

REPORT
6th ANNUAL NATIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS
CONFERENCE
ON
THE INTERNATIONAL DAY OF HUMAN RIGHTS



International Human Rights Observer (IHRO)

House. No. 921, St No. 80, I-8/3, Islamabad

Phone: 051-4430150 Fax No: 051-4435861

E-mail: info@ihro.org.pk

Web site: www.ihro.org.pk

CONTENTS:

- 1- STATEMENT
- 2- MESSAGES BY THE DIGNITERIES FOR HUMAN RIGHTS DAY 2006
- 3- 6th ANNUAL NATIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS CONFERENCE
- 4- ANNEXURES



Objective Statement:

The theme of Human Rights Day 2006 is "Fighting Poverty". **Poverty is a cause and a product of human rights violations.** It is this double edge that makes poverty probably the gravest human rights challenge in the world. The links between human rights and poverty should be obvious: People whose rights are denied -- victims of discrimination or persecution, for example -- are more likely to be poor. Generally they find it harder or impossible to participate in the labor market and have little or no access to basic services and resources.

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 ourselves to the principles of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, and let us rededicate ourselves to wiping the scourge of poverty from the face of the earth.

The poor in many societies cannot enjoy their rights to education, health and housing simply because they cannot afford them. And poverty affects all human rights: for example, low income can prevent people from accessing education -- an "economic and social" right -- which in turn inhibits their participation in public life -- a "civil and political" right -- and their ability to influence policies affecting them.

Yet, poverty is still rarely seen thought the lens of human rights. Rather it is often perceived as tragic but inevitable, and even as the responsibility of those who suffer it.

At best those living in poverty -- countries and individuals -- are portrayed as unfortunate, at worst as lazy and undeserving.

The reality is different. Many ingredients go into making poverty, but factors like discrimination, unequal access to resources, and social and cultural stigmatization have always characterized it. These “factors” have another name: the denial of human rights and human dignity. What's more, these are factors governments and those in a position of authority can, indeed are obliged to, do something about. They have committed to it by overwhelmingly accepting a number of human rights treaties and by signing on to the international consensus to make poverty history, through the Millennium Declaration and the Millennium Development Goals, as well as most recently the 2005 World Summit Outcome. The realization of human rights – including the fight against poverty -- is a duty, not a mere aspiration.

MESSAGES OF DIFFERENT PERSONALITIES

ON

INTERNATIONAL DAY OF HUMAN RIGHTS 2006

MESSAGE FOR THE INTERNATIONAL DAY OF HUMAN RIGHTS 2006

The campaign to make poverty history poses a central moral challenge of our time. Enforcing universal human rights can blaze a path towards that goal.

Basic human rights – the right to a decent standard of living, to food and essential healthcare, to opportunities for education or decent work, or to freedom from discrimination – are precisely what the world’s poorest need most. Yet, by virtue of their enfeebled status, they are the ones least able to achieve or defend such “universal” rights. As a result, human rights are jeopardized wherever and whenever a man, woman or child subsists in extreme poverty.

If we are to be serious about human rights, we must demonstrate that we are serious about deprivation. As suggested by this year’s International Human Rights Day observance, we must answer the call to fight poverty as “*a matter of obligation, not charity*”.

Each of us should understand that the Rights set out in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights are of little value to the millions of people in this world who are haunted by disease and starvation, so long as they have no effective remedies. We must all recognize that wherever entire families eke out an existence on less than a dollar a day, or children die for lack of basic yet lifesaving care, the Declaration has, at best, a hollow ring.

Viewing poverty through a human rights lens heightens our moral imperative to act. But it brings other benefits as well. Since human rights norms emphasize individual empowerment, a rights-based approach can help empower and enable the poor. It can help citizens at all levels to win the knowledge and status they need to play a real part in decisions that affect their lives. It can focus attention on sound and sustainable processes that offer hope for long-term progress. And it can encourage us to measure our success not only by income levels, but by the freedom people have to lead fulfilling and enjoyable lives.

