



# REPORT

## NATIONAL ANTI-TERRORISM CONFERENCE

November 18, 2009-islamabad



*Organized By*



**INTERNATIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS OBSERVER**

**921, Street# 80 I-8/3**

**Islamabad**

## INTRODUCTION:

International Human Rights Observer is one of those human rights organizations in Pakistan which is continuously supporting peace and discouraging all kind of terrorism on each and every level .IHRO launched its national, international peace movement after 9/11 terrorist act and managed many national and international events on anti-terrorism and peace not only in Pakistan but also in different parts of the world. Now again IHRO has not only condemned the terrorism in Pakistan but supported all actors including Government of Pakistan against terrorism by promoting dialogues, banners campaign and national conferences.

The International Human Rights Observer has been working with Government, United Nations and other International Institutions to promote and protect the basic human rights and masses, which is declared in the Universal Charter of Human Rights of United Nations to build Global Village of lasting Peace, Social and Economics Justice and Development for the 21st Century. We are an Independent, Non-Governmental, Non-Political Human Rights Advocacy and Monitoring Organization, which is registered in Pakistan and incorporated in USA and UK. We are also associated with United Nations and many other International Institutions.

We have a network of 53,000 volunteers in Pakistan that play a vital role against human rights violation on grass root level since its creation. IHRO is mainly dealing with the Human Rights Monitoring, Human Rights Education, Sustainable Development, Research and Human Rights Awareness through national and international Conferences, Workshops and Seminars. IHRO is continuously supporting peace and discouraging terrorism in all its kinds and working for the human rights from the last one decade.



## **FIRST NATIONAL ANTI-TERRORISM CONFERENCE:**

First National Anti-terrorism conference were held at Marriot on 18th November, 2009 organized by International Human Rights Observer in Islamabad in which representatives of political parties leaders, Scholars, Experts, Intellectuals, Educationist, Govt. Representatives, diplomats, ex-service men, civil societies, national and international organizations were invited.

### **BACK GROUND:**

Terrorism is a global issue and it requires a policy which is more than condemning terrorism. In Pakistan, terrorism came to lime light after the assassination of Former Prime Minister Ms. Benazir Bhutto. The entire nation has to work in union to get rid of this evil. A movement with the involvement of people of Pakistan is a pre-requisite in fighting terrorism. The disastrous effects of terrorism on the society and humanity are well known and well documented. Terrorism is promoting violence, psychological unrest and fear. To continue the struggle of peace and human dignity IHRO has launched its First National Anti-terrorism Movement with its partners for the creation of awareness among the nation. The event had discussed the performance of the Govt. against terrorism in Malakand and other areas.

### **OBJECTIVES:**

The main objectives of National Anti-Terrorism conference is;

