

# Is **Honesty** the best **Policy?**

**Memoirs of a Pakistani American Immigrant**

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Is honesty the Best Policy  
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## DEDICATIONS

I dedicate this book to:

My Beloved Father: Late Haji Karamullah Memon, PCS, Retired Additional Commissioner a symbol of integrity and honesty in the Pakistani corrupt bureaucracy. My father always fought for what was right and taught us to tread the path of truth. What he acquired from life often makes me wonder, "If honesty is the best policy or not?"

My Beloved Mother: Late Khadyat Bano, who dedicated her whole life to all of us.

My Beloved Brother: Late Irshad Ahmed Memon, Electrical Engineer, Pakistan Machine Tools Factory, whose untimely death changed our family completely and forced me to take charge of my family.

My Beloved Wife: Amber, whose virtuous and angelic qualities have always protected me. She has given me a new meaning of life, love and dedication.

My Children: Rakib and Sana, who gave me a purpose to strive for better.

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# INTRODUCTION

## Is Honesty the Best Policy?

The title of this book was actually selected by me to write a book about my father, late Haji Karamullah Memon, regarding his experiences from starting as a clerk in 1938 until he retired as a provincial secretary. After serving 42 years honorably and honestly when retired, he did not have a house to dwell or any automobile to ride. Luckily, I had built a modest house in Hyderabad, where he lived for twenty years mainly in seclusion. With no friends and no honor from the government, here he spent the rest of his life.

My father was a symbol of honesty and integrity within the bureaucracy of Sindh. After retrospection and appraisal of his life I always wonder: "Is honesty the best policy?" He clung to principles so strictly that until he became deputy commissioner in 1971, he always took his government cook and assigned ration making sure to get his meals while going on tours. He never used government-provided automobiles for his private purposes nor did he ever let us use them for our personal use. He was not only honest but also very strong at his will and made decisions strictly abiding by the government regulations. His judicial opinions were never vacated by any superior court including the Supreme Court due to his being an authority over Revenue Law.

Before his appointment as Deputy Commissioner, he was officially required to entertain his visitors and be entertained by the people of his district to create a working relationship with the general public and local politicians. Since then he started to mellow down and accepted invitations but never made any decisions based on any relationships and outside influence. My two uncles, Abdul Fatah Memon and Nizamuddin Memon, advocates from Larkana, were barred from his court unofficially because he would vacate himself if any of them would appear before his court.

My uncle Abdul Fatah Memon served as a member of the Muslim League executive board during 1947 partition struggles and became general secretary of the Pakistan Muslim League of Sindh in 1948. He was appointed as Pakistan's Ambassador to Saudi Arabia from 1963 to 1969. He also worked very honestly and when he

retired, he lived in a modest house in Karachi with not much money but a very high level of respect, within senior politicians of Pakistan.

Also my uncle Nizamuddin Memon who worked as a close advisor to the late Shaheed Zulfiqar Ali Bhutto, Prime Minister of Pakistan showed utmost honesty and dedication towards the public service and is living a very down-to-earth life in Larkana, which can be very easily visualized from his family picture given in this book.

Weighing their lives raises a question in my mind: "Is honesty the best policy?" Following the footprints of my elders, when I joined the public service and volunteered my time to work as an Advisor to the Mayor of the City of Houston for a salary of \$1.00 per year, I kept the same standards of honesty, hard work and high degree of integrity and was helpful to everybody who approached me. My friends who worked with me in the same political circles achieved contracts worth millions but I considered it a dishonesty to manipulate public service to make my financial ends meet. I, therefore, never put hands in any business dealing with the City of Houston and kept all my financial involvement in the neighboring city of Deer Park, Texas. After working six years with Mayor Lee Brown and one year with Mayor Bill White, what I accomplished in my community service maybe forgotten by the community but, time and again, the same question echoed in my brain: "Is honesty the best policy?"

Yes, at the end of the day people who are true, honest, dedicated, and live by good ethics may not be bestowed with high-profile positions and rewarded financially by the system but they sleep peacefully at night as they have clean Conesus. However, people who wrongly manipulate public service and take undue advantage of the system to make financial advances, most of the time fall back as the system catches up with them at the end. I have seen such people on the run, altering the course of their lives to get away from sinful past of irregularities and illegal financial gains.

One thing is rest assured: we lived a hard life. My father supported a family of eight. With his modest salary he educated every one of us to college level. However, we lived with respect. My father earned such a reputation of character that even the President of the country would not dare to even ask him to do an illegal favor. We lived modestly but respectfully and I am sure that honesty is the best policy though it may not raise you to a position you deserve. Rest assured, you would have inner peace and sound sleep at night with satisfaction that you have never made a buck illegally.

The biggest problem in our society today is the barometer of honest living. As our social values are changing so drastically so are the rules of society. However my barometer of honesty is the one inside me: my conscience. If your inner voice says that what you are doing is right and based on hundred per cent honesty then it is

fine. This is because you can hide from others but you cannot dissemble from self. The dilemma with honest people is that they speak the truth which never takes them to sublime heights. Therefore they do not reach the peak of their careers and are particularly deprived of top positions in public service. However, experience shows that manipulators, liars, crooks, corrupt and dishonest people reach to the high authority positions. In turn are the frustrating honest people who always wonder if honesty is the best policy. This is unfortunate that our society doesn't recognize honesty as a supreme human feature but considers it a weakness and discourages people who walk along this track. Unfortunately, our rulers also sideline people who talk straight, follow and preach honest ways of doing things. This is the reason you will always see crooks in power and honest people living modestly but peacefully.

I have tried my best to write in a positive and honest way about people I have come across to highlight their positive contributions avoiding their weaknesses. In turn, I did eliminate several names from my book because I could not find any positively fitting words for them.

The purpose of this book is to spread the word that hard work and honest dealings may not raise you to material heights but will give you inner peace which is eternal for a person's happiness. I have also tried to make this book educational shedding light on my tenures with the legal system, law enforcement authorities, politics and business management for twenty seven years in the United States.

At the end of the day the reader will notice that with so many fights for the truth and undergoing recurring losses, I still achieved my financial goals and, up to now, live a decent life and celebrate the unshakably true philosophy: honesty is the best policy.

I would like to apologize for any errors and hard feelings if created by any of my words. My intentions are honorable towards all the people I have come across in my life. I thank them all for letting me see the world from different perspective.

I want to thank so many people who have helped me in compiling this book. My daughter Sana helped me in my writing and correspondence. Anthony Hernandez did my initial draft. My editor, Mohammad Mazhar, helped me in making the book a material reality. Thanks to Kamran Naqvi who launched my book on internet. Thanks to Noor Mohammad Memon and Sindica Academy for publishing this book.

Sincerely

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## Addendum 2008

After launching my book on Internet I received many comments and E-mails. Some of the comments were very rude but many were very encouraging. I have lost many friends since then because I wrote the truth but absolute truth based on the title of my book but it is very hard to swallow reality for some people. Several of my relatives have sent me nasty messages and few anonymous death threats were left over the phone. Now I see that it is very hard to be honest financially as well as in writing. Once this book is printed most probably there would be more uproar about my views about some people. However I have repeatedly asked people to correct me if I have written any thing wrong or have tried to misinform people. So far I have received no corrections and I assume that I have narrated true facts and some incidents might hurt someone, but it is all true.

Here are few of the comments.

- Asif Zardari  
"Shaheed Mohtarma's vision for the emancipation of the people across country, including farmers, industrial workers and intelligentsia, will be implemented and we will make efforts to address the problems being faced by the people of Pakistan."
- Dr.Rizwan Nadeem,  
"Very daring and bold book"
- Altaf Sheikh  
"After Ali Mohammad Rashidi's book this book portrayed many Sindhi politicians and intellectuals, I would like to see this book translated in Sindhi"
- Brian McCoy, President, McCoy's Hardware Stores  
"You have brought a lot of deep insights to our country"
- Tim Riley, Riley Law Firm.  
"It is quite interesting and an excellent accomplishment. Congratulations"
- Ghulam Bombaywala,  
"This is a sickening book" (What do you expect from an illiterate person?)

## AMERICAN POLITICAL SYSTEM

Upon my first visit to the United States of America in May 1980, my wife's brother in law, Jawaid Maqbool, told me two things in his twisted American accent: "Maanzoor information is the most important thing in this country." He added "and the Americans are the most honest people on earth." I was really impressed by the latter sentence, yet the former looked silly and odd to me.

After living 25 plus years in this country, now I realize that his first statement was right on the dot. Information is power and this country offers you to do any thing within legal means to prosper and progress. I used to laugh over his statement but now realize that people who pursue information and study it are very successful.

On the other hand his second statement was somewhat arguable whether the American society is honest, truthful and sincere in its own right as well as for the outside world. These articles will discuss and critique this matter in detail with my personal experiences.

The American society, after 200 plus years, is still polarized into two groups: the right wing and the liberals. Within the right wing circle, there are some moderate and some extremist elements. Similarly, within the liberals, there are radical and some temperate groups. U.S.A. is sharply divided into two groups and in the post 9/11 events politicians have exploited the common man and dragged them steaming acute fear and panic causing a security phobia. Creating fear among the people brings votes and money to the politicians and which is all what they care for.

Unfortunately, U.S. politics, because of prevailing democracy, compels the politicians to run for elections. Electoral proceedings need money and votes. No one without any personal agenda is ever willing to part a hard-earned dollar. Thus, the politicians have to

create artificial crisis to force people to contribute money to let their political ambitions prosper. On the other hand, the common man who has the power of vote is solicited by creating anxiety and trepidation to vote for the electoral candidates. Though this has become more of an international practice adopted by the politicians to win elections, it is more evident within the American society. At the end of the day people with huge money who have financed campaigns for specific electoral candidates, dictate the public policy and foreign affairs.

Consequently, the common man, who was intimidated and put to nerve-racking conditions, has nothing to reach for. The rich are in high gear to be richer and the poor slope down to be the poorer. The elected candidates, henceforward, forget all the promises they previously kept with common voter and sit in the lap of the rich and the famous. Now why will a rich man want to do something for the poor? If we uplift the living standard of the poor, we come across the fact that the rich go scared by the thought of the day when they will have no control over the system. So the system is designed to keep the minorities and the poor to the lowest possible level by keeping them busy in making a living just enough to feed their families and pay their bills. American political system is designed to keep the rich in power and control the policy. Unless the middle class and the minorities work hard, understand the system, and participate in real political arena of US politics, a bunch of prioritized people will continue to rule and administer them.

In the third world countries, we always condemn politicians particularly for their corruption. They get elected and start milking money and accumulate so much wealth during their power that it is more than enough for their future generations. On the other side of the picture, the American system is designed to be corrupt within specified limits. The system has created premeditated dollar amounts one can donate in different political races. Thus one can get access from President to local councilman for some contribution. Mostly judges, Sheriffs and District Attorney Generals are elected so special interest groups funnel money to these candidates to get favors later. Secretly we have also created some loopholes where unspecified bulks of money can be donated through some secret channels to gain access to the high level members of Congress and Senate. As executive branch is hired on the political basis, special interest groups make their way to all levels of the government. Here, too, the rich wins the steak and the poor donor meagerly holds a

hotdog. But, of course, we are now living in the capitalist society and certainly money has absolute power.

Now two aspects of the picture are to be analyzed. When a needy person bribes a politician in power to get his work done, he is taken to be a criminal punishable by our law. While a person who heavily contributes to a politician's getting elected, in return has his work done without any blemish. According to our law this is acceptable. In my view both of them are morally and ethically wrong and it is dishonesty to get undue advantage in either way.

For politicians also this is a manifest evil to collect money from outside sources to fulfill their dream of capturing power. At the end of the day a cancerous society evolves where money plays the key role and the politicians in power fall as mere puppets for the rich and famous. We cannot make policies based against the principles of honesty and integrity and work against the basic principle of human culture just to remain in power.

Today's world is at the nudge of war on terrorism and security concerns as rich want to develop more weapons, guns and tanks. They create turmoil in different countries so that their arsenal is used and they let the innocent die upon their hunger for more wealth. We donate billions of dollars to the other countries where we have thousands of homeless people, mainly war veterans, sleeping on streets. We waste enough food, which can feed whole continent of Africa. But it is not in the interest of the rich to eliminate hunger or poverty but to create chaos in the world. "Create artificial crisis; hand guns to the new generation; let them kill innocent people," is their slogan while these politicians are at rest in their mansions enjoying life and avoiding draft to serve their country if needed. They have built jails with stocks to ensure enough people get convicted to fill those jails. We recruit people from the poor neighborhoods to fight our wars of ego and have no consolation and pain of heart for a mother who receives her son's body with a star and few dollars. Is this honesty?

My biggest concern as an American is that after so many years we all, the colored: the white, black, brown; being from all religions: Christian, Jews, Muslims, have not come forward and accepted each other on the basis of goodness. We have yet to make this great country more prosperous and more giving to the world. Let us get the prejudices against each other be buried and work together as proud Americans and create a goodwill in the rest of the world so that we are loved and respected all over the world. Let us eliminate privation, find cure for diseases like aids, stop nuclear arsenals and stop killing innocent people all over here and abroad. Let us

eradicate greed and bring the poor and homeless shelter, and support the war veterans who have been on the streets begging for a dollar. I do not want you to stop making money but want you to be honest in your dealings and to be fair with people. Please, do not hate someone because of his or her color, creed or religion. Remember, all religions preach fear of God and good deeds; fear the moment when the devil takes over you. So follow your religion for its good teachings and be honest to yourself and others.

## **American Master Plan to usurp World Oil**

old was the commodity controlling world power in the eighteenth and the first half of the nineteenth century. However, just after closure of the Suez Canal by the Egyptian leader Jamal Nasser to show his power, the Americans realized that oil was the gold of the future and needs to be kept in full control to maintain supremacy in the world. This was the time, in my view, that the US intelligence agencies gathered around drawing board and designed a layout to take control of the world oil. Each President of the United States of America, without any hesitation, approved of this plan and every covert operation was authorized to achieve this goal.

Though the British Government had partially sensed the importance of oil and installed Kingdom in Saudi Arabia and spread their control in Gulf States before the USA's master plan could come into shape, but the U.S.A. worked more aggressively to make arrangements to control the oil movement around the globe.

This plan included controlling the oil-rich countries by installing governments of choice so that the U.S.A. could control the flow of oil at regulated prices suitable to the American economy. At the end of the nineteenth century, the U.S.A. not only became the world power by space and spy technology but also controlled most of the oil rich resources of the world. Any world leader who did not fit in the plan was eliminated by every possible tactic.

Egyptian President Jamal Nasser was the first victim who gave vision to Middle Eastern governments to use oil as a negotiation tool. Saudi King Faisal, Egyptian President Anwar Sadat, Pakistani Prime Minister Zulfikar Ali Bhutto, Indonesian President Sukarno were eliminated. Libyan Leader Qaddafi was subdued. King Raza Shah Pahlvi was given unilateral support as King in Iran against the will of the majority of the people.. Iraqi Leader Saddam Hussein was perched on the stage and he fought the war with Iran to weaken Iran. All the leaders who attended the Islamic conference held in Islamabad, Pakistan, and who decided to use the oil as

bargaining tool were eliminated systematically. Saddam Hussein was asked to invade Kuwait to justify conditions for U.S. armed forces to penetrate the Saudi Kingdom. Once this goal was achieved, he was also eliminated to control the Iraqi oil reserves.

Side by side, the American policy makers were very tactfully busy in using Afghanistan's Taliban to carry out war against Russia, which weakened the Russian Empire and dismantled it into tiny countries. They used Russian leader Gorbachev to weaken the Russian Empire to achieve this goal. Later on, the Taliban were replaced with President Kargzie, a CIA operative working for an oil company in U.S.A. On the other side of the globe, conditions were created to slide oil rich countries like Tajikistan, and Uzbekistan under the control of such leaders as were sympathetic to the American cause.

By the end of 2005, U.S.A. got hold on most oil reserves of the world except a few countries like Venezuela, Syria, and Iran as they are still out of their political influence.

One wonders that a country controlling the major portion of the world oil cannot control the oil prices locally. In my view the recent price hike of oil to \$ 140 a barrel is due to artificially created conditions. The key supporters of current administration who are in the energy business want the U.S. Senate to pass the bill allowing oil drilling in Alaska. At the end of the day, this administration shall convince the common man that drilling Alaska oil fields is in the interest of the national security and this bill will be passed.

I commend the American policy makers and agencies that have carried out this plan so sincerely to give universal control to United States of America and this influence shall continue for many years to come. However this is a dishonest effort against the poor countries of the world which are getting in deeper hole of financial stress and poverty.

## **Two Years with Mayor Lee P. Brown & Two Hundred days with Mayor Bill White**

Having migrated to the United States of America, I always wanted to join the mainstream American politics owing to my roots. Several members of my family were active in national politics in Pakistan. I always had an impression that American politics would be based on honest values. The following are a few personal

experiences I have gained while participating actively in the mainstream American political system.

During 1988, I owned four travel agencies in the Houston metropolitan area when I was acquainted with Dr. Lee P. Brown. At the time he was a professor teaching in Texas Southern University. I took care of his personal and business travel as well as I arranged the last trip his first wife took to South Africa. Unexpectedly she passed away after coming back from the trip. Since then I kept in touch with Dr. Brown and he always treated me nicely even when he was stationed at the White House as the Drug Czar during President Clinton's presidency. On the day he resigned from that position I called him at the White House and told him: "Mayor Brown, welcome home." Without discussing with him before I knew he was going to run for Mayor and I was sure that he would be the best candidate for the position. As soon as he came to Houston he invited me for lunch and together we discussed about his candidacy. In the next few weeks he invited 12 people to discuss the political strategy and asked me to join his team. Once I was on board, I worked as member of his political strategy and finance committee. I served on his team during all three elections including member of his transition team and member of Mayor's Advisory Board for International Business Development (MABIAD) Asia.

During his third term he invited me to serve as an Advisor to the Mayor for South Asian Affairs and upon my recommendation he established the Mayor's Advisory Board for Business Development for South Asian Countries. I worked for him for approximately two years with a token salary of \$ 1 per year.

Because of term limitations, he was not able to run so in the middle of 2003 everyone started talking about the future candidates and the ready phrase was: "Who would run for Mayor?" Most of my friends were committed to Orlando Sanchez but he never appealed to me as a politician maybe because he ran against Mayor Brown, though he seemed to be a handsome and nice fellow. I kept on getting briefings from my political friends, City Hall insiders and everyone was of the opinion that Bill White would be the best candidate. On the day he announced his candidacy I was near Minute Maid Park and attended the rally. I kept on moving from one angle to another to evaluate the support he was carrying. Surprisingly on a weekday he drew about five-hundred people, most of them Anglo downtown businessmen, which clearly showed that he was the most favorite candidate of the rich and famous. I waited until the end to meet with him and once I introduced myself he asked me: "Where are you from?" "Pakistan," I told him. "Where

from Pakistan?" he asked. I replied: "From Sind province." He inquired of me: "Where from Sind?" I solemnly uttered "Larkana." He then came up: "I have been to your hometown four times." I was surprised to hear about his connection with my hometown. He told me that during his Oxford days his roommate was Late Murtaza Bhutto, son Of Late Zulfikar Ali Bhutto, the only elected Prime Minister of Pakistan. Also, he said that he was friends with Benazir Bhutto who was the first woman elected prime Minister of Pakistan. My family has been very closely associated with both of the Prime ministers and we found a common ground. He asked me to come and see him in his office at the Wedge Tower. In next few weeks, I met him in his office and Michael Moore, his current chief of staff being present there as well. The first thing I asked him was, if he would support affirmative action. He quickly responded "yes." I told him that I was neither a contractor, nor a consultant but a full supporter of affirmative action to ensure that minority contractors are given a piece of the pie in the city government. I gave him various ideas on how to reach people and volunteered my services for his campaign. He welcomed me and I started working on his campaign. During the initial eight months, I volunteered 20-30 hours a week and raised approximately \$150,000 as campaign donations. I opened and furnished an office in Clear Lake to extend our influence to that area. I made food arrangements for the campaign staff on daily basis and finally on the day of election made available food for all five hundred plus volunteers working on phone bank and at various polling stations. The South Asian Community was committed to Orlando Sanchez, but due to my efforts several people broke off and joined Bill White's camp. Once Bill White was in Run off, some new players started coming in and configuration of the campaign started changing fast. During the campaign trails Bill White always talked about his past, and move to Houston with two suitcases and played by rules and became successful. Many of us and he believed in the same philosophy as well. Most of the South Asians came here with \$20 and two suitcases and we worked hard and played by the rules and now when we have achieved our financial goals, we want to be a part of mainstream America. This was the main reason many of us volunteered our resources, time and finances to be a part of the system.

I would now like to discuss what we acquired from both administrations and would put to the reader a comparison of these two different people with their own philosophies. Though both

believed in the same manifesto the two were drastically different in their style and practice.

Mayor Brown started his campaign with 50-60 finance committee members whereas Mayor White kept an inner circle of three to five people to raise money for him. Mayor Brown discussed political issues with every one and made decisions with an inner political committee of 10-12 people. He called Mayor Lanier on a constant basis to get guidance. Mayor White depended on political consultants during the election and now takes political advice from three or four close advisors.

Mayor Brown started his tenure with a transition team consisting of 12-14 teams with over 100 members from all communities to prepare plans for the new administration. Mayor White's transition team consisted of three people in City Hall and three people in his political office, which he maintains parallel to his office in City Hall. The perception of that office has been that most of the political decisions are made there and brought to City Council for rubberstamping. Some Council members have reservations about this type of management. Additionally, most of the contracts are awarded with consultation from this satellite City Hall. Mayor Brown reached out to all of the communities and hired people from almost every community to work in City Hall. Mayor White claims that he will hire people with credentials not based on their ethnicity. The perception has been that minorities have been sidelined from important jobs and people with strong party affiliations particularly with the Republican Party have been hired. Cognition has also been that Mayor White is doing all this to ensure support from both parties to enable him to run for either Governor of Texas or for a seat in the Senate if vacated by Kay Bailey Hutchinson. Most of his hiring has been Anglo and Hispanics. Most of the new directors appointed are Anglo. Hence, a great number of people from the minorities are unhappy with his appointments from Republican Party activists. Ann Travis (Director for Congressman Tom Delay) is the Director of Government Affairs and is a prime example. African Americans and other minorities have already been complaining about the lack of diversity and minority participation in the new administration. Due to pension restructure, many city employees from minority groups were forced to opt for retirement. This has created a huge vacuum of qualified city employees and every one is waiting to see who will gain access to those positions. In the last 3 years no community outreach effort has been initiated and most of the contracts have been awarded to special interest groups without following the criteria of affirmative action. Mayor Brown brought international

communities together by creating a Mayor's Advisory Board for International affairs and Business development for six different regions of the world. About 100 business and community leaders were its members. Mayor White has so far sidelined those boards and no activity has been observed in the international communities. Most of the programs Mayor White started have brought no results so far. Mobility task forces have not achieved much, except synchronizing a few traffic lights. The perception is that this could have been done during Mayor Brown's time but the Director of Public Works held the decision to give a head start to Mayor White. Technically it was just a software program that changed the timings of traffic lights which Mayor White's administration claimed to be a milestone achievement. Tow truck ordinance has inflated towing fees and small companies are out of business. However, streets have been clean and during accidents not more than one tow trucks arrives on the scene. It has a positive affect but the perception has been that the new administration helped some large towing companies acquire contracts and put smaller companies out of business. Mayor Whites Volunteer Program got a kick off but those who want to get a job in the city joined this program to be volunteers. This way city is training people for free and hiring them as required. The real concept of volunteering has not been achieved. The Mayor's Task Force to sale excessive real estate assets of the city has not achieved much success as well. Presently, it takes 12-24 months to purchase a property from the city. If this lengthy process is cut short, in three to six months, it is likely that people will get interested in purchasing those assets. Hiring a real estate developer and supporter of Mayor White to lead the Task Force to sale these properties gives way to a conflict of interest. Mayor Brown started with revitalization of downtown and several construction projects were initiated in the first year. Mayor White has been struggling with the budget, pension plans and other routine agenda items. The perception is that like Mayor Lanier, who encouraged the businesses to move to outskirts of the city; Mayor White plans to move the projects outside downtown and not much will be done to complete the revitalization of downtown. With support of majority of city council members Mayor Bill White has no problem in getting anything approved contrary to Mayor Brown who had to struggle for each vote. At the end of the day, history will judge both Mayors but one thing is certain that minorities will never have a better mayor than Mayor Lee Brown. It is time for Hispanics, African Americans, and Asians to make a political coalition and get the first Hispanic Mayor for the City of Houston.

## **1998 :Post Election Review: A letter to Mayor Lee P. Brown**

Dear Dr. Brown,

First of all, we congratulate you on making history. I am delighted that we had a timely vision in your leadership. Our prayers are with you, to be the most successful mayor of Houston has ever seen. I am positive that your programs will convert this in a great city to dwell and will encourage new people to move in.

You have several challenges ahead of you. Here are a few thoughts, which I perceive would be important issues in your future; and my suggestions to take the right course for your success.

1. My main concern has been about your security, particularly after your historical victory. Past American history has alarmed me about the fact that whenever any African American gets in the limelight, he is assassinated. For example, Dr. Martin Luther King, Malcolm X, Mickey Leeland, and Ron Brown are recent victims. In my view, these people were victims of hate crimes. You need to have a strong security staff, and please be careful. Let me remind you we are all praying for your safety.
2. You need to keep the same campaign team working on a voluntary basis, for the next term. You must have a meeting with them at least every three months on an outdoor picnic or a Sunday brunch. This way we will keep the winning team energized and be ready for the next term. This will also keep you close to all the members of the team and not only to those who are working close to you, as all these people are our main source of help and we do not want to lose them.
3. Most of the financial contributors have set their agenda. If their agenda is fulfilled, they will invest heavily in the future. If you remember, during the strategy meeting in a bank building on Hillcroft, I asked you a question: "Dr. Brown, you have certain principles and you go by the book? Politics sometimes have no rules, so are you ready to scratch my back if I scratch yours?" To me, you have to change your ways a little. You are no longer a bureaucrat who could go by the book and still be successful. You are a man who has entered the political field. You need to fulfill the desires of people who have invested in you. There are two types of investors: one, who believed in you since first

date; the other are those who followed you because they had foreseen your victory. You have to fulfill their demands within the framework for which you need the right coordinator to ensure that these people will be there for us when we need them in the next election. During the campaign there was a complaint from senior members of the finance committee. They feel that they have been ignored in the process and that the new heavy-duty financial contributors have taken the stage instead of the dedicated people who had faith in you since the first day.

4. African Americans have fulfilled your dream by giving you a mandate, so have other minorities. You have to assure them of making extra efforts to solve their problems so that they vote for us again in the future. If they do not get anything, they will lose faith in their own candidates and will get disillusioned by the system. We must work on some development projects in the poor and minority neighborhoods. Encourage African American businessmen to invest their money in these under-developed areas. Give some tax relief for projects, which attract them more even to risk their investment.
5. Parallel to this, you have to face the dilemma of keeping Anglo voters happy. They are used to getting the full loaf and once you start sharing their loaf they will be dissatisfied. You have to use honest Anglo supporters to educate the people before they start complaining. We need to recruit more volunteers from the Woodlands and other predominant Anglo voters' areas. You need to visit and have an open town hall meetings in these areas to prove to Anglos that we are not different from them and we need to work together to make this a world class city.
6. Mosbacher has dented your reputation by stating that you have been ineffective everywhere you have gone. You have to take immediate measures to prove by your actions that it is the wrong message. You have to be aggressive and make quick decisions and take immediate steps to prove that you are the leader. I see you moving up the political ladder after your six-year term. You need to emboss a stronger image and have to respond to the problems instantly.
7. One thing I have been interested in, is the moving of homeless people from the streets of Houston. Crossroad begging has become a permanent feature in Houston. This does not bear a good image of a world class city. We need

to build more shelters and make sure that no one sleeps in the open. In California there has been a very successful program, in which small cottages were built on city properties with a steel bed and closet with common showers and staff. I would volunteer my time for this cause if some help from the Mayor's office is provided. Let us target that by next term. We have all these homeless people in shelters. This could be a big political achievement.

8. The Houston image problem has to be dealt with a different angle. Advertisement in the Times for half a million dollars was a waste. The travel industry should be used to bring people to Houston. Firstly, what do we offer them if they come here? We should print mini travel brochures, shopping and food coupons from local merchants sticking on; they should send people on weekend trips, which will encourage people for weekend trips from adjoining states, particularly Mexico and border towns. Stadium and Bayou developments like New Orleans and San Antonio River walk can change the image of Houston and promote the tourism industry.
9. The Hispanics and Asians have evolved as a decisive block of votes. We need to establish an inter-cultural council of diversity with civic leaders representing all communities. A businessmen council should be created. Demographically two Anglo, two African, two Spanish, one Chinese, one Vietnamese, one Arab, one Muslim from South Asia, one Jewish, one Hindu, and one Gay community member should be selected by the mayor to create two councils. These councils, under a yearly rotating chairman, should advise the mayor on various problems faced by the people in the process of establishing a colorblind and race-blind society. The business council should work toward bringing business from out-of-town foreign investors.
10. The public parking situation in downtown is getting outrageous. We need to do a study on how to build more public parking areas. Particularly, near the theater areas like the Park and Foley's. This will encourage people to come downtown for shopping, and the process will encourage merchants to invest more in this area.

## **1998: Post Election Review: A Letter to Mayor Lee P. Brown**

Dear Dr. Brown,

Attached is my post election review. A few thoughts about the last eight months of your tenure are submitted for your consideration.

1. Security: Except for a few cowardly calls I think your security has been up to the mark.
2. Campaign teams have been scattered except those few who have financial interest. We need to have open house/picnic gatherings to invite all the core members of the campaign staff/volunteers as we will need their support very soon. So far complaints have been that you have not been accessible to most of them, except to a few of us.
3. Politically, you have handled things fine. Some of the heavy donors have cashed their efforts; however; several are still waiting for decisions. The only problem I see is that after election, new people have surfaced. They have taken over the political arena backed up by their financial status. They have sidelined some of the core supporters who believed in you. Please make sure you do not lose support of the people who believed in you from the beginning.
4. African Americans are still waiting for some concrete programs for the uplift of their neighborhoods. We need to address this problem immediately. Anglo voters have already started labeling you as a failure by referring you as a quitter from each position you held in the past. Every action you take, they oppose you, and so you need to solidify your voter base as well as take bold decisions to prove that you are the leader. Selection of Jay as Chief of Staff was a political mistake. This should be rectified soon. You should hire a bold, courageous Anglo chief of staff that can keep balance in the voter base. Jay Ayer, though very qualified and thorough gentleman, will not bring any success to your career except his own. You are living in a color-biased society where people like us are not accepted in such high profile positions, particularly where voter bases are divided equally. If you had had the majority of colored voters this would have worked but not here. You need to bring someone soon. Someone who has contacts in council can control the council to put a halt to this daily

opposition of every move you make. (Jay Ayer was let go by Mayor Brown after two years)

5. So far we have seen nothing from the Mayor for the homeless. This issue could be taken up by you and cashed for some popularity. Also there should have been a personal distribution of A/C units among the needy by the Mayor to show that you care for their needs. I think you could still do something about it.
6. An appearance in political functions is effective. Majority of the voters are out there in the fields that are missing. Yet most of these functions are not beneficial for you, but for the organizers who are trying to cash their contact with you. They are using you to move higher up in the political arena by leaving space for new politicians to come on board. They are making the contacts for their future political ambitions. They are not looking for your interests but their own. There is an alliance already planning whom to support in the next mayor's election. So let us not give them the political benefit but to take the political benefit from them.
7. The Houston image: It still has a lot of work to be done; however, we are on the positive track. Your trip to foreign countries would be beneficial both for the Houston image as well as business. We still need a business council from the mayor to promote foreign business as per my previous recommendation to select a few members from each community. (Mayor Brown created Mayor's Advisory Council for International Business and Development MABIA\_D)
8. Parking issues should be addressed as downtown is growing thicker and during special event nights it has become impossible to find parking.

