

SUPPORTED BY
PAKISTANI
BLOGGERS &
FRIENDS

DONT BLOCK THE BLOG!

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

6th May 2006

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Press Releases: <http://help-pakistan.com/main/press-release/>

BLOGSPOT APPEARS TO BE BANNED AGAIN IN PAKISTAN

6th May 2006, **The Don't Block the Blog** team (Dr. Awab Alvi & Omer Alvie) & **Society Against Internet Censorship in Pakistan** (formerly known as The Action Group Against Blogspot Ban in Pakistan - AGABBIP) regrets to inform the free world that the Government of Pakistan appears to have resumed the blocking of the entire blogspot domain. Reports have come in from a number of cities around the country that the entire Blogspot domain is blocked in its entirety. Just recently only three days back, specifically on the 3rd of May, the Pakistan Telecommunication Authority had lifted the entire ban, allowing all internet users unrestricted surfing to the 10 millions websites hosted on the blogspot.com domain. It appears as if the three day relief was just to appease the United Nations in its annual 3rd of May celebrations for the Freedom of Press.

The PTA (Pakistan Telecommunication Authority) had initially blocked access to the blogspot domain on the 3rd of March 2006, due to a Supreme Court decision dated 2nd March 2006 instructing the PTA to ban 12 offending websites which highlighted the blasphemous cartoons on the Prophet Muhammad (PBUH). In adherence to the Supreme Court ruling, all 12 sites were blocked including one that was hosted on the blogspot domain. But rather than block the offending blogspot website, the PTA blocked the entire domain (www.blogspot.com) which happens to be one of the most popular blog hosting domains hosting approximately upwards of ten million blogs globally.

We strongly oppose this blanket ban on any website, and ask the world to join hands to peacefully protest the censorship of the internet.

The **DON'T BLOCK THE BLOG (DBTB)** campaign (<http://www.help-pakistan.com/main/dont-block-the-blog/>) was launched by Dr. Awab Alvi and Omer Alvie on 3rd March, 2006 in order to highlight the unfair blanket ban of the blogspot domain and additionally to show support for free internet speech in general. Approximately at the same time the **Society Against Internet Censorship in Pakistan** (formerly known as **The Action Group Against Blogspot Ban in Pakistan - AGABBIP**) (<http://groups.google.com/group/AGABBIP>), a mailing list with dozens of contributing members also was formed to protest this blogspot ban and in support of free speech

The Pakistan internet blockade issue and the resulting efforts of DBTB campaign, along with those in the Society Against Internet Censorship in Pakistan (AGABBIP) group, were reported in a number of mainstream news media outlets, including the Washington Post, IFEX, Global Voices Online, Voice of America, The News, Reporters Sans Frontiers, Dawn Newspaper and Spider Magazine.

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