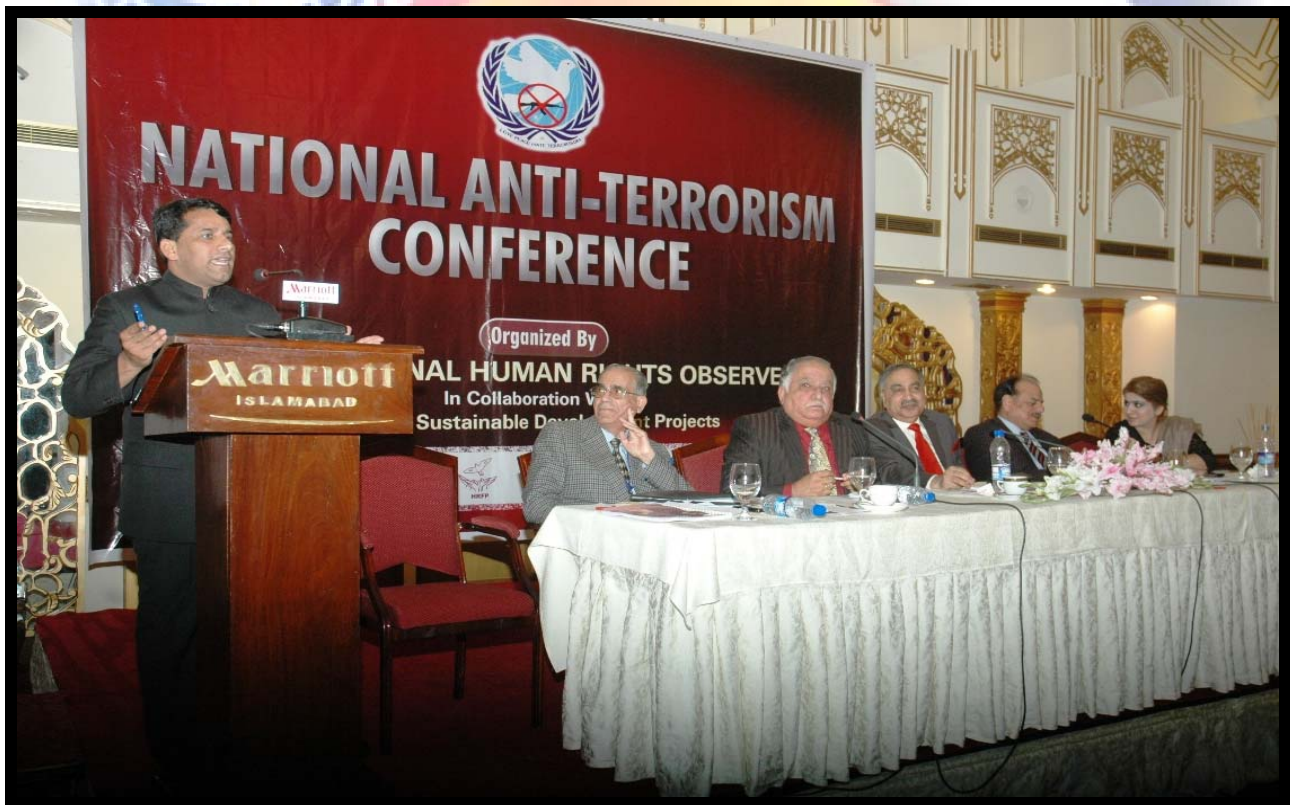
- ❖ ***To activate and motivate masses by accepting the challenges of eradicating terrorism***
- ❖ ***Layout for the National Anti-Terrorism Movement.***
- ❖ ***Developing national responsibility among the people against war on Terrorism.***
- ❖ ***Future Plan of Action.***
- ❖ ***A clear message to the world that Pakistan condemns all forms of terrorism and ready to take any step to make this world a safe place to live in.***

## **PARTICIPANTS OF THE CONFERENCE:**

Representatives from the different political, religious and civil society organizations including experts, intellectuals, diplomats, donors, educationist, media personals and high officials from different concerned departments.

## **OPENING SESSION**

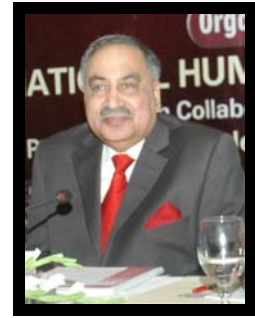
The conference was started by the recitation of Holy Quran. The event started at 11am and continued till 5.00pm. The President of IHRO Dr. Khalid Aftab Sulehri warmly welcomed all the participants of the conference. In his opening speech he briefed the main objective and agenda of the event. The conference was comprised on two sessions. The first session was before lunch break and continued till 2:30pm and the second session started immediately after lunch and continued till 5:pm. It was chaired by the Professor, Dr. Z.U. Khan who is the Chairman of the International Human Rights as well.



