

# **A HOPE IS LOST**

**Shaheed Benazir Bhutto**

**1953 - 2007**

**'DEMOCRACY IS THE BEST REVENGE'**  
**-Benazir**



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# “A Hope Is Lost”

## an Asset for the Nation, says Asif Zardari

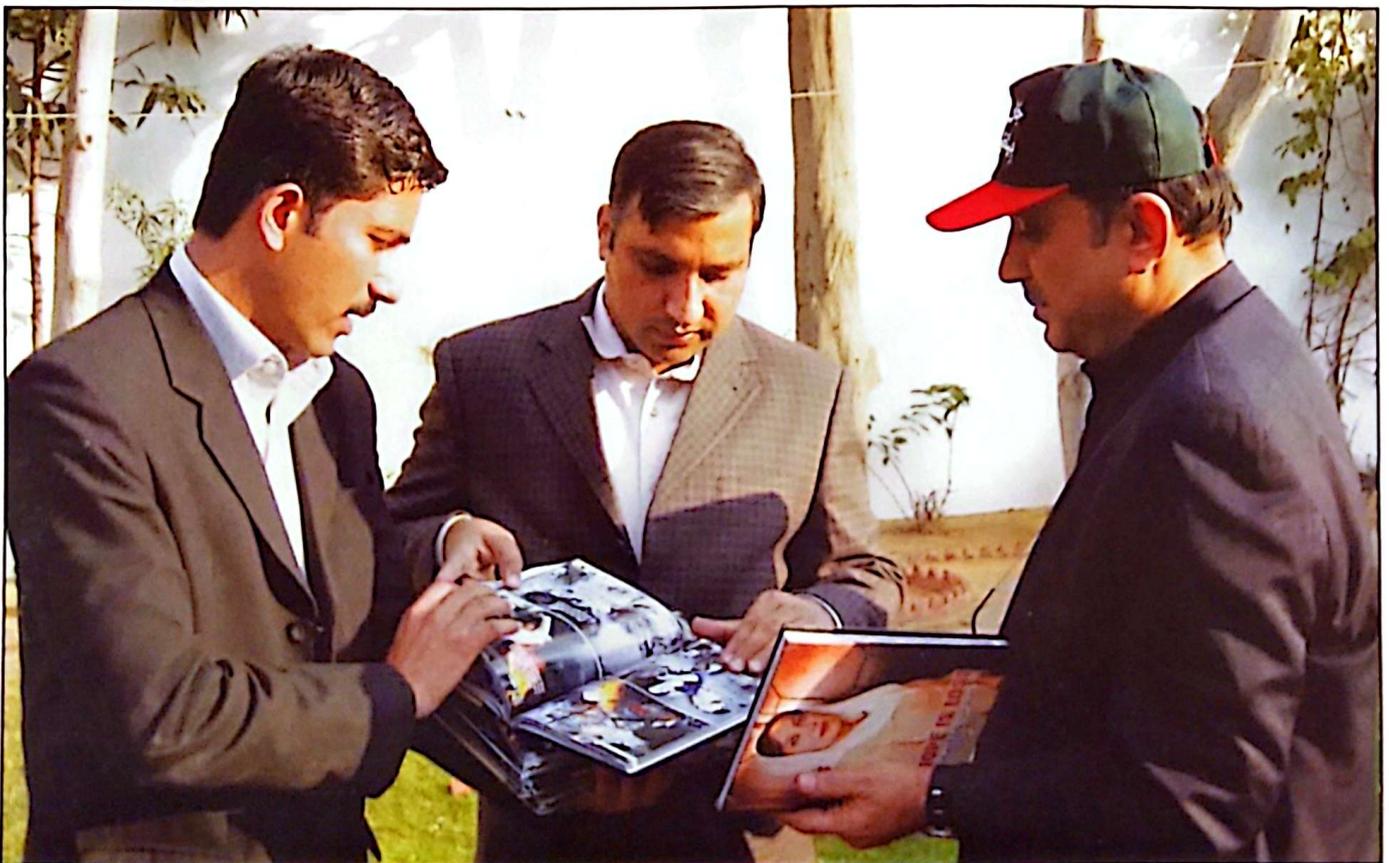
The first book on Mohtarma Benazir Bhutto Shaheed after her assassination was launched on January 27, 2008 at Bilawal House, Karachi.

“A Hope Is Lost” is a pictorial review of Mohtarma's life, which carries 400 pictures on different aspects of her life.

PPP Co-Chairman Asif Ali Zardari while receiving the book from Zubair Ahmed Kasuri said that this book is really an effort to keep people informed about the various aspects of Mohtarma's life.

Zardari further said this book is really an asset not only for him but for the whole Pakistani Nation.

He appreciated Zubair Ahmed Kasuri and his team's efforts in compiling the book. To make people understand that many thought she had taken away the chance of democracy with her. But it seems even beyond the grave that Bhutto still refuse to be defeated is a message which is tried to deliver among the masses through the book. It is a book on Mohtarma Benazir Bhutto to show her life through the lenses of camera.



Karachi: Jan 27- Zubair Ahmed Kasuri and M Haseeb Khalid are presenting the book 'A Hope Is Lost- A Pictorial review of Shaheed Benazir Bhutto life' to PPP Co-Chairman Asif Ali Zaradri at Bilawal House.

# Preface

We all are lamenting the assassination of former Prime Minister Mohtarma Benazir Bhutto Shaheed. Analysts and politicians are calling it the death of hope for democracy in Pakistan.

Her father, Shaheed Zulfikar Ali Bhutto, who was Pakistan's first elected Prime Minister and founder of the Pakistan People's Party had the force and charm of a socialist demagogue. Adding glamour to the inherited chairmanship of the party and the romantic tragic legacy, Benazir won the support of masses both at home and abroad.

Her glamorous good looks and fluent English led to sustainable relations with western politicians and journalists, many of whom had known her either at Harvard or Oxford. For those with the standard Western prejudices against the Islamic world, she had the added assets of a pronounceable name and a tolerant religious outlook.

The death of the 54-year-old charismatic former Prime Minister threw the campaign for the general election into chaos and created fears of mass protests and an eruption of violence across Pakistan.

With the finger of accusation being pointed in all directions as to who was responsible for her death, the question now remains about the future of Pakistan. Despite her flawed past in which she was twice dismissed she, has always been a major force in the political field. Politically her death leaves a huge vacuum at the heart of Pakistan's political system.

When Benazir Bhutto was laid to rest, many thought she had taken the chance of democracy with her. But it seems even beyond the grave, the Bhutto name still refuses to be defeated.

Tributes to a charismatic leader, May Allah rest her soul in peace!

## **Acknowledgment**

After 'Paradise Lost' and 'My Heart Aches' now at the tragic death of Shaheed Benazir Bhutto 'A Hope is Lost' is an effort to pay tribute to Gigantic personality of the world.

First of all, I am grateful to my parents specially to my Ami Jan whose motivation and encouragement made me able to achieve the things in my life. I would not have been able to do this without her support.

I thank the people who contributed to this book with informal reviews, suggestions, and fixes.

I would like to express my gratitude to Mir Shakil-ur-Rahman Group Editor in Chief of Jang Group of Companies, whose expertise, understanding, and patience, added considerably achieve this task.

Special thanks to Salim Bukhari, Editor, 'THE NEWS', Rana Tahir, Editor, Jang, Maqsood Butt, Chief Reporter Jang, Lahore. A special thanks to Bashir A. Tahir, CEO Abu Dhabi Group, I doubt that I will ever be able to convey my appreciation fully, but I owe him my eternal gratitude.

Tariq Malik, CEO Wateen Telecom, Zibber Mohiuddin, CEO Ericsson Pakistan, and Ali Qadir Gilani, EVP PTCL encouraged me as well for the completion of this book.

Especially Murtaza Hashwani, CEO Hashoo Group, I am thankful to him, it was under his tutelage that I developed a focus and became interested in vision and human factors.

I also received invaluable assistance from people and news agencies AFP, AP, Reuters, and APP who got the source code and sent in patches for the completion of this tribute to Shaheed Benazir Bhutto.

**Zubair Ahmed Kasuri**

**Editor-in-Chief** **FLARE**



# FOREWORD

Zubair Kasuri is a wonderful individual and his person possesses many dimensions. I have seldom seen people who react to a historic event as swiftly as he. He is not known to me for long. In a short span of time that I had known him, he has impressed me in more than one ways. He is a journalist, a sales man, and a company executive. I was first impressed by him when he came out with a book 'Paradise Lost' containing images of earthquake devastation that claimed tens of thousands of human lives. It was a pictorial review of victims, survivors and rescue operations besides reflecting the spirit of the Pakistani nation with which it responded to heal the wounds of their brethrens. The publication of 'Flare Cares', the book received acclaim across the world. This book did wonders in attracting attention of the world community and donor agencies forcing them to reach out to the earthquake victims.

And now once again, Zubair has risen to the occasion and came out with yet another Herculean task by publishing 'A Hope is Lost' comprehending greatest tragedy of Pakistan's otherwise chequered history, the assassination of country's towering politician, Mohtarma Benazir Bhutto. Zubair reacted faster than anyone else could. While the entire nation was lost in grief and pain, his mind was working to contain all aspects of the event in form of a book. He spent days and nights along with his brilliant assistant, Muhammad Haseeb Khalid collecting/selecting photographs and looking for authentic material on the person of late Benazir Bhutto, who is now popularly known as 'Shaheed' (martyr).

I have not even an iota of doubt in my mind that this effort would also be appreciated and acknowledged widely. Despite the fact that late Benazir Bhutto needs no introduction; this book will unfold various aspects of her life. It provides a quick look into her family, early life and her rise to the highest office of the Prime Minister twice through popular vote. It includes images of the final moments of her life and the aftermaths.

I wish Zuabir Kasuri every success in this venture and all others that he is either working or planning.

**Salim Bokhari**  
Islamabad





# Mohtarma Benazir Bhutto Shaheed (1953-2007)

## EARLY DAYS

Mohtarma Benazir Bhutto Shaheed was a politician who chaired the Pakistan People's Party (PPP), a centre-left political party in Pakistan. Bhutto was the first woman elected to lead a Muslim state, having twice been Prime Minister of Pakistan (1988-1990; 1993-1996). Bhutto was the eldest child of former Prime Minister Zulfikar Ali Bhutto. Her paternal grandfather was Sir Shah Nawaz Bhutto. Benazir was sworn in for the first time in 1988 at the age of 35, but was removed from office 20 months later under the order of then-president Ghulam Ishaq Khan on grounds of alleged corruption. In 1993 Bhutto was re-elected but was again removed in 1996 on similar charges, this time by President Farooq Leghari. Bhutto went into self-imposed exile in Dubai in 1998.

## EDUCATION AND PERSONAL LIFE

She attended the Lady Jennings Nursery School and then the Convent of Jesus and Mary in Karachi. After two years of schooling at the Rawalpindi Presentation Convent, she was sent to the Jesus and Mary Convent at Murree. She passed her O-level examination at the age of 15. She then went on to complete her A-Levels at the Karachi Grammar School. After completing her early education in Pakistan, she pursued her higher education in the United States. From 1969 to 1973 she attended Radcliffe College at Harvard University, where she obtained a Bachelor of Arts degree with cum laude honors in comparative government. She was also elected to Phi Beta Kappa. Bhutto would later call her time at Harvard "four of the happiest years of my life" and said it formed "the very basis of [her] belief in democracy". As Prime Minister, she arranged a gift from the Pakistani government to Harvard Law School.

The next phase of her education took place in the United Kingdom. Between 1973 and 1977 Bhutto studied Philosophy, Politics, and Economics at Lady Margaret Hall, Oxford, during which she completed additional courses in International Law and Diplomacy. In December 1976 she was elected president of the Oxford Union, becoming the first Asian woman to head the prestigious debating society. On December 18, 1987, she married Asif Ali Zardari in Karachi. The couple had three children: Bilawal, Bakhtwar and Asifa.

## AWARDS AND HONORARY DEGREES

Bruno Kreisky Award of Merit in human rights, 1988. Honorary Doctorate of Law, L.L.M. Harvard University (1989) Honorary Fellowship by Lady Margaret Hall, University Oxford, (1989) Honorary Fellowship by St. Catherine College, University of Oxford, (1989) Honorary Phi Beta Kappa Award (1989), presented by Radcliffe College. Highest Moroccan Award "Grand Cordon de Wissam Alaoui" Highest French Award "Grand-croix de la Legion d'Honneur" (1989) The Noel Foundation Award, 1990 (UNIFEM). Honorary Doctorate of Law (Honoris Causa), University of Sindh (1994) Key to the city of Los Angeles, presented by Mayor of Los Angeles (1995) Presidential Medal, Paul Nitze School of Advanced International Science (1995) Medal by University of California at Los Angeles (1995) Honorary Doctorate from Mindanao State University, Philippines (1995) Honorary Doctor of Law (Honoris Causa), Peshawar University (1995) Honorary Professor of the Kyrgyz

**A HOPE IS LOST**

State National University (1995) Kyrgyzstan. Honorary Professor of Yassavi Kazakh Turkish University, Kazakh-Turkish International Language University, Kazakhstan, 1995. Honorary Doctorate of Economics, Gakushuin University, Tokyo (1996) Honorable Member of OHYUKAI, Alumni Association of Gakushuin, conferred by OHYUKAI Tokyo (1996). The Gakushuin Honorary Award, Tokyo (1996) Award by the Turkish Independent Industries and Businessmen Association (MUSAID) on account of providing assistance to the people of Bosnia. Gold medal Dragon of Bosnia awarded by President of Bosnia (1996) Awarded the 2000 Millennium Medal of Honor by American Biographical Institute, Inc. in November 1998. Awarded American Academy Award of Achievement in London, October 28, 2000 International Woman of the Year - in Dubai 2006.

### **Benazir Bhutto's Books**

- Benazir Bhutto, (1983), Pakistan: The gathering storm, Vikas Pub. House, ISBN 0706924959
- Benazir Bhutto (1989). Daughter of the East. Hamish Hamilton. ISBN 0-241-12398-4. Daughter of the East was also released as:
- Benazir Bhutto (1989). Daughter of Destiny: An Autobiography. Simon & Schuster. ISBN 0-671-66983-4.

At the time of Bhutto's death, the manuscript for her third book, to be called Reconciliation: Islam, Democracy and the West, had been received by Harper Collins. The book, written with Mark Siegel, is expected to be published in February 2008.[115]

### **Books about Benazir Bhutto**

- W.F.Pepper, (1983), Benazir Bhutto, WF Pepper, ISBN 0946781001
- Rafiq Zakaria (1990). The Trial of Benazir. Sangam Books. ISBN 0-861-32265-7.
- Katherine M. Doherty, Caraig A. Doherty, (1990), Benazir Bhutto (Impact Biographies Series), Franklin Watts, ISBN 0531109364
- Rafiq Zakaria, (1991), The Trial of Benazir Bhutto: An Insight into the Status of Women in Islam, Eureka Pubns, ISBN 9679783200
- Diane Sansevere-Dreher, (1991), Benazir Bhutto (Changing Our World Series), Bantam Books (Mm), ISBN 0553158570
- Christina Lamb, (1992), Waiting for Allah, Penguin Books Ltd, ISBN 0140143343
- M. Fathers, (1992), Biography of Benazir Bhutto, W.H. Allen / Virgin Books, ISBN 024554965X
- Elizabeth Bouchard, (1994), Benazir Bhutto: Prime Minister (Library of Famous Women), Blackbirch Pr Inc, ISBN 1567110274
- Iqbal Akhund, (2000), Trial and Error: The Advent and Eclipse of Benazir Bhutto, OUP Pakistan, ISBN 0195791606
- Libby Hughes, (2000), Benazir Bhutto: From Prison to Prime Minister, Backinprint.Com, ■ Iqbal Akhund, (2002), Benazir Hukoomat: Phela Daur, Kia Khoya, Kia Paya?, OUP Pakistan, ISBN 0195794214
- Mercedes Anderson, (2004), Benazir Bhutto (Women in Politics), Chelsea House Publishers, ISBN 0791077322
- Mary Englar, (2007), Benazir Bhutto: Pakistani Prime Minister and Activist, Compass Po Books, ISBN 0756517982
- Ayesha Siddiq Agha, (2007), Military Inc.: Inside Pakistan's Military Economy, Pluto Press, ISBN 0745325459 ■

# Why the World Needs Democracy in Pakistan

The world has rightly welcomed President Pervez Musharraf's retirement as Army head and announcement that emergency rule will end on Dec. 16. However, a crucial question remains. Is Pakistan heading toward a democratic future? Parliamentary elections are currently scheduled for Jan. 8. Among many worrying signs of corruption, the election commission is biased and not acting on complaints of fraud.

Yet if credible elections are not held, it will have dangerous consequences for Pakistan and the rest of the world community: Extremism will continue to grow, putting everyone at risk. The world must act to prevent this. It must insist on free and fair elections in Pakistan.

President Musharraf's last term in office demonstrated that dictatorship has fueled extremism. The tribal areas of Pakistan have turned into havens for militants to mount attacks on NATO troops in nearby Afghanistan. Lack of governance has led to the expansion of extremism into settled areas of Pakistan.

Democracy offers the best hope of containing extremism. Yet democracy depends on a fair electoral process and an independent election commission willing and able to implement Pakistan's electoral laws to prevent vote fraud. That is not happening.

"Improvised" voting stations, a pseudonym for ghost polling stations, dot practically every parliamentary constituency. Electoral lists - prepared with financial assistance from

USAID - are fatally flawed, with more than 10 million unverified and missing names (clearly enough to "win" or "lose" an election). The sanctity of any future ballot is doubtful against reports that district returning officers have been ordered to disperse 20,000 ballots already marked in favor of pro-government candidates. These bogus votes will be "cast" through the process of double voting in the "improvised" voting stations - in ballot boxes that are translucent rather than transparent.

Mayors continue to control guns, police and government resources and are using them shamelessly to campaign for government candidates. The election commission has asked for "a report" on such malpractices but has taken no concrete efforts to stop them. Politically motivated officials have been placed in charge of the civilian intelligence services and key state posts to manipulate the elections further, although election laws demand that such officials be neutral. An assistant to a former chief minister has been made a returning officer to preside over elections in his area. This complaint is being "looked into" as well, which is simply a fancy way of buying time and doing nothing.

Punjab Province, which elects more than half of Pakistan's parliament, chooses 148 the members through direct elections, excluding reserved seats for women and minorities. Of these seats, it is believed that 108 have been marked for rigging for government-backed candidates.

By the time all such reports of fraud

come in from across the country, the elections will be over.

On top of all this, the media remains gagged, opposition leaders remain imprisoned, voter lists and voting locations have not yet been provided to opposition parties or to the general public in final print or electronic format, and no effort has been made by the pliant electoral commission to regularly consult with political parties on these issues.

There is also no plan in place to ensure that votes counted at voting stations will be delivered to local consolidation centers without being manipulated en route. The National Reconciliation Ordinance, which provides for an immediate consolidated count, has been suspended.

Put quite simply, the elections are being stitched up to give the country a continuation of the outgoing government - one that failed to prevent the spread of militancy, extremism, and terrorism. Major terrorist attacks, including the latest plot discovered in Germany this summer, tracked terrorists' footsteps back to Pakistan's northern areas.

Unless there is a change in the status quo, the past will repeat itself. But that change can only come when the world community puts its weight behind fair elections and its faith in the people of Pakistan.

Musharraf sent a delegation to the US last week to talk to the Bush administration and members of Congress about the current situation. This visit was only meant to feign progress and deflect criticism.

Musharraf wants the world to believe that the coming election, though not perfect, will be "good enough for Pakistan" given the country's difficult circumstances. But the current circumstances are of the regime's making. Those in charge can - and must - do much better on this count.

The international community must send a clear message that it will not be an accessory to this coming crime. It must not wait to

see if the elections on Jan. 8 are free and fair. It must insist on a minimum set of benchmarks to be met for the election to be recognized as free and fair. If the benchmarks are ignored, the international community must be prepared to signal its displeasure to the Musharraf regime in specific, tangible ways.

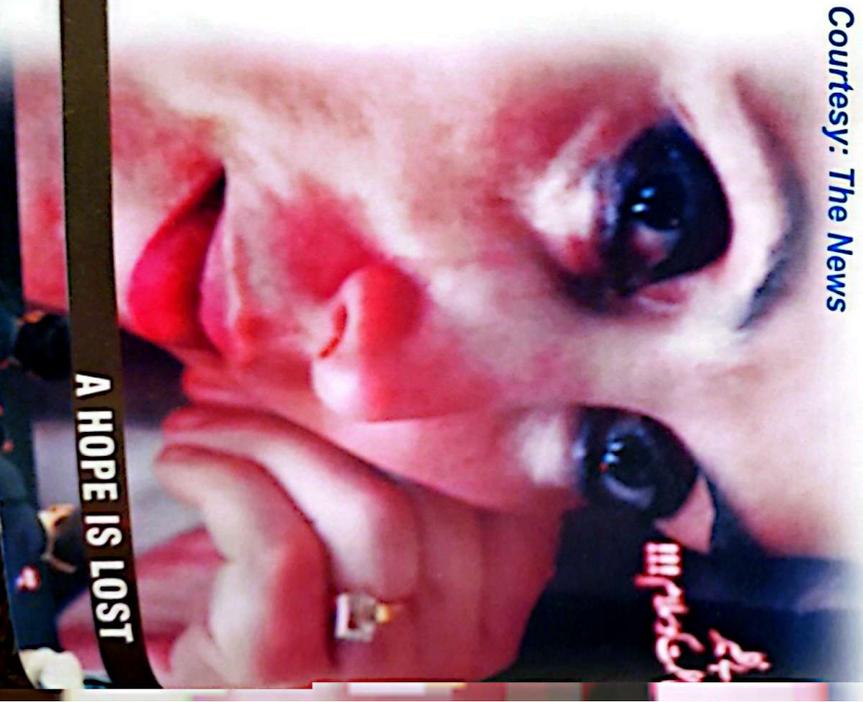
Flawed elections will worsen instability in Pakistan as civil society and political parties protest. Imposing international restrictions after the fact will be fruitless and only deepen anti-American sentiment.

At the very least, America can and should prod Musharraf to give Pakistanis an independent election commission, a neutral caretaker administration, and a road to blatant vote manipulation.

America is the world's most powerful democracy. By standing up for democracy at this critical time, Washington can give this nuclear-armed nation an opportunity to reverse the tide of extremism that today threatens not only Pakistan but the larger world community as well.

*The Article was published in international newspapers and "The News". This is the last piece of writing by Mohtarma Benazir Bhutto.*

*Courtesy: The News*



# Benazir Bhutto Quotes

Compiled by M H Khalid

Mohatma Benazir Bhutto Shaheed, fondly called "the Daughter of the East," became a victim of terror attacks. Twice elected the Prime Minister of Pakistan, Benazir faced many challenges. But she refused to be cowed down. Benazir Bhutto quotes inspire us to rally against mindless dominance and injustice. Here is a collection of quotes from Shaheed-e-Jamhurat which are collected from different links and papers.

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## On the attempt to assassinate her in October 2007.

"We are prepared to risk our lives. We're prepared to risk our liberty. But we're not prepared to surrender this great nation to militants. The attack was on what I represent. The attack was on democracy and very unity and integrity of Pakistan."

"Just before the attacks happened, I was very happy. The procession was one enormous party, the atmosphere was joyful, people were dancing in the street, it was magnificent. For me, that was the real Pakistan."

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## On threats to her life

"I know exactly who wants to kill me. They are dignitaries of General Zia's former regime who are behind extremism and fanaticism."

"The supporters of the Taliban and Al-Qaeda have threatened my assassination. The Taliban leader Baitullah Mehsud has said that his terrorists will 'welcome' me on my return."

"Despite threats of death, I will not acquiesce to tyranny, but rather lead the fight against it."

"Don't worry, I'm going to be safe, and God willing I'm going to be safe."

On returning to Pakistan in October after eight years of self-imposed exile she said:

"They would like me to come out on the streets now [in August], before the elections, to force General Musharraf's ouster. But I feel that if we have an agitation four months before the election, it could lead to yet another military rule ... or it may lead to extremists taking over."

"I know some people will think it was naïve [to return despite death threats]," she said. "But if you believe in a cause you have to pay the price." She said her duty was to mobilise "the people of Pakistan in the political life of their country".

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## Recalling a visit to her father before his execution

"I told him on my oath in his death cell, I would carry on his work."

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"You can imprison a man, but not an idea. You can exile a man, but not an idea. You can kill a man, but not an idea"

**A HOPE IS LOST**

# Farewell to Wadi Bua

**M**y aunt and I had a complicated relationship. That is the truth, the sad truth. The last fifteen years were not one we spent as friends or as relatives, that is also the truth.

But this week, I too want to remember her differently. I want to remember her differently because I must. I can't lose faith in this country, my home. I can't believe that it was for nothing, that violence in its purest form is so cruel and so unforgiving. I can't accept that this is what we have come to. So, I must offer a farewell. One that is written in tears and anger but one that comes from a place far away, from the realm of memory and forgiving -- a place where at another time, we might have all been safe. As a child, I used to call my aunt Wadi Bua, Sindhi for father's older sister.

When I got the news, I was told that something had happened to Wadi Bua. It was an expression I hadn't heard or used in a very long time, when I heard it said to me over the phone I remembered someone different.

We used to read children's books together. We used to like exactly the same sweets -- sugared chestnuts and candied apples. We used to get the same ear infections, ear infections that tortured us and plagued us throughout the years.

I have never before written an article that seemed so impossible. We were very different. Though people liked to compare us, almost instinctively, because well, they could. It is difficult for me to write about two people, one in the present tense and one in the past, at the same time.

Especially when one person's passing

makes the other one wonder whether there is a cusp to things and whether or not there really is a past and present to life.

I never agreed with her politics. I never did. I never agreed with those she kept around her, the political opportunists, hanger-ons, them. They repulse me.

I never agreed with her version of events. Never. But in death, in death perhaps there is a moment to call for calm. To say, enough. We have had enough. We cannot, and we will not, take anymore madness.

I mourn because my family has had enough. I mourn for Bilawal, Bakhtawar, and Asifa. I mourn for them because I too lost a parent. I know what it feels like to be lost and left at sea, unanchored and afraid.

I mourn for the workers of the party, those who have been bereaved of their own loved ones in this tragedy.

When congregants gather in a church, temple, or mosque they offer prayers for those that reside beyond. The congregants sing to the heavens and they offer the divine their hymns of sadness and hope. There are no hymns consisting of frustration or anger - - this too shall pass, they say, remember that. What hymns do we sing now?

In those hymns, there is hope encapsulated in the sadness. There is a lingering sense that after darkness a dawn will rise. What then do we have to be hopeful for? And how do we proceed to wake the dawn?

I have always been honest with you, I promised that to you at the beginning. Honestly, I am at a loss. I am compounded in a state of shock.

I am in shock because I have yet to bury a loved one who has died from natural causes. Four family members, immediate family

members, whom we have laid to rest, all victims of senseless, senseless killing. I was born five years after my grandfather, Zulfikar Ali Bhutto's assassination. I was born into the void of his absence and for my father, Murtaza, I was a new chance at life. I grew up hearing my grandfather's speeches, watching him on old black and white video cassettes, enamoured at his every word. My father was a young man when his father was killed and it was something he shared with him every second, every minute for the rest of his life.

I was three when my uncle Shahnawaz was murdered. I remember Wadi Bua sitting with me and telling me stories while the rest of the family was with the police.

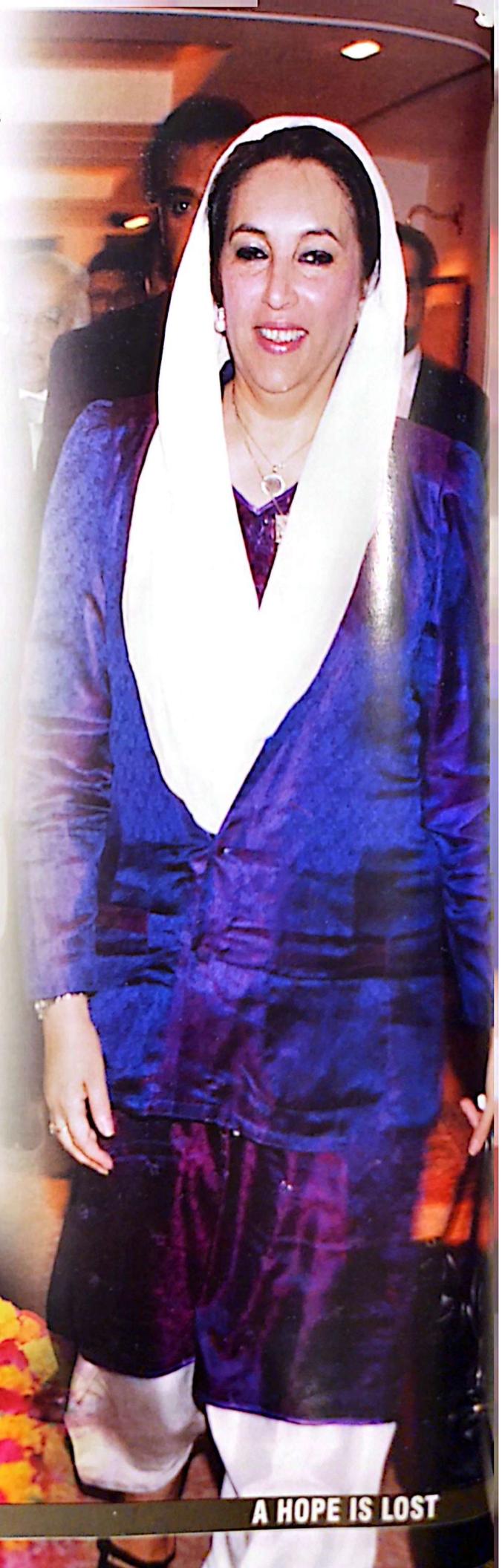
When I was fourteen, my life was ended. I lost my heart and soul, my father Murtaza. I am and have been since then a shell of the person I was. I suppose there are cusps in life, and thank God for that because that way we can stay in between.

And now at twenty five, Wadi. But this isn't about me, it's about those whom we have lost. It's about the graveyard at Garhi Khuda Bukhsh that is just to the left.

I pray that this is the last time from this moment onwards we will no longer have to bid farewell too quickly. Wadi, farewell. ■

*The Article was published in "The News" on 29 December 2007.*

*Courtesy: Daily "The News".*



# Why I Cried, at Last

It is male chauvinism or bloated egos, but men don't cry, at least in public. But when my friend Masood Haider of Dawn, who had just arrived from New York, called me from Lahore after the news of Benazir's sudden death had broken, both of us just held the cell phones without saying a word and cried, sobbing aloud, tears flowing. I was in the office and told him to calm down and I got back to work, as the job had to be done first. Tears could wait.

What we both were recalling were the numerous sessions we had together with Benazir Bhutto, whenever she was visiting New York or Washington during the last many years of her exile. These were exclusive sessions and what we talked about was everything probably no one else would ever dare to raise with her, friend or critic. Like once she asked how she could correct the perception created about her that she was corrupt and prompt was Masood's reply: Divorce Asif Ali Zardari. She took it without a whiff of protest but then asked us to accompany her to the JFK Airport as she was leaving and wanted to talk more. We did and she argued all the way why Masood was wrong.

She knew about all the long critical articles and stories that I had written during her first and the second tenures in government and would argue with force that the data and equipment that I quoted was leaked, distorted and misrepresented by the establishment, reaching my hands through agents whom probably I did not know but trusted as good news sources.

But she also knew that whenever she was out of power, it was the same media, the same writers and journalists who stood by the persecuted and fought their case. In 1991 when Asif Ali Zardari was in Jam Sadiq Ali's dreaded jail, shortly after Benazir had been

removed as Prime Minister, she recalled that journalists from Islamabad were the first to go and meet him, in jail, despite Jam's fierce resistance. I was part of those six journalists, others including Nusrat Javeed, late Azhar Sohail and Shakeel Sheikh, and had been invited by Jam Sadiq to tour Sindh at his expense but write what we saw. That we did and almost every article shredded the late tyrant's claims of peace and tranquility in Sindh. That jail visit was where we all began a long lasting friendship with Asif Zardari.

She remembered and discussed those days with praise and gratitude. Benazir thus was not an arrogant person as many portray her to be. She was inexperienced and a little naïve in her early years of power but with trials and tribulations of horrendous magnitude she matured into a polished politician, a diplomat par excellence and a pragmatic leader. Her years of exile taught her more about politics and how to handle people than her years in power. She developed a direct rapport with anyone and everyone and used the internet to the maximum. Her E-mail politics, as her critics used to joke, did wonders for her. She was in direct touch with all and she got feedback instantly, helping her make quick and right decisions. That style of politics kept her ahead of her opponents and kept the cadres engaged, giving them a feeling of intimacy and a feeling of access to the top leadership.

My first hand experience of that E-mail politics was when she was planning to visit Jeddah to condole with Mian Nawaz Sharif as his father the late Abbaji had expired in exile. Asif Ali Zardari had also made it to Dubai and they were planning to meet Nawaz for the first time outside their country. Since I was on her E-mail grid and frequently exchanged notes, I asked her what she was



expecting to achieve at the Jeddah meeting with Mian Nawaz Sharif as it should be a major political event and not just a condolence meeting. In reply she asked what I thought should come out of Jeddah.

I gave her my view as an objective observer. The meeting must produce some document which gives hope to the people that the two major political parties of Pakistan are now ready to sit together and discuss their past, present and future relations, I suggested. On her insistence I sent her a one-page brief of what they should discuss and announce publicly. I called it the Charter of Democracy. It should, I suggested, candidly admit the past mistakes committed by both the sides and lay down the course of political action making solemn pledges and commitments that never again would the two parties undermine each other to favour any third non-political institution.

Benazir was so excited she responded instantly saying I have just got this paper and I am flying after a few hours and I will take this paper to Mian Sahib. What we saw then was an announcement about the Charter as both Mian Nawaz Sharif and Benazir made it into a cornerstone for their future politics, a watershed of sorts. They set up a committee which gave real shape to the basic idea which remained the reference point of both the leaders, despite their variances in approach, for dealing with the military regime.

That was Benazir Bhutto, the mature politician who would listen to others and share with them her confidence and trust, the person Benazir, so to say.

Another remarkable aspect of her life in exile was that, never ever, even in the wild world of the paparazzi, the media men and camera guys chasing world celebrities, any personal scandal about her was discovered, though she travelled almost continuously between world capitals. She was always conscious of her image back home, wearing the proper head dress when appearing before the cameras and always showing respect for other

religions and sects.

She was not always happy with Masood and myself as we would sometimes say things she would not like. In July this year when she was hobnobbing with General Pervez Musharraf some friends met in Washington and reached a consensus that her secret backdoor channels with the military would damage her politically. Somehow I took that on myself to inform her in detail that this was a mistake. Editor Najam Sethi was also part of that discussion and he immediately dissociated with the consensus view. The diplomat Benazir just did not respond to the communication and we did not bother.

When her meetings with Musharraf started yielding results, positive for her but criticised by almost the entire civil society, a feeling started developing that probably she had a point in showing pragmatism as she did not have enough guns and commandos to fight her way to power and win against an entire army. But probably she miscalculated either the commitment of the other side in her secret talks or the resistance within the institution to her teaming up with General Musharraf. She achieved a lot but she misread the open and hidden opposition, wherever it was. They were out to get her and General Musharraf either did not bother, did not know or did not care. She paid the price for her pragmatism.

We lost a great leader, a popular politician and also a person with whom an intelligent, candid and frank discussion could be held, without fear of any repercussions. No one is left in the political spectrum to match her level of sophistication, international exposure, popular support and still open to receive and act on good advice.

We lost a friend and when I returned home at 3 am, this shocking reality sunk in that the friend was being air lifted in a casket and her grave was ready to receive her. Benazir in a grave, the thought suddenly jolted me, brought waves of tears and I shed them all in silence, and alone. ■

# A Good Human & a Great Friend

That Benazir is no more is something I can't get over. To me, above all else, she was a great friend. And I want her children to know that Benazir was a good, solid, human being.

I first met Benazir when she and I went to Oxford in 1972. We were in the same class and we got to know each other a few days after our terms started. But the relationship our families shared preceded our knowing each other. My grandfather was high commissioner to Pakistan and knew her grandfather very well. My sister and Benazir had the same guardian in London and it was inevitable that we would go on to be great friends.

One of the most enduring images of Benazir from our days at Oxford was her absolute determination to succeed, especially in those areas where her father had succeeded. I can't forget the times when she had set her mind on becoming president of the Oxford Union. She had to fight three times before making it to the position.

Not just that, she even dropped a year at Oxford to fulfill her quest. Eventually, she graduated a year after I did. The only reason that I mention this is to underline her determination.

Then there was the time when there was a move at Oxford to confer an honorary doctorate on her father, Zulfikar Ali Bhutto. But there was a section of fellows at Oxford who didn't want that, in large part because his name was linked to the crisis in Bangladesh. Benazir worked very hard to tell those opposed to him that their impressions of her father were not in tune with reality. Clearly, she was her father's daughter.

She was always a happy go-lucky person and lived a good life. There was no pretence or arrogance around her about being a prime minister's daughter. My friendship with her was one of the closest, in spite of my being an Indian. I suspect we were so close because I was Indian. Our nationalities were never a boundary.

Time went by and she went on to become PM of Pakistan. I was also on the board of Shell in Pakistan and each time I visited the country, I would call her office and leave a message. She would always call back; but at a time when it was impossible for me to meet her when I was about to board a plane, for instance.

I know I am putting words into her mouth. But I came to believe it was her way of saying, "I can't see you now. I am the PM and you are an Indian. But you are on my mind." I always considered this an affirmation of her friendship and acknowledgement of the practicalities of life.

During her time in exile, I used to meet her in London, Dubai and America. She'd talk of her plans to return to Pakistan. She was aware that she could be arrested. But her life revolved around Pakistan. I will miss you, my friend.

***Mehta is chairman, Shell (India)***

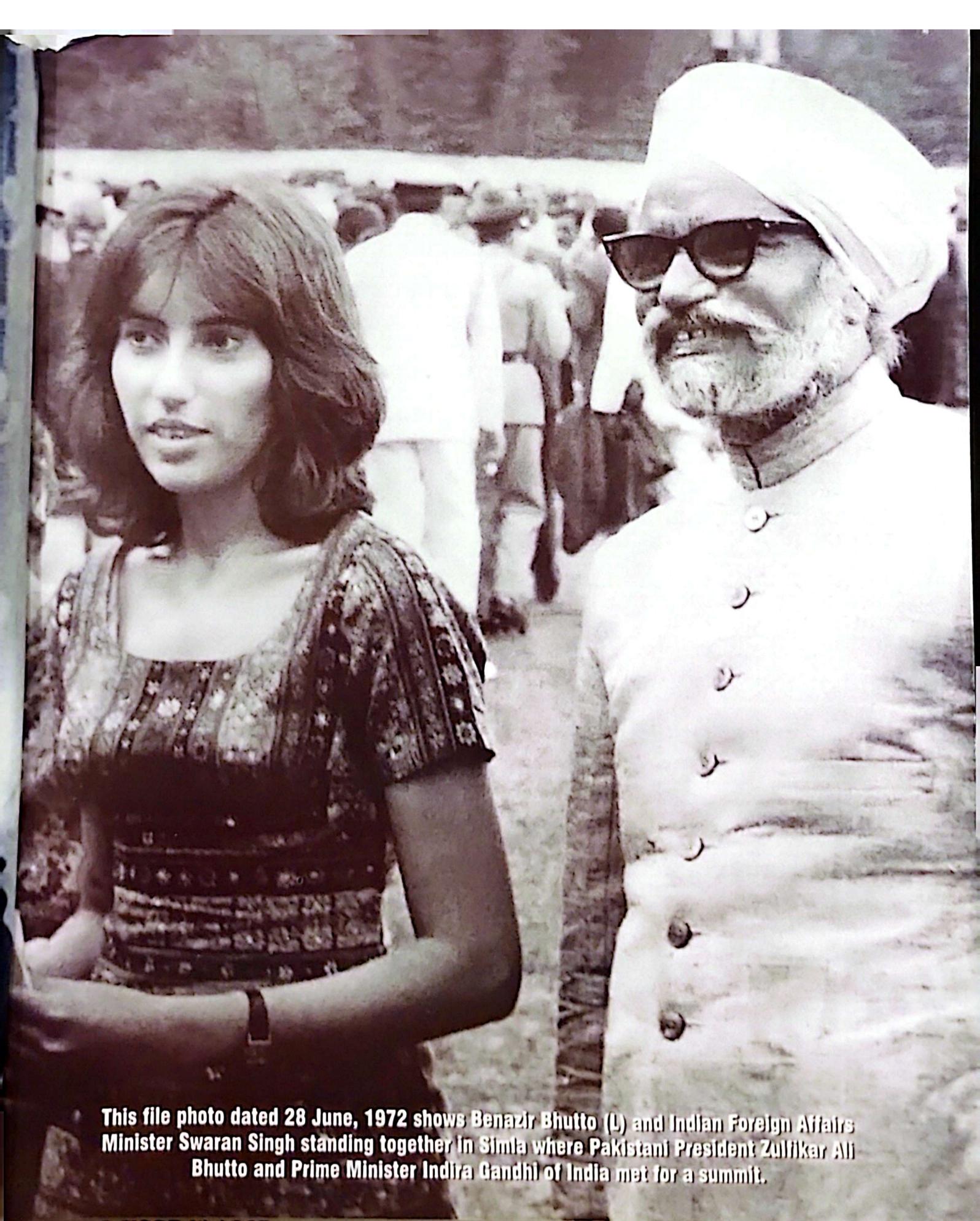
***The article was published in various international newspapers.***



20 December, 1971 Zulfikar Ali Bhutto Shaheed, President and then PM, addressing the nation.



This file photo da  
Minister Swaran  
Bhutto



**This file photo dated 28 June, 1972 shows Benazir Bhutto (L) and Indian Foreign Affairs Minister Swaran Singh standing together in Simla where Pakistani President Zulfikar Ali Bhutto and Prime Minister Indira Gandhi of India met for a summit.**

**A HOPE IS LOST**



18 December, 1987, Benazir Bhutto getting married with Asif Ali Zardari in Karachi.



August 5, 1999, With her children Bilawal, Bakhtawar, and Asifa, at Alton Towers in Staffordshire.



