



**Arkansas Democrat Gazette**  
ARKANSAS NEWSPAPER

**MUSHARRAF DENIES CHARGES RAISED IN  
BOOK ABOUT PEARL**  
5 OCTOBER 2003

-- In answer to a surprise question during an appearance before the Canadian Parliament, the president of Pakistan has responded to revelations in the book "Who Killed Daniel Pearl?" that the killer of the Wall Street Journal reporter was a member of the ISI, the Pakistani secret service, and that the Pakistani government may be sheltering more who were involved.

In response to a query from MP Irwin Cotler, Pakistani President Pervez Musharraf angrily declared that French author Bernard-Henri Lévy lacks evidence, and that Pearl put himself at risk by his involvement with "a group that had contacts with all kinds of people and then he kept moving down into this world of extremism himself." Musharraf added, "And then whatever happened, happened."

Ruth and Judea Pearl, Daniel Pearl's parents, immediately denounced the comments. Speaking to a reporter from Toronto's Globe & Mail newspaper, Ruth Pearl said Musharraf was "blaming the victim," while Judea Pearl said the Pakistani president was "trying to exonerate himself and the people he works with, the ISI."

The Lévy book "raises major questions that the [Musharraf] government has never responded to," Ruth Pearl said.

Lévy, meanwhile, called Musharraf's comments "outrageous," and "a slander on the memory of Daniel Pearl." In New York City to talk about his charges on the PBS news program Now With Bill Moyers, Lévy said, "Daniel Pearl was a

journalist doing his job, and doing it fearlessly. He was not an extremist."

"This is the same thing that Musharraf had the nerve to say to President Bush at the time of the kidnapping," Lévy said, "that Danny Pearl had been 'over-intrusive.' I am astonished that Musharraf is allowed to get away with these comments as a way of avoiding discussion on Pakistan's responsibility in this tragedy."

Musharraf has previously refused to answer questions about "Who Killed Daniel Pearl?". During a state visit to France in July, Musharraf told reporters asking him about the book that Lévy was subject to "vested interests," but refused to elaborate.

The book, originally released in France, was released in the U.S. this month by a small independent publisher, Melville House, in New Jersey, and quickly became a bestseller.

Wall Street Journal editor Tunku Varadarajan, in a review, said, "I commend this book," and praised Lévy for his "painstaking research" and his "noble sense of outrage."

"He's one of the few to ask hard questions about Pearl's death, harder than the questions the Pakistani investigators appear to have asked of the suspects--harder, even, than the questions the U.S. Embassy in Islamabad was willing to ask of the investigators," wrote Varadarajan.

In a separate statement, Wall Street Journal managing editor Paul Steiger said the newspaper had no evidence to confirm one of Lévy's hypotheses, that Pearl may have been investigating the exchange of nuclear technology between Pakistan, North Korea, and al Qaeda.

"However," Steiger said, "we urge all the authorities involved in the investigation to review the book."