## Speeches and statements by the speakers

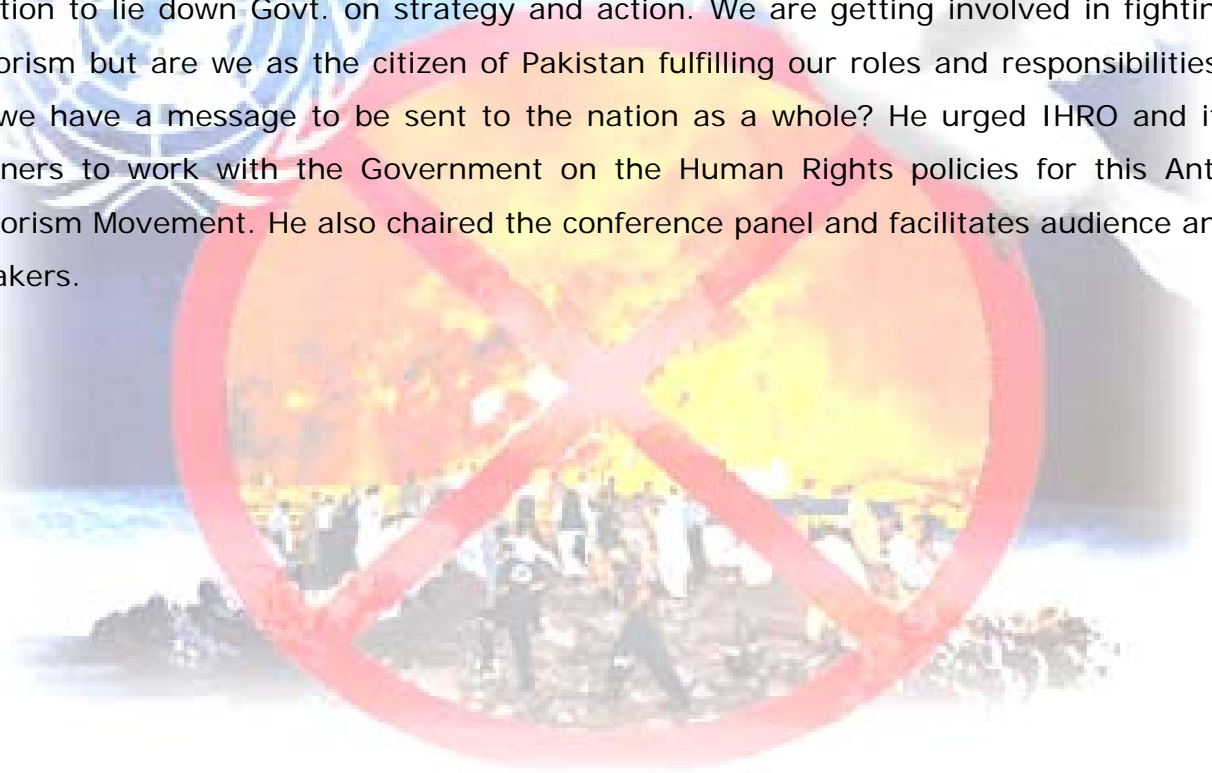
### Syed Mumtaz Alam Gillani Federal Minister of Human Rights

Syed Mumtaz Alam Gillani, Federal Minister for Human Rights was invited as the chief Guest and speaker in the Conference. He appreciated the work of International Human Rights Observer (IHRO) and congratulated IHRO for organizing first National Anti-terrorism Conference. He said Government, media, civil societies; educationist all needs to gather their effort against the war of terrorism. It's the war which is not created by Pakistan alone; in fact it is imposed on us. Government should design a proper and clear Anti-Terrorism policy and start national and international campaigns. Each and every individual should contribute his efforts for getting rid of this imposed war. He said without unity, mutual cooperation and association it would be so difficult to continue such a National Ant-Terrorism movement. We need to involve public as much as we can and provide them a plate form for this peace movement. We should promote dialogues and support campaigns and national conferences. He said being a Human we all need to think and should bring changes in our behaviors and relay our own efforts. We should deny clearly all sorts of human rights violations, especially when it is the matter of the sovereignty of our homeland, people, region and country. He further said that any single terrorist should not be spare in the region and no compromise with the terrorists will be considered as per policy of Government. He promised for facilitating all the NGO's and civil societies which are working for the Human Rights Violations and started a movement against terrorism. He concluded his speech with the message of unity, peace and harmony among the all institutions and let the world know that we are one nation. He again congratulated IHRO for organizing such an event and provided a plate form for the mutual understanding and sharing of the ideas and knowledge so that we all can move untidily and prove ourselves against this war of terrorism and get rid as soon as possible.