## **2001: Post Election Review: Report to Mayor Lee P. Brown**

Dear Dr. Brown,

The results of the November 5th elections were not very delightful for you, or for most of us. With your track record you should have taken at least 55% of the votes, and should not have had to go for a run off. I am enclosing a few of my past reports for you along with some additional reflections on how this happened,

and what can be done to achieve overwhelming victory on December 1st, 2001.

I attended most of the key events including, the announcement of your candidacy at the Museum of Natural Science, the kicking of the campaign at the head quarters, several finance committee meetings, downtown rallies at Sam Houston Park, campaign completion prayer at the Faith Church. The attendance in all of these meetings already showed that we had all the poor attendance. It was mainly because even core people like us were invited at the last minute. For example, the downtown rally invitation was made at 11 a.m. requesting us to be there at 1 p.m. Most of these functions were not planned properly and campaign staff did not invite enough people to show a strong support in the masses for us. In my past comments I had requested you to have some friendly and one to one meetings or group dinners or BBQ's as they can bring good results. Though you have made so many appearances in the community, no one can beat you by the count; the core people have been sidelined. In the last finance committee meeting there were only ten old members. Most of the new people with special interest were there. Yet, surprisingly, none of the Spanish supporters were there. On that day I had a gut feeling that conspiracy against you is deeply rooted based on racism.

Here are a few suggestions, which could bring some positive results:

1. You need to get on the phone and call all the people who you think can make a difference. Ask for their support. I would keep the protocol on the side. These calls should not be for money but for support. Your personal call will make a big difference.
2. Hire some buses for Election Day with music and food, and send volunteers from door to door to bring minority voters to the polls. (This advice proved to be vital in winning Mayor Brown's second term)
3. Have four major BBQ events at four quadrants of the city where music and free food, This should attract a lot of people. Go to the people with the same speech you made in the Faith Church. Stand against Sanchez, who has no experience and no caliber, or family values. (He could not hold on to his marriage, and manage his home. How can he manage a city)?
4. I would be interested in probing in Sanchez's divorce matter and events behind the episode; maybe we can find something that conservative voters will disagree with.

5. You need to go after him. If you have seen the movie The American President, in which Michael Douglas is too nice of a guy as he was influenced to be negative. If you have not seen that movie yet, I recommend that you watch it.
6. Common feeling is that campaign consultants did a sloppy job because they wanted a run off to make more money to duck in their pockets. Time has flown by, but it is crunch time that you oozed the best out of them.
7. I would request you to ask Francis (Mayor's wife) to take a few weeks off for vacation and work with you side by side. I think her presence will bring more woman voters. I will also advise her to join full time, as she can make a difference.

### **2003: Discrimination to South Asian City Employees: Letter to Mayor Lee P. Brown.**

Dear Dr. Brown:

Since my taking position as advisor to Mayor for South Asian Affairs, several city employees of South Asian origin have contacted me about their job conditions within their departments, especially within the Engineering Departments like Public Works, Building Services and Planning Department.

The major complaint has been discrimination felt during their promotions to higher levels. On a personal level, I have made some investigations and found some truth about the fact that some of the city employees have been the victim of discrimination when their promotions were due.

As you are aware, I am an Engineer and have worked several years for major engineering corporations like Bechtel Power, Stone & Weber, Flour Daniel, Mississippi Power and Lighting, and Ebasco Construction Company. I have been a similar victim of the same discrimination. Today, I realize that there were several things that I did wrong and they were the causes of some of my failures. However, I have learned from my mistakes and changed my style and habits to be a vital part of the American System.

After meeting so many of the city employees, I have come to a conclusion that it is lack of management skills and refusal to adapt to American public relation tactics that these people have been denied promotions.

On the other hand, these engineers and technicians are very competent, but lack knowledge of Management and therefore at the

time of promotions, more skilled managers are promoted which has created dissatisfaction among these employees. At the end of the day our administration takes the blame of discrimination towards these employees.

Some examples of lack of skills are as follows:

1. I called an assistant director from South Asian origin after my joining the Mayor's office just to say hello to him. He did not return any of my calls.
2. Most engineers do not dress like professions, as they should.
3. Upon inquiry from several employees, the rapport and understanding between employees and their bosses was only during business hours. They do not socialize with fellow colleagues.
4. On special occasions like holidays and birthdays, they do not attend parties and feel left out.
5. Their communication level needs improvement.

I consider it to be my duty to advise you to hold a half a day seminar targeted to the employees of the South Asian origin, to guide them through the system, and help them to be more productive for the city.

I know it is a strange request, but I assure you that this seminar will bring the frustration level down and improve these employees' productivity. I have discussed this matter with Mr. Al Hines and Chyrise Wilson and they both like the idea. I request your approval.

Conclusion: Upon the Mayor's instruction, I met with the Director of Public Works & Engineering to arrange this seminar. He tossed out the idea.

## **2004: Draft Request to Mayor Bill White for Mayor's Community Outreach Initiative**

Objectives:

Houston, a multi-cultural and multi-ethnic city, consists of several large communities. City of Houston recognizes the diversity of these communities and plans to bring all these communities together under one roof through this program. The main purpose of this initiative is to bring all the community leaders in an advisory capacity to raise their community voices at the Mayor's office to solve community problems and implement development projects of the City of Houston with mutual consent for the betterment of the people of Houston.

Organization:

Mayor will appoint a Director of the Community Outreach program within his present staff and with supporting staff from various communities (also those already working in City Hall with a few adjustments). An organizational chart is attached. The staff of the community outreach program will be responsible to mobilize their respective communities and create advisory boards for community affairs from the community leadership. All members of the advisory boards shall represent recognized communities on a voluntary basis. The following advisory boards for their respective communities are organized (with future expansion if there is a need):

1. African American Communities
2. Hispanic and South American Communities
3. Asian communities consisting of China, Vietnam, Korea, Taiwan, Japan and all far East countries
4. South Asian communities consisting of India, Iran, Pakistan, Bangladesh, Nepal, Sri Lanka and surrounding countries
5. Middle Eastern and Arab Communities
6. European Communities

Mayor is to appoint a chairman of these boards consisting of 20-25 members. These members shall represent major organizations from each community. All advisory boards are to meet quarterly at City Hall with their issues and perform functions of Think Tanks for the Mayor to see what expectations the communities hold from the administration.

Configuration of Mayor's advisory Board for South Asia is attached as an example to foresee how the administration can access all the community members from those countries.

Financial Implications:

The city shall not face any financial implications from this program, as all the positions will be provided from the existing approved positions. Present staff will perform the additional duties along with their present assignments.

Configuration:

Mayor's Advisory Board for Community Affairs for South Asia  
Chairman: Appointed by Mayor (For 1 term)  
Members:

President of Indian Cultural Center  
 President of Pakistan Association  
 President of Bangladesh Association  
 President of Iranian Cultural Center  
 President of Islamic Society of Houston  
 President of Bahai Society  
 President of Ahmedi Society  
 President of Alnoor Society  
 President of Shia Muslim Society  
 President of Ismaili Society  
 President of Indian Chamber of Commerce  
 President of Pakistan Chamber of Commerce  
 President of Iranian Chamber of Commerce  
 Member from the Pakistani Media Council  
 Member from the Indian Media council Prominent  
 Prominent member from India  
 Prominent member from Pakistan  
 Prominent member from Iran  
 Counsel General of India  
 Counsel General of Pakistan

**Conclusion:**

After detailed discussions with Mayor Bill White, the proposal was rejected. Mayor White told me that minorities' affairs are on the bottom of his agenda and have more important issues to deal with. On the other hand, the Mayor's Advisory boards for International Business Affairs (MABIAD) were made ineffective and virtually eliminated. However, after so much pressure and hard work of many, particularly Helen Chang, Mayor Bill White has implemented this idea and all eight boards have started functioning since early 2006. After one year performance review of this board shows no substantial achievement made by this board due to lack of interest from Mayor Bill White who is more interested to consolidate his position to run for a higher office than to help common men.

**2003: Draft Request to Mayor Lee Brown and Mayor Bill White for Mayor's Task Force to Sale Excessive City Properties**

**Objective:**

To develop a policy and procedure to simplify the process of selling City properties with no potential use to any city department

The short-term objective is to generate 10 million dollars within the next three months. The long-term objective is to raise 50 million dollars within one year to compensate for a shortfall from the city budget.

**Configuration of the Task Force:**

The Task Force shall consist of representatives from the following departments:

Office of the Mayor, Assistant Director, Real Estate Section, Department of Public Works and Engineering (PWE), Geo-Environmental Engineering Section, PWE, Real Estate Appraiser, Real Estate Division, Legal Department, Representative of Planning Department. Representative of offices of Environmental Pollution Control, Health Department

Members of the Task Force will be required to sign a declaration of a no-conflict-of-interest while serving as members of the Task Force.

**Responsibilities of the Task Force:**

1. Compile an updated list of properties to be sold. Categorize these properties in groups as given below based on appraised value:
  - \$25,000 and less
  - \$100,000 and less
  - \$250,000 and less
  - Above \$250,000
2. Identify properties on a city map.
3. Prepare an Executive summary of the plan for the Mayor's announcement to the media in order to attract potential buyers.

4. Prepare a list of the tasks and a timeline for each task to be performed in order to complete sale processes within the time frame as indicated above.

At present it takes approximately 18-24 months to sell city property. The goal of the Task Force is to raise a minimum of 10 million in 3 months and 50 million in one year, based on the availability of the properties.

**Conclusion:**

Mayor Brown did not approve this initiative. But Mayor Bill White appointed a task force headed by Ed Wolf, which was a politically incorrect decision. Ed Wolf is a real estate developer and his decisions will be biased. So far, nothing has changed in the last seven to eight months. An independent person with no real estate interests in the city of Houston should be appointed to move these excessive properties to bring extra revenues for the city of Houston.

**1998: The Homeless in Houston.**

**Report for Mayor’s Transition Team for Downtown**

According to a 1996–census, there are an estimated 9,300 homeless in Houston and Harris County, out of which approximately 5,900 are within city limits. Out of these numbers 3,500 are veterans, (the majority from the Vietnam War with medical and alcohol problems.) Ninety eight percent of these veterans are males, sixty percent African American and twenty seven percent are of other origins.

There are six kinds of service providers for the homeless in Houston. The details are as follows:

Qty.	Total No.	No. of Beds	Occupancy
1. Emergency Shelters:	41	2546	90%
2. Transitional Living Centers:	38	1755	N/A
3. Specialized Housing:	13	1331	“
4. Board & Care Facilities:	N/A	559	“
1. 5: Assistance Programs:	11	N/A	“

**Action Requested:**

1. National or statewide summit to discuss homelessness
2. Funding to help shelters meet building codes.

3. Additional transitional housing services.
4. Support group programs to existing homelessness

**Committee Recommendation:**

The Committee recommends that the Mayor appoint an oversight committee that would collaborate with the city staff to review several programs and expenditures of the coalition for the homeless services, a nonprofit organization. This organization spends an estimated \$20 million per year. Additionally, the committee is of the opinion that a joint venture with the Veterans Administration can serve to obtain federal aid. Furthermore, the oversight Committee should hold a “Summit Meeting” with the many organizations that request City financial support to eliminate unnecessary overlapping of programs.

**1999: Homeless in Houston and Surrounding Areas**

**Report to Dr.LeeP.Brown Mayor of the City of Houston**

Due to a reduction in funds in AFDC, SSI, SSDI, and GA budgets, it has devastating affects on the poor, elderly, women and children of every low income brackets. This is one of the reasons that women and children are the fastest growing segment of the homeless population.

According to a 1996 census count, there are at least 9,216 homeless people in Houston and Harris County out of which 5,924 are within city limits. Approximately, 3,500 homeless are veterans (98% males, 63% African American and 27% Caucasian, the majority the Vietnam War veterans with medical and alcohol problems).

There are six kinds of service providers for homeless in Houston areas.

1. Emergency Shelter: Total #41, with 2,546 beds, occupancy rate 90%
2. Transitional Living Centers: Total #38, with 1,744 beds, occupancy rate unknown
3. Specialized housing: Total #13, with 1, 331 beds, occupancy rate unknown
4. Board and care facilities: 559 beds, occupancy rate unknown
5. Licensed Personal Care Homes: 559 beds, occupancy rate unknown

6. Assistance Programs: This provides assistance in utility and rental payments, food, and clothing, English as a second language (ESL) classes, GED classes, Counseling Services, transportation, and job training. There are 111 assistance programs available for the homeless.

To eliminate homelessness, the following services are required:

- Funding to help shelters meet building codes
- Provide alternatives to living on the streets
- Additional transitional housing and services
- Supportive group programs to existing homeless

Coalition for the homeless of Houston/Harris county, Inc., a non-profit organization, with 250 member, homeless services coordination council secures funds from various agencies. In 1996, the coalition received \$19.5 million in a federal McKinney Act for Competitive Homeless Grant fund from HUD. However, due to a reduction of the HUD budget the coalition received roughly 10 million dollars. According to the city of Houston H&CD department, approximately 1 million dollars in HUD grants were passed on to the coalition in 1997.

It was very hard to get the right figures as to how much money was raised. More studies are on hand to submit a more detailed report.

Presently there are special needs for creating programs to relocate the homeless from city streets, particularly from downtown streets.

Downtown management does raise money from various private and public owned companies; part of it is used to provide temporary shelter for the homeless of downtown in hotels. More studies are on hand to analyze why this program has not been successful in eliminating homelessness from the downtown streets.

My proposal is to take the following steps to help this cause:

- o Mayor should appoint a five member council for homelessness.
- o Council should arrange a summit for the homeless to identify the needs for the homeless people and try to acquire funds to solve the issues.
- o The council should overlook the distribution of the funds, if the funds are being used for the needy. Periodical audits are required.
- o City should have joint ventures with VA administrations to share the burden of veteran homelessness.

Conclusion:

This report was sent to one of the top officials in Mayor's office and was buried and no action was ever taken. Apparently, it was politically incorrect to take over the homeless issue and control the funds and funnel to the homeless directly. Most of the charities which get grants from the government funds use 85% funds for administration and 15% of the funds are used for the programs. So in a way we are doing very little to move the homeless people from the streets of the downtown Houston.

### **2000: Murders of Pakistani Store Clerks Letter to Dr. Lee P. Brown Mayor City of Houston.**

Dear Dr. Brown:

On behalf of the whole Pakistani community and myself, I would like to pass thanks to you for your prompt response to my request to intervene to solve the murders of innocent Pakistani store clerks.

Your early intervention prompted extra efforts from the HPD, produced timely results which had a very calming effect on angry and devastated Asian communities who have been targeted to such crimes in the past on almost a daily basis. Upon your instruction, the chief of police Mr. Bradford called a meeting between community leaders and the highest rank officers of HPD, which produced positive results. In our meeting, community leaders expressed their gratitude to the police department for such prompt action to apprehend these murderers within a short time. Also, it was agreed to keep contact among various communities and the HPD to work together to reduce such crimes to make Houston a better city for all the people.

The Pakistani and other Asian communities and store owners are planning a prayer rally in front of City Hall on Wednesday, February 23, 2000 at 12:30 PM. Your participation along with all the council members and high officials will convey a very positive message to the communities that you all share grief of these innocent victims and will take necessary measures to avoid such incidents in the future.

Once again I am sorry that I disturbed Francis (Wife of Mayor Brown) from her deep sleep and called your home at an odd hour. Please let my apologies pass to your wife and once again thank you for your help and we count on you to be our friend for life.

Conclusion:

A big rally was organized at City Hall attended by top officials and full media coverage was achieved. Masrur Jawaid Khan used this rally for his political ambition and ultimately got elected as first Muslim and first Pakistani to City Council.

May 26, 2004:

**Few suggestion for Bill White Running for Mayor City Of Houston**

1. Due to lack of name recognition comparing to Sanchez we need to install 12 bill boards at various locations, two at I45/610, two at 59/610, four at beltway 8, two at I10/59, one at 288, and one downtown.
2. Get a professionally realistic analysis on White Vs Sanchez on the basis of education, business experience, and political experience. Acquire newspaper clippings from Brown Vs Sanchez election include press articles, interviews, and debates and let us analyze Sanchez’s weak and strong points and work on those.
3. Mobility is a good item but the agenda should be elaborated with safety, crime, and more jobs for Houstonians. The Billboards should read:  
 Bill White  
 For  
 Mayor  
 Less Commuting  
 More Safety  
 Less Crime  
 More Jobs
4. Do not forget diversity. The city is almost divided into three communities, so diversity is your key card, which needs to be played right. So far you have drawn Anglo support; we need to penetrate the Hispanic, African, and Asian Americans. The Muslims are going to vote on party lines, as they are upset with Republicans. The African Americans will be divided if Sylvester Turner runs. The Hispanics will support Sanchez until we take some serious measures to break some of their leaders as they are very excited to support the first Hispanic mayor. So the diversity card has to be played effectively.

5. Call a meeting of all the prescient chairs to get them involved in gross root efforts. Phone bank and block walking will be effective. Arrange for open house with free BBQ at eight supper neighborhoods about a month before elections. Saturdays and Sundays after church will be good days.
6. Mayor Brown won the election only with gross root efforts and renting 50 vans on Election Day was the most effective tactic on his campaign. We need to do the same.
7. As of today we have 38 weekends and we need to visit 38 of the biggest churches of the city on each Sunday. 38 smaller churches on Wednesdays and 38 mosques and Senegal on Fridays. Sunday evenings should be dedicated to senior citizen centers. Also we need to plan to visit all the community centers like Jewish, Indian, Chinese, Arab, and Korean community centers.
8. During speeches we need to go systematically point by point and short and sweet. Mention problems along with solutions, a few jokes, and quotes from past leaders. Do not forget to acknowledge people working for you and people who have contributed to the campaigns.
9. Prepare a list of donors who have donated heavily during the last mayoral election and invite them for cocktails and just ask for their support. People are hungry for attention, so if we arrange it right we can get donations as well as votes. Form finance committees that can have as many as 50 members as Mayor Brown had. Form political analysis committees that can advise you on current issues and be honest with you and about the position where you stand.

May 3, 2004:

**Post Election Review for Mayor Bill White  
Request for Mayor’s Community Outreach Initiative**

Dear Mayor Bill White:

I have been trying to meet with you for a few weeks to brief you on what is being discussed inside and outside City Hall about our administration. I have been discussing with various council members and many community leaders. The perception about our administration, though very business-like, lacks community involvement. This is the reason why we are experiencing some growing resistance particularly from the minority communities.

You have received 92 % African American, 50 % Hispanic, and 90 % Asian votes. However, the representation in City Hall and various other appointments do not reflect the same percentage. Everyone is talking about it.

Also refusal of the African American leaders for reparation has not been welcomed. Wreckers' and city pension problems are a few instances where there has been evident resistance from several community leaders. A recent City Hall press conference held by Congresswoman Sheila Jackson shows negative campaigning against our administration. Majority of our new staff in the office is still trying to get their feet in City Hall. Most of them are young, and more inclined to flourish their careers than to serve the community. In turn it ignores the community whereas it is imperative that we get the community leaders involved. Before bringing any issue like Wreckers' ordinance or new pension plan, if we had taken the community leaders in confidence by giving them a briefing, we could have received positive results. If the pension plan is not passed in the May 15, 2004 election, it will further alienate our administration from the community leaders. It is suggested that we immediately start a Mayor's community Outreach Program in an effort to bring community leaders together to achieve our agenda goals.

This program can be started with no additional financial commitment as our current staff is available to work on this program. Attached is the organizational chart extracted from the present staff with a few adjustments to start this program. Objectives, goals, and financial implications are attached in the proposed program.

Before any negativity arises about our administration, we must implement this program immediately. If you desire, I can provide more details, which enhance the need of this initiative.

### **Few Suggestions to Mayor Bill White Mayor City of Houston**

1. Mayor's task force to sale excessive properties on a fast track.
2. Mayor's Advisory Council for Engineering and planning consists of CEOs of major companies.
3. Mayor's advisory Boards of International Business development need to perform some special tasks to develop business in Houston. They should be given specific tasks to accomplish.

4. Employee incentive programs like bonuses and Employee of Month/Year with special recognition from the Mayor.
5. Citizen Complaint boxes are kept at various departments; Mayor's staff reviews, complaints, and concerned departments should take appropriate action.
6. Mayor's task force to review duplicative services and gives recommendations to deploy staff for optimum use. Subsequently this task force/inspection team should visit various departments with out a notice to review their performance.
7. Establish Gym in Mayor's office for staff to release stress during break times.
8. Quarterly staff meeting with Mayor or retreat to a resort or an outdoor picnic to create working relationship with the Mayor, his staff and various departmental heads.
9. Regular lunch meetings with departmental heads, key staff members, and council members should be held to keep a close working relationship with the Mayor's office.
10. Positions of Executive Assistant to be named as Deputy Chief of Staff. Working under Chief of staff enables them to carry out the mayor's plans more effectively. Other departments treat them as clerks and no effective response is received to implement the Mayor's instructions.

(None of these ideas were incorporated and after four years Mayor Bill White is isolated and out of touch from the community. By power of big money he has resisted any one to run against him but the after effects shall be very visible when he will run for higher office)

### **Letter to Herb Butrum (Campaign Manager for Mayor Bill White)**

Dear Herb Butrum:

I was disappointed in the turnout on Bill's birthday yesterday. I wonder why we attracted only a few hundred people after sending 5,000 invitations. If you noticed the demographics, we had very few African, Hispanic, and Asian Americans (including the 5 African, 6 Hispanic, 3 Chinese, and 1 Indian attendees).

A few reasons I believe we did not attract a big crowd are:

1. Saturday morning could have been too early.
2. Invitations could have been sent a little early as many people did not get the invitation in time.

I am concerned that the African and Hispanic supporters are losing interest. Considering the strong mandate from all the communities, to me, this was not a good show-up. I am optimistic that the idea of the community outreach program to Bill will increase positive results. If I could be of any assistance, please feel free to call me. You know my services are free for a good friend.

## **Letters to Herb Butrum (Campaign Manager for Mayor Bill White)**

Dear Herb:

Following is the letter and outline of the outreach initiative. I know our administration is working very professionally and targeting heavy-duty issues. But if we ignore the people, we will have a problem 6 months down the line. Most of the community leaders, particularly from minorities, suffer from a syndrome I call "attention deficiency." If you ignore them, they will be plotting conspiracies against us. So we have to keep them busy by involving them in the loop. All council members are supporting Mayor, but slowly there is growing discontentment in minority members and they will start resistance in council also. It is therefore imperative that we create programs to keep them involved through these programs as well as Mayor's Advisory Boards for Business Development MABIAD that is already in place. I can help the Mayor to establish this link as I am in close touch with most of the minorities' members. My services are presently not used and I am getting frustrated if my working 30-40 hours a week has any value to myself as well as to the Mayor. You are aware that I was the only one from my community who worked tirelessly from the day Bill announced his candidacy, and I am the only one so far who is yet to be useful for this administration. I hope you will address this issue. Thank you.

July 8, 2004:

### **RESIGNATION TO MAYOR BILL WHITE**

Dear Mayor White:

With regrets, I would like to resign from the position of Advisor to Mayor for South Asian affairs, effective immediately, due to the following reasons.

I was appointed by the former Mayor Dr. Lee P. Brown about two years ago with an understanding that I would be supporting

communities from South Asian Countries. Also I was in charge of Mayor's Advisory Board for International Business Affairs (MABIAD) which you do not seem to have any intention to continue.

Within a few months of your joining office, I stated in my speech at the Pakistan Chamber of Commerce on February 29, 2004:

"You have not yet earned the title of the best Mayor of the United States of America because you had to fill the shoes of Mayor Lee P. Brown, who gave so much to every community."

I know you are smart and have hired people from the Houston Chronicle, to get constant coverage for you in the paper. But Mayor I must tell you the truth if you lose the support of the community, you will be a one-time Mayor, as stated by some community leaders. You may collaborate with Republicans and try to act bipartisan, hire high-profile people, and raise money from the rich and famous; at the end of the day the majority of the votes are with the minorities for which you have shown no passion.

You have already seen the sample of community resentment on your birthday party at the Miller Out Door Theater, where after sending 5,000 invitations only 300 people attended, out of which there were 5 African Americans, 4 Hispanics, 1 Pakistani, 1 Indian and 3 Chinese Americans. If you take out the staff you had, no one from any minority community actually attended your event. This should be a wakeup call for you, your close staff, and political advisors, who are on guard 24/7.

During this administration, most of the minorities have been sidelined or moved to unimportant positions. Eventually, we have no representation in Metro, or on any of the high-profile jobs. With the pension plan, every minority member who were on top positions have either been laid off or forced to resign to save their pension. What I see of the City of Houston compared to last year, the minorities have no representation, and your actions prove you are not willing to do anything. Your administration works on the policy of ignoring people so that they leave the scene themselves.

The African Americans voted for you overwhelmingly and what you have done to their community is going to backfire on you. I thought you always recognized that Houston was a diverse city, but where is the diversity in City Hall. You have hired immature campaign staff to run City Hall and sidelined all the experienced people, which will bring you down. You may have enough votes on the council to get anything approved by the counsel; yet, ultimately, you will not be able to return to these communities and ask for their help if you ignore their issues.

I have given you so many proposals to do a few things for our communities but you have expressed to me the feeling that you have no intention to do anything for minorities. You allowed forming Hispanic community outreach program but rejected to give any access to other communities. This is contrary to all the campaign promises and speeches you made during your campaign trail. You always talk about boards and commissions but putting few kids on a board is not an accomplishment on your part. You need to show that you are Mayor of all of Houston, and not for some special interest group.

Our community raised more than half a million dollars in contribution, out of which I raised \$ 150,000 in cash, and \$10,000 in kind. I volunteered my one-year of time for you, which is worth \$104,000. I established your campaign office in Clear Lake, and worked tirelessly in the campaign office, spent \$2,000 for shirts, valets, pens and other decorated material with your name face-printed to make you look good. In return we expected some representation from our communities in City Hall. However lobbyists and political consultants are running City Hall and community leaders who helped you win this place have been sidelined. As stated by a senior politician: "after dark nights comes day, which brings sunshine and we need to wait for our day." I have worked with three prime ministers of Pakistan, worked with Mayor Brown on all three elections, on his transition team, and have been involved on all sides of the political arena. However, I have never been involved with such a polarized team as you have set.

I therefore regretfully resign from my position to pursue my business and wait for the next election cycle.  
July 10, 2004:

### **Letter to Honorable Sheila Jackson Lee (Congresswoman District 118)**

Dear Mrs. Lee:

Referring to our meeting a few weeks ago, I finally got a chance to see Mayor Bill White last Thursday. We discussed various issues particular about community affairs initiatives for minorities. His approach was different from his promises during his campaign trail. Considering his unwillingness to make any efforts

for minorities I submitted my resignation and left the Mayor's office on Friday July 9, 2004.

As you know, I was the first person from minority communities who joined his election team after consulting Mayor Brown. I raised him about 150K in contributions and volunteered from March 2003 to June 2004. However, he was not interested in making any efforts for our communities.

As desired by you enclosed is my proposal for forming Congressional Advisory Council for South Asian Communities to help our communities and hope you will consider my request favorably.

### **Draft For Office of Sheila Jackson Lee**

U.S. House Of Representatives, 18th District, Texas 1919 Smith Street # 1180 Houston Texas 77002

### **Congressional Advisory Council for South Asian Communities**

#### **OBJECTIVES:**

Houston being a multi-cultural and multi-ethnic City consists of several large communities. According to unofficial census there are approximately 250,000 Muslims and 125,000 Indians living in the Houston Metropolitan area. There are about 70,000 Pakistanis, 25,000 Bangladeshis and over 100,000 Arabs living in these areas.

These communities work close-net with each other and have been very active in the mainstream American politics besides being very successful in achieving American dream of self-reliance and business development. These communities are very peaceful with minimum crime rate, and no illegal activity but lack of interaction with local politicians and government agencies.

This program shall help the congressional district office to mobilize these communities to take part in various community activities initiated by the Congresswoman Sheila Jackson Lee. This shall also bring both sides closer to each other and to have them work to pursue the common goal of community welfare.

#### **Organization:**

Congresswoman Sheila Jackson Lee shall appoint a South Asian Community Leader to lead the group with the support of the current District Staff in Houston Office. This community Liaison person shall form an Advisory Council consisting of leaders from all

South Asian community organizations and meet with the community leaders on periodical basis to discuss the issues faced by either side. A monthly meeting will be held at alternative places like town hall meetings, which can bring the common people with their grievances. Office of the community Liaison shall follow up the cases afterward. This will open up doors for many new participants from various parts of the community and shall bring very positive results.

Financial Implications:

No financial or budgetary requirements are necessary for this program except serving some food or snacks during the meetings.

### **Office of Sheila Jackson Lee, U.S. House of Representatives, 18th District, Texas Congressional Advisory Council for South Asian Communities (DRAFT)**

Honorable Sheila Jackson Lee Chair-Person  
Director South Asian Advisory Council

Proposed Members of Community Organizations:

- 1: President Indian cultural Center
- 2: President Pakistani association Of Greater Houston
- 3: President Islamic Society of Greater Houston
- 4: President Hindu Samaj
- 5: President Bangladesh Association
- 6: President Iranian Cultural center
- 7: President Arab Cultural center
- 8: President Bahai Society
- 9: President Ahmedi Society
- 10: President Alnoor Society
- 11: President Shia Muslim Center
- 12: President Agha Khan Ismaili Society
- 13: President Indian chamber of Commerce
- 14: President Pakistan Chamber of commerce
- 15: President Iranian Chamber of Commerce
- 16: President Arab chamber of Commerce
- 17: President South Asian Chamber of Commerce
- 18: Consul General India
- 19: Consul General Pakistan
- 20: Consul General Egypt
- 21: Consul General Jordan

Conclusion:

Due to negative propaganda by some groups this initiative was never implemented though the Congresswoman was very inclined to establish this task force which could have brought broad benefits for our communities.

October 16, 2005:

### **Briefing for Congresswoman Sheila Jackson Lee . Meeting with Pakistani Muslim Community Leaders Earth Quake Relief initiative.**

This meeting has been arranged to brief the Pakistani community leaders on Congresswoman's initiatives to support the relief efforts after massive earth quake hit Pakistan.

So far no one has made any effort to think about future problems faced by the victims of the earth quake. In particular an excessive of orphans will surface after this tragedy. This will be a heaven for some people to take these children to put them to child labor camps and sell innocent girls to prostitution rings for sale to the brothels all over the country.

To protect these innocent children this is the best initiative anyone has taken to rehabilitate the injured and provide homes for the orphans.

Adoption in Islam is somewhat restricted comparing to our laws here. However, Prophet Mohammad also adopted a child Zaid Bin Harris and he was so close to the Prophet that he used to call him his own son. Therefore people started calling him Zaid Bin Mohammed that is where revelation was sent to the Prophet that he could not give him his name but encouraged the faithful to help the orphans to the highest level. Yes you cannot give them your name but you could help them to live a decent life. This should be the slogan for us to achieve the optimum results from this initiative.

I have asked Dr. Aziz Siddiqui, Former President Islamic Society of Greater Houston, to present an Islamic view about the adoption. His observations will coincide with the initiative.

At present various small groups are making separate efforts to help the victims. No unified effort has been made which has created so much confusion in the community. Congresswoman should lay emphasis to use one platform which is Pakistan Association of Greater Houston to do all the relief efforts. This association is approved 501C charter and donations can be tax deductible.

