

# REPORT

## **5<sup>th</sup> ANNUAL NATIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS CONFERENCE & AWARD CEREMONY 2005 ON THE INTERNATIONAL DAY OF HUMAN RIGHTS**

*Organized by*



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CEREMOMNY 2005



## **International Human Rights Day**

### **Objective Statement:**

The theme of Human Rights Day 2005 is "End Torture Now!". Torture is a crime under international law. According to all relevant instruments, it is absolutely prohibited and cannot be justified under any circumstances. This prohibition forms part of customary international law, which means that it is binding on every member of the international community, regardless of whether a State has ratified international treaties in which torture is expressly prohibited. The systematic or widespread practice of torture constitutes a crime against humanity.

### **Background:**

On 10 December 1948, the United Nations General Assembly adopted the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, which has become a universal standard for defending and promoting human rights. Every year on 10 December, Human Rights Day marks the adoption of the Universal Declaration. On Human Rights Day it is celebrated around the globe that "All human beings are born with equal and inalienable rights and fundamental freedoms".

This year the International Human Rights Day called on all Governments to reaffirm their commitment to the absolute prohibition of torture by condemning torture and cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment and prohibiting it in national law; abiding by the principle of non-refoulement; refraining from returning persons to countries where they may face torture; ensuring access to prisoners, and abolishing secret detention.

**MESSAGES OF DIFFERENT PERSONALITIES**

**ON**

**INTERNATIONAL DAY OF HUMAN RIGHTS 2005**



## **MESSAGE FOR THE INTERNATIONAL DAY OF HUMAN RIGHTS 2005**

Fifty-seven years after the Universal Declaration of Human Rights prohibited all forms of torture and cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment, torture remains unacceptably common. Recent times have witnessed an especially disturbing trend of countries claiming exceptions to the prohibition on torture based on their own national security perceptions.

Let us be clear: torture can never be an instrument to fight terror, for torture is an instrument of terror. The prohibition on torture is well established under international law. It is also unambiguous and absolute. It is binding on all States in all territories under their jurisdiction or effective control. It applies in all circumstances, in times of war as in times of peace. Nor is torture permissible when it is called something else: cruel and inhuman treatment is unacceptable and illegal; irrespective of the name we give it.

States must honour this prohibition and vigorously combat the impunity of perpetrators of torture. Those who conceive of or authorize any form of torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment, and those who commit such acts, should not go unpunished. Nor may any State condone torture by a third party. This means that individuals must never be rendered to another State if there is any danger that doing so may subject them to torture.

The international community must speak forcefully, and with one voice, against torture in all its forms. Today, I call on all States who have not done so to ratify the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment, as well as the Optional Protocol to the Torture Convention. And I urge all States to allow the United Nations' Special Rapporteur on Torture independent access to detainees within their control. Unimpeded access is an essential protection for these individuals, whose isolation makes them especially vulnerable to abuse. Together, we must give voice, and redress, to abused detainees as well as to all victims and survivors of torture.

Humanity faces grave challenges today. The threat of terror is real and immediate. Yet fear of terrorists can never justify adopting their methods. Nor can we be complacent about the broader prevalence of cruel and inhuman punishment, which in so many of our societies disproportionately affects the most vulnerable people: the imprisoned, the politically powerless and the economically deprived. Instead, we must respond to this evil wherever we find it by reaffirming humanity's most basic values.

Today, on Human Rights Day, let us recommit ourselves to the principles of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, and let us rededicate ourselves to wiping the scourge of torture from the face of the earth.



**Message of United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights  
Louise Arbour on the occasion of International Human Rights Day,  
10<sup>th</sup> December 2005**

"Pursuing security objectives at all costs may create a world in which we are neither safe nor free", said Louise Arbour, speaking at United Nations headquarters in New York in the run-up to Human Rights Day, commemorated on 10 December. "This will certainly be the case if the only choice is between the terrorists and the torturers". "Governments are watering down the definition of torture, claiming that terrorism means established rules do not apply anymore", Mrs. Arbour continued.

