

The Center Stance is an attempt to convey the principled position of the [Center for Research and Security Studies](#) (CRSS) on issues CRSS works on as priority areas:

- Governance
- Security

CRSS firmly believes in a politically informed and active Pakistani society that must stand for what is right on the principles of democracy. People of Pakistan must peacefully raise their voice on any practice against the basics of democratic norms – even in the name of security. An informed opinion helps shaping public stances that impact the government and this is how people of Pakistan can assert themselves in democracy.

Form an opinion  
and  
Be counted!

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## The Center Stance

### Swat Taliban's Public-lashing of a Young Woman

On Friday, April 3, 2009, all the electronic media channels in Pakistan broadcasted the footage of Taliban publicly flogging a young woman with armed men watching and crowd surrounding the scene. This inhuman treatment of a young woman in the presence of tens of people is absolutely unacceptable. This clip also exposed the reality of the Taliban-Government deal in Swat where Government is completely unable to protect its citizens under any agreement or arrangement. The provincial government in NWFP took great credit for bringing peace to the troubled and embattled valley; it now must accept and take the responsibility to bring the culprits. Provincial government's failure to bring the perpetrators to justice will deepen the sense of insecurity as well as embolden the extremist elements not only in Swat but also other parts of Pakistan where the seepage of Taliban-influence has already been observed.

Center for Research and Security Studies (CRSS) condemns this inhuman act of Taliban in the strongest words and calls upon the government to prove its presence by taking or initiating necessary action against the perpetrators. No matter whatever the "crime" of the young woman was, Pakistani law prohibits such act and if ignored, such brutalities will keep occurring and create a completely insecure and sick society brutalized by the acts of violence in the name of religion.

CRSS also deplores on the refusal of Syed Munawwar Hassan, newly elected Ameer of Jamaat-e-Islami, Pakistan, to condemn this act of public violence. He was interviewed and repeatedly questioned on Duniya TV approximately 2:30 p.m. on Friday, April 03, 2009 but he did not condemn the act and rather tried to draw political mileage by focusing on other issues.

The Center suggests the provincial government that instead of accusing Athar Minallah, Supreme Court lawyer, and Samar Minallah, human rights activist, for "propagating against the government," it should speak via its action against the perpetrators.

***National honor is not built on the debris of citizens' esteem.***

Readers of this note are encouraged to write to the Prime Minister of Pakistan and the Chief Minister of NWFP on the following addresses to register their protest:

**Syed Yousaf Raza Gilani**  
Prime Minister, Islamic Republic of Pakistan  
Prime Minister House, Islamabad  
Tel: 009251 922 2666

**Amir Haidar Khan Hoti**  
Chief Minister, NWFP  
CM House, Peshawar  
Tel: 009291 9211074