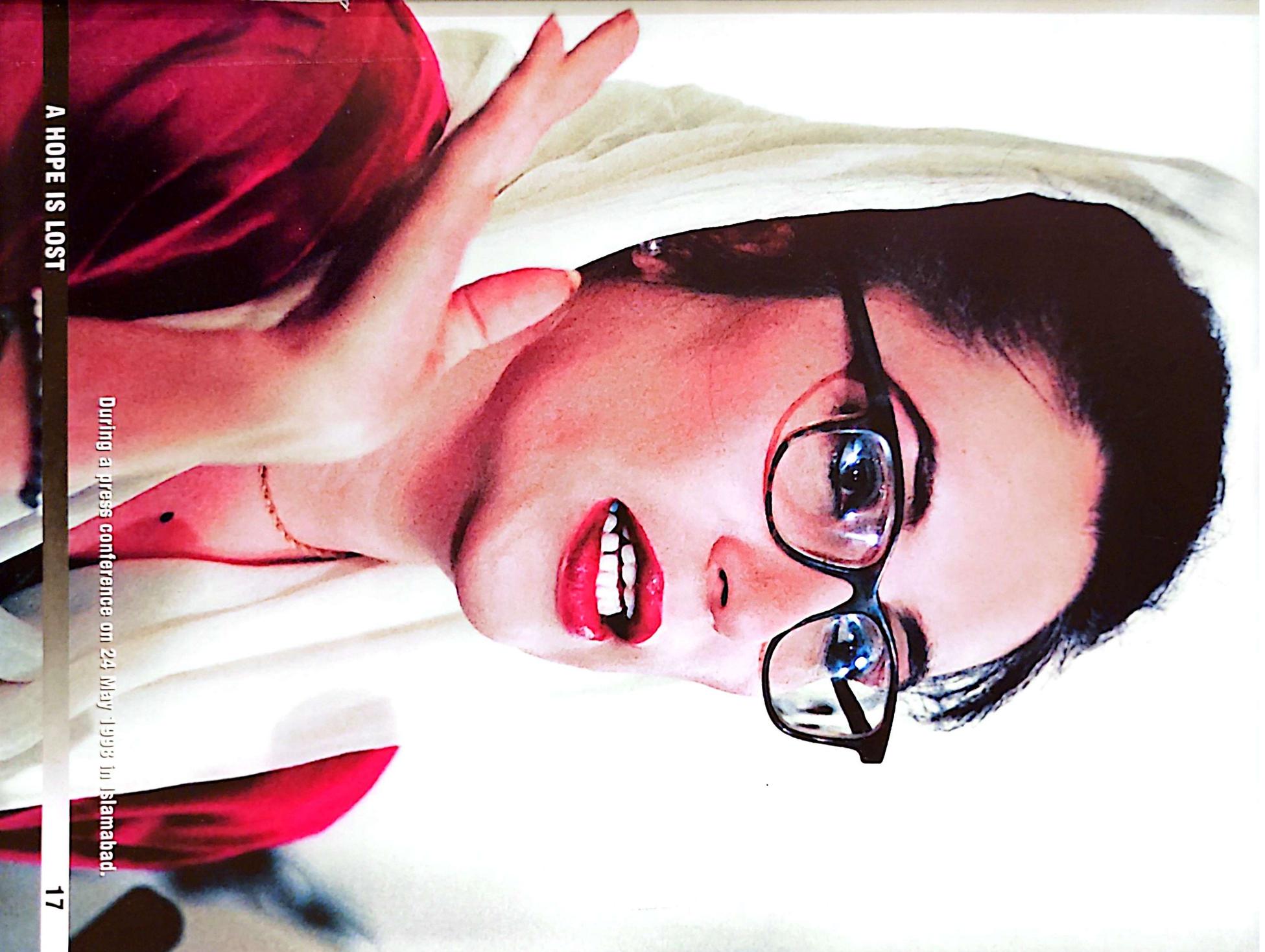
10 February, 1997, former Shauheed PM Benazir Bhutto along with her children coming out from the Landhiqail after meeting with her husband.

**A HOPE IS LOST**



03 October 1996, former PM Shaheed Benazir Bhutto addressing the Fifty-First session of the General Assembly at the UN Headquarters in New York.

A HOPE IS LO



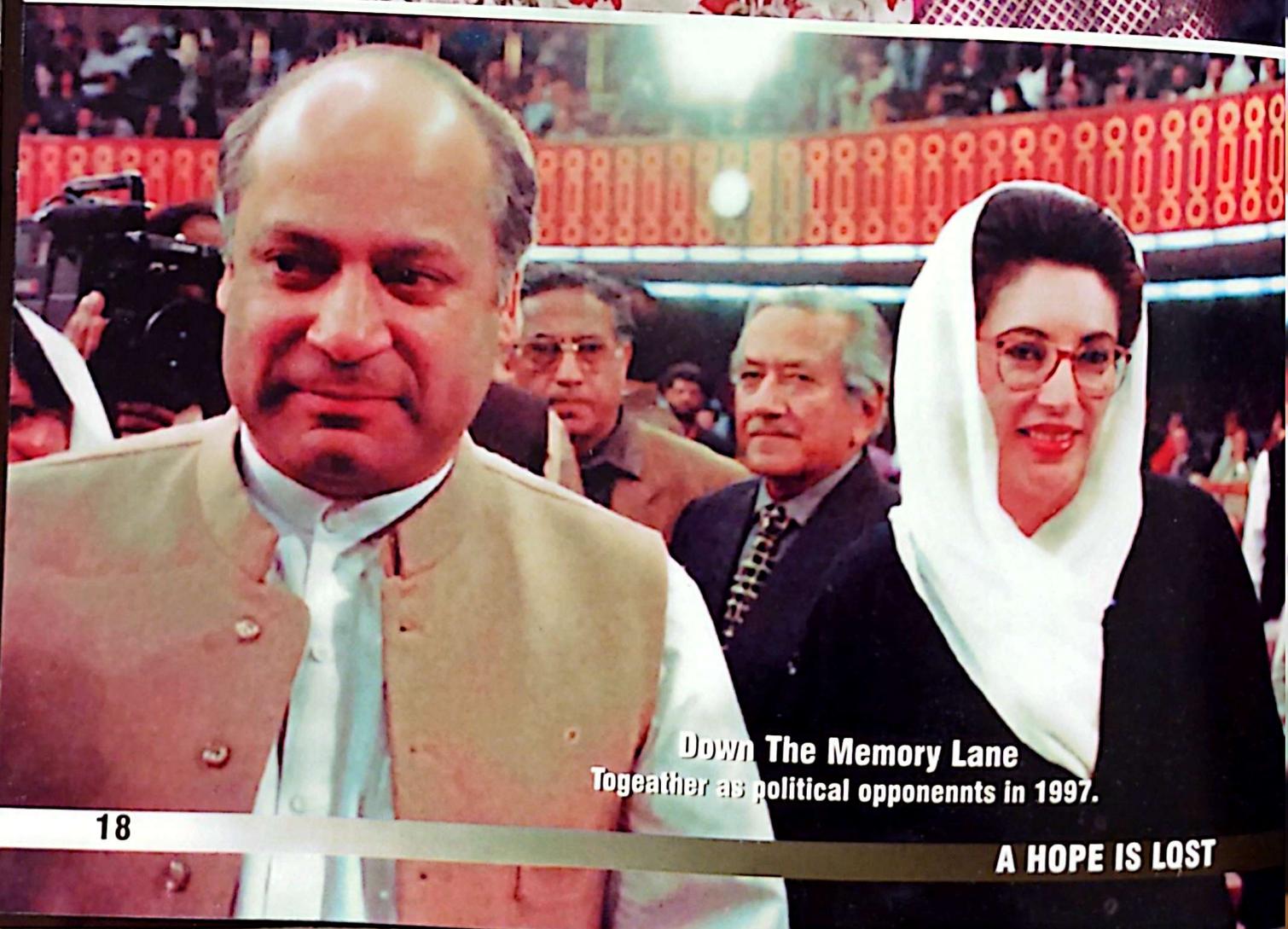
During a press conference on 24 May 1998 in Islamabad.

A HOPE IS LOST





20 May 1990, Shaheed Benazir Bhutto meeting PLO chairman Yasser Arafat in Cairo.



Down The Memory Lane Together as political opponennts in 1997.



Islamabad: 03 November 2007, Come together not as rivals but allies against dictatorship.

**A HOPE IS LOST**



**Shaheed Benazir Bhutto poses for a portrait during an interview with Reuters in New York  
March 16, 2007.**



*Shaheed Benazir Bhutto poses for a portrait during an interview with Reuters in New York March 16, 2007.*

**A HOPE IS LOST**



**Shaheed Benazir Bhutto poses with her dog Maximilian during an interview with Reuters in New York March 16, 2007.**

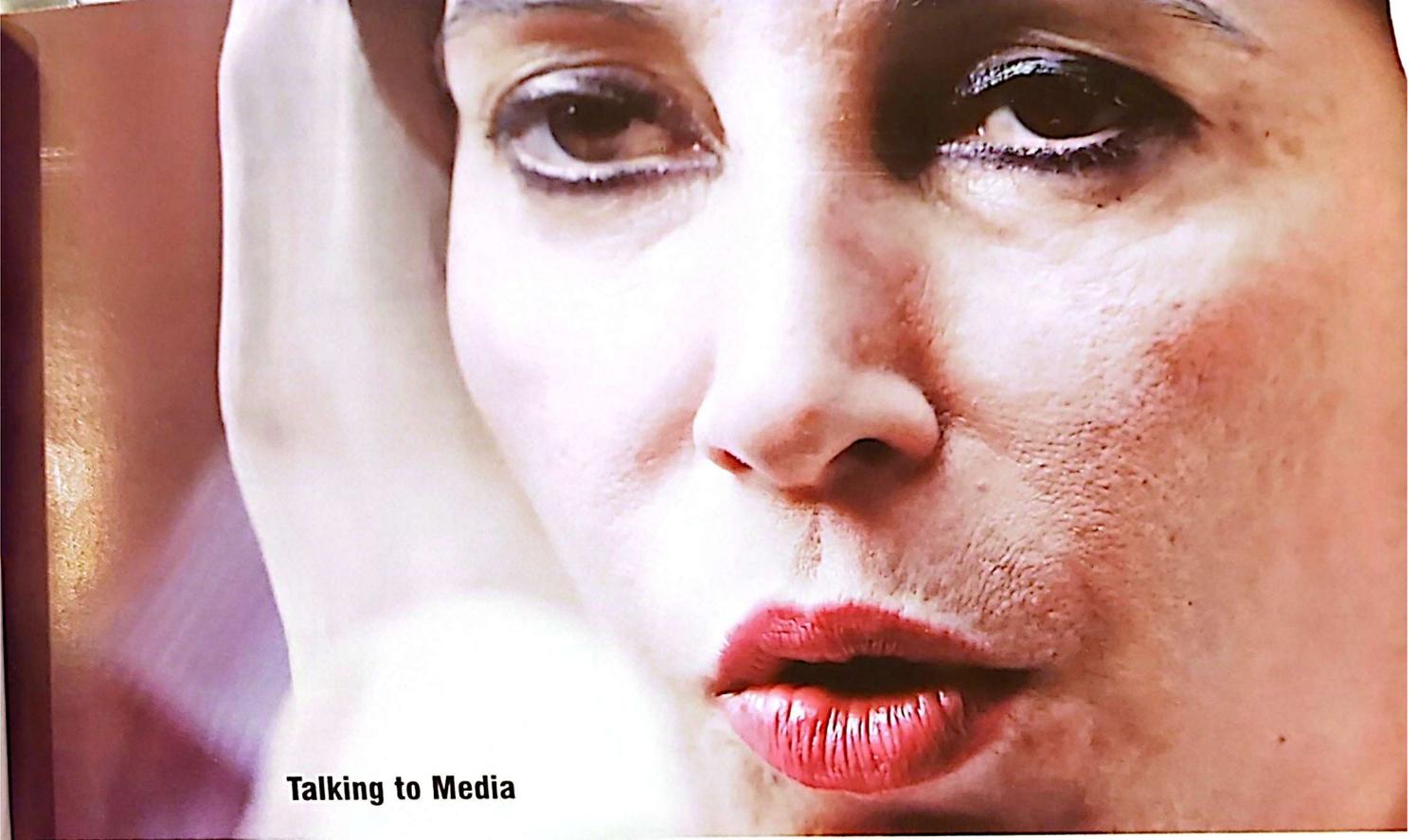


**Shaheed Benazir Bhutto reaches down to her dog Maximilian during an interview with Reuters in New York March 16, 2007.**

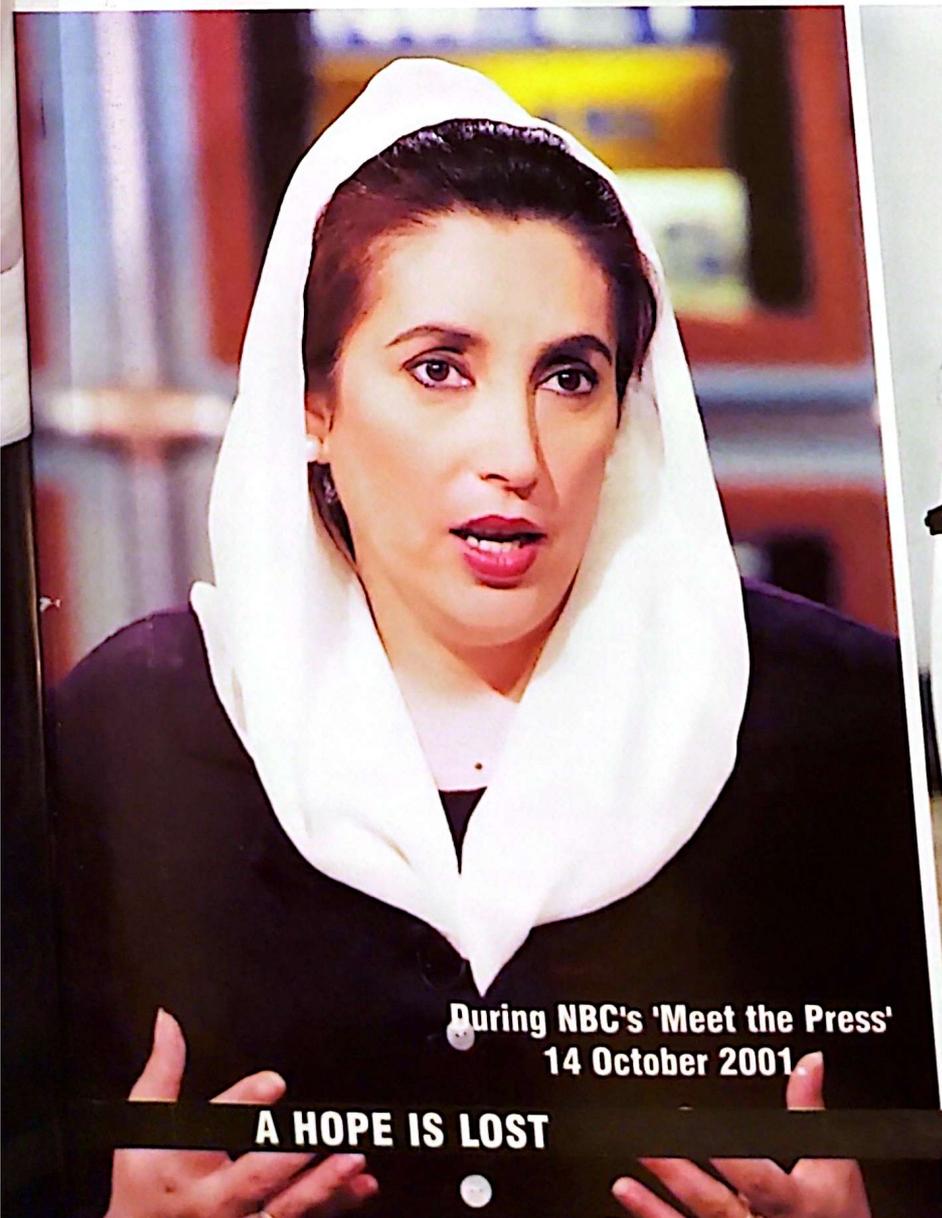
**A HOPE IS LOST**



20 July 2007,  
Shaheed Benazir Bhutto  
gesturing as she delivers  
a speech at the  
International Institute  
for Strategic Studies  
(IISS) in London.



**Talking to Media**



**During NBC's 'Meet the Press'  
14 October 2001**

**A HOPE IS LOST**

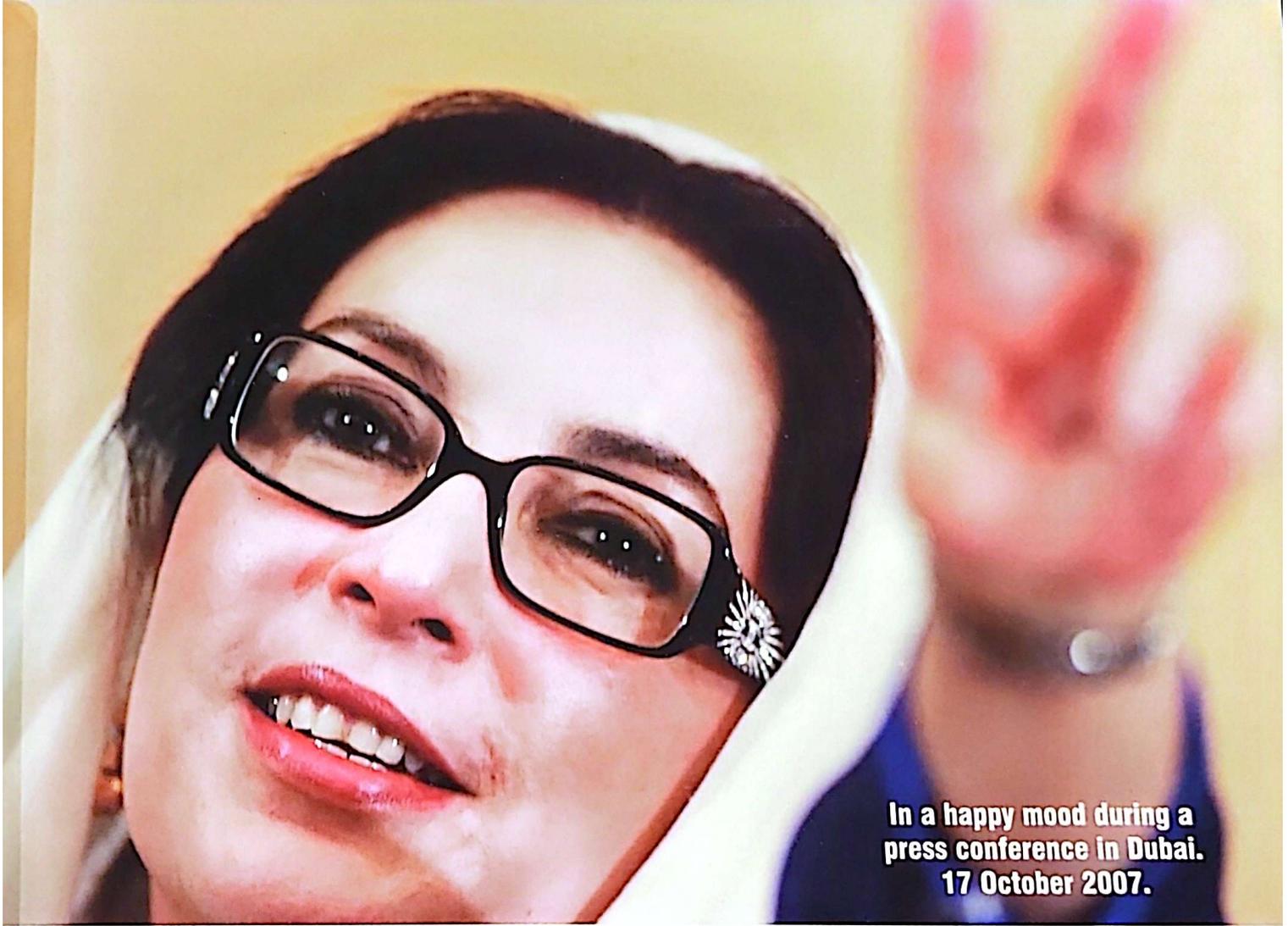


**Gestures during a press con**





**Shaheed Benazir Bhutto speaks  
at a press conference in Dubai  
17 October 2007.**



In a happy mood during a press conference in Dubai.  
17 October 2007.



Excited Daughter of the East  
with her daughters in Dubai.  
17 October 2007.

**A HOPE IS LOST**



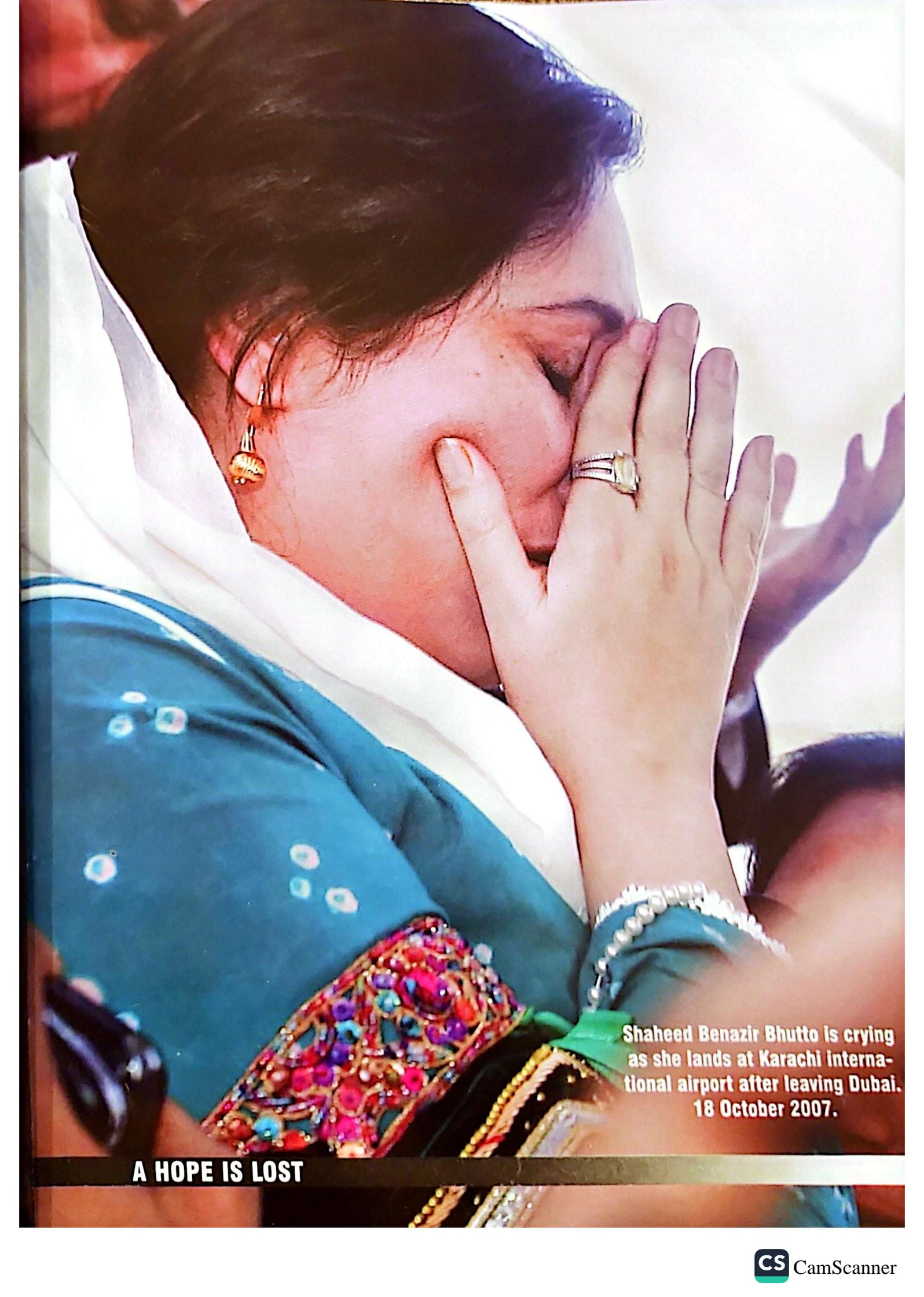
Shaheed Benazir Bhutto speaks  
at a press conference in Dubai  
17 October 2007.



**Endorsing her commitment with the country. 17 October 2007.**



**A HOPE IS LOST**



Shaheed Benazir Bhutto is crying as she lands at Karachi international airport after leaving Dubai. 18 October 2007.

**A HOPE IS LOST**



Shaheed Benazir Bhutto smiles as she lands at Karachi international airport after leaving Dubai, 18 October 2007.



Shaheed Benazir Bhutto answers reporters questions in Geneva, Switzerland, September 19, 2005.



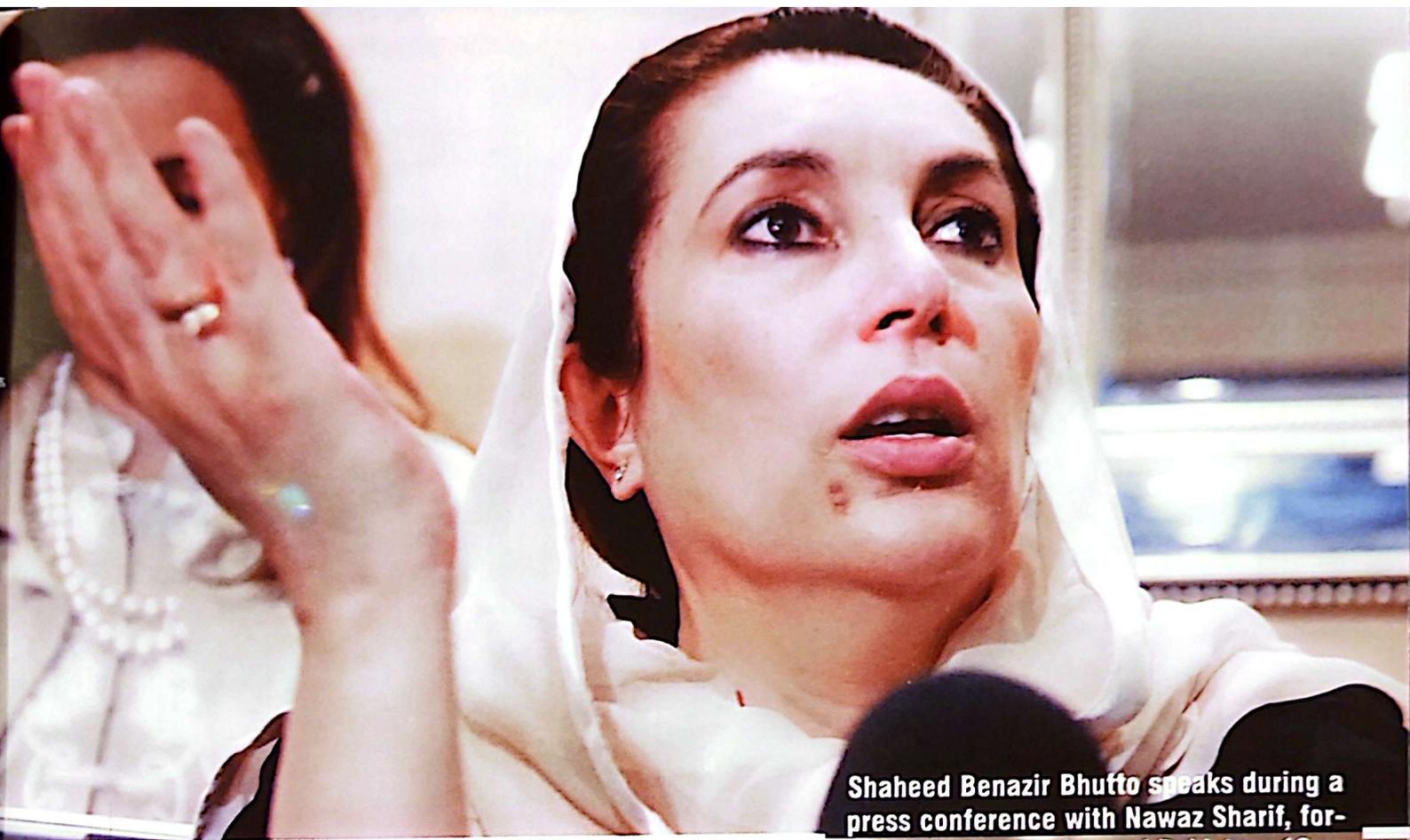
**Shaheed Benazir Bhutto  
attends a meeting in  
central London,  
19 October 2006.**

**A HOPE IS LOST**



Shaheed Benazir Bhutto during a press conference on 19 October 2006.

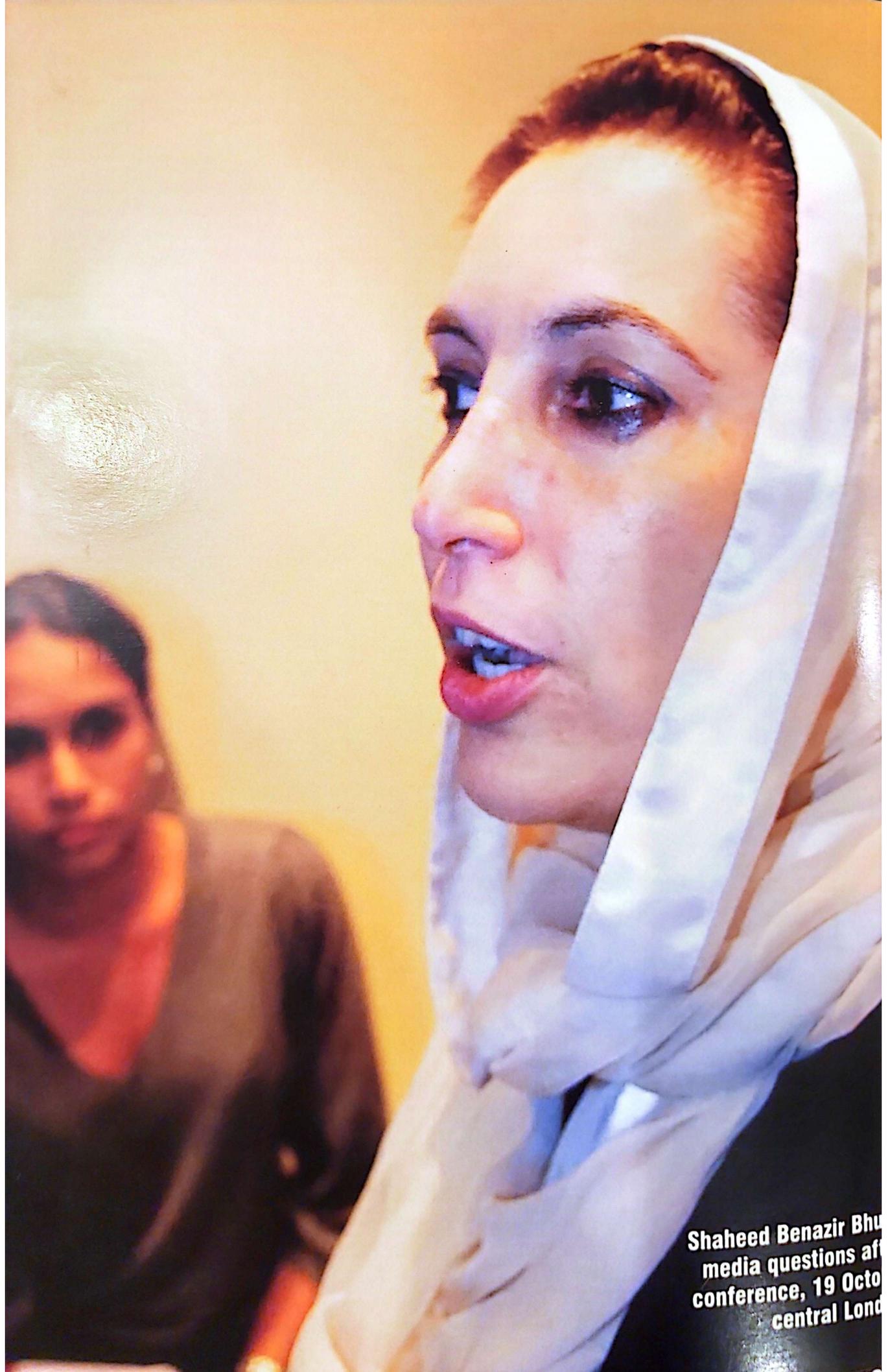




Shaheed Benazir Bhutto speaks during a press conference with Nawaz Sharif, former Prime Minister of Pakistan, 19 October 2006 in central London.



**A HOPE IS LOST**



Shaheed Benazir Bhutto  
media questions after  
conference, 19 October  
central London



**Shaheed Benazir Bhutto arrives  
for a meeting in West London, 03  
October 2007.**



**A HOPE IS LOST**



**Shaheed Benazir Bhutto smiles after a  
press conference in central London.  
19 October 2006.**



**Shaheed Benazir Bhutto enters her office wearing a black armband moments before addressing a press conference in Karachi, 19 October 2007.**

**Adjusts her headscarf as she addresses media representatives at a press conference in Karachi, 19 October 2007.**



**Shaheed Benazir Bhutto gestures as she addresses media representatives at a press conference in Karachi, 19 October 2007.**



Addressing a press conference in Karachi, 19 October 2007.



Shaheed Benazir Bhutto gestures as she addresses an audience in Karachi, 19 October 2007, after an attack on her convoy following her return to Pakistan late 18 October.



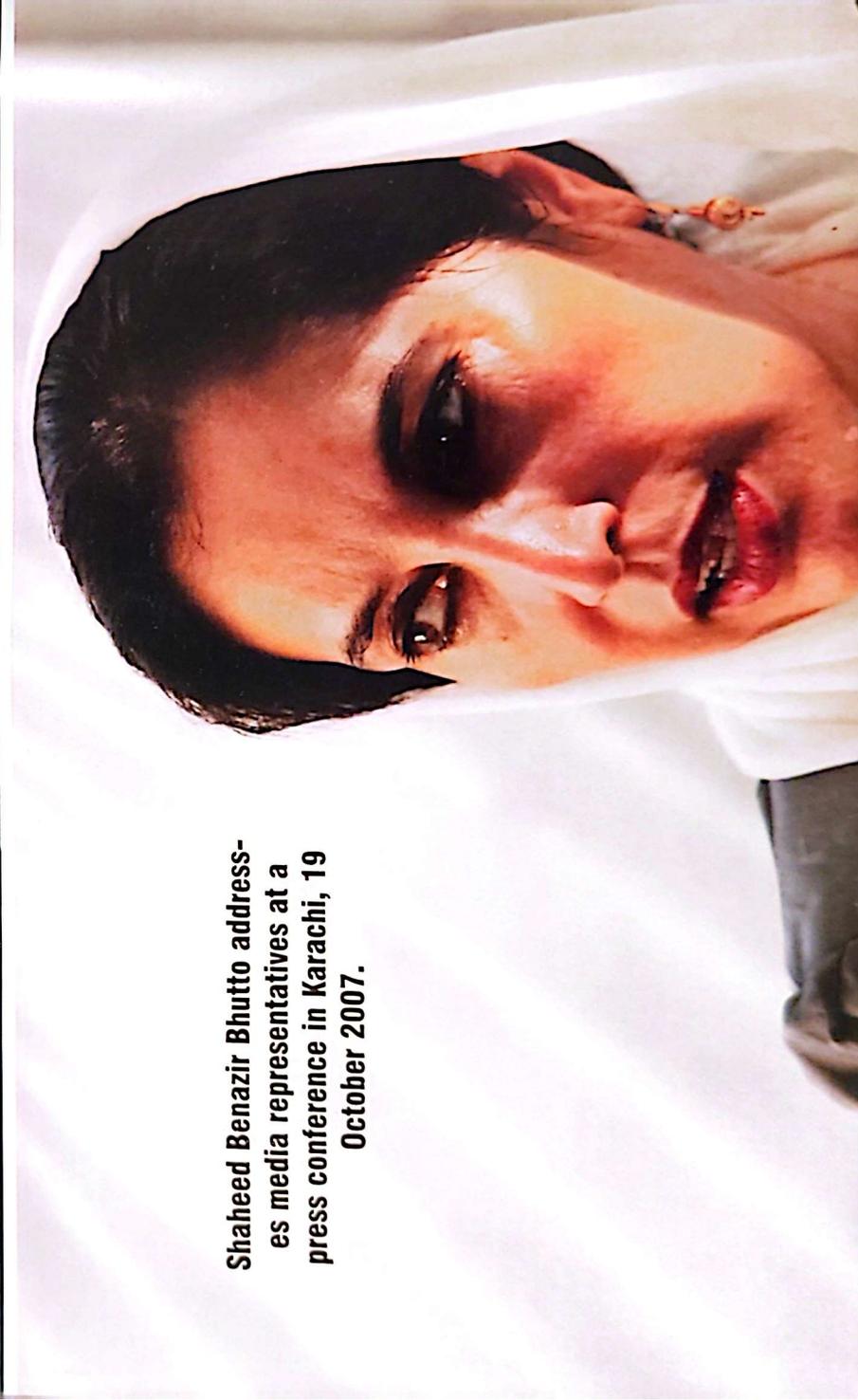


In deep thinking, 19 October 2007.

**A HOPE IS LOST**



**Shaheed Benazir Bhutto speaks as she leaves after addressing media representatives at a press conference in Karachi, 19 October 2007.**



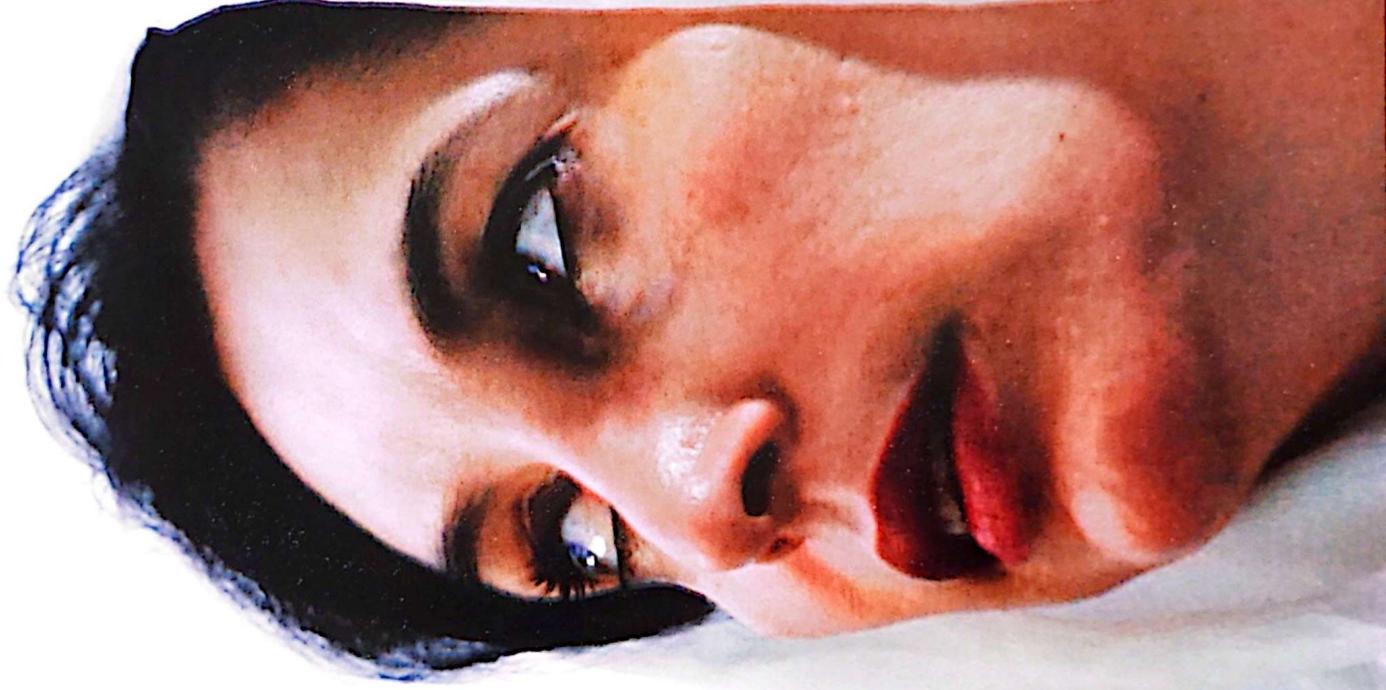
**Shaheed Benazir Bhutto addresses media representatives at a press conference in Karachi, 19 October 2007.**



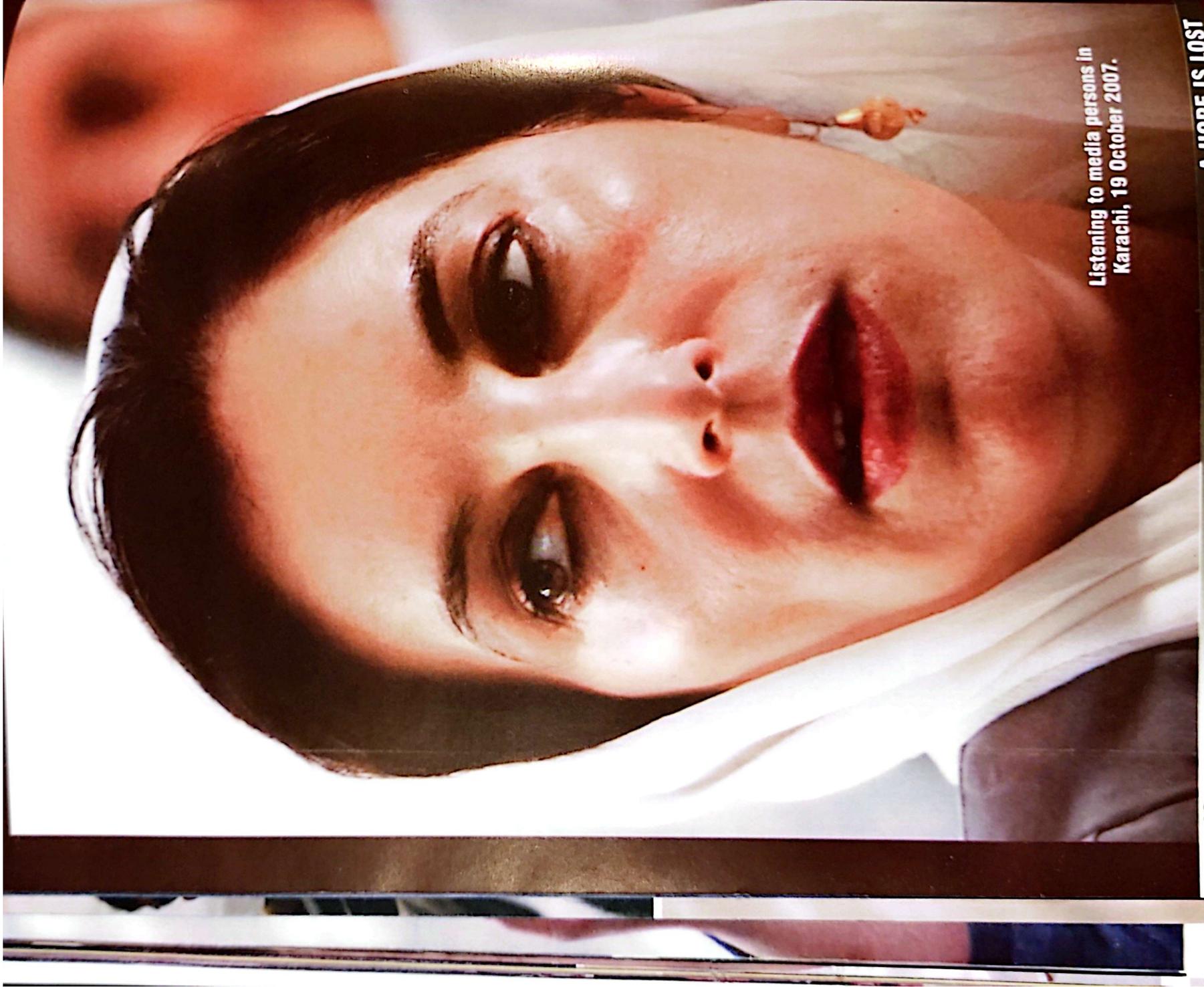
Shaheed Benazir Bhutto addresses media representatives at a press conference in Karachi, 19 October 2007.



