

13th ANNUAL NATIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS CONFERENCE 2014

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ORGANIZED BY

INTERNATIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS OBSERVER



CONFERENCE SECRETARIAT

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About Conference

International Human Rights Observer (IHRO) commemorates the International Day of Human Rights of the United Nations every year with great commitment on national and international level. IHRO team has decided to commemorate the International Day of human Rights of the United Nations 2014 by arranging its 13th National Annual Conference on Human Rights on 11 December 2014 in Islamabad Pakistan.

International Human Rights Observer (IHRO) is a NGO in Special Consultative Status with the Economic and Social Council of the United Nations and working together with Governments, United Nations and other International institutions to promote and protect the basic fundamental human rights of the masses declared in the universal charter of human rights of United Nations to build a global village of lasting peace, social, and economic justice and development for the 21st century.

In the past sixty years since the adoption of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights in 1948, the international community has made important advancement towards the fight against racial discrimination and other forms of intolerance, for the restoration of peace in the global regions. National and International laws have been enacted and numerous International Human Rights instruments, particularly a treaty to ban racial discrimination were signed in 1994. On 25 June 1993, representatives of 171 States adopted by consensus the Vienna Declaration and Program of Action. The extraordinary political, social and economic events of the past two decades have helped unlock the potential of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, revitalizing the human rights movement and generating progress in the implementation of human rights principles into common law, at a pace few could have imagined in 1993.

Human rights day promotes awareness of human rights issues around the world, and highlights the efforts of the United Nations to improve global human rights conditions.

The 13th National Conference on Human Rights2012 will enhance, uplift and further strengthen the issues of the Vienna Declaration in 1993, with the present situation of Human Rights and its related mandates in Pakistan.

2014 Theme: Human Rights 365

The UN General Assembly proclaimed 10 December as Human Rights Day in 1950, to bring to the attention 'of the peoples of the world' the Universal declaration of Human Rights as the common standards of achievement for all the people and all nations.

This year's slogan, **Human Rights 365, encompasses the idea that every day is human Rights Day.** It celebrates the fundamental proposition in the Universal declaration that each one of us, everywhere, at all times is entitled to full range of Human Rights, that human rights belong equally to each of us and bind us together as a global community with the same ideals and values

Agenda

The main emphasis of the conference is to consolidate emerging transformative perspectives and social actions at institutional, local and national levels that can lead to a better Pakistan and future for all. The organizing committee has set the following six points agenda for this most important conference.

1. Human Rights Movement in Pakistan
2. Women and Minority Rights
3. Role Of Media for Human Rights and Democracy
4. Human Rights and Agenda of New Political Change in Pakistan
5. Ministry of Human Rights and National Human Rights Commission in Pakistan.
6. Impact of Terrorism on Human Rights, Democracy and National Institutions.

At the conclusion of the conference, it shall adopt the **“Declaration”** and recommendations with final report and produce an action plan to be implemented at the national levels.

Conference

The conference was started with the welcome message by President of International Human Rights Observer, **Dr. Khalid Aftab Sulehri**. On this occasion he elaborated the United Nations’ mission of Human rights for all, the theme for the year **“Human Rights 365”**. He shed light on the objectives **“International Human Rights Observer (IHRO)”** and how it works as a member of United Nations in every district of Pakistan and its contribution in the international society.

He said that, **“We are working to promote and protect the basic fundamental rights in the spirit of UN mandate and we are following the universal charter of Human Rights of United Nation”**.

Afterwards **MS. Salma Khalid, Gender Specialist and working with NRSP**, read the message from **United Nation Secretary General Mr. Ban ki Mon**, **“On Human Rights Day we speak out. We denounce authorities who deny the rights of any person or group. We declare that human rights are for all of us, all the time: whoever we are and wherever we are from; no matter our class, our opinions, our sexual orientation.**

This is a matter of individual justice, social stability and global progress. The United Nations protects human rights because that is our proud mission – and because when people enjoy their rights, economies flourish and countries are at peace.

Violations of human rights are more than personal tragedies. They are alarm bells that may warn of a much bigger crisis. The UN’s Human Rights Up Front initiative aims to heed those alarms. We are rallying in response to violations – before they degenerate into mass atrocities or war crimes.

Everyone can advance the struggle against injustice, intolerance and extremism. I call on States to honour their obligation to protect human rights every day of the year. I call on people to hold their governments to account. And I call for special protections for the human rights defenders who courageously serve our collective cause.

Let us respond to the cries of the exploited, and uphold the right to human dignity for all.”

Dr. Khalid Aftab Sulehri read the message from High Commissioner for Human Rights, **“All human beings are born free and equal in dignity and rights”**: in perhaps the most resonant and beautiful words of any international agreement, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights

promises, to all, the economic, social, political, cultural and civil rights that underpin a life free from want and fear.

These human rights are not country-specific. They are not a reward for good behaviour, or particular to a certain era or social group. They are the inalienable entitlements of all people, at all times and everywhere, 365 days a year.

They are the rights of people of every colour, from every race and ethnic group; whether or not they have disabilities; citizens or migrants; no matter their sex, their class, their caste, their creed, their age or sexual orientation.

The commitments made to the people of the world through the Universal Declaration are in themselves a mighty achievement – discrediting the tyranny, discrimination and contempt for human beings that have so painfully marked human history. And since the Declaration was adopted, countless people have gained greater freedom.