## **Prof. Dr. Z. U. Khan**

Dr. Z. U. Khan, Chairman IHRO –Senior Advisor to the President AJK preside the First National Anti-Terrorism Conference. He warmly welcomed all the participants. He said that we all have to come forward to perform our role for the National Anti-Terrorism Movement Internally and our organization will continue its efforts to promote the rights within policies. He further said that Human machines are exploding right, left and centre. Government of Pakistan may or may not be doing her best but are we in a position to lie down Govt. on strategy and action. We are getting involved in fighting terrorism but are we as the citizen of Pakistan fulfilling our roles and responsibilities? Do we have a message to be sent to the nation as a whole? He urged IHRO and its partners to work with the Government on the Human Rights policies for this Anti-Terrorism Movement. He also chaired the conference panel and facilitates audience and speakers.





## **Dr. Maria Sultan**

Maria Sultan, Director General of the South Asian Strategic Stability Institute (SASSI) is a specialist in South Asian nuclear arms control issues, disarmament, and weapon systems development and has published widely in academic journals and the South Asian media. While addressing to the participants of the Conference, she said that lesson should be learned from the past. What is going on inside Pakistan is because of being a friend to Superpower. The US effort to help Pakistan in the time of economic crisis and also the global economic melt-down down is laudable, but the applause should not go without acknowledging the means by which this economic aid is going to aggravate the PAK-US relations. Pakistan bore \$6 billion worth of loss only during 2008-09 in the war against terror and what Pakistan gets in return. When talking of the role of international community in countering terrorism in Pakistan, it does not give a flowery picture. The deficiencies and discrepancies in both the Pakistani strategy and lack of interest of international community have led to the current situation in Pakistan and alleviation of security in the region. Since countering terrorism requires employing all elements of national power, Pakistan can be aided and is also being in the field of economics, social and infrastructure development, military related aid, information and intelligence sharing and essentially enabling it counter terrorism itself rather than intervening in the policy making process and giving dictates. She further said about building the level of transparency action. Terrorism is the matter of war which is crushing human emotions badly. We should empower public, educate them, aware them and realized them so that they can identify their Human Rights and make efforts for protecting them. The only solution against terrorism is strong association and mutual coordination of Govt. NGO's, Media and public.



## Ex. DG ISI General Hamid Gul

Gen. Hamid Gul appreciated IHRO for dealing primarily with the Human Rights and for taking this bold step for organizing such a platform through which everyone can play his role in fighting against terrorism. He said first of all we have to understand the importance of Human Rights and then how they effected and violated due to terrorism. He said Terrorism is not the academic issue; it is a political issue and a form of political expression. He highlighted terrorism in the light of 9/11 incident. He said before 9/11 there was no terrorism in Pakistan. After 9/11 Pakistan suffered a lot and became the target for terrorism. He briefly highlighted the history of terrorism on the past decades. He said Terrorism has to be defined properly, that what kind of terrorism we are going through? According to my point of view it is almost the economic terrorism he added. We are having great loss of properties, businesses and infrastructure. We are having inequalities and injustices. He also talked about the Kashmir dispute and Afghanistan and considered them as the universal problem.

We should not take dictations; however we can have good dealings and can step forward for our countries interests. He further said I don't understand is this an action or reaction of international bodies that our nation is suffering from the terrible situation and having crucial times. He talked about the Kashmir dispute as well. According to his point of view nuclear program, Kashmir dispute all messed up badly. United States is supporting and encouraging terrorism in all over the world by using the name of peace and protection. Terrorism creates fear and locked in our memories. Before 9/11 Pakistan continued to fight against the communist expansion but never knew that communism would be replaced by the cancer of terrorism that would make the brothers to fight each other.