Today, development, security and human rights go hand in hand; no one of them can advance very far without the other two. Indeed, anyone who speaks forcefully for human rights but does nothing about human security and human development – or vice versa – undermines both his credibility and his cause. So let us speak with one voice on all three issues, and let us work to ensure that freedom from want, freedom from fear **and** freedom to live in dignity carry real meaning for those most in need.

**Message of United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights
Louise Arbour on the occasion of International Human Rights Day,
10th December 2006**

The awareness of the stranglehold of poverty on billions of men, women and children around the world, and of how this state of deprivation and misery compromises our common future, has never been higher. Yet, despite an increasingly sophisticated understanding of the complex makeup of poverty, ranging from exclusion and discrimination to a skewed international trade system, approaches to poverty reduction are still often tinged with appeals to charity or altruism.

On this Human Rights Day, we reaffirm that freedom from want is a right, not merely a matter of compassion. Fighting poverty is a duty that binds those who govern as surely as their obligation to ensure that all people are able to speak freely, choose their leaders and worship as their conscience guides them.

All countries, independent of national wealth, can take immediate measures to fight poverty based on human rights. Ending discrimination, for example, will in many cases remove barriers to decent work and give women and minorities access to essential services. Better distribution of collective resources and good governance, exemplified by tackling corruption and ensuring the rule of law, are within the reach of every state.

But as much as States bear the primary responsibility for their own development, the international community must also meet the commitments it has made to support the efforts of developing countries. Many rich countries have yet to meet development assistance targets they have accepted, yet they continue to spend ten times more on military budgets. They also spend nearly four times their development assistance budget – an amount almost equal to the total gross national product of African countries – to subsidize their own domestic agricultural producers. Indifference and a narrow calculus of national interests by wealthy countries hamper human rights and development just as damagingly as discrimination at the local level.

At the 2006 World Summit, global leaders recognized that development, peace and security and human rights are mutually reinforcing. In a world where one in every seven people continues to live in chronic hunger, and where inequalities between and within countries are growing, our ability to reach the goals the Summit reaffirmed in order to 'make poverty history' will remain in serious doubt if we do not tackle poverty as a matter of justice and human rights.

Message by Commonwealth Secretary-General
Mr. Don McKinnon
International Human Rights Day,
10 December 2006

Each of us possesses an instinct for what is just. The global commitment to 'make poverty history' is not made simply out of charity or pity. Tackling poverty is not only an urgent economic or development imperative: it is more fundamental and compelling than that. It is a question of human rights and of justice, and of making real the inherent dignity and worth of every human person.

The Commonwealth welcomes the focus on 'Poverty' as the theme for International Human Rights Day 2006, on Sunday 10 December. No other single phenomenon exposes the indefensible gap that exists between the standards of universally accepted human rights, and the actual experiences of millions of people in their daily lives. We should know: of the one in five people on this planet living in abject poverty, some 80% are in the Commonwealth.

Wherever there is a denial of basic human rights, there is poverty. So it is that those facing violations - such as the systematic discrimination still faced by so many women, and particularly in the developing world - are unable to contribute either to their own society or to their own advancement. In turn, those living in poverty are usually the least able to access and enjoy their rights: to education, to healthcare, to food and shelter, and to being counted and treated as individual human beings.

Recognition of these unacceptable denials - both of the means and the rights of living - informs the Commonwealth approach, and underlies its ongoing work. In all our programmes - whether giving opportunities to women and young people, supporting poorer countries' attempts to trade their way out of poverty, and helping to bring about basic education and healthcare for all - we are bound and guided by the commitment of Commonwealth member governments to making rights meaningful for people wherever they may live, and especially when they live in poverty.

This year's Nobel Prize was awarded to a Commonwealth national, Professor Muhammad Yunus, founder of the Grameen Bank in Bangladesh. His remarkable efforts to help the most marginalised women in his society lift themselves out of poverty, both exemplifies and inspires the Commonwealth approach. It's about working to make people, in particular women and the young, actors in their own development. It's about looking for and launching what Professor Yunus has called 'the entrepreneur within each of us'. It is about helping people to live with pride and dignity, to know and demand their rights, and to make their rightful contribution to society.

