

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**PTA Blocks Website - Make Pakistan Better**

In a recent development, the PTA (Pakistan Telecommunication Authority) has blocked access to a **Make Pakistan Better** [<http://makepakistanbetter.com>]. This came as a notification issued by Yawar Yasin, the Director General [Enforcement] on 18<sup>th</sup> January 2010, to all its Zonal Directors to explicitly block this entire website on an IP level without actually specifying a reason as to why this block has been enforced

The webmaster wrote in response to this blanket censorship to try and explain the reason for the censorship “This website’s main goal is to bring news to common public which our biased media has deliberately tried to blackout. We have many authors on our website who openly criticize the Pakistan Army, the PPP government & others individuals their write-ups, so I think our site is blocked because of these same hard hitting articles.”

Continuing to say “You simply cannot block a website on the basis of having a strong and opposing opinion, because in a country where anti-Islamic or Anti-Pakistan site’s are not blocked and even in an Islamic state where practically millions of pornographic sites are wide open so <strong>the whim of blocking a particular site based upon strong criticism against a certain group of individuals in power should not justifiable or even accepted by society.”

It seems that in a very blatant misuse of the power the network administrators of Pakistan telecommunication authority has placed a block on the entire domain <http://makepakistanbetter.com> without actually outlining or explaining a valid reason as to why this particular website has to be prevented from access to the users in Pakistan.

It can also be recalled that only recently the PTA has censored a YouTube video in which the president of Pakistan Mr. Asif Ali Zardari is caught scolding an audience member with a very curt “Shut-up”

The Don't Block the Blog campaign (<http://dbtb.org>) vehemently protests this outrageous ban on this website and feels that selective censorship will not quieten the criticism and only make it a bigger problem. It is requested of the print and electronic media to exert pressure upon the Government of Pakistan to lift this ban for the sake of freedom of speech

About:

The Don't Block the Blog movement has been waging the struggle against Internet censorship in Pakistan since 2005 when the PTA had categorically blocked millions of blogs hosted on the blogspot.com domain. Our main aim is to have free and fair access to Internet content in Pakistan, which is a right of every individual irrespective of his or her race, religion, age or gender.