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## Nationwide PTI Protest Announced by Salman Akram Raja for August 5

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On July 21, 2025, Salman Akram Raja, Secretary General of Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI), announced a nationwide protest scheduled for August 5. The protest aims to demand the release of former Prime Minister Imran Khan and to assert democratic rights. Speaking in Lahore, Raja described the protest as a crucial stand against political suppression, marking two years since Khan's imprisonment.

At a press conference with PTI leaders, Raja characterized the August 5 movement as a fight for national sovereignty and democratic principles. “We are not stepping back,” he stated, as reported by *The Express Tribune*, criticizing the government’s actions against PTI lawmakers. He condemned the Punjab Assembly’s decision to send references against 26 PTI members to the Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP), labeling it an attempt to suppress dissent. Raja also expressed concerns over the misuse of laws, including anti-sedition provisions and the Prevention of Electronic Crimes Act (PECA), calling July 21 a “dark day” for political freedom.

The protest, timed to coincide with the anniversary of Khan’s arrest, underscores PTI’s stance against what it describes as authoritarian governance. Despite internal questions about the timing raised by Punjab Chief Organizer Aliya Hamza, Raja stressed party unity and dismissed reports of internal compromises. He reaffirmed the commitment of PTI members to the movement.

PTI has also alleged electoral irregularities in the 2024 general elections, claiming that the ECP manipulated results to reduce their National Assembly seats from an asserted 180 to 93. The ruling Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) government faces increasing opposition as PTI mobilizes supporters nationwide.

Political analysts have noted Imran Khan’s continued influence as a central figure in Pakistan’s political landscape, despite government efforts such as arrests and temporary internet restrictions aimed at limiting dissent. The upcoming protest on August 5 will be a significant test of political resilience for both PTI and the current government.