The Commonwealth approach is not about unreasonable expectations, but about legitimate entitlements. This translates first and foremost as a duty on governments. That

duty can start with governments taking the simple, visible step of ratifying the two 40-year old UN Covenants which give formal expression to social and economic, civil and political rights. These Covenants give real shape and momentum to national efforts to reduce poverty and respect human rights, and I am hopeful that those few Commonwealth countries which are yet to ratify them will soon do so. There is no priority between rights, and no purpose in fine arguments about such things. There is only the first duty of any government: to provide for the well-being of the people it represents and to whom it is accountable. First among these are the poor.

As we mark this year's Human Rights Day, Commonwealth Education Ministers - along with teachers, civil society organisations and business people - are meeting in South Africa. They do so sharing our belief that universal and equal access for boys and girls to primary education is a fundamental human right, and not just a development goal. Because two-thirds of the 115 million children who never go to school live in the Commonwealth. Our discussions in Cape Town are based on the fact that education and training, and so the true empowerment of individuals, are critical to making poverty history. They also answer to our deepest sense of what is right.

I am proud to be part of a Commonwealth which, by its shared and public commitment to human rights, helped to consign apartheid to history. Speaking in London for last year's 'Make Poverty History' campaign, former South African President Nelson Mandela said that poverty (like apartheid) is not natural: it is something man-made. And so it can be overcome and unmade by our actions and decisions.

On International Human Rights Day and across the Commonwealth, it has long ago ceased to be a question of 'what needs to be done?' about poverty. The needs, the rights, and the undeniable duties are all clear. We need only the will, the leadership at all levels, to act on our human sense of justice.

**Mohtarma Benazir Bhutto's Message to the 6th Annual National Conference
on Human Rights By International Human Rights Observer Islamabad
Dec 10, 2006**

I compliment the International Human Rights Observer on organizing its 6th Annual National Conference on Human Rights in Islamabad on the International Human Rights Day on 10th December 2006 to create awareness amongst the people of the significance of this day and to highlight the rights they are entitled to. The Organizers have thoughtfully chosen the themes of human rights and democracy in the country, women rights legislation and interfaith harmony in the country for discussion during the conference. These themes echo the debate within the country that will ultimately decide the future of our coming generations.

The Pakistan Peoples Party and I understand human rights from both sides of the equation. We wear on our bodies and on our souls the marks from the violation of human rights while with our voices we raise the standard of dignity to each individual, which is at the heart of fundamental rights. We are a Nation still in search of the rights that God gave us, that the Constitution of 1973 envisaged and which is the birth right of every individual rich or poor, man or woman, Muslim or non Muslim. We are seeking the right to representation through free elections, the right to association, to travel, to dissent, to justice, to food, clothing, shelter, education and health which are basic necessities to live a life distinguished from the life of the jungle.

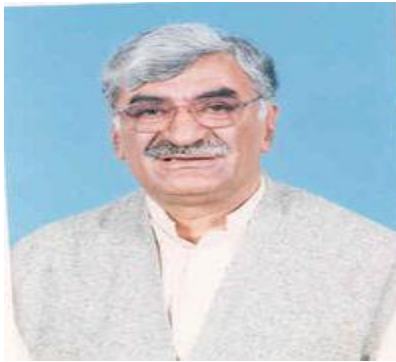
Having lost my Father who was my political leader, my brothers, my workers to the gallows and to the assassins, I identify with those denied their rights and pledge to our people that the Pakistan Peoples Party, under my leadership, will leave no stone unturned in bringing to our parched land the breath of freedom, a freedom which will allow the flower of human dignity to blossom. This noble endeavor is beyond the capacity of an individual or a party. It takes team effort, it takes the unity, faith and discipline that Quaid e Azam spoke of, to turn dreams into realities. Therefore it gives me great pleasure to see that the members of the International Human Rights Observer are motivating the people and strengthening the movement for fundamental human rights that will enable each Pakistani to hold up their heads high with pride that their country is part of the march of civilization and respected as such throughout the world.