Mrs. Arbour said the right and duty of Governments to protect their citizens from attacks was not in dispute. Governments may even impose limitations on certain rights at times of imminent or clear dangers. But, she added, the right to be free from torture and cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment may not be subject to any limitation, anywhere, under any condition.

The High Commissioner singled out two practices as having a particularly corrosive effect on the global ban on torture and cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment: the recourse to so-called "diplomatic assurances", and the holding of prisoners in secret detention. "The former may make countries complicit with torture carried out by others, while the latter creates the conditions for torture by one's own", she said.

The international legal ban on torture prohibits transferring persons -- no matter what their crime or suspected activity -- to a place where they would be at risk of torture and other ill-treatment. "If there is no risk of torture in a particular case, such assurances are unnecessary and redundant", Mrs. Arbour said. If there is a risk, the High Commissioner questioned how effective such assurances were likely to be. Mrs. Arbour suggested that instead of seeking to obtain meaningless assurances for the wellbeing of a handful of detainees, efforts should be directed at eliminating the risk of torture faced by many, including by creating a genuine system for monitoring all detainees in all places of detention.

Regarding secret detention the High Commissioner said the phenomenon appeared to have gained renewed currency in the "war on terror". Holding people in secret detention amounts to "disappearance", which itself amounts to torture or ill-treatment. Prolonged incommunicado detention or detention in secret places facilitates the perpetration of torture. "Whatever the value of the information obtained in secret facilities -- and there is reason to doubt the reliability of intelligence gained through prolonged incommunicado or secret detention -- some standards on the treatment of prisoners cannot be set aside", she said.

The High Commissioner said she believed firmly in the role of law to guide society through difficult challenges. "The law provides the proper balancing between the legitimate security interests of the State with the individual's own legitimate interests in liberty and personal security. It must do so rationally and dispassionately, even in the face of terror".

The High Commissioner called on all Governments to reaffirm their commitment to the absolute prohibition of torture by condemning torture and cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment and prohibiting it in national law; abiding by the principle of non-refoulement; refraining from returning persons to countries where they may face torture; ensuring access to prisoners, and abolishing secret detention.



## **International Human Rights Day, 10 December 2005**

### **Message by Commonwealth Secretary-General Don McKinnon**

Torture is a violation of human rights, a violation of international law, and a violation of everything for which the Commonwealth stands.

This year's International Human Rights Day appropriately pays special attention to torture, our need collectively to keep opposing it wherever it rears its ugly head, and to champion the cause of protecting and aiding those who fall victim to torture.

The Commonwealth's 53 member states have a common commitment to human rights, including our fundamental opposition to torture, enshrined in our founding 1971 *Singapore Declaration* and 1991 *Harare Declaration*. Only two weeks ago, our association's Heads of Government met in Malta in November where they reaffirmed our

unequivocal commitment to human rights and also welcomed the establishment of a new Human Rights Council in the United Nations.

We must remember and champion the rights of any person facing persecution, torture and other human rights abuses. We must acknowledge, too, that inexcusable human rights abuses continue to occur and we must use every resource available to bring such practices to an end.

Nearly five years ago, the Commonwealth made a commitment of resources by establishing a stand-alone Human Rights Unit in the Commonwealth Secretariat to protect and promote human rights. The Unit was set up to focus on four pillars of activity: to strengthen the legal framework of human rights at the national level; to set up and strengthen national and international human rights institutions; to mainstream human rights into all aspects of the Secretariat's work; and finally, to drive home a strong political message about the need to subscribe to fundamental human rights as an indivisible single package – one cannot pick and chose some human rights and not others.

We need to get the message through to every single individual in every single Commonwealth member country that to violate human rights is to violate the core values of the Commonwealth. Human rights are a way of life, not a privilege. The *Commonwealth Human Rights Training Manual for Police Trainers in Commonwealth West Africa* is a fresh contribution to achieving this aim. Recently produced with local police services, the manual provides support to police trainers in West Africa to raise the levels of understanding by police officers of the international legal context in which their work takes place. Encouragingly, there is already interest being shown in the Pacific and elsewhere by other Commonwealth police forces to use the manual too.