Also we can use House of Charity (Hashmat Effendi Director) to help us in getting the injured children housed and given medical

attention. This charity has been doing similar work on a small scale but can handle a few hundred children who are injured or are victims of trauma. This is also a 501C charter organization and donations will be tax deductible.

Pakistan Association should co-ordinate with Consul general of Pakistan Mr. G.R. Baluch to ship the necessary goods and donations.

Congresswoman should appeal to all to work together on one platform and help the needy.

This is a good time to announce the Congressional Advisory Council for South Asia who could support these communities at the time of the need.

This advisory council can play an important role to achieve the results from the Congresswoman this and many future initiatives. This advisory council shall comprise the true elected leaders of the various groups who could play important political role in the future. I will urge you to announce this initiative at this time of the day.

Conclusion:

Due to negative publicity by some of our opponents, Congresswoman shied away from the initiative of sponsoring orphans. However, the money raised by various groups was funneled to the President's Relief Fund.

December 15, 2000

### **Letter to President George W. Bush to Establish a President's Advisory Council for Minority Affairs**

Dear Mr. President,

Firstly, please accept our congratulations on becoming our president of the United States of America. As a member of your exploratory committee, I have taken the liberty to write a few things for your consideration. Election results have clearly showed that the Nation is completely divided. In particular, all the minorities have a deeply rooted feeling that their vote and voice was not counted and you stole the election from their candidate.

You should also be aware of the fact that, with and exception of the Muslim community of the Unites States, all the minorities voted for Mr. Al Gore. If you recollect at our meeting at Westin Galleria last year, I brought to your attention the point that there were approximately 1.3 million Muslim votes that you could make use of to make a big difference. Now, I hope that you have realized

that without the Muslim support you would not have become the president. I also hope that you will not forget this phenomenon.

This time around, the nations, in general, and the minorities, in particular, are divided and you have to make extra efforts to soothe their pain. The minorities have been suffering on many levels and need a shoulder to lean on. Bring all of these minorities at one table to have them work together and allow them their due representation in the process: this will guarantee your next term victory, for which you have to start working from now on.

Therefore, if you want to make history, try to bring all the minorities together. My suggestion would be to establish a President's council for the minorities.

I have attached a basic outline of the council I suggest.

Let it be known that you are not the president of Anglos only, but the president of all the Americans, regardless of their color, religion or sex, etc.

I hope you will consider my ideas and take immediate steps to bring all the minorities at one table to work with you, not against you.

My best regards and good luck be with you in Washington D.C. God Bless America.

Sincerely Yours,

Manzoor Memon

### **Draft: Presidents Advisory Council for Minority Affairs**

Purpose:

To mobilize all the minorities of the United States of America

Budget:

10 million dollars for each state, totaling to .5 billion dollars.

Manpower:

To nominate one member from each minority group from each state.

President to nominate his council from each of the minority groups.

African American

Hispanic

Jewish

Muslim

Women

Hindu

American Indian  
Chinese and Far East Countries

Each of the states' advisory board should elect a chairman for one year who would coordinate with state officials for community problems.

The president's advisory board will travel from state to state to evaluate the problems faced by the minorities and report to the president to make policy decisions to improve circumstances for the minorities.

Final Result to be achieved: Give minorities the feeling that they are welcome to the System and are treated with equality and fairness.

Conclusion:

Just a week after President Bush's swearing ceremony, a faith-based initiative was announced by the President. However, the minorities have suffered a lot during this administration and most of the programs have been either eliminated or slowed down. This might cost the Republican Party 2008 elections particularly if the Democratic Party nominates Senator Hillary Clinton as their candidate.

February 20, 2003:

### **Deer Park man objects to possible 'grouping' of confiscated houses**

**By Joseph Molnar Houston Chronicle Correspondent**

A local Deer Park resident asked the city Tuesday night to avoid implementing a plan which he says will restrict buyers with less money from purchasing confiscated properties.

Manzoor Memon voiced his concern that the city might decide to group the houses it confiscates from defaulted taxpayers into lots. The lots allow cities to sell off more houses at one time, but because they are grouped, the cost is higher.

Memon says only large companies or groups of buyers could afford that option.

City Manager Ronald Crabtree said Deer Park has not been grouping its properties. "That's not what we've done with any of these properties in the past," he said. "If we have three separate homes, we have three separate sales."

He said City Attorney Jim Fox will submit a report to City Council in the next month containing a list of a half-dozen

properties that can be sold. Council will then determine the best way to sell the properties, although it isn't likely to consider grouping them.

"The effort here is to get these properties to where the public can bid on them, take possession of them, put them back into productive use and put them back into the tax rolls," he said.

Crabtree cautions potential buyers of these homes about the risk of assuming properties with existing debts.

Each property has certain requirements that might involve debts to taxing entities, such as the school district and county. Crabtree said most homeowners who owe back taxes to one taxing entity will owe them on others as well, and those debts are sometimes transferred with the property. Unless the taxing entity waives the taxes, penalties and interest, the debt is purchased with the property.

"It may be that there is \$100,000 owed in taxes on a piece of property, and they buy it for \$50, 000," he said. "From my standpoint, we would want to waive whatever we had owed to us, beyond what was paid for the property, just in the effort to get the property back to some productive use.

"But I do not know about the other jurisdictions, and what they would choose to do."

Crabtree said the properties will not be available until a few more months, but the information on them will be available for a few more months, but the information on them will be available through the city secretary and city tax offices when that happens.

Conclusion:

No policy change has been observed since this article as special interest and insiders get the information to buy the properties at lower prices and the common man does not get to see those properties.

August 18, 2004:

### **Letter to US Senator John Edwards.**

On behalf of the South Asian communities, I wanted to thank you for recognizing our community, not only during your visit to Houston but during the national convention. Many of us are working very hard to educate South Asian voters to vote for your ticket and I am glad the response is positive.

The Muslim communities are also very eager to support us, as John Ashcroft's negative policies have affected them. If you would

like, I can help mobilize the South Asians nation-wide to pursue their votes and financial support.

Sincerely Yours,

Conclusion:

Senator John Edward came several times to Houston and was briefed about problems faced by the Muslims in general and he was very receptive. Several people specially Nomi Hassan; Lutfi Hassan worked very hard for Kerry/Edward ticket. The election was lost due to very organized movement by the right wing volunteers particularly in Ohio, which changed the course of the country.

December 8, 1998:

**Letter to U S Senator Hon. Kay Bailey Hutchinson,  
For Stranded Pakistani Flagship Crew**

Dear Madam Senator:

This is with regard to bringing to your attention a humanitarian issue for a favor of your immediate attention.

You might be aware that a Pakistani flagged ship has been docked near South Padre Island, which has been abandoned by the company due to bankruptcy. The crew of twenty-two men has been without food and medical attention, and is suffering from skin diseases because of drinking rain and sea water. The Pakistani communities with their limited sources are sending a group of eight people with food, clothing and first aid medical supplies.

To mention further, during their anchorage near a Mexican shore, the Mexican authorities seized their passports. As they do not have any documents, we will not be able to help them to provide any medical help on shore.

We request your good offices to immediately intervene in this matter and help these poor people.

We suggest that if your office could get INS (Immigration and Naturalization Services) involved and get them off board under their supervision, and bring them to Houston, we will provide all the funds and medical help here and arrange for their passage back to Pakistan.

We are hopeful that you will help us in this matter of utmost importance on the humanitarian grounds.

Thank You,

Conclusion:

Senator Hutchinson's office called me within a few hours of receiving this letter by fax. Upon intervention of the Senator, all the crew members were given temporary visas and brought to the Houston Pakistan Community and the community provided the assistance and raised funds to send them back home. Thanks to Senator Bailey Hutchinson. Please do closely collaborate with your representatives who can help you at the time of your need.

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### FOLLOWING ARE FEW LETTERS WRITTEN TO EDITORS OF VARIOUS NEWS PAPERS.

December 20, 1998

To: Julie.mason@chron.com

#### **Response to: “Mayor Brown Trips over Problems at City Hall”**

Hi, Julie I read your article

#### **“Mayor Brown trips over problems at city hall”**

My comments are as follows:

Since Brown became Mayor, the Chronicle has never been fair with him, mainly because Anglo candidate Mosbacher was defeated by an African American candidate who was better than him. Unfortunately, Anglo communities could not play the games of previous elections in which Turner lost to Lanier only because he was an African American. The first two years of Brown’s administration were completely ignored by the Chronicle and now when the Anglos see him so strong, it is about time you all were tripping because he is not going anywhere for the next four years. Considering the demographics of Houston, which is composed of international nations, this is the first time Houston has seen an international mayor and this is bothering the Anglos. But you need to be fair to all the communities living in Houston, and I can see that Brown is the Mayor for all, not for a few selected ones. In the past, everything Brown did is not good enough for you, as it is not benefiting you. If he is working to revitalize the Downtown area you do not like it, since it will bother those for whom HOV lanes were built so that they

can live in suburbs and come to downtown to make big money. You do not like that he will have rail systems built which will upgrade downtown and may create a few jobs for minorities. You do not like Brown because he stands for the poor and ignored minorities. Knowing Brown personally, I think he is the best thing that has happened to this city of international communities and I think if we support him; it will do a lot of good to the city. I hope you will look at him with color blind eyes and see what he is doing for all of Houstonians. Please be fair with him.

Viewpoints at [www.houstonchronicle.com](http://www.houstonchronicle.com)

#### **Brown was on the Job:**

I fully agree with your analysis about Mayor Lee P. Brown’s performance during recent flooding. His dedicated person and calm attitude once again proved that he is the right person for the job. Not only was he on the road from 6 a.m. to midnight from the day the flooding started, but his wife, Francis, was also working behind doors to help the needy.

On Sunday, after the flood had receded, I called Mayor Brown to ask if the Pakistan Association of Greater Houston could provide any assistance. Brown asked that we coordinate our efforts with Frances. Mrs. Brown, along with our group and 11 medical volunteers organized by my daughter Sana, rushed to LBJ Hospital where there was a severe shortage of staff. Mrs. Brown, our volunteers, and I worked from 9 a.m. to 7 p.m. until additional nurses and doctors arrived from Memorial Hospital.

We must appreciate the city employees’ efforts and everyone who participated in relief efforts. With Mayor Brown’s leadership we will make Houston a world-class city and a better place to live.

February 24, 2003:

To: [viewpoints@chron.com](mailto:viewpoints@chron.com)

#### **Response to: “Chief C.O. Bradford’s Perjury Case”**

Dear Editor:

Please, refer to your article about Chief C.O. Bradford my comments are as follows.

The perjury case against Chief Bradford was not only wasting the tax payers’ money but it was also a failure of our grand jury system. My trust level in the system is at the bottom. Now anyone who does not like anything of me can put me in the misery of self defense and I will just hurl all my life savings to pay for my defense.

I think we should have law by which these kind of legal fees be paid by the state or county to protect innocent people like Chief C.O. Bradford.

Viewpoints at [www.houstonchronicle.com](http://www.houstonchronicle.com)

### **Disasters Bring Early Christmas for Politician**

Like the Tsunami, Hurricane Katrina, Hurricane Rita, the earthquake in Pakistan, has brought an early Christmas for many politicians. I wonder if what we see on TV, hear on the radio, and read in newspapers, is true as politician brag about their contributions to help the poor people affected by these disasters. I have attended several events to raise money to help the victims and mostly I have seen politicians projecting themselves and their agenda to get votes rather than helping the poor. In one case, I noticed Councilman M.J. Khan gradually was getting more time on the TV screen to show that he was helping the Mayor during Hurricane Rita. Mr. Khan and several politicians are trying to cash their positions to get re-elected but we need to evaluate what they have done to help the poor victims of these disasters. Maybe we can ask for accountability of these politicians to make public what efforts they made except getting free publicity from the media.

The Pakistan Association of Greater Houston and the Pakistan Chamber of Commerce, U.S.A. opened their community center as a shelter during Hurricane Katrina and relocated 270 families and served food and supplies to 2,500 families. During Hurricane Rita, the Pakistani Community Center was ready to accommodate evacuees. Now, after the earthquake in Pakistan, these civic associations are ahead of many and are collecting funds to send their representatives to provide relief efforts directly to the victims of the earthquake. Politicians should collaborate with civic organizations to support such relief efforts rather than just get free media projections in order to get re-elected.

May 22, 2004:

Viewpoints at [www.houstonchronicle.com](http://www.houstonchronicle.com)

### **Response to: “Mayor Already Took Pay-Cut for city”**

In James Clair’s May 21 letter, “City workers take brunt,” he asked if Mayor Bill White is taking a cut in salary or else working harder.

While working as the chief executive officer of the Wedge Group, Bill White must have been earning more than \$1 million in

salary and stock options. He used to work executive hours, but now he works from 6 a.m. to 10 p.m., seven days a week, with a modest city salary of about \$120 thousand a year (approximately \$16 per hour).

Do you not conjecture he has already taken a huge pay-cut to serve our city?

I know Mayor Bill White has to make some tough budget decisions, but at the end of the day, it will bring positive results for all.

To: [Viewpoints@Chronicle.com](mailto:Viewpoints@Chronicle.com)

### **“It’s more like a big thumb down for Bush’s staff”**

Responding to Elizabeth Drew’s article “It’s more like a big thumbs down for Bush’s staff” I agree with her assessments.

Bush’s staff is keeping him away from all the minorities: the African Americans, Jews, Asians, and the Hispanics.

I was a member of Bush’s exploratory committee and during a reception in Houston out of 500 participants; there were about ten minority participants.

If Bush is relying on Anglo voters only, he is not likely to get close to Gore’s success. Times and demographics have changed Bush’s need to bring people from various walks of life, origins, religions, and educational backgrounds to make a homogenous group to fight this election; otherwise I foresee the same results as met by senior Bush’s last election.

Money may buy votes, but if you let everyone play a role in the system, you have a better chance to win. Learn a lesson from

Lee Brown. He gathered a homogenous group of people in his campaign and despite all the big money Moshbacher had, Brown still stood out as a winner.

May 14, 1998:

Viewpoints at [www.houstonchronicle.com](http://www.houstonchronicle.com)

### **Given the Neighborhood, India had to go Nuclear**

Please refer to Dr. Huku Israni’s article “Given the neighborhood, India had to go Nuclear” published on May 14, 1998. My views are as follows:

Nuclear bombs may unite 980 million Indians against the United States, but it will not feed the poor and hungry. India cannot compare itself with industrialized countries of the world that

possess nuclear devices. People of these countries are not dying of hunger and starvation like in India, where the majority of the people are living in poverty. India should develop programs to feed their poor rather than becoming a nuclear power to escalate the arms-race in the region.

Next, Pakistan is going to divert most of its resources to produce nuclear devices. This will result in more starvation of both Pakistanis and Indians. Poor people of Pakistan and India will be the great sufferers not the privileged like us living in the United States of America.

Pakistan and India must resolve their disputes, settle the Kashmir issue, and live like decent and cultured neighbors. They should sign a no-war pact for twenty five years, reduce their armies by fifty percent, and utilize their resources for industrialization of their countries. Once every Indian and every Pakistani is provided with basic amenities of life such as those in other industrialized countries and have enough resources to divert towards nuclear program, only then can they opt for becoming nuclear powers.

February 15, 2000:  
Washington Post

### **“Clinton’s Asian Agenda Calls for Tricky Maneuvers”**

Mr. Jim Hoagland:

In reference to your editorial “Clinton’s Asian Agenda Calls for Tricky Maneuvers,” one needs to consider the following facts as well.

Your comments “Drop the Pakistan stop over idea now. Recognize China’s self-interested pleading on India and ignore it politely and go to India with realistic goals rather than in quest of legacy,” are disappointing and show that either you are insensitive about the region or you are paid by the Indian lobbyists.

The United States of America should not forget that Pakistan has stood up shoulder to shoulder by implementing their strategically agenda in the region which brought communism down, causing the fall of the Russian Empire. It was Pakistan which served as a bridge between the United States and China. Pakistan has always supported the United States’ interest and now you are of the view to drop it: you mean to dump the country.

Realistically, Pakistan is as important as India and President Clinton must visit both countries and work on the following issues to bring stability in the region.

Pursue the Army Junta to restore democracy and give a schedule before Clinton makes the decision to visit Pakistan.

Be a mediator between Pakistan and India to resolve the Kashmir issue, which is threatening the region with a nuclear war if no resolution is enforced in the next few years. Even if the United States policy makers have decided to catalyze war between India and China, (to destabilize the region by pushing China as well as India behind in their economic progress), it will not be a wise move to ignore Pakistan which can be used as a buffer any time. For a short run, it may be a good policy to keep Pakistan and India or India and China at war, but in the long run the United States needs more friends in the region than enemies. Pursuing a policy of divide and rule like the British Empire may be successful in the short run, but on the long, it can collapse world power status of the United States just like the fall of the British Empire. We need to preach for world peace and use all our resources to bring peace in the Middle East, South East Asia and Eastern Europe. And the United States can play a vital role to restore democracy in these troubled areas.

May 18, 2004:

Viewpoints at [www.houstonchronicle.com](http://www.houstonchronicle.com)

### **“Uncle Sam’s Coattails didn’t reach India**

Subject: Policy Failures

With reference to an article by Jim Hoagland, “Uncle Sam’s Coattails Didn’t Reach India,” my comments are as follows:

Our foreign policy is based on short term goals and on our elections. Every four to eight years we sideline someone else resulting in losing friends all around the globe. Our policy has been to buy out leaders, not to reach the people of foreign countries. How can we give billions of the taxpayers’ money and still they burn our flag in their backyards. This is only because we do not go to their neighborhood and improve their life. We do not create programs to improve their infrastructure which can give them jobs, medical care, not do we help build educational institutions or small industries. The result is that we have kings and army dictators as our friends all over the globe but their countrymen are our enemies. If we want to keep the influence on many countries, we need to make sure that the aid given to them must be used, not to upgrade their armies but to improve lives of the poor people. Then and only then will we get pro-American leaders elected in those countries.

December 12, 1999:

To: Webmaster@dawn.com

### **Economic Fantasies of General Pervaiz Musharaf**

General Musharaf's speech, written by some Harvard Graduate, was full of economic fantasies. However, our foremost concerns of restoring democratic institutions have completely been ignored. Moreover, accountability of the Army generals was not mentioned. Eighty percent of the country's budget goes to unnecessary maintenance of the Army personnel. He has no plans to reduce expenses in that area, nor has any plans to weigh the assets of the generals. I am not pleading for politicians, but I would like to see the process of accountability in action across the table. Then and only then will this country be revitalized. In addition, on one hand General Sahib is stating to be equally fair to the four provinces and on the other, has abolished quota system and wants to hire everyone on a merit system. Merit system is only fair if the government provides the same facilities to a child born in Karachi and the one born in a village of Sind or Punjab or Baluchistan. Quota system must be implemented and merits should be within rural and urban areas. General Sahib, as usual, like Zia, wants to stay as long as it takes to eliminate all the political forces that can hinder his way. Maybe we are going to see another ten years of Army rule like that of in the time of Zia.

### **Letter to President Pervaiz Musharaf:**

#### **Subject: Changing the Course of a Nation**

As General Zia, who promised to restore institutions within ninety days but governed the country for 11 years and abdicated only by meeting a drastic death; how long will your time table of two years last?

People, especially from the Punjab, are not happy to see as Urdu speaking general taking over the democratic government with a majority rule by the Punjab. Their perception is that Urdu speaking people have always come behind doors to grab power. You need to prove that you are working in the interest of the country and not for your community. Your actions to handle the MQM will be a test of your administration as to where your sympathies are.

Finally, honesty which was supposed to be the best policy is no longer the true fact in Pakistan. We need to restore confidence

among all the brethren of the nation. We must ensure equality for all the people in the house based on general criteria of population. If we could achieve satisfaction among all the members of the federation, then this family will survive. If you fail to provide the goods then this family does not deserve to stay under one roof and will be split into weaker pieces rather than one strong house. So the ball is in your court. Though you have been forced to jump in this situation, maybe God almighty will save this nation through you. So good luck. We are all anxiously waiting to see what measures are taken.

My prayers are with you to change the course of this nation.

(My prediction was correct that General Sahib is still making moves to hold to the power and has done nothing for the common men.

June, 2004:

Viewpoints at [www.houstonchronicle.com](http://www.houstonchronicle.com)

**Response to:**

### **President of Pakistan General Pervaiz Musharaf's article: "A plea to Muslims for Enlightened Moderation"**

In reference to President of Pakistan General Pervaiz Musharaf's article: "A plea to Muslims for enlightened moderation" my comments are as follows:

I fully agree with the general that until and unless cleansing against Muslims all over the globe is not stopped, uprising of people will not end. One should not forget the desperation level of those young people who are ready to blow their bodies, only because they have no other way to show their frustration. We may spend billions of dollars to fight terrorism but we will not be successful until we reduce the desperation within those under privileged communities.

To reduce terrorism we must support true democracies (not staged democracy like Pakistan), establish educational institutions, upgrade infrastructure, and create jobs through small industries in poor countries.

We as pioneers of the democracy, sideline with dictators to achieve our short term goals but never make an effort to upgrade lives of poor people. We donate billions of our tax dollars to third world countries, but why? People still hate us and burn our flag any time they get a hand on it.

Moderation can only be achieved if people are treated equally, by giving them political freedom and opportunities to make a decent living. Poverty and starvation will never bring moderation.

Fancy words from politicians have no effect over those people, as they know that at the end of the day the poor remain poor; whereas, the rich get richer by the day.

Viewpoints at [www.houstonchronicle.com](http://www.houstonchronicle.com)

### **Pakistan: an Erratic Dance Partner in War on Terror**

With reference to Jim Hoagland's article Pakistan: an Erratic Dance Partner in War on Terror, my comments are as follows.

American policy towards Pakistan has also been based on the basis of personal needs. We have always supported the Army Dictators to achieve our short term goals and never let the democratic institutions flourish. One needs to analyze why the common man of Pakistan waves a banner "Death to America" or burns our flag? This is because we have done nothing to upgrade their day to day lives. 85 % of the aid given to Pakistan is used for military maintenance and up gradation. There is no infrastructure, no schools and no hospitals for the poor.

If U.S.A. wants to be successful in the third world countries, we must stop backing dictators and take measures to facilitate the process of true democracy and provide funding to upgrade institutions, build industries and create jobs for the poor. Only then will these people stop burning our flag.

Viewpoints at [www.houstonchronicle.com](http://www.houstonchronicle.com)

### **Feud Swells in Pakistani Community.**

This is with reference to Edward Hegstrom's article titled "Feud Swells in Pakistani Community." I regret to say that this is a one-sided story narrated by Mr. Hegstrom. As I was one of the few people who were interviewed by Mr. Hegstrom to write this article, the content seems to be very unfair and biased. Ghulam Bombaywala's hard work, honest, genuine, and sincere community service has been overshadowed by his personal bankruptcy. I wonder if this article is written to crucify Bombaywala or to let us know about the split and division in the Pakistani community.

Yes, there is split in the community as happens in every vibrant and active community. It is because of the difference of opinion and variation of views but not because of Bombaywala's financial problems.

Bombaywala has led Pakistani American Association of Greater Houston (PAGH) for the last five years and has done both an exemplary and commendable job to serve the Pakistani

community. His major achievement is to take an insolvent and in debt community organization with assets of minus \$11000 inherited by him at the expiration of M. J. Khan's tenure as President of PAGH, to a politically powerful and economically successful corporation with assets of approximately 2 million dollars.

The split is because Bombaywala and his group won the elections and have been winning for the last five years. Whereas M.J. Khan's group has been pulling all the negative tactics and undemocratic procedures to take control of the organization, without the mandate of the people. M. J. Khan's group has boycotted the elections because they cannot win democratically held elections.

The split is because two Pakistanis ran for District F seat to execute M.J. Khan, who has accomplished and delivered nothing to serve the community, even though being President of PAGH for six years as well as City Council man for the last two years. This is a battle and clash between two groups and two ideologies. Dragging in the arena Bombaywala's personal financial matters had nothing to do with the community.

The split is because M. J. Khan's group that has led the PAGH for decades could not build a community center to serve the people. Bombaywala has achieved the goal and Pakistani Community center has become a reality. This center has been serving not only the Pakistani community but also the mainstream Americans as seen during the Katrina and Rita Hurricanes. This center was the hub for tons of relief supplies sent to earthquake victims in Pakistan. M. J. Khan has done all the lip service and photo-ops but come up with no concrete help to the people who are suffering.

M. J. Khan represents a small ethnic group of the Pakistanis who are seven percent of the Pakistani population; whereas, Bombaywala represents every ethnic group of Pakistan. M. J. Khan has never held a job in his life and has been supported by his wife throughout his life. Whereas, Bombaywala came here with nothing and made a fortune and now, if he is passing through some bumpy and tough times, we should not crucify this man just because M. J. Khan couldn't deliver to the community what Bombaywala did.

I, as a trustee of the Pakistani community center, in all solemnity, guarantee that this center is an economically viable project and financially self-sustained venture. It will serve the needs of the Pakistani community. This center will provide the services for senior citizens, after-school programs, low-income medical care, computer training, and language classes and will be used as a family meeting place. The rental income from retail shopping center in the

front face of the center shall pay off the 1.5 million loan acquired to purchase and remodel the existing HEB building located at 12368 Bissonnet at Dairy Ashford.

In short this is a classic example of the historical conflict: between the person reaching the peak and the other person who has done nothing for anybody. There is a split based on political motives not the community issues.

Houston is home of 70,000 Pakistanis, mostly engineers, doctors and businessmen. In such a big group of people comprising a community, there is always difference of opinion. However, this community is proud of their heritage and is busy in serving the city of Houston and trying to achieve excellence in all fields of life. We are proud that we are serving this community and are part of the mainstream American system.

Conclusion:

With hard work of Bombaywala and my self we transformed the old HEB Grocery building to a 3 million dollar community center which is one of its kind Pakistani American Community Center in North America. Upon my complaint Ed Hegstorm was reprimanded and eventually left Houston Chronicle. This shows the power of the pen which is mightier than sharp swords. M.J. Khan got elected as City Councilman has never visited the Pakistani American Community Center nor he has supported the project though this center is located in his own District F.

September 2006:

Viewpoints at [www.houstonchronicle.com](http://www.houstonchronicle.com)

## **Homeless in Houston**

Reference to your report, about discouraging to give your change to the homeless; my comments are as follows.

Attached you will find two reports on the subject above written by me while working as Advisor to Mayor South Asian Affairs City of Houston from July 2002 to August 2004.

The solution suggested by Mayor Bill White, not to give your change to homeless but to donate it to the charities will not solve the Homeless problem.

Most of the charities spend 85 % of charitable funds in administrative expenses and only 15 % funds are used in real programs. HUD and other federal funds given to so many charities have produced no long-term solutions to eradicate homeless people from streets.

In my view, following are the long-term solutions.

1. All HUD and Federal funds disbursed to charities should be audited and a cap of 40% administrative cost is imposed.
2. Mayor should appoint a council for Homeless to give recommendations and long term solutions where and how to move the homeless from streets.
3. Following City of San Francisco pattern City of Houston should originate a homeless Park with small log cabins with wooded bed and a small closet. This log cabin is assigned to homeless for only one week at a time. This way we can move the people from streets and under bridges.
4. Start a Public Awareness program so that major corporate donors and wealthy people can create some programs to help the homeless by getting them jobs.
5. A coalition between City Restaurants and Food bank is created which can collect left over foods from Restaurants and distributed to the homeless.
6. Veteran's Administration should take charge of the majority of the homeless who are Vietnam veterans who have been abandoned by the government.
7. Many of the homeless are mentally challenged and MHRA cannot provide services for them. State, County and City should find ways to get help to so many of those who need mental healthcare.

Politicians always talk about homeless and poor but I don't see any programs implemented to help the needy. Let us stop talking and act sincerely and make the things happen to help these homeless.

May 28,2008

Viewpoints at [www.houstonchronicle.com](http://www.houstonchronicle.com)

## **Mayor Bill White's Green Houston Initiative.**

I worked on Mayor Bill White's first election campaign for about a year and then worked with him in City Hall till August 2004. Mayor White always preached about environment during his speeches on campaign trail but after getting elected he spent more time to make friends to achieve higher office.

Just two months after his election someone raised a question to him during a public meeting held at Papa's Sea Food if this was his step on the ladder to get elected as Governor of Texas . He denied categorically. But every action you analyze Mayor White worked

his way to achieve higher office rather than serving the common man and women of Houston.

In his six years:

Crime is up due to mismanagement of Katrina and Rita.  
Traffic congestion is worse and his mobility plan has failed  
Property taxes are down but property values have been made sky rocketing to get more taxes from us. Pollution is on the rise and now at the end of his tenure he wants to be champion of environment.

Except building a park in Down Town no infrastructure improvements have been made in upgrading inner city. Metro rail plan is on stand still which could have saved us millions due to high rising oil prices.

In my view Mayor White stands for I, me and myself.

To: VIEWPOINTS@CHRON.COM

Sent: 6/21/2008 1:50:17 P.M. Central Daylight Time

### **Islam, tolerance and Interfaith Initiatives**

Pakistan Times is one of the few local Pakistani newspapers which expose dirty laundry of Pakistani political figures resulting this turmoil. Just recently this paper wrote some articles exposing embezzlement and misappropriation of community funds and fraudulent dealings of Executives of Pakistani American Community Center which has resulted in boycott of Pakistan Times by some advertisers. This is not a religious crusade but a political revenge. This is the time when we need interfaith initiatives and dialogue between all the religions. Where as some Pakistani politicians are using religion to damage Islam and its teachings of tolerance and equality. America is the only country where everyone is welcome to be part of the system without being judged of some ones color, religion or ethnicity. We must not encourage religious extremism but be tolerant and open minded of everyone.

Viewpoints at [www.houstonchronicle.com](http://www.houstonchronicle.com)

### **U.S. shouldn't back Musharraf**

Since 9/11, Pakistan's president, Gen. Pervaiz Musharraf, has been misleading the United States with a deceptive and ambiguous

war against terrorism. To satisfy the Bush administration's agenda, Musharraf has very deceitfully drained billions in aid that was distributed among the top army officers without any trace and government audit. Musharraf's slogan of "enlightened moderation" to support secular elements has produced more extremism, abhorrence and extreme dislike for the United States. It is time the U.S. government stopped supporting a dictator and enforced measures to bring democratic forces in power.

(This letter was printed in Houston chronicle as well as USA-Today on its second page)

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— MANZOOR A. MEMON  
*executive director, American Muslim Chamber of Commerce-USA, Deer Park*

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LETTERS  
POLICY

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**Viewpoints**  
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Fax: 713-362-3575

We welcome and encourage letters and e-mails from readers. Letters must include the name, address and telephone numbers for verification purposes only. All letters are subject to editing.

## Time to shut down Pakistan's dictatorship

Since Sept. 11, 2001, Gen. Pervez Musharraf has been misleading the Western powers — particularly the United States. To satisfy the Bush administration's agenda, Musharraf has misused billions of dollars in aid ("Pakistan dismisses U.S. call to end emergency," USATODAY.com, Nov. 18).

It's time for the U.S. government to stop supporting a dictator and to enforce measures to bring democratic forces into power. My recommendations:

- Musharraf should resign and be replaced by Gen. Ashfaq Kiyani, the deputy army chief, until a new president can be democratically elected.

- The "state of emergency" should be lifted, the 1973 Constitution should be restored and the Supreme Court should regain its prominent status.

- The Pakistani media should be able to print and broadcast without restrictions.

- An impartial election commission should be formed to hold free and fair elections.

