

Imran Khan announces participation in APC on Operation Azm-e-Istehkam

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Former Prime Minister and founding chairman of Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI), Imran Khan, announced his participation in the government's All Parties Conference (APC) on Operation Azm-e-Istehkam. During a media interaction at Rawalpindi's Adiala Jail on Friday, the former premier stated that PTI members would attend the conference only as "observers", emphasizing that the decision to participate was made solely for the benefit of Pakistan. During his talk, the incarcerated PTI chief expressed distrust in the chief justice and announced plans for a hunger strike in jail. "I will announce the final date for the hunger strike after consulting with my lawyers," he said. The government decided to call the APC to address concerns from coalition and opposition parties regarding Operation Azm-e-Istahkam. The conference aims to build political consensus and ensure all parties are on board with the operation's objectives. On June 22, the Apex

Committee of National Action Plan, chaired by Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif, approved “Operation Azm-e-Istehkam” to eliminate terrorism and extremism across the country. PM Shehbaz approved the reactivation of the national anti-terrorism campaign through the launch of this operation, symbolising national resolve with consensus from all stakeholders, including the provinces, Gilgit-Baltistan, Azad Jammu and Kashmir. Yesterday, it was announced that the government has decided to convene an All Parties Conference (APC) to address the concerns of political parties regarding Operation Azm-e-Istehkam. According to sources, PM Shehbaz aims to seek to gain the confidence of all parties during this conference. The date and time of the APC will be determined after the prime minister’s return, with indications suggesting it could take place by next week. The opposition parties, including PTI, expressed strong reservations about Operation Azm-e-Istehkam, demanding clarity on its framework and seeking assurance that all parties will be taken into confidence. Additionally, Jamiat Ulema-e-Islam (JUI-F) has also opposed the operation. While the government’s coalition partners agree that Operation Azm-e-Istehkam is necessary and should commence immediately, PPP Chairman Bilawal Bhutto-Zardari recently stated that the federal government should still bring all parties to the table to devise a cohesive strategy for the country’s progress. Operation Azm-e-Istehkam aims to eradicate extremism and terrorism decisively and comprehensively. It will coordinate and align efforts across multiple

fronts to address the threats while intensifying efforts to curb terrorist activities through regional cooperation within the political and diplomatic spheres. The operation will bolster the armed forces' renewed and vigorous efforts with full support from all law enforcement agencies. Effective legislation will be enacted to close legal loopholes that hinder the prosecution of terrorism-related cases, ensuring exemplary punishments for offenders. This campaign will be complemented by socio-economic measures aimed at addressing the genuine concerns of the populace and creating an environment that discourages extremist tendencies. The forum reiterated that the fight against extremism and terrorism is Pakistan's battle, crucial for the nation's survival and welfare. It was decided that no one would be allowed to challenge the state's authority without repercussions. The forum also reviewed measures to ensure foolproof security for Chinese nationals in Pakistan. Following the prime minister's approval, new Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) were issued to enhance the security framework for Chinese citizens in the country.