My thoughts go in particular to the weak and the helpless, the needy, whose deprivation of human rights is compounded by their inability to access the courts, the press, the NGOs and civil society. I pray for the day when each of us, in particular the women and minorities, will have protection from draconian laws. The recent passage of the women's bill, where the government and the opposition joined hands, demonstrates how far the Country can go when it turns its energies towards positive goals that enhance the stature of the Federation even as they seek to protect the most vulnerable from the criminal elements which stalk each land.

At this time, while the attention is on the government and the opposition, I pay tribute to Mukhtaran Mai, to Dr Shazia Khalid and to all the women who had the courage to speak out against the rapists. Without their courage to speak out baby girls unborn would have faced the threat of criminal elements. The Holy Prophet of Islam banned the burial of the girl child, a practice that was widespread in tribal society before the dawn of Islam. In so doing, the Holy Prophet proclaimed that violence against the girl child, indeed against the woman that the girl child would become, was unacceptable. However, elements that try to hijack Islam passed laws that protected rapists and undermined the image of the great religion of Islam. It took a quarter of a century but they were ultimately defeated as the majority came together in parliament in a spirit of bipartisanship to declare that the state would no longer spare rapists.

Interfaith understanding is all the more important in a world where the choice is between the clash of civilisations and the consensus between civilisations. The butchery that we witness in some countries, where brother kills brother, is appalling. It is through tolerance, a tolerance that is the pinning of faith, that we can build a world of peace that is incumbent on each individual irrespective of his or her faith. With your help, our great country of Pakistan will continue on the road to success as it confronts multiple challenges pertaining to terrorism, peace in the region, end of dictatorship, elimination of poverty and a governance system which empowers our people in changing representatives to parliaments, holding accountable elected officials and shaping the course of human history. Once again I wish the Conference and its organisers success in their deliberations.

**Message of Mr. Qazi Hussain Ahmed, Ameer, MMAP
On 6th Annual Human Rights Conference**



عوامی نیشنل پارٹی

باچا خان مرکز - پجگی روڈ پینور

تلفون: ۹۲-۳۳۶۸۵۱-۳ فیکس: ۹۲-۳۳۶۸۵۱-۳

ویب: awaminationalparty.org ای میل: anmarkaz@yahoo.com

جناب خاندان آفتاب پوری صاحب

انٹرنیشنل ہیومن رائٹس آفیسرز - اسلام آباد

اسلام علیکم!

آپ کی دعوت کا شکریہ۔

انسانی حقوق کے بین الاقوامی دن کے موقع پر، آپ کی جانب سے منفقہ تقریب

میں آپ کو مبارکباد دیتا ہوں۔

پوری دنیا ایک طرف انسانی حقوق کی منزل کی طرف اپنے قدم آگے بڑھا رہی ہے۔
مگر سب سے زیادہ آج بھی بنیادیں انسانی حقوق سے اس کے باشندے محروم ہیں۔
اور خصوصاً خواتین کے اس حوالہ سے حالات اور زیادہ بدتر ہیں۔ ملک کی ندرت،

اقلیتی بھی شدید مشکلات کا شکار ہیں۔
اے زمین پی پاتن کے تمام لوگوں کو، بلا تمييز جنس، رنگ نسل اور عقیدے
برابر کے حقوق پر یقین رکھتے ہیں۔

بدقسمتی سے مسلسل فوجی حکمرانوں کی آمریت کے نتیجے میں آج اس ملک
کے تمام لوگ اپنے تمام بنیادی حقوق سے محروم ہیں۔ اور یہی حال ملک
کی سب سے زیادہ بے بسی کے حوالے کیا جاسکتا ہے۔

ملکت کا فقدان بنیاد پرستی، فرقہ واریت اور زب و نسل پرستی اور عقیدے
کے حوالے تفرقات پیدا کیے جاتے ہیں اور قوموں اور خصوصاً چھوٹی قوموں
کو ان کے حقوق اور وسائل سے محروم رکھا جاتا ہے۔

آج کے خاندان



National Annual Conference



ABDUL SATTAR EDHI

FOUNDER PRESIDENT

Director: Bilquis Edhi, Faisal Edhi, Qutab Edhi, Qubra Edhi, Almas Edhi, Zeenat Edhi

PAKISTAN

(1) ABDUL SATTAR EDHI FOUNDATION
(2) BILQUIS EDHI FOUNDATION

Head Quarters.