Manzoor A. Memon  
Executive director  
American Muslim  
Chamber of Commerce — USA  
Deer Park, Texas



**Musharraf:** Pakistani general came to power through a coup eight years ago.

### USA TODAY OPINION

#### Comment...

welcome your original responses to USA TODAY. There are two platforms where you can share your views:

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Comments sent to the editor and articles submitted to USA TODAY may be published or distributed in electronic or other forms.

### Brown was on the job

I fully agree with your analysis about Mayor Lee P. Brown's performance during recent flooding. His dedicated and calm attitude once again proved that he is the right person for the job.

Not only was he on the road from 6 a.m. to midnight from the day the flooding started, his wife, Francis, was working behind doors to help the needy.

On Sunday after the flood had receded, I called Mayor Brown to ask if the Pakistan Association of Greater Houston could provide any assistance. Brown asked that we coordinate our efforts with Francis. Mrs. Brown, along with our group and 14 medical volunteers, rushed to LBJ Hospital where there was a severe shortage of staff. Mrs. Brown and the

group worked until additional nurses and doctors arrived from Memorial Hospital.

We must appreciate the city employees' efforts, as well as everyone who participated in relief efforts.

With Mayor Brown's leadership we will make this a world-class city and a better place to live.

Manzoor Memon, Deer Park

### Mayor already took pay cut for city

In James Clair's May 21 letter, "City workers take brunt," he asked if Mayor Bill White is taking a cut in salary or else working harder.

While working as the chief executive officer of the Wedge Group, Bill White must be earning more than \$1 million in salary and stock options.

He used to work executive hours, but now he works from 6 a.m. to 10 p.m., seven days a week, with a modest city salary of about \$120 thousand a year. (This is approximately \$16 per hour.)

Don't you think he has already taken a huge pay cut to serve our city?

I know Mayor White has to make some tough budget decisions, but at the end of the day, it will bring positive results for all.

Manzoor A. Memon, Deer Park

## AMERICAN LEGAL SYSTEM

Living in the U.S.A. for the past twenty-five plus years, my family and I have had several encounters with the American legal system. As my father was a magistrate and Revenue Commissioner, I grew up in an environment that gave so much of law and legal system to the upbringing of a child. When I was still very young, my father would get a chair for me to sit on the bench with him to learn how the legal system worked. My four uncles and several cousins are successful attorneys. My wife always commented that I could have been a top lawyer if I had pursued the same career. I have tried to handle a great many of my cases in the American legal system; this enabled me to have an insider's view and grasp about what is happening in the courts in this most civilized country.

The most disturbing thing to note is that building and managing jails has become a profitable business even to the extent that companies are selling stocks on Wall Street floor to encourage you to invest in companies dealing in jails. This is just like funeral homes business, which has always been a profitable trade for many people. This shows that big investors are behind the idea to drag more people in jail rather than providing rehabilitation to the petty criminals.

On the other hand, most of the judges had to run for election on party basis. This forces them to solicit campaign contributions. These contributions are mainly funneled to them through practicing attorneys and special interest groups that are lobbying the building of more jails for profit making. This way the legal system has become a vicious circle for the judges to be puppets rather than practicing unbiased justice to the common man. This is the reason why the rich and famous get away from murder charges and the common man is sentenced to jail the maximum possible degree of penalty.

American society mainly due to poor family values, broken homes, and keeping the minorities in Gatos, has begotten a number of psychological problems in the new generation Americans. This has caused a wave of crime, drug-addiction, and alcohol abuse in reaction to desperate economical conditions. As the American system promotes brand name culture and systematic spending habits, this brings about so many problems in the young generation: their families cannot afford to support their spending propriety and etiquette. This eventually creates desperation and depression among the youth and they end up committing crimes. The society labels such individuals as criminals and a time comes when these people become compulsive criminals. The system has been designed to monitor that these criminals do not get rehabilitated but continue coming back to fill the jails to support financial empires made by some special interest individuals.

Crime rate can only be reduced if at an early stage the criminals undergo strict penalties so that they can in reality be discouraged to repeat any type of mishap to society.

In 1998, when I bought my son a new BMW automobile, he got a speeding traffic ticket. On the day of his hearing I went with him to the court. The local judge and Assistant District Attorney knew me so they asked me what they could do for me. I took the Asst. DA in his chamber and asked him to give the severest possible punishment to my son. He told me that this was his first ticket so he could put him on a three-month probation period or ask him to take a defensive driving course. I, on the other hand, insisted that he should be fully punished. At the end of the day, I pursued him to place him on a probation period of one year and commit him to perform 24 hours of community service in an increment of four hours every weekend to clean Sylvan Beach in LaPorte Texas. The Asst. DA was so overwhelmed by this reaction of mine that after my son had finished his punishment both the judge and DA gave me compliments. They stated that they wished most of the parents would take this type of action to avoid repetition of the crimes from their offspring. They did not know that my son never got another ticket and I kept him safe and healthy. My son still does not know that I forced the DA to punish him to the highest level. Parents who support their children's bad habits must take strict measures at an early stage to streamline their children's ways to life. The judges, side by side, should promote programs to rehabilitate youngsters rather than dump them in jails.

People like us, who have some influence in society, must streamline their ways to discourage crime rather than support the criminals.

In 1957, when I was only 6 years old, I was honored to be the first position holder in my primary School year. My father Karamullah Memon was serving as Muktiarkar of Hyderabad Taluka. He visited my school and enquired about my top position in the class. The teacher proudly told him that I was placed on top since I was his son. My father was not only unhappy with this action but punished me by making me repeat my first grade to ensure that foundation of my education be very strong. This could be one of the contributing factors of my success in life that I was disciplined and we were never let take advantage of our political and official positions.

In 1963, my father was specially posted to curb heavy crime at a tribal area of Jhatpat, 11 miles east of Jacobabad Sindh. Before moving there, he requested the Law Secretary to grant him the special Section 30 power to coupe with the crime. This special power allowed him to award extensive sentencing with no bail from the higher court. Within the first month of his posting in the area, he sentenced people to five years rigorous punishment for stealing a chicken; ten years for a goat, and fourteen years for a cow. He would decide a murder case within two weeks and order death penalty with no appeals. On one hand, it came to be huge a burden on my father's shoulders as he could have misused powers or made mistakes. But due to his utmost dedication and undoubted honesty, the government supported him and he was successful in reducing the crime to almost zero. This way the law and order was restored and people started living a normal life. In my view, stiff sentencing makes people avoid route of crime.

In 1988, we were robbed during noontime when two criminals who knew us got away with them \$ 10,000 cash and gold and jewelry worth \$ 10,000. Once they were arrested, they were released after serving one month in jail. We received nothing back; nor did the police ever recover any valuables from these culprits. I asked the DA upon their release: "What message are you trying to give?" One can steel \$ 20000 and stay one month in jail on the government's expenses and be out on the street. So who would like to make an honest living? If these people had been sentenced for 10 years in prison and forced to pay the restitution for the money they stole, I am pretty sure, they would have been rehabilitated by the end of their penalty. The irony of the situation is that these criminals

become habitual of crime as five years later I found out that one of them became a killer.

In another case, my store manager staged a robbery and got away with the company's safe with \$ 5000 plus in it. He not only got away but was never charged due to his Caucasian origin. The police assumed that I would get the money from the insurance company anyway; so they saved one of their own people not estimating that this young man kept on doing similar things and most probably is in jail for some major crime. Again, if they had been hard on him, he could have been transformed into a better person. If we do that, we will not need so many judges, prosecutors, attorneys and extensive police force.

Due to severe economical disparity in the minorities, there is a tremendous increase in mental diseases, which has resulted in a heavy rise in crime. As we are triggered to put people behind bars, we often forget that there is a special need to rehabilitate people with mental and psychological disorders. The United States of America, being the most advanced country in the medical field, has still not been able to find cure for manic depression, bipolar, schizophrenia and many other mental disorders. Doctors have a tendency to treat most of these ailments with heavy medications right from the junior high school period of the kids causing severe problems. Instead of being treated with extensive therapy, the children are drugged, and at the end of the day most of these people commit crimes and become a giant liability to society.

On the civil side, things are not that bad comparing to most of the advanced countries. The disposal of cases is very impressive; however, attorneys with inside influence can linger on with the cases but eventually the system catches up with them. The decisions made by the judges are again questionable depending on their political affiliations and contributions received from their political supporters.

I have fought for about forty cases related to my businesses during last 25 years. In one case, I clearly stated that a District Judge favored the opponent due to some political contributions received from the other party.

In most of the other cases, judges were fair except one federal court judge who was very arrogant and cocky. Most of the times, judges forget that they are humans not God and should keep their feet on earth rather than act like Almighty. Arrogance has become an essential feature of most of the judges.

On the other hand, some judges are very honest and their staff is humble and helpful. For example, a court coordinator of a

Probate Court helped me up to the extent that during the trial I had to tell everyone in the court room by extending my gratitude and compliments for her dedicated service to people like us who are not represented by an attorney. We should know that the intention should be to serve the people and uphold the law of the land.

In another case a was very arrogant and misbehaved with me when as I wanted to represent myself in the matter. This judge insisted that I should retain an attorney that was against my constitutional right and upon my questioning I was almost put behind the bars for bringing contempt to the court.

Judges who violate the constitutional rights of people must be educated and public commissions must put a constant check on performance of the judges to safeguard the rights of common man.

Once, I was traveling from Mississippi to Houston. I was stopped for speeding near Natchez Mississippi. Although it is true that I was driving over the assigned speed, I asked the constable to check his radar equipment to make sure that it was calibrated. Since he was confident enough of the fact that I was over speeding, he refused to let me check the calibration date of his equipment and gave me a speeding violation. Upon my return to Houston, I wrote a letter to the judge about this incident and asked his opinion as to why the constable violated my constitutional right to show me the calibration of his equipment. To my utmost surprise, I received a personal call from the local judge apologizing for the misconduct of the constable and dismissed the violation with a caution that I would be careful while passing through Mississippi in future. I was so much impressed by the conduct of this judge that I ultimately felt very embarrassed that I, being guilty of misconduct, got away because of arrogance of the constable. The common man needs to get educated to safeguard their rights as one thing is rest assured that this country still has the best laws and an honest judicial system as compared to those of in any other countries of the world.

To my critical eye, the American legal system should make the following changes:

- Ø All the judges should be appointed not elected. All appointments are made irrespective of the party affiliations by independent panels that should exercise a check for their credentials.
- Ø All the judges, prosecutors, police officials, and attorneys should be trained periodically and evaluated for their performance by civilian commissions that should hear grievances against them.

- Ø All the first time offenders should be punished with some kind of sentencing and a long-term rehabilitation program.
- Ø Special stress should be nurtured for the rehabilitation of the people by training them to be active members in society rather than dumping them on the street after their criminal acts.
- Ø Special considerations should be given to people with mental disorders.

## **Encounters with the Law Enforcement Agencies**

(1) My first encounter with the local police happened in 1988. I have owned a fast food Restaurant at Deer Park Texas since 1985. I called the police to arrest an employee of Pizza Hut who was swapping food for food with our employees. Instead of arresting the thief, the officer threatened me as if I myself was the thief. While talking to someone else outside, he called me an "F" Iranian and wanted to arrest me for calling cops to arrest a white boy. When I heard the conversation, I told him to leave and told him that I would bring this matter before his superiors. I wrote a complaint to the local chief of police with a copy to the President of U.S.A., Governor of Texas, Attorney General and many more government officials. The Chief of Police, then, appointed a very seasoned police captain to investigate the case. During the investigation, it was revealed that an Anglo police officer of the local force was witness to the threat made to me and he showed his courage and honesty to verify my count of events. Subsequently, I was told that the officer was out of line but if punished and terminated will make my life difficult in a small town. I was advised that I should withdraw my complaint to save the whole police department from embarrassment. In return, the chief of police made efforts to transfer this officer to a desk job for the next seven years.

Conclusion: As my father was a magistrate and one time additional secretary of Home Department controlling the whole police department of the Sindh Province, I knew that becoming enemy of the local police was just like getting your death warrant. Though the police in the U.S.A. follow the rules of law, they still have so much power that they can make your life miserable. Besides, if you are doing business in a small town with all the police people against you, your investment is going to go down the drain. Therefore, it was a better decision to make friends in the department and settle the matter with them. This kept me out of trouble with them and I continued my business for last twenty plus

years. As a minority, I would recommend you to register complaints for any uncivil attitude shown by any government official but to keep good documentation and eventually make a compromise but do not be scared and leave a bad official unpunished.

(2) In January 1991 we hired a girl to work at the store. The sales of the store were down after hiring this girl who used to work at the driveway counter dealing the customer through the window. On November 4, 1991, I stalked outside the store and counted the number of cars coming along the driveway. After four hours of the count I went into the store and found out that thirteen customers were not rang in the cash register. Upon my inquiry from her, she got furious and starting throwing things in the store and all the employees held her and threw her outside the store. Knowing my experience with the police I did not report this incident. This was a mistake of mine because she moved away and filed a criminal report against me for which I had to fight in the court. Though I eventually won but it cost me so much time and a few thousand dollars in attorney fees.

Conclusion: Unfortunately, our legal system is based on this notion that anyone can file charges against you and you have to spend thousands of your hard-earned dollars just to safeguard your respect. Despite the fact that even if you are acquitted, what you have been victimized of is your life savings. A case against Houston Police Chief, C.E. Bradford, who was a friend of mine, was a similar instance of the same fallacy of the system. It cost him almost \$ 100,000 to save his respect and it eventually cost him his job too. I wish we could develop some kind of restitution system in which if the case is not proved against someone, at least the financial burden is shared by the party who brings falsified charges. Though we believe in the notion of guilty until proved, both the media and the system drag you to the ground before you have been convicted guilty. Some civic organization should take up this issue to safeguard such innocent people.

(3) Some time in March 1993, our house was burglarized in broad daylight between 12 and 1p.m. Jewelry worth \$ 10,000 and approximately \$ 10,000 in cash, a collection of deposits of a few days' income from various businesses, was taken. The suspicion was that one of my maintenance workers who worked at my home knew that we had not installed any alarm in the house. Most probably it is the very person who masterminded the plan of breaking into the house through the back window and committing

the evil act of robbery. Later on, we were told that a person was charged for the burglary and sent to jail for six months; however, due to good interpersonal skills was released just in one month. In my view, this person may have been used to burglarize our house but the mastermind was the maintenance man who knew the demography of our house.

Conclusion: Basic mistake on our part was to keep so much money at home and with no alarm. It was an open invitation to burglars. We had an impression that this area was safe and such thing would never happen to us. The system again did not work. The thief stole and spent all the money and went to jail for six months only for burglary of a habitation. What is more? They got out in just one month's time due to over crowded jails. No restitution was enforced on him and he got out clear. This is the bad message being conveyed to the people reminding them that they have no recourse. If we punish the culprit and make him pay twice as much as he actually stole in restitution then the crime can be reduced. My father, being a magistrate, was sent to a remote tribal area where there was no respect of law. He started punishing people with 7 years jail term for steeling a chicken, 10 years for steeling a goat and 15 years for steeling a cow. In three months, the burglaries were down by 98%. The punishment has to be strong to eliminate the crime. On the other hand, the police thought that we were trying to get an insurance claim and did not believe that we did not carry such insurance. At the end of the day we were out for more than \$ 20,000 in cash and property.

(4) On November 3, 1994, I reported a break in my business Universal Postal and Travel Services. Approximately an amount of \$ 5000 in cash was taken away from the safe and cash register. The break in was staged by one of the employees who left one of the doors open and showed a break in. However he was the only one who had the combination of the safe which was found open. The Police did not arrest him nor was any action taken. The police observed no arrests or contact, except that an offence report was filled.

Conclusion: The business did not carry any insurance; henceforth, this was a complete loss. Apparently such reports do not get much attention from the local police because of insurance claims. In a case in which property and/or cash is involved, the Police think that the insurance is going to cover the damages but at the end of the day people like us, who do not carry theft insurance,

lose the money and the thief gets at large. I see him all the times with a sarcastic look on his face saying to me: "You could not nor can do anything to me."

What I would like to advise the reader is you must carry theft and liability insurance if you are handling a lot of cash. Get background checks done for your employees to make sure they have no past criminal record.

(5) A few months after 9/11, I received a call from a FBI agent asking me to visit me on an urgent basis. I tried to convince him that I was busy that week, but he insisted on meeting the very next day. I agreed to invite him to meet me at one of my stores. After his arrival, he told me that there had been a complaint from my neighborhood registering that there was some suspicious activity noticed at my home. I practically laughed and asked him if he had run any background check on me. I showed him my ID card and informed him that I was Advisor to The Mayor of City of Houston, President Elect for Pakistan Chamber of Commerce, and Trustee for Pakistan Association of Greater Houston. I told him about my political and business involvement in the city and wondered how he could make the judgment that there was some suspicious activity at my home. He was very polite and courteous and agreed with me that may be some fired employee had made the call. He then told me to get back to me any time if needed. I agreed and told him that he was doing his job and I had no problem to see him to discuss any issues he wanted to address. We both talked in detail about 9/11 and I gave him perspective of an American Muslim and offered any help whatsoever to make him understand that most of the Muslims are moderate and a vital part of mainstream America. At the end, we left as friends.

After a few weeks he called me to help him in some investigation and I gladly supplied him information he asked for which could have helped him.

Conclusion: After 9/11, some civil rights have been curbed but in my view we have to act as normal as possible when we encounter the law enforcement officials. We need to be courteous, polite, low profile and helpful. One thing is rest assured somewhere there is a reason why they are visiting you; so if you settle the matter with them faster, they will be out of your life sooner.

Comparing the law enforcement agencies with those of in Pakistan where I have experienced so many incidents while my father was in high profile government positions; I think the law enforcement agencies in the U.S.A. are still better at handling

people. You should know that they are always dealing with criminals and the first look they give you is like you are one of them too, until you prove with your actions that you are a law-abiding citizen. I think if you follow the law and rules of basic decent conduct you will be out of trouble.

(6) On September 25, 1995, FBI sealed my office of Universal Postal and Travel Services upon a complaint from someone that I was selling stolen airline tickets. The agents and the local police searched all the premises but could not come up with any stolen tickets. However, they took my office computer, printer, photocopier, and fax machine to investigate for some criminal activity by sifting the data. None the less, they could not find anything. I hired a criminal attorney to handle the case for me; he told me to continue my business as usual. Eventually, after four years I received a letter from FBI, dated April 7, 1999; it stated that nothing was found and I should come and take possession of my equipment. On April 28, 1999, I collected the equipment.

Conclusion: If analyzed, the FBI perspective may reveal that it must be hard for them to decide who to raid and who not to as so many people make complaints against their enemies. In this case I received lot of mental anguish and loss of \$ 2000 in attorney fees to rescue myself. Again I think there should be recourse for people like us to get restitution for the mental anguish and loss of revenue due to false complaints. But you have to be very strong to fight against the giants like FBI. I wonder people with less education must be in a bigger mess if such things happen to them. Similarly, I cannot blame the law enforcement authorities not to weigh the validity of such complaints. So there is no win situation for any one.

(7) My Manager, Sajjad Siddiqui a distant relative, caused me to undergo the hugest loss of approximately \$ 30,000 in credit card frauds and receiving bad checks. As he was related to me I did not pursue any criminal action against him. Due to his negligence and ignorance my company lost more than \$ 10,000.

Moral: Never hire any of your relatives. Help them financially; refer them to get job somewhere else, but never hire your relatives. In the end of the day you will be either a loser or called a bad guy.

## Civil Cases:

### **1996 Manzoor A Memon Vs Rafique Loya**

*Case # 688639 Harris County Civil Court Number 4*

In March 1996, I wanted to buy back Prime Time Video, which I had sold to Mohammed Saeed and Rubina Saeed, owing to some problems (details given in case Manzoor Memon Vs Mohammed Saeed). To negotiate the deal I was introduced to Rafique Loya, presumably a broker. During the deal I gave a cashier's check amounting \$ 10,000 written in the name of Mohammed Saeed and Rubina Saeed as a down payment for buying back the video store, which was sold to them earlier. Mr. Loya forged the signature of two recipients and cashed the check and pocketed the money. I filed criminal and civil charges against him. He was picked up by the Houston police Department and got bailed out in one day by Altaf Adam, an ex-convict-turned-attorney during his stay in the federal penitentiary. He got probation and due to lack of funds, even we got the judgment against him and no money was recovered.

Conclusion: Loya has cheated on several Houston families and he is still at large. The worst part is that the community, particularly Memon Jamait, still acknowledges him as a respectable member. Whereas such crooks should be boycotted and blacklisted from the community. Again this is a classic example of loopholes in the law where a crook got away with six months' probation and stealing \$ 10,000. The law should be tough on these white color criminals. I am pretty sure that if he had been sent to prison for two years with a condition to pay restitution, he could have been rehabilitated. But with the present system, he is still cheating on people with no recourse for innocent victims.

### **1993: Manzoor Memon Vs Ford Motor Co.**

*Case # 22307 JP Precient. 2, Pos 2*

I purchased a new Lincoln Town car in 1989. In May 1993 while it was under warranty, it caught fire in the steering column. The ignition switch installed by Ford Co. was the cause of the fire. Luckily, I was about 200 feet away from the fire department located in Webster Texas. Even though there was substantial damage, it cost about \$ 4,326.81. A small claim case # 22307 was filed in Justice of the Peace court. A jury trial was requested and I lost the case. I tried to prove to the court and the jury that it was a unique

case in which the ignition switch caught fire without any apparent reason. Ford Company's attorneys kept on arguing that this was a solo case. I wonder about the knowledge of the court and jury because similar cases had been previously reported to Ford Company. I got the car repaired with my deductible and the insurance company paid for the rest of the damage. On April 26, 1996, Ford Company finally accepted their responsibility of the faulty ignition switch and a class action was filed against Ford by Moore and Brown Attorney's from Washington DC. This firm contacted me and used my case to get the matter settled but cheated on me by giving me no compensation. However, Ford Co. settled the matter in a class action suit and took back in possession all the 1989-Lincoln Town cars for replacement of the ignition Switch.

Conclusion: I lost money but brought a consumer complaint, which was finally addressed to save several vehicles and a few lives too. You must raise your voice for a faulty product. I should have hired a good attorney to get a good settlement; however, I fought this case as pro-se and lost. Also, I recommend reading the book named Wheels by Arthur Hailey, who has done an extensive research as how the auto industry tries to get by from accepting responsibility of mishaps due to faulty products.

### **1995: Manzoor Memon Vs Mohammad S. Akhtar**

*Case # 688640 CCC at Law 1, Harris County*

*Case # 97-50049 164th , District Court*

*Case # 97-28506 125th, District Court*

*Case # 688639 CCC at Law 1, Harris County*

*Case # 22584, 22585,225586 JP Court, Pr2 Pos 2*

My family was invited to a Christmas party on December 25, 1995. In the party we were introduced to this couple Mohammed Saeed and Rubina with two grown up children. Mutual friends told a horror story of them: they had neither a job, nor a place to live, and nothing to eat. My wife and I being sensitive about helping people asked them if they would like to relocate and take a job with us. Subsequently, in the lines upcoming, the reader will read about one the worst experiences of my life. This can be best visualized by an Urdu saying: "NEEKI KAR DARYA MAIE DAL"(The good you do to people is something wasted).

We moved the couple to Deer Park, and hired the wife at our Video store and the husband at Baskin Robbins. After working for four months we decided to sell the video store. When they found out about our selling the store, they offered us to buy the business for the same amount we had received. We signed a sales agreement

on March 1, 1996, with a payment of \$ 10,000 cash and the balance was borrowed from my bank with my guarantee. I signed the guarantee with an understanding that the business was in an excellent condition and will not only settle them but will release me from an additional responsibility.

There are some reservations as regards the legal secrecy of the case as per the court orders so I cannot reveal every detail. Anyway, I wrote a letter to Mr. Saeed to find a new guarantor for his loan. I did not want to be a part of their family problems. Upon my demand the couple had arguments and Rubina furiously filed several civil cases and criminal charges against me for invading her privacy etc. They stopped paying rent and other bills for the business and finally I repossessed the business from them after paying rent amounts of \$ 7,044 and many other bills to keep running the business. In the meantime, the business was completely downgraded. Eventually, I had to close the business in October 1997. This ended in a net loss of approximately \$ 50,000 out of which we had to pay the balance loan amount of approximately \$ 39,177.00. During the process of repossessing the business, we lost \$ 10,000 to Rafique Loya, details of which are given in the relevant chapter.

We received two judgments against them for \$ 5030.00 and \$ 189.00, which they appealed and finally all the cases were joined together and a non-binding arbitration was ordered by the court. The decision was sealed; however, we lost \$ 15,000 in attorney's fees and \$ 50,000 for the loan payments etc. At the end of the day, the landlord sued us for the breaking of the lease for which eventually we had to pay another \$ 33,000 (paid in April 2004).

Conclusion: This is another classic example of fraud and cheating by our own countrymen. This was a reward for the help we offered to them. We provided shelter and tried to help them get on to their feet. We also gave them an opportunity to own a business. My biggest regret in life has been losses done to me by my own countrymen for whom we have the utmost love and feelings. My mistake in this case was to co-sign the loan for them, which made me liable for the balance of the loan. I had to pay back to keep my credit in line otherwise I would have no way to grow my business. Another mistake was to get involved in someone's family affairs. I should have hired an attorney to handle it or ignored the situation and slowly pulled myself out of them. Unfortunately, people who recommended the couple did not support us too and moved aside even from the lady in the tough hour. According to our religion, it is a big sin to have an extra marital affair but our friends who pray five times and brag about standing behind the

right, keep aside all the principles when it comes to real decision. They feel proud to stand by the sinners and support the evil causes.

Since the very horrible incident of our life, we have decided to have no close relationship with anyone on the family level. We are very selective in bringing people to our house. The charity is done in such a way that there are no strings attached with the receiver. I do not have any regrets as today the couple is at the same level working for minimum wage, changing jobs every few months and God has rewarded us well. I have no complaint from Almighty God who is the judge of good and bad. My faith is strong that when the circle comes full round, the devil is punished and good is rewarded. However, this has been one of the most devastating experiences of our life.

## **2001: Manzoor Memon Vs Nationwide Mutual Insurance Co.**

*Case# SC0005441 JP Prec 2, Pos 2*

I filed a case Number SC22C0005441 against Nationwide Mutual Insurance for denying rental car expenses dully payable after their client had caused damage in an accident to my daughter's car on June 22, 2001. The insurance company paid the body damage bill of \$ 2012.80; whereas the payment of the rental car was not paid in full. The most difficult part was to find the registered agent who served the notice, which took three different services and cost \$ 45 for each time. An interesting thing happened that the defendant who caused the accident was served by the Constable and was deceased. However, I did not give up and sent a filed motion for interrogatories and documents for production. The insurance company finally settled the matter in just a few days before the trial date.

Conclusion: Do not give up; build knowledge of the system and try to find out the registered agent through State of Texas or relevant state offices. This case was won by me on a pro-se basis. Generally, in small claims you should fight by yourself. But you need to be prepared with all the relevant documents.

## **1990 Manzoor Memon Vs Rubina Khan**

*Case # 630034, County Civic Court at Law 3, Harris County*

Rubina Khan was an employee of my travel agency Universal Postal and Travel services. What she was involved in was

purchasing airline tickets from outside sources and pocketing the commissions while working in my travel agency. As they say a thief is caught one day, it happened to her too. On Feb 23, 1990, she sold four tickets to a client Abdul Majeed Qureshi for an amount of \$ 4234.00. She accepted the check in her name, purchased the tickets from Royal Travel, a wholesaler in town. She pocketed approximately \$ 1000 in profit. Unfortunately, she was fired in the same timeframe and the client brought the tickets for a refund. After reviewing our books, we found out what she was all about, right under my nose. We sent the tickets to the wholesaler who refunded \$ 2950 for the tickets subtracting the commission. The check was written by the client in Rubina Khan's name. It was thus deposited in her account and this showed that the client very well knew that the deal was done under the table. We offered the client a refund received from the wholesaler; he refused, and filed a suit against our company. The court ordered us to pay the total amount plus \$ 1500 attorney fees as the transition was done on our premises. We, in turn filed, suit against Rubina Khan for the damages. This case kept on going for several years with no outcome and we ultimately lost approximately \$ 2784. Rubina Khan, who should have been charged for fraud, walked away free and is still working in the travel industry and may be cheating on many more people.

Conclusion: As they say justice is blind, so was the judge in this case. The message sent by the court is that you can do anything wrong at someone else's premises and you will not be responsible. Judges should study the cases in depth before giving wrong judgments. I had an attorney and still I lost the case, lost the money and lost so much of my precious time. My faith in the judicial system was diminishing day by day.

### **1998 Manzoor Memon/Universal Postal & Travel Vs KLM Airlines**

*Cause # H-90-1858 US District Court & 89-48745 189th, District Court*

Manzoor Memon/Universal Postal & Travel Vs British Airways Cause # H-91-0052 US District Court

Anthony Illochi Vs Manzoor Memon/Universal Postal & Travel Cause # 572985 CCC at # 2

KLM Airlines Vs Lenda Umebuani Cause # 292229 J.P. Court Prescient one

Babatunde Lawal Vs British Airways, Fast Travel, Universal Travel Cause # 90-064163 129th, District court, Harris County

Cause # H91-0082, US District Court

In October 1988, when my company, Universal Postal & Travel, had been in business for just one year, I was contacted by the owner of Fast Travel Inc. from Chicago to start buying international tickets. At that time, we have been using the wholesalers from New York, Houston, Miami and Los Angeles. After comparing their prices, it was found out that their prices were a little better than those of other wholesalers. From November to December, seventy-two tickets worth \$ 88123 were purchased from Fast Travel. Payment for each ticket was made to Fast Travel by company checks. Several people traveled without a hitch. On December 14, we were informed that Fast travel was closed and airlines have blacklisted all the tickets issued by this agency. As soon as the first client was stopped at the airport we informed the rest of the clients to come back and get new tickets. Approximately \$ 30,236 refunds were made in a week's time to ensure safety of the customers. However, a few of the customers were mistreated by the British Airways out of which B Lawal filed a suit against the British Airways and won judgment for over \$ 25,000 for mental anguish and loss of business. He also filed suit against Universal Travel but got a judgment taking nothing from us.

In the case of Anthony Illochi Vs Manzoor Memon/Universal Postal & Travel, Universal Travel offered a settlement for the amount of refunds of the ticket. This was accepted by the plaintiff. In all, Universal Postal & Travel lost approximately \$ 45,000 plus \$ 5000 in attorney's fees. The courts, with an apparent lack of jurisdiction, tossed out the cases against KLM and the British Airways for our losses. This caused an additional loss of Attorney fees of \$ 5000.

Conclusion: because of lack of experience, and poor homework to check on the status of the Fast Travel and its owners, we exposed ourselves to a big bind that almost herded our company to a bankruptcy. This was another classic example of trusting my own countrymen who consequently both betrayed my trust and almost put us out of business. In my twenty-five years business history, anytime I have been deceived by someone, the person is the one whom I have known and who is from my own county, Pakistan. I think it is easy for the crooks to cheat on their own community members because in such a situation the process of trust building is far quicker.

### **1993: Rajnikant R. Patel Vs Memon Corporation Inc.**

*Case # 94-019258 189th, Harris County, District Court*

On February 13, 1993, I purchased a Video store named Prime Time Video from Rajnikant R. Patel for an amount of \$ 58,000. The contract was signed with a \$ 25,000 down payment and the balance of \$ 33000 was to be paid in two installments. Within two months, we found out that the sales figures given by the seller were falsified. As such, we held out his last payment of \$ 18,000. Mr. Patel filed a suit against us for recovering \$ 24,000 including \$ 6000 in legal fees. Upon our demand to provide the previous year sales record and sales tax records Mr. Patel shied away from the hearing of his case in the court. This reason is simple: he had falsified sales tax returns, which could have put him in further trouble.