## **AFZAL KHAN LALA**

Senior leader, Ex. Minister of Kashmir and strong supporter of Swat operation against terrorists Afzal Khan Lala Said that today Pakistan is facing too many challenges and we have to face it as one nation. We are united and will remain united against terrorism. This is our country we have to protect it we should not trust any one else that they will come and will solve our problems.

He said that the Muslims should get the advance knowledge and education. Unity and trade should promote to counter terrorism. He also said that if Rah-e-Rast and Rah-e-Nijat operation started 2 years back then it was very easy to eliminate them from roots. Now we will sacrifice more lives to counter them. I also congratulate Federal minister Mumtaz Gillani and International Human Rights Observer by providing a platform where the whole community can get together to fight against terrorism. There should A national response strategy should mobilize to involve every individuals and collective efforts.

Swati people cooperated with Pak Army and now they are living with peace. I am sure that the people of Waziristan will also cooperate to eliminated terrorism from tribal area they are all peace like people they also want development and progress.



## **Sayed Haider Abbas Rizvi**

Sayed haider Abbas Rizvi MNA and leader of MQM talked about the history of terrorism, those how it indulges in our roots and now appear like a huge tree. So it is not very easy to cut it off completely. We need a national anti- terrorism policy which define the role of every person and specify the role of parliament. Public don't understand how to act and how to react. They don't have any proper direction. They totally lost their confidence and trust. So how we expect that public will pay their attentions against terrorism. We need to create awareness individually and collectively by our own means and sources. He discouraged firmly the sale of property and land to foreigners. He further said we should set the standard parameters and monitor things around ourselves. We are suffering from a terrible trail so we need to unite. Media, politicians, military and all civil societies should work together and involve each and every one.



## **Ex. DG ISI Gen.Asad Durrani**

Gen.Asad Durrani talked about the new forms of terrorism. He said America happens to be the target entity in the world. They are acting like a friend but in fact they are crushing our roots. They messed up our economy bitterly. We should bring change in our behaviors. In this regard some one would be eliminated and some one would be created. There are not only Taliban who are involved in terrorism; in fact numbers of groups are involved. We need to divide our enemies first. All Lashkars and groups should be separated. He insisted upon the governance, leadership, motivations and faith. We should learn the techniques for fighting the war of terrorism. Here in our society when we don't like anybody we started terrorism. We are in fact facing the war

of Policies. We should broaden our vision and motivate ourselves. Nothing can be done except the participation of all the human beings. He encouraged IHRO for initiating such an Anti-terrorism Movement and also appreciates all the NGO's, and civil societies for taking deep interest in this global issue.



## Dr. Nisar Hussain Hamdani

Dr. Nisar Hussain Hamdani serving as the Dean of Faculty of Arts in the university of Azad Jammu and Kashmir Muzaffarabad campus. He divides terrorism into two categories:

1. **Terrorism is a process**
2. **Terrorism is a project**

In the first he stated that this is the type of destruction, violence which is caused by Socio, economic, religious and psychological effects. This type of terrorism is powered by poverty, un-justice, discriminations, weak governance and unemployment.

The second type of terrorism is pre planned run by organizations or states to protect their interests on the name of human rights or developments. This type of terrorism designed by highly experienced professionals through systematic strategy. Those who are investing a huge amount on the name of peace promotion on the other hand they also funding terrorism.

There should be anti-terrorism project to encounter the terrorism projects. The international media and powerful countries are always in propaganda against Islam and Pakistan. They are exploiting the concept of jihad. Our media should come forward to encounter any propaganda against Islam and Pakistan.

A very strong and systemic reform is required for Madrasas he added.



## **Prof. Dr. Ahsan-Ur-Rehman:**

**Prof. Dr. Ahsan-Ur-Rehman** serving as a professor and chairman of English department in Islamic International University he said that Pakistan was made as a welfare state where there will be no discrimination on the bases of wealth, race and religion there will be an Islamic society of justice but today we can see the opposite picture.