Rangile Street
Boulton Market, Mithadhar
Karachi, 74000 (Pakistan)
Phones: 2413232, 2421920, 2424148-125
Fax : 92-21-2418753

ABDUL SATTAR

Edhi International Foundation U.K.

London NW1 6SX

316, Edgware Road,

London W-2-IDY U.K.

Phone : 020-7723-2050

Fax : 020-7224-9774

Email: info@edhi.org Web site: http://www.edhi.org

U.S.A.

(3) ABDUL SATTAR EDHI INTERNATIONAL FOUNDATION

(4) BILQUIS EDHI RELIEF FOUNDATION

Overseas Head Quarters.

45-11 National Street,

corona N.Y.11368

Phone :

718-639-0633-718-505-4925

Fax : 718-505-8001

Ref. No _____

Date _____

پیغام

معزز حاضرین۔

سب سے پہلے میں آپ لوگوں سے معذرت خواہ ہوں کہ اپنی علالت کی وجہ سے اس کانفرنس میں شرکت نہیں کر سکا۔ آج آپ کی اس سالانہ کانفرنس میں چند تعلقہ حقائق گوش گزار کرنا چاہتا ہوں۔ یہ حقیقت ہے کہ آج ہیومن رائٹس کی جس طرح سے پامالی ہو رہی ہے شاید پہلے کبھی نہیں ہوئی ہے۔ وہ ممالک جہاں ہیومن رائٹس کو اولیت حاصل تھی وہاں بھی اس کو نظر انداز کیا جا رہا ہے۔ ہمیں دہشت گردی اور ہیومن رائٹس کے درمیان فرق کرنا ہوگا۔

دوسری بات جو میں کرنا چاہتا ہوں وہ یہ ہے کہ ہر آنے والے دن کے ساتھ دنیا کے ترقی پذیر ملکوں میں غربت، بھوک، افلاس، بیماری اور بے کاری میں تیزی سے اضافہ ہو رہا ہے۔ جس کی بنیادی وجہ یہ ہے کہ ان ملکوں میں بجٹ کی زیادہ رقم عوام کی فلاح پر خرچ کرنے کی بجائے، اسلحہ خریدنے اور جنگ و جدل پر خرچ ہو رہی ہیں۔ ترقی یافتہ ممالک کیلئے یہ اسلحہ کی فروخت کی منڈیاں بنی ہوئی ہیں۔ یہی وجہ ہے کہ آپ جس طرف نظر ڈالیں دہشت گردی اور جنگ و جدل نظر آئے گی۔ اگر ہمیں دنیا بھر میں ہیومن رائٹس کو مضبوط کرنا ہے تو اس کا راستہ اپنانا ہوگا کیونکہ تقریباً، تقریباً کو جنم دیتی ہیں۔ دنیا کے ترقی یافتہ ملکوں کو ایسے غریب ممالک کے دکھ درد کو بانٹنا ہوگا جہاں بھوک، بیماری اور افلاس نے ڈیرے ڈالے ہوئے ہیں۔

معزز حاضرین۔

میں ہمیشہ ایک بات کہتا ہوں کہ انسان بنو اور انسان بناؤ، بد قسمتی سے آج جس طرف نظر ڈالیں آپ کو معاشرہ زوال پذیر نظر آئے گا۔ پائیس بہت کی جاتی ہیں کوئی عمل کرنے کو تیار نہیں ہے وہ ہیومن رائٹس ہو، مذہب و سیاست ہو، جب تک ہم خود کو تبدیل نہیں کریں گے کوئی تبدیلی نہیں آئے گی۔ میں نے جب اپنے فلائی کاموں کا آغاز کیا تو چار اصولوں، سادگی، سچائی، محنت اور وقت کی پابندی کو اپنے بنیادی اصول بنائے تھے اور آج بھی اس پر قائم ہوں۔ جبکہ ہمارے معاشرے میں غربت، بھوک، افلاس کی ایک وجہ سادگی، محنت، سچائی اور وقت کی پابندی کو نظر انداز کرتا ہے۔ اگر ہم ان اصولوں کو اپنائیں تو بہت سے مسائل حل ہو سکتے ہیں۔