Mr. Patel withdrew the case with a compensation of \$ 5000 as settlement.

Conclusion: Never buy a business without getting certified copies of the sales records and sales tax paid to the Comptroller's office. Most of south Asian business owners do not pay all due taxes and at the time of selling their businesses, they exaggerate the sales figures to get higher price for the business. If you have proper documentation you can always sue them. This way I got the price of the business reduced from \$ 58,000 to \$ 45,000. Never trust verbal figures. Always do your research. (See my articles: How to Buy, Sell, and Operate Small Businesses.)

### **1997:Amber M. Memon Vs In. Re. Synthroid Marketing Litigation**

*US District Court, Northern Illinois Case# 97-C 6017 MDL # 1182*

My wife Amber was prescribed a medication for thyroids. This medication had already caused several problems for many patients. This was a class action suit against that company which was finally settled and a handsome amount was awarded as a settlement. Luckily there was no damage to Amber's vital organs, as some people had suffered ruptures of the heart due to this medicine.

This case was very simple only for the fact that it took two years to get a settlement. The best part was that the Attorneys worked on all of the case and we did not have to work hard to settle the matter.

Conclusion: Whenever you receive a notice to be a part of a class action suit, take some time to look into its details and join the

class action. Down the line you will get something for your efforts as class action suits are settled on the basis of number of complainants. The attorneys like to recruit as many people as possible to make their case strong. You also retain little flexibility on your part to negotiate your settlement, as they have to settle with everyone. Refer to my case against Kodak Corporation in which I negotiated a higher settlement comparing to what I expected to get.

### **1999: Manzoor Enterprises Inc. Vs A.N. Rusche Distributing Co.**

*Case # 1999-32159 Dist Ct of Harris County 90th, Judicial District*

In 1995, I constructed a chevron gas station with a convenient store. Chevron gas distributing dealer A.N. Rusche Co. had suspicious dealings particularly in the delivery and gas prices. I had been keeping a computerized track of the quantities of gas received. This never matched with our computer connected with our gas tanks. After a long research, I filed a case against them for deceptive trade practices including shortage of gas supply and overcharging the gas prices against our contract obligations. This has been one of the most high tech cases I have ever fought. I hired an attorney who did not know much about the industry. However, we teamed up and finally made the defendant settle the case through a court appointed mediator. The details of the settlement are sealed, as the defendant did not want to see hundreds of the exact type of cases against them.

Conclusion: This was a good case to fight as it was based on technical grounds and I did a lot of research myself to prove the discrepancies. This saved me a lot of attorney expenses and when the wheel came to full circle, I recovered most of my damages and was paid for the time I had to spend on this case. The kernel is that if you are sure and convicted about the authenticity of your case, fight for it. You have to be fluent and shrewd to raise voice for your case. As a party, you have to appear for depositions and stand in the witness stand. Besides, you will have to be strong and articulate to present your side of the case.

To save money, always ask your attorney to allow you to discover yourself and help him in organizing your case since, after all, he is going to charge you for every minute he has spent on your case.

## **Manzoor Memon Vs Johnny L. Charles, Attorney at Law**

*Court of Justice of Peace, PCT.2 Pos. 2 Harris County, Texas*

*Case # 00019720*

I hired an attorney named Johnny Charles to conduct a legal case. After receiving initial retainer fees of \$ 500.00, he never showed up in the court to represent me. In turn, I lost a case losing \$ 1,688 in a judgment against me. I filed this case against the attorney who never showed up during his hearing. And a judgment against him was rendered for \$ 2,303.00. To date, this judgment has not been recovered, and the whereabouts of this attorney are still unknown.

Conclusion: Never hire an unknown attorney. Before hiring an attorney, visit his or her office and see if he or she is practicing legitimate law, or there is just a phony type. In this case, the concerned attorney was referred to me by another attorney so I never knew where his office was. For a small mistake, I lost a substantial amount and a magnificent pack of my precious time. I sent a copy of the judgment to the Texas Bar association but they gave no response nor was any misconduct enquiry held against Attorney Johnny Charles. In this case, the system did not work and a crook got away with a criminal act.

## **1999 Manzoor Memon Vs Mercedes-Benz of N.A.**

*District Court 190th, judicial district Harris county, Texas*

*Case # 1999-33160*

In May, 1991, I purchased a Mercedes Benz 300 SEL. This car was fully maintained and had only 70 thousand plus mileage count on it. One day, while driving, the engine housing fell on the road. Luckily, I was not driving along the freeway or it could have caused a major accident. The car was towed to a nearby mechanic who found out that the housing holding the engine was designed to be fixed on a four-bolt frame. One of the bolts failed to take the weight of the housing causing this incident.

I wrote a letter to the Mercedes Benz NA customer service and I was asked to bring the car to the dealer to get it checked by one of their representatives. He issued the arbitrary decision that this kind of problem had never occurred in the history of the manufacture of Mercedes Benz and it was the only incident that I had come across.

My intention to bring this problem to the manufacturer's attention was actually an attempt to assure the inspection of the other cars to save the lives of people. However, no response was prompted to me. I therefore filed a suit that was eventually tossed out by the judge based on the expiration of the warranty of the car.

It was very disappointing that justice was observed and many people driving these high-priced cars may have faced similar problems without any recourse. Upon my mechanic's advice, I made it my routine to get those bolts checked on every oil change. Since then the problem has not recurred. I wish the manufacturer had agreed to issue a simple notification to the consumers to get those bolts checked periodically.

Conclusion: I knew I did not have a chance, yet I thought that a judge may support my rationale behind the case and do something positive. I should have hired an attorney but it would have cost me a few thousand dollars with a least possibility of any return.

In 1995 I had purchased a Chevrolet S10 pick up. The transmission of this pick up failed three times within first year. In a letter from an Attorney, I was given an option to keep either the truck with no more payments due or get a new one. I took the pick up to an AMOCO Transmission shop who charged me \$ 600 to modify the transmission and I kept the truck for 10 years free of paying but seven initial payments. In this case, I was the one who was ahead of my opponents. Please read the book "Wheels" by Arthur Haley. This book takes you on an inside exploratory journey of the automobile industry and their tact's on how they avoid consumer complaints.

## **Memon Corporation Inc. VS Family Dollar Store**

*Court of Justice of Peace, PCT. 8. Pos. 1, Harris county, Texas*

*Case # SC81C0005266*

While maintaining the ownership of several of my businesses I had installed a pylon sign at a shopping center to advertise our businesses. Family Dollar store, without my permission or any payment or installment, put their billboard on my pylon sign. Upon my demand, no rent was paid at all. It was hard to serve this company because they were located out of the state. I had to spend extra money to serve them but finally after two services (one in a California office and the other one at an Arizona office), I finally got their attention. They settled the matter before going to court for a little less than what I had demanded. I took the settlement and did not take the risk of going to the court.

Conclusion: If you are offered to settle the case within 75-80% of your demand value and if you are handling your own case as pro-se, take the offer. The main reason is that JP courts sometimes do not follow the law but the way the case has been presented. And remember to make a decision that looks more like a decision by a mediator who is the one to decide the cases to keep both parties happy.

**2002: Memon Corporation Inc. Vs Baskin Robbins/  
Allied Domecq QSR**

US District Court of Southern District of TX Case # CA H-03-1944

This case was filed against franchiser Baskin Robbins. They did not allow us to change the franchise store location from one place to another because the landlord did not renew our lease. Conjecture has been that Baskin Robbins co-conspired with the landlord to get us out of business. This has been one of our worst investments as this franchise, being small, has a very little return but too many expectations from the franchisee. Initially this case was filed in a District court and the defendant got it transferred to the Federal Court. As I was representing the corporation, I was told by my attorney to withdraw from the case. As I had not asked for a jury trial, a new case could be filed. I made the motion in front of the judge asking to dismiss the case without prejudices so that I could file this case later. However, the judge was unfair and dismissed our case completely. We appealed to the Texas Supreme Court and win the ruling and subsequently the judge approved our demand to dismiss the case without any prejudices. A new case is being prepared by an attorney to file it against them on the federal level with a jury to make the decision.

Conclusion: After so many fights, I have come to the conclusion that it has become practically impossible to file and successfully fight your case without an experienced Attorney. Also minorities like us have another disadvantage: judges who are mostly Anglos throw out motions and support their kind of attorneys. One thing else, most of the legal firms feed these judges with political monies and at the end of the day they buy out the justice and poor people like us stay behind. I wish the judiciary would be impartial; the government should hire judges rather than get them elected through a political process where these judges have to return favors for the big monies received in the form of legal donations.

**1995: Memon Corporation Inc. Vs Baskin Robbins/  
Allied Domecq QSR**

US District Court of Southern District of TX Case # CA # 95-4332

Some time in 1991, I financed to build a Baskin Robbins for my brother to settle him down in USA. During the negotiations of the franchise agreement with Baskin Robbins, we were given

several financial models of sales and profitability of the business. According to the federal rules, the franchiser had given us a list of litigations and their future plans. We opened the store in August 1991 and were doing excellent until the January of 1992. This time around, Baskin Robbins franchiser opened thirty-two corporate stores inside all Harris county Denny's Restaurants. There were about thirty stores in Harris County and bringing another 32 stores in town resulted in a cut down of everybody's sales. We sued the franchiser for deceptive trade practice. As they were doing this negotiation with Denny's at the time, they signed the agreements with us. During the negotiations they offered to settle the matter for \$ 100,000; whereas, we had demanded the full refund of the cost of the store plus attorney's fees amounting to \$ 200,000. This was a case where I have a strong suspicion that my attorney was bought out by the defendant: just two days before the trial, he refused to represent me. I had to hire another attorney but the case was tossed out of the court. We spend \$ 10,000 to file an appeal on the decision to get a new trial but it was rejected by the 5th Circuit Court in New Orleans. More to come was that a judgment us was issued against us for the attorney fees amounting \$ 36,289.09 out of which they could recover a few thousand dollars when they hit the company account through the constables office. Luckily, there was no judgment against us personally and we escaped from this major loss.

Conclusion: In my all business litigations, this case is of unique nature in which my attorney deceived me in the middle of a very strong case. Unfortunately, for a small-scale businessman, this is a sour dilemma as how to hire proper legal help. In this case the interesting thing that happened was Baskin Robbins closed all the 32 stores in Denny's restaurants just immediately after the decision of this case, most probably fearing more lawsuits. If I had hired an honest attorney, I would have got my losses recovered. Baskin Robbins took a loss of 3 million dollars for opening of those stores. The beneficiaries were the local storeowners who were asked to join the case to certify it as a class action but no one came forward. Common businessmen avoid litigation, as their focus is to make money not to protect their interests. I, on the other hand, have been fighting with a system in which sometimes I have won but sometimes have lost too. This case was a win for others but a loss for my cause. Due to this litigation eventually I had to close the store and my case against Baskin Robbins is still pending in the US District court and if I am lucky I might be able to save my investment. I filed a case against the attorney and reported him to the Texas Bar Association but it did not help much except it might

have left a scar on the Attorney's credit with the Bar. Unfortunately, there are so many attorneys in the market that it is very hard to rightfully select someone who can represent you better than the others. Looking for an attorney is like looking for a wife since you never know who you get stuck with.

### **2001: Rakib Memon and Sana Memon Vs BMW of North America Inc.**

*Docket # 01-0799 CAF and 1-0798 CAF*

Lemon Law Complaint filed with the Texas Department of Transportation

On May 14, 1998, I purchased two new BMW cars for my two children. In a span of 36 months, both of these cars were sent for repairs 14 times for one car and 11 times for the other. The major defect in the cars was loss of battery power. If the cars were driven every day, they stayed powered, otherwise they needed a jump-start. The dealer could not diagnose the problem after so many repair orders. The cars were in the shop for weeks.

Eventually a Lemon Law complaint was filed against the BMW of North America. Interestingly, the defendant did not show up in the hearings and the Texas Department of Transportation (TDT) Judge showed his inability to pursue the defendant to take care of this problem. The administrative judge issued a final order denying the relief on October 30th, 2001 giving an option to make a motion for rehearing the case.

Conclusion: TDT judges handling Lemon Law cases do not have any legal power to enforce the parties to sit on at the table. So how can one expect enforcement of their decision? The best approach in such cases is to file the case against the dealer and manufacturer in the District Court through an experienced attorney.

Similarly, in 1985, I had purchased a Chevy S-10 pick up. The transmission of this pick up failed three times in one year. My attorney K. Walji sent a letter to the GMAC and they offered to give me a new pickup or to keep the existing one without paying any more payments. Interestingly I chose to keep the pick up, and I spent three hundred dollars on a transmission and drove more than 150 thousand miles on the vehicle. My mistake in this case was not to retain an experienced attorney.

### **1998: Memon Corporation Inc. Vs Blimpie International Inc. Houston**

*Case # 98-45685 Distr Ct of Harris County, 125th, Judicial District*

When I was planning to start a Chevron store, a new trend hit the convenience store market. I signed up a supply contract with a sandwich franchise named Blimpie. The product was better than Subway but poor franchise support and bureaucratic style of their staff made it difficult to keep the business on the winning track in any of its locations. At the end of the day, most of these stores closed and many people lost capital ranging from \$ 35,000 to \$ 100,000. At the time of signing up the franchise, the company gave numerous falsified information and based on this I sued them in District Court.

After the case came into trial, it was found out that per our franchise agreements, we could not sue the company. However, I could file an arbitration request with the American Arbitration Association. This association charges \$ 850.00 to meet with you and help you resolve matters. However, you have to travel to the location where the main office of your franchisee is situated which in this case was in Atlanta. Due to my several business commitments I decided not to pursue a case out of state where I had no hope to collect anything from the franchiser. In the end I closed the Blimpie shop, sold the equipment for approximately \$ 10,000 and sustained a net loss of \$ 25,000, plus the loss of time and effort.

Conclusion: Always get an attorney to look into your lease and franchise agreements. Most inexperienced businessmen lose their life's savings just because there is usually something printed on a very small print that escaped their eye and under which they could not sue them. Most of the franchisers have smart attorneys representing them and they prepare such documents with no recourse for you to fight in the court. This was a classical example that this company opened a dozen of stores in the Houston area, and none of them lasted. However, the franchiser still walked away free of any liability. Also, this was a very good example of mismanaged companies, which even with excellent product could not stay in business due to bad management.

## **Rakib Enterprises Inc. DBA Dairy Queen Vs City Manager, City of Deer Park**

*Court of Justice of Peace, PCT 8 Pos. 2 Harris County, Texas  
Case # 53206*

This was a case in which the city of Deer Park overcharged a water bill. During construction, city employees damaged a water meter and caused loss of water that was billed to the store. After so much correspondence with the city, mayor, and state representatives, no response was prompted. Finally, a small claim was filed against the city. The judge tossed out the case mainly due to personal relations with the city attorney who represented the City of Deer Park. The plaintiff was refused a fair trial and we did not pursue it with political and business reasons being on the backstage.

Conclusion: Until you are highly politically connected, never sue city officials. They can make your life difficult. I learned this lesson and with the passage of time, I established good relationships with city officials. This finally proved to be a better strategy than fighting in courts.

## **1999: Rakib Enterprises Inc. Vs John Cook Corporation**

*Case # SC81C0001415  
Court of Justice of Peace PCT 8 Pos 1 Harris County, Texas*

In February 1999, I ordered a dipping cabinet for an amount of \$ 3,991.00 from a company in Wisconsin. After the installation of the freezer cabinet, its compressor failed within two weeks of operation. The manufacturer was informed and they sent a new compressor that also failed within thirty days. It was therefore decided to ship the unit back to the manufacturer and request for a full refund. However, the seller refunded part of the payment and refused to pay the balance. Henceforward, a case was filed and a judgment was granted for \$ 1552.76 plus the court cost.

Conclusion: The hard part was to get the judgment executed as it was out of state identity. The procedure to follow is to get a writ of execution prepared by the JP Court after thirty days of final judgment. Find the constable in the closest precinct where the defendant lives and call his office first to make sure the writ is executable. It is easy to execute a judgment on a business than an individual as they have many ways to escape.

## **1993: Rakib Enterprises Inc. Vs Nancy D. Gawlik DBA Hobby Travel Agency**

*Case# 00020864  
Court of Justice of the Peace PCT 2 Pos 2, Harris County, Texas*

On February 21, 1993 Rakib Enterprises Inc. entered into a sales agreement to sell Hobby Travel Agency to Nancy D. Gawlik. The total price was \$ 15,000 payable in three installments. The buyer paid two installments and did not pay the balance of \$ 5,000. This cause was filed against the buyer and a judgment was rendered in favor of Rakib Enterprises Inc. on August 4, 1994. Just after the judgment the defendant filed a bankruptcy Ch. 13. For the last ten years no money was assigned to our judgment due to unsecured debt and the defendant went clear without paying a dime.

Conclusion: Never sell a good business on installment basis. Try to give an incentive to the buyer by reducing the sale price so that the buyer can search for other resources to acquire cash rather than use your cash. This way if he or she fails in running the business, you do not lose the balance owed to you. If you have a judgment against you, make sure those personal assets are separated and secured. As soon as the judgment is rendered, you have to file for an abstract of judgment. Once you put the lien on the property, you can get some of the personal assets auctioned through a constable's sale. However, one has to go along with an experienced lawyer to get your judgment paid. Smart people get out of civil judgments without paying a dime.

## **Rentrack Corporation Inc. Vs Rakib Enterprises Inc.**

*County Civil Court at Law 1 Case # 643711*

While owning Prime Time Video, our company signed up with another company a profit sharing plan based on the supply of the videos from them. As this company was supporting only a few movie studios – and this misled us -- we had to purchase the movies at prime price. We stopped doing business with them and withheld their payments due to them. They wanted to collect \$ 24,333 from us. After a few hearings and discussions, they mutually agreed to settle the case for a payment of \$ 4400 with a monthly installment plan.

Conclusion: Never get harassed by big companies. Generally you have a better chance to settle the matter with them if you show you are self-sufficient. In this case I spend \$ 500 for an attorney who negotiated with the company for a debt of \$ 24,333 for \$ 4,400 which was also paid on a monthly installment plan. Key to any case is to keep a good record of correspondence with the people you are doing business. Unfortunately, American society is based on litigation and everyone likes to sue other people for financial gain. So if you are a good businessman, make sure to get all of your contracts, lease documents and sale agreements checked out by an attorney. This might cost you a little up front but can save you thousands in the long run.

**1998 Rakib Enterprises Inc. Memon Corporation Inc. Vs George Dana, Attorney at Law, Wayne Paris, Attorney at Law**

*Case # 98-02073*

District Court of Harris County 125th Judicial District

The law firm of George Dana was pursuing a case against Baskin Robin's franchiser for opening 32 stores in a local Denny's restaurant without informing existing franchisees and providing false sales figures and overcharging equipment supplied by them at the time of opening the store. Just two days before the trial, Mr. Dana called and told me that he was not suitable to represent me in a District Court. He said to me that I should find another attorney to represent me in this case. This was a classic example of professional misconduct on part of him by walking out of the case two days before the trial. This was an emergency and I had to retain another attorney who could not prepare the case and we lost the case. Attorney misconduct was reported to the Texas Bar Association but no action was taken. The new attorney Wayne Paris also sucked \$ 10,000 in fees and just played along with the loss of appeal. His performance was also substandard and doubtful.

Conclusion: In this case the system did not work. There is no recourse for a client when an attorney messes up. Generally, attorneys do not want to take a case against their fellow professional. There should be some law like medical mal-practice under which the clients can sue the attorneys for negligence and recover their losses. In this case the defendant had offered a settlement but

little on the lower side and a smart attorney could have got a better settlement. On the surface it seems that my attorney was bought out by the defendant and successfully avoided settle the matter.

**1998: Rakib Enterprises Inc. Vs Ingram Entertainment Inc.**

*Court of Justice of Peace PCT 2, Pos 2, Harris County, Texas*

*Case # C00023038*

In 1998, I closed Prime Time Video and contacted Ingram Entertainment Inc., our supplier of the video movies, to check if they would purchase the movie stock. We agreed a unit price and one of their representatives visited the store. He checked all the movies before we shipped the movies to the warehouse. In the process, their company made a deposit of \$ 10,000 and the balance was supposed to be paid upon receiving the movies. However, after receiving the movies, they started with different excuses not to pay us the balance. We requested them to ship our movies back, by this time they had already sold so many of our movies. Finally, we filed a small claim against them in which we were awarded with a judgment for \$ 1474.57. Later on they filed an appeal and during the appeal they finally negotiated to settle to pay the amount.

Conclusion: Though we fought this case in the JP court without an attorney, once it got filed in civil court, it had to be represented by an attorney. You can only represent prose if filed as an individual but as a corporation you have to be represented by an attorney. I got the judgment paid but had to pay \$ 500 for attorney fees. To reach behind the curtain, I lost this amount because the defendant tried to defraud me whereas they also had to pay an attorney. To my critical eye, such claims should be settled mutually rather than getting attorneys involved since it becomes cost-inefficient for both parties.

**2006-2008 Akib Construction Inc Vs Neff Rental Inc.**

*State of Texas County of Harris Court # 3*

*Case # 845514*

During building a housing sub division I sub contracted work of site cleaning to a contractor. He was authorized to rent tractors and other heavy duty machinery from a rental company. Per my

contract with the contractor an amount of \$ 14,000 was set-aside for the rental. This contractor had brought me bids from Neff Rental with several stipulations particularly to receive credit for rain and machine break down delays. At the end of the project Neff rental refused to give any credit for those delays and subsequently billed extra \$ 16,000 to be paid to me. Once I refused to pay they sued me instead of the other contractor. Once the case went in the county court due to poor performance of my attorney Neff Rental attorney's filed for summary judgment and got a decree against me for over \$ 28,000. One day my Bank President informed me that some attorneys are trying to extract \$ 28,000 from my bank account with out serving any legal papers to me. I immediately made motion to the court and deposited \$ 28,000 in the court registry and filed for new trial which was rejected by the judge. Upon our intervention the court ordered mediation which failed even though I had some new material including telephonic conversations between Neff Rental agent and my self in which they told the customers that rain and mechanical break down credit will be given upon completion of the rental period. However our efforts failed during mediation. Subsequently I hired a top class attorney who filed an appeal against the lower court order and after six months struggle we win the appeal and the case has been reverted back to county court and need to retry with all the details with fair chance to us. This case is still open and waiting for the opposite party if they want to appeal to Supreme Court or settle the matter with us with option to fight the case with fresh evidence.

#### Conclusion:

Though this case has not been settled as yet but the moral of the story is that both parties have spent more than the disputed amount in attorney fees and court cost which is mounting high every day and one of us will be the looser of considerable amount with attorneys at the advantage to make money out of it. I have spent about \$ 10,000 in attorney fees and have blocked \$ 28000.00 in court registry for a dispute which could have been settled nicely if Neff Rental would have been fair in dealing. I fought this case all the way to get a fair attitude from them as they lied to me and every client before renting any equipment. I have asked my attorney to study possibly to file a class action against Neff rental to get fair refund to many of their customers who have been defrauded by

false commitments. My learning experience out of this case is to hire strong and competent attorney to fight the case. Most of the attorneys practicing in USA are mediocre and paper shufflers but very few want to fight the case and get the justice for their clients. This is the reason that poor people don't get justice and rich and famous save themselves from crimes like murder because they can afford to hire top notch attorneys to save them.

## PAKISTAN AND THE MUSLIM WORLD

### 2002: 9/11 and the Muslim Point of View

On the day of 9/11 I was in a small factory to purchase a few items for my store. No one knew at that time that this disaster would change the whole world. However, the business was running as usual until I realized that something of great importance had occurred. I immediately returned to Deer Park and started discussing the consequences of the disaster. I was, that time, serving as Advisor to the Mayor of Houston for the South Asian Affairs and I was the only Muslim working in the Houston City Hall. I was bombarded with so many calls. My first message to people was to keep calm and state that this had been a coward act by few misguided people and the Muslims in general are law abiding and honest people.

As the news started coming in my initial view about the incident, which I shared with my close friend Shameem Ahmed, was that this was not an act of few misguided Muslims as they could not be equipped with such precision to hit the targets so efficiently and so accurately. Knowing the Muslims' insight into engineering and aeronautics, I doubted that they were the right culprits to create such disaster. However, I continued my quest and talked to so many politicians, educators and government officials and have found that Muslims have the different perspective of this incident.

The Muslim perception is that due to the fast spread of Islam in the USA, the conservative Christians have the fear that the Muslims will take over their country as stated in prophecy of Islam. Also it is the belief of every Muslim that Jesus Christ will return to earth and preach Islam and the Muslims will take the control of the

world. Then there will be a deadliest nuclear war: the earth and life on earth will perish; the end of the world will fall; the Day of Judgment will take place.

On the other side, the Jewish people, after the holocaust, have the fear that this time the Muslims will try to eliminate them from the earth. This inner fear and after so many wars in Middle East, they wanted to ensure that the Muslims are weakened to the extent that they cannot rise in any field of life. Jewish leadership has very wisely captured the financial markets of the USA and controls the economy and the policy making of the country. The Christians knowing that it was Jews, who crucified Jesus Christ, still collaborate with the Jews to fight with the Muslims. Today most of the Muslim world is in turmoil. The USA, outwardly, and Israel, inwardly controls the policy where to strike and who to take for accomplishing their goals.

Muslim perception is that this plan was exercised by the help of Musad, CIA, and other agencies which was approved by the President of the USA. to undermine the Muslims and justify the war on terror,. According to so many reports, it has been established that there was no plane, which hit Pentagon, as the span of the plane was far bigger than the hole it made in the Pentagon. Also crashing of the plane with full fuel tanks should have burnt half of the Pentagon; whereas some photographs show that books in the next room were found intact. The theory is that it was a missile that hit the Pentagon.

The Muslim theory is that this plan was executed on a special Jewish day to minimize Jewish casualties. The planes did take off but in reality are not the ones to hit the Twin Towers. Two windowless guided planes equipped with missiles, were actually part of the plan to hit the bottom. They were guided to hit the twin towers with full precision and accuracy. I talked to so many pilots who fly 747s and according to them no one with flying training of small planes can hit those targets with such perception and accuracy. Some footage showed by the US media that there was a blast before the plane's hitting the tower. It is suggested that this was a planned demolition of the twin towers to create conditions for the government to justify any action against any Muslims in the USA and abroad.

During President Clinton's time a small plane deviated from its course and in merely three minutes 14 F-16 surrounded that plane and forced the landing before it could go close to any targets of importance. It is a mystery to reflect that how come those F-16, which control the Washington DC air space, did not get airborne to chase down the planes supposedly off their course.

According to initial radio reports, two planes were flown in Cleveland Airport. No one was allowed to disembark the plane due to the blazing news of the twin towers' being hit. Subsequently, those two planes were rerouted to unknown destination. Perception is that the real planes were diverted to clear way for the guided planes, which hit the twin towers. And the two planes cited to be used in this terrorist act were actually crashed some where else. Also stories of the plane crashing in Pennsylvania have different versions. For instance some say it was a missile that blew the plane and not the terrorists. The planners wanted to make sure that every one on board those three flights would be dead, to ensure the safety and secrecy of the plan. If it is true, this could be the most sophisticated plan ever executed in the history of the world.

Even with the twin towers melted and with thousands of gallons of jet fuel burning, the USA government without a hitch found the passports of a few Muslims so to prove their presence on the accident scene.

Moreover, word has been that the people shown as the terrorists were CIA operatives bought forth; and their identities were released to blame the Muslims. So far none of those have been identified and none of their relatives have come forward to claim that those people existed. Theory is that those people are either killed or paid enough money to keep their mouth shut.

One theory is that these were the Saudi citizens serving jail times whose pictures and passports were provided by the Saudi government and they were executed. This could be one reason why all the important Saudi nationals were boarded in specially arranged planes to leave the USA while all the air traffic was suspended in the country. As per this theory, it incriminates the Saudi leadership to be part of this conspiracy.

The kernel is that a mission was carried by the USA in collaboration with Israel. This subsequently created grounds for Iraq invasion and now in advance to hit Iran. The Muslim perception is that due to the Israelis' fear that one day the Muslims might hit them with an atom bomb and eliminate the entire Jewish race from the map of the world. Hence they want to make sure that no Muslim country has hand on the atomic arsenals. The USA policy makers are hostages to the Jewish lobby. They cannot win even a small scale election without Jewish help. Most of the politicians are forced to follow the policy to destroy the infrastructure of the Muslim countries and stop them from raising their heads against the gigantic power of the USA. Systematically,

the US has weakened all the Muslim countries by acquiring full control over oil reserves and world economy.

To cut short, now the Muslims feel that this is the conspiracy of mankind where the US government and Israel killed their own innocent people to achieve their long-term goals to weaken the Muslim world. Their perception is that 9/11 was the biggest intrigue of the history and will be revealed one day.

### **1999: Pakistan A Failing State**

For more than two hundred years the British ruled the Indian subcontinent, which now is composed of Pakistan, India and Bangladesh. The British were pushed out by force; however, before they left, they partitioned the subcontinent, thereby, creating many unresolved issues and border disputes. This was done deliberately to make the people of the subcontinent believe that the British rule was better than self-rule. In particular, the creation of Pakistan consisting of two parts, 1,000 miles apart, and the unresolved Kashmir issue have kept this Muslim State in complete disarray for the last 53 years.

This conspiracy took its first toll in 1971 when Bangladesh, afforded nominal fundamental rights, and took refuge from the minority province, West Pakistan, which had ruled it for 24 years. Since then, the rest of Pakistan which has been ruled by one of the biggest militaries of one of the poorest countries of the world has taken this country, at the edge of collapse and breakup, into further tiny fragments based on linguistic and cultural conflicts. The concept of one Muslim State has failed in Pakistan. While most of the people pray five times a day, fast for thirty days in Ramadan and sell their households to go to Mecca for pilgrimage, they are still divided just on the basis of language and culture. In this toxic society, there is neither rule of law, nor value and respect for good. Furthermore, corruption has been accepted as the way of life and all institutions have failed, thus, bringing the country close to economic and moral collapse. Economic frustrations push several young people daily toward committing suicide. In Pakistan, billions of rupees are spent to build palace-like houses that are surrounded by garbage and filth; thus everyone is deprived of the basic needs of clean and a healthy environment.

During a recent private gathering of some army officers, politicians, bureaucrats and foreign diplomats, one of the top analysts observed: "After talking to you, I get the impression that every thing is fine in this failing state." He implied that all the fancy

talks our army officers, politicians, bureaucrats and intellectuals made to impress each other and outsiders were simply a white lie. I believe the collapse of Pakistan is inevitable because a country without a permanent constitution, stable political and judicial institutions, lacking basic amenities and infrastructure, and prevalent lawlessness, is, God-forbid, seems to breakdown.

Recently I met a few academics and intellectuals who believed that Pakistan had already failed on paper, but no one dared to accept this hard fact. A country, which was a close ally of the United States of America for the last fifty years, had been categorically told by President Clinton: "Thank you for your past support and friendship but you are no longer useful in our interests." On the other hand, India, in the same span of time, has established high-class institutions and maintained democracy along with development of science, technology, industrialization, and production of war arsenals. India forced the world powers to negotiate business contracts with them and ignore their long time friend Pakistan.

Pakistan has been run on a political experiment. I call this a 10-2-2 formula: 10 years of army rule, 2 years of Muslim League, and 2 years of People's Party rule. However, one high-ranking politician corrected me and claimed that Pakistan had actually been ruled by the Punjab-dominated military, since the assassination of Prime Minister Liaquat Ali Khan. According to this source, politicians are used as pawns, whenever military wants political cover to show the world that Pakistan is a democratic country; however, Armed forces are in control behind the scenes. As soon as the time is ripe, they fire the political governments and if threatened, they make sure to lay the political leaders to rest, as they did to Liaquat Ali Khan and Zulfikar Ali Bhutto. At present the military and its secret service agencies control all the political institutions and demand seventy percent of the national budget exclusively for the armed forces. Additionally, they indirectly control the rest of the budget by deployment of retired army, air force, or navy personnel from the bottom to the top in civil, semi government and other financial institutions. This gives you a feel that you are living in an army state.