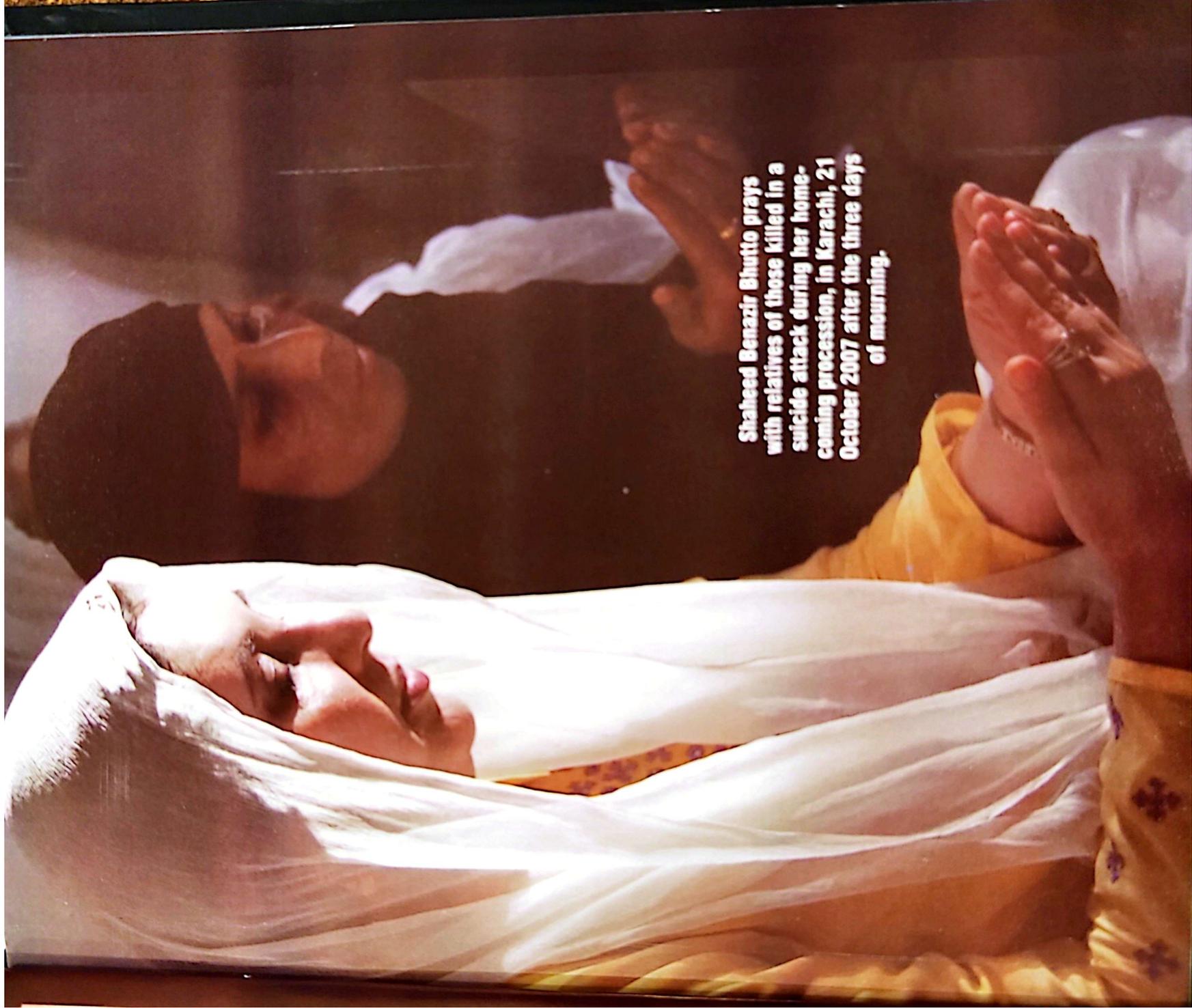
**Shaheed Benazir Bhutto at a press conference in Karachi, 19 October 2007.**



**A HOPE IS LOST**



Listening to media persons in Karachi, 19 October 2007.



Shahed Benazir Bhutto prays with relatives of those killed in a suicide attack during her home-coming procession, in Karachi, 21 October 2007 after the three days of mourning.



Shahid Benazir Bhutto  
Prays for innocent  
Muslim party leaders in  
Karachi on October 2007  
in memory of those killed in  
a deadly suicide attack in  
October in her hometown  
in Karachi.

**A HOPE IS LOST**

**A HOPE**





**Shaheed Benazir Bhutto  
prays with unseen Sunni  
Muslim party leaders in  
Karachi, 22 October 2007.**



Shaheed Benazir Bhutto arrives at the mausoleum of the country's founder, Mohammad Ali Jinnah, for prayers, in Karachi.  
22 October 2007.



Shaheed Benazir Bhutto arrives at the mausoleum of the founder of Pakistan Quaid-e- Azam Mohammad Ali Jinnah, for prayers, in Karachi 22 October 2007.



**Shaheed Benazir Bhutto prays at the mausoleum of Mohammad Ali Jinnah in Karachi, 22 October 2007.**



**Shaheed Benazir Bhutto vowed on 22 October to defy a planned ban on political rallies in the run-up to general elections seen as a key step to restoring civilian rule here.**



*Shaheed Benazir Bhutto waves to supporters as she leaves the mausoleum of the country's founder, Mohammad Ali Jinnah in Karachi, 22 October 2007.*



Shaheed Benazir Bhutto prays with Jamiat Ulema-e-Islam (JUI) leaders at her residence in Karachi, 23 October 2007, for those killed in a deadly suicide attack 18 October, on her home-coming parade.

**A HOPE IS LOST**



Shaheed Benazir Bhutto addresses a news conference in Islamabad on Nov 6, 2007.





Shaheed Benazir Bhutto gestures during a news conference at her residence after her arrival in Islamabad November 6, 2007.



**Shaheed Benazir Bhutto  
addresses a news con-  
ference in Islamabad,  
Pakistan on Nov 6, 2007.**



**Shaheed Benazir Bhutto smiles upon arrival at her residence in Islamabad, 06 November 2007.**

**A HOPE IS LOST**



Shahneel Benazir Bhutto gestures during a media briefing in Islamabad, 06 November 2007.





**Shaheed Benazir Bhutto speaks during a news conference at her residence after her arrival in Islamabad November 6, 2007.**

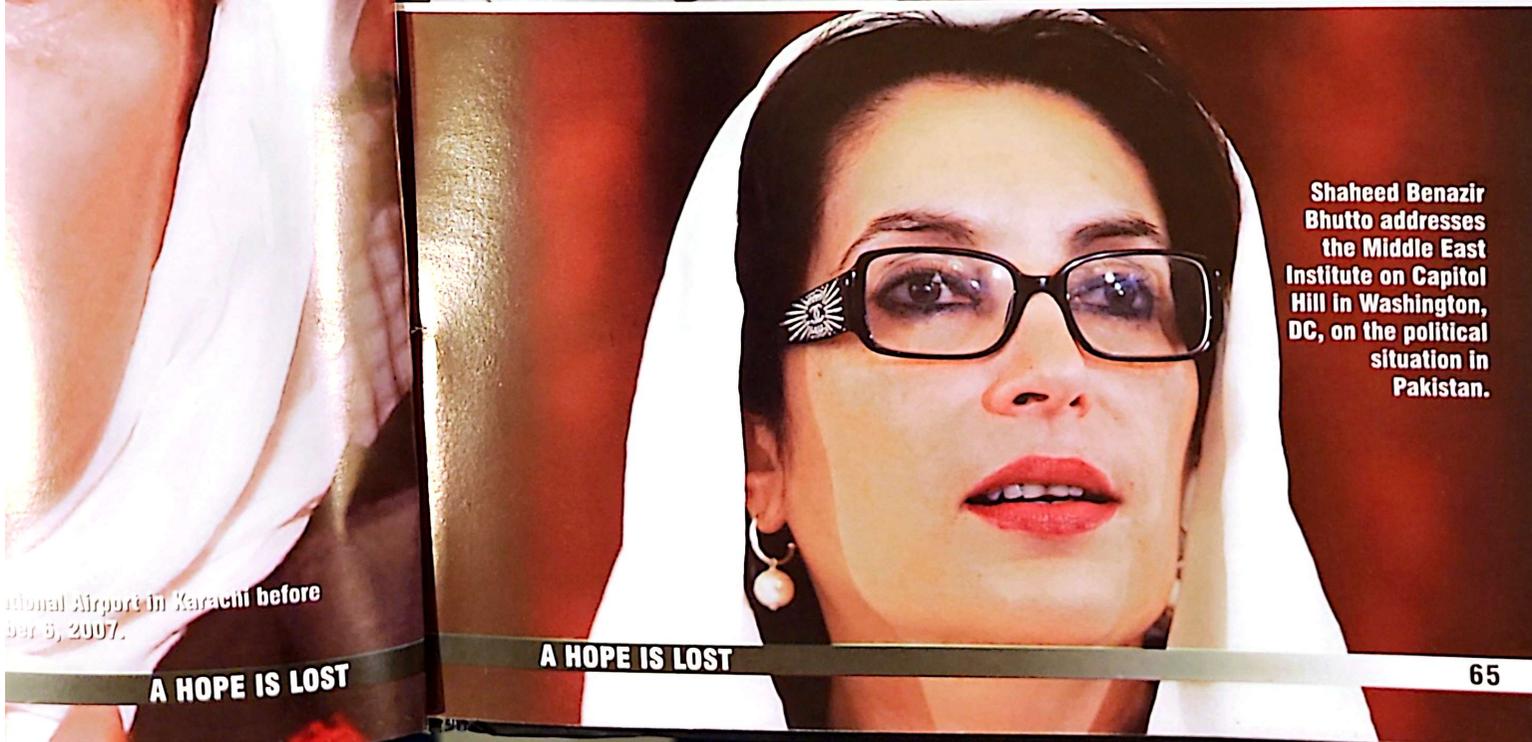
**A HOPE IS LOST**



Shahnaz Benazir Bhutto speaks to media at Jinnah International Airport in Karachi before boarding a plane for Islamabad November 6, 2007.



Shaheed Benazir Bhutto arrives at Jinnah International Airport in Karachi before boarding a plane for Islamabad November 6, 2007.



Shaheed Benazir Bhutto addresses the Middle East Institute on Capitol Hill in Washington, DC, on the political situation in Pakistan.

onal Airport in Karachi before  
ber 6, 2007.

**A HOPE IS LOST**

**A HOPE IS LOST**



**Shaheed Benazir Bhutto during  
her news conference in  
Islamabad, Nov 7, 2007.**





**Shaheed Benazir Bhutto smiles as she addresses a news conference in Islamabad, 08 November 2007.**



Shaheed Benazir Bhutto arrives for a news conference in Lahore November 11, 2007.



Listening to a question during a news conference in Lahore November 11, 2007.

**A HOPE IS LOST**



**Shaheed Benazir Bhutto smiles as she arrives for a news conference at her residence in Lahore, 16 November 2007.**

**A HOPE IS LOST**



Shaheed Benazir Bhutto smiles as she arrives for a news conference at her residence in Lahore, 16 November 2007.

A HOPE IS LOST

A HOPE IS LOST



**Shaheed Benazir Bhutto arrives to address a news conference at her residence in Lahore after she was freed from house arrest November 16, 2007.**

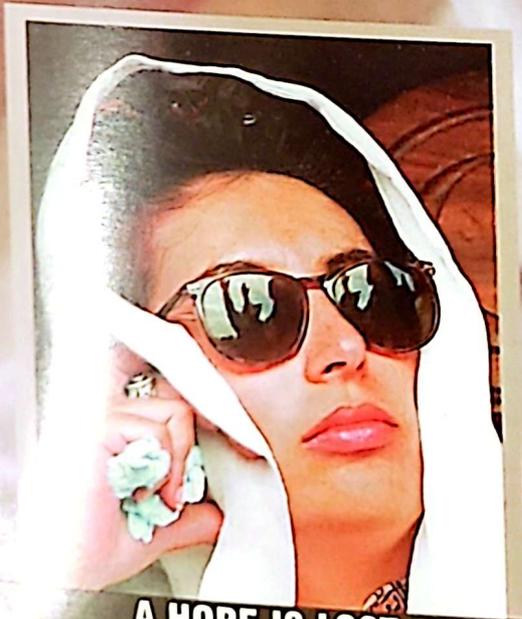
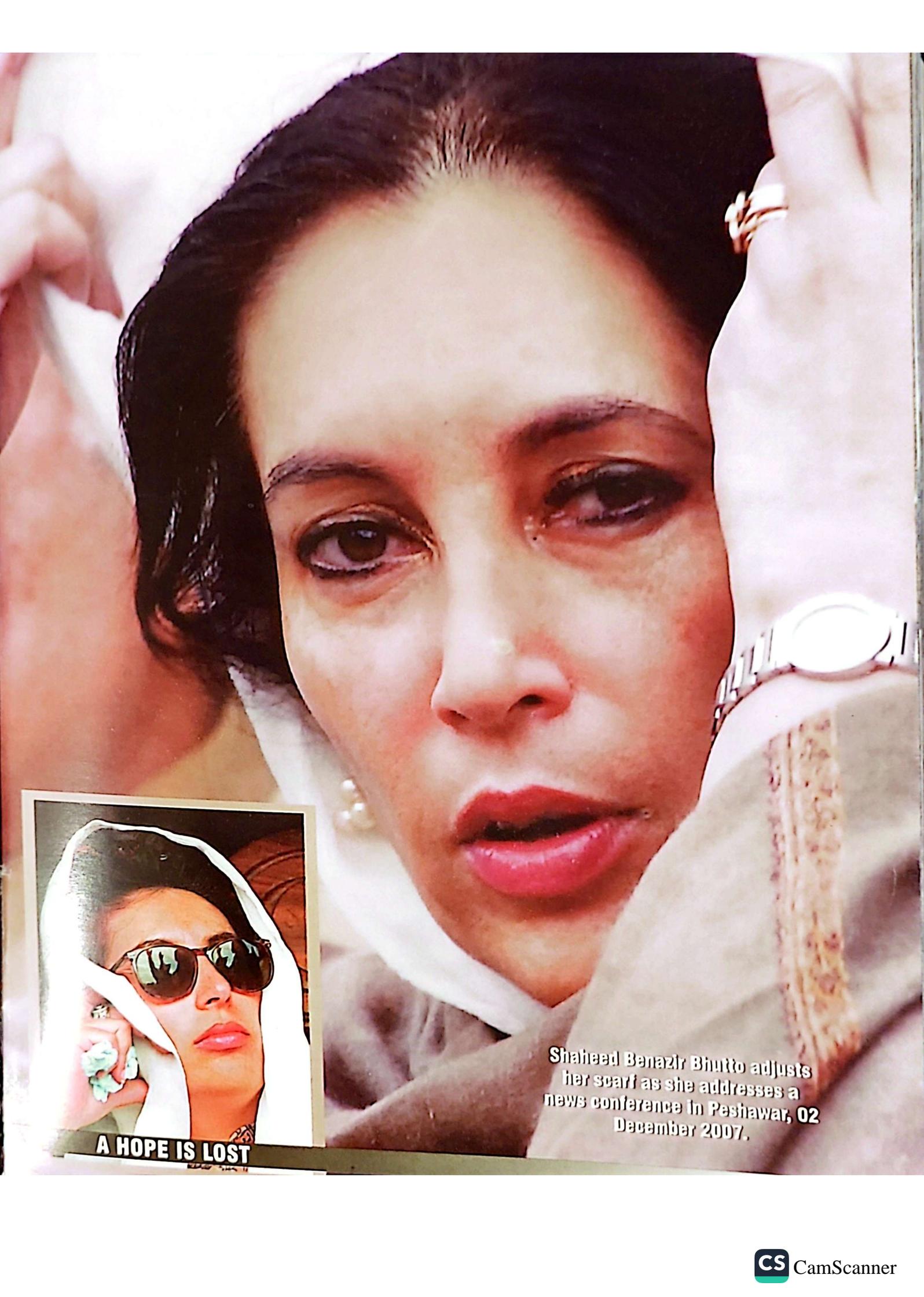


**Shaheed Benazir Bhutto  
watches U.S.  
Ambassador Anne W.  
Patterson leave her resi-  
dence after their meet-  
ing in Karachi  
November 19, 2007.**



**Shaheed Benazir Bhutto arrives at the banned private Geo television news office during her visit in Karachi, 19 November 2007.**



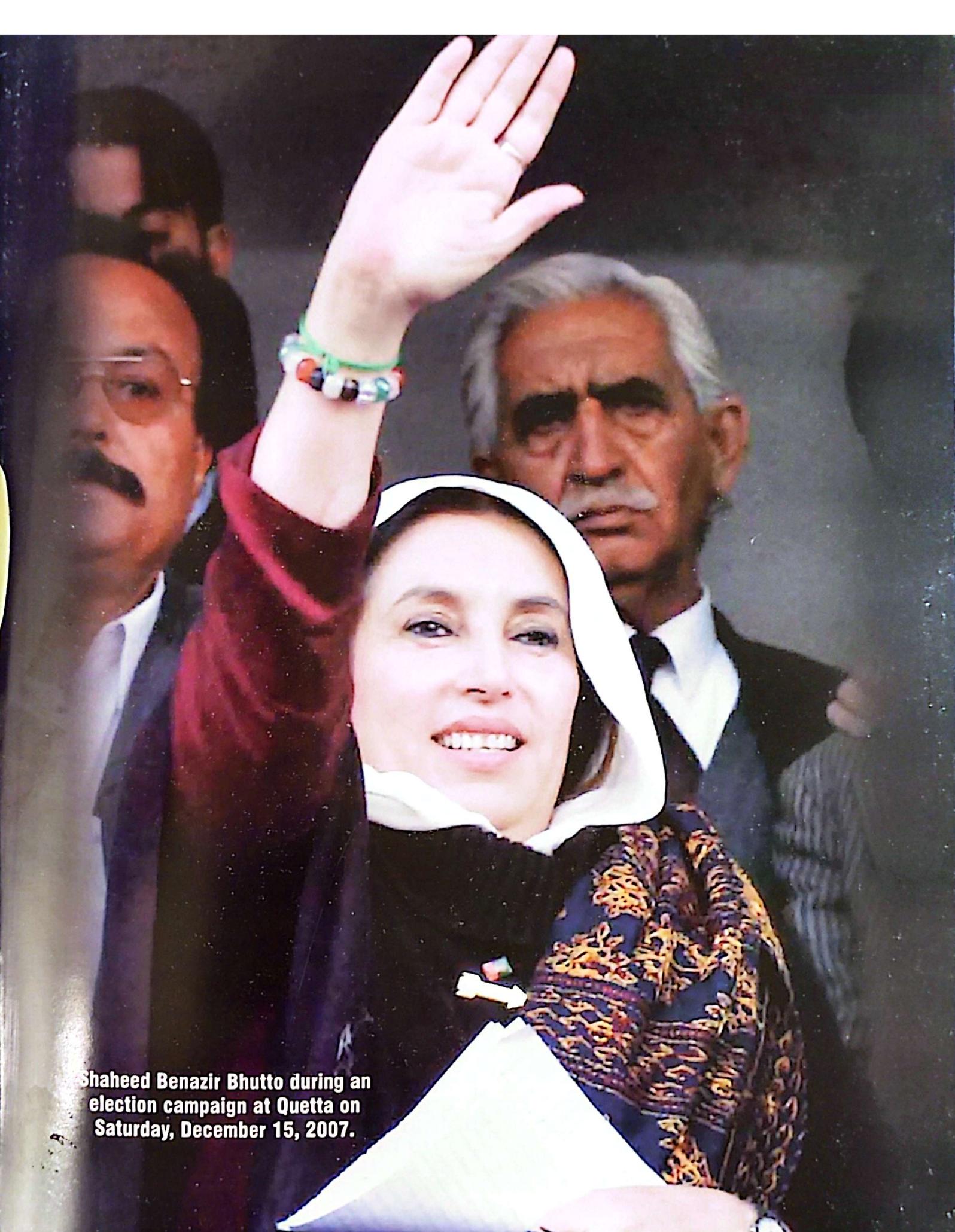


Shaheed Benazir Bhutto adjusts her scarf as she addresses a news conference in Peshawar, 02 December 2007.

**A HOPE IS LOST**



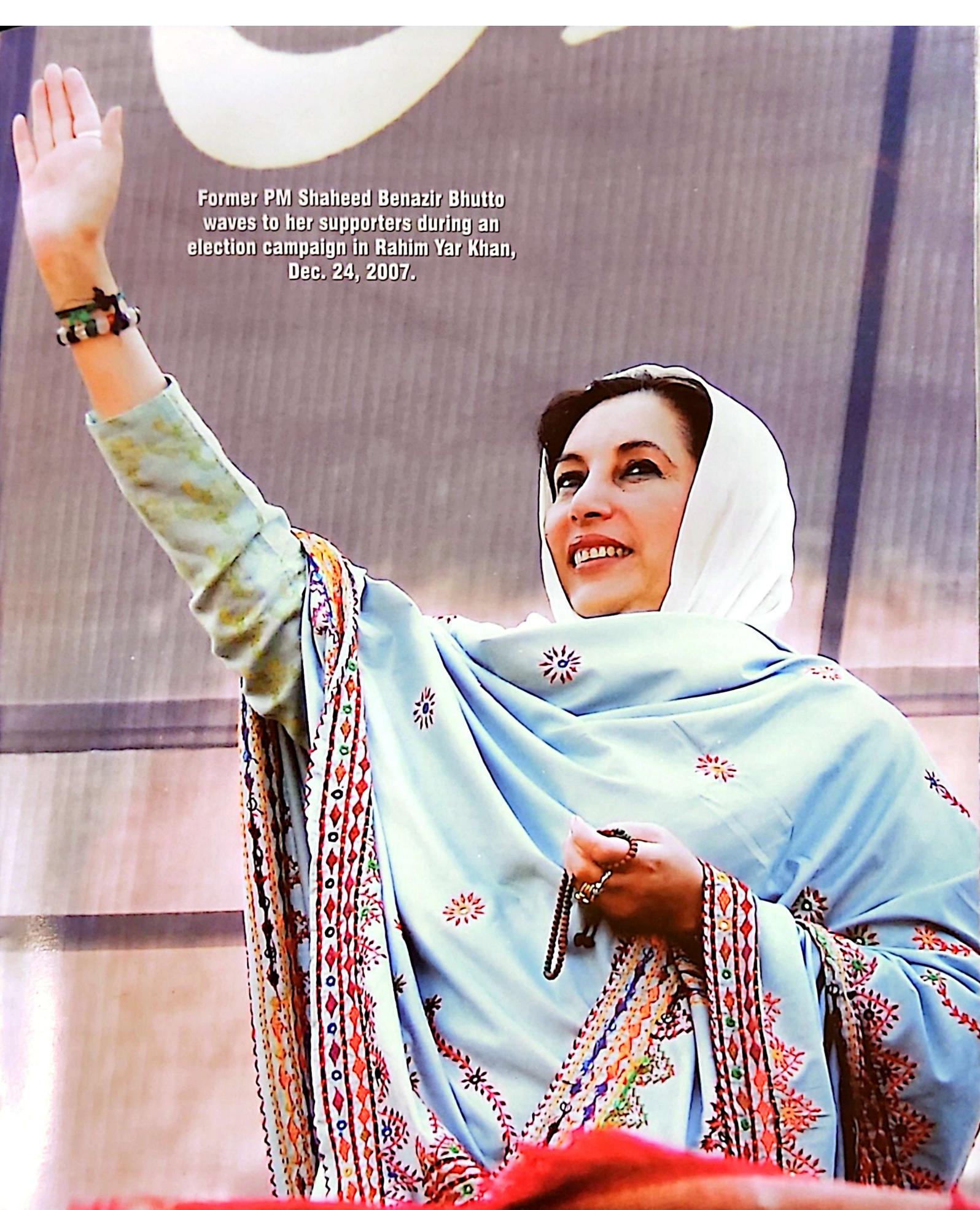
**Shaheed Benazir Bhutto during an election campaign at Quetta on Saturday, December 15, 2007.**



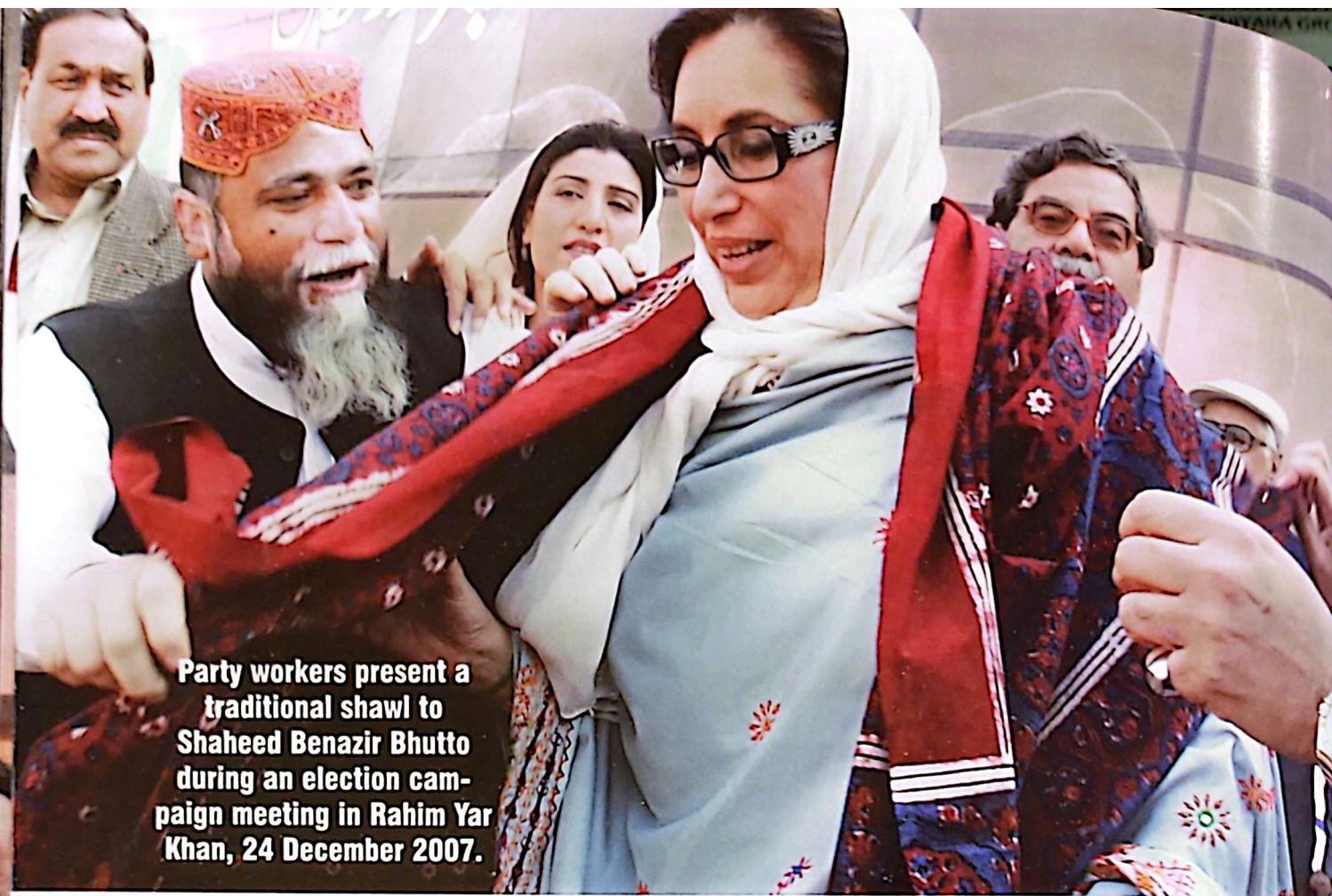
**Shaheed Benazir Bhutto during an election campaign at Quetta on Saturday, December 15, 2007.**

Shaheed Benazir Bhutto holds up a copy of her party manifesto during an election campaign meeting in Rahim Yar Khan, 24 December 2007.



A photograph of former Prime Minister of Pakistan, Shaheed Benazir Bhutto, waving her right hand. She is wearing a light blue shawl with intricate floral embroidery in red, green, and black. She is also wearing a white headscarf and a bracelet on her right wrist. The background is a wooden wall with a large white crescent moon and star symbol.

Former PM Shaheed Benazir Bhutto waves to her supporters during an election campaign in Rahim Yar Khan, Dec. 24, 2007.



**Party workers present a traditional shawl to Shaheed Benazir Bhutto during an election campaign meeting in Rahim Yar Khan, 24 December 2007.**



**Shaheed Benazir Bhutto sits on a stage during an election campaign meeting in Rahim Yar Khan, 24 December 2007.**

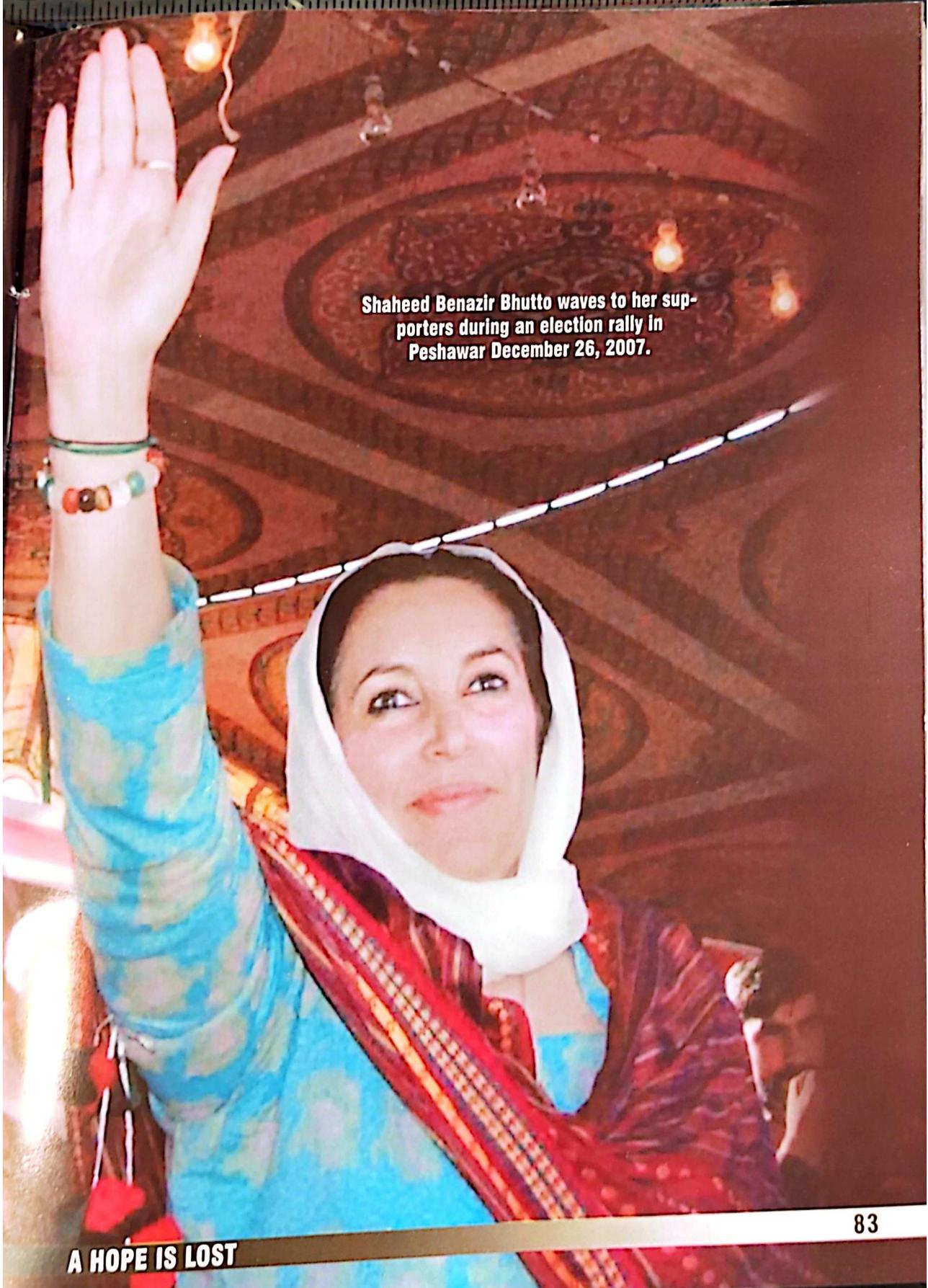
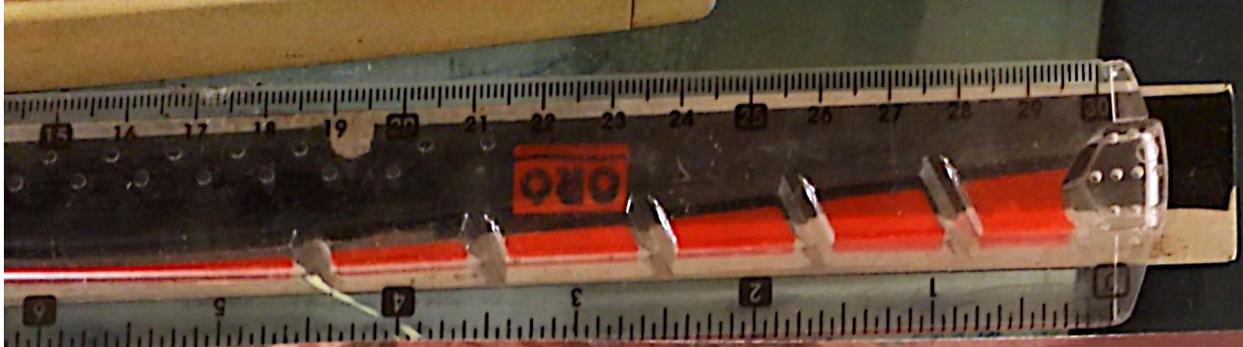


Shaheed Benazir Bhutto sits on a stage during an election campaign meeting in Rahim Yar Khan, 24 December 2007.



Shaheed Benazir Bhutto sits on a stage during an election campaign meeting in Muzaffargarh, 25 December 2007.





**Shaheed Benazir Bhutto waves to her supporters during an election rally in Peshawar December 26, 2007.**

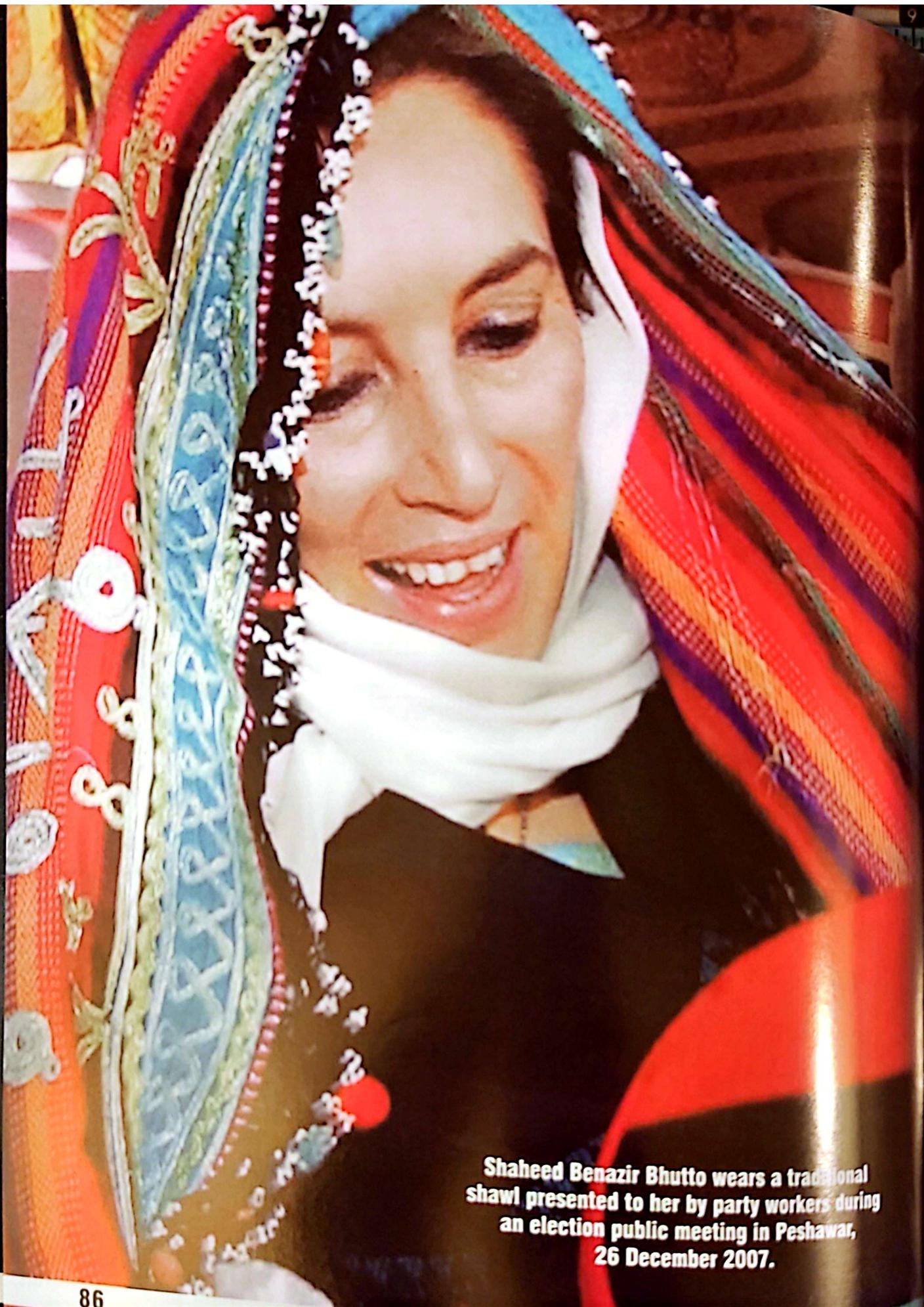
**A HOPE IS LOST**



**Shaheed Benazir Bhutto sits on a stage during an election public meeting in Peshawar, 26 December 2007.**



**Shaheed Benazir Bhutto looks on during an election campaign rally in Hassan Abdal, , 26 December 2007.**



**Shaheed Benazir Bhutto wears a traditional shawl presented to her by party workers during an election public meeting in Peshawar, 26 December 2007.**



**Afghan President Hamid Karzai (R) walking with Shaheed Benazir Bhutto after a meeting at a hotel in Islamabad Dec. 27, 2007.**

**A HOPE IS LOST**



**Shaheed Benazir Bhutto looks on to her supporters during her last election campaign rally in Rawalpindi, 27 December 2007.**

**Waves to last election in Rawalpindi**

**A HOPE IS LOST**



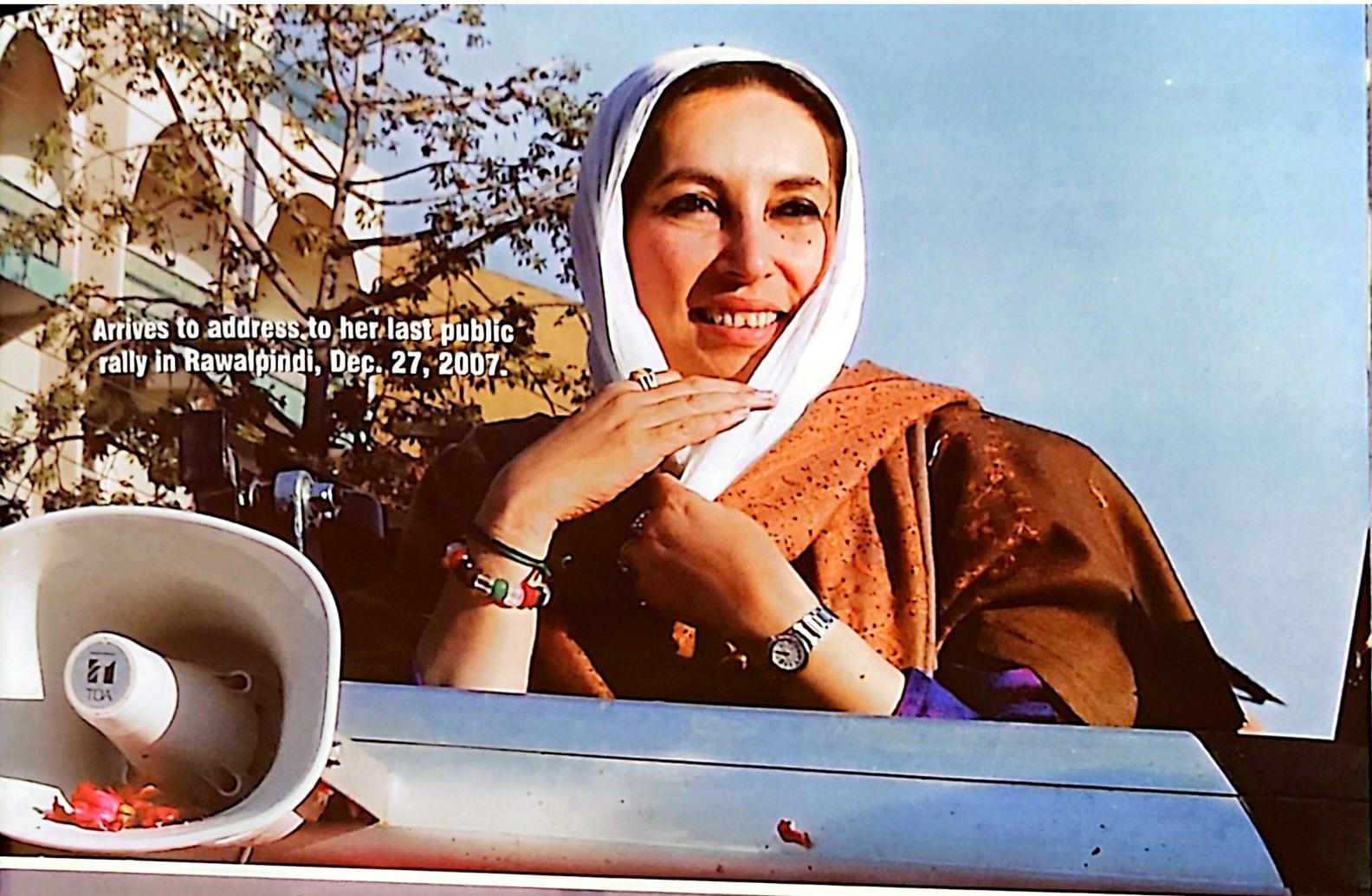
Waves to her supporters during her last election campaign rally in Rawalpindi, 27 December 2007.

**A HOPE IS LOST**

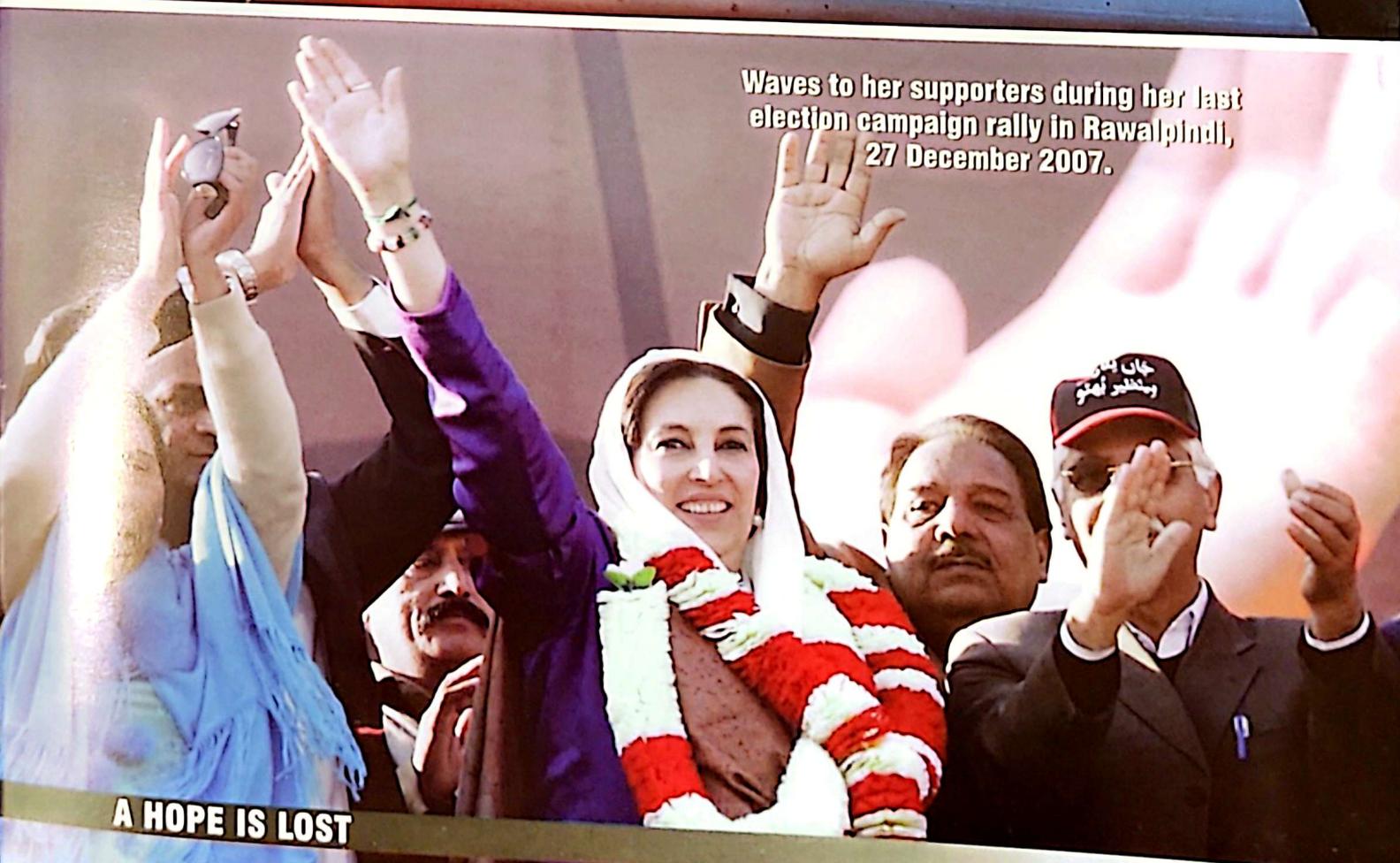
**Shaheed Benazir Bhutto and party Vice President Makhdoom Amin Faheem look on to her supporters during her last election campaign rally in Rawalpindi, 27 December 2007.**







Arrives to address to her last public rally in Rawalpindi, Dec. 27, 2007.