آخر میں میرا یہی پیغام ہے " انسان بنو انسان بناؤ اور انسانیت کو اپنائو "

Remember us

For any act of Humanity & Mankind Service

Branches: U.S.A, U.K, CANADA, AUSTRILIA, JAPAN, BANGLADESH, AFGHANISTAN, UAE, NEPAL, GERMANY
Edhi centre in about 34 countries.

Agenda of 6th Annual Human Rights Conference:

The conference was held at Holiday Inn Hotel Islamabad on 10th December 2006 and a great number of ministers, diplomats, NGO's, private individual, civil society, members of IHRO and electronic and print media. The conference focused on following agenda:

- Women Rights and Legislation in Pakistan
- Interfaith Harmony & Peace through Human Rights Education
- State of Human Rights- Democracy and Security in Pakistan
- Millennium Development Goals

- Review of Relief Efforts of earthquake in Kashmir and NWFP

Panel of Speakers:

- Dr. Khalid Aftab Sulehri, President, IHRO
- Dr. Shaheena Shaheen, Principal, OPF College for Girls, Islamabad
- Dr. Ghanazafar Mehdi, Chairman, World Saraki Congress
- Syed Liaquat Binorai, Chairman, SHARP
- Hector, Aleem, Chairman Peace Worldwide
- Mr. Jay Salik, X-minister for minorities
- Mr. Hamyoun Mirza, Chairman, Kashmir Human Rights Commission
- Professor Aliya Imam
- Allama Inyat Ullah Shakir, Chairman, Quwat –e-Akhowat –e-Islam
- Haji Mohammad Adeel Khan, Senior Vice President, Awami National Party
- Sheikh Mansoor, Deputy Secretary, Pakistan people Party (PPPP)
- Dr. Naeem Ghani, Chairman, Sultana Foundation
- Mr. Asad Ullah Bhutto, Ameer, MMAP (Sindh)
- Ms. Mukthran Mie, Chairperson Mukthran Mie Welfare Organization (Chief Guest)

Mukthran Mie, Chairperson, Mukthran Mie Welfare Organization:



Addressing the conference, Mukthran Mie said that public awareness is very important for promotion of human rights. We need to encourage more education for female in remote areas to over come social issues like honor killings, domestic violence and others. She

said that she consider problem of every woman as her problem since she has passed through dilemma she knows pains n sufferings of women. She further said that there is need to abolish the wadarra system in southern Punjab for women rights.

Dr. Khalid Aftab Sulehri, President, IHRO:

Addressing the opening session, Dr. Khalid Aftab Sulehri 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 delivered the message of Mr. Kofi Anan, Secretary General, United Nations. Later addressing the audience he said that IHRO condemn the human rights violations in Pakistan at every national and international forum. He further said that poverty is core reason of all human rights abuses. Because if human has sufficient economic resources they can enjoy their all rights i.e. rights to live a quality life with food, shelter, health, educations and other facilities. He said that on human rights day we should not forget poor people of Asia and Africa. He stressed upon world community to promote more charity and donations for effected areas of starvation.

He said that IHRO is striving for restoration of human rights in Pakistan through its wide member network. He acknowledged their support on this occasion in monitoring human rights cases in their areas. He called upon government to form fair polices to decrease the disparities and complexes that creating ethnic and provincial conflicts.

He welcomed the developments on women protection bill by government and stressed upon government to eliminate all the discriminatory laws against women. He further said that women like Mukthran Mie and Dr. Shazia have played important role to being protections bill and acknowledged the positive struggle of them.