The Madares was founded to counter the British colonial system. Their literature and design was according to protect the ideology of Muslims at that time. Unfortunately the Madares system was not revised and reform after the independence. We didn't put it on cater or need of our system, our administrative after the Islamic state of Pakistan.

Mass of children getting education in Madares which are mostly based on against the western system and those are still continuing even today. On the other hand there are highly professional schools having no Islamic knowledge. There is a very huge difference between our schooling and Madares systems.

At that time when Taliban was ruling on Afghanistan the people were talking about the reformed Taliban and Khumeni like revolution because they were feed up from the corrupt society.

There is a very deep connection between corruption and terrorism. A person named Javid Iqbal killed 100 children in Lahore because of the corruption of police. There are many people who are committing suicide killing their children and wife because of the injustice in our society it means the basic foundation is already available for the suicide killer. They can easily be targeted by anyone. Our government is failed to provide jobs to their citizens there are some external forces that are offering an excellent job on their own part and using them where they want. The external forces are always exploiting the weaknesses of internal system and if we are internally weak then we can't grow as one nation. America is also the target of terrorism but due to internal strength of their system they are secure.



## **Dr. Farzana Bari**

Dr. Farzana Bari, head of gender department Quaid-e-Azam University and Chief Executive of PATTAN talked about the terrorism as a global issue. She said it is not created by Pakistan alone; Terrorism is the product of internal and external factors. We inherent military as the most powerful institution but military operation are not the only way to resolve this issue. She also talked about the 9/11 as it influenced badly the whole world including Pakistan and the situations became worse after 9/11 IN Pakistan specially. It has destroyed the peace of the entire world. It generates worse effects on our economy and Human rights .We are suffering from the lack of human securities, food securities and peace. So in these poor circumstances we need to identify the basic and fundamental problems. We need to adopt the comprehensive approach. She further talked about the role of media as it creating the mind set so our Government, Media and civil society go ahead together for fighting against terrorism. We are still having selective approach. We should learn lesson from the past bitter experiences. Military should have no concern in regime or parliament. This is only the job of our politicians and democratic forces to run the country. We always think that our democratic forces are corrupt and not competent enough so our military involved in politics. In our entire world military has no concern with politics. In this crucial time we need financial assistant from all over the world for the reconstruction and rehabilitation of the victims. Pakistan being the victim of terrorism needs international economic and moral support for competing this worse situation. In spite of going in long discussions and debates we need to move towards the solutions.



## **Madam Shazia Haris**

Madam Shazia Haris Media Advisor of the Media Cell ERRA starts her speech by the point of view of basic concept of terrorism. She said terrorism is the realities which in fact have become so controversial in all over the world. When we talk about terrorism we need to know how it started and what kind of terrorism we are facing in our country. Most of the people say that this is not our war; I oppose that because each and every one is being influenced and suffered and we are still suffering. She discussed the role of media regarding terrorism and how media can play its role regarding terrorism. To come up with the solution we have to educate ourselves in terms of terminology. According to her point of media, which is the strong and powerful source of communication is playing extraordinary role in the exchange of information's. It influenced each and every one. In our daily life we are connected with each other through phone, texts, e-mails, Face book, Chatting. By these sources of communications we exchanged lots of information which influenced us as an Individual, as a nation. DVDs, Radio, CDs, Internet all comes in media and playing very important role. However we can get benefit of these resources in preventing terrorism. We can start campaigns through all the mentioned resources. Media impacts on our lives and behaviors. Small wars can win through media, as it changed the nature and direction .She further said Govt. Media and NGO's should be the partners and work together so that we can fight this war of terrorism. There has to be a strong relationship between Government, Intelligence agencies and media and the trained people who can communicate the disaster effectively. She also talked about the psychological impacts of terrorism on our lives and behaviors and we can bring change through group discussion and effective communications and will get fruitful results.



## **Dr. Najeeb Ahmad Naqi**

Dr. Najeeb Health Minister Azad jammu & Kashmir (AJK) participated on the behalf of Prime Minister AJK. He talked about the following contexts.