Waves to her supporters during her last election campaign rally in Rawalpindi, 27 December 2007.

A HOPE IS LOST

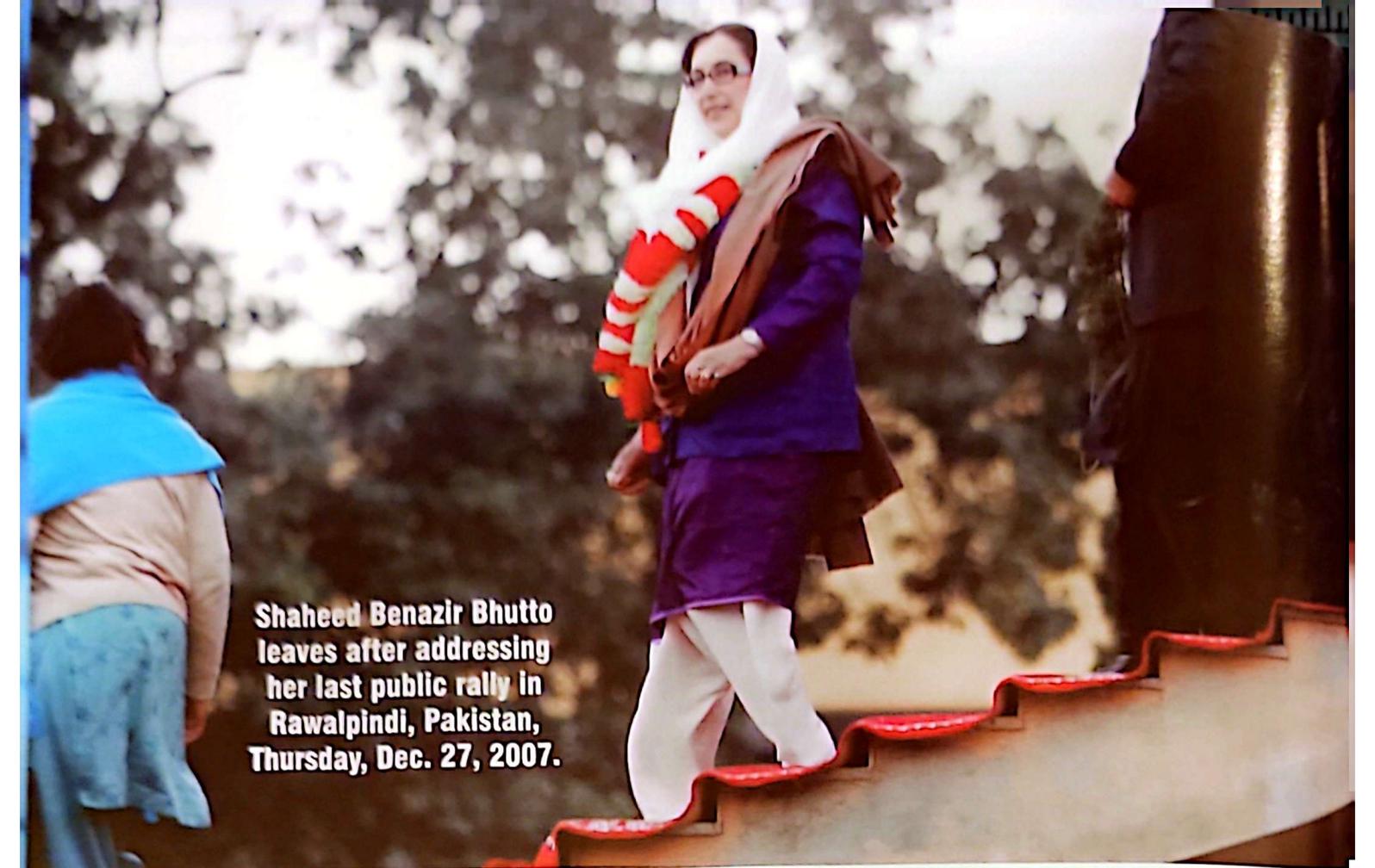


A man stands guard beside a portrait of Shaheed Benazir Bhutto in Lahore, 28 December 2007.



Shaheed Benazir Bhutto leaves the stage after her last election campaign rally in Rawalpindi, 27 December 2007.

**A HOPE IS LOST**

A photograph of Shaheed Benazir Bhutto walking down a set of stairs. She is wearing a purple suit, a white headscarf, and a brown shawl. She is holding a red and white striped scarf. The background is blurred, showing trees and a person in a blue shawl.

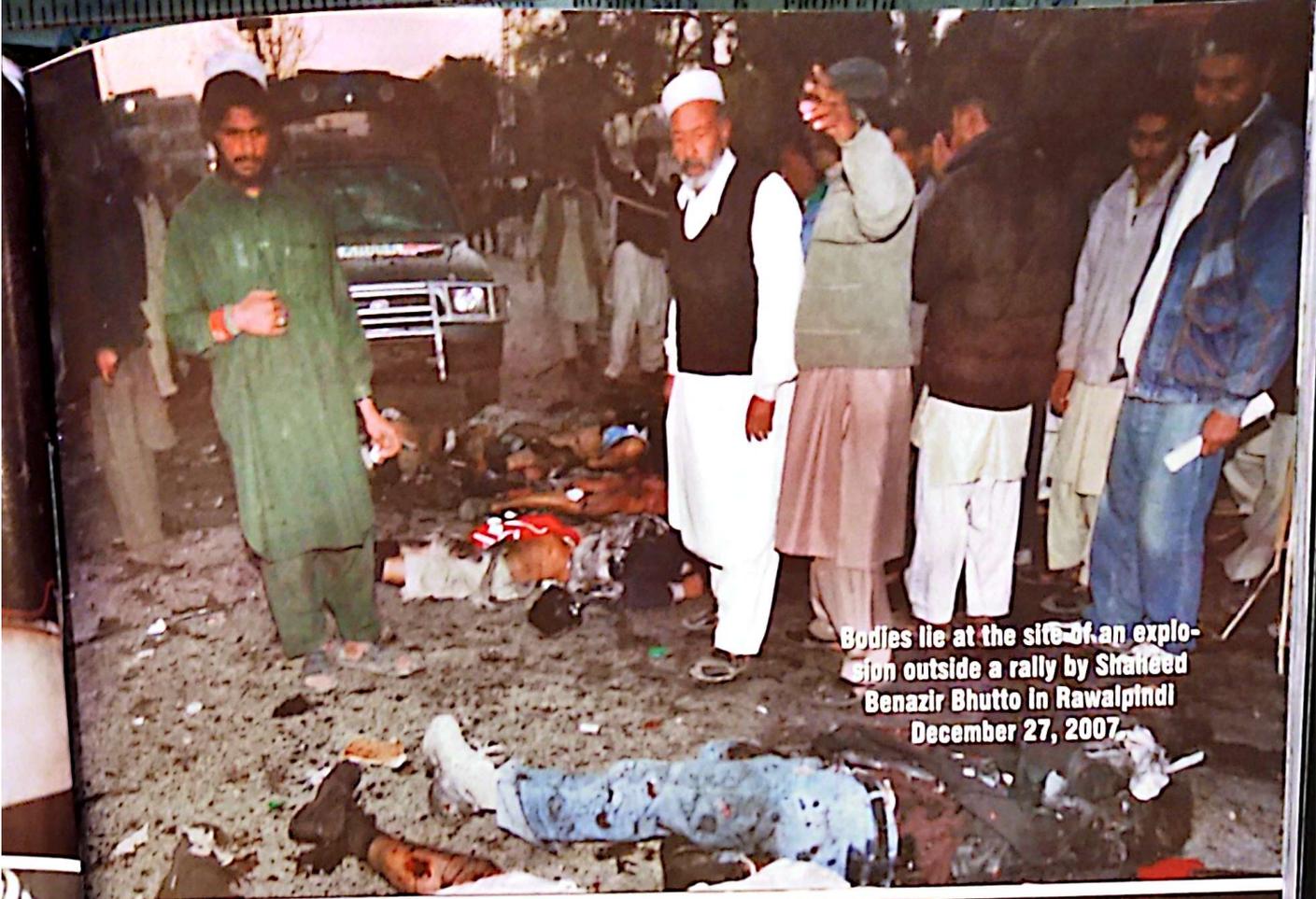
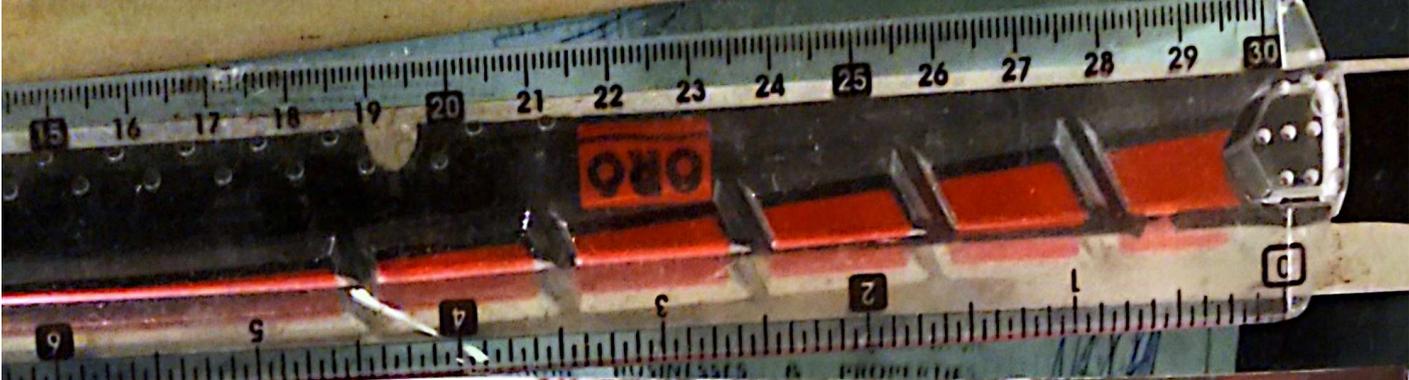
**Shaheed Benazir Bhutto  
leaves after addressing  
her last public rally in  
Rawalpindi, Pakistan,  
Thursday, Dec. 27, 2007.**

A video still showing Shaheed Benazir Bhutto walking. She is wearing a purple suit and a white headscarf. She is looking down and appears to be walking towards a vehicle. The background is blurred.

**In this image made from video  
Shaheed Benazir Bhutto is seen  
before walking to a waiting  
vehicle Rawalpindi,  
Dec. 27 2007.**

**BREAKING NEWS**  
**VIDEO TAKEN MOMENTS**

**A HOPE IS LOST**



Bodies lie at the site of an explosion outside a rally by Shafiq Benazir Bhutto in Rawalpindi December 27, 2007.



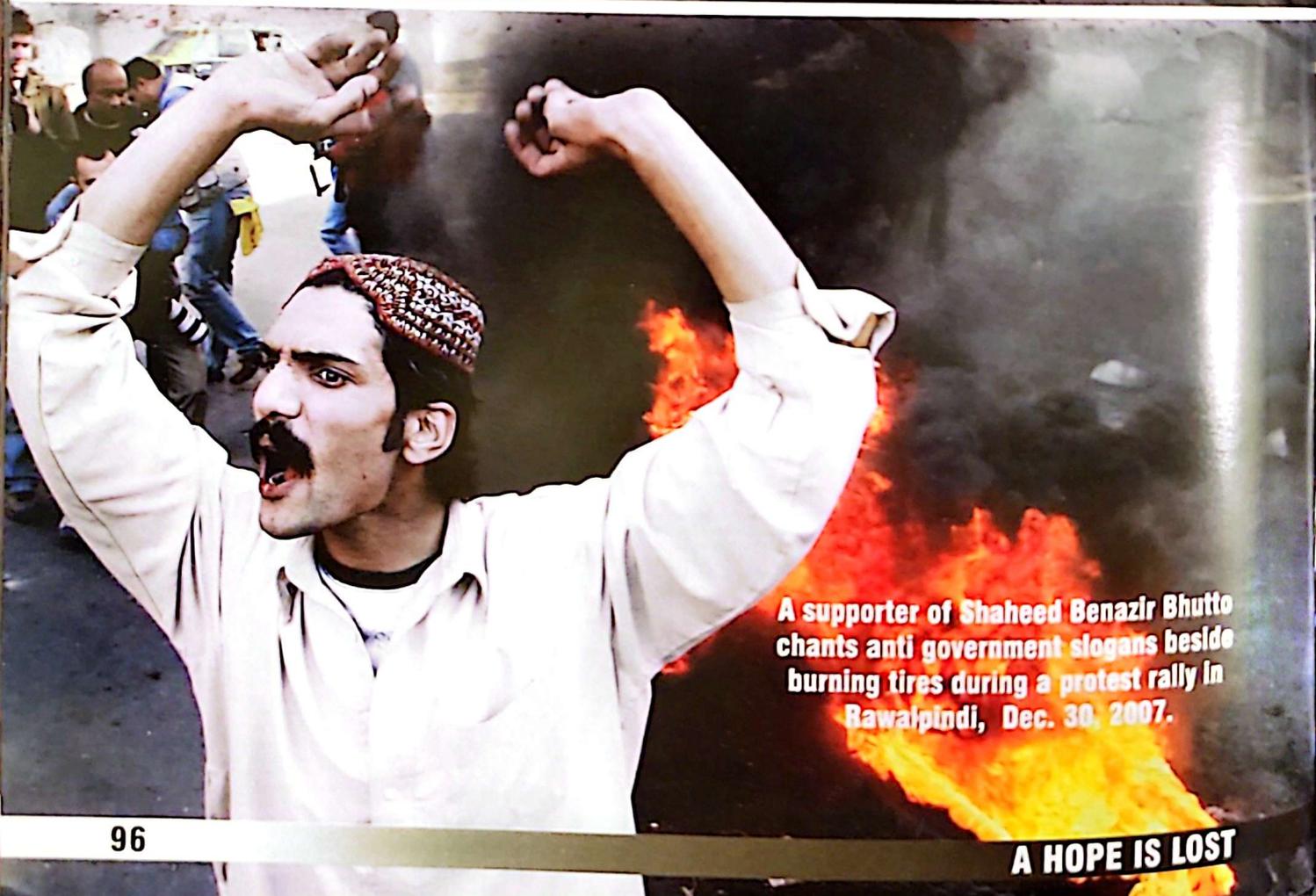
People remove bodies from the site of an explosion outside a rally in Rawalpindi December 27, 2007.

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A HOPE IS LOST



**A supporter of Shaheed Benazir Bhutto cries as he sits among bodies after the bomb blast, in Rawalpindi 27 December 2007.**



**A supporter of Shaheed Benazir Bhutto chants anti government slogans beside burning tires during a protest rally in Rawalpindi, Dec. 30, 2007.**

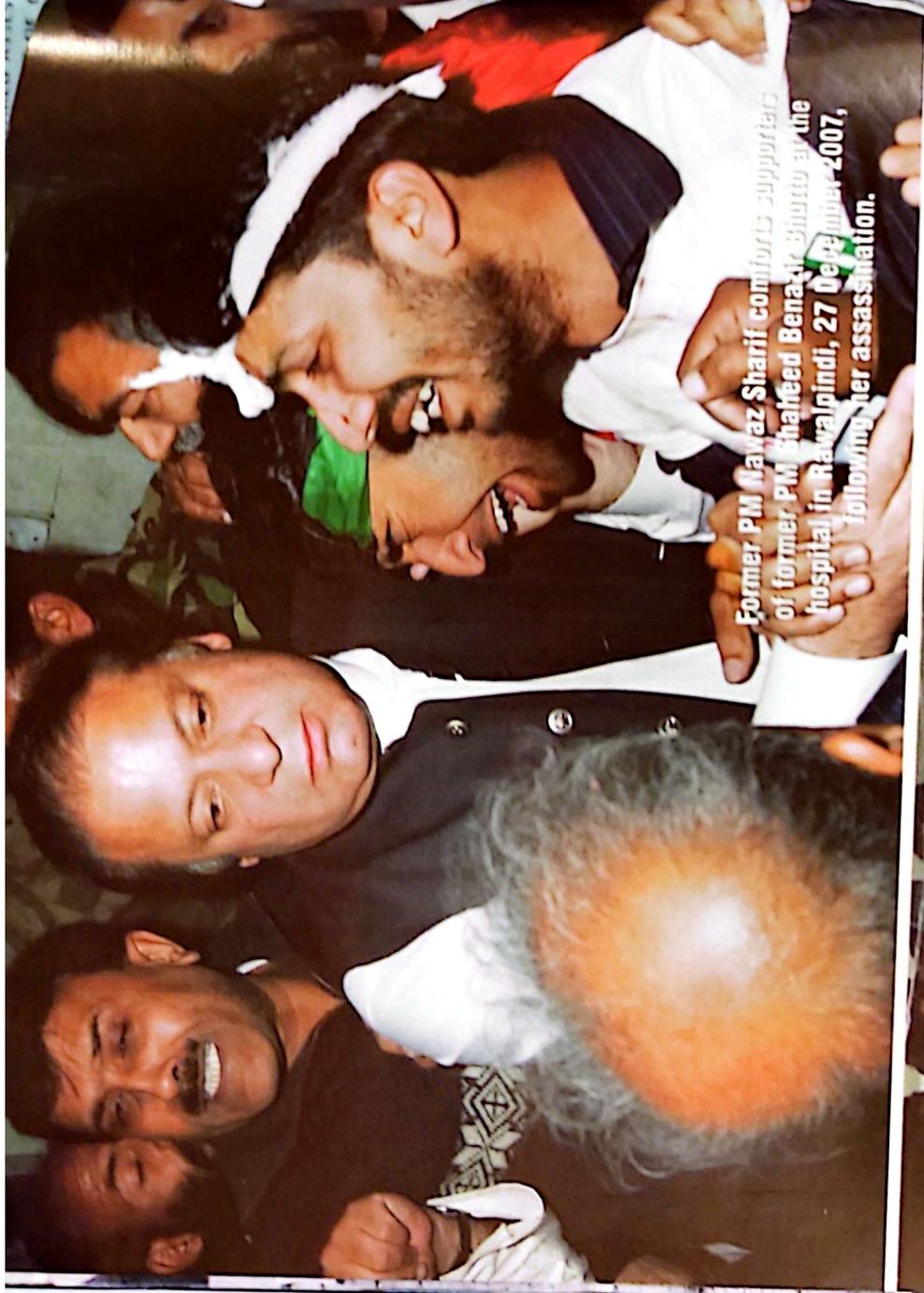


A man shouts for help as he sits next to an injured at the suicide attack site in Rawalpindi 27 December 2007.

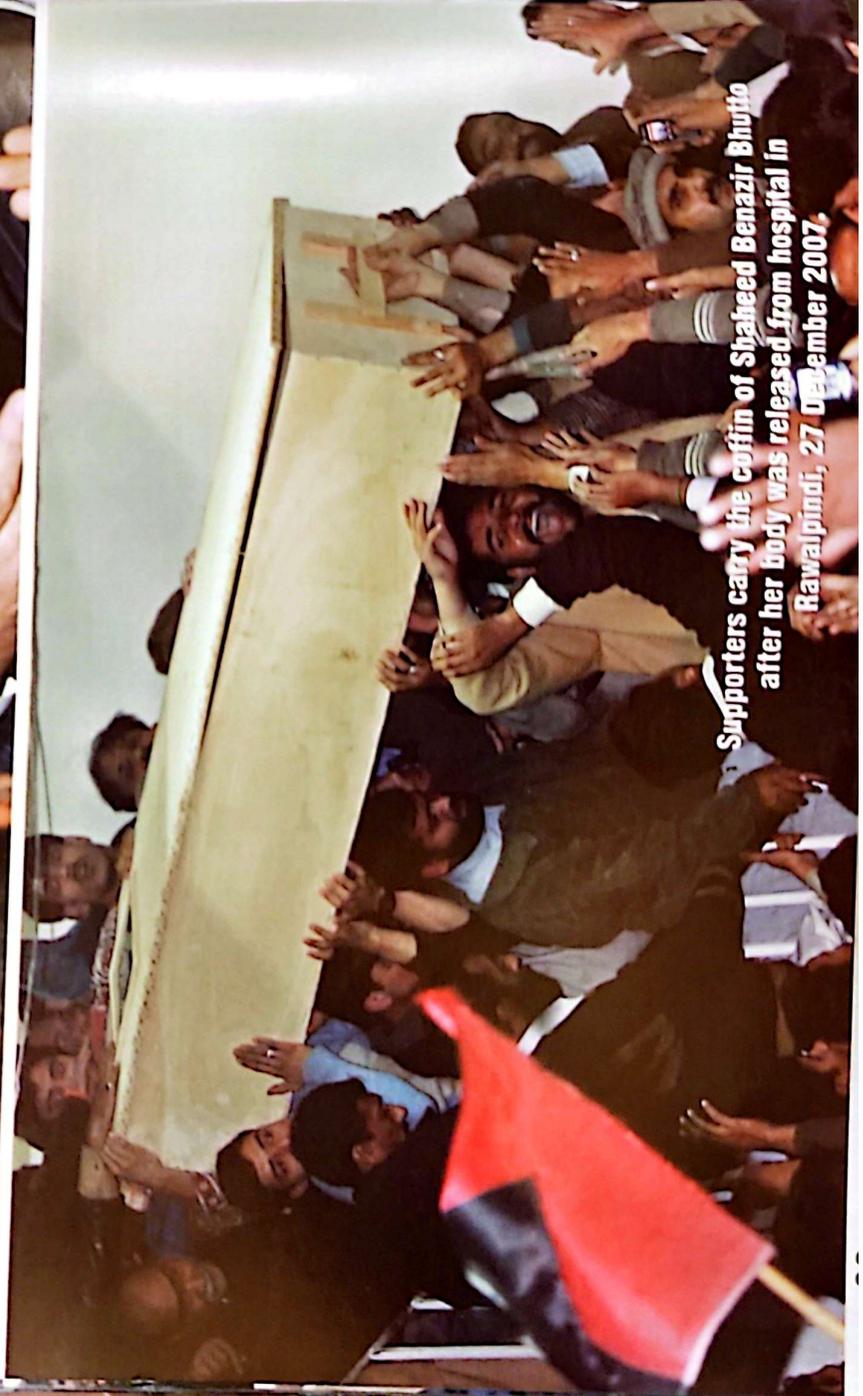


PPP supporter burns items from an office of the Pakistan Muslim League-Q party that backs President Pervez Musharraf during a protest Peshawar, 28 December 2007.

**A HOPE IS LOST**



Former PM Nawaz Sharif comforts supporters of former PM Shaheed Benazir Bhutto at the hospital in Rawalpindi, 27 December 2007, following her assassination.



Supporters carry the coffin of Shaheed Benazir Bhutto after her body was released from hospital in Rawalpindi, 27 December 2007.





**Supporters of PPP cry as they carry the coffin of their leader Shaheed Benazir Bhutto in her home village of Naudero.**



Supporters of Shaheed Benazir Bhutto express their grief where Bhutto was hospitalized in Rawalpindi, 27 December 2007.



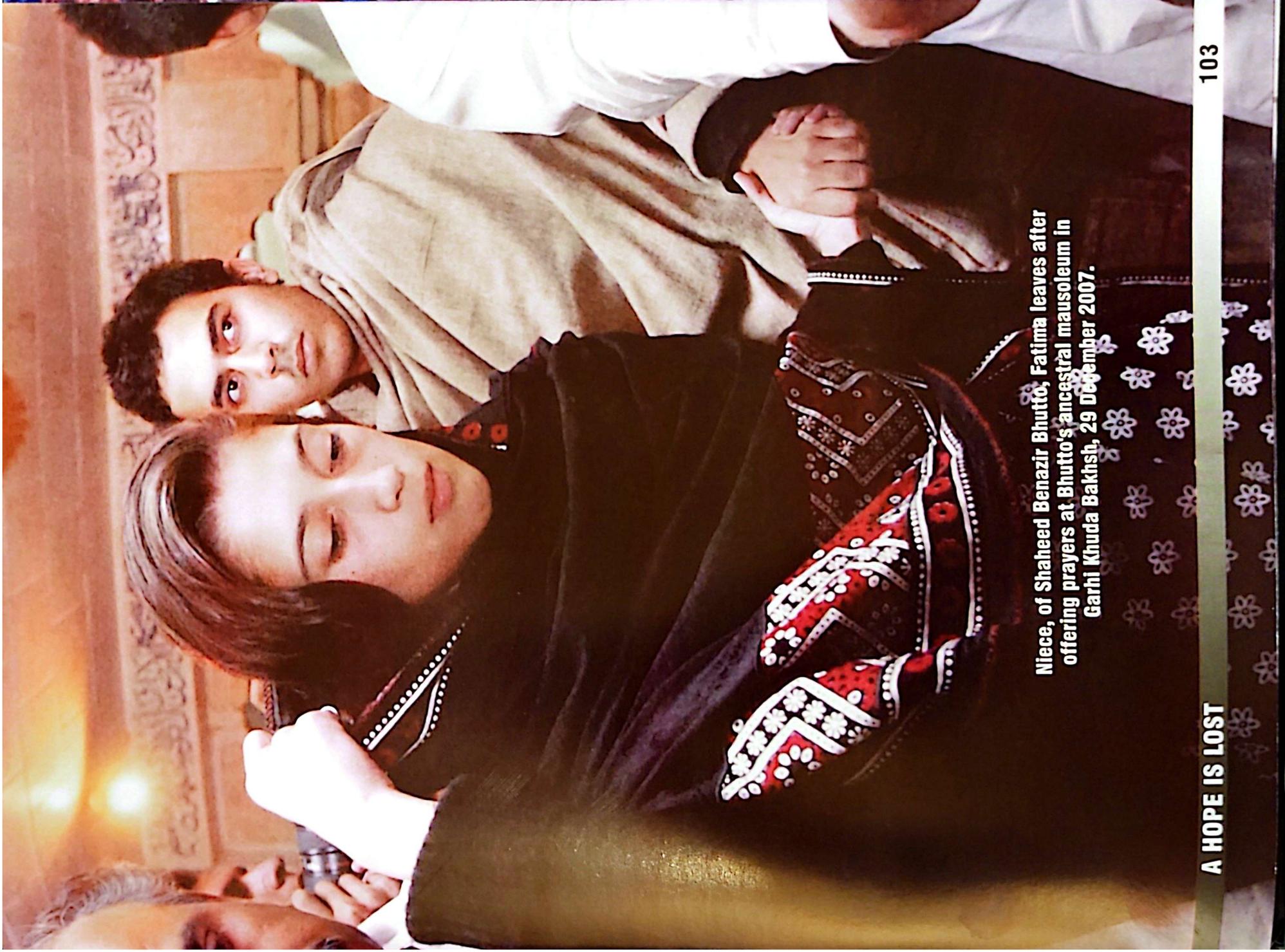
A HOPE IS LOST



Sanam Bhutto (R), sister of Shaheed Benazir Bhutto, and her friend Samia Waheed arrive to attend the funeral in their ancestral home in Naudero, December 28, 2007.



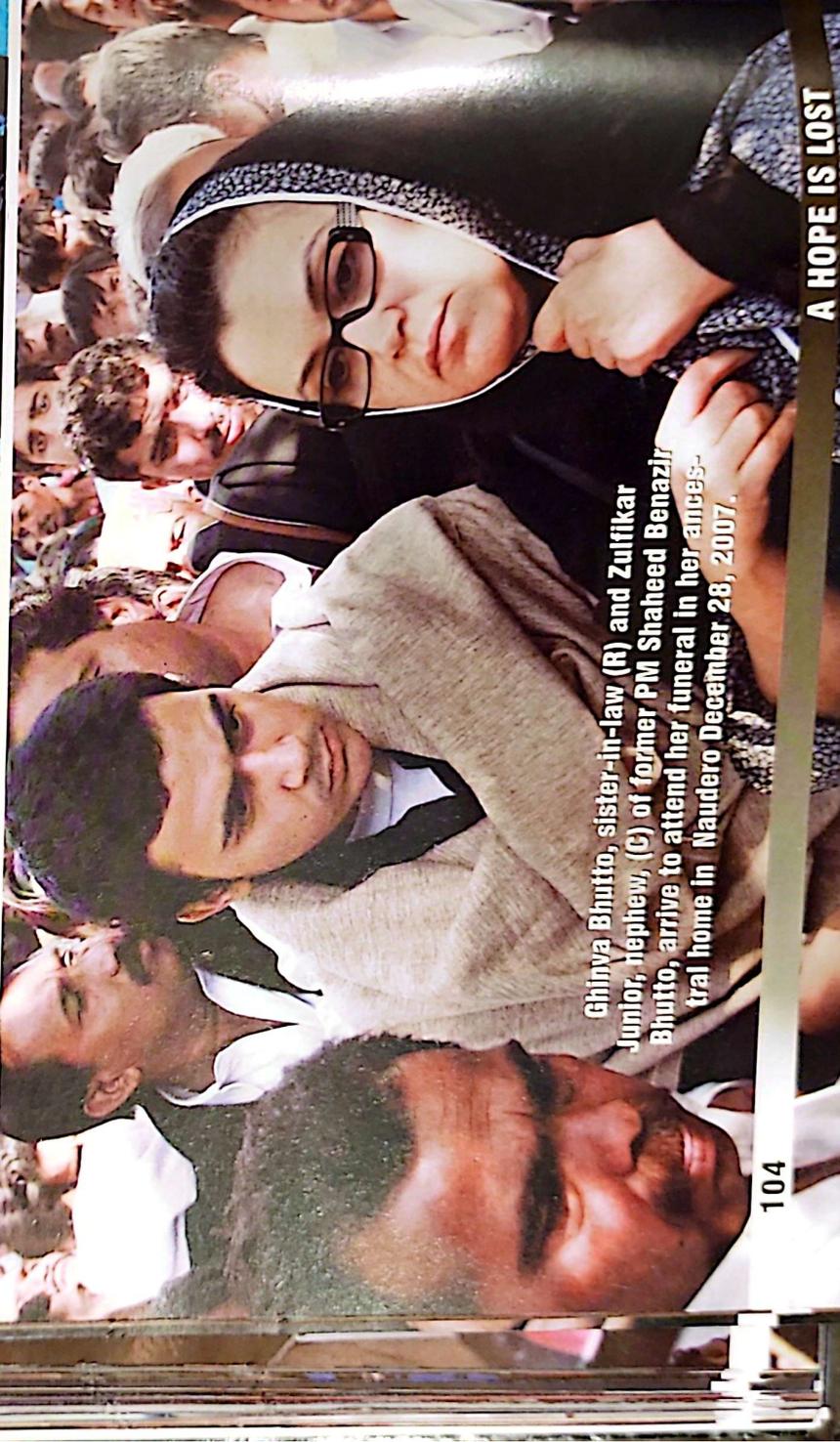
**Shaheed Benazir Bhutto's sister in law  
Ghinwa Bhutto (R), and niece Fatima  
Bhutto (L), leave Bhutto's residence fol-  
lowing a visit in Naudero,  
on 29th December 2007.**



**Niece, of Shaheed Benazir Bhutto, Fatima leaves after offering prayers at Bhutto's ancestral mausoleum in Garhi Khuda Bakhsh, 29 December 2007.**



Bakhtawar (R) and Aseefa, daughters of former PM Shaheed Benazir Bhutto, cry at the grave of their mother at their ancestral mausoleum in Garhi Khuda Bukhsh near Naudero December 29, 2007.



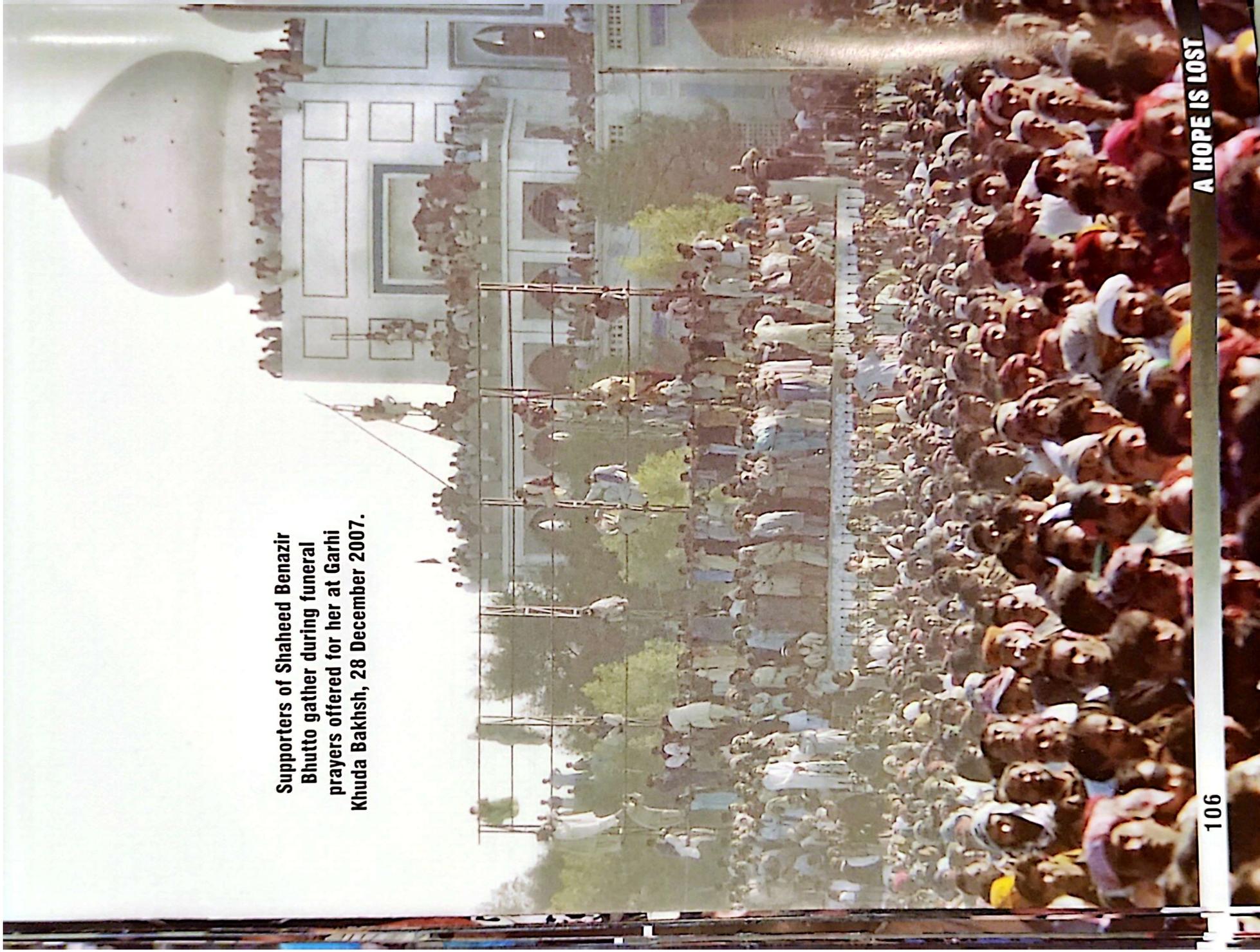
Ghinva Bhutto, sister-in-law (R) and Zulfiqar Junior, nephew, (C) of former PM Shaheed Benazir Bhutto, arrive to attend her funeral in her ancestral home in Naudero December 28, 2007.



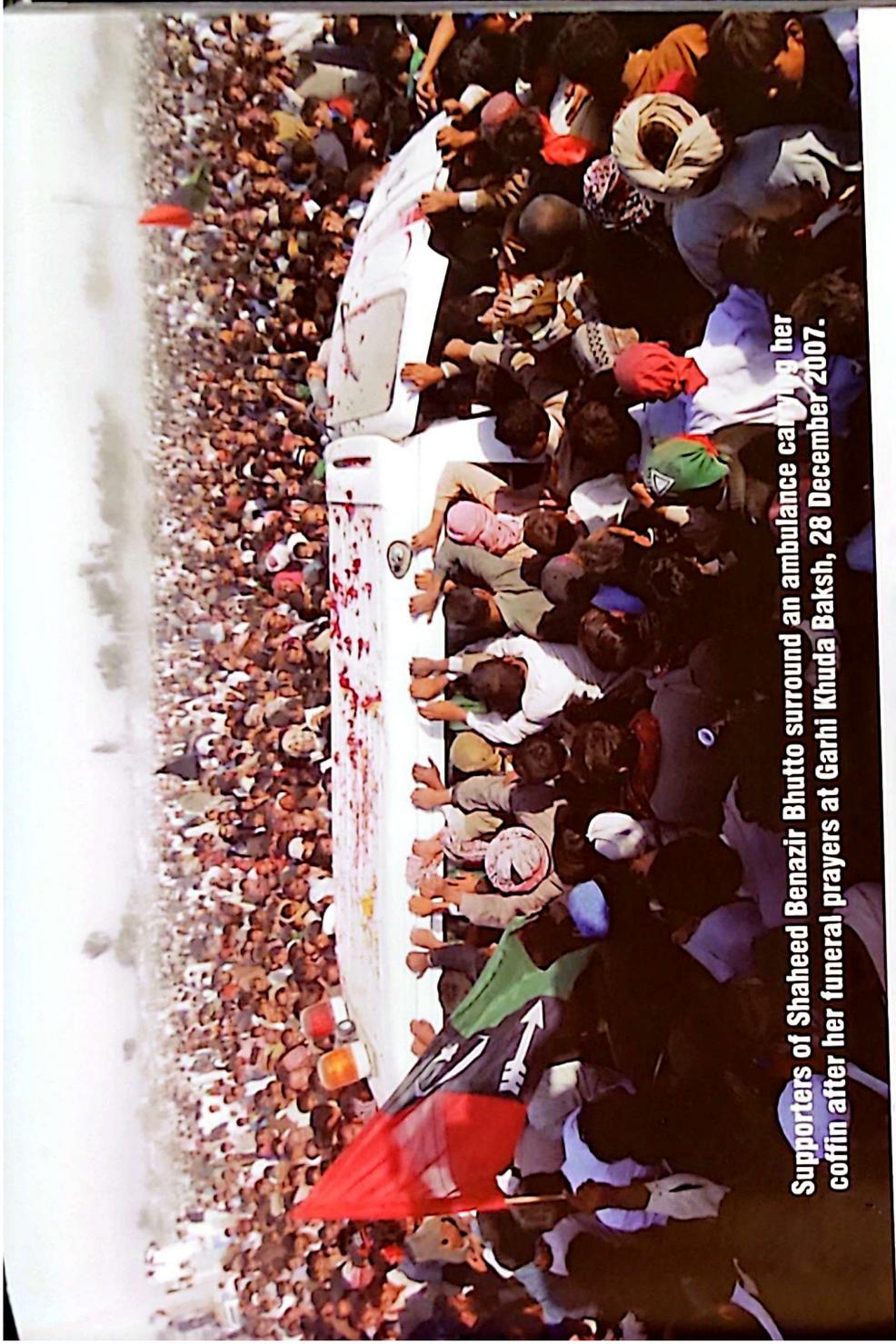
Supporters of former PM Shaheed Benazir Bhutto surround their leader's dead body in an ambulance upon arrival for burial at her ancestral grave yard in Garhi Khujda Bakhish near Larkana, on Friday, Dec. 28, 2007.