Dr. Shaheena Shaheen, Principal, OPF College for Girls, Islamabad

Addressing the conference, Dr. Shaheena said that Islam has given women sufficient rights but its unfortunate that majority of them are unaware about these rights. She gave the example of wedding; in nikkah paper people cancel the right of woman to divorce and property. This way most of women loose their rights of property and divorce. She declared that some people think that debate about women rights is new issue but in reality Islam has given women these rights hundred of years ago.

She said that when women opt to work in institutions with their male colleagues they came across problems like sexual harassment. It has been observed that women work more dutiful and honestly than men. Furthermore, their male colleagues harass women

after their promotion in job by hearing accusing them of getting advantage of gender. It is very unfortunate that in our society men don't like to reward the women' struggle and hard work in good sense.

She said that this day call on women to get awareness about their right and provoke them to struggle for the rights that have been given them by Islam. She appreciated the efforts of IHRO for organizing this conference on human rights day.

Dr. Ghanazafar Mehdi, Chairman, World Saraki Congress:

Favoring the women rights he said that no Muslim religious scholar has argued about the first vote that has been given to our prophet (PBUH) by Hazrat Khaitija. It's always counted as full vote but its unfortunate that in 21st century we still consider that a woman's vote is half.

He said that on this human rights forum he would like to drive the attention towards saraki area. Southern Punjab is the most neglected part of Pakistan as it is viciously trapped in poverty. In this rejoin people are so badly victimized by poverty that they are forced to sell their children for camel race in order to get money.

He further said that all political parties and civil society should come at front to help poor public of Multan, Dera Ghazi Khan and other related areas. He criticized the government's policies of allocating funds between provinces.

Syed Liaquat Binorai, Chairman, SHARP:

Addressing the occasion Syed Liaquat said that the core reason of all social issue is lack of awareness about rights and obligations. Sadly in our society people are only aware of their rights but forget the obligations that are directly related with their rights. He said that we should recognize that our obligations related to others rights and we need to follow this fact for promotion of human rights, peace and democracy in society.

He diverted the attention of participants toward the rights of prisoner. He said that more than 5000 people die every year because of torture in prison. He criticized the current jail system calling its fail to protect the lives of prisoners. He mentioned the killing of five prisoners in jail and how the jail authorities declared their deaths with natural deaths.

He said that justice, equity and fair distribution of resources are very important for peace culture in Pakistan. He said that Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR) is called customary laws and it has been included in constitutions of many countries. Likewise the sections of UDHR are also included in Pakistan' constitutions but our constitution don't have right of life. We have been facing marsh law, militarism in

country many times in history. He further said that judiciary 's role is very important for the restoration of human rights but in Pakistan where fudels are so influential our chief justice of Supreme Court has been observed to file F.I.R of poor people. The prime role of Chief Justice is to analyze constitution. He said that first charter of human rights was presented by Islam hundreds of years ago and current UDHR is English translation of it.

Hector, Aleem, Chairman Peace Worldwide:

He criticized the role of United Nations as he said that its policies are biased and unfair for developing countries. He condemned the human rights violation in Iraq, Kashmir, Afghanistan, Palestine and Lebanon. He said after the blasphemous cartoons of Prophet (PBUH) has cleared the world of dire need to develop legislations to bring religious harmony in world to eliminate the risk of war of civilizations in future.

He said that minorities are still suffering in Pakistan, as they are not enjoying their proper rights. He mentioned that minorities are demanding the consensus since the establishment of Pakistan but still there's no consensus took place on their request. He said that minorities should be provided by fair allocations of their seats in senate and parliament.

Mr. Jay Salik, X-minister for minorities:

He appreciated the efforts of IHRO in promoting culture of human rights in Pakistan. He also acknowledged the message of Abdul Sattar Edhi on the Human Rights Day. He said humanity is important for human rights. He criticized government and politicians for their policies for poor people. This day calls upon all people to struggle for their rights cause without struggle they can not get their basic rights.

He stress upon government to allocate fair distribution of seats for women and minorities in Pakistan. He further said that minorities are living better life in Pakistan as compare to other Asian countries like India but there is still need for improvement.