Once I wrote to General Pervaiz Musharaf that politicians admit that they are involved in 10-20 percent of the national wealth corruption, but the military was involved in the rest of the national budget, and army has become thoroughly acclimated to the corrupt ways of life. So far he has shown no moves to cleanse the forces from this disease, but he and his associates are busy in crucifying the political leaders.

During the tenure of Benazir Bhutto as Prime Minister of Pakistan, the then Chief of Army Staff insisted that defense secretary release the army budget on a post facto basis without the approval of the Prime Minister, who happened to be on a foreign trip. When the Defense Secretary phoned the Prime minister to approve the release of the budget, Benazir Bhutto instructed him to wait until her return. To her surprise, upon her return, a summary of post facto approval was on her desk. The Defense Secretary informed her that the Chief of Army Staff had left him only with two choices: (i) either to release the budget or (ii) be prepared for a military coup. Such utter abuse of power and disrespect for law and institutions does not show any hope for the well being of this country.

Corruption has become so much institutionalized that pimps who supply three Ws (Women, Wine and Wealth) are secretly controlling politicians, Army top officials and bureaucracy. Honest and dedicated civilians and intellectuals are side lined bringing a complete moral collapse and chaos in the country.

Once a friend of my father asked him to request one of his colleagues for a favor; my father told him that his colleague would not oblige him, but if he would take Quaid-e-Azam (Mohammad Ali Jinnah, the founder of Pakistan) –a metaphor implying his picture printed on the currency notes, often used in colloquial expression- to his colleague, then he would surely oblige him. I am glad that Quaid-e-Azam, who led the efforts for the creation of this country as the only Muslim State created in the name of Islam, has yet not lost his value. His picture on the currency of Pakistan has the top value to buy anything: judiciary, politicians, bureaucrats, and members of the white elephant armed forces.

The main problem with Pakistan is the lack of National honesty barometers, where 70-80% of the people are corrupt and rest of the 20-30% are trying their best to secure a position where they can also exploit the system. Today, when visiting homes of some army and government officials, I wonder how they can afford such lavish standards of living with their regular salaries.

The biggest concern I have is that the Talibans, due to lack of American attention, have been scattered all over Pakistan after achieving their goal to break the Russian Empire. And these militants, drug and arm dealers are training and recruiting a new generation of militants who cannot earn their livelihood. This has created conditions of civil war, which may eventually result in a fundamentalist revolution like Iran. According to one source, the Talibans have established 700 schools under the cover of Islamic education in Sindh province itself and are training militants in these

schools who intend to bring fundamentalist rule in the country. This should be a wake up call for the American policy makers because if and when such a revolution breaks out in Pakistan, it is going to catalyze an inevitable war between Pakistan and India resulting in destruction of all American interests in the region. The American policy makers have turned their back from their fifty years close ally to capture a huge economic market of India. But American policy makers do not realize that a war between India and Pakistan with all the nuclear arsenals will drown all their investments in India. Therefore, it is very important to resolve the Kashmir dispute.

Following are a few suggestions that can rescue Pakistan from total disintegration.

The USA should mediate the Kashmir dispute, hold an UNO-supervised referendum to find out the will of the local people as to whom they want to live with or if they want an independent state of Kashmir.

The USA should provide quick economic aid to Pakistan to restore its economy with a pre-condition to restore democratic institutions.

Once the Kashmir issue is settled, Pakistan must reduce its army to 50% and divert the funds to improve basic infrastructure, education, health, etc.

Reduce duplication of bureaucracy by giving full autonomy to the provincial governments and keep foreign affairs, defense, and railways with the central government. Keep Provincial Liaison Officers which coordinate central government efforts with various provinces. To improve relations between provinces, rural and urban areas, fair share be given to all to prevent the state from failing. At present all of the smaller provinces think that they are under the umbrella of the Punjab, most populated province and, in particular, largest producer of the army personnel; hence, there seems to be no way to get a fair share in any walk of life.

All elections should be held on a 2-year tenure basis; however, the Prime Minister should be elected for a 4-year term, unless he/she is removed from office by vote of no confidence. All elected representatives must relinquish their seats if they leave the party on whose ticket they have been elected to ensure party crossovers are discouraged.

Amend the constitution to safeguard political and democratic institutions and make the judges liable to be hanged if they give mandate to illegal takeover of the democratic institutions.

The press has to be free, yet needs to be controlled. It must inform the common man of the critical issues faced by the nation, rather than serve special or self-interests.

Industrialization is the backbone of the progress of any country. Maximum efforts must be made to establish industrialization, computer hardware and software industry, along with heavy machinery and tool complexes. Privatization of the major industries must be carried out with ample legal protection to industrialists to protect their investments.

All the defaulters of government loans should be jailed until they settled their dues so that the country can be saved from financial bankruptcies.

Reduce the foreign embassy staff to the minimum except in important countries.

Most importantly, reduce expenditures and invest in the well being of people by providing them with the basic needs of life.

### **2003: Immigrant Leadership**

If you study world history, you will come across the fact that 95% of immigration occurs due to financial reasons. Most of the immigrants coming from the third world countries come to USA to achieve financial independence. They use right and wrong means to achieve their goals. After they become financially independent, they realize that money does not bring glory and fame. So they start their campaign to be recognized with their communities. Then, these people become active members of civic organizations and become philanthropist by using some charitable organization to achieve their ambition. This is where again they manipulate right and vicious tricks to achieve their goal. Once they are a part of any civic or charitable organization, they use old political school of thought to divide and rule, make dictatorial decisions to achieve the leadership of those organizations. This breed of politicians once in leadership role do not want to leave the power and glory and use all the right and wrong methods to keep themselves in the front lines. They discourage the new line of leadership and undermine their capabilities to come forward to the leadership role. So the fight for power begins, they use the community as their pawn and keep on trying to prove to everyone that they are the only ones doing an excellent job for the community. However, their actions are directed for personal gain and glory. In the process if there were a few sincere leaders who want to do something positive for their communities without any financial goal or personal glory, become the biggest victims of these selfish leaders.

War breaks out between good and evil. This is the reason civic organizations of immigrants do not flourish and remain in chaos at

all times. The main problem is the lack of tolerance; excessive greed of power and projection of personal glory. All this drives away sincere people and ultimately leadership remains in the hands of a few selfish and self-centered people. In some cases, if a clash between two leaders with similar evil agenda starts, it splits the community by starting parallel organizations to undermine the democratically elected leadership. We do not accept the will of the people and do not let the elected office bearers to work for the community but to keep them busy to defend their actions. Why? The reason is that by birth most of the immigrants are born during dictatorship rule and it has become their second nature to believe in absolute power whenever they get a leadership role. Though we preach for democracy and democratic values, but are reluctant to accept majority's decision during the elections and never accept the elected leaders. From national level to smaller civic groups the leaders do preach to have belief in democratic values but fail to give the people the rights outlined by a true democracy. In the end, most third world countries cannot claim to have practiced democracy in the real essence. This is the reason why democratic institutions never flourish and people's desperation goes deeper and they are disgusted by the system. This frustration brings an evil action and ends up on killings of the innocent people. In general, it is the poor who suffer from the arrogant decisions made by our leaders. The rich get richer and the poor go down in the hole deeper day by day.

If we have to survive, we must learn the rule of playing right, keeping community or national interest a prime consideration to make decisions, encouraging young leaders to come forward and take the leadership role to give new life to communities.

A few years ago, in summer, I visited the United States Senate building to make a speech. During the lunch hour I saw hundreds of young kids ranging from 16-25 years of age eating lunch with us. Upon my inquiry I found out that those were mainly interns working for nothing to learn how the government functions. This program not only brings free labor for various elected officials but also produces next generation of bureaucrats and elected leaders. This is the reason there is no lack of leadership in developed countries like the United States as compared to any other country in the world. The United States believes in the true essence of the democracy and work constantly to improve infrastructure and upgrade the standard of their institutions. This is the reason why the United States is the most desirable country to migrate to. Immigrants do come here with the hope to be part of this society but lack desire to follow the basic principles of democracy.

I urge the leaders of every level from third world countries to learn the value of right and wrong and stop believing in mighty power. Finally truth prevails and eventually two wrongs do not make a right. We must produce second generation of leaders rather than creating suicide bombers. We need to provide ground for the young generation to work hard, play by the rules and achieve excellence in every field of life.

## **1996: Why the Sindhis are suffering in Pakistan**

Sindh has been the oldest name in the world, as the history of the world is known. Excavation of Mohan Jo Daro near Larkana, Sindh revealed that Sindh was one of the richest areas in the sub continent. This is why all outside warriors wanted to capture Sindh, hence turning this area into a battleground throughout the history. In recent times Sindh became independent province of united India in 1936 when it was divided from Bombay. Research has showed that history of Sindh has been quoted in Bible and old Parsi holy book Zanaosta. The point is that Sindh is the oldest civilization and the Sindhi language has been the richest of all. Sindh was the first to vote to confederate with Pakistan. Most of the immigrants from Hindu dominated areas settled in province of Sindh during 1947. However after 57 years of joining the federation of Pakistan, Sindh has still been the battleground for its self-existence due to hospitality extended to their Muslim brothers who migrated from India. Today the minority with collaboration with army and intelligence agencies rules the majority of Sindhis. Most of the businesses and key jobs are held by the immigrants. The common Sindhi wonders why they voted to be part of Pakistan which was supposed to bring all the Muslims together under one roof and provide justice for all the citizens. Here are a few of their problems and some solutions to bring this nation at par with the other Muslim brothers of Pakistan.

### *1: Identity Problems:*

Since partition of greater India, most of the Muslims migrated to Sindh and most of the Sindhi Hindus migrated to India. Before partition, the Sindhi Hindus were dominant in education, business and government jobs. The people of Sindh were excited to join Pakistan with a hope that after departure of the Hindu Sindhis they should get opportunities in various fields of life. However, their dream of getting government jobs was never fulfilled, mainly due to lack of strong leadership that was dominated by the feudals and jagirdars. These leaders had the fear that if the education was

made available to the common Sindhis, these people will come in direct confrontation with their feudal power. Therefore local Sindhi became the victims of the ignorance on both sides resulting frustration against the federation of Pakistan. On the other hand immigrant Urdu speaking people who were already educated and had been working with English government before partition came and took over the majority of government and policy making positions keeping local Sindhis at the back seat. First Prime Minister of Pakistan Liaquat Ali Khan (immigrant himself) made all the efforts to settle the Urdu speaking people by giving them all the properties and lands abandoned by the Sindhi Hindus by word of honor through claims. As such this new minority supported by the government started ruling the local people. My father who was Rehabilitation Commissioner Hyderabad Sindh to settle immigrants in 1947 used to tell stories including one that when immigrants came to Lahore by trains the local Punjabi people diverted them to Karachi by telling them that they are still inside Indian border. This one factor has kept Pakistan under constant danger of breaking up into smaller pieces. If the immigrants were evenly distributed within the four provinces we might have been more Pakistanis than the Sindhis, Punjabis, Mohajirs, Pathans and Baluchis. This one conspiracy has brought us at the verge of war and we are against each other's throat. Immigrants, who came to Sindh instead of learning local language and local culture, started to impose their language and culture on the locals. This resulted in identity crisis for both of these factions and a fight for identity started. And today Sindh is the most polarized province in which Urdu speaking people though living in Sindh do not like to be called as Sindhi but proudly call themselves as Mohajirs. The same people when settled in USA proudly call themselves Americans, but hate to be called Sindhis. The Sindhis, on the other hand, took thirty years to get a little education and have finally realized that they have lost their identity. They are now trying to recapture political and social status in the country causing an internal war between these two ethnic groups. Very recently a top researcher revealed to me that Pakistani establishment does not consider the Sindhis and the Baluchis to be part of the federation therefore constant conspiracies have been triggered against them to undermine their communion to be part of the Pakistani culture. In recent days a minority political party has been ruling the government of Sindh with systematic manipulation and intrigue of the federal government just to secure their position on the federal level. This is causing a severe identity crisis with the Sindhi people who thought Pakistan would bring to them 112

democracy and equal rights after the Hindu domination was eradicated. However, from the frying pan to sauce pan they are still at the same juncture of identity crisis. They cannot join the armed forces, higher government positions and cannot be part of the policy making. Gradually, this frustration has created the same feelings as in our Muslim Bengalis, who, finally fought a war within and acquired a separate state for them: Bangladesh. Unfortunately the rulers of Pakistan have constantly considered the Sindhi second class citizens of Pakistan which will consequently frustrate them and provoke to fight against the federation.

## *2: Political Problems:*

Since the partition, most of the Sindhi leaders who traded their integrity with the army junta and the establishment were given higher positions. Ayub Khoro, Moula Bux Soomro, Pir Illahi Bux, Kazi Akbar and many more were appointed leaders. They were busy in nothing but consolidating their positions rather than serving their constituents. People of high standing like Pir Sahib of Pagaro stood behind the establishment to safe guard their own holdings ending up no representation of the common Sindhi at high level. One unit was forced to Sindh and national capital was moved to Islamabad to weaken dependence on Sindh. On the other hand, most of the fertile agricultural land was allotted to army officers and the Punjabi landlords who eventually became highly forceful to contest elections and take away political seats which were Sindhi based constituencies. From one dimension, outsiders captured the economy; from another, political seats were taken away from them reducing their political stature to a minority within the elected assemblies. To further weaken the Sindhi political power, the establishment gave birth to the MQM which brought a scenario that a party with majority Sindhi elected members cannot form the government in Sindh. During Shaheed Bhutto's tenure as Prime Minister it was the first time an all-Sindhi-members government was established due to clear and free elections. However, once Sindhi language was prescribed to all schools of Sindh, such high caliber people as Raees Umrohi screamed out loud: "Ye ja raha he janaza Urdu ka". This resulted in counter demand of Urdu language. As soon as Sindhi language was prescribed a compulsory subject to be also learnt by the Urdu speaking clan, a big political roar was registered.

Moreover, the establishment conspired with the Urdu speaking political leaders not to accept the early elections held by Bhutto to create conditions for army take over. Hanging of Bhutto

and firing of three Sindhi prime ministers: Mohammed Khan Junejo, Ghulam Mustafa Jatoi and Benazir Bhutto (two times) are regarded as conspiracy against Sindhi politicians. Politicians like G.M. Syed, Mumtaz Bhutto, and Hafeez Pirzada who raised questions of rights of Sindh were buried in illegal cases and put in jail to divert their attention from the cause of Sindh. Sindh Governor Azeem Daudpota was fired only because he refused to issue statement in favor of Kalabagh Dam which is considered to be against the interests of Sindh.

Cunningly, Mohammed Mian Soomro was appointed as Governor of Sindh with pre-condition to issue statements that Kalabagh Dam is not against the interests of Sindh: he conveniently signed the statement and is still a favorite of the establishment. Most of the Sindhi politicians who have raised voice for Sindh and its issues have been jailed. Presently, except for a few, politicians like Rasool Bux Palejo, Pir Mazhar Ul Haque, and Nisar Khoro have been sidelined creating a big political vacuum in Sindh.

### *3: Financial Problems:*

Sindh, being mainly dependent on agriculture, always promoted production of fast moving goods but never observed serious attention to trade and commerce. Most of the businesses were captured by the Urdu-speaking people particularly the Gujrati Memons the Aghakhani merchants. They kept the local Sindhis at an arm's length. The Sindhis were more interested in becoming clerks than entrepreneurs with a result of complete financial dependence on the non-Sindhis. Though it has been their fault still they consider establishment responsible for this problem. The final result is that till today very few Sindhi entrepreneurs are active in the financial field.

When the government brought in the quota system, smart immigrants achieved forged domicile certificates to stand eligible as rural candidates and stole jobs from the native Sindhis. This way Mohajirs found a way to capture seats, which were reserved for interior Sindh. Many people like Dr. Ishrat Hussein, Governor of the State Bank, reached to high levels by forging their domicile to rural Sindh causing a severe resentment within Sindhi people.

### *4: Language Problems:*

After the partition, Urdu became the national language and was accepted by the Punjab, Baluchistan, and NWFP provinces. However, the Sindhis did not accept the Urdu language because Sindhi is a richer language than Urdu. As a matter of fact, Sindhi is

114 richer than English, which was analyzed by a German scholar Enimery Schemel, in a research paper published in the mid 70's. However, Urdu was forced upon the Sindhis as a compulsory subject in curriculum from high school whereas Sindhi was never made a compulsory subject for immigrants. This is considered as a conspiracy against the Sindhi language. The Mohajirs never tried to learn Sindhi, and during Bhutto's regime, when it was introduced at the lower level schools, it resulted in linguistic riots. The Sindhis felt that Mohajirs took over not only their land, but also their language. This became their wake up call.

Sindhi is a rich language and Sindh has produced poets like Shah Latif, Sachal Sarmast, Sheikh Ayaz, etc. They had the same caliber and charisma as Allama Iqbal or Faiz Ahmad Faiz. But, they are never acknowledged by our nation and in particular by the Urdu-speaking intellectuals. Karachi television station used to telecast only 30 minutes of Sindhi programs out of full day's schedule. Radio Pakistan also broadcast very few Sindhi programs in a fear that non-Sindhis may not learn the language.

### *Conclusion:*

After break up of one unit the Sindhis have taken active role in every field of life that is the major cause of resentment by the Urdu speaking people. However, if we believe in democracy and abide by all the rules of honesty and equality, we must give equal rights proportionate to the volume of the population at all levels of government and financial institutions. If done rightly we can eliminate so many problems and the wave of breaking away from the federation will be slowed down and we could live within one country, Pakistan. If immediate steps are not taken it will not be far away that Baluchistan and Sindh will be asking for independence from the federation of Pakistan.

### **1996: Why the Mohajirs are suffering in Pakistan**

Immigrants generally compare their future well-being to their home countries where they have migrated from based on forecasts conditioned by information available to them. Thus, potential immigrant shop for a new country in order to achieve a better future where the political, social, cultural, and economical frames are similar to those of their home lands. However, political, religious, or economic turmoil produces immigrants who must flee at once to save their lives. Such immigrants usually go through an adjustment

phase in the host country because of their weak status, both legally and politically.

However, things were different for the refugees who migrated from India to Pakistan right after its emergence on the world map. Conditions for these immigrants for their adaptation to the new land, culture, and people were highly encouraging. However, these immigrants did not try to learn about the local social, political, or economic situations and issues in Pakistan, and especially Sindh-dominated society. However, these refugees now called Mohajirs not only declined to learn the local culture, language, and social system, but were less strongly inclined to actually socialize with local people. This created a social vacuum between the local Sindhis and refugees who, instead of transforming into the Sindhis, decided to become a political force under the umbrella of Mohajir leadership. At present these immigrants are going through a phase of reality and are facing several problems. Following are a few of these problems with solutions to save the innocent people and keep the country within one federation.

#### *1. Identity Problems:*

Since Pakistan was founded in 1947, the then called patriot Muslims suddenly became Mohajirs. They neither chose to remain as Muslims, nor became Pakistanis, and in turn lost their identity as a nation because they did not have a specific piece of land to make Mohajiristan. These are the same Mohajirs who, in the United States, call themselves patriot Pakistanis, but within their own country refer to themselves as the Mohajirs. This was done in order to divide them socially from the local Sindhis.

After the partition, the Mohajirs were told that Pakistan was created by them and only for them. They never thought that there were other members of the family of Pakistan, in particular the Sindhis, who were the first to vote for the creation of Pakistan. The Mohajirs, at the time of the partition, were more educated than the Punjabis, Sindhis, Baluchs, and Pathans. Therefore, they took over most of the jobs. Now, other ethnic groups started producing more educated candidates, which has begun a distribution of jobs: this is unacceptable by the Mohajirs now. They believe that they are being discriminated against, which is not true. They are not getting jobs because of a re-awakening of the interior part of Pakistan, where some education has brought in a new breed of the educated work force.

For example, in 1974, in the PIAC alone, 8,963 employees out of 17,343 were only from Karachi, and 353 were from the rest of the Sindh. At present, over the past 20 years, employees from the interior Sindh are at about 1,789 and the Mohajirs have been reduced to 6,829, which is still over 40% of the total work force. The rest of the positions have been acquired by the Punjabis.

This is the same scenario as in the early 70's and 80's when there was a vacuum of professional engineers and doctors in the United States of America. Anyone with a bachelor's degree was working on a high-paying job. This happened because most of the young American generation was wiped out in the Vietnam War. In the nineties, local Americans were back in the market and the Asians did not find technical jobs, even if they had master's degrees from local universities. This was not discrimination, instead, a natural phenomenon. Why should anyone hire an Asian when they already have their own child with the same qualifications?

Lots of immigrants changed their names and became Syeds overnight to get undue advantage from innocent locals who carry high regards for the decedents of Prophet Mohammad (peace be upon him). The Sindhis respected the Syeds by the core of their heart. For instance, my father's Naik (Lead Servant) was traveling in a bus from Khairpur Mirs to Larkana. During his trip his bus was robbed. All the passengers were asked to give away their precious belongings and money before disembarking. Before Naik left the bus he told the robbers that he was a Syed which was not true. Upon completion of the robbery the head of the gang took a lap of goods and gave to Naik as a gift and asked him to pray for them. One can see that even criminals respected the Syeds. Immigrants used this card and took many people for a ride. Lots of immigrants produced forged certificates, affidavits and educational degrees to claim jobs, properties and lands. Today most of these immigrants claim that Pakistan was created by them and is for them. They have no consideration for the other communities like the Sindhis, Baluchs and Pakhtoons and that they are also part of the federation and have the same rights as the Mohajirs do.

In Pakistan, the same circle of event is taking its round in reverse. The Mohajirs basically ruled the country through the bureaucracy for the past 30 years and now while the Punjabis and Sindhis are holding key positions, they are not ready to accept the fact that the Mohajirs are merely 22% of the Sindh population, only 5.9% on the national level, and should only be given their due share based on their population.

## 2. Political Problems:

From Pakistan's independence, the Mohajirs did not bear very seasoned politicians except Liaqat Ali Khan. The Mohajir leadership went to people like Nawab Muzafar, Usman Kennedy Nawab Yameen, Ahad Yousuf, and Altaf Hussein. On the other hand, Sindh brought up more educated leadership like Z.A. Bhutto (Barrister), Benazir Bhutto, Syed G.M. Syed, Mumtaz Bhutto (Barrister), Hafiz Pirzado (Barrister), Rasool Bux Palijo etc. Most of the ministers from Sindh were educated and shrewder in politics than they were in the early sixties and seventies. A few examples are: Mohammad Khan Junejo, Ghous Ali Shah, and Abdullah Shah, who have been in power on both sides of the House and are very talented people. However, Altaf Hussein, though very shrewd, has not been able to create a national charisma and has not been successful politically at the national scene. For example, he joined hands with army junta of Zia after Bhutto's fall whereas he did not understand the politics of why G.M. Syed was helping him to train his people in his home town of Sun. G.M. Syed wanted to reawaken the Sindhis by training the MQM workers; he encouraged a clash between two. He thought that once the Sindhis were subjugated they would fight back. He wanted them to come out of that feeling of Muslim brotherhood in which they gave away their homes to the Mohajirs in post-1947 era.

My father Karamullah Memon, a native Sindhi, serving as Rehabilitation Commissioner during 1947-48, gave away his own house to a Mohajir in claim. The Sindhis welcomed the Mohajirs and the result was that most of them got settled in Sindh. In return, they destroyed small towns of Sindh by selling off iron, bricks, doors, and windows dismantling the houses left behind by the fleeing Sindhi Hindus. In only one city of Shikarpur, which used to be called the Paris of Sindh, over 15 thousand houses were destroyed and the money was transferred to Karachi to establish businesses.

Altaf Hussein did not realize that the MQM was created by the Zia regime to overcome Jamait-I-Islami, which was the most organized party in Pakistan that was capable of changing Pakistan into a fanatic so-called Islamic state. Upon advice from other intelligence sources, the MQM was brought in to counteract fundamentalism. In the process, the MQM was backed up by the army and the net result was that when the Kacha Kala Hyderabad incident occurred, three truckloads of arms and immunization were recovered: with the Pakistan Army logo embossed. The entire

weaponry was used for the killing the local Sindhis. One of the reasons why the army fired Benazir Bhutto as Prime Minister was the conflict over the arming of the MQM.

In Karachi, in target killings of the Sindhis approximately 500 Sindhis were killed. This was what G.M. Syed wanted. The Sindhis woke up from deep sleep and learned their lesson that they were being exploited in the name of Islam. The MQM leadership not realizing the outcome of their excessive power became a threat to the Pakistani army. At that time, the army had a wake up call and forced them to disarm the MQM and its leaders by bringing in power the rival group of the MQM and creating conditions in which the Mohajirs were killing Mohajirs, while the Sindhis and Punjabis were only watching. The MQM leadership, or, as a matter of fact, Mohajir leadership had never joined forces with the local Sindhis. It may have been because of the Punjabi conspiracy, which started in 1948. Since then, the Punjabis have planned to move everything to the Punjab from Karachi to reduce the economic power of Karachi. The Punjab has been very successful in implementing their plans. After 47 years, Karachi is completely destroyed both politically and economically while the Punjab is more prosperous than all other provinces. The Sindhis suffered by losing fertile lands to the Punjabi Generals and Colonels, but the Mohajirs were the biggest sufferers. This happened only because they did not join their forces with the locals. They always chose the side which was the other direction to the Sindhis and now they are isolated.

Though it is too late to reconcile the differences between the Sindhis and Mohajirs, still, the only solution to all the problems of Sindh is unity of the Sindhis and Mohajirs on all levels. It should be done on the basis of equal share, based on population ratio. The Mohajirs must end the conspiracy of trying to achieve a majority by bringing in Biharis from Bangladesh and must stop various political tactics to dislocate the local Sindhis. Today's Sindhi is educated and ready to grab his or her due right. No one can say that the Sindhis are inferior to others, as it was exploited in the past that they did not want to leave their village.

The MQM leadership, in association with Nawaz Sharif, tried to dislocate the then elected Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto and in return received 20 Million rupees for each National Assembly vote cast against Bhutto. Altaf Hussein now owns a big mansion in London, and the cost of his security is over a million dollars per year. One open-minded person should think about where this

money came from. I am not defending the Sindhis. They have also made a lot of money. Asif Zardari is a good example of someone who used his position and business talents in acquiring a lot of wealth. But, let us evaluate how many honest politicians Pakistan got after coming into being. Politics is the game of the rich and corrupt. All politicians are corrupt, and this is their investment to achieve power by pouring money. When they get the power, they exploit it and misuse the country's resources. In third world countries the army and bureaucracy are the biggest corrupt institutions. However, politicians get more exploited because their finances are in the public eye. If you go and see the houses built in Islamabad by army officers, you will be amazed to see how an army general whose salary is about Rs 20,000 a month can afford a multi-million rupee mansion. Unfortunately, we do not see within our ranks; instead, we think everyone else is corrupt. But when it comes to us or our loved ones, we close our eyes. We are hypocrites and this is the reason we have no national unity.

People like me who married to an Urdu speaking lady are outcaste by both the communities. I have always been judged as a Sindhi and my wife is portrayed as an intruder in Sindhi community. Irrespective of giving so much time and resources to organize local chapter of SANA (Sindhi Association of North America), she was bullied among women and forced her to divert her energies to pursue other interests.

Most of the media is owned by Urdu speaking people who never acknowledged my services to the community merely because I was a Sindhi. In one instance a news paper editor was given \$500 donation not to print my pictures with Shaheed Benazir Bhutto .

On the other hand they promoted incompetent and inferior people with no track record of community service in mean stream politics and were projected with high colors only because of their ethnic affiliations. Until and unless we don't accept each other as Pakistani and respect honesty and intelligence of individuals we will continue on the path of destruction.

The only political solution Sindh has is to live and to let live. The Mohajirs must accept the majority of local people and stop conspiring against them. Join together and make the province a prosperous one. Do not make Karachi a second Beirut as this is what your enemies want. The Punjabi feudal system is not your friend as they have always used you, but at other times have been mistreating you because you are a threat to them. Join forces with the Sindhis and stop killing each other.

### *3. Financial Problems:*

Most of the Mohajirs lost their belongings after the partition. In this transition, opportunists took advantage of the rehabilitation program and filed forged claims and became rich overnight. Real rich and famous people like Nawabs, etc. were too proud to ask for anything and went into poverty. Once, I visited the home of a brother of Nawab of Juna Garh. He was living in a two-bedroom portion near Tariq road with no basic amenities. When I probed into the matter, he said he was ashamed to ask for anything from the government.

However, the financial structure of the Mohajirs was completely switched around and crooks took over the economy and exploited the resources. The Memons, Ismailis, and Khojas by nature were selfish businessmen, interested only to make more money and move the resources to foreign countries. This gave way to a financial vacuum for the Mohajirs. On the other hand, the result of the Punjabi feudal conspiracy (based on divide and rule) caused so much unrest in Karachi that in the last 15 years, no major industry has been established. On the other hand, most of the industries have been moved to the Punjab, making Karachi financially hollow. This is because of the trap set by the Punjabi feudal lords to keep the Mohajirs and Sindhis fighting, to end in destruction of our own home.

Now, when the Mohajirs are denied the jobs, they blame the PPP leadership. I think one must critically analyze the root cause of the damage that falls to both sides and one should evaluate as to who is responsible for this economic chaos and who is the benefactor of this scenario.

### *4. Language Problems:*

After the partition, Urdu became the national language that was accepted by the Punjab, Baluchistan, and NWFP only because they did not have their own language with an alphabet. However, the Sindhis did not accept the Urdu language because Sindhi is a richer language than Urdu, and as a matter of fact, Sindhi is richer than English, which was analyzed by a German scholar Enimery Schemel, in a research paper published in the 70's. However, Urdu was forced into Sindhis and was introduced as a compulsory subject in curriculum from high school. This was a conspiracy against the Sindhi language. On the other hand, the Mohajirs never tried to learn Sindhi, and during Bhutto's regime when it was introduced in the lower level schools, it resulted in language riots. Sindhis felt that

the Mohajirs had taken over not only their land, but their language. This became their wake up call.

The Mohajirs, again, due to the some feeling of superiority, did not learn Sindhi and became a separate group. However, all the Mohajirs who settled in the Punjab learned the Punjabi language and mingled in the local culture so that there were no Mohajirs in the Punjab. Even Mohajir women who married to Sindhi men never tried to learn Sindhi. However, they forced their language on their children too. The dark side was that if a Sindhi woman was married to a Mohajir man, she had to leave her language and so the culture, as it was a must to switch the language in any case. I appreciate the determination of the Mohajirs in promoting their language by forcing it on others, but it created hatred in Sindhis for Urdu speaking people as opposed to Urdu as a language. The proof is that most educated Sindhis read, write, and speak Urdu without hesitation, but very few Mohajirs like to speak in Sindhi even with their own family members.

Sindhi is a rich language and Sindh has produced poets like Shah Latif, Sachal Sarmast, Sheikh Ayaz, etc. who had the same caliber and charisma as Allama Iqbal or Faiz Ahmad Faiz had. But, they are never recognized by our nation and in particular by the Urdu-speaking intellectuals. Until and unless mutual respect is developed, this hatred will continue. Poor people will continue to die. Democratic governments will be taken over by the army generals. The poor will get poorer and the rich will get richer. Selfish politicians will go on exploiting the innocent public and filling their pockets. Some of us preach killing in the name of God as General Zia did. If this continued in the name of God and religion, we will be punished by God as He punished the past nations that took His name but killed the innocents.