1. American interests in the region are promoting terrorism.
2. They are imposing their culture and we are only collecting sympathies.
3. The whole infrastructure has been destroyed completely due to war on terror.
4. Local, national and international level activities and think tanks, Political activates and political parties should mobilized more.
5. Each individual should play their role and feel their responsibility.
6. This is the main responsibility of Government to restore peace and harmony in the country and involve local community as well.



## **Dr. Naeem Ghani**

Chairman sultana Foundation expressed his views as

- 1-America has become over sufficient in resources, consequently his own liberty, economy and democracy is in danger.
- 2-Violance can be of different types and this is pro-active violence.
- 3-America has military industrial project which includes weapon industry, military, and political representative and they are making this war longer.
- 4-Unfortunatly our internal factors are supporting and encouraging international factors for terrorism.
- 5-Media can make any kind of picture, either positive or negative. In fact we having media Politics as well.
- 6-We took terrorism as the symptom instead of facts.
- 7-Infact this terrorism was the well planned project which is implemented upon us by the support of our own landlords. They all doing business and crushing our country.



## **Mr, Saleem Saythee**

Mr, Saleem saythee, Director News & Current of Power FM99 has talked the influence of terrorism on the cultural and social activities. He said from the past two decades we are much influenced by the west culture and everything is being imposed on us. Our cultural activities are going to demolished day by day. We are getting so confused that its difficult for us to follow one path because we don't have a well defined Anti-terrorism policy and who will bring such kind of strategic policy and how it would be implemented. We are living like second class citizen in our own country. He further said as far as the role of media is concerned, Media itself is not the entity; it is the combination of individuals as a whole. Media should promote the positivity with facts and figures so that publics will get awareness from its surrounding and the current situation of the country.



## **Naseer Ahmad Gillani**

Naseer Amad Gillani is a think tank adviser of International Human Rights Observer he said that in a war you have to block the supply line of the enemy, limited them and analyze what kind of weapons they are using. Our enemies are using two kinds of weapons against us, one is 15 to 19 years old children as a suicide attackers and the other is the division of the nation to convert this war into freedom war.

We have to secure this war and didn't let them to convert this war into any other side. We must have to tell them that this war is only against a group of people who are destroying you and us. There is no difference between any citizen either they are living in Islamabad or Waziristan all are equally important for Pakistan.



We must have to disintegrate US with this war because the people become enthusiastic against any one who is supporting USA.



## Zareen Qureshi

Mr. Zareen Qureshi participated on the behalf of Ameer e Jamat-e-Islami Munnawar Hussain Sayed. He started his speech by the analysis of Afghanistan, when Russia attacked it in 1979 and forty lacks Afghan refugees migrated towards Pakistan. But at that time Government of Pakistan facilitated and accommodated all the Afghan refugees peacefully and there were no terrorism at that time. But soon after 9/11 Afghanistan became the target on the name of war against terrorism by US Government and unfortunately Pakistan supported America in this regard and provided them access to Afghanistan through its boundaries. Consequently Pakistan itself targeted and became the victim. He further discussed the role of Madares in Pakistan in positive manners. He was of the view of that not all the Madares are involved in terrorism. This is the conspiracy of international community to destroy our culture and hit Islam. Muslims are peace lovers and Islam conveys the message of peace and harmony instead of fighting with each other and it hates conflicts. He also advised USA to withdraw his forces from Afghanistan now by keeping the status of Super power and honor otherwise the result will be opposite.



## **Shiekh Mansoor**

Mr. Sheikh Mansoor participated as the representative of Pakistan people's party. He shared his views briefly. While his address he talked about the struggles of Pakistan and Afghanistan for fighting against terrorism. He said, no doubt international communities like China and America playing their role for preventing terrorism from the region. Hellary Clinton also accepted that after 9/11 terrorism spreads in Afghanistan and then wrapped Pakistan gradually. He appreciated other speakers, who discussed this issue in very positive manner and give fruitful suggestions.