Most Commonwealth police officers see themselves quite justifiably as servants of the public, as protectors rather than violators of human rights. However, any institution that has a duty to protect the public undoubtedly has power. And with that power comes the responsibility to observe and uphold legal limits beyond which official action would be unlawful, and to be seen to do so. Publications such as the new manual allow everyone to be clear about the boundaries.

To attain any of our goals in the area of fundamental human rights, the bar of minimum standards – of what is deemed to be acceptable – must steadily be raised. The prohibition on State torture has crystallised into international law because of consistent denouncement of it by States the world over.

The *International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights* entered into force 30 years ago next year, along with the *International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights*. Most Commonwealth countries have ratified these cornerstones of international human rights law, but there are some that have not. All members should give 21<sup>st</sup> Century expression to our shared principles by ratifying them. It is possible to see a day where



ratifying those two international conventions becomes a human rights yardstick for becoming a full Commonwealth member.

If we are truly determined to confine torture and other human rights abuses to our past, then we must be prepared to look our demons in the eye and cast them out.



**Mian Mohammad Nawaz Sharif**  
**Quaid PML-N**  
**Message From**  
**5th National Conference on Human Rights**

Respect for Human Rights has been universally recognized by all civilized by all civilized Cultures, Societies, communities and religions. Is one of the central pillars of Islam, and underpins the highest moral and spiritual values of our faith, It is through genuine respect of the plurality of beliefs, religions, traditions, value systems and modes of thinking that the international community could inculcate and foster the realization of the essence of the Universal Declaration on Human Rights.

Pakistan Muslim League (N) has always upheld the principles enshrined in the Universal declaration of Human Rights both nationally and in international forums. Indeed the party's government in 1998 had set up Human Rights Advisory Councils in each district headed by district session judge with prominent social workers, lawyers and journalists as members. The councils were meant to check all types of human rights violation in the country and provide all possible assistance to the citizens without any prejudice or affiliation.

Unfortunately, these bodies ceased to function after the democratically elected government was forcibly replaced in 1999 with military rule, which act in itself was, and continues to be, a grave violation of the people's fundamental right to be governed through their freely elected representatives.

I fully endorse the conference's agenda on establishment of a Human Rights Commission in Pakistan. I suggest that the proposed commission should be an independent body striving impartially for ensuring fundamental political and religious rights and freedom, rule of law, democracy, and rights of the disadvantaged, and social and economic rights

of the people. The most effective measure in that direction would be restoration of the country's consensus constitution.

I wish all success to the conference, and hope that its deliberations would help step up the current national and international efforts to provide for relief and rehabilitation of the earthquake victims in Azad Kashmir and the North West Frontier province.



**Mohtarma Benazir Bhutto's Message**  
to the  
**5th Annual National Conference on Human Rights**  
**International Human Rights Observer**  
**Islamabad**

I am pleased to learn that the International Human Rights Observer that (IHRO) has organized its 5th National Annual Human Rights Conference on the International Human Rights Day on December 10, 2005 on a well defined agenda that also includes such important issues as the setting up of the Human Rights Commission in Pakistan and the human rights dimensions of the relief and reconstruction of the recent earthquake victims. It is indeed thoughtful of the organizers to have selected such subjects for deliberations this year. I wish to compliment the organizers on organizing this important conference and pray for their success.

Never before the need for focusing on human rights situation in Pakistan was so great as it is today. When the IHRO held its annual conference last year on this day it was hoped that the military ruler of Pakistan who had sneaked into Presidency via unconstitutional means would shed his military uniform on the last day of the year as promised thereby paving way for the restoration of basic human rights of disenfranchised, dispossessed and dis-empowered people of Pakistan. Alas that hope did not materialize and the country continues to groan under military rule and basic human rights of the people continue to suffer erosion.

In any country, in any age and in any civilization the true guarantors of human rights are a sovereign Parliament, independent judiciary, free media and non-partisan accountability. These pillars of human rights unfortunately rest on sandy foundations in Pakistan as political power continues to rest in the hands of an un-elected General who is accountable neither to state institutions nor to the people.