Mr. Hamyoun Mirza, Chairman, Kashmir Human Rights Commission:



Addressing the conference, Mr. Hamyoun said that we should not forget the rights of Kashmiri people on human rights Day. Kashmiri people are struggling and fighting for their rights of self-determination for last 55 years. He appreciated the thousands of sacrifices of Kashmiri people that they have bestowed for freedom. He said that still today thousands of Kashmiri youth and old people are living in prison but their patience is still fresh as the first day of their struggle. He condemned the human rights atrocities in Kashmir, Afghanistan, Iraq and Middle East.

Professor Aliya Imam:

Prof, Aliya acknowledged IHRO for conducting awareness raising conference on human rights day in public. She said that there are two categories of women in Pakistan one is from high class that is enjoying all the rights and other one is from lower class that is still unaware and ignorant of rights and basic education.

She criticized the religious leaders for opposing the women protection bill. She said that the concept of women rights and women empowerment is within framework of Islam. She said that Holy Quran has given the proves of Hazrat Mariram 's innocence with its tears but if this event had took place in our time, Muslim religious leaders may have killed Hazart Mariram with their false accusation and propaganda. She said thousands of women are living in prison under the false accusation of crimes under Hudood Ordinance. There is need to free them from their prison so that they could enjoy their freedom like other citizens.

Allama Inyat Ullah Shakir, Chairman, Quwat –e-Akhowat –e-Islam:

Addressing the conference, Allama Innyat Ullah Shakir said that all human rights violations are occurring in society because we are not following Islamic laws. He supported Mukthran Mie's courage that put forward her case to get justice. He further said that we should get united for protection of our rights.

Haji Mohammad Adeel Khan, Senior Vice President, Awami National Party :

Haji Adeel delivered the message of leader of party, Mr. Asfand Yar Wali Khan on the occasion. Later sharing his thoughts he said that ANP recognizes the problem of southern Punjab and its on top agenda. It's very unfortunate that we gave all status to women of daughter, wife, mother but we often forget to give them respect and honor as human being. He further said that Hudood ordinance was a military act and this women protection bill is also a military act. But our party believes to remove whole Hudood ordinance because current women protection bill just have some modifications in sections.

He said that on this day we should not forget 130 foreign women who are in prison under different false crimes. This time call upon us to look into their cases and provide them their proper rights that they deserve so badly. He condemned the human rights violations committed by army in Bajore, Bugti and other tribal areas of Pakistan. He further condemned government negligence policy towards provinces. It's very unfortunate that capital is not allocating the funding between provinces fairly and they are fighting over natural resources.

Sheikh Mansoor, Deputy Secretary, Pakistan people Party (PPP):



Sheikh Mansoor delivered the exclusive message of Ms. Benazir Bhutto, Chairperson, PPP on this occasion. He said that his party has been sacrificing for many years in past and we are still sacrificing by living in prison or exile for the restoration of democracy and human rights in Pakistan. He said that he has spent 8 years in prison and its very unfortunate that after the police take political leaders into custody they don't informed their families. He further said that minorities should get two holidays on Christmas as Muslim gets too many holidays on eid.

Dr. Naeem Ghani, Chairman, Sultana Foundation:

He said that struggle for human rights started from the time when some groups of people gave all the power to one institutions i.e. government. When government started over ruling welfare or people then the movement started for the human rights. He said that term of human rights should relate with human security because human rights is the human security of living a good life in world. He said that human rights are at risk because of spending 700 billions\$ on weapons. It's a high time that we should condemned spending on weapons than the human welfare and security.

Mr. Asad Ullah Bhutto, Ameer (MMA-P-Sindh) :

He delivered the message of leader of MMA-P, Mr. Qazi Hussain Ahmed on international day of human rights. He said that current government has increased the general seats from 207-270 by adding 15-60 seats to women but its unfair that minorities still have 10 seats in parliament. He stress upon government to increase minorities' seats for up coming election. He said that molives (Muslim religious leaders) are being criticized on this forum but he reminded participants that Molvi Abdul Razzaq was the first man who took the case of rape victim to court for justice.