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NEW REPORT DETAILS URGENT NEED FOR DEMOCRATIC RULE IN PAKISTAN'S TRIBAL AREAS TO STEM UNREST

ISLAMABAD – Unrest in Pakistan's Federally Administered Tribal Areas (FATA) poses a threat to global security and underscores the urgency for establishing a democratic and constitutional system of governance there, a new report by residents of the area has concluded. The report also documents a broad consensus among leaders in the tribal areas that development, democracy and rule of law are imperative to achieving peace and stability in the volatile region on Pakistan's Afghan border that is a haven for Al-Qaeda and Taliban militants.

Prepared by the Shaheed Bhutto Foundation, with support from the National Democratic Institute (NDI), the report, *Mainstreaming FATA*, details the views of nearly 300 tribal leaders, elected representatives, political party leaders and government officials in the region. They blame both a lack of government assistance and a growing terrorist insurgency for the deteriorating security situation in the area. The best antidote, they say, is to make the tribal areas economically sustainable, politically stable and administratively sound.

The conclusions are based on a series of workshops held in the northern, central and southern FATAs last fall, and the report contains several practical recommendations for incorporating the tribal areas into the mainstream of society and bringing an end to the region's impoverishment and unrest.

These sessions were supported by a grant from the U.S. State Department's Bureau of Democracy, Human Rights and Labor.

NDI has been providing assistance to political parties and civil society groups in Pakistan for more than two decades. The Institute will continue to support the country's democratic institutions and processes, including in the tribal regions.

Electronic copies of the report are available [here](#). Hard copies are available upon request.

The National Democratic Institute is a nonprofit, nonpartisan organization working to support and strengthen democratic institutions worldwide by promoting citizen participation, openness and accountability in government. More information is available at www.ndi.org.