Unfortunately the Parliament is not sovereign. Those belonging to the state's security institutions have refused to appear before it with impunity. The judiciary's independence continues to be violated and accountability is used as a tool for the political re-engineering of the country. It is a mockery when political opponents are made to face courts that cannot function freely.

A great challenge of our time therefore is how to restore human rights of the people. I hope that the Conference will address this issue in earnest. As we celebrate today the 57th Anniversary of the Declaration of Human Rights I recall the pledge made in it and the hope and pray that some day, not far from today, that pledge will be redeemed.

I wish the Conference, the organizers and participants success in their deliberations.



**Message from  
Honorable General Pervez Musharraf  
President of the Islamic republic of Pakistan**

International human rights day is an event when statesmen and world citizens alike reiterate their firm commitment to the implementation of the universal declaration of human rights. On this occasion, we must, individually and collectively rededicate ourselves to the promotion and protection of human rights. Today, we solemnly pledge to broaden the horizons of human consciousness by making renewed efforts to promote a culture of respect for human rights, tolerance, diversity and pluralism.

Our faith Islam teaches deep respect for rights of all human beings, enjoins the eternal values of equal rights, social justice and peace, and banishes discrimination on the basis of class, color or breed. Respect for human rights is nurtured in our neighborhoods, villages, townships and citizens. It is essential that we create a salutary environment for human rights through social and economic empowerment of all segments of our societies, especially those vulnerable and marginalized.

Our national and global priorities include poverty alleviation and education for all. I believe that achievement of these goals is a shared responsibility of all communities and nations. So it is important that we should work toward the realization of civil and political rights as well as economic, social and cultural rights. In Pakistan, we have made human rights an essential part of national discourse and enhanced our dialogue of this subject when the international community and human rights machinery.

It is equally important to create a peaceful and secure world; we must encourage dialogue between civilizations and thus avert a clash among the followers of various religions. In this regard, I have propounded the concept of enlightened moderation, which has been endorsed and espoused by the organization of the Islamic conference, and commended by world leaders and institutions.

The government has also decided to set up an independent national commission for Human rights which is a step forward for promotion and protection of human rights.

## **5<sup>th</sup> Annual National Human Rights Conference 2005**

International Human Rights Observer (IHRO) is working together with United Nation, government, non-governmental and other international organizations to promote and protect the basic Human Rights to build a global village of lasting peace, social and economic justice and sustainable development for the 21<sup>st</sup> century. Every year IHRO celebrates the universal day of the Human Rights every year as a committed organization for raising the awareness and consciousness on human rights in Pakistan.

### **Theme of the Conference:**

This year United Nation has marked the 57<sup>th</sup> International Human Rights Day on the theme of “**End Torture Now**” Torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment is one of the world's most profound human rights abuses today, according to the United Nations Office of the High Commissioner.

This Human Rights Day encourages us to become more aware of where, how and why torture takes place, to learn about those who are tortured, and to support actions and policies that will serve to eliminate torture as a form of punishment or control.

### **Agenda of Conference:**

Two different sessions of the 5<sup>th</sup> Annual National Conference Human Rights Conference covered the following agenda:

- Establishment of Human Rights Commission in Pakistan (challenges & opportunities)
- Millennium Development Goals in Pakistan
- Humanitarian and relief efforts for the victims of earthquake in Pakistan
- Human Rights Education
- Women and Minority Rights

The conference was held at Marriott Hotel Islamabad on 10<sup>th</sup> December, 2005 and a great number of ministers, diplomats, NGO's, private individual, civil society, members of IHRO and electronic and print media.