## **Other Speakers**

There were some other participants consists of experts, intellectuals, writers, representatives from different political parties and civil societies. They all congratulated IHRO for organizing such a huge forum for sharing of useful ideas, exchange of knowledge and suggestions regarding terrorism. Almost all participants were given the chance to speak about Terrorism, its global impact, and the solution against it. Everyone encouraged the idea of mutual coordination and cooperation of Government, Media, Civil societies, Military forces and public. They need to do collective efforts on National and international level and realize the international community that we are one nation and no one can breaks us in the fragments. We all are united for fighting this imposed terrorism war and will continue this National Ant-Terrorism Movement till the restoration of peace and harmony.

## RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE CONFERENCE

Following recommendations were recommended by the participants and speakers of the conference.

1. Comprehensive National Anti-Terrorism strategic policy must be established within Parliament and out of parliament. All stake holders should be part of it.
2. International Guiding laws and Principles for Terrorism must be considered in all phases of relief, rehabilitation and resettlement for victims.
3. Govt., Military, media and civil society members needs to work together against terrorism.
4. Pakistan being the victim of terrorism needs international economic and moral support for competing this worse situation.
5. A very strong and systematic reform is required for Madares to eliminate terrorism.
6. The tribal community should also be given equal opportunity to play their role for the elimination of terrorism in the country.
7. Media should play a vital role to promote their positive approach with facts and figures.
8. Local, regional and national awareness programs, seminars and conferences should be organized on terrorism and counter-terrorism issues for general public awareness.
9. The conference has also passed a resolution to appreciate and recognize the services of government of Pakistan and Pakistan military for combating terrorism through the operation of RAH-RAST and RAH-NIJAT and suggested to continue such operations until the elimination of terrorism form its roots.
10. Conference also suggest the upcoming agenda to promote the national anti-terrorism movement in the country to promote human rights and to discourage terrorism and all its kinds



WE ARE UNITED AGAINST TERRORISM

WE ARE UNITED FOR PEACE

## International Representatives:



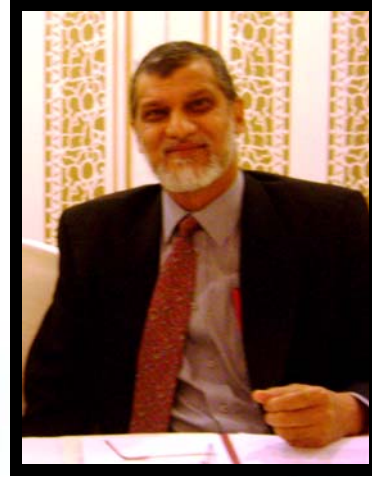
**ZHAO QIANG**

(Representative of the Republic of China embassy)



**VEJSIL GODINJAK**

(Counselor Embassy of Bosnia and Herzegovina)



**CASSIM PEER**

( Deputy High Commissioner South Africa)



**TARAS KAIUK**

( 1<sup>st</sup> Secretary Embassy of Ukraine)



**MONDE CROSBY BATYI**

( Security Advisor) South African High Commission



**Rahim Ullah Qatra**

( First secretary Embassy of Afghanistan)

**Majid Karimi**

(Representative of Iran Embassy)

**Abid-ul-Ghaffor**

(Representative of UAE Embassy)

## Project Team of National Anti-Terrorism Movement:

1. Dr. Khalid Aftab Sulehri ( Chief Executive)
2. Mr. Naeem-Ud-Din ( Project Coordinator)
3. Mr. Mujtaba Abbasi (International Coordinator)
4. Mrs. Abreen Haider (Event Coordinator)
5. Ms. Amber Mehmood Pandat (Media Coordinator)
6. Ms. Shahida Noureen (Program Coordinator)
7. Mr. Babar Sulehri (Management Coordinator)
8. Mr. Mohsin ur Rehman Khosa (Office F. Coordinator)
9. Mr. Kashif Fiaz (Executive Member)
10. Ms. Palwasha Khan (Support Coordinator)
11. Mr. Bilal (Event Volunteer NUML)
12. Ms. Sehar( Event Volunteer NUML)
13. Mr. Usman(Event Volunteer NUML)