A HOPE IS LOST

**Supporters of Shaheed Benazir  
Bhutto gather during funeral  
prayers offered for her at Garhi  
Khuda Bakhsh, 28 December 2007.**



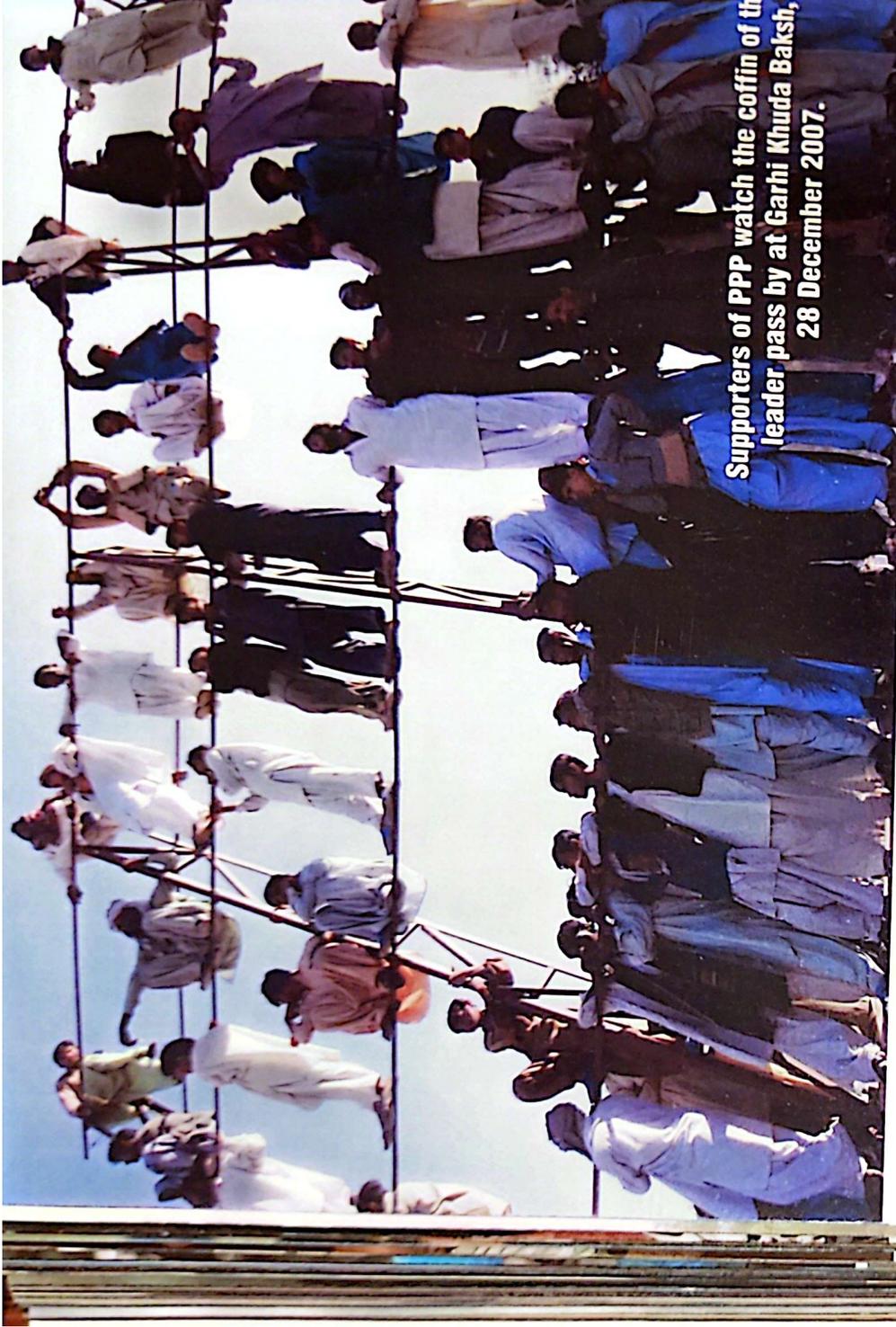




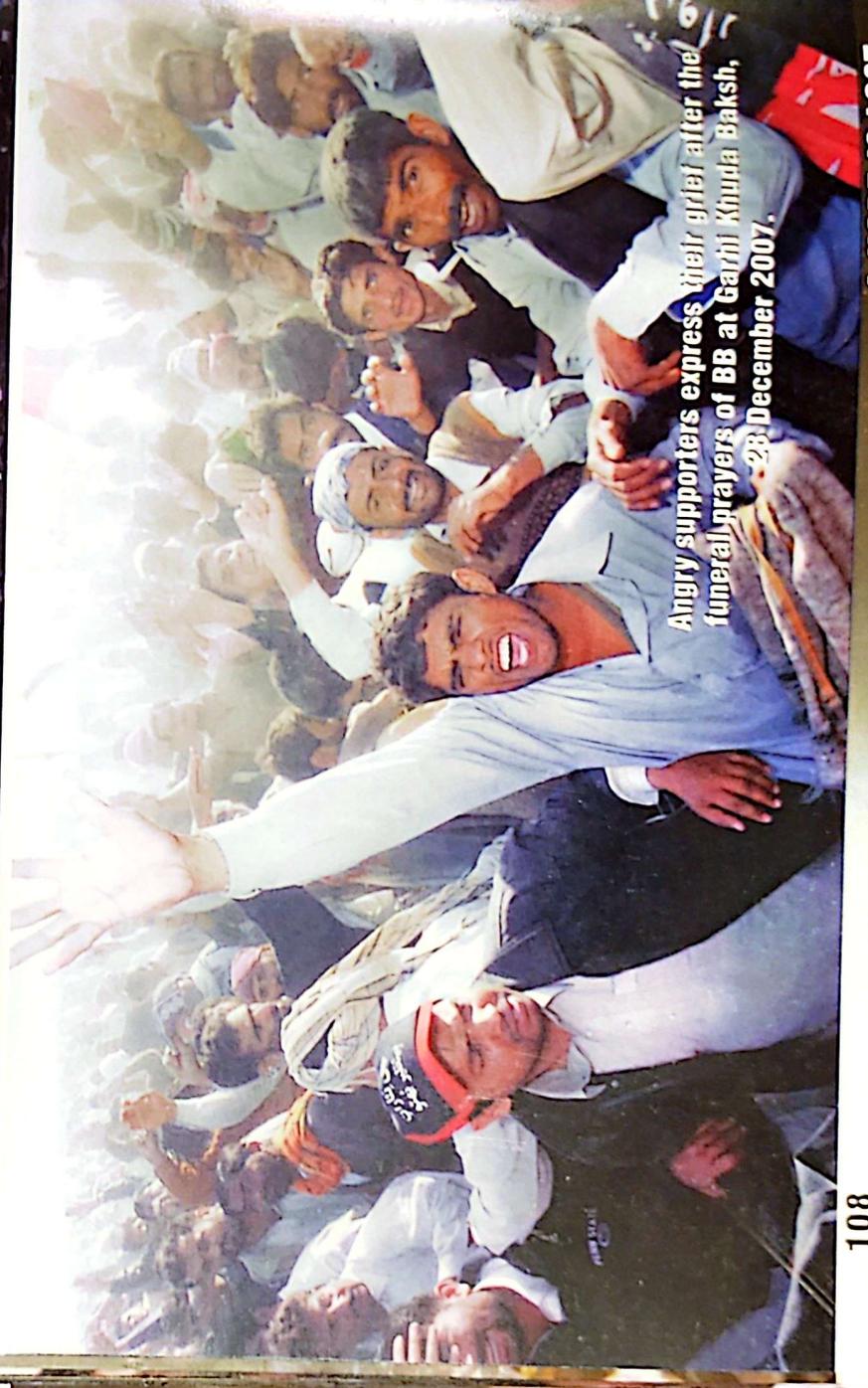
**Supporters of Shaheed Benazir Bhutto surround an ambulance carrying her coffin after her funeral prayers at Garhi Khuda Baksh, 28 December 2007.**



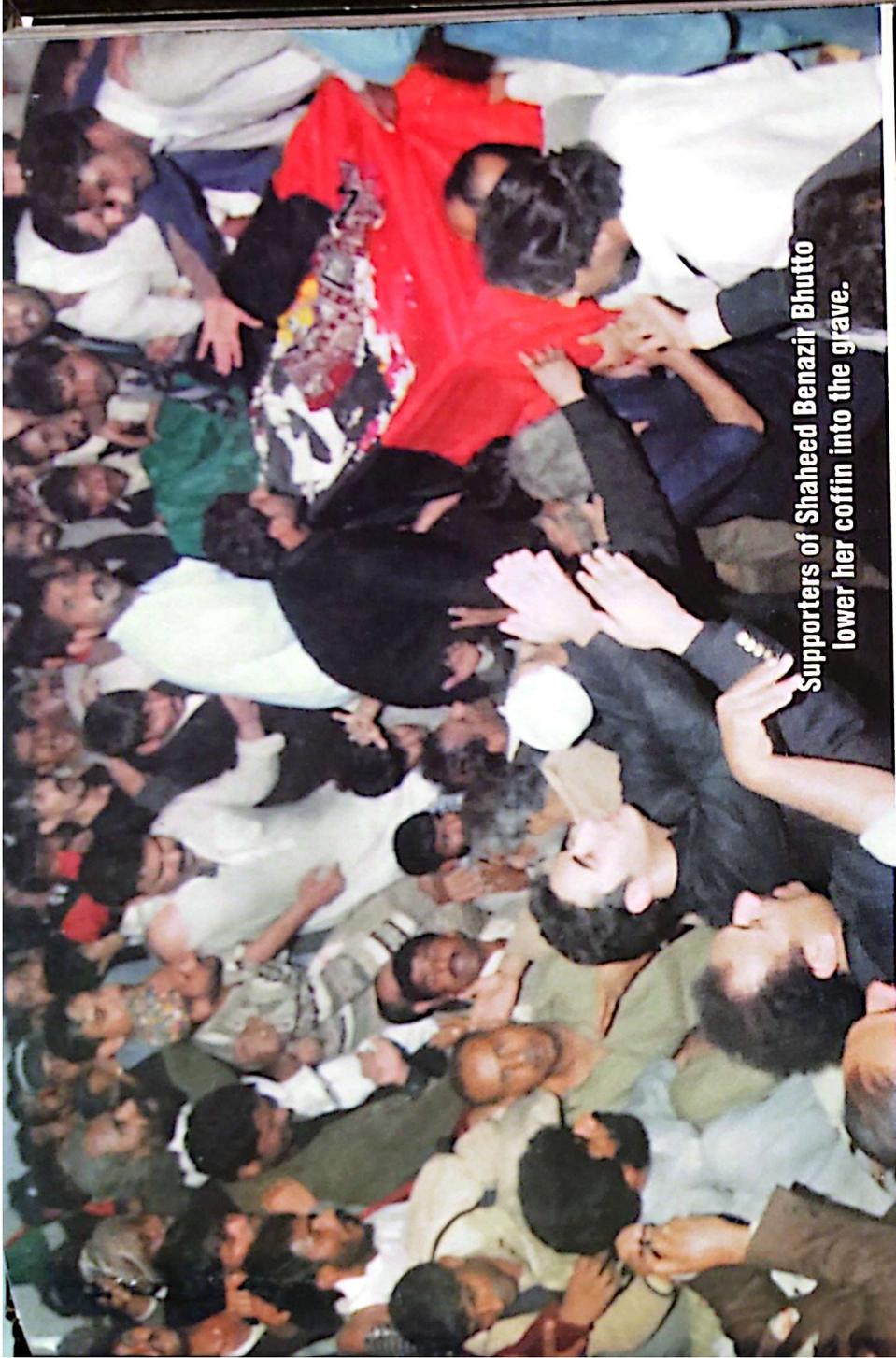
**Supporters of Shaheed Benazir Bhutto express their grief as they chant slogans after her funeral prayers at Garhi Khuda Baksh, 28 December 2007.**



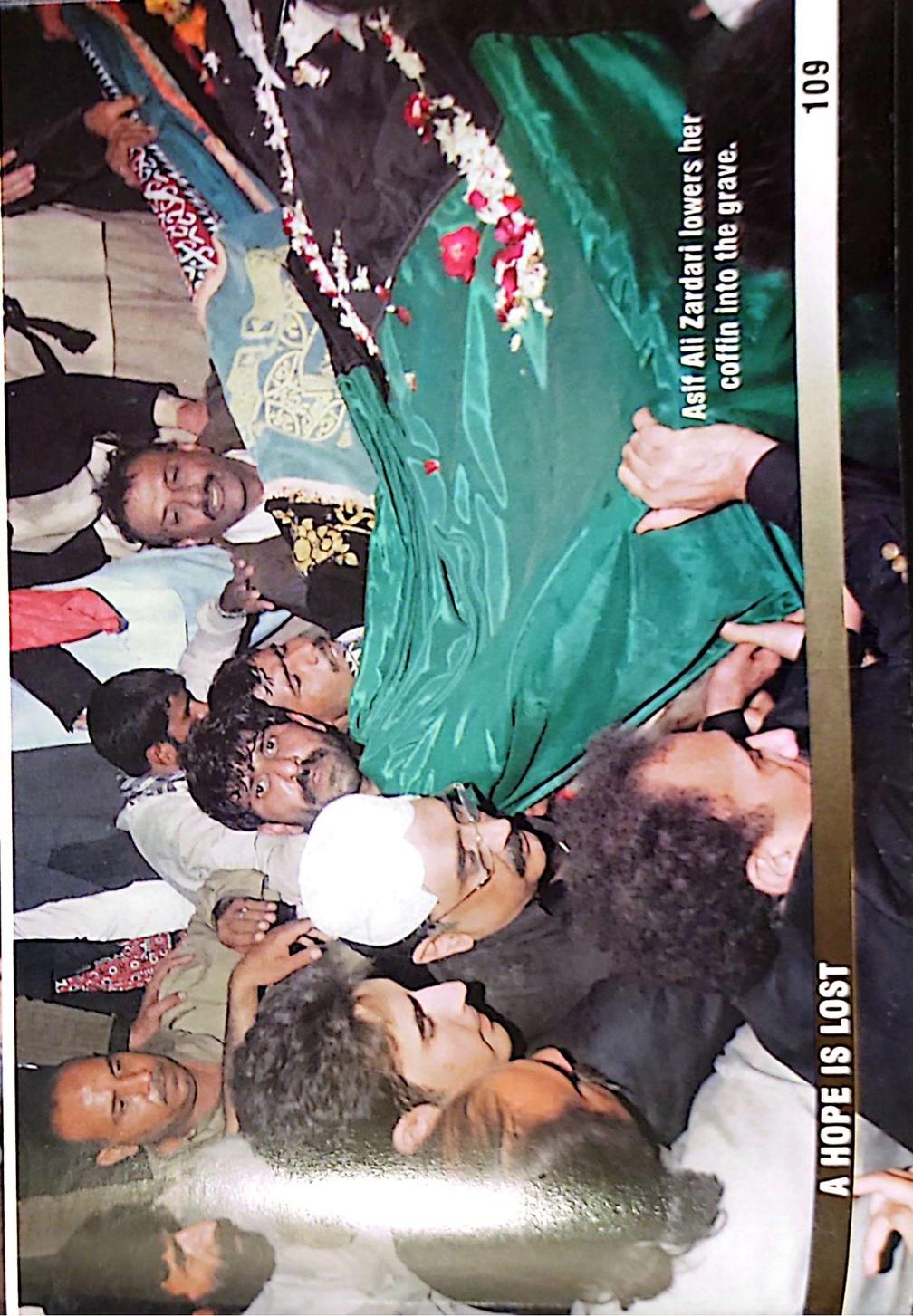
Supporters of PPP watch the coffin of the leader pass by at Garhi Khuda Baksh, 28 December 2007.



Angry supporters express their grief after the funeral prayers of BB at Garhi Khuda Baksh, 28 December 2007.



Supporters of Shaheed Benazir Bhutto lower her coffin into the grave.



Asif Ali Zardari lowers her coffin into the grave.



Supporters of Shaheed Benazir Bhutto bury their leader at her ancestral graveyard in Garhi Khuda Bakhsh.



Supporters of Shaheed Benazir Bhutto mourn over her grave, Friday, Dec. 28, 2007.

A HOPE IS LOST



Asif Ali Zardari of Shaheed Benazir Bhutto and his son Bilawal shower rose petals on the grave of Bhutto after her funeral prayer at Garhi Khuda Baksh, 28 December 2007.







**Asif Ali Zardari, prays on his wife's grave along with his son Bilawal, in Garhi Khuda Bakhsh, on Friday, Dec. 28, 2007.**





Nahid Khan mourns over her grave in Gahri Khuda Bakhsh, 29 December 2007.

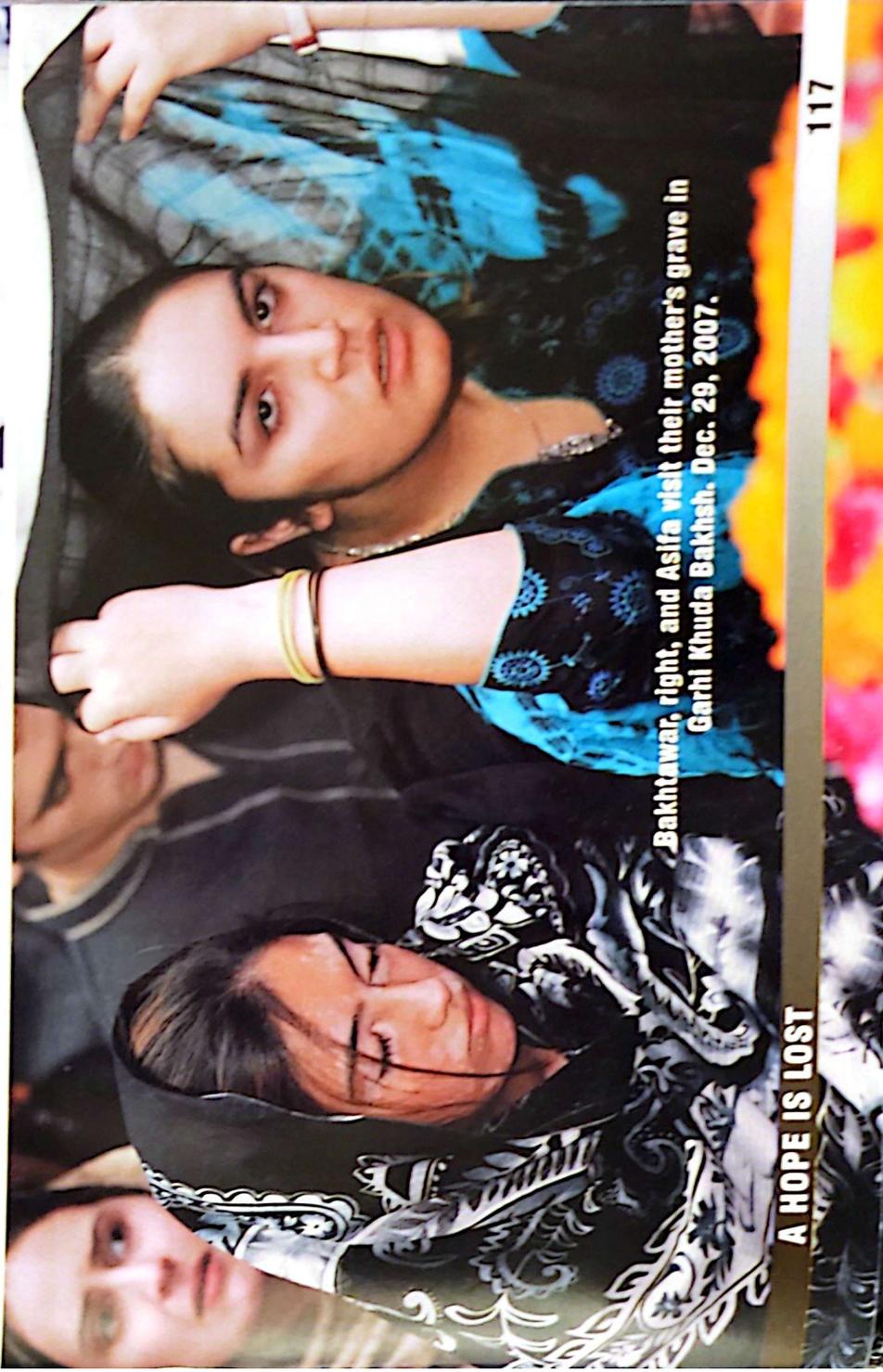
Formal Application  
Muzik B. P. Khan  
Chairman, National  
Commission on Accountability  
and Governance  
Sindh  
COMPLAINT FOR NAB TO  
LAUNCHING, INVESTIGATING, RESOLVING  
MORALE, OFF SHORE, RESOLVING  
MORALE, RESOLVING, RESOLVING



Former Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif leaves the grave of Shaheed Benazir Bhutto in Garhi Khuda Bakhsh, Dec. 29, 2007.

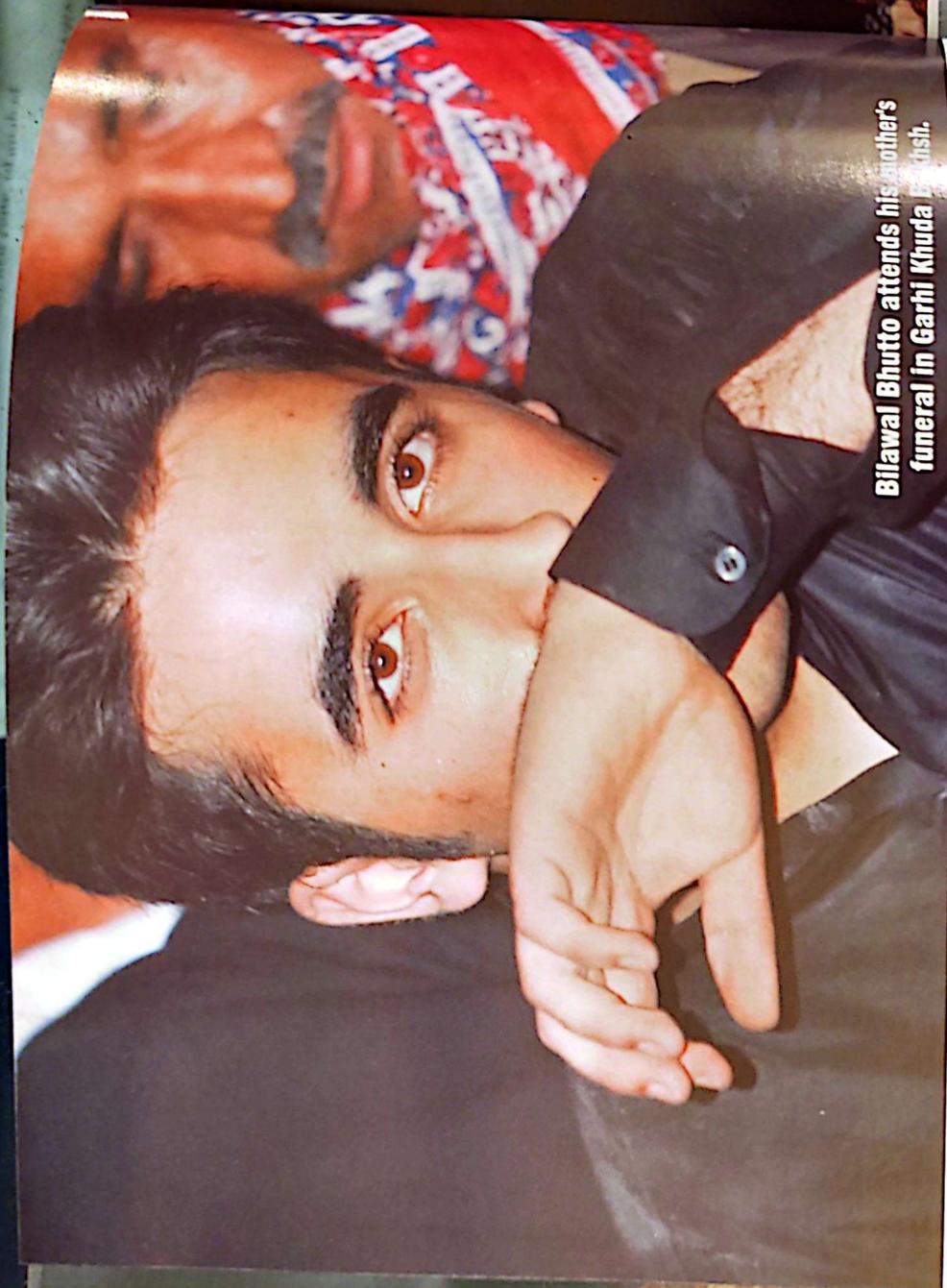


Former PM Nawaz Sharif, meets Asif Ali Zardari, center, left, in Naudero, Dec. 29, 2007.



Bakhtawar, right, and Asifa visit their mother's grave in Garhi Khuda Bakhsh, Dec. 29, 2007.

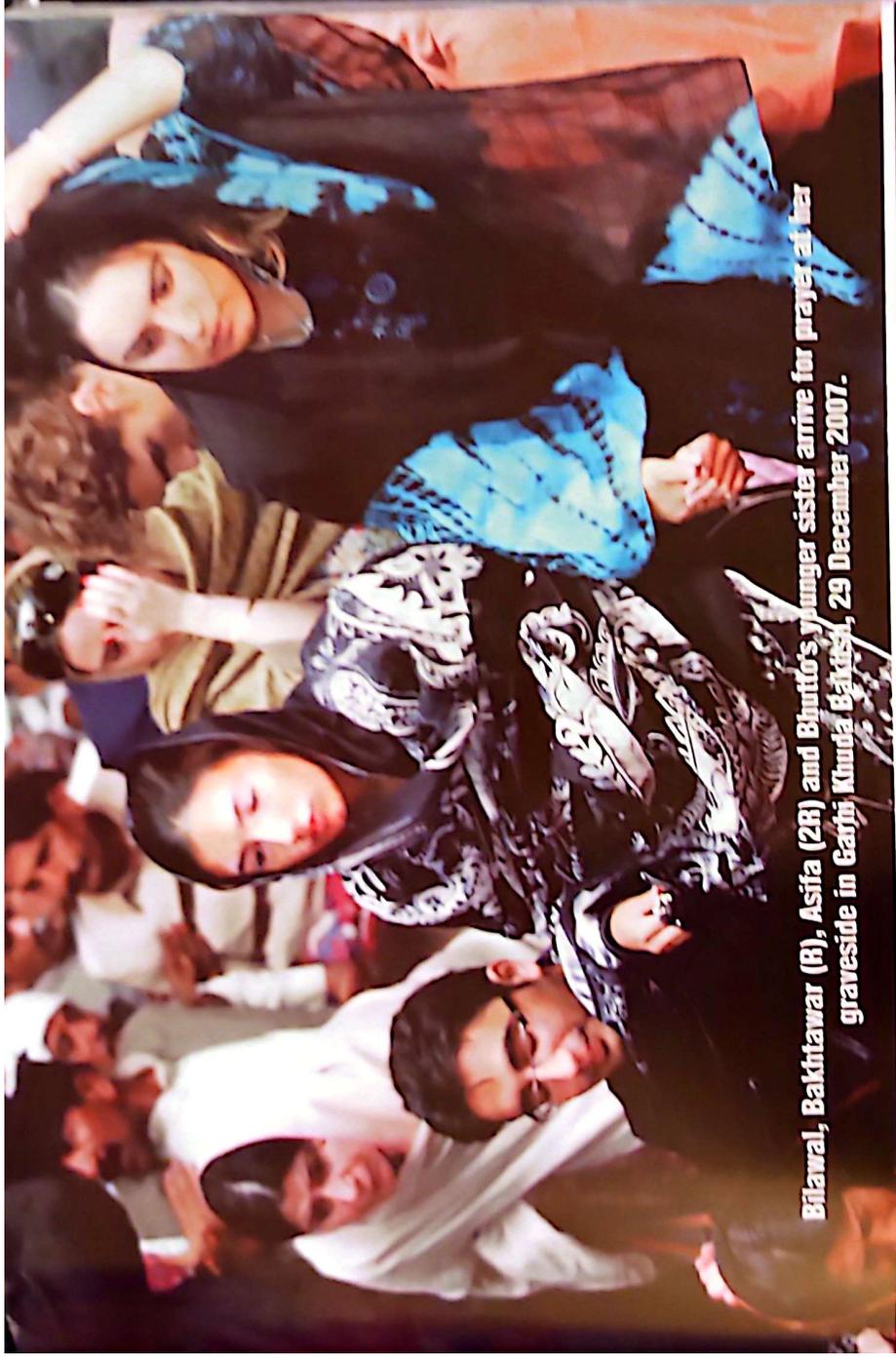
A HOPE IS LOST



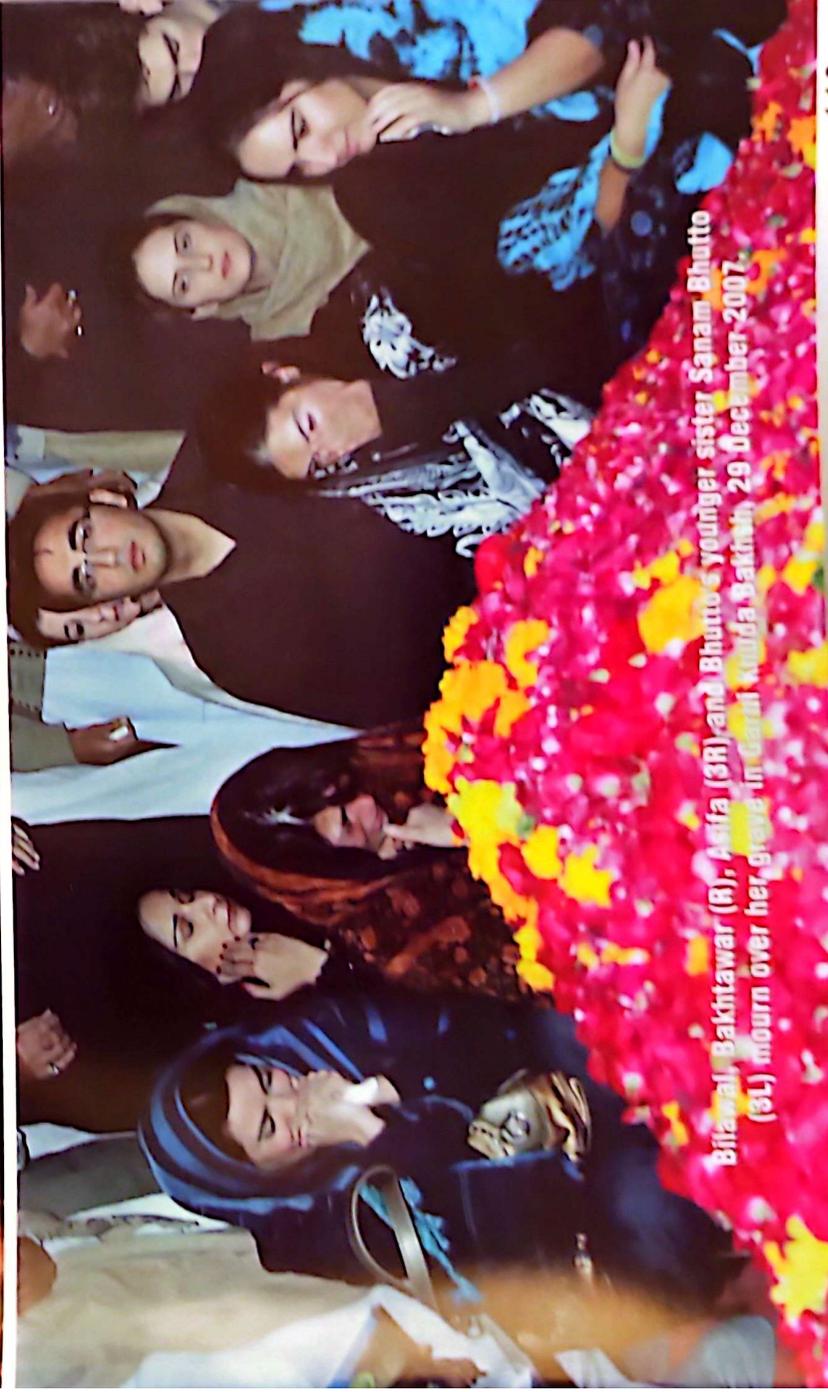
**Bilawal Bhutto attends his mother's funeral in Garhi Khuda Bakhsh.**



**Bakhtawar, right, and Asifa, center, visit their mother's grave with Bhutto's sister Sanam, left, and their brother Bilawal, second from left on top, in Garhi Khuda Bakhsh on Saturday, Dec. 29, 2007.**



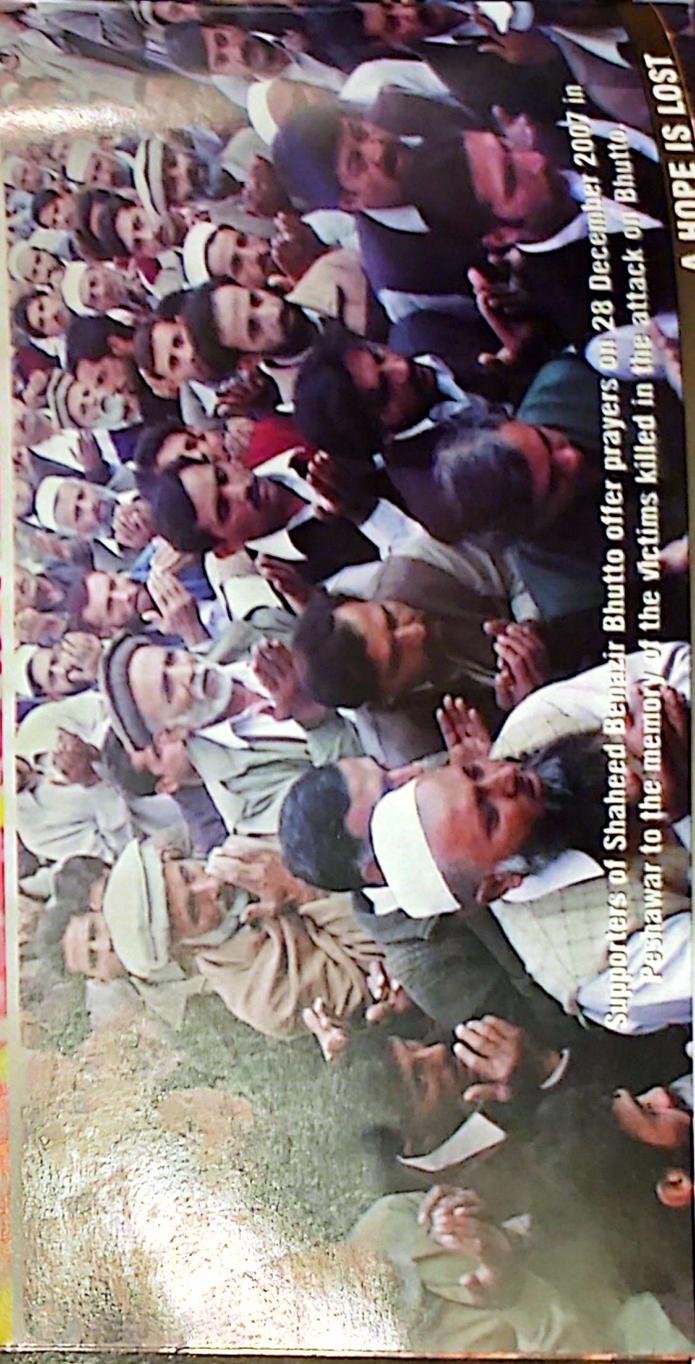
Bilawal, Bakhtawar (R), Asifa (2R) and Bhutto's younger sister arrive for prayer at her graveside in Garhi Khuda Bakht, 29 December 2007.



Bilawal, Bakhtawar (R), Asifa (3R) and Bhutto's younger sister Sanam Bhutto (3L) mourn over her grave in Garhi Khuda Bakht, 29 December 2007.



Bakhtawar, and Asifa, visit their mother's grave in Garhi Khuda Baksh, Dec. 29, 2007.

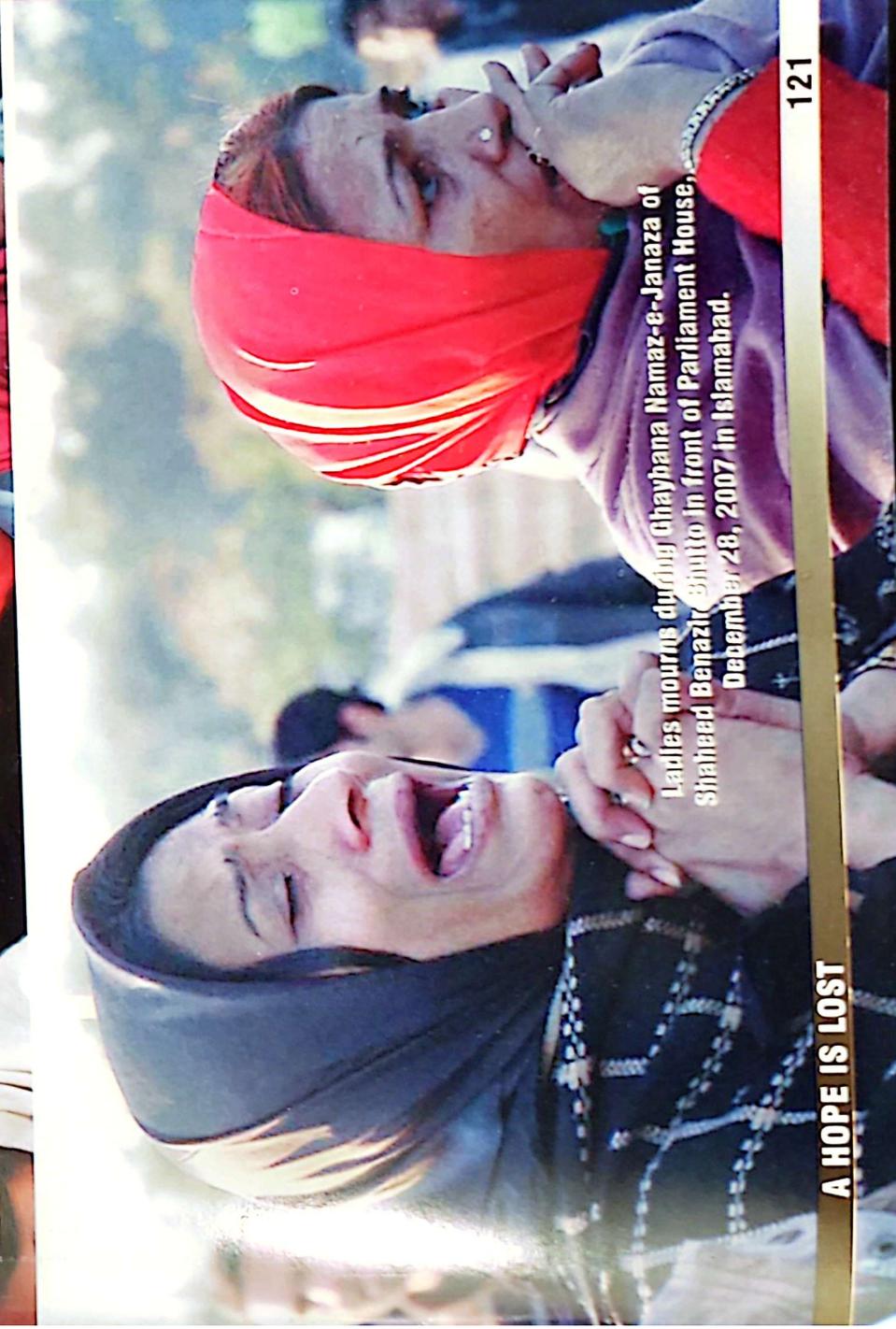


Supporters of Shaheed Benazir Bhutto offer prayers on 28 December 2007 in Peshawar to the memory of the victims killed in the attack of Bhutto

**A HOPE IS LOST**



Supporters of Shaheed Benazir Bhutto mourn their leader's death during Bhutto's burial in Garhi Khuda Baksh, Dec. 28, 2007.



Ladies mourn during Ghayhana Namaz-e-Janaza of Shaheed Benazir Bhutto in front of Parliament House, December 28, 2007 in Islamabad.



Supporters of Shaheed Benazir Bhutto  
cries. December 29, 2007.







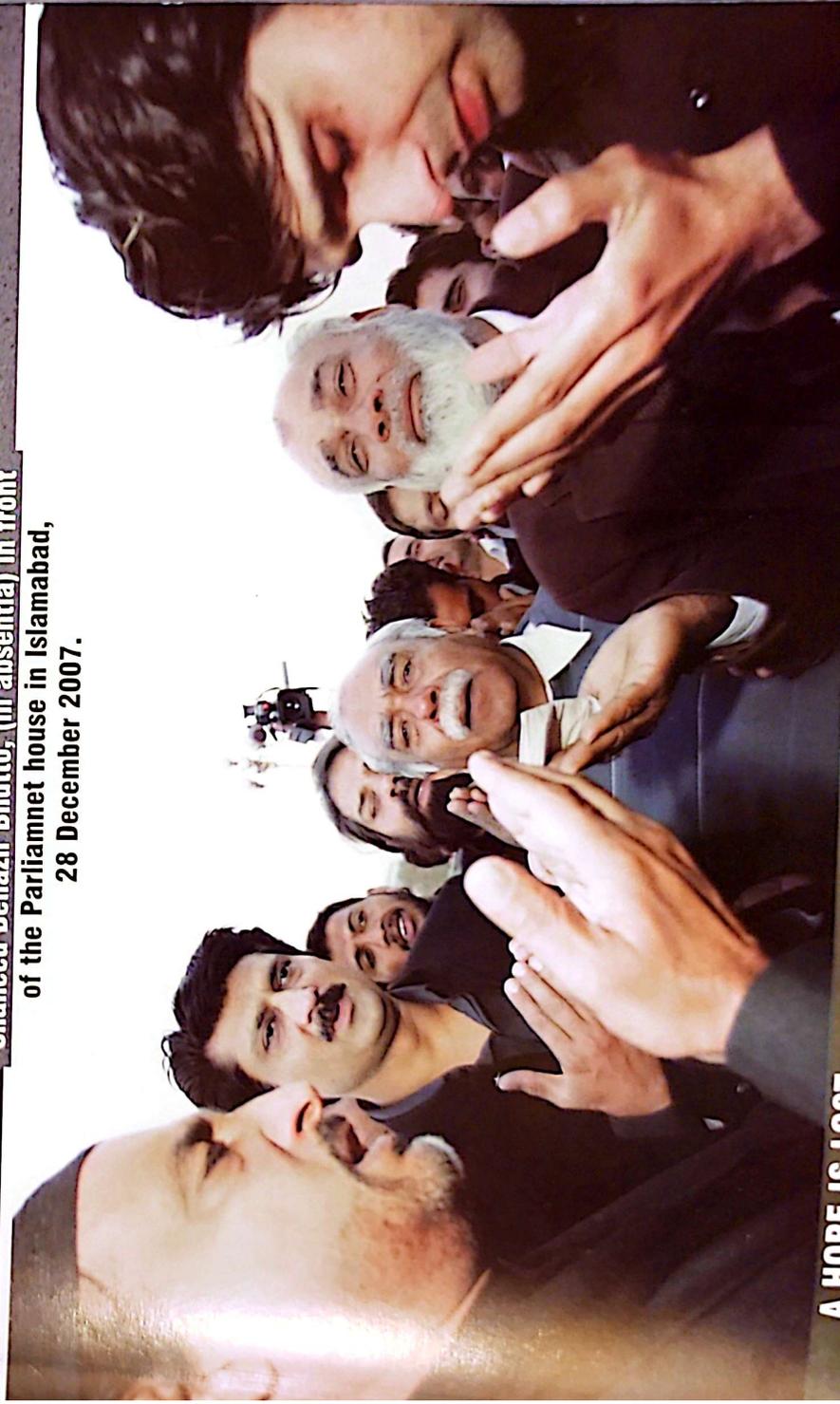
Supporters of Shaheed Benazir Bhutto shout anti-President Pervez Musharraf slogans as they arrive to take part in a funeral ceremony (in abstentia) for Bhutto, in Islamabad, 28 December 2007.



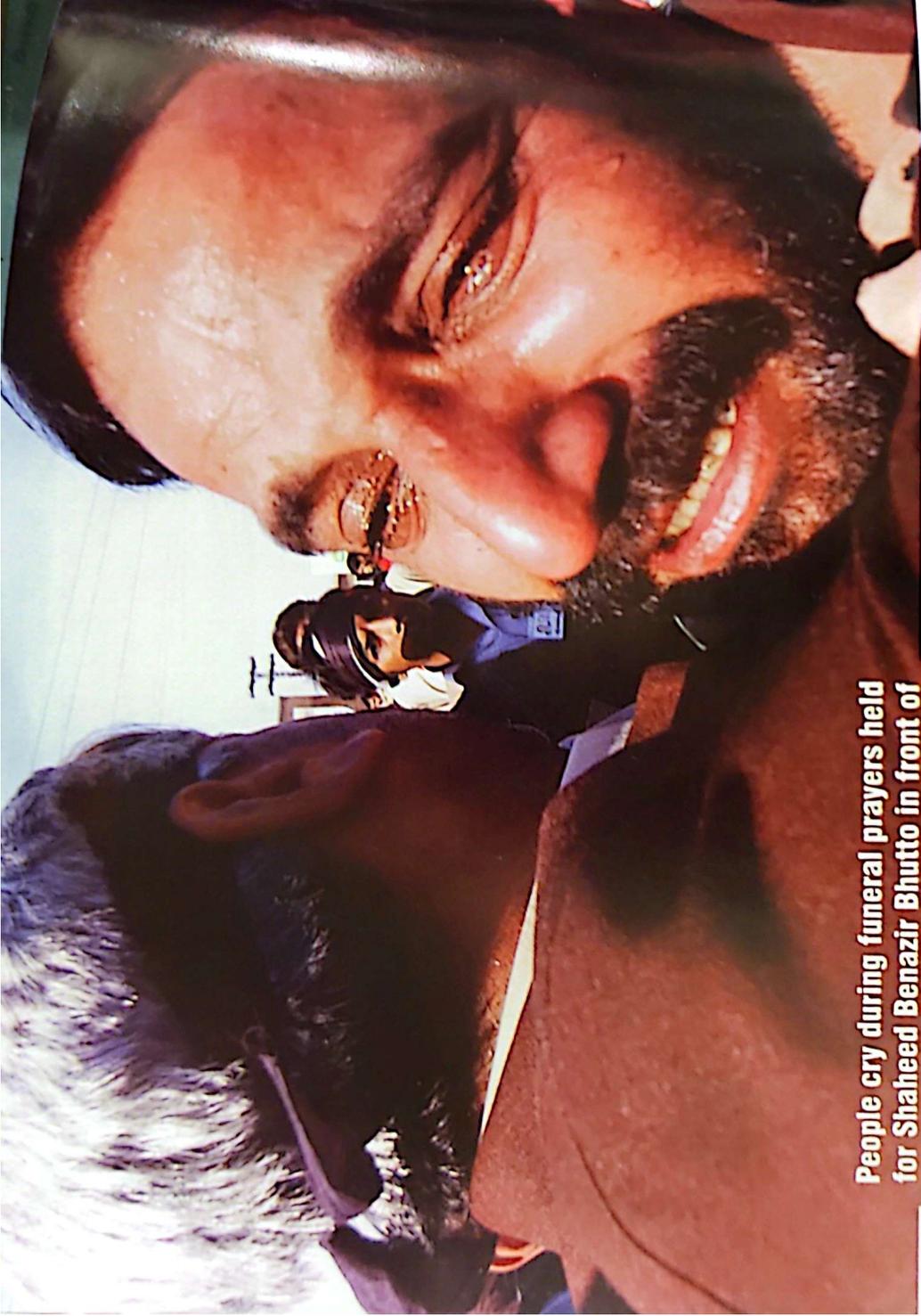
**Civil Society activist chants anti government slogans during a funeral prayer in absentia in front of Parliament house in Islamabad, 28 December 2007.**



Funeral prayer held for  
Shaheed Benazir Bhutto, (in absentia) in front  
of the Parliament house in Islamabad,  
28 December 2007.