### **First Session of the Conference:**

The first session of the conference was focused on following points:

- Messages of Secretary General of United Nations
- Message of United Nation High Commissioner for Human Rights
- Message of Commonwealth Secretary-General Don McKinnon
- Establishment of Human Rights Commission in Pakistan (challenges & opportunities)
- Millennium Development Goals in Pakistan

### **Panel of Speakers:**

- Mr. Peter Wilson, Political Counsellor, British High Commission
- Mr. Sadettin Topukcu, Representative, Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus
- Ch. Shahbaz Hussain, Federal Minister for Population & Social Welfare ( Chief Guest of the Session)
- M. P. Bandara, Member of National Assembly of Pakistan
- Ms. Saira Karim, Additional Secretary, Ministry of Law, Justice and Human Rights
- Dr. Z. U. Khan, Chairman , International Human Rights Observer ( IHRO)
- Dr. Khalid Aftab Sulehri, President , International Human Rights Observer ( IHRO)
- Mr. Shafiq Mohammad Chaudhry, Parliamentarian Commission for Human Rights

**Dr. Z. U. Khan, Chairman, International Human Rights Observer (IHRO):**



Addressing the opening session, Dr. Z. U. Khan extended his warm welcome to distinguish guests for their participation in conference. He briefed the participants about the agenda of conference and its program. He said that human rights are universal and Pakistan has rectified the Universal Declaration of Human Rights but still we are not able to apply it in common. He said that human rights are the foundation of peace and stability in country. The protection and promotion of human rights is huge task and government and NGO's should work together for it.

He said that every individual needs to work for his human rights and individuals should convince their government to work for the promotion of human rights.

**Mr. Peter Wilson, Political Counsellor, British High Commission**



Addressing the conference, Mr. Peter Wilson said that United Kingdom shares the sufferings and pains of Pakistani people in dilemma of earthquake. He appreciated the remarkable role of private individuals and NGO's in relief services in NFWP and Kashmir. He said with the collaboration and support of these NGO's they have been able to rescue the victims.

He congratulated International Human Rights Observer (IHRO) for holding this conference on human rights day. He said that human rights are universal and controversial in every society .he said that human rights are the open debate for every society. He mentioned the example of United Kingdom in this respect.

He further mentioned that establishment of National Commission of Human Rights is appreciated by international community and it will improve the image of Pakistan globally. He said that transparency, independency and funding will boost the performance of this commission. He said that rape, honor killings and minority rights are the biggest human rights abuses and they should be stopped now.

With the reference of Millennium Development Goals he said these MDG's play important role in promotion of human rights. He said that women 'role is very critical in MDG's and there is need to raise their participation in labor force. He said that women literacy rate is very low and it should be promoted in future.

**Ms. Saira Karim, Additional Secretary, Ministry of Law, Justice and Human Rights:**



Addressing the conference Ms. Saira Karim said that National Commission of Human Rights is an independent body. Since the establishment of this commission it's open to every forum, sector and groups and parties to discuss it and this attribute shows the independency of it. She further said that Human Rights are very broad concept and its protection is not only responsibility of the government but it's the responsibility of every individual and sector. She further said that human right is feeling and it calls upon every individual to identify it and they should strive for it.



**M. P. Bandara, Member of National Assembly of Pakistan:**

Addressing the conference M.P. Bhandra said that there is need to raise the awareness on human rights at grass root level. The conference will be succeed if we take the concept of human rights to communities from this hotel.

The bill of National Commission of Human Rights has been forward to Senate for the approval. He further said that the establishment of independent National Commission of Human Rights will improve the situation of human rights in country.

**Mr. Sadettin Topukcu, Representative, Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus:**

Addressing the occasion he acknowledged the efforts of International Human Rights Observer for organizing this conference. He said that his country is with Pakistani people in the tragedy of earthquake. Cyprus is increasing its efforts to help the victims by providing food, shelter and medicine.

With the reference of Human Rights Day he said that human rights should be respected beyond the geographical cultural, ethnic, and political differences.

**Mr. Shafiq Mohammad Chaudhry, Parliamentarian Commission for Human Rights:**

Mr. Shafiq discussed the background of the National Commission of Human Rights. He said that after the discussion in parliament the bill of this commission was presented to President Mushraff in May 2004. In one convention in May 2004 president of Pakistan approved it and then it was forward to the cabinet for the approval.

