

Pakistan Court Indicts Jailed Ex-PM Imran Khan in State Secrets Case

Guilty verdict could bring up to 10 years in prison in a case that reduces Khan's chances of being released in time to campaign before elections next year.

By [Al-Jazeera](#)

Global Research, December 15, 2023

[Al Jazeera](#) 13 December 2023

Region: [Asia](#)

Theme: [Intelligence](#), [Law and Justice](#)

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Jailed former Prime Minister Imran Khan has pleaded not guilty to charges of leaking state secrets under an indictment that deals a new blow to his chances of contesting Pakistan's general election in February.

The charges are related to a [classified cable](#) called a cypher sent to Islamabad by Pakistan's ambassador in Washington last year that Khan is accused of making public.

"The charges were read out loudly in the courtroom," government prosecutor Shah Khawar said on Wednesday, adding that Khan and his co-accused, former Foreign Minister Shah Mahmood Qureshi, both denied the charges.

Khan's lawyer Gohar Khan contested the indictment, saying it would be valid only if signed by the accused. The former prime minister has previously said the contents of the cable appeared in the media from other sources.

A guilty verdict under the Official Secrets Act could bring up to 10 years in prison, lawyers said.

It is the second time Khan has been indicted on the same charges after a superior court [struck down](#) an earlier indictment on technical grounds, saying the correct procedure had not been followed.

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