A HOPE IS LOST



People cry during funeral prayers held for Shaheed Benazir Bhutto in front of the Parliament house in Islamabad, 28 December 2007.





Country Wide Protest



A HOPE IS LOST



A girl holds a draw of  
Shaheed Benazir Bhutto dur-  
ing a demonstration,  
28 December 2007.





A supporter of Shaheed Benazir Bhutto chants anti government slogans during a protest rally in Lahore, Dec. 29, 2007.

**A HOPE IS LOST**



Pakistan People Party member  
mourns the death of  
Shaheed Benazir Bhutto during a  
memorial out of the Pakistan High  
Commission in Central London ,  
28 December 2007.



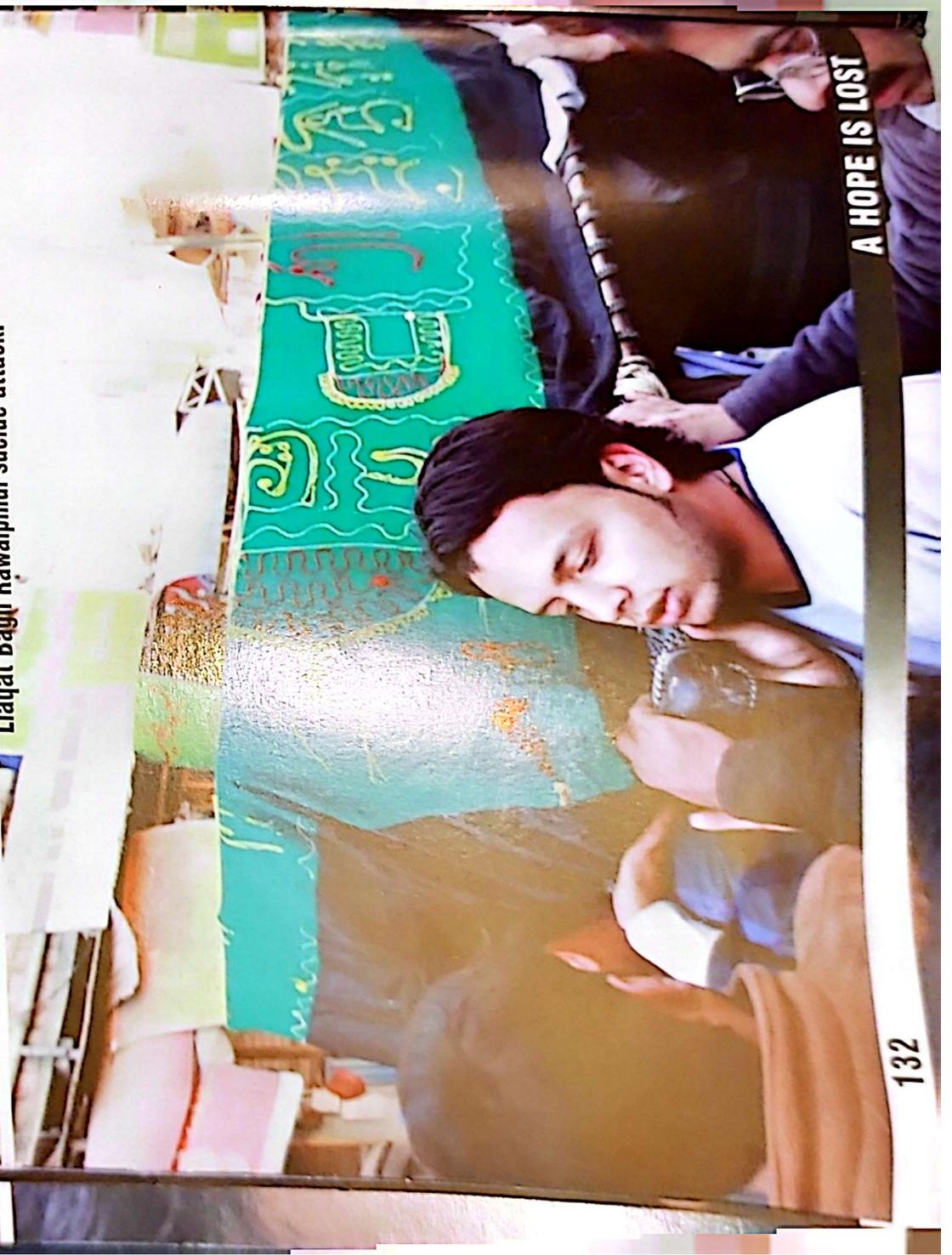


A supporter of Shaheed Benazir Bhutto shows up a poster of Bhutto during a protest in Lahore, 28 December 2007.

A HOPE IS LOST



Coffins of two other victims killed during Liaqat Bagh Rawalpindi suicide attack.



A HOPE IS LOST



چیمبرمین ظہیر احمد خان  
ہمارے سنگ  
اصولوں کی جنگ



آصف علی زرداری برائی پاشی پاکستان  
ہماری جنگ  
اوپلو

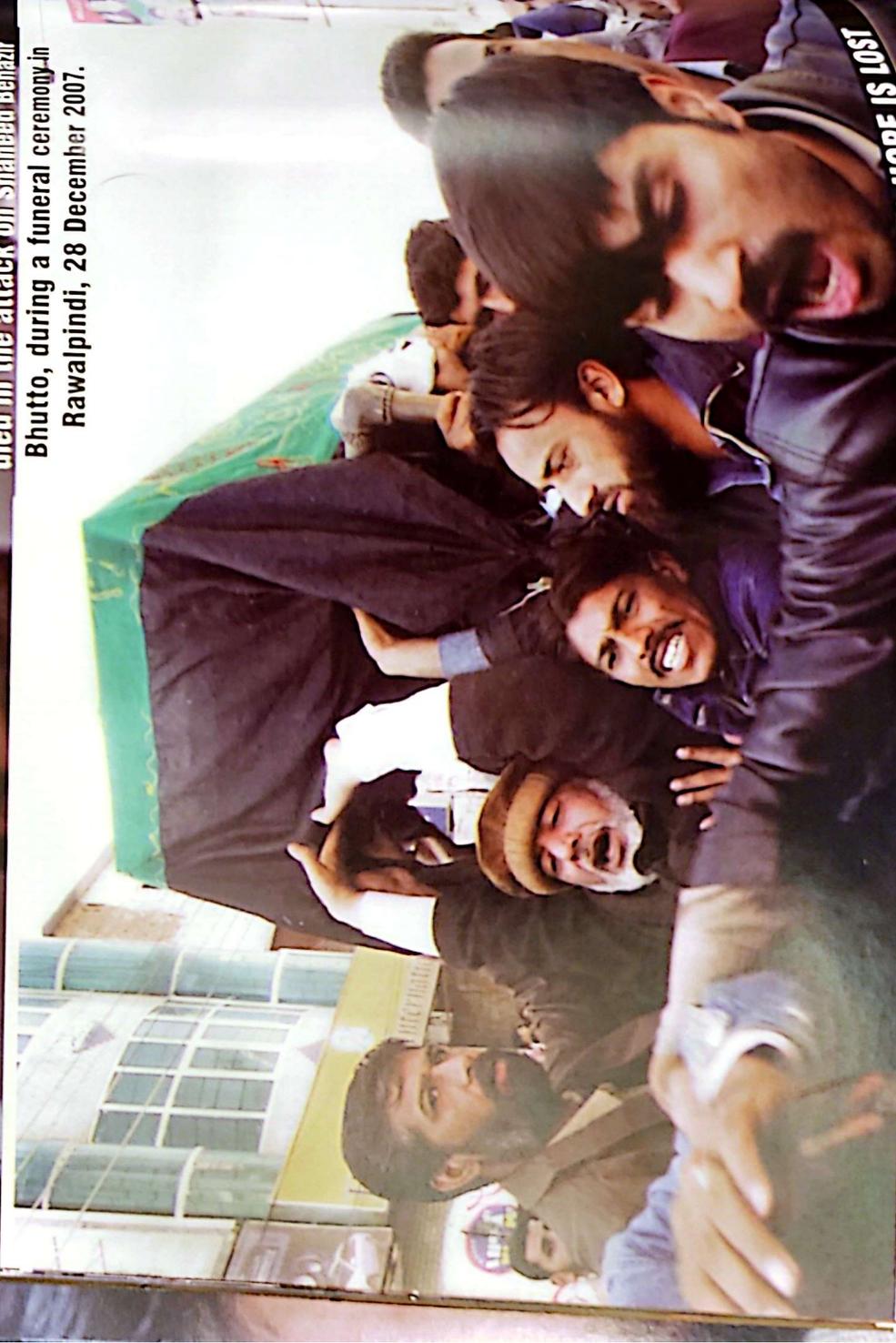


Supporters of  
Asif Ali Zardari carry  
the coffin of a victim of the  
attack on Benazir Bhutto, during a  
funeral ceremony in Lahore,  
28 December 2007.

A HOPE IS LOST

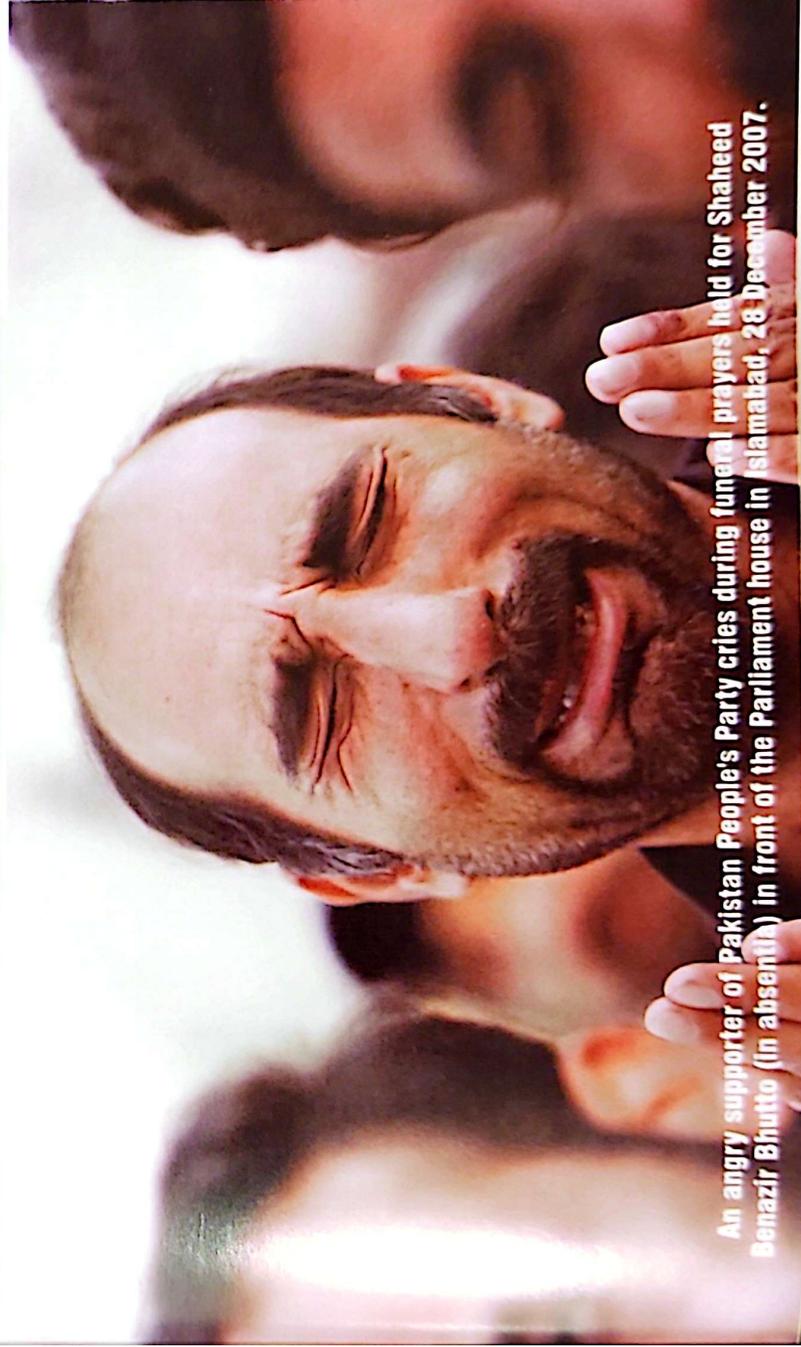


**Mourners carry the coffins of people who died in the attack on Shahheed Benazir Bhutto, during a funeral ceremony in Rawalpindi, 28 December 2007.**





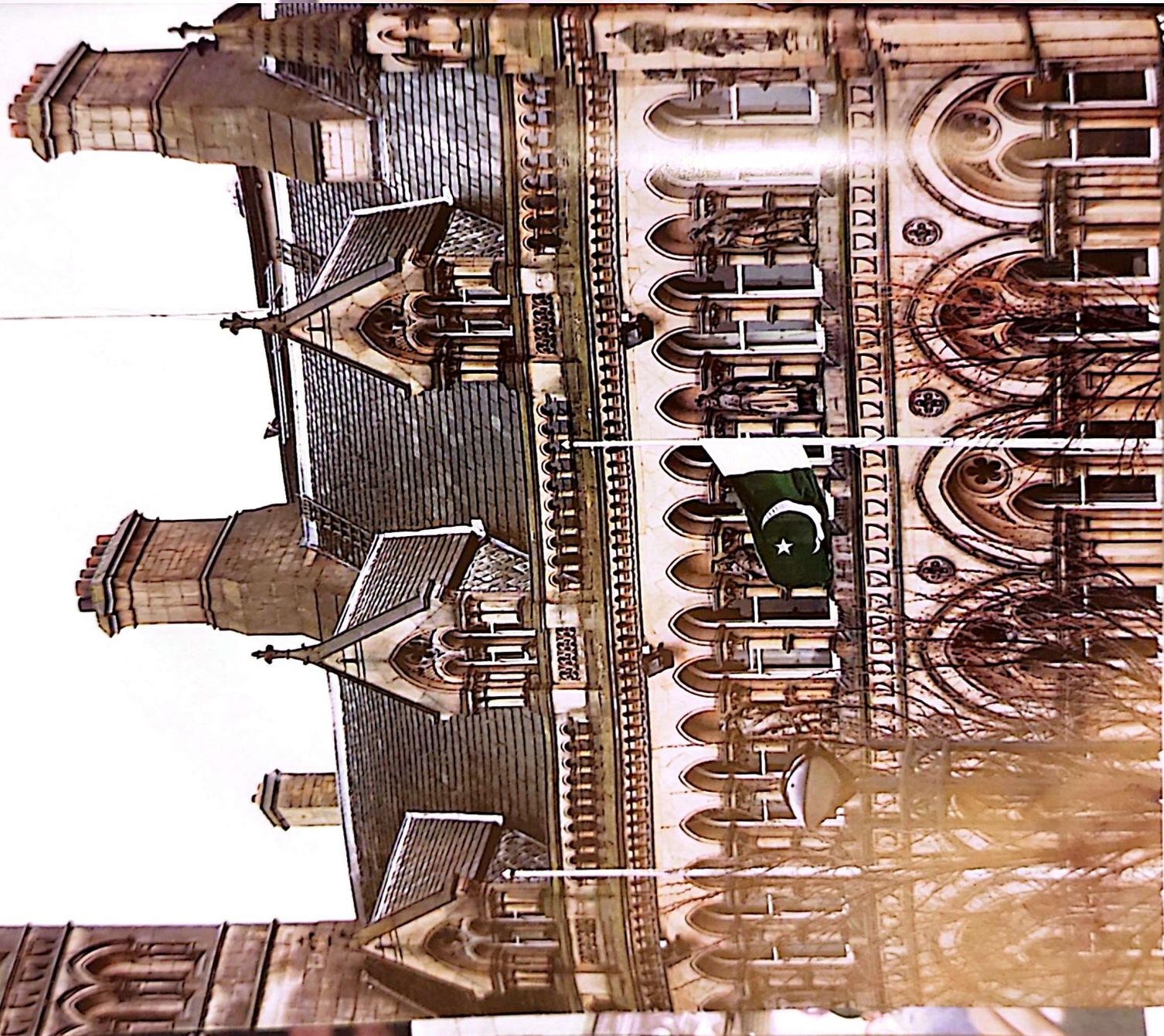
Activists of Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) mourn during a protest, in Rawalpindi, 28 December 2007.



An angry supporter of Pakistan Peoples Party cries during funeral prayers held for Shaheed Benazir Bhutto (in absentia) in front of the Parliament house in Islamabad, 28 December 2007.

**A HOPE IS LOST**

Union Jack and Pakistan's  
flags fly at half mast on  
28 December 2007 at Bradford  
Town City Hall on the assassina-  
tion of Shaheed Benazir  
Bhutto.





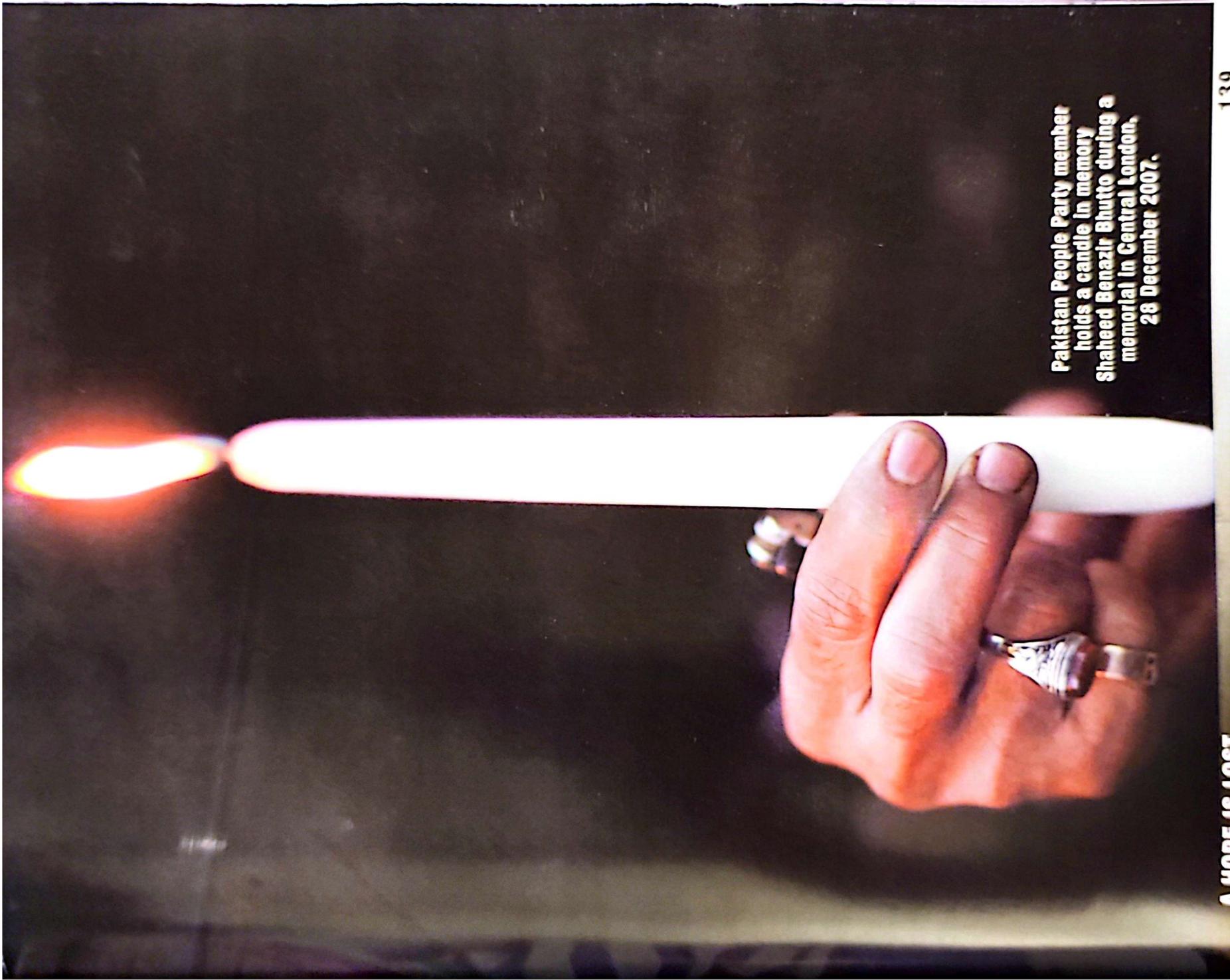
Supporters of Shaheed Benazir Bhutto cry outside the Bhutto family mausoleum in Ghari Khuda Bakhs, 29 December 2007.

A HOPE IS LOST



Shocked Muslim residents leave the Mosque in Bradford, Yorkshire, England, 28 December 2007 at the end of Friday prayers following the assassination of Shaheed Benazir Bhutto, 27 December 2007.





Pakistan People Party member holds a candle in memory of Shaheed Benazir Bhutto during a memorial in Central London, 28 December 2007.



Telegraph  
& Argus

FRIDAY  
**FEARS  
AFTER  
BHUTTO  
KILLING**  
Telegraph & Argus

Telegraph & Argus  
**FEARS  
FOR  
BHUTTO**

A woman reads a newspaper commenting on Shaheed Benazir Bhutto assassination in Bradford fortnight 28 December 2007.

140

A HOPE IS LOST



People demonstrate in the streets of Paris, 28 December 2007, a day after the assassination of Shaheed Benazir Bhutto.

A HOPE IS LOST



People demonstrate in the streets of Paris, 28 December 2007, 10 days after the assassination of Shaheed Benazir Bhutto.

**A HOPE IS LOST**



Supporters of Shaheed Benazir Bhutto demonstrate in Rome on 28 December 2007.



Protest in Paris, 28 December 2007

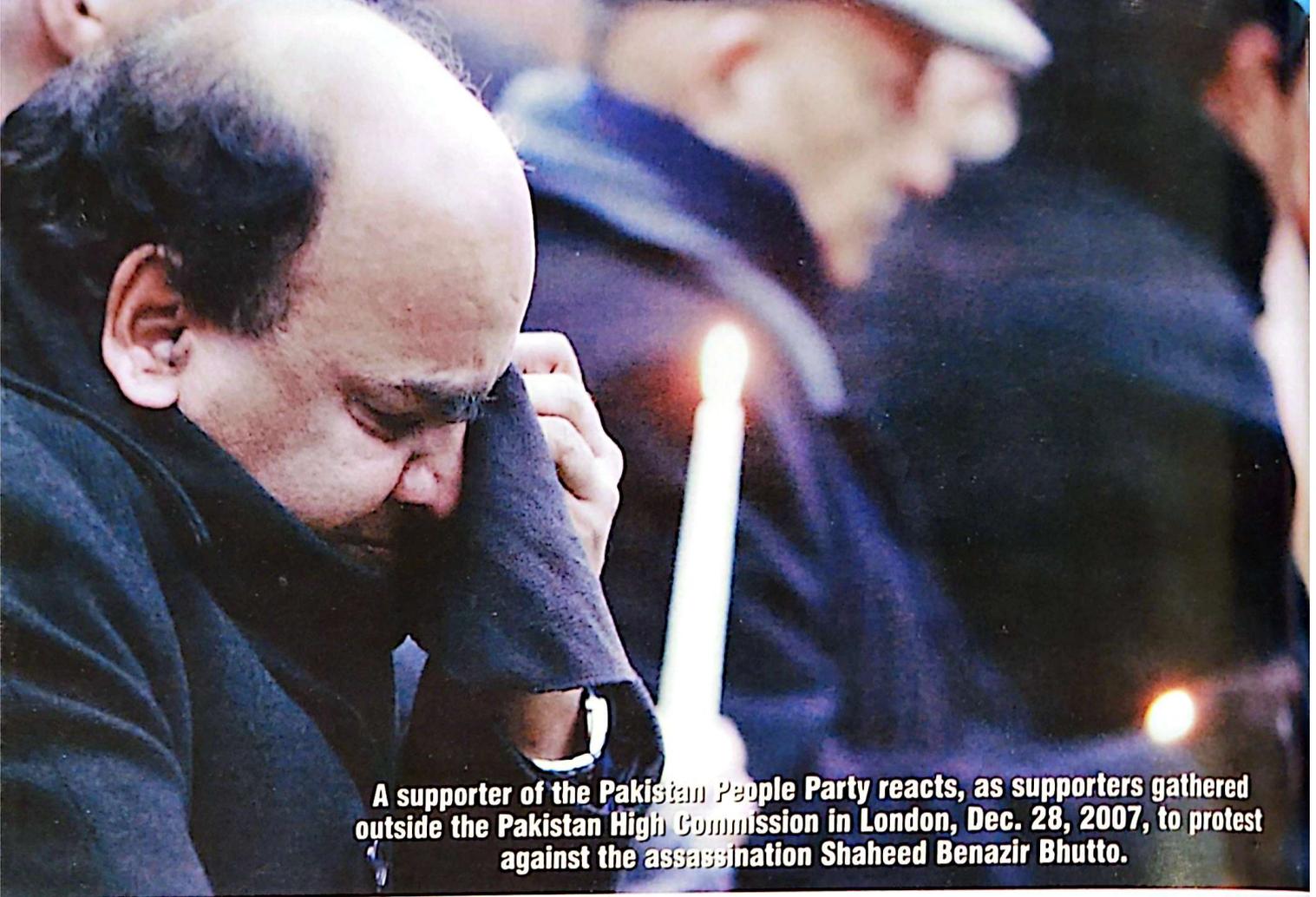


ADDIO BENAZI



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MUO  
IL SOGNO  
DEMOCRA

A HOPE IS LOST

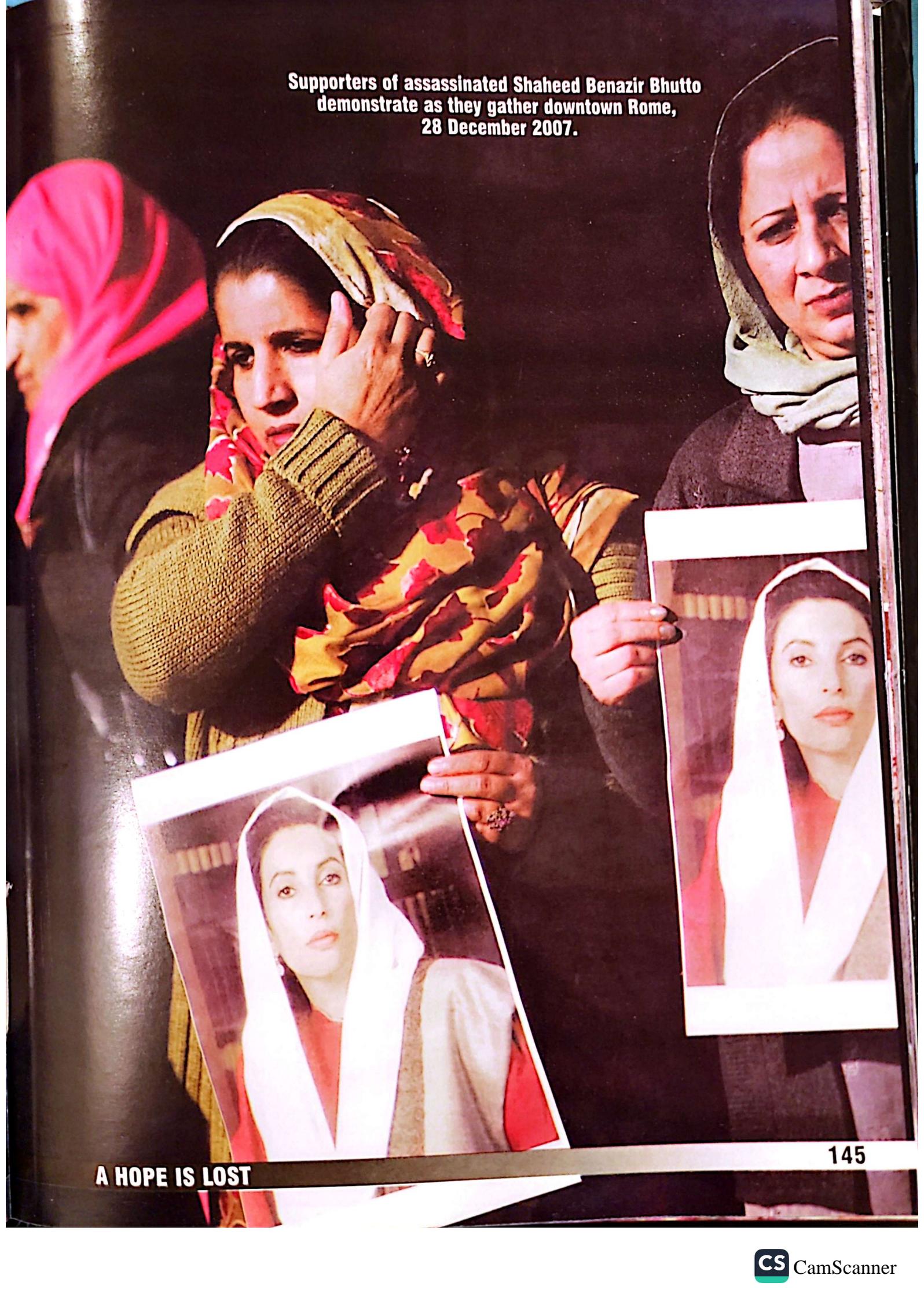


**A supporter of the Pakistan People Party reacts, as supporters gathered outside the Pakistan High Commission in London, Dec. 28, 2007, to protest against the assassination Shaheed Benazir Bhutto.**



**Mourners grieve at a memorial and prayer service for Shaheed Benazir Bhutto organized by a chapter of the Pakistan People's Party in Ontario, Canada. Dec. 28, 2007.**

Supporters of assassinated Shaheed Benazir Bhutto demonstrate as they gather downtown Rome, 28 December 2007.



**A HOPE IS LOST**



...war fear after assassin's bullets on

# 30 SECONDS FROM DEATH



Khaleej Times

## ASSASSINATED



...SUICIDE BLAST AT RALLY KILLS BENAZIR  
...VIOLENT PROTESTS ACROSS PAKISTAN

...mpanye, Benazir Tewas D...



## Bhutto assassinated

continue to

Industan Times

## Bhazir shot dead



## ziz shot dead



What you can do when you feel that things are going to get worse

DEN BEN



Highest circulated English language newspaper in the Gulf

**Business Times**

**UAE**  
markets drop for 1st time in 5 days

**Friday**

VOL. XXX

NO. 257

December 28, 2007

19 Zul Hijjah, 1428

email: ktedit@emirates.net.ae  
www.khaleejtimes.com

**Home** Hump near Falaj  
Haza a bridge repaired

**With** *World's Issue*  
**NEWSMAKER**

**Sports Times**

Gritty Pompey silence  
Gunners

# ASSASSINATED

■ SUICIDE BLAST AT RALLY KILLS BENAZIR

■ VIOLENT PROTESTS ACROSS PAKISTAN

By Atzal Khan  
Our correspondent

**ISLAMABAD** — Former prime minister and chairperson of Pakistan People's Party (PPP), Benazir Bhutto was assassinated in a suicide attack yesterday, plunging the nation into turmoil less than two weeks before elections.

She had just addressed a campaign rally for the parliamentary vote when an attacker shot her in the neck before blowing himself up at a park in the northern city of Rawalpindi, killing her and at least 20 other people at Liaquat Gardens.

The gruesome assassination of country's main opposition leader plunged the country into deep grief and political uncertainty ahead of general elections set on January 8.

The tragedy stunned the nation and there were reports of violent protests across the country.

"I put my life in danger and came here because I feel this country is in danger," Benazir said in her speech at the rally yesterday.

President Pervez Musharraf expressed profound sorrow and declared three-day mourning in the country while reaffirming his resolve to eliminate the extremists and terrorists who, he said, were responsible for Benazir's assassination. He urged the people to remain peaceful.

Former Pakistan premier Nawaz Sharif yesterday said he would boycott elections and called on President Pervez Musharraf to resign to "save" the country. Sharif also called for a nationwide strike today. "I stand by the PPP in this gravest tragedy," Sharif said.

Benazir was leaving the meeting place when a

gunman fired at her just as she waved to people and ducked climbed her car, her son Faisalullah. He said doctors confirmed her death at 5:12:25 GMT.

The governor himself was hurt, with wounds to the neck.

A surgeon operated upon her but succumbed to multiple injuries, authorities announced. Party workers swept and smashed hospital's glass doors and started fires around the hospital. As news of her death spread in the city and other parts of the country, people closed shops and offices while

some urged supporters to smash everything in their way. Benazir's husband, Asif Ali Zardari, was

in Islamabad after midnight. Party sources said that Benazir's death would be taken to

Larkana where she would be buried alongside her father who was executed in 1979.

Muzahib, police used tear gas to break up a demonstration of PPP supporters who blocked a main road in Peshawar, torching billboards and posters of the party behind Musharraf. They shouted slogans against President Pervez Musharraf.

Violent protesters took to the streets in groups, some of them setting fire in the air and screaming.

Our local police station was patrolled with stones.

There were also protests in the coastal city of Multan, and shops were shut in Karachi, where protesters burnt tyres and blocked key roads.

Editorial on Page 12  
See also Pp 3, 20, 21, 22 & 23



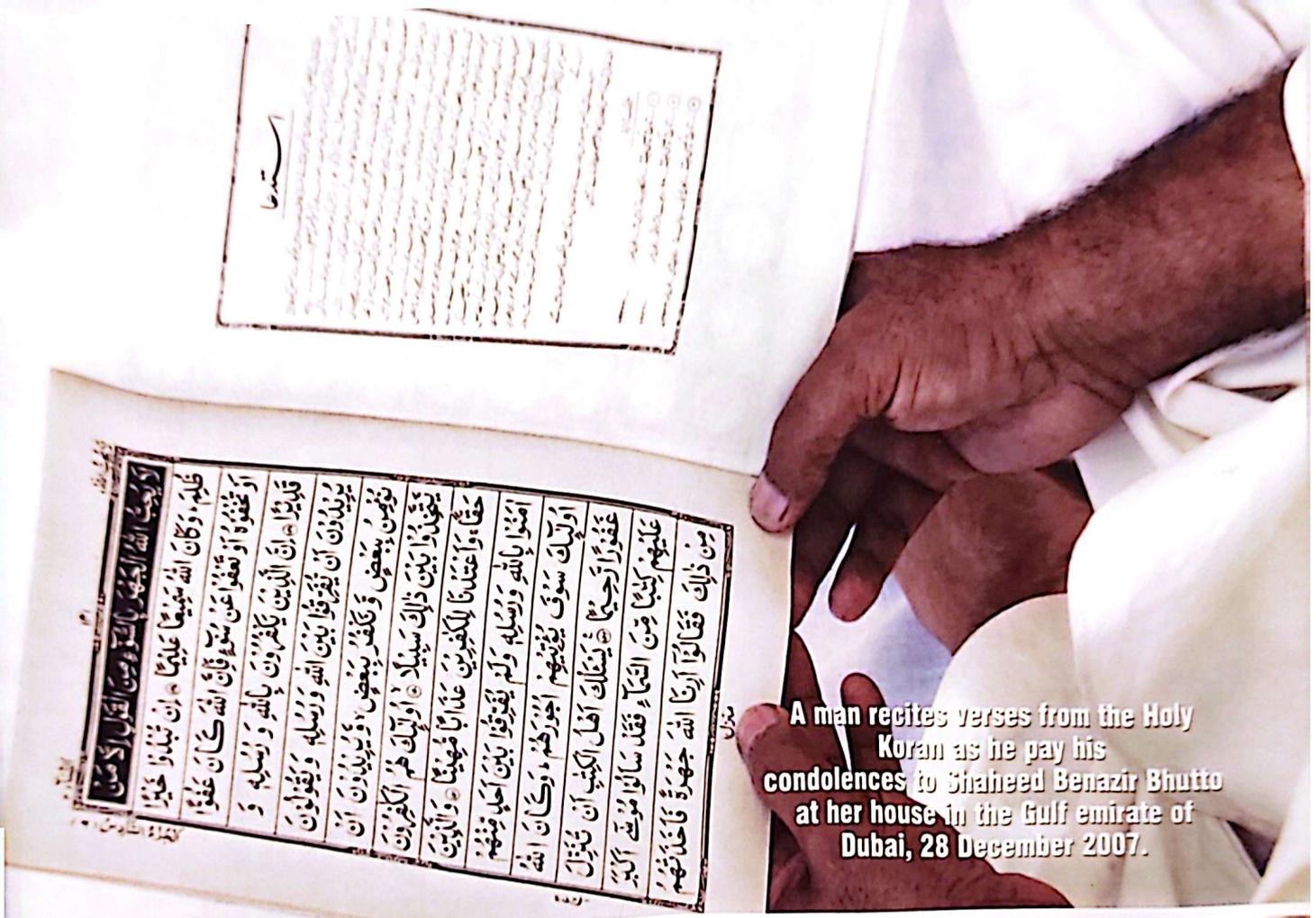
A HOPE IS LOST

147  
by great loss

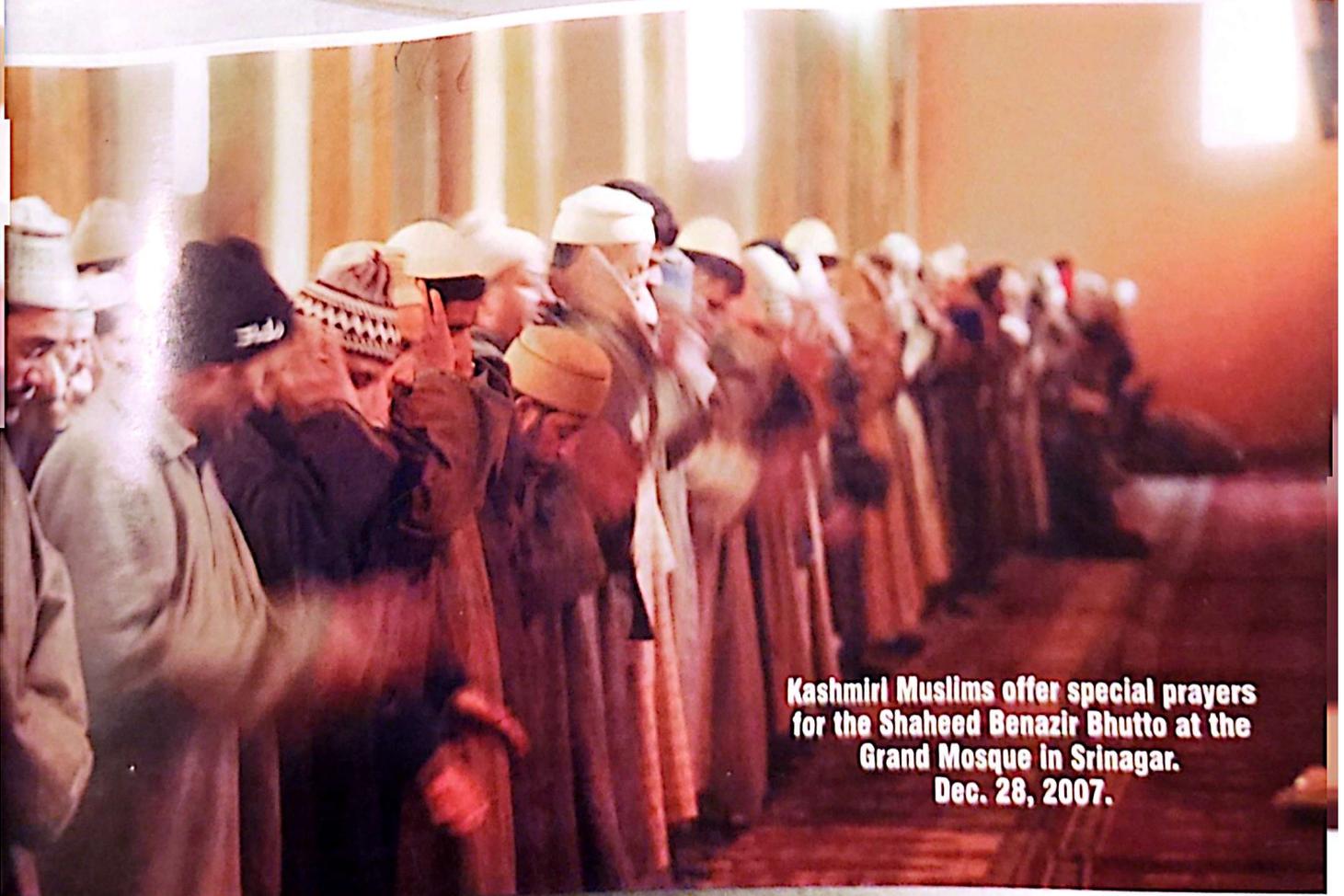
ABU DHABI — The UAE yesterday condemned the



Recitation of Holy Koran in Dubai, 23 December 2007.