I think this is the time to wake up and reconstruct Pakistan for what it stood for, "Equality for all on the basis of Islamic values."

#### **Addendum 2004**

After eight years the situation has not improved. The MQM is in collaboration with the Punjab army and feudals have captured democratically elected assembly of Sindh. It is amazing to note that a minority with fewer seats in the assembly is ruling the province. This in turn has created deep-rooted hatred for the Mohajirs. Due to recent remarks by Altaf Hussein, the wind is changing and latest elections will be held in 2005. If the PPP captures majority at center and can form governments in provinces without the MQM then the

Mohajirs will start complaining for discrimination. However, in the past years no one said a word against non-democratic government held by the MQM. Unless and until we do not give due share of national wealth and resources to every citizen of the country, the country will remain in political turmoil with no hope of progress in the future.

#### **March 2001: How to Bring in Democracy in Pakistan**

A Letter to Ms Benazir Bhutto, Ex. Prime Minister of Pakistan

The first and fundamental thought is that the United States of America, being the world's greatest super power, encompasses the largest democracy in the world, and has a complete control of our government. The CIA network is spread all over the world, and with a few exceptions they are practically controlling the world. Therefore, in order to bring democracy in Pakistan, the process has to start within the United States.

The following steps ought to be taken in order to restore democracy, especially if the Peoples' Party wants to come back in power after the army's failure, which seems very evident from their initial few months in power. Until this regime convinces the United States government in the same manner General Zia UL Haque did, by helping the United States to bring the Russian empire to a downfall, the efforts to re-establish democracy in Pakistan will continue to be strenuous.

The Peoples' Party should strengthen its roots in Pakistan. So far, the common status of the Peoples' Party is that it is not very democratic in its decisions, and is full of leaders who are arrogant and corrupt. Most of the honest politicians who were with the late Z.A. Bhutto have left the party. The first step must be to change the tone in your dealings: be friendlier and bring all the old timers on the table. Though old in age now, they are more precious than gold. Give full consideration to their advice, and their next generation in the party will revitalize it.

Generate a plan on how you will solve the problems of the common man, such as corruption, brutality and misuse of police power, feudalism, price hike, joblessness, illiteracy, industrialization, power-shortage, communications, and the biggest culprit reduction of the white elephant The Army. At present the army has become an inevitable partner in the political system therefore, we have to compromise with the army leaders and work our way to draft a plan and act upon it as long as it upgrades the standards of the

common man. Unless the middle class is not in the majority, there will be no democracy stable enough to rule more than a few years.

Set up a committee of three to five people each in all major cities of the United States of America and Europe. Let this be called a People's Party Political Action Committee. This committee would recommend to the party as which political candidates to be supported in the United States congress, senate, and local political arena. It would be necessary to finance such committee whose job would be to campaign and lobby to bring a democratic government in Pakistan. The key thought is to provide funds, as it will need a minimum of \$100,000 budget at each location. Let this committee get its roots in United States politics which, in the long run, would bring stability to the Pakistani government. Some suggested cities are Washington D.C., New York, Chicago, Los Angeles, Houston, San Francisco, Orlando, Atlanta, Seattle, Denver, St. Louis, Dallas, Miami, Phoenix, London, Paris, etc...

Appreciate hard working party workers and people who support you. Send them personalized notes, autographed pictures and appreciate their work. Be available to them and be friendlier to them. When I met Mrs. Hillary Clinton I realized she could be a role model for politicians. The entire time I was with her, she acted as though she was my best friend. Mr. Clinton displays many of the same qualities. He is so charismatic that you feel that he is your best friend. Recently, when I met you, I found similar charisma in you but if you use those to your advantage. The key is to be close to people and be accessible; this will change your perception and make you famous.

## **How to Prevent Pakistan from Further Destruction**

Letter to Mrs. Benazir Bhutto Ex. Prime Minister of Pakistan

Dear Mrs. Bhutto:

I have been a critical observer of the Pakistani politics for twenty-two years, in particular, of your family's role in the politics of Pakistan.

Your father, the late Z.A. Bhutto, started his political life from our home. Your late grandfather brought your father to my uncle, Abdul Fateh Memon, to teach him the local politics. At the time, my uncle was the General Secretary of the Muslim League. Subsequently, he became the greatest leader Pakistan has ever seen so far because of his hard work, intelligence, and dedication to the cause of people.

I have been a silent observer of your family's role in politics and hope that you can be successful in your political career. In the next few pages, there are a few suggestions, which could be useful for the fulfillment of the promise your father made to the people of Pakistan, which he could not achieve because of too many negative forces against him. This time you have an opportunity, which can either place you topmost in history or fade you out from politics of Pakistan altogether.

I am writing this letter for the sake of the people of my country. I have no political or economic ambition associated with you or the opposition party. I have friends in both parties as well as in the bureaucracy. Furthermore, these are merely my personal thoughts, and no one has inspired me to write this letter to you. I hope this letter will reach you and that you may benefit from the same.

The Peoples' Party is the party of the masses who are mostly uneducated. Most of the educated class is against your party. Your biggest problem is to do something for them to keep them quiet. This has to be done in such a way that your promise to the people who voted for you is also not jeopardized.

Efforts have to be made to divert the attention of people from large metropolitan areas to reduce the economic and social pressures. If you analyze the situation in the United States of America, all the lower middle class people have been provided with basic amenities and entertainment. The same efforts should be made to do the following:

- Ø Encourage recreational activities. Government sponsored tournaments should be arranged by district officials.
- Ø A movie channel should be launched on TV or an existing channel should telecast movies and shows from various countries around the clock. This will keep people interested in other things rather than street violence and street politics.
- Ø Mobile movie theaters that go village to village and provide entertainment to villagers while conveying government messages to them should be established. This system was very beneficial during Ayub Khan's regime when he used the district administration to propagate his message to the people while providing entertainment at the same time.
- Ø Open kuchary --actually originated by Captain Usman Ali Issani during his tenure as Deputy Commissioner Khairpur in the early 60's and utilized by your father very effectively in the early part of his tenure-- should be organized again. All the Commissioners, Deputy

Commissioners, and all top-level officers should head it at least once a month. You should also take time to meet common people. In your last tenure you were distant from the people. This was one of the reasons you were removed without any hitch by the then political masters. You are lucky that a change in the American Government and a rift between Nawaz Sharif and Ishaq Khan made way for you to come back in power. However, this may be the last chance you have to get close to the people.

- Ø Corruption in bureaucracy is at the highest extent. In my view there is no way to control the corruption in the bureaucracy except by finding ways to reduce it, particularly in the areas where the common man has to let go of bribe to live clean. Find out some ways to provide telephone connection, electric connection, and health care, building permits, factory and industrial permits, admissions to professional schools, driver's licenses, passports, ID cards, and many basic amenities without red tape. One way to do so is to create alternatives to existing agencies in which the private sector would provide such services. You must have seen an improvement in air service after an alternate airline was allowed. This will ease unemployment problems as well as dependency on the government would lesson.
- Ø Efforts should be made to delegate powers to the lower levels for people to get quick decisions. Presently appointment of a peon to the secretary is done by the chief minister. We must change people's minds to small business and encourage entrepreneurs by some reward system to strengthen private sector. Right now every graduate wants to be a clerk. Efforts should be made to change this attitude and divert the manpower to the technical fields, business, and service industry. Non productive expenditure on the bureaucracy and the army should be reduced, and public spending on education, cultural and social programs should be increased. Ask the people who possess billions of rupees in hiding to bring the money out and invest in industry and the private sector. You should give them cover to protect their investment, even if it has come from black money. In this way, black money may provide jobs for the poor and develop the country.

- Ø On the political side you must bring all the experienced politicians close to you. One of the reasons of your father's political downfall was removal of dedicated and experienced politicians from the party and bringing in opportunists close to him. The political scene in Pakistan has not changed in the last thirty years. You have three kinds of people in politics.
- Ø Ones are Feudals, Landlords, Zamindars, and Chowdhrys who want to be in power to keep their heritage and have no interest in the country, its people or you. They are only interested in their safe net. Wherever they see their safety, they run to that lurking hole.
- Ø Second are those opportunists who want to make money by politics. As long as they make money they are on your side.
- Ø Third are the politicians that are few in numbers yet want to do something for the people while they are in office. Find such people and bring them in your government.

To control the country you need to have a balance of all these types of politicians for your own safety. You must try to bring people like Khar, Mumtaz Bhutto, Ghulam Mustafa Jatoi, Hafiz Pirzada, Allana, Miraj Mohammad Khan, and several others past PPP well-wishers back and continue the efforts to do something for the people. Arrogance is the killer of the politician. One of the reasons of your father's failure in the end was non-compromise and arrogance shown to the senior politicians. You should take advantage of his mistakes and visit such people and try to clear old enmities. I still remember that one time in the early part of your father's coming into power; an effort was being made to clear differences between him and Pir Pagaro through Syed Ghous Ali Shah. But due to the selfishness of a few of his close associates, that effort was ruined because it was not in their interest to bring Pir Pagaro close to Mr. Bhutto. I know it will be very hard to reconcile the differences with him now, but I would keep an open dialogue with him and his close associates. The same should be observed with Nawaz Sharif and other prominent opposition leaders. You must invite them for political sittings and suggest them to do something for the people together. Break the old feudalistic trend of politics, and try the modernized ways to bring people at the same table. This way they will let you rule for your tenure and let the people decide for you or for them in the next elections. Do not impose your leadership. Let the people and the assemblies bring you as the leader. I know you were advised by several people not to accept leadership while Ishaq was President because you were not elected but selected to do a certain job. You are lucky that you got

another political life, so use it wisely. Bring people together like you did with Ghulam Mustafa Jatoi. I am positive that if you go and visit these people, they will stop negative campaigning against you and the PPP.

I am sending you a copy of an article written by Nicolas Platt who was the U.S. Ambassador to Pakistan in 1991. I agree with his idea that now is the time to change the politics of revenge, and make the national assembly into a working legislature, make friends, and avoid confrontation.

Recent shifts in the American Policy are good signs for your party. You must create political forums that could propagate your message to the right quarters. You are aware about efforts done by the Sindh Association of North America on human rights violations. We used modern ways of approaching the local congressmen and senators on a very small scale and this brought back very positive results. On the same grounds, you must form small political forums on district, division, provincial, national, and international levels. They should hold meetings with people of interest and create positive response for your party. Right now PPP is labeled as a party of opportunists who want to make money by right or wrong ways. You must change this image of your party.

News media is completely against your party. Efforts should be made to reduce negative propaganda against PPP. I recall during your father's era these people used to write "Larkana has become the second Paris of Pakistan. All the money has gone to Larkana." You and I know that, except for a few development projects, nothing constructive had been done there. But people outside Sindh always had a feeling that all the money was being spent in Larkana. Educated Mohajirs by nature are complainers and it is very hard to satisfy their appetite for money and power. However, with the right propaganda, you could bring the truth to the common man. But, this can only be done if your party members show an honest effort to rule the country.

## **January 1998: Human Rights Violations and Dictatorship in Pakistan**

Honorable Bill Clinton  
President  
United States of America  
Dear Mr. President:

I am sorry that I missed an opportunity to see you in person during your visit to Houston for a fundraiser for Congresswoman Ms. Sheila Jackson Lee. I was unable to attend due to a severe flu

virus. I intended to submit this memorandum to you; however, instead, I am sending it to you by mail with a hope in shifting U.S. policy towards Pakistan.

Strategic Importance of Pakistan:

Fundamentalist governments in Iran and Afghanistan, along with India's powerful help of China and Russia, have left Pakistan's only ally as the United States, who potentially may be able to keep the balance of power in the region.

The United States of America can keep the Balance by supporting the democratic process in Pakistan and use its resources to keep check and balance. Presently, Premier Nawaz's government is completely busy in crushing the opposition political leaders in order to create a totalitarian rule in the country. All major positions have been assigned to their home town friends, leaving the rest of the country that consists of three minority provinces with no representation in the political process. This will eventually create a situation similar to Bangladesh and break Pakistan into several tiny countries for which political movement in Sindh, Baluchistan, and Pakhtoonistan are already fully ripened. This totalitarian rule will make this process very easy. This in turn would leave the United States without an ally in the region.

Action Required to Safeguard USA Interests:

Premier Nawaz's government shall be asked to stop all human rights violations by withdrawing all politically motivated cases against each political party. The time and resources shall be used to upgrade peoples' standards of living, rather than crushing political rivals. In turn, when those rivals come back in power, they also spend their time to crush other parties, causing a total loss of resources and hindering development for the poor masses.

Negotiations shall be expedited to have a NO WAR PACT between Pakistan and India, to stop the arms race in the region. Pakistan and India shall be asked to reduce the size of their armies and furthermore spend at least 50% of their budget on non-military expenses. The Kashmir issue should be resolved with a free UNO controlled election in which the Kashmiris shall decide what is to be done about their country as opposed to the Pakistani and Indian politicians deciding for them.

This process would also upgrade the education level in these countries, which would therefore produce better political leaders, technocrats, and educators. Presently the so called "democratic" process is controlled either by the army, bureaucrats, selfish landlords, or career politicians. All elections, except for one in 1971, have been rigged by the local and army authorities. Moreover, the so-called mandate of "absolute majority" in the Parliament is a result of massive fraud without a truly democratic and fair election.

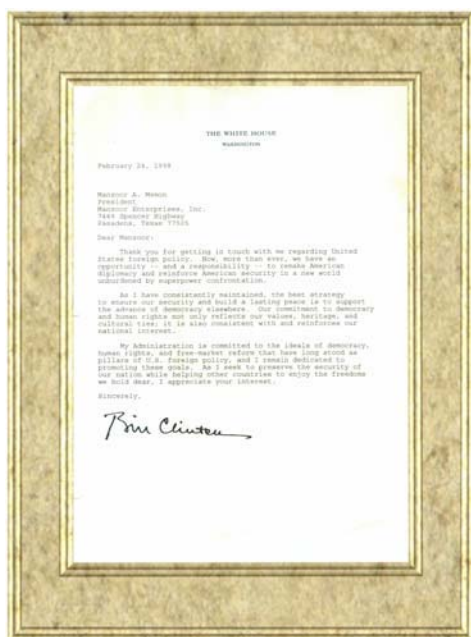
IMF funds and other grants are mostly used either by the government officials or are given as bribes to the friendly politicians. Less than 5% of the budget and loans are used for the common man. For this reason, a negative feeling persists between the people of Pakistan and the U.S.A. though the elite of Pakistan have always collated for US interests. Unless the aid granted to these countries reaches to the common man, we will have no sympathy in their hearts.

Premier Nawaz's government shall be asked to give a fair share, in all respects, to the smaller provinces and stop various conspiracies that give way to political instability in those provinces. This should include all political, bureaucratic, army, and other appointments. At present, Premier Nawaz's hometown and home province associates and friends hold all 40 of the top positions.

If few of these ideas are implemented, it will save Pakistan from further breaking into smaller pieces that would not be in the long-run political interest of the United States of America.

With regards,  
Manzoor A. Memon

Conclusion: President Bill Clinton's personal response is given below



## Sindh Today

**A letter written by my cousin late Ali Raza Memon, son of Abdul Fatah Memon, former Ambassador of Pakistan to Saudi Arabia.**

Mohtram: Asslamu-alaikum wa Rahmatu-Allah wa Barkatahu,

As a concerned Sindhi, I would like to draw your attention to a major problem of Sindh and the Sindhis. You are in a position to help directly and indirectly (through your children), to help find a solution for this predicament.

We are pained and bewildered to see a complete absence of Sindhi entrepreneurs, industrialists, businessmen, traders, bankers, financiers, as well as other technical and non-technical labor hands, in the economic and financial stage of Sindh and Pakistan. We are fully aware of the conspiracies in the past and present, to keep the Sindhis out of the mainstream of national economic life. However, we also know that there have been certain reluctance of our educated and upper class to participate directly in financial and industrial life in Sindh. Sir, time has come for the Sindhis to play an active and rightful role in day to day business, industry, and trade of Sindh. Sindh needs indigenous Sindhis to enter business, trade, industry, and finance. Sindh cannot prosper unless the real sons of soil become industrialists, bankers, investors, traders, managers, technical and non-technical hands, and equally important owners and exploiters of the God given natural and other resources.

In the past, the Sindhis, who by chance got permits to put up industries or other businesses, sold them for pennies to the non-Sindhis, who are now millionaires, and who refuse even ordinary jobs to the Sindhis. Some Sindhis got loans, which were spent away on unproductive schemes and activities. Sir, if the Sindhis do not wake up now, their children will be in worse conditions than those of the Red Indians of Canada and the United States of America, (who were once the owners of the United States and are now beggars and strangers on the same land.)

Sir, God has provided us one more chance to do something really constructive and productive for our people and land. The Sindhis who are in power must play constructive roles in the national reconstruction of Sindh. Let them set up new industries in Larkana, Shikarpur, Jacobabad, Dadu, Nawabshah, etc.... Let them get permits for their friends, relatives, and acquaintances to put up factories (small, medium, and large), industries to initiate new businesses, trading houses, shops all over Sindh. Karachi should be rehabilitated by indigenous Sindhi businessmen, industrialists, traders, bankers, and experts in finance and related

technologies. Let our leaders and politicians arrange loans from public and private institutions for the Sindhis qualified to set up business and financial projects in the nook and corner of Sindh. The Sindhis are blessed with brains, physique, knowledge, resources and education to play a fair and active part in the national and international development. This is the best time to take the initiative for an overall economic plan and reconstruction of Sindh: to prepare and allow the Sindhis to participate fully in economic, financial, and industrial life of Sindh.

We Sindhis have to work very hard, and fast to compensate for our past deprivations. Right now we are in a very bad and sad situation, all of our major cities and towns are out of our economic and political control. Even small towns are getting out of our control. Let us take control of our economic destiny in our hands now!

Every one of us sitting abroad will be happy to fully participate and cooperate directly as well as indirectly in reconstruction of the Sindh economy. I am offering my unconditional support, help, and assistance to Sindh and the Sindhis in their endeavor to take their rightful, God-given right to own, use, and exploit their resources to the benefit of all people in Sindh and Pakistan.

“Let us get our middle class to enter trade, business, management, and related services...private as well as public sectors.”

“Let us get our upper class to invest in setting up industries, factories, banks, insurance companies, trading companies, foreign agencies etc....”

“Let us get our skilled and unskilled labor to find work in our industries, trade and related agencies.”

“Let us demand our due share in national wealth, revenue and resources.”

“Let us speak out, as well as act for securing our God given rights as citizens of Sindh and Pakistan.”

Above all let us encourage our fellow brethren Sindhis to go into ownership, management and work in the economic sector of Sindh and Pakistan. We need economic prosperity and control over Sindh's destiny to be real and true free citizens.

Please think about it; let me know your reaction. We have enough pool of talent, wealth and resources to be our own economic and financial bosses. This should be in effect immediately.

God bless you and all the Sindhis.

Ali Raza Memon

December 8, 1998

## Letter to Mr. Abdullah Shah Chief Minister Sindh

Dear Shah Sahib:

Assalam-o-Alakium

I hope this letter finds you and your family in the best of health. It has been about five years since we met in Washington D.C. where I made a comment to you about the change of Chief Minister in Sindh and I told you that you would be a better Chief Minister. I think after what you have done in a few years as CM I was 100% right. I congratulate you on your hard work and efforts to cope with the situation in Sindh in what you also lost your dear brother. I am sorry about his untimely death. Please accept my deepest condolences.

During my meeting with one of very recent ex-CM (not from the PPP), I asked him to evaluate your performance and I was told that after Mumtaz Bhutto you were the best CM the PPP brought in. Hearing from an opposition party leader I really compliment you on your performance and all of us here are really proud of you.

The reason why I am writing you this letter is to bring to your attention the propaganda initiated by the PPP opponents all over the world through the media. In my letter to Mrs. Benazir Bhutto, a few years ago, I insisted on fostering some media lobby in various important countries like the United States of America, the UK, Canada, France, Japan, etc...; I also suggested the launch of a news letter which should be printed in Pakistan (due to economical reasons) sent to various countries to be distributed to all the Pakistani community within each country. Also news through the internet will be a beneficial tool to pass the information. Interviews from various PPP politicians while visiting any foreign country on radio, TV, and newspapers have proved to be a very beneficial tool. Unfortunately, the non-Sindhi community is unaware about the injustice done to us and they think we are the aggressors whereas we have been the victims since the partition.

I will be in Karachi from May 3rd to May 18th 1996. If you would like to discuss this proposal in detail as how to set up a propaganda tool, please instruct your private secretary to allot some time between the above dates. I will be in touch with your private secretary.

Thank you and I will see you soon.

## **Muslims and Mainstream Politics:**

(A Speech at APPNA Convention)

Brothers and sisters, Assalam-o-alakum. On behalf of Mayor Lee P. Brown and the city of Houston, I welcome you all. I thank the organizers of APNA for this opportunity to address you all. The issue I would like to discuss is the Muslims and mainstream politics.

After 9/11 two years ago the demographics of the United States have completely changed. The Muslims have been brought under the spotlight. On one side we have our integrity and pledge of allegiance adhering to the oath to be the citizens of the United States. On the other side, we have teachings of Islam and our brothers and sisters who are living in the Muslim countries like Kashmir, Palestine, Iraq, Afghanistan, Chechnya, Bosnia, where they are suffering. We have to see how to balance our local and Islamic commitments. This is a hard task but can be done if we all work together as a team and do not get divided on petty things. One important aspect is to follow Islam in its true essence. Yes, we have five pillars of Islam; following those makes us officially a Muslim. But the practice of those along with the true human values and standards of honest life makes us a complete Muslim; that is, we not only have to practice Deen but also play a role in Dunyia. You should see that a few Muslims' acts of cruelty result in all Muslims' suffering the aftermath. So what we should do is come out as winners. Including our Islamic duties, we need to get involved in our community and political affairs from the roots. From school boards, city, county, state and federal levels, we need to get involved in the political process and slowly send this message to our next door Americans that we are as patriotic as they are and Islam is the religion of peace not terrorism as it is being wrongly portrayed. We have to be honest, punctual, and fair in our dealings and give messages of friendship and peace to local people and be a part of the system. A few things we should do are:

First, register to vote, and urge friends and relatives to register and vote. This will strengthen your community in the eyes of the politicians and lawmakers as your block vote can make a big difference. You must become member of your civic, religious community and business organizations. We have about two million Muslim votes all around the country which can cause someone to win or lose any election.

Second, join the political party of your choice; examine their manifesto and their track record and decide which party will serve our needs. Then go and vote in primary elections and try to get

elected as party delegates, or party prescient chairs. This way you will be inside the political party and can divert the party manifesto and policy towards your community cause.

Third, once you are in the political body pick candidates of your choice and support them by volunteering your time to their campaigns. Raise funds for them, put their signs on your businesses and show that you are a part of the system. We are very slow in letting our money go; we need to be generous in donating not only to our own institutions like mosques, Islamic schools, but also to the American charities, political action committees and candidates who can support your community cause.

Fourth, we need to encourage our youth to participate in the political process by asking them to spend their summer doing internships for the city, county, state, and federal offices. My suggestion to people is, if you want to live in this country you need to be a part of this society, as people say: "Do in Rome as the Romans do."

Lastly, I urge the doctors' community to donate their time to the American charities and make a political force for their communities by inviting political candidates and opening their door for their political activities like fund raising etc... I think you can play a vital role in bringing our communities at par with other communities by paying some attention on this subject.

If any youngster is interested to work as volunteer or intern in any political office, contact me, I can try to get them in.

I hope God will give us strength to follow a straight path, where we are successful not only on the religious front but on a worldly front too.

Thank you, and may Allah bless you all.

December 20, 1999:

**Letter to President General Pervaiz Musharaf**

SUBJECT: DR. ISHRAT HUSSEIN, GOVERNOR STATE BANK

Dear Mr. Musharaf:

Since your take over as CEO of Pakistan, you have been preaching for equal rights for the provinces, but your actions are contrary to your statements. Major positions on federal and provincial levels are held by either the Urdu speaking or Punjabi speaking officers. Locals from Sindh, Baluchistan and frontier provinces are being sidelined. Your policy to adopt merit system for appointments is not a bad policy but if you live in an equal opportunity state like the United States of America, you will notice

that here every rich or poor person has the same facilities to go to school and grow in the equal society. You should not forget, in the past 50 years the step brother attitude towards the Sindh, Baluchistan and frontier has not groomed the people of these underprivileged areas to compete with people from large metropolitan areas. Therefore, it is imperative to keep the merit policy within rural and urban areas so that the best could be picked up from all over the nation to ease tension within the provinces.

Appointment of Dr. Ishrat Hussein is a major concern that the foundation of his career is based on a fraud: he obtained a fake rural area domicile certificate to compete in CSS examination on a Sindh rural seat. The reason I am confident about this is because it was my father, late Karamullah Memon PCS (one of the most honest officers the Sindh bureaucracy has ever seen), who by mistake issued a false domicile certificate to Mr. Ishrat Hussein CSP. My father noticed the mistake after Mr. Ishrat qualified for CSS and became SDM in our home town Shikarpur in 1966. My father regretted this mistake when Mr. Ishrat became his boss by superseding him in provincial position.

The reason his domicile is important is that a lot of Urdu speaking people have exploited the rural urban domicile policy in the past and deprived the due share of the less fortunate people and Mr. Ishrat is a good example of this cult.

I, as a political observer, must urge the policy makers to make sure that policies of equality and fairness must be restored; otherwise further partition of Pakistan is already on the CIA's drawing board. These actions will give smaller provinces an excuse to part from the federation. So please pay attention to this policy.

Also after reading your speech on economic affairs, my only comment is to ask you to reduce the government expenses and in particularly the white elephant: the army, which has made our country completely hollow. It is time to settle our differences with India and divert our economy to industrialization rather than warmongering.

Accepting resignation of Dr. Yaqub was a good move. In principle he was a part of policy making of Nawaz Sharif and he should be held responsible for the economic collapse of the country. I disagree with his policies, though he is related to me: national interest should be kept at the top of the agenda.

Lastly, I can see your actions slowing down to eliminate the evils out of the society. You need to make quick decisions as you will be weakened as time passes. Do something for the poor people who see you as their final hope.

With regards,

September 24, 1989:

## Speech at Palestine Muslim Group

Thanks for granting me the opportunity to speak.

My name is Manzoor Memon. By profession, I am an electrical engineer, advisor to Mayor, businessmen, election judge, Democratic Party chair, trustee Pakistan association, and president of Pakistan Chamber of Commerce.

My role today is to bring forth some reflections as how to be effective in this society. I will touch the following four subjects:

1. Global economy
2. Economy controls politics
3. Politics controls policies
4. Policies control our lives

Bring efforts to have control over business. The Jewish people are a role model. How can a handful of people control policies of the strongest country in the world and undermine multi billion community of Muslims? By controlling financial markets. We can control politics and polities.

How can we do the same? People who are in business need to come from behind the closet of collecting dollars; it is time to give back to the communities. Participate in political system. Every major town should have a group of businessmen mobilizing their funds and giving it to local, state and national leaders during election time. Do not do it individually but give as a community and start asking for something in return rather than just a photograph which you proudly hang in your living room to show to people. Make the politician change some policies for our motherland and us. We love our homeland USA but we owe something to our motherland.

The people who are not rich but educated and can participate in the election process should get attached with political candidates and parties, be their members, and get into staff of the politicians. Staff of politicians writes 95% of laws and regulations, they control the language of those legislatures that control our lives.

Then comes the most important factor that we all have ignored: to exercise our valuable vote. Statistics shows that our community voting has been less than 5% of registered votes. Estimate is that we have at least 3 million registered Muslim votes, so we need to vote in block and get attention of the politicians. Please register and exercise your votes if you want to survive in this country.

Again controlling the business is the key factor. This has proven in the past to be the most effective way to take your communities on the higher level. Support political candidates financially; work with them, and go to vote. You will be ahead of other in the game.

Thank you again.

## **2002. Interview with Manzoor Memon**

Manzoor Memon's nick name is Manny Memon. He was born in Shikarpur Sindh. His family shifted to Larkana in 1947. His father late Haji Karamullah Memon was Deputy Commissioner and Secretary Revenue to the Sindh Government. His Uncle Abdul Fateh Memon was a General Secretary Sindh Muslim League in 1948 under late Ayub Khoro's presidency. He served as Pakistan's Ambassador to Saudi Arabia from 1963 to 1969. His other uncle Nizamuddin Memon was a close advisor to late Z.A. Bhutto, also being a member of the Pakistani delegation to UNO.

Manzoor Memon acquired his Bachelor's degree in Electrical Engineering in 1973, with third position within entire University. He worked for the Karachi Shipyard and PIA until 1980 when he migrated to the United States of America. Here he worked for major US companies like Bechtel Power Corp, Mississippi Power and Lighting Company, Flour Daniel, Ebasco Construction, and Stone and Webster Company.

In 1987, he quit engineering and pursued several business ventures and has been very successful. Since then, he has been CEO of several companies including Mars Carpets and Tapestries, Universal Postal and Travel Center, Amber Travel, ATI Travel Club, Pasadena's One Hour Photo, Prime Time Video, Deer park Dairy Queen, Pasadena Baskin Robbins, M & M Food Mart, Chevron Gas Station, and A.K. Construction Co. etc.

Manzoor Memon is actively involved in local community and political affairs. He serves as member of Mayor Lee P. Brown's Advisory Board for Asian Affairs. He has also served as member of Mayor's transition team, Finance and Political committee. He was nominated by the Mayor to serve as trustee for Baylor College of Medicine. He has also served as a member of President Bush's exploratory committee, and Senator Hillary Clinton's financial supporter. He serves as a member of the Pakistan Center Trust in Pakistan Association of Greater Houston. By affiliation he is a strong Democrat and believes in human rights and prosperity of poor people of the United States and other world nations.

Here are a few of his thoughts on various issues.

*Q: You have been involved in so many businesses, why do you change so much?*

A: This is my weakness that after establishing a new business and bringing it to its peak, I want to do something else; as there is no challenge left in doing the repeated thing. Pursuing new ventures gives me an opportunity to learn different things. This way I keep myself interested in life. Financially, I may not make so much as others who concentrate on one kind of business, but it gives me pride to know a little about everything.

*Q: Why did you come to the United States of America?*

A: I used to work in PIA; my appointment was political so as soon as the army toppled up late Z.A. Bhutto's government, we were on the target list. This was the main reason I had to leave the country.

*Q: Do you want to go back to Pakistan?*

A: I do not think so. I have worked very hard for the last 21 years and it's time to retire and let the new generation take over. I do not see any reason to go back. However, if given a position to promote education in the rural areas, I will donate my time for a few years to help my people.

*Q: Tell us something about how the 9/11 incident affected you.*

A: I do not see any effect on me, my family or business. However, there are a lot of friends who have lost jobs and the situation is not very sound economically for so many of our people. We used to be freer in our actions and speech before. Now we have to be more careful and discreet. We are lucky that we are in Houston, where because of our community's strong support to the Mayor and interaction with the law enforcement agencies, we have been treated very well.

*Q: What do you think about the local political atmosphere? Where do you believe our community is headed?*

A: Since the last few years, things have been a lot better. Our people have started getting involved in mainstream politics. We have Pakistani Muslims involved in Republican as well as Democratic parties at various levels. Compared to the Jews, we are at a starting level in mainstream politics. However, it is a good start and I urge people to register to vote and exercise their right to vote. As more people vote, it will strengthen our community and will carry us into mainstream politics. The only advice I want to give to our political activists is to knit our strings to make a strong rope. Presently, everyone is working on their own, in small groups to get personal agenda fulfilled; and it has been very hard to bring all activists on

one platform. Until we keep our disagreements aside and work as a strong Pakistani group, we will not be successful as a community.

