africa, including medical missions, training programs for healthcare professionals, and assistance in combating diseases such as malaria, HIV/AIDS, and Ebola.



Brief Profile of President PAIDAR

Mushahid Hussain Sayed has a long experience and interest in Africa from his student days. As a student, he founded the Pakistan Youth Committee on Afro-Asian Solidarity.

While in the United States, he studied Africa among his principal areas of academic interest in the School of Foreign Service at Georgetown University, where his Academic Adviser, Dr. Chester Crocker, a leading American expert on Africa, later went on to serve as Assistant Secretary of State for African Affairs in the administration of President Ronald Reagan. As journalist, he covered the war in Western Sahara & interviewed Yasser Arafat in Tunisia as well as Sudan's Sadiq al-Mahdi in London.



As Minister for Information, Culture and Tourism, he had the honour to serve as Minister-in-Waiting for President Nelson Mandela during his visit to Pakistan in May 1999.

He also had the privilege of interacting with President Julius Nyerere, when he visited Pakistan in 1989 as Chairman of the South Commission.

He served as Leader of Pakistan's Parliamentary Delegation to Nigeria in 2021 as well as the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU) General Assembly at Luanda, Angola in October 2023.

He was elected Vice President of the IPU Committee on Human Rights of Parliamentarians, during the IPU Conference in Kigali, Rwanda in October 2022 where he focused on issues of democracy and Human Rights in Africa. He also served as Convenor of Pakistan-Nigeria Parliamentary Friendship Group in the Senate during 2021-2024.

He is the first Pakistani to be invited to a BRICS official event, when, in August 2023, on the sidelines of the BRICS Summit, he was specially invited in his personal capacity by the National School of Government & the Human Sciences Research Council of South Africa to the BRICS Forum on People-to-People & Cultural Exchanges in Johannesburg.



With grandson of Nelson Mandela at Tehran International Conference on Palestine



With President of Angola, Mr. João Lourenço