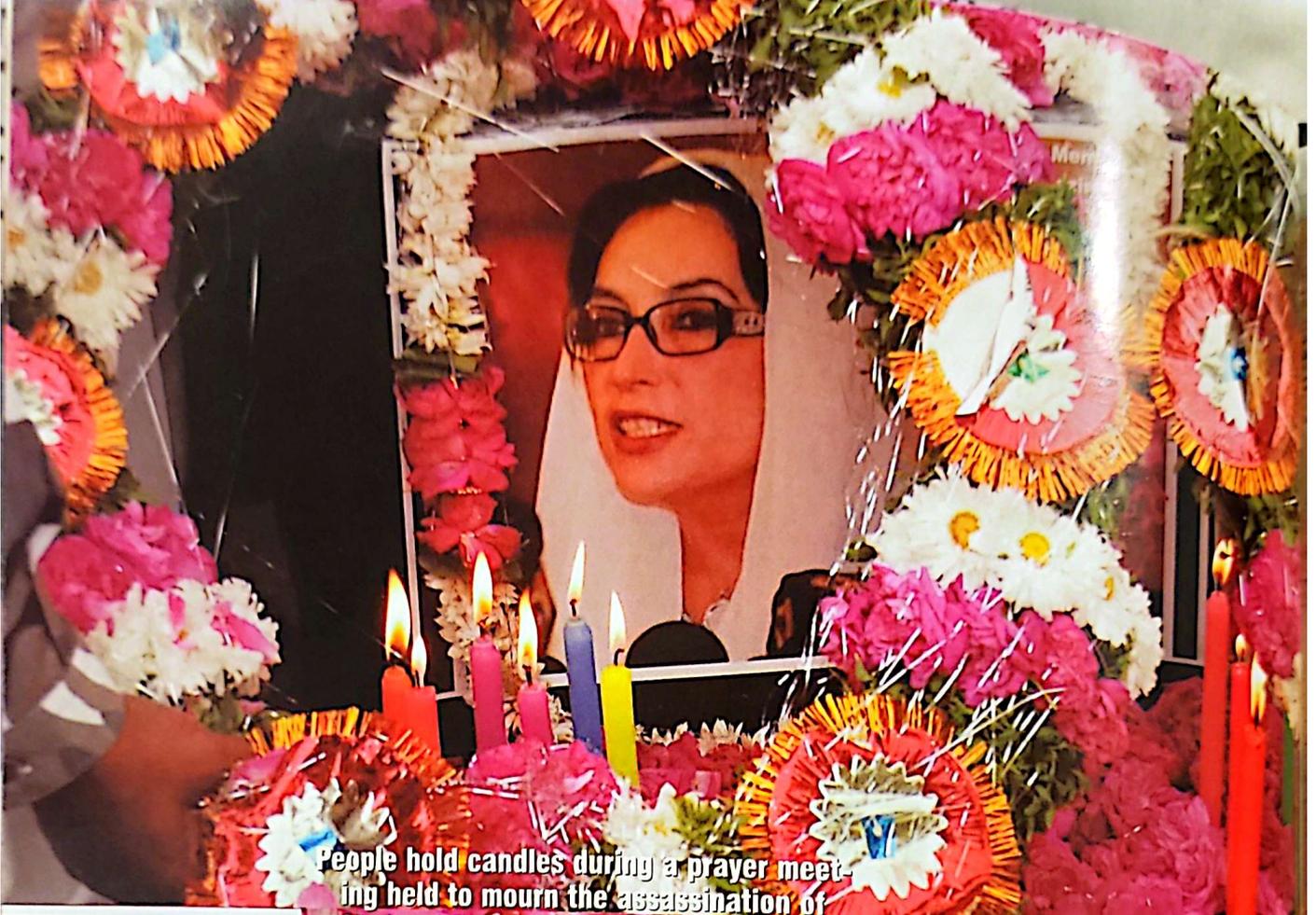


A man recites verses from the Holy Koran as he pay his condolences to Shaheed Benazir Bhutto at her house in the Gulf emirate of Dubai, 28 December 2007.



Kashmiri Muslims offer special prayers for the Shaheed Benazir Bhutto at the Grand Mosque in Srinagar. Dec. 28, 2007.

A HOPE IS LOST

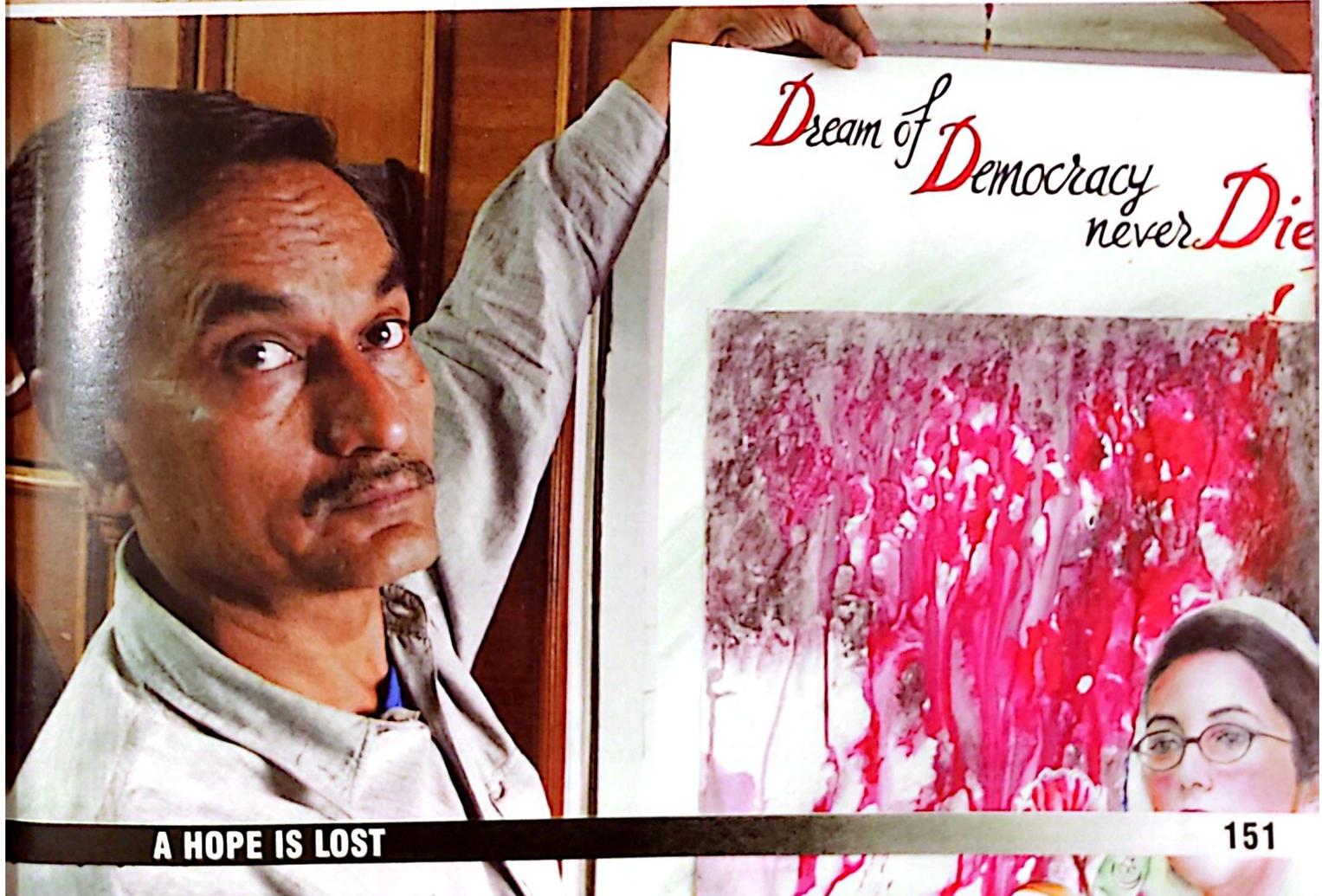


People hold candles during a prayer meeting held to mourn the assassination of Shaheed Benazir Bhutto in Hyderabad, India, December 28, 2007.





Sand artist Sudarsan Patnaik creates a sand sculpture of Shaheed Benazir Bhutto at a beach in Puri, India, December 28, 2007.



A HOPE IS LOST



An Indian Shopkeeper arranges a copy of "Benazir Bhutto Daughter of the East" an autobiography by Shaheed Benazir Bhutto at a bookshop in Ahmedabad, 29 December 2007.



आनंद मूल्य 1

नहीं थो नरो में : लोहान - 7

# शहीद की हत्या

जल उठा पाकिस्तान



कुछ घंटे पहले ही मिला था शहीद का शव  
प्रभावशाली महिला का खिताब

इस पार भी है शोक व...

Indian Sikhs read newspapers, whose front pages carry news of the assassination of Shaheed Benazir Bhutto, on a pavement in Amritsar, 28 December 2007.

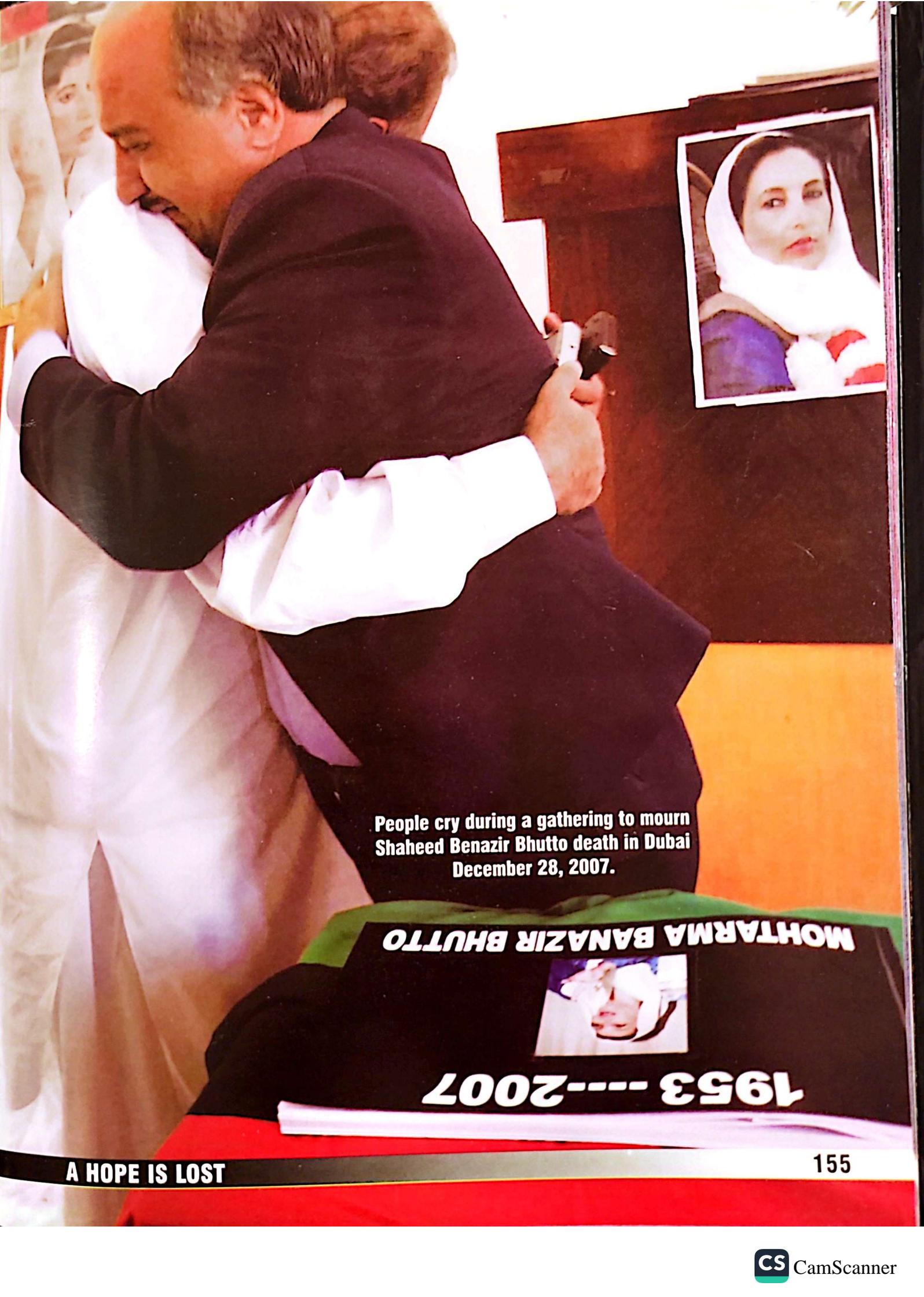
पंजाब को एक और सौगात

A HOPE IS LOST





**A supporter of Shaheed Benazir Bhutto cries as he signs in a book of autographs in her memory, during a gathering to mourn her death, in Dubai December 28, 2007.**



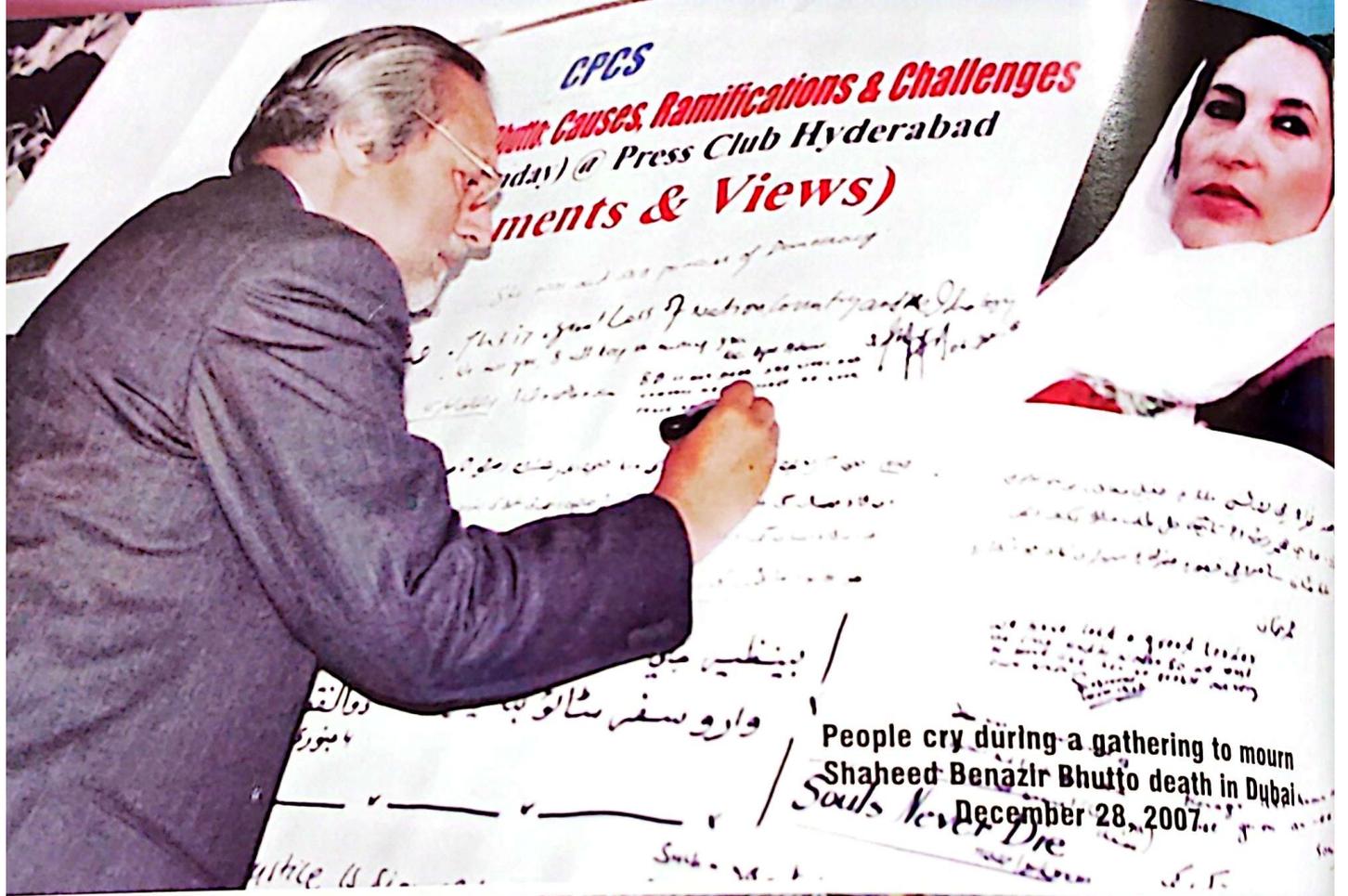
People cry during a gathering to mourn Shaheed Benazir Bhutto death in Dubai December 28, 2007.

**MOHTARMA BANAZIR BHUTTO**

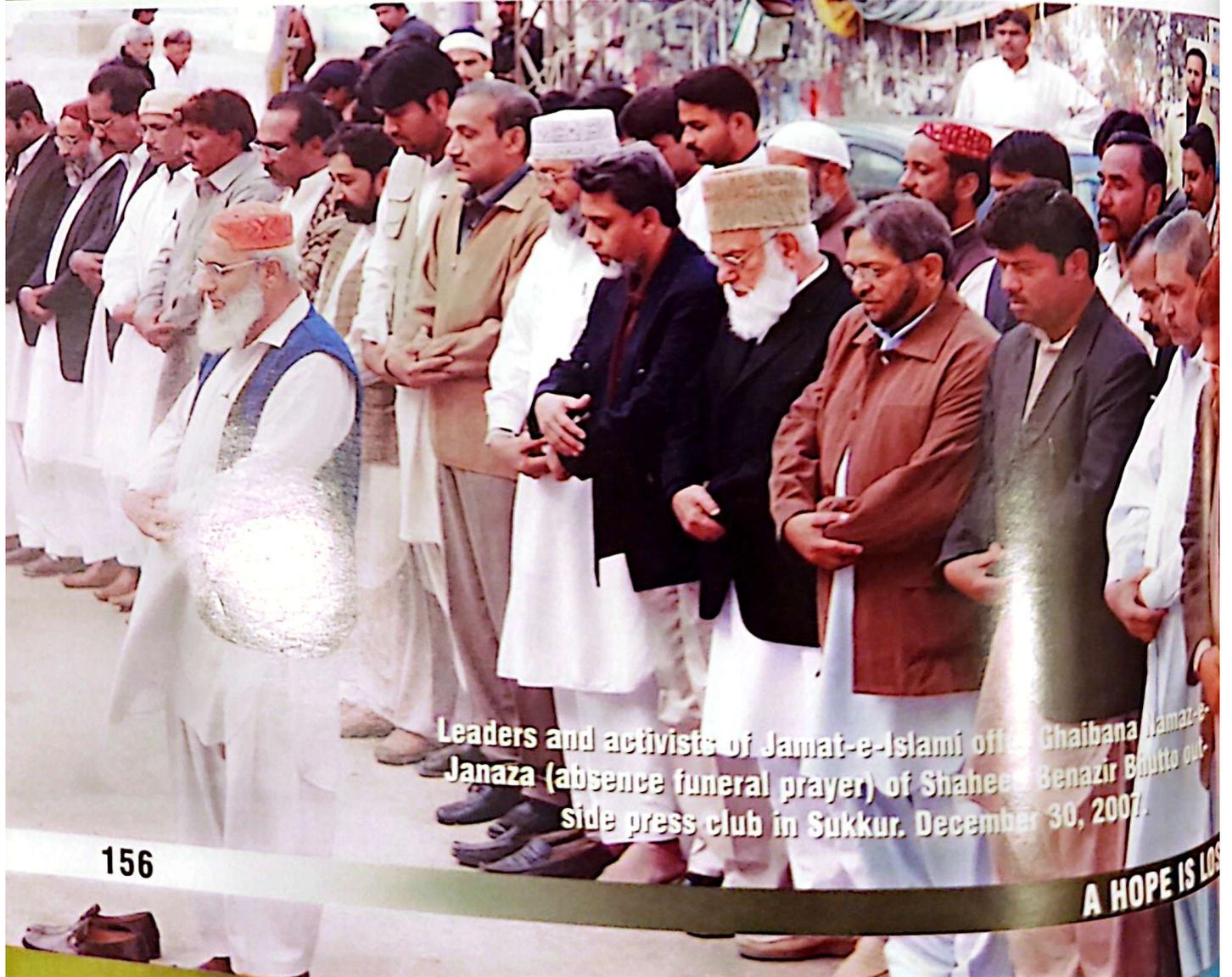


**1953----2007**

**A HOPE IS LOST**



People cry during a gathering to mourn Shaheed Benazir Bhutto death in Dyalpur December 28, 2007.



Leaders and activists of Jamat-e-Islami offer Ghaibana Namaz-e-Janaza (absence funeral prayer) of Shaheed Benazir Bhutto outside press club in Sukkur. December 30, 2007.



میتروں آگے تیرے دیوے

Supporters hold candles vigil in Bilawal House Lahore, 30 December 2007.

**A HOPE IS LOST**



Innocent but well aware what a nation  
lost, Islamabad, 30 Dec 2007.

HOPE IS LOST

A HOPE



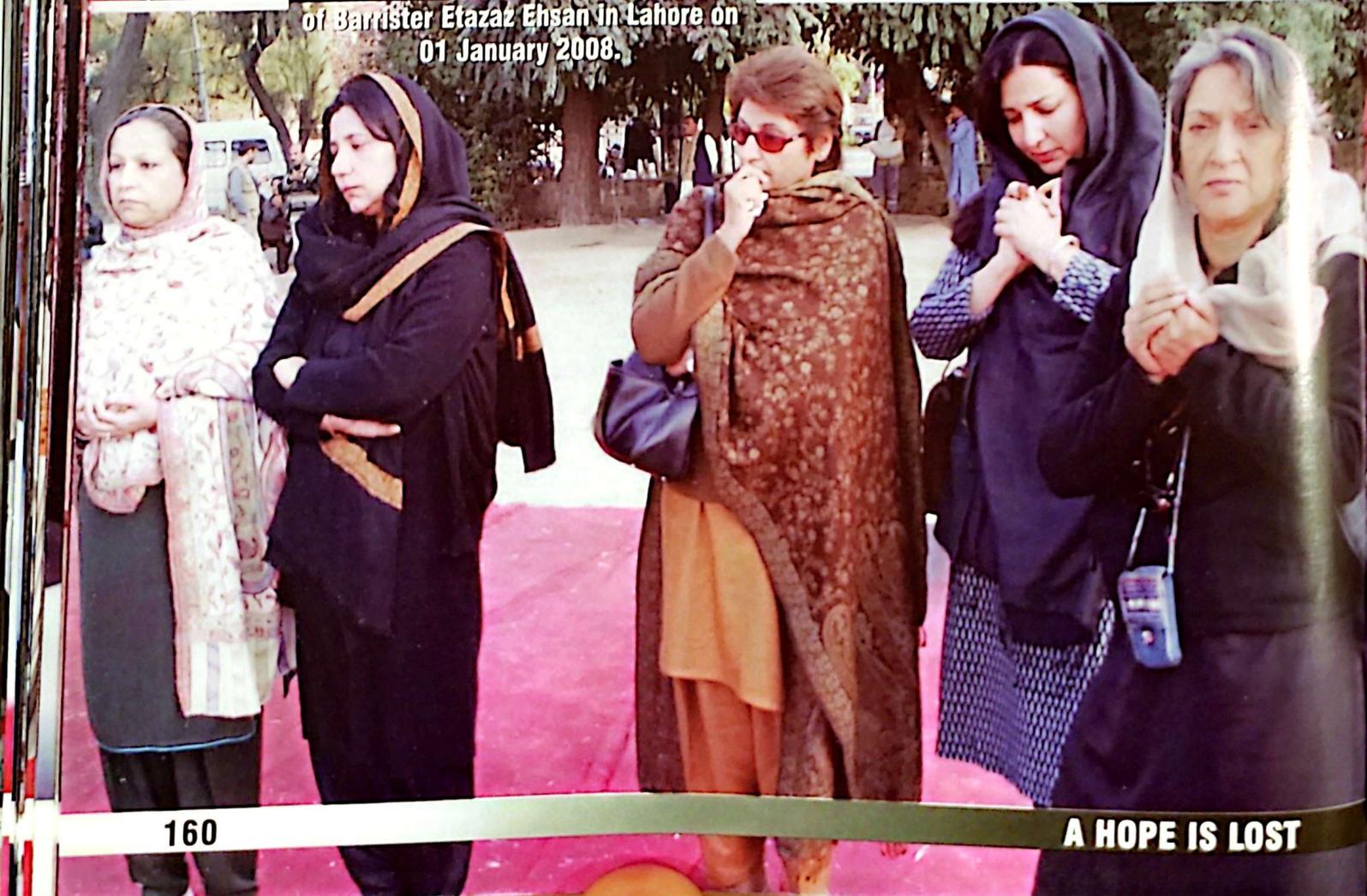
بھٹو خاندان کو سیاست اس نہ آئی  
ختر مشرق کو بھی خون میں نہ ہلا دیا گیا

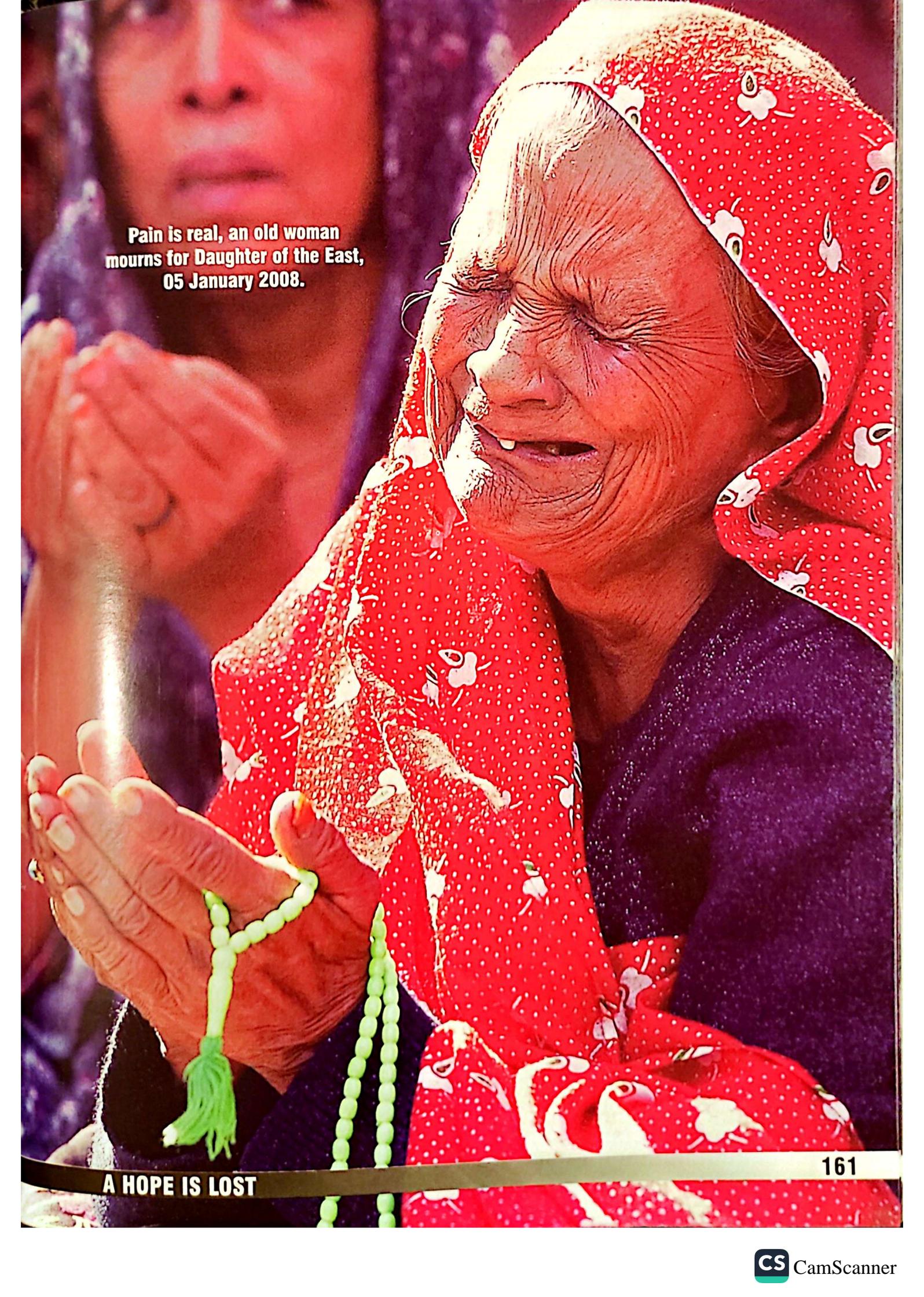
OST A HOPE IS LOST

159



Condolence ceremony of Shaheed Benazir Bhutto held outside residence of Barrister Etazaz Ehsan in Lahore on 01 January 2008.

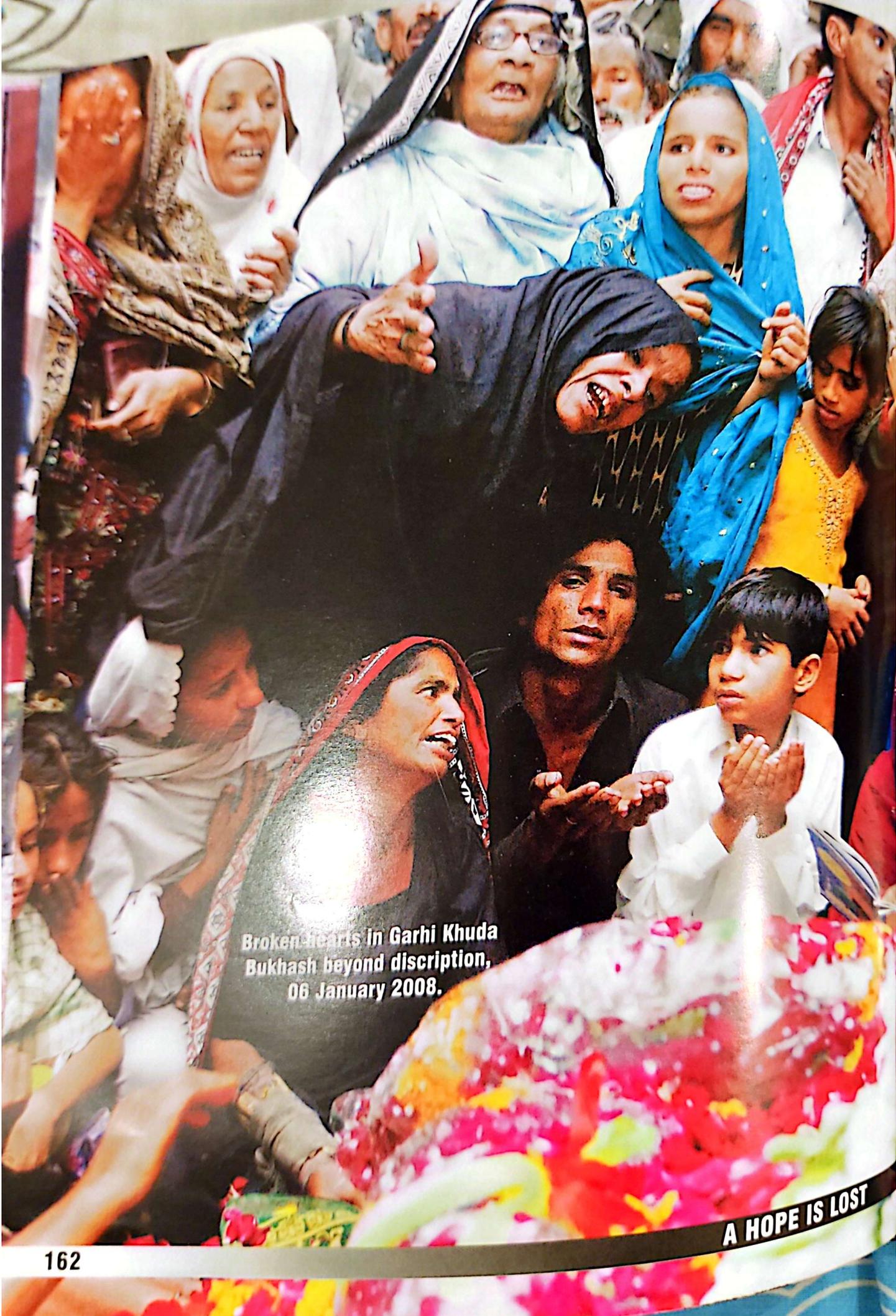




**Pain is real, an old woman  
mourns for Daughter of the East,  
05 January 2008.**

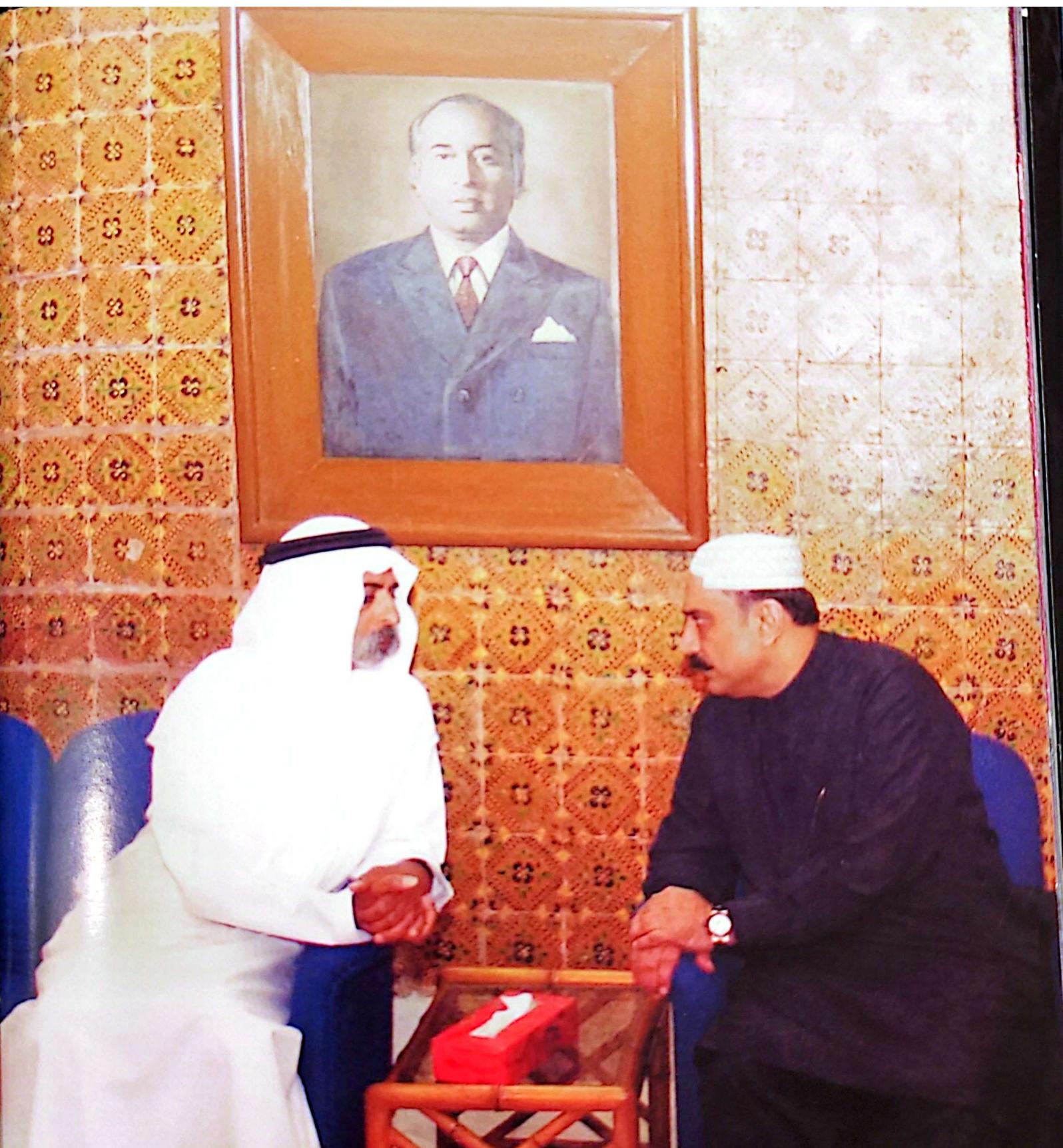
**A HOPE IS LOST**





**Broken hearts in Garhi Khuda  
Bukhash beyond discription,  
06 January 2008.**

**A HOPE IS LOST**



**UAE Education Minister Sheikh Nahayan Mabarak Al Nahayan condoles the death of Shaheed Benazir Bhutto with her husband Asif Ali Zardari in Naudero January 2, 2008.**



**A HOPE IS LOST**



UAE Education Minister Sheikh Nahayan Mubarak Al Nahayan lays a floral wreath at the grave of Shaheed Benazir Bhutto in Garhi Khuda Bukfish January 2, 2008.

# شہداء کی یاد میں



Supporters hold candles vigil in Bilawal House Lahore, 30 December 2007.

**A HOPE IS LOST**

# World Leaders React: 'Benazir was Iconic'



**US President George W Bush**

**"The US strongly condemns this cowardly act by murderous extremists who are trying to undermine Pakistan's democracy."  
"We stand with the people of Pakistan in their struggle against the forces of terror and extremism. We urge them to honour Benazir Bhutto's memory by continuing with the democratic process for which she so bravely gave her life."**

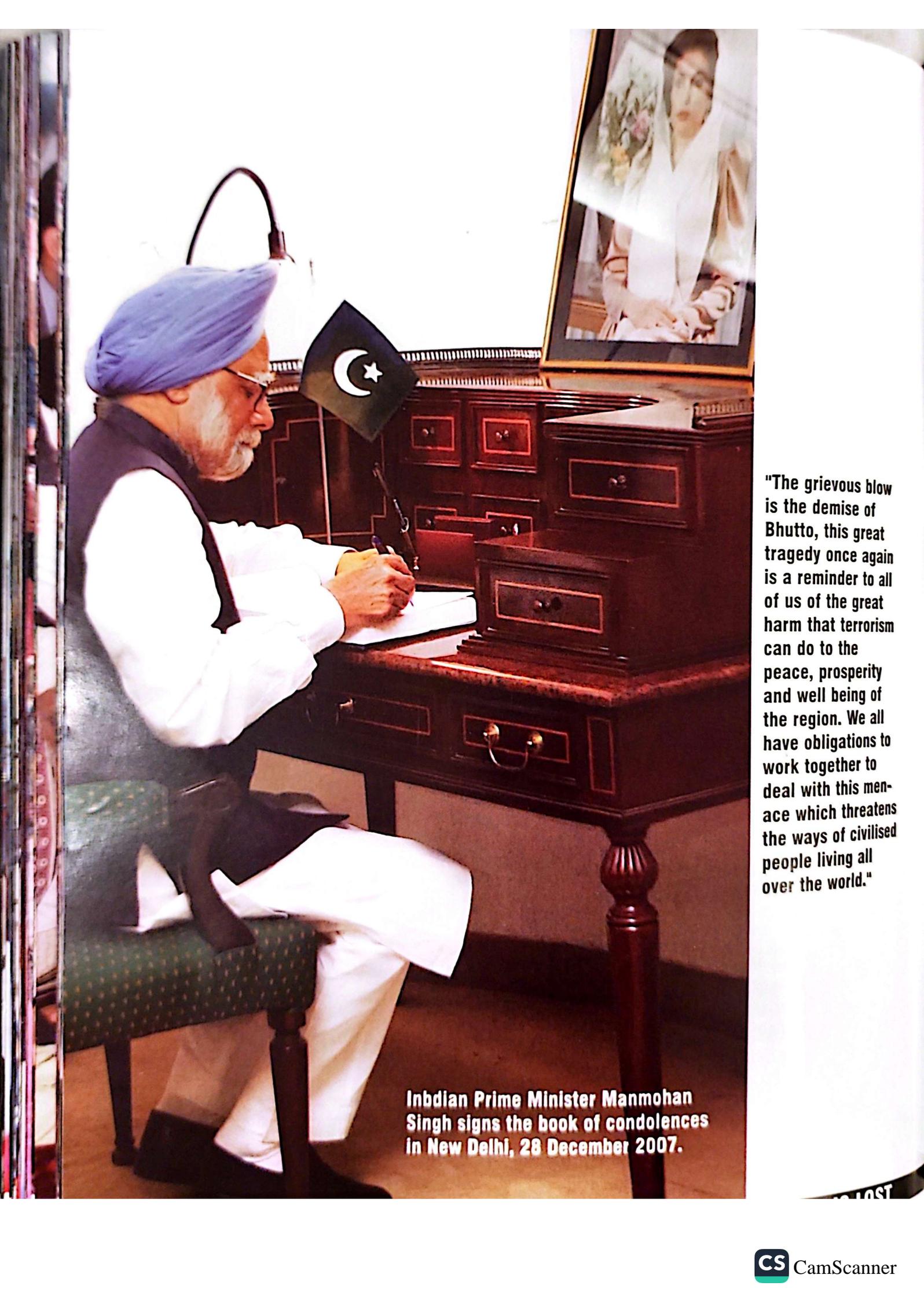
**A HOPE IS LOST**



## *President Pervez Musharraf*

**"At this unfortunate incident, in honour of Madam Benazir Bhutto, I am declaring three days of mourning. Our flags will fly at half mast."**

**"This is the work of those terrorists with whom we are engaged in war. I have been saying that the nation faces the greatest threats from these terrorists. Today after this tragic incident, I want to express my firm resolve. I express my resolve that -- and I also seek solidarity from the nation and cooperation and help -- we will not rest until we eliminate these terrorists and root them out."**



**"The grievous blow is the demise of Bhutto, this great tragedy once again is a reminder to all of us of the great harm that terrorism can do to the peace, prosperity and well being of the region. We all have obligations to work together to deal with this menace which threatens the ways of civilised people living all over the world."**

**Indian Prime Minister Manmohan Singh signs the book of condolences in New Delhi, 28 December 2007.**



## ***Iranian Foreign Ministry spokesman Mohammad Ali Hosseini***

**"We hope the Pakistani government will identify and bring to justice those behind such a criminal act and restore tranquility to the country."**

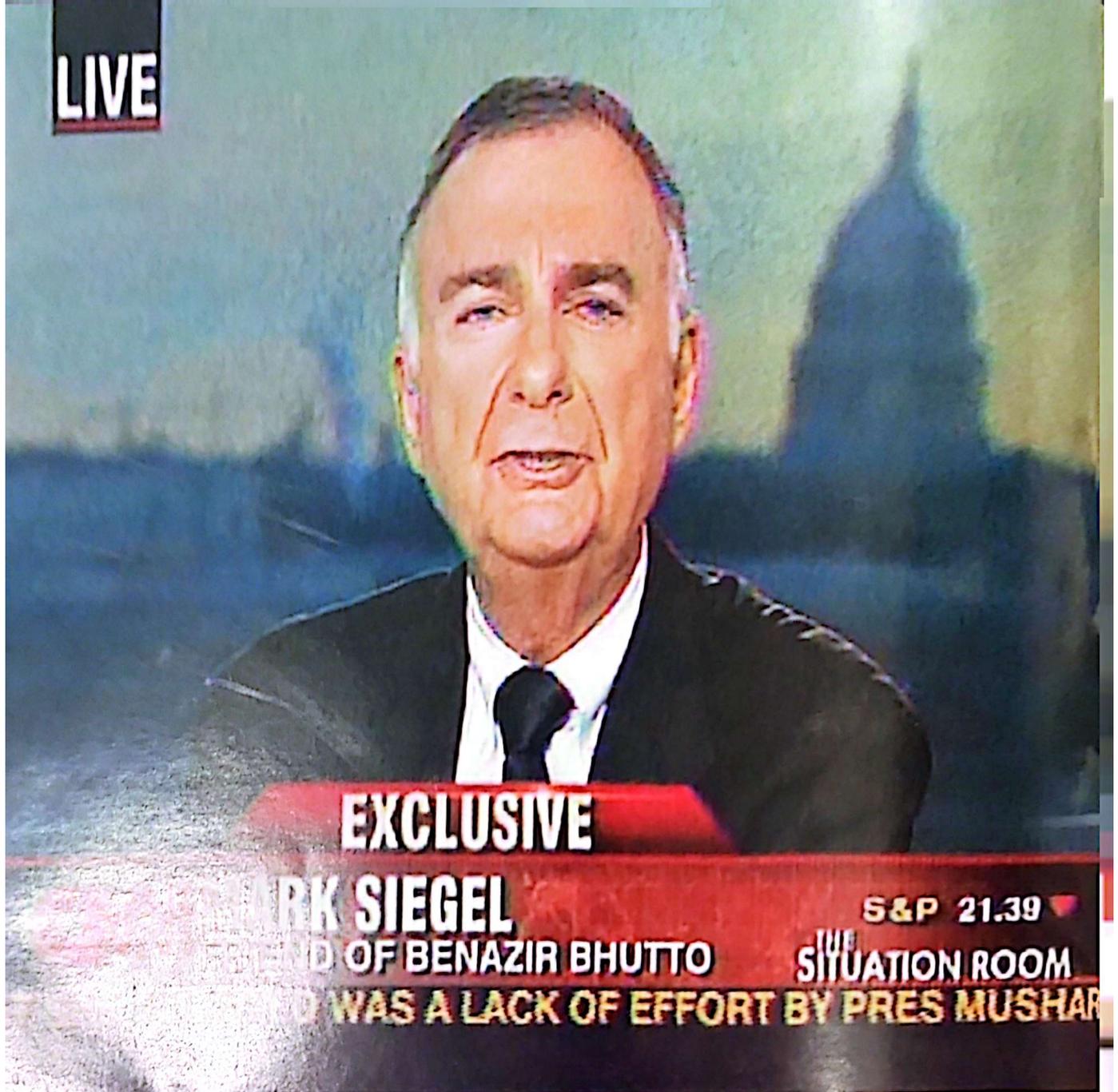
**The strike was "aimed to disrupt calm in the neighboring Muslim country."**

**Hosseini expressed the sympathy of the Iranian government and nation to the Pakistani government, nation and the relatives of Benazir Bhutto on the tragic event.**

**Iranian Foreign Minister Manouchehr Mottaki (R) prays after he lays a wreath of flowers in front of a portrait of Shaheed Benazir Bhutto at her party central secretariat in Islamabad January 4, 2008.**



**LIVE**



**EXCLUSIVE**

**MARK SIEGEL**

**FRIEND OF BENAZIR BHUTTO**

**S&P 21.39**

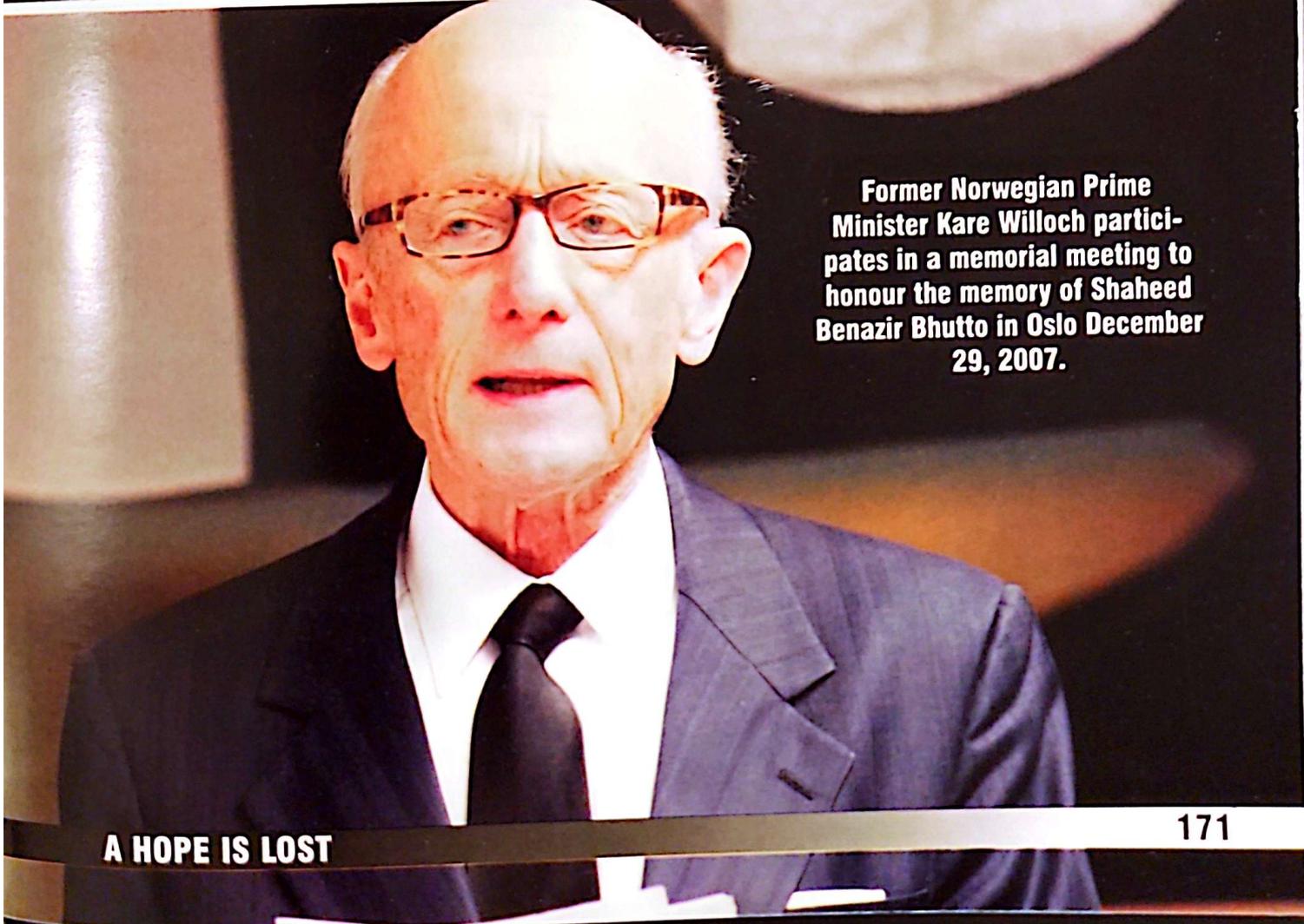
**THE SITUATION ROOM**

**... WAS A LACK OF EFFORT BY PRES MUSHARAF**

CNN shows an interview with Mark Siegel on 27 December 2007. CNN exclusively obtained an email sent from former Pakistani Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto to close friend and attorney Mark Siegel in late October in which she said "Nothing should happen to her that Musharraf is to blame. Siegel spoke to Wolf Blitzer about the email during today's edition of "The Situation Room." "Nothing will, God willing, happen. Just wanted u to know if it does in addition to the names in my letter to Musharraf of Oct 16th, I would hold Musharraf responsible. I have been made to feel insecure by his minions and there is no way what is happening in terms of stopping me from taking private cars or using tinted windows or giving jammers or four police mobiles to cover all sides could happen without him."