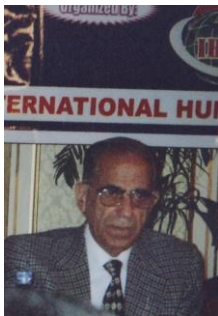


But due to the time lag it cabinet approved it in Feb, 2005 and it was approved in May 2005. These days its on Senate's agenda. He said that establishing process of National Commission of Human Rights should be completed timely.

He suggested that the definition of Human Rights is needed to be broader and it should not be limited. Further he said that most of the Asian countries have rectified the convention against torture unlikely Pakistan so it's high time that Pak government should also rectify this convention. He criticized the clauses of Age of chairperson of National Commission of Human Rights. He said that assumption of fifty years age of chairperson is discriminatory compare to the criteria of Member of National Assembly.

He also stressed upon role of civil society in National Commission of Human Rights. He said that role of civil society must be included in this commission to increase its effectiveness and working.

**Dr. Naeem Ghani, Chairman, Sultana Foundation:**



Dr. Naeem Ghani said there is need to broader the concept of human rights. It should address the people who are poor at grass root level. He said that in Islamabad there are no footpaths for 80 % of poor pedestals, students and etc. he said that if these poor people are not getting their right of living free healthy life in clean surroundings its form of violation of human rights.

He said that today's world has made biological, chemical, atomic weapons but there is need to recognize the importance of economic weapon too. He said that hunger is the biggest violation of Human Rights.

**Ch. Shahbaz Hussain, Federal Minister for Population & Social Welfare (Chief Guest of the Session):**

Addressing the conference the Chief Guest of the first session Chudhary Shahbaz Hussain, Minister for Population and Social Welfare said that in Pakistan minorities are enjoying the freedom and full human rights. He said that every individual needs to play the role of International Human Rights Observer for the protection of Human Rights.

He acknowledged the contributions of International Human rights Observer (IHRO) in the field of Human Rights. He further said that violations of human rights are common in every society it's not only problem of Pakistan but some negative forces are painting false picture. He said that present government is promoting its efforts to discourage all the violations of human rights and forms of torture.

### **Second Session of the Conference:**

The second session of the session focused on the following points:

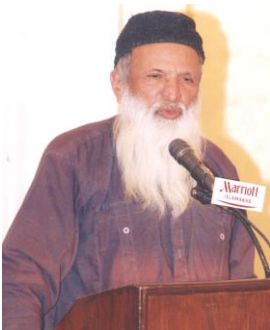
- Humanitarian and relief efforts for the victims of earthquake in Pakistan
- Human Rights Education
- Women and Minority Rights
- Documentary of Earthquake effected areas
- Messages of PML (N), PPPP and Edhi Foundation

### **Panel of Speakers:**

- Mr. Abdul Sattar Edhi, Founder President, Edhi Foundation
- Ms. Farzana Raja, Member of Punjab Assembly
- Mr. Rais Jahangir, President of National Council of Social Welfare
- Mr. Habib Malik, Country Manager Scotland, Islamic Relief
- Sardar Mohammad Anwar Khan, President Azad Jammu Kashmir
- Ms. Nilofar Bakhtiar, Advisor to the Prime Minister for the welfare & Development of Women
- Mr. Iqbal Jaghera, PML (N)

The session was started with the documentary of NWFP after the tragedy of Earthquake and followed by different speeches by speakers.

### **Mr. Abdul Sattar Edhi, Founder President, Edhi Foundation:**



Addressing the third session of the conference Abdul Sattar Edhi said that he is working for the services of people of Pakistan for last eighty years. From his working experience he has learnt that for the development of people we only need three attributes in our society first, true application of Islamic teachings in society, honesty, simplicity and humanity.

He said that current time our nation is facing the biggest challenge i.e. rehabilitation of victims of earthquake. To overcome this challenge we all need to be united and put forth our best efforts and energies. He further stressed upon people to show high commitment and dedication towards these victims. He said that with the cooperation of Pakistani people Edhi Foundation has always collected high charity and he can still collect above 5- million rupees from Lahore. He acknowledged people of Pakistan for helping and assisting victims by financial and non-financial resources.

