

Bhutto prevented from attending rally

by UPI

ISLAMABAD, Pakistan -- Pakistan opposition leader Benazir Bhutto failed to break through a police barricade outside her Islamabad home to attend a demonstration in Rawalpindi. When the former prime minister found her way blocked by buses and an armored personnel carrier, she addressed her supporters beyond the barricade, lashing out against President Pervez Musharraf, who imposed a state of emergency last Saturday, the Times of London reported. "Pakistan's integrity is in danger. Militants are waving their flag, the flag of Pakistan is being lowered," said Bhutto, detained at her villa ahead of her party's rally. "The government has been paralyzed." An Interior Ministry spokesman said 2,500 people had been arrested since the emergency was declared. Bhutto's Pakistan Peoples' Party said 5,000 of its activists were detained during the past few days. In Rawalpindi, the garrison city where Bhutto planned to lead a rally on Friday, police fired tear gas to disperse protesters, the British newspaper reported. Barbed-wire barricades were erected on all roads leading to the venue and roads from the capital were blocked.

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