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Aleema Khan: People Must Rise Before Imran Khan's Release

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Aleema Khanum, sister of Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI, or Pakistan Movement for Justice) founder Imran Khan, stated on Saturday that Pakistanis must prepare to take to the streets by August 5 to begin a public movement. Her remarks, made outside Adiala Jail, called attention to what she described as a breakdown in judicial integrity and an alarming erosion of civil rights in Pakistan.

Aleema did not mince words in accusing the current administration of ignoring court rulings and stripping power from the judiciary. “The courts have become powerless, and their

orders are openly defied,” she told reporters. She argued that such conditions have made it necessary for citizens to mobilize and stand for their rights.

According to Aleema, the former prime minister has encouraged PTI supporters to act independently and not wait for his release to demand accountability and fair treatment. “This is why the PTI founder has asked workers, leaders, and the public to begin a movement,” she emphasized.

The sister of the PTI founder also spoke out against what she views as selective enforcement of justice, targeting members of the party while shielding others. “PTI workers are being punished in a one-sided manner,” she said. “This shows that there are powerful forces afraid of our movement.”

Amid mounting legal pressures, Aleema revealed that her legal counsel had advised her to apply for pre-arrest bail, hinting at growing concern among opposition figures over politically motivated detentions. Yet, she expressed resolve. “We are not afraid of those who themselves are ruled by fear,” she stated.

She further alleged that authorities were actively censoring any communication from Imran Khan, preventing his voice from reaching the public. Aleema also highlighted that Khan had long requested access to closed-circuit television (CCTV) footage related to the controversial May 9 incidents, a request that remains unfulfilled. “If the people want freedom, they must act now,” she urged.

Aleema concluded by urging PTI to finalize its strategy while stressing that the movement must be led by the people, not just the party leadership. “We should not wait for the PTI founder’s release. The people must take the initiative themselves,” she said.

With Pakistan facing a fragile democratic climate and increasing political repression, Aleema Khan’s statements reflect the growing unrest among opposition voices. As August 5 approaches, the country’s political landscape may once again be tested on the streets, this time by citizens who feel the justice system no longer speaks for them.