*Q: What should our community be doing to handle the current situation?*

A: Most of our people have come here for financial reasons; however, we need to get involved in mainstream American politics on all levels. I have seen a tremendous change in political scenario by our people's involvement in the past four years. Thanks to Mayor Lee P. Brown, who opened his doors for our community to participate in the local government. The last election remarkably showed this from all Muslims. It was the first time politicians considered it important to come to our mosques and solicit our support. We need to unite and support the right candidates who could give us access and protection. In my view, the Muslims from the other cities must learn lesson from Houston, which is considered the most desirable city for minorities. This is mainly because of our interaction with local politicians. As a community, we must participate in the system and give a message to the leaders that we are as patriotic as the rest of the Americans.

*Q: What do you think about institutions like PAGH and ISGH?*

A: This is a very difficult question to answer as I do not want to hurt anyone's feelings. I will give my comments for each of them separately. ISGH is doing a fairly good job; it has grown from three branches to about twenty. However, the membership is not very high. In my view, we have over one hundred thousand Muslims in this area and we should have membership of at least ten thousand people. We need to make the membership free to establish the institution and use it as a semi political forum to serve our community. ISGH, PAGH, and other Muslim associations should work together to serve the needs of the people. PAGH performance has been below average except during 9/11, when some positive steps were taken to safeguard our interests. Similarly, their membership is very low which should be made free. In my view we should offer two kinds of membership for both of these institutions: one, paid members can vote in the elections, and the free members will remain on the list with no voting rights. This way we can look better as a stronger community organization and show our strengths.

*Q: You are member of Pakistan Center Trust. What have you achieved in the past Year?*

A: Honestly, nothing except hold a few meetings. Unfortunately, we do not have the resources and common ground to build a Pakistan Center. In the past, so much money has been raised in the name of the Pakistan Center with no results. Therefore it is not possible to get the communities' help to build the center. I proposed

to create a separate trust to build a Pak American Cultural Center. This trust should have permanent board members with a non refundable donation of \$10, 000 each. This center should be operated like an investment; PAGH should be given space to operate its community service from its premises. The board memberships should be non transferable and non cancelable. All the income of the center should be deposited in trust accounts and the center should be maintained from these funds. City of Houston Community services may grant up to half a million dollars towards the building of the center. The Arab and Chinese communities have already built a center in the last few years. Until and unless some strong financial support is provided by some of our members, I do not see a center built for the next few years. We have built so many mosques. This means people do contribute towards such activities but we have to show the results to the community. In the past we have completely wasted our resources and have lost our credibility with the community.

*Q: What is your business advice to the younger generation?*

A: They must achieve basic education before going for business. They should have enough capital to sustain unforeseen expenses before going into business. Most of the small businesses fail due to lack of back up funds and poor advertising. In my view this country is the most suitable for business rather than doing a job. They also need to save and invest, and work for themselves to achieve financial independence. This way they can support their family and enjoy life.

## **Pakistani Chamber of Commerce Dinner USA 8th Annual GALA Speech: February 28, 2004**

Honorable Mayor Bill White, Mayor David Wallace Councilmen Masur J. Khan, Adrian Garcia, Ron Green, President PAGH, ISGH Ladies and Gentlemen,

My name is Manzoor Memon and in some circles I am known as Manny Memon. I am President elect for the Pakistan Chamber of Commerce as well as advisor to the Mayor for South Asian Affairs and your host. Today I have to play different roles and one of the most important is to introduce our keynote speaker. One good thing I enjoy about my life is that I play various roles every day. As Shakespeare said: "And all the men and women merely players; /they have their exits and their entrances ...". Some are

heroes and some are villains. I have tried to be a hero but so far I am working as an extra.

I am blessed with a beautiful wife, my mentor, and spiritual guide. My son Rakib and daughter Sana are the best thing that has happened in my life and I am proud of them.

You all know that I worked as advisor to Mayor Lee Brown for a few years, assisting the community. So far Mayor Bill White has been kind enough to keep me as he knows that he cannot find a dedicated employee for merely \$1.00 a year. Now you know how strong the dollar is in the city of Houston. I just want to let him know that the city still owes me \$2.00 for my last 2 years salary!

Mayor Bill White I would like to state that Mayor Lee Brown did so much for our communities and you have to fit in his big shoes to help our communities to go to the next level in the local political arena. I am sure you will do the same as Dr. Brown did: he recognized the diversity of this great city and gave access to every community in the local government. I am not going to rate you as the best Mayor in the United States as yet because then you will not have any incentive to get a raise from the tax payers. But I know you personally and that you have the heart for the poor and common man as you too rose from the bottom to the peak like most of us. You came here with few bags just like most of us who were also allowed 2 suitcases and only \$200.00 to migrate to the United States of America. Today you are with the few hundred success stories of our communities. We've both worked hard, played by the rules and became financially independent as we are now a part of mainstream America. I must tell you, I love this country, where opportunity is available for anyone who has the will and determination to work hard. The only handicap we have is resistance from groups that do not believe in diversity and try to keep us behind and away from joining the Mardigra party. I urge you to help our community embrace this party and allow us to work together. After 2 years I ensure you that I will be the first to say that Mayor Bill White is the best Mayor of the United States of America. In December, 2005, I will be the President of this Chamber and I will present this shield to you. Until then you are kind of on probation and you would have to work hard for your shield and maybe we can recommend some rise for you, if the city budget can afford the additional burden!

Now let me introduce you to the keynote speaker of today's event. This gentleman and I met in March. When I saw his company I was impressed and I stayed over to shake his hand. His first question was: where are you from? I answered Pakistan. He

then asked where in Pakistan? I replied Sindh. He then asked which city? I told him Larkana, He then quickly said he was in Larkana a few years ago. Then he told me that he was roommate of Murtaza Bhutto and a friend of Benazir Bhutto. We were instantly connected and as you all know the tradition in Sindh, once we become friends we remain friends for life. A few weeks later he invited me to his office and I discovered that he was a very rich man. At first, I was skeptical on how our relationship could prosper, because I generally did not get along with the rich. My first question to him was: "If get elected, will you support affirmative action?" He replied, yes. I quickly told him I was on board with him. The reason I did it was not because I am a city contractor, or I want to try to get financial advantage for me, but for my community who are minorities and should get a piece of the pie. On a personal note please go and get your business listed as a minority owned business and start doing business with the city. It is a slow process but I assure you there is a piece for you too if you try. Call me if you need any assistance. I have asked the President of the chamber to let me hold a seminar to educate people on how to do business with the city's typical norms.

During our meeting, I told my friend that no one knew him in the city; that his opponent had a complete edge over him as he had been around. I said: "Let us put your name on 14 big billboards all over the city, so that everyone knows who you are." He replied: "I am sorry I am not in favor of billboards, as it reduces the beauty of the city and I am not going to change my stand on this even if it is in my advantage." I was impressed and decided in my heart to join him since I knew this man was a man of principle and that he would take a strong stand for the truth. I've made the right choice. At the moment, all our political pundits were telling me, "Hey you are on the wrong side." But I continued working with him, and can proudly say that from your community I was the first who joined his political campaign. We've worked very hard to get him elected partly because he believed in our issues and mainly because he was kind of FOB (fresh off the boat) like us and had the vision to run the city as a business not as a bureaucracy. I knew he had big ears as they joked about him. I told him it was better to have bigger ears as "you will listen to people more finely than others." In today's times people want to get rich but they do not want to give back to their communities. I know though he is a rich man, he will do better for us. Tell me who wants to leave a job with millions in salary and come to work for \$120,000 salary with 18 hours of a work load at \$18.26 an hour. This is like a laborer's job. It takes you away from your family and friends. But he took this job to serve and we should

thank him for the risk he has taken for us where as he can be laid off after 2 years without getting unemployment compensation. We thank you for taking the risk for working for our communities. Let us all do the same service for our community, without financial incentives and make this city the most beautiful city in the world.

Now let us hear the rest of the story. We went door to door for him and finally he beat all the odds and today we are proud to see our friend with us and we want to honor him to be our leader and extend our community and personal resources to help him be successful.

Let me tell you a few more things about him before I ask him to address this special crowd. He was born on June 16th, 1954, in San Antonio. I just wanted to share that I am 3 years older than you are and this is my real hair on my skull. So please take care of your health first. I know you love this job but health and family comes first. Note down his birthday and do not send him any gift more than \$100.00, as he cannot accept expensive gifts. He received his bachelor's degree from Harvard, and Law from University of Texas. Also appointed as Deputy Secretary of the United States Department of Energy during President Clinton's time from 1993 to 1995. He stayed in Pakistan for almost 6 months and knows Urdu and I think he knows a few bad words too, so you better be careful. He was Democratic Party Chair from 1995 to 1998, and was President and CEO of Wedge Group till he decided to take this labor job of \$18.26 an hour. During his early years he practiced law from 1979 to 1993.

Ladies and Gentleman let me present you my friend, Mayor Bill White to make his keynote Address.

Thank you and God Bless You.

Conclusion: After more three years my fear which was indirectly indicated in my speech came to be true. Mayor Bill White not only ignored the Asian communities, the Afro-Americans but also collaborated with the Hispanics. He has pushed our communities behind as we have no representation in the City Hall nor do we have any voice at any level. Except a few board appointments our communities have achieved nothing. We need to be more pro-active and get solid commitments from the political candidates in return of our vote and financial support. We should take ourselves beyond photo op and take the community on the next level.

## **Pakistan Chamber of Commerce USA, 9th Annual GALA Speech February 6, 2005**

Dear Members:

First of all, I would like to congratulate the new members of the executive board who will be sworn in on February 26, 2005. I also would like to thank all the members of the Pakistan Chamber of Commerce-USA for giving me the opportunity to serve as your President for the 2005-2007 term. I affirm you that I will put forth my maximum efforts to elevate the standards of this chamber and bring surpassing value to this organization.

Living in post 9/11 era has been slightly deviant and it has become very rudiment for the business community to avert their focus from money making to safeguarding their rights. Pakistan Chamber of Commerce-USA can take the lead in building bridges between the people with a transparent message to everyone that we are an integral part of this society and will play our role pragmatically to safeguard our rights. In this connection, I appeal to all of the business community to join with us in making this organization stronger so that we can preserve our rights on all fronts.

In the next two years, I plan to converge on the following few agenda items. However, I will always be seeking facilitation and guidance from all of you to dedicate my resources to support our business community.



*Author Taking Oath as President PCC USA*

Upgrade constitution of PCC-USA to meet the prevailing needs:

Form Young Entrepreneur Forum to encourage new young businessmen/women members and provide free help to augment their businesses.

Form Businesswomen Forum to bring women entrepreneurs to join the chamber to work shoulder to shoulder with their counter parts.

Institute a small computer learning center at the chamber office for free adult computer learning skills.

Join leading local chamber of commerce organizations and help members to network with mainstream businesses.

Continue organizing workshops and business seminars to aid the business community.

I will urge you to give me a helping hand and pray to Almighty God to give us the strength to work for the prosperity of our community and take them to the next level of eminence and excellence.

Thank you again for giving me the opportunity to lead this eminent and prestigious organization and I pledge to you that I will bring forth my foremost efforts to make a difference.

Thank you.



*Author with Executive Board Pakistan Chamber of Commerce USA*

## **Pakistan Chamber of Commerce USA 10th GALA Presidential Address**

Honorable Congressman Judge Ted Poe, Consul General G.R. Baluch, Distinguished Ladies and Gentlemen.

On behalf of the Executive Board of Directors of Pakistan Chamber of Commerce, USA, I welcome you all and I express my gratitude for your continuous support of PCC-USA.

Unfortunately, the year of my Presidency was overshadowed by the disasters of Tsunami in South Asia, Hurricane Katrina in New Orleans, Hurricane Rita in Houston and the devastating earth Quake in Pakistan. Perception in general is that the Chamber did not perform its manifested role for promoting business. But the humanitarian services and volunteer work performed by this board was admirable. All of us worked hard in conjunction with other community organizations such as PAGH and Hazara Welfare Association to serve the affected people. Side by side, we held several business and networking seminars and hosted or co-hosted several major events to promote business.

Keeping all these achievements aside, I have a major regret that we as leaders have failed to bring majority of our business community to be a part of this organization. I would like to invite you and request you to join the various civic organizations related to the Pakistani community.

Since last ten years I have been making the same appeal to all my friends and community members that we need to be part of the mainstream American system. We need to come out of the closet and take active part in the mainstream politics by encouraging people to register to vote. Please cast your valuable vote and join political candidates in the campaign by giving political contributions. This will give you a chance to divert the governmental polices to safeguard interests of your businesses and communities.

To be successful, first of all you need the motion which triggers the momentum and ultimately becomes a movement. And to make the movement successful you have to pay the price and the price of the success is serving your community.

Many of our friends who are actively involved in the political arena are getting old and burnt out due to the lack of support from our business community. For most of our community people buying an expensive car and a big house is fulfilling and satisfying

but going to vote and donating a few dollars towards the political process is a waste.

Please balance your priorities by taking our next generation in mainstream politics. Our message to our children should be to be proud of our roots and not to give up our rights because of our ethnicity. We need to guide them how to be part of mainstream politics.

This is the only way to survive and be a part of this society.

I would like to thank my Executive Board for their support in achieving a few of the milestones for the chamber this year

I would like to thank our Chairman (sometimes I call him Commander In Chief), Ashraf Abbasi, for his guidance and support. His untiring efforts cannot be forgotten. I thank the following people who personally helped me at all the times and completed their assignments with precision and dedication. Their valuable contributions can never be forgotten. Special thanks to Saeed Sheikh, General Secretary, who made excellent efforts to promote PCC in Pakistan; Mumtaz Khan, VP Media, who was always been there to help; Abdul Qayyum, Chairman Seminar Committee, who has been constantly working hard to motivate people with his words of wisdom and holding business seminars, and was willing to take a bullet for me; Pervaiz Jamil Swati, Chairman Publication Committee, who has outdone himself to produce an excellent issue of Spokesman.

I congratulate the incoming President Dr. Barkat Charania and will urge his new team to help him achieving the goals of the chamber.

## **2007: Inaugral Speech on the opening of Pakistani American Community Center**

Honorable Guests Ladies and Gentlemen,

Let us celebrate today the fulfillment of a dream of the Pakistani community who have been talking and planning to establish the Pakistan Center for the past 30 years. Finally, our team did the job and I thank God Almighty that He gave us the strength to sustain all the pressure and selected us to give back to the community.

Most of my friends and even my family always questioned me and asked me why I am so engrossed in this project and have

ignored my own business. I traveled every day from Deer Park and made sure to get all the things done. Well, there is a story behind it.

While seeking help from a well-known politician whose name I will keep confidential, he told me “Manny I am sorry I have more important issues to handle and your community is not my priority”. He made me think that day and I realized it should be my priority to help my community and I should make the effort to make things happen. I should ask this question from myself that what I have done for the community that I expect someone else to help me so I decided to take this dream and wanted to fulfill our dream of establishing the first Pakistani American Community Center in North America. I thank my friend for giving me the vision that it is our job to pursue our dreams and we need to make an effort to fulfill those dreams and no one else will come to change our fate until we make the effort.

Buying land and building a center of this size would have cost a minimum of 5 million dollars and at least 5-7 years to raise the money and build the center. My dream was to give the community their dream within two years and under the leadership of our President Ghulam Bombaywala, who shared the same vision, today, we have a home called Pakistan Center. Let us give a round of applause for Bombay for his great leadership and thank you Bombay for giving so much to this community.

We purchased this building two years ago for 1.5 million dollars and spent about \$600 thousand dollars to renovate for which we received bids for more than 1.2 million dollars. This was done with a little help from me but more from our Contractor Erasmo Manias who did wonders and transformed an old and run down building to this beautiful structure at a great savings to the community. We must thank him for his efforts and great workmanship. I am sorry that you didn't make so much money but I am sure you feel great today that you are part the dream of 60,000 Pakistanis and I am sure God is going to reward you for your hard work and dedication. Today this property is worth 3 million dollars and we brought PAGH, which was at the verge of bankruptcy a few years ago to a multi million-dollar organization.

I would like to thank a few more people who supported me. Zafar Iqbal PE City Engineer Friendswood, Bobby Oakes City of Houston, Marcela City of Houston (who did a miracle to issue the Occupancy Certificate within 15 minutes of the final inspection which passed at 4 PM yesterday on a Friday when the office closes at 4:30 and she got me the certificate at 4:27 PM which was a great effort.

I also want to thank brother Abdul an electrician and Calvin my handyman who did tiny things which many would not do to make this place look beautiful. Let us not forget those men and women who put their sweat to fulfill your dream and let us thank those unsung heroes who contributed financially to pay for this center. A round of applause for those who shared their hard-earned money and had faith in our efforts and today their names will go on the wall of fame and you are part of this historical day. Thank you for your generous support and we request all of you to make efforts to pay off this building so that the community has a clear title of the center shortly. Let us do positive things as good deeds will remain in the history books forever and let me see that all these walls of fame are filled with your names let us give our new generation something to remember their roots, our culture and social values.

I should not forget to thank Nargis Fatima whom I have adopted as my sister who worked shoulder to shoulder with me. This beautiful set up is all her contribution and I am sure she will make this hall more beautiful day after day.

I will end my speech with this note that well to do people who have been blessed with wealth should share their fortunes to support programs like this and be generous to help. Let us celebrate.

Hey guys, we did it.

### **Pakistani American Community Center: A Dream Come True**



Since I moved to the Houston Metropolitan area in 1985, Pakistani American Association of Greater Houston (PAGH) had had a plan to build a Pakistan Center. Per the constitution of

PAGH, a Committee of Trustees was nominated by the Executive Board of the PAGH to serve as planners and executers of this project. Every year PAGH Executives held community events to collect donations for the Pakistan Center Construction fund. In 1988 a lavish party was hosted by PAGH in the Houstonian Hotel with several gambling machines to raise funds for the Pakistan Center but this dream of Pakistani community remained on the drawing table and most of the money donated was spent on hosting other events in the hope of raising more money.

During my tenure as Advisor to the Mayor for South Asian Affairs, former PAGH President Masur Jawaid Khan invited me to be one of the Trustees for the Pakistan Center. He made this decision for two reasons: to use my services to convince Mayor Brown to get a matching community grant of half a million dollars to build the Pakistan Center and to exploit my resources to get him elected as a City Council Member.

During my four years as a Trustee, PAGH could not raise any funds which could enable Mayor Brown to get us matching grant of half a million dollars. However MJ Khan took full advantage of my position to promote himself and became the first Muslim City Council Member in Houston.

MJ Khan always bragged that it would be no problem for him to raise half a million dollars from the Pakistani community, though he could not achieve any goal set for the construction of the Pakistan Center. During meetings I always told him that due to his policies of divide and rule it had brought so much polarization in the community that he would not be able to raise even \$ 50,000. On the other hand our community members have no sense of patriotism and they are too miserly to donate for the future generations which kept this project in abeyance. After all, when MJ Khan left PAGH, this 20 year old organization was at the edge of bankruptcy with \$11,000 in pending bills and a piece of land which had no resale value.

Once Ghulam Bombaywala took the oath as President of PAGH, he started massive fundraising efforts and collected almost \$250,000 in one year. Since then MJ Khan and his supporters who lost the election against Bombay started an organized campaign against Bombaywala which eventually hurt the establishment of the

Pakistan center. Most of Bombay's opponents were part of an ethnic political party, fully-equipped with strategist propaganda mechanisms that resulted in complete polarization and split the community. This made the civil society completely secluded from the community activities.



*Pakistan American Community Centre*

However, Bombay being a successful entrepreneur, did not care for the criticism and sold the piece of land acquired at the remote place for the building of the Pakistan center and managed to save \$500,000 in the bank to show to the City of Houston and get the matching funds from a community grant. However, it was too late and by this time Mayor Bill White took over and MJ Khan became a close associate of the Mayor and our dream of getting the community grant was shattered. On my final day, Mayor Bill White told me that our community was not his priority and he could not do anything for us. I started thinking as to why I was begging Bill White to help my community and that I should come forward and facilitate to build the Pakistan center.

At the same time, Bombay had signed a letter of understanding with Haroon Sheikh and Dr. Barkat Charania to purchase a 10-acre land parcel owned by them to build the community center. From day one I opposed the idea to buy land and build the center which would take a minimum of 10 years to complete the project. I therefore kept on convincing Bombay to buy an existing building and convert it to a community center.

Due to severe opposition from the community, Bombay finally dropped the idea of buying that land and negotiated with HEB to buy a shuttered-down grocery store for 1.5 million dollars. Partners Bank of Texas approved a 100% loan based on the fact that \$500,000 raised by PAGH would be used to remodel the building to transform it into a business center.

Bombay, knowing my experience in construction and contacts with city officials, asked me to lead the Construction efforts to build the first Pakistani American Community Center in Houston. This center was finally opened for the community in June 2007 with enormous efforts from the two of us. .Bombay raised the funds from the community and I managed the construction. Ultimately, a project which was considered to cost 1.2 million dollars was completed at the cost of \$655,000, almost half of the projected cost. This was only a two-man show. Houston Chronicle rightly proclaimed it as one of its kind: a financially self-sustained project. Bombay loaned \$250,000 for the center, and I borrowed \$239,000 from a financial institution to accomplish the task. On completion of the center, the property was refinanced and Bombay was paid back the loan. We have paid \$150,000 of the total loan I acquired, with a balance of \$89,000 still to be paid. The best part of this project is that today Houston is the only city in the world with a 37,000 square feet facility called the Pakistani American Community



**Exterior View**



**Exterior View**

Center serving the Pakistani community day and night. This facility consists of a free medical clinic, a library, a computer lab, a youth center with a basketball court, a senior citizen room, a women's club, a Mosque, a community kitchen, and a banquet hall for community events with room for 1,200 people. Part of the frontage of the center has been built with seven retail shops that bring enough revenues to pay off the monthly mortgage acquired to build the center. The Banquet Hall has been used for parties and community events. In her recent visit, County Commissioner Sylvia Garcia stated that she had never seen a center offering so many services: she called it The Complete Community Center.

I would like to mention efforts of a few people: like Tasleem Siddiqui, who donated the real estate commission of \$37,000 to PAGH Construction fund, Nargis Fatima and Mian Nazir, who worked with me to accomplish this dream of Pakistani people. I can never forget the efforts of Bobby Oakes of the City Of Houston, who extended all his resources to make this project successful and complete even though many city officials were secretly working against this project to fail our efforts.

At the end, I want to thank Mayor Bill White, who opened my eyes by telling me that my community was not his priority as it should be my concern as a Pakistani to help my community which inspired me to complete this project with my passion. I thank God Almighty and find myself privileged that He selected me to realize this dream of my people. Since then my message has been the following:

To accomplish great things we must not only act, but also dream, not only plan but also achieve – Anatole France.

History always remembers the achievers not the sloganist or people who use negative tactics to bring polarization in communities to achieve their personal goals at the cost of national pride.

My biggest regret while work on this project is lack of support from my fellow colleagues and friends who always looked to me with suspicion as to why I have dedicated my life to this project; they have been trying to find loopholes to criticize my efforts. However, they did not realize that this became my passion and I wanted to show the community that a few good people can make things happen and achieve what many of us could not achieve in 30 years. It takes vision, courage, and enthusiasm to accomplish massive tasks. Money is not the only thing in life one needs to live for but to give back to one's community is what will be remembered

after we all are gone. Once the center was build every one acted as if they have put efforts to fulfill community dream.

Last but not least, I will request all those who have shied away from this project due to negativity created by a few individuals to come forward. I request them not to see this center as Bombay's center but to use it as Pakistani pride and utilize it in an optimum way to help your people in various walks of life.

### **Addendum 2008:**

After all the hard work the center has been almost abandoned by most of the Pakistanis. It has been used only for events organized by Ghulam Bombaywala for photo opportunity but no concrete work has been done to make this center prosper. Due to non payment of contractor's bills mechanic lien has been filed by the general contractor. During refinancing of the project a hefty loan of 1.7 million dollars was acquired with a payment of approximately \$ 17000 and all the personal loans were paid off but the contractor bills were not paid giving a strong reason to the opponents of this project to spread rumors about it's failure. The community hall build to hold events and rent the hall commercially has been sitting unutilized and after so many meetings the PGH executives have made no effort to generate the income to pay off the loan received for the project. At present the center is running with a deficit of approximately \$ 10,000 which can be made profitable if incompetent management is replaced by some sincere and business minded people otherwise I foresee this project go down the drain and dreams of Pakistanis shattered.



# Center's opening attracts a crowd

By **SESHADRI KUMAR**  
CHRONICLE CORRESPONDENT

The Pakistani American Community Center, 12638 Bissonnet, was officially opened June 23 by members of the Pakistani-American Association of Greater Houston and invited guests.

Those participating in the ceremony include U.S. Rep. Sheila Jackson-Lee, D-District 18; U.S. Rep. Nick Lampson, D-District 22; Houston City Councilman Ronald Green; Fort Bend County District Attorney John F. Healey Jr.; and Ghulam Rasool Baluch, Pakistan's Consul General in Houston.

Lampson and U.S. Rep. Al Green, D-District 9, presented the association with the Congressional Certificate of Recognition, "marking the first Pakistani community center in the nation."

Green said the community center should be a "unity center and bring the Pakistani community together as a healing process."

Ghulam Bombaywala, president of the association, said the center is the first full-fledged Pakistani community center in the United States and it marks a new concept in such facilities.

It is a former H-E-B store that the association purchased for \$1.3 million in August 2005.

The property is valued at \$3 million, treasurer Ismail Mumza said.

Three years ago, the association sold land it owned in Sugar Land and placed an earnest money deposit on land on Kirkwood at Bissonnet.

The estimated cost of building a center was \$5 million. At that time, the group's board, under the leadership of Bombaywala, hit upon the idea of buying the H-E-B store instead of constructing a new building.

After purchasing the store instead of the land, Manzoor Memon, trustee and chairman of the construction committee, said bids were received for \$1.2 million to remodel it.

He found a contractor who agreed to do the job at cost, plus an agreed profit of \$100,000.



**CONGRESSIONAL CERTIFICATE:** U.S. Rep. Nick Lampson, second from left, presents a Congressional Certificate of Recognition during the opening gala of the Pakistani American Community Center, 12638 Bissonnet. Accepting are Pakistani-American Association of Greater Houston president Ghulam Bombaywala, left; secretary Tasleem Siddiqi and Community Center trustee and construction chair Manzoor Memon.

for \$600,000.

Memon said the center has 37,000 square feet, of which 17,000 square feet at the front of the facility has been converted into seven retail stores.

The 16,000-square-foot banquet hall can accommodate 1,080 people.

It will be fully furnished and equipped with audio systems and a sound room, he said.

Memon estimates the center will receive rent of about \$27,000 monthly from the retail shops and if the banquet hall is leased just once a week, it will be a "totally self-sustaining project."

"We have set a high standard for the other Pakistani communities in the country," Bombaywala said.

The center also includes a conference room for the PAGH, a library, sports room for youth, men's and women's clubs and prayer halls, and the PAGH office.

"We are caretakers. The center is for the entire community," Bombaywala said. "The center should be used to make a positive difference in others' lives."

"This is just the beginning. We have greater responsibilities

*"We have set a high standard for the other Pakistani communities in the country."*

—GHULAM BOMBAYWALA  
Pakistani-American Association of Greater Houston president

The association's civic responsibilities began well before the center was completed.

Shortly after the building was purchased and before any renovation, the group used the space to provide relief supplies to victims of hurricanes Katrina and Rita and to collect donations for victims of an earthquake in Pakistan, he said.

Memon said a medical clinic will open soon.

It will be free for walk-in patients during weekends. Medical services also are expected to be provided at a subsidized cost on weekdays.

Green said he and colleagues in Congress are working on "temporary protective status for the Pakistanis here, until Pakistan is ready to receive them," referring to undocumented im-

## PEOPLE WHO TOUCHED MY LIFE

### Memons of Shikarpur

The word Memon means the army unit fighting on the right side of the commander. The Memons of Shikarpur migrated from Rani Pur, Khairpur Mirs District. Calipho Mohammad Hassan Memon the 6th generation of Memon's was appointed as the Calipho (custodian) to the Dargah of Rani Pur. The Memon Klan supposedly migrated with the army of Mohammad Bin Qasim as his unit fighting on the right and started being named as the Memons. After Calipho Mohammad Hassan Memon passed away, his son, Calipho Mohammed Bachal, took over as the custodian; however, he decided to move to Shikarpur, Sind, due to some unknown reasons. He had eight sons and two daughters.

Moulvi Abdul Rehman, the eldest son and a religious scholar, devoted his time to study Islam. Moula Bux Soomro, former Chief Minister of Sind, was one of his students who acquired basic Islamic education from him. He survived with one son, Haji Karamullah Memon, who later became a public servant by joining Provincial Civil Service (PCS). Haji Karamullah Memon had six sons and one daughter. Shabir Ahmed is a Professor of Electrical Engineering Mehran University of Engineering; late Irshad Ahmed was an engineer and worked for Pakistan Machine Tools Factory. Manzoor Memon is an engineer and the author of the book in your hand. Dr. Muzafar Hussein is a Dental Surgeon and an assistant Professor at Liaqat Medical College. Shahid Hussein is an engineer at Hyderabad Development Authority; and Aamir Memon attained a Masters degree in Business Administration and is presently working as Financial Advisor at Houston's Vocational Institute. Karamullah Memon's only Daughter is married to Rafique Ahmed Memon from Hala who is an electrical engineer living in Karachi.

Moulvi Abdul Haque, who also devoted his life to Islamic studies, was an authority over interpretative studies of the Holy Quran. He was very famous of his dedication, as he would recite the holy Quran even in his sleep. His only daughter is married to his nephew Azizullah Memon who abandoned her after few years of their marriage.

Moulvi Rehmatullah was involved in local politics and was elected chairman of Shikarpur municipality and remained a member of City Council until he passed away. Several buildings and a street of Shikarpur were named after him.

Haji Wali Mohammad became a wholesale cloth merchant and supported the family. However, he moved to Larkana during 1946–1947. He had two children Abdul Fatah Memon, who was the general secretary in the Pakistan Muslim League and Ambassador of Pakistan to Saudi Arabia, and Nizamuddin Memon, who was an advocate in Larkana, also the advisor to Late Zulfiqar Ali Bhutto, Prime Minister of Pakistan. Abdul Fatah Memon has eight sons and one daughter: Dr. Ghulam Ali, FRCS a surgeon in London; Ali Nawaz Memon, a senior World Bank Financial Analyst, former chairman of National Power Regulatory Authority in the Government of Pakistan, and an author of two books; late Ali Raza Memon, a businessman; Sikander Ali, Petroleum Engineer, now a businessman in Cairo Egypt; Shafqat Ali, Chief Financial Officer in Islamic Bank Bahrain; Major Mohammad Ali, retired from the Pakistan Army now working with Pakistan General Tires as Chief Security Officer; Shaheen is a banker; and Dr. Jamal Nasser is a skin specialist. The only daughter is married to Anwar Memon, who is President and CEO of an environmental engineering firm in Toronto, Canada.

Nizamuddin Memon has two sons and two daughters. His son, Khalid Iqbal Memon, is an advocate and is a serving member of the Pakistan National Assembly representing the Pakistan People's Party from Larkana, Sind. His son Pervaiz Memon is a marine engineer by education but handles family agricultural land.

Abdul Rasool also worked with Haji Wali Mohammed as a cloth merchant. He had two sons, late Attaullah, who practiced law in Larkana; and late Zahoor Ahmed, who joined Jamit-i-Islami and remained their local leader.

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