**A Kuwaiti man signs a condolences book for Shaheed Benazir Bhutto at Pakistan's embassy in Kuwait City, 30 December 2007.**



**Former Norwegian Prime Minister Kare Willoch participates in a memorial meeting to honour the memory of Shaheed Benazir Bhutto in Oslo December 29, 2007.**



## **Indian Congress Party**

"It is a matter for the domestic agencies of Pakistan to investigate. But we must express our deep concern at anything that disrupts and disturbs the even keel of democratic governance in Pakistan,".

Singhvi said Indian democracy loathes the cult of violence, saying "it is not only anti-democratic but also generates instability."

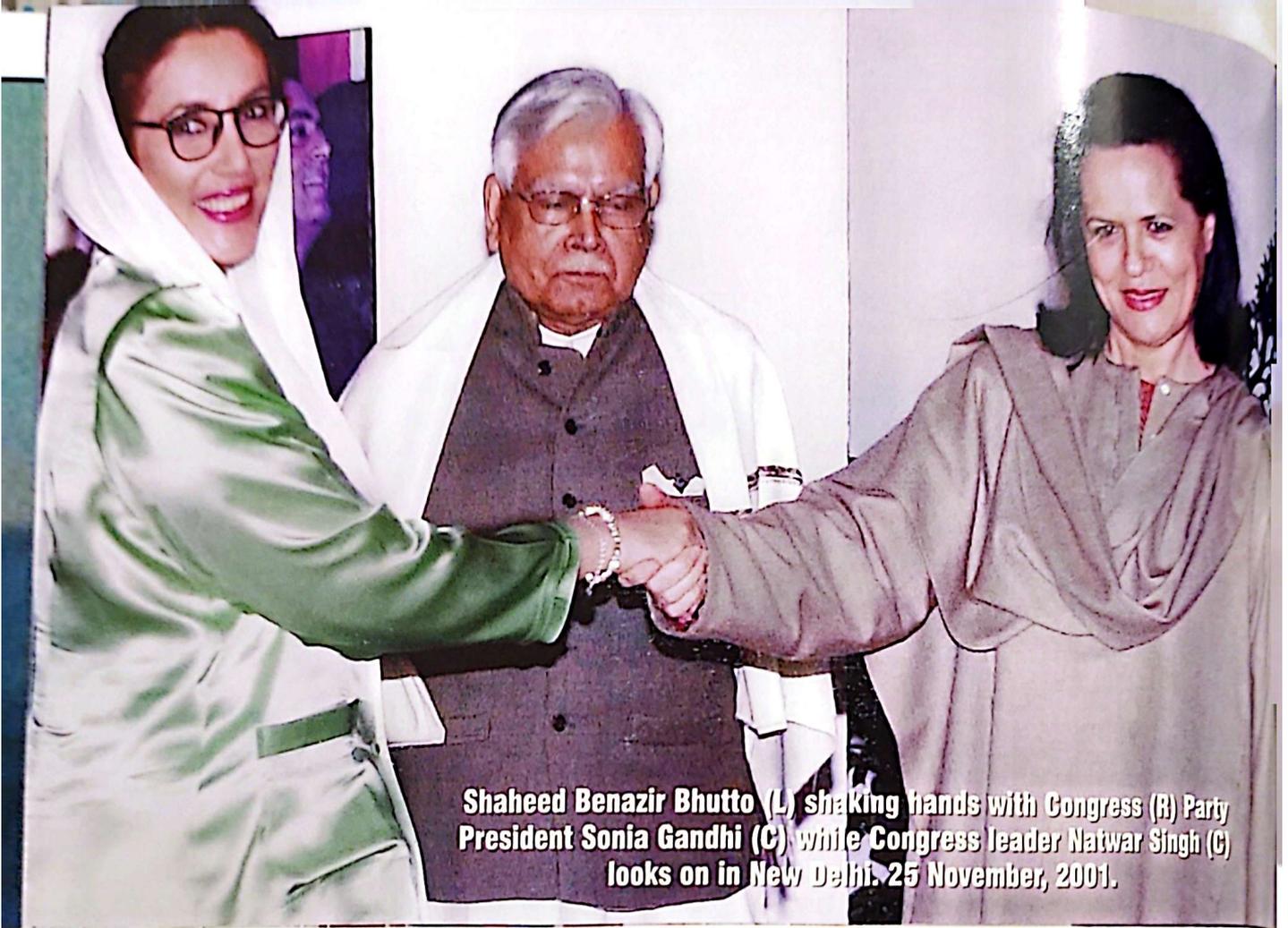
"In her death, an extremely charismatic leader and a naturally engaging speaker has gone."

President of Indian National Congress Ms. Sonia Gandhi visits Pakistan High Commission to record her feelings over the tragic death of Shaheed Benazir Bhutto.



## *UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon*

**"I am shocked and outraged by the assassination of Mrs. Benazir Bhutto, the leader of the Pakistan People's Party and former Prime Minister. This represents an assault on stability in Pakistan and its democratic processes. I strongly condemn this heinous crime and call for the perpetrators to be brought to justice as soon as possible. I convey my heartfelt condolences to Mrs. Bhutto's family, her colleagues and to the people of Pakistan. While strongly urging for calm and restraint to be maintained at this difficult time, I call on all Pakistanis to work together for peace and national unity."**



**Shaheed Benazir Bhutto (L) shaking hands with Congress (R) Party President Sonia Gandhi (C) while Congress leader Natwar Singh (C) looks on in New Delhi, 25 November, 2001.**



**US ambassador to Pakistan Anne W. Patterson (L) talks with Shaheed Benazir Bhutto at her residence in Karachi, 23 October 2007.**

# World Leaders React: 'Benazir was Iconic'

*World leaders reacted to the assassination of former Prime Minister Shaheed Benazir Bhutto with shock, sadness and condemnation.*

## **Saudi King Abdullah**

"We pray to Almighty God to bestow the deceased martyr with forgiveness and mercy and to allow her to reside in paradise and to bestow condolences and patience upon her family and relatives. We also pray that Almighty God bestow dear Pakistan and its noble people with pride, power, and triumph over the gangs of evil and darkness."

## **Australian Prime Minister Kevin Rudd**

"I strongly condemn the murder of Benazir Bhutto and of all those killed in this terrible act."

Benazir Bhutto was an historic figure of great influence in modern Pakistan. She had been campaigning resolutely for democracy in that country. Throughout her life, Benazir Bhutto showed great courage and defiance in her resistance to extremism."

"The extremists behind this attack cannot be allowed to succeed. I urge all parties in Pakistan to act with restraint and to work for a return to a peaceful democratic process. It is my hope that a democratic Pakistan will be Benazir Bhutto's legacy."

## **Afghan President Hamid Karzai**

(Karzai met with Bhutto 27 December 2007 morning during a visit to Pakistan.)

"I found her to be a very, very brave woman with a clear vision for her own coun-

try, for Afghanistan and for the region."

"We in Afghanistan condemn this act of cowardice and immense brutality in the strongest possible terms. She sacrificed her life for the sake of Pakistan and for the sake of this region."

## **Jose Manuel Barroso, President of the European Commission**

"The European Commission condemns this callous terrorist attack perpetrated less than two weeks ahead of election day in the strongest terms. This is an attack against democracy and against Pakistan."

"We send our condolences to the family of Mrs. Bhutto and to the family of the other victims. We hope that Pakistan will remain firmly on track for a return to democratic civilian rule."

## **Israeli Foreign Minister Tzipi Livni**

"We convey our condolences to the people of Pakistan and to the families of the victims. Benazir Bhutto was a well-known leader in Pakistan and in the international community who demonstrated brave leadership for her people. Israel expresses the hope that Pakistan will continue along the path of reconciliation, moderation and democracy."

## **Russian Foreign Ministry**

"We strongly condemn this terrorist act, present our condolences to the family and friends of Benazir Bhutto and hope that Pakistani authorities will provide for national stability," Russian Foreign Ministry

spokesman Mikhail Kamynin said.

The ministry has repeatedly said that the Pakistani government "must do its best to ensure the maximum stability in the election period and prevent terrorist acts against Benazir Bhutto and other political leaders," Kamynin added.

### **Statement on behalf of French Foreign Minister Bernard Kouchner**

Kouchner "expressed vivid emotion following the attack that cost the life of Benazir Bhutto, whom he knew personally. He presents his condolences to her family, to other victims' families in this attack and to the Pakistani people. He strongly condemns this horrible act and he salutes the memory of Mrs. Bhutto, an eminent figure in Pakistan's political life. He reaffirms France's commitment to the stability of Pakistan and its democracy that must be at the center of attention for the international community."

### **British Foreign Secretary David Miliband**

Miliband was "shocked by news of the late Prime Minister's assassination in Rawalpindi which has claimed the life of Benazir Bhutto and killed at least 13 other people. He expressed his sympathy thoughts and sincere condolences to Mrs. Bhutto's family at this difficult time, as well as to the families of all those who lost their lives in this senseless attack. Benazir Bhutto showed in her words and actions a deep commitment to her country."

"She knew the risks of her return to campaign but was convinced that her country needed her. This is a time for restraint but also unity. All those committed to a stable future for Pakistan will condemn without qualification all violence perpetrated against innocent people."

"In targeting Benazir Bhutto extremist groups have in their sights all those committed to democratic processes in Pakistan.

They cannot and must not succeed. The large Pakistani community in the United Kingdom will be gravely concerned about these latest developments. Let me reassure them that the UK government will continue to work with all those who want to build a peaceful and democratic Pakistan."

### **South African President Thabo Mbeki**

On behalf of the government and people of South Africa and on his own behalf, condemned the assassination of Ms. Benazir Bhutto and other Pakistani nationals in Rawalpindi, Pakistan, earlier today."

"South Africa condemns all forms of violence to promote political objectives and in this regard reiterates its oft-stated view that violence can only beget violence."

"Accordingly, the South African government appeals to all political parties and the people of Pakistan to remain calm during this very turbulent period in its history and remain committed to the political processes towards elections."

"South Africa joins the international community in reaching out in thought and prayer to the family of Benazir Bhutto as well as to those who have lost their loved ones."

"South Africa expresses its confidence that the authorities will leave no stone unturned to ensure that the perpetrators of this heinous act face the full might of the law."

### **Arab League**

The Arab League condemned the assassination as a "heinous terrorist crime," the official MENA news agency reported.

Amr Mussa, secretary general of the 22-member pan-Arab body, condemned the killing and "offered heartfelt condolences to the Pakistani people over the tragic development."

He also expressed shock and anger at such a "heinous terrorist crime,"

## Bangladesh

Bangladesh strongly condemned the "cowardly bomb attack" in Pakistan that claimed the life of opposition leader Benazir Bhutto.

"It was an unpardonable crime that has shocked the world. The government and people of Bangladesh mourned this tragedy with their Pakistani brethren," the interim government Chief Fakhruddin Ahmed said in a statement.

## Japan

Foreign Affairs Minister Masahiko Komura condemned the attack, saying that "it is absolutely unacceptable to try to solve something by the means of violence.

## Jordan

King Abdullah II, in a message to Musharraf, condemned the assassination and expressed Jordan's "support to Pakistan" to overcome the consequences of this incident.

## Amnesty International

Asian Program Director Catherine Baber said "it is shocking to see someone's life cut short in such a brutal way. Attacks such as these can never be justified. They violate international law and the rules of democratic behavior. We know that the government of President Musharraf will find itself under enormous pressure to go after the culprits and keep the country calm and stable, but Amnesty International calls on President Musharraf - and on the security forces - to exercise restraint and uphold the rule of law. The killing of Benazir Bhutto must not be allowed to become a setback to civilian governance or indeed lead to a further crackdown on civil liberties."

## Human Rights Watch

A statement was calling the assassination a "tragic event with serious implications for Pakistan's transition to democracy" and stating that "political violence of this nature has

claimed far too many innocent lives in Pakistan and it must stop. Benazir Bhutto was a democrat who believed in the supremacy of constitutional rule and throughout her career, sought power through the ballot box. Today, she died campaigning for votes and calling for a free election." HRW South Asia researcher, speaking for the organization, called on the Pakistani government to "undertake an independent and transparent investigation into Bhutto's assassination and fully cooperate with such an investigation."

## World Bank Group

President Robert Zoellick said, "This tragedy will only hinder Pakistan's critical agenda of meeting the urgent needs of its many citizens. On behalf of the World Bank Group, I would like to extend my sympathies and deepest condolences to Ms. Bhutto's family and to the families of the other victims of this tragic event."

Organization of the Islamic Conference - Secretary General Ekmeleddin Ihsanoglu "condemned in strongest terms the outrageous and brutal murder of the former Prime Minister of Pakistan and leader of Pakistan People's Party, Ms. Benazir Bhutto in a shocking suicide attack in Rawalpindi."

## Nawaz Sharif

Nawaz Sharif described Benazir Bhutto's assassination as the most tragic incident in the history of Pakistan

"I also feel unprotected and the lady must also have been feeling very unprotected," Sharif said.

"If Musharraf can spend crores on his own security, could he not spend some amount on the security of Bhutto." ■



# Mother of all Tragedies

I wonder when the Allah almighty was scripting the destiny of Pakistan the task was given to Shakespeare. The sad demise of Benazir Bhutto forced me to change my opinion because even Shakespeare would not have imagined such a tragic end to such an illustrious political career. When her father was executed by the establishment of Pakistan she was a young girl with no political ambitions. Circumstances forced her to assume the charge of the largest political party of this hapless country having a scanty democratic record. She was subjected to ultimate forms of repression, persecution and physical and mental torture. But she didn't bow before the establishment like her brave father. Her party was hijacked by her uncles talented or otherwise and her friends with the establishment. They tried to hijack the party. But she was the young girl was intelligent and she not only to save the party from the pack of hyenas, but within a decade she turned the party in to a formidable political force. Had the establishment not conspired again in 1988, PPP would have swept the elections. Imagine a feudal, stagnant, illiterate and fragmented society like Pakistan and imagine a woman taking charge of the affairs of this nation. She was the bravest, a 21st century Joan of Arc, she was a revolutionary. In a country where women are deprived of fundamental rights and are barred from voting, she swam against the tide and was elected to the top office twice and she was almost there for the third time before she was eliminated. When Z.A. Bhutto was executed people thought it's a great tragedy that the most popular leader of the country was

killed in a fake judicial encounter. I honestly believe that tragedy was nothing in comparison to the killing to Benazir. Bhutto challenged establishment only once and got himself hanged, Benazir locked horns with establishment for thirty long years and emerged victorious on a number of occasions. She was truly a champion. She was the only hope we had and with her all the aspirations and ambitions of Pakistan in general and the democratic forces of the country in particular have vanished in thin air. I was arguing with my friends that this election will be the last opportunity for PPP to exploit the legacy of Z.A. Bhutto, and the party must deliver now otherwise it will be reduced to a regional party. Now the tables have turned, even after thirty years of indoctrination establishment despite all out efforts could not obliterate the legacy of Z.A. Bhutto, they are faced with the legacy of Benazir Bhutto at this moment. My feeling is that the legacy of Benazir is going to haunt them for many more years.

I saw some pseudo intellectuals discussing the future of PPP, don't worry about the future of PPP folks, the real cause of concern is the future of Pakistan. I remember when Rajiv Gandhi was assassinated people thought that the Nehru era has come to an end. Sonia emerged and now Congress is in power again. Her circumstances were far more difficult than they are for the leadership of PPP. I am sure the party will survive; it will survive for the good of this country. What is at stake here is the integrity of this country. The affairs of our country are managed with sheer recklessness. The issues of judiciary, tribal areas, Lal Masjid, Swat are handled

with utter thoughtlessness. At present the only course of action when faced with a problem is to eliminate it. I think its time to bid adieu, and leave the bloody civilians to their vices and virtues.

A lot of things will be said in coming days, reactions will be expressed, and emotions will be shown, but nothing will bring back the 'Pinky' of Zulfiqar Ali Bhutto, and the 'Behan' of all the Pakistanis. Pakistan's history is full

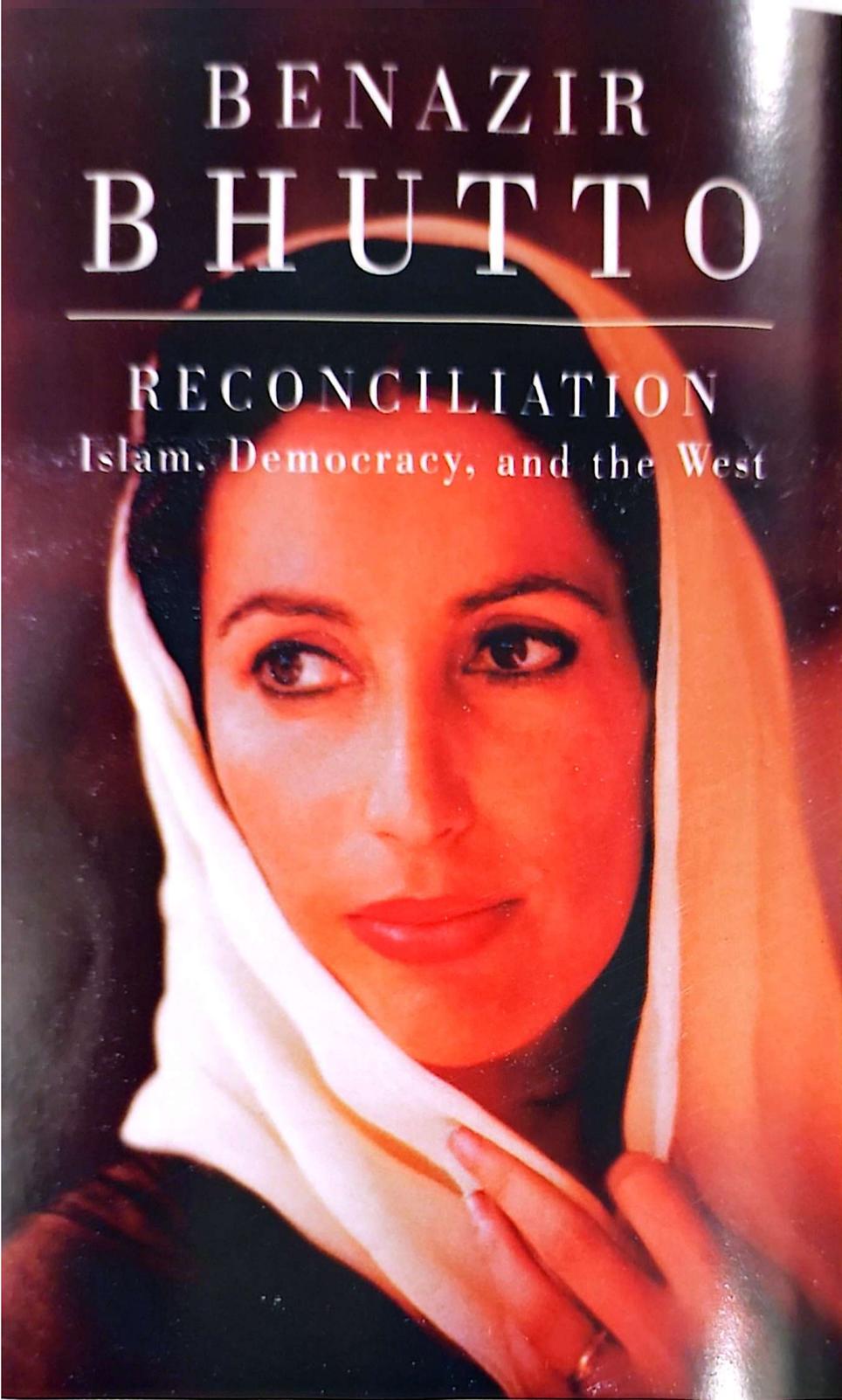
of tragedies, from the death of Quaid-e-Azam to the fall of East Pakistan. From the hanging of Z.A. Bhutto to the air crash of Zia ul Haq, may it be the repeated army interventions or persistent failures of civilian Governments, one after the other the tragedies kept on following each other with hardly any moment of respite. Nonetheless the sad demise of Benazir Bhutto is the mother of all tragedies. ■



A girl lights a candle to pay homage to Shaheed Benazir Bhutto during a rally in Islamabad, 09 January 2008.

# BENAZIR BHUTTO

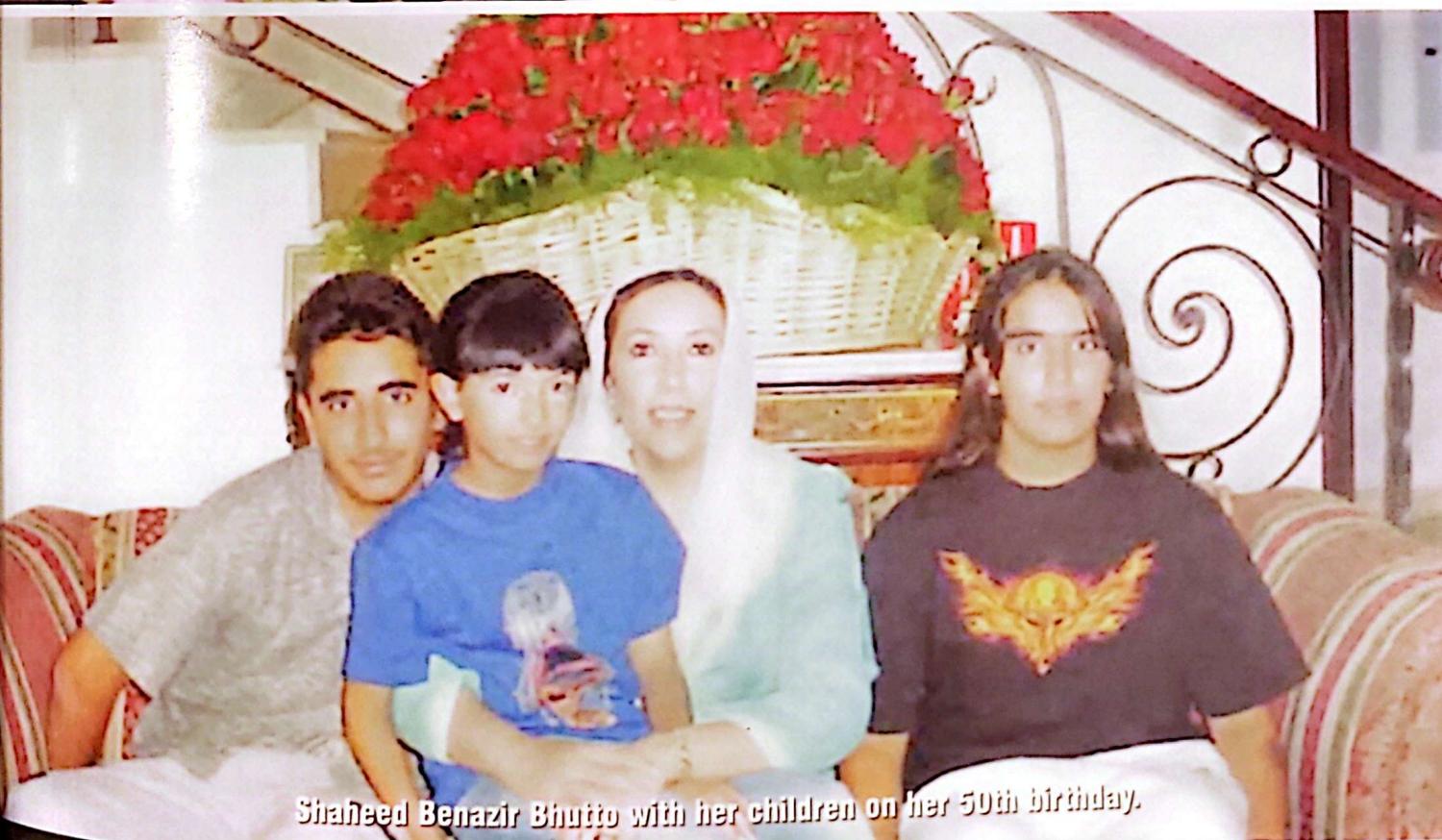
## RECONCILIATION Islam, Democracy, and the West



This handout photo courtesy of HarperCollins received on January 20, 2008, is the book cover for "Reconciliation: Islam, Democracy, and the West" by Benazir Bhutto. A book by Benazir Bhutto, finished just days after her assassination, is due to hit bookshelves, her publisher said. "Reconciliation: Islam, Democracy, and the West" is to come out earlier than originally intended on February 12, HarperCollins said in a statement on January 20, explaining that Bhutto's family and advisors supported the release. She writes in the book of her joy in returning to Pakistan in 1985 and about a previous attempt on her life, when two suicide bombers attacked her homecoming parade, killing 139 people.

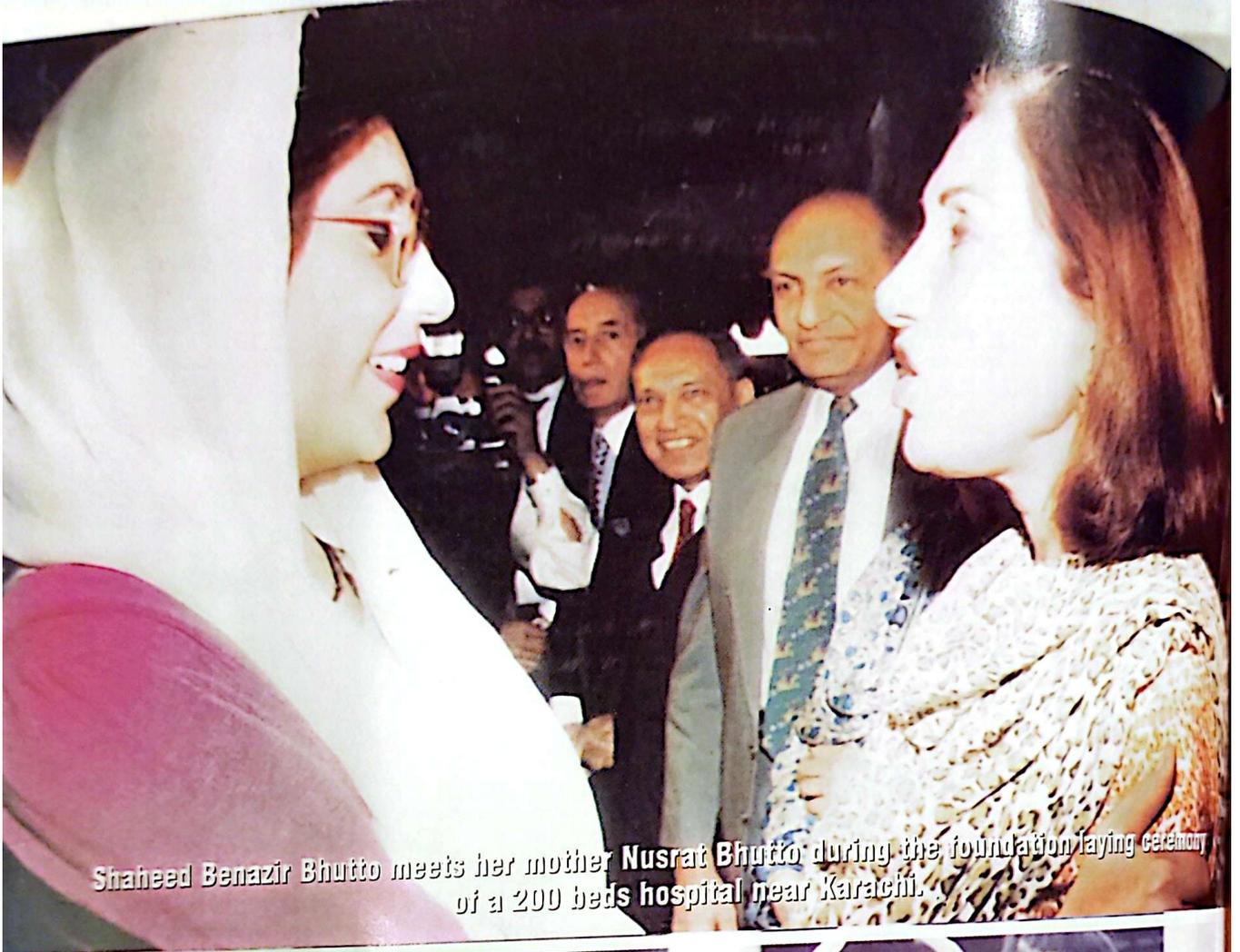


**Shaheed Benazir Bhutto with her husband, Asif Ali Zardari and children Bilawal, Bakhtawar and Asifa.**

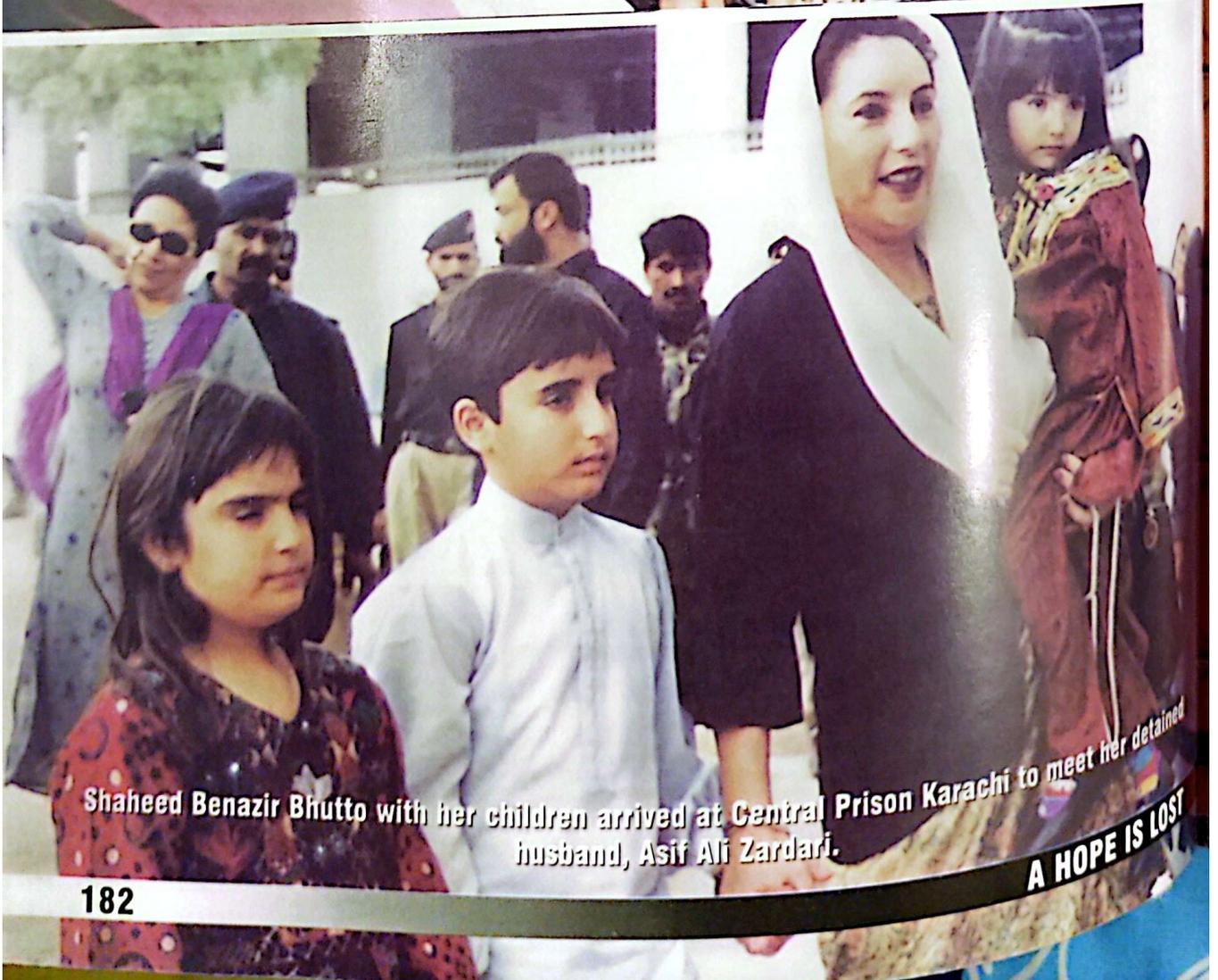


**Shaheed Benazir Bhutto with her children on her 50th birthday.**

**A HOPE IS LOST**



Shaheed Benazir Bhutto meets her mother Nusrat Bhutto during the foundation laying ceremony of a 200 beds hospital near Karachi.



Shaheed Benazir Bhutto with her children arrived at Central Prison Karachi to meet her detained husband, Asif Ali Zardari.

**A HOPE IS LOST**



Shaheed Benazir Bhutto passes in the doorway of her house in Dubai as a relative places Holy Quran on her head before she leaves for the airport to depart for Karachi 18 October 2007.

**A HOPE IS LOST**



**A pigeon sits on the shoulder of Shaheed Benazir Bhutto as she waves to supporters upon her arrival in Karachi, 18 October 2007.**



**Shaheed Benazir Bhutto sits next to her daughters, Asifa, center, and Bakhtawar in a car as she leaves her house for the airport to depart for Karachi in Dubai, Thursday, Oct. 18, 2007.**

**A HOPE IS LOST**



Supporters of Shaheed Benazir Bhutto cry during her Chehlum, near the site where she was assassinated after a public rally in Rawalpindi, February 7, 2008.





February 07 - PPP Co-Chairman Asif Ali Zardari along with other leadership offering Fatela during the observance of Chehlum of Shaheed Benazir Bhutto.



Zulfikar Bhutto Junior, and Fatima Bhutto along with others offering Fatela for the soul of Shaheed Benazir Bhutto during her chehlum held at 70 Clifton in Karachi on Tuesday, February 05, 2008.

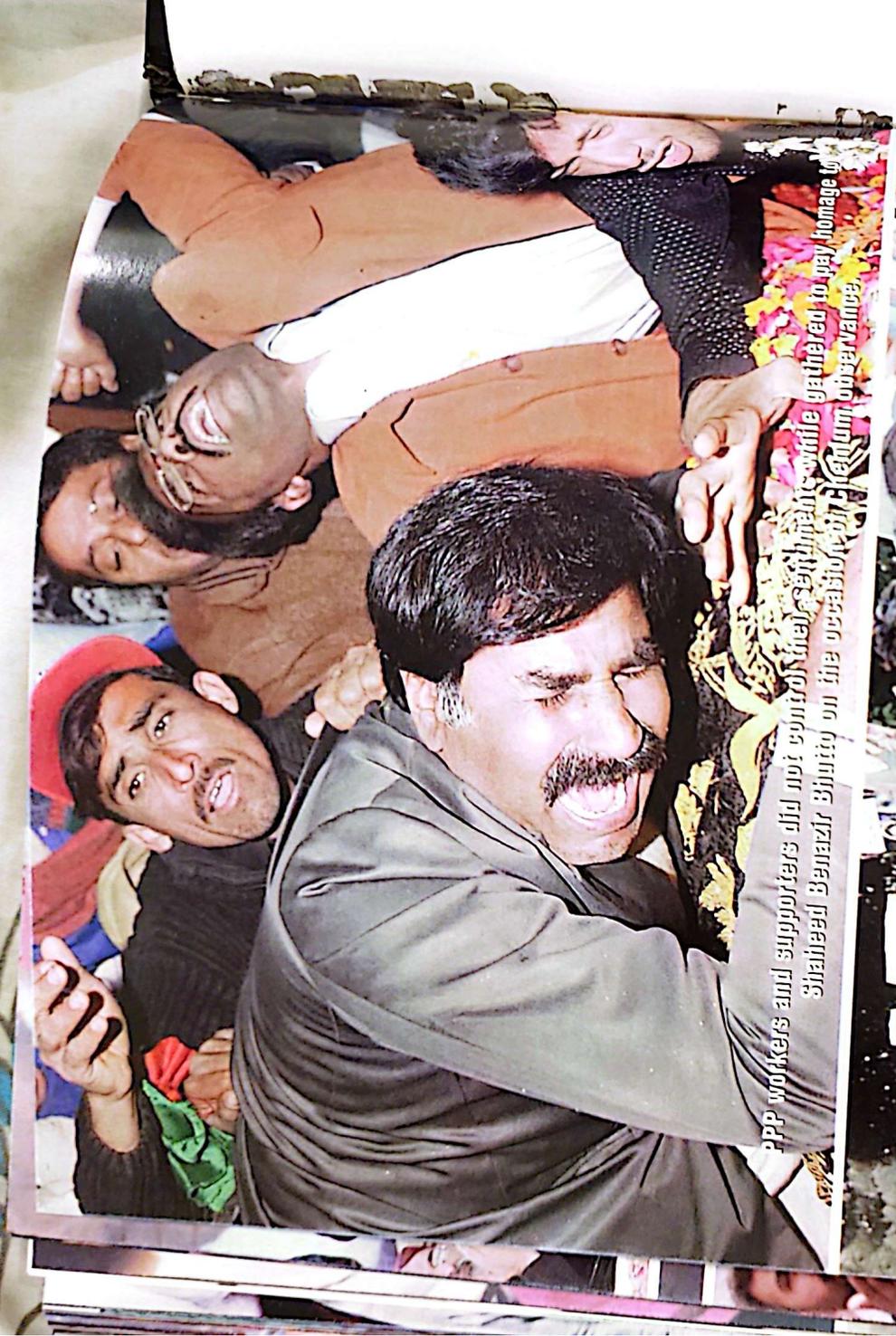


A supporter of Shaheed Benazir Bhutto holds her portrait at the end of a 40-day mourning ritual in Islamabad, Thursday, Feb. 7, 2008.



Supporters of Shaheed Benazir Bhutto mourn her death to mark the end of a 40-day mourning period in Islamabad, Thursday, Feb. 7, 2008.

A HOPE IS LOST



PPP workers and supporters did not control their emotions while gathered to pay homage to Shaheed Benazir Bhutto on the occasion of 17th anniversary.



Lahore: Feb 7 - Activists of Civil Society holding candles participate in a demonstration at Faisal Chowk on the eve of Shaheed Benazir Bhutto.

A HOPE IS LOST



# HOME COMING?

18 October 2007



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