He showed his firm determination that Edhi organization has announced to establish fifty thousands homes in effected areas of Kashmir and NWFP. He further said that his organization would contribute in establishment of hospitals in these effected areas.

**Mr. Iqbal Jaghra, PML (N):**



Mr. Iqbal read the exclusive message of leader of PML (N), Mr. Mian Nawaz Shariff on this occasion. He said that National Commission of Human Rights should be independent body. It should not be influenced by any group in country. He said that the condition of human rights is worse now in present regime of President Musharaf. He said that government is not respecting the decisions of Supreme Court particular in case of Mr. Shahbaz Shraif who was not allowed to visit his homeland despite the clear order of Supreme Court. He said that Mian Nawaz Shariff and Ms. Benazair Bhutto both parties' leaders have been forcibly put into exile which is also the human right abuse.

**Mr. Habib Malik, Country Director Islami Relief Scotland:**



Addressing this conference Mr. Habib Malik said that west has always exploited the concept of Human Rights in third world countries despite that fact that these developed countries are the bad example of violation of human rights. He said he has learnt from his travel experiences that Sudan is the worst example of violation of human rights. The oil companies like Shell are giving very low wages to the poor employers i.e. 10 pence daily despite of their hard working in above 50 centigrade temperature.

He said the same violation of human rights is also being observed in United Kingdom and United States. Further he appreciated the organizers for organizing this event.

**Sardar Mohammad Anwar Khan, President Azad Jammu and Kashmir:**



Sardar Mohammad Anwar said that Human Rights Day require from every individual to show commitment and dedication towards protection of their human rights. Unfortunately the concept of Human Rights has been exploited globally both at government and individual level to achieve specific agenda. But this current time demand from us to work collectively for the rehabilitation of Kashmiri people who have lost their all belongings in this tragedy. He said he salute the efforts of Pakistani people who have helped Kashmir people generously in their difficult time. He acknowledged the services of Ngos' which are taking part in relief services.

**Ms. Nilofar Baktihar Advisor to the Prime Minister for Women Welfare & Development:**



Addressing the occasion, Ms. Nilofar Baktihar said that her government is trying to promote the Human Rights in Pakistan at every level. Especially this year the largest number of women legislators, ministers and in other fields clearly shows the efforts of Present Government. She further said that her ministry has brought significant changes in Hadood ordinance for the protection of women rights. Soon the bill of Domestic Violence will be presented in assembly for discussion. She further said that for this purpose she needs the cooperation of women to make it successful. On the Human Rights day she said that this day requires government, civil society, media and all political parties to work jointly for the protection of human rights. She acknowledged the role of Ngo's in rehabilitation of victims of earthquake in effected areas.

**Award Distribution Ceremony:**

International Human Rights Observer has tradition to acknowledge the services of renowned individuals, ministries and NGO's for their remarkable contribution in the fields of Human Rights.

**Mr. Abdul Sattar Edhi**, Founder President of Edhi Foundation was awarded "National Social Services Award" by Mr. Rais Jahangir, President of National Council of Social Welfare and Ms. Nilofar Baktihar Advisor to the Prime Minister for Women Welfare & Development.



**Ms. Nilofar Baktihar**, Advisor to the Prime Minister for Women Welfare & Development was awarded with “National Women Rights Award” by Mr. Abdul Sattar Edhi.



**Mr. Habib Malik, Country Manger Scotland, Islamic Relief:**

Mr. Habib Malik Country Manager of Islamic Relief (Scotland) was awarded with” National Relief Services” for their remarkable contribution for the victims of earthquake in NWFP and Kashmir.



**Ms. Nahal, Country Director, Khubaid Foundation:**

Khubaid Foundation was awarded with “National Relief Services” for their valuable contribution in relief services for the victims.



**Ms. Zubaida Jalal, Minister for Special Education**

Ms. Zubaida Jalal, Minister for Special Education was awarded with the “National Education Contribution”. On behalf of her senior representative from her ministry received the award by Mr. Abdul Sattar Edhi.





**Volunteer Services Award :**