Violations have been prevented. Independence and autonomy have been attained. Many people – though not all – have been able to secure freedom from torture, unjustified imprisonment, summary execution, enforced disappearance, persecution and unjust discrimination, as well as fair access to education, economic opportunities, rich cultural traditions and adequate resources and health-care.

They have obtained justice for wrongs, and national and international protection for their rights, through the strong architecture of the international human rights legal system.

The power of the Universal Declaration is the power of ideas to change the world. It tells us that human rights are essential and indivisible – 365 days a year. Every day is Human Rights day: a day on which we work to ensure that all people can gain equality, dignity and freedom.

The UN Human Rights Office stands with the millions of people around the world whose voices are denied.

And I look forward to you joining us, whether you do so via social media or in person. Together, we must demand what should be guaranteed: our human rights, universal, indivisible, inalienable, for everyone, 365 days a year.”

Speakers:

1. DR. ANEES VICE CHANCELLOR OF RIFFAH INTERNATIONAL UNIVERSITY:

In his speech thanked Dr. Khalid for arranging such an event. He said that we need to find out that the chaos and violation of human rights which are found in the society from where they came from and how to optimize it, He said that these resolutions, sit-ins and demonstrations are not the solution to stop the Human Rights Violation, we need to find out the solution that is easy to implement for us that is to bring about change in the very grass root level, He laid emphasis to make changes in the upbringing of our children and to inculcate the moral values in our children.

He held media also accountable for the violation of these rights, the quality of programs they show for example cartoons, there is a chaos in these cartoons when one cartoon character viciously hits and hurts other character for his own entertainment the training given to children is not of love, equality and justice but of arrogance, injustice and sarcasm.



If we want to see that there is knowledge of Human rights in our society in the coming ten years we need to bring changes in our home today. Make best laws or you say this so called Human

charter or a resolution brings changes it will not be possible it is just a charter the thing that can bring change in a man is conscience his inner goodness. Allah (SWT) has given the message to humanity through Quran and His messenger Hazrat Muhammad (S.A.W.W) is the real worldly message.

2. HUMAYUN ZAMAN MIRZA CHAIRMAN JAMMU AND KASHMIR HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION

In his speech he thanked Dr. Khalid for arranging this event every year. He said that if we review Human rights and their importance the message given to us by Holy Quran and our Prophet Hazrat Muhammad (SAWW) almost 14 centuries back is the real message and the guidance to us. While talking about Kashmir issue he said that United Nations should play their role in solving the Kashmir Issue Kashmir should be given right of self determination as it is a clear violation of Human Rights by India.



3. MRS. FARHAT RAYAT (FEMALE HUMAN RIGHTS ORGANISATION)

She briefly described the objectives of her NGO. She told that they have introduced almost 600 schools in Swat and a lot of technical female institutes in Malakand division with the help of federal Government and Pakistan Army and now working for Pakistan and Afghanistan peace process. She said that she feels proud of Malala that she raised her voice for the female education and that she will keep doing it with the help of government.



4. MR. ATTA UR REHMAN ABBASI (SENIOR VICE PRESIDENT)

In his speech he talked about discriminatory behavior among different nations for example in France women can not wear scarf and in Switzerland listening **ADHAN** is prohibited. This is a mind set all over nations that behold, Human rights charter has already given by Hazrat Muhammad (SAWW) in his last sermon that,



“An Arab has no superiority over a non-Arab nor a non-Arab has any superiority over an Arab; also a white has no superiority over a black nor a black has any superiority over a white” and Hazrat Muhammad (SAWW) he was the greatest champion of Human Rights and his sermon. He said that it is better to light a candle than to curse the darkness this is also the teachings of our religion Islam.

5. MR. FAROOQ AHMED (GILGIT BALTISTAN)

In his speech he said that Human rights start even before the birth of a man but people of Gilgit Baltistan are deprived of their basic nationality right. Lawyers from the area demanded that people of Gilgit Baltistan should be mentioned in the constitution of Pakistan and if because of Kashmir issue they can not be included in the constitution then they should be given a proper system like Jammu and Kashmir, so that they can also raise their voices for their basic rights. He suggested that there should be legislative assembly elections in Gilgit Baltistan.



6. MR. TAHIR TABBASSUM (CHAIRMAN INSTITUTE OF PEACE AND DEVELOPMENT INSTITUTE (INSPAD))

He endorsed that not only Islam but all religions agreed that Last Sermon of Hazrat Muhammad (SAWW) is not just a document but is a full picture of practical and character and because of it humanity is saved, that is why Islam is called as a complete way of life. If you compare the situations of before and after the advent of Islam you will clearly see the change. There are a lot of resolutions passed



but the situation of human rights is all the same and there is no clear difference. He said that the behaviour of countries like India and Israel towards Human rights need to be changed because Kashmir and Palestine are yet to be solved. He said that where ever west found its interest resolutions are passed and implemented in one day but Kashmir and Palestine issues are unheard yet in the moderate world but we should not have to sit quietly but to raise our voices for the protection of human rights.

7. MR. GHAZZANFAR MEHDI

He said that I want to point out few cases, first that Malala raised her voice for women education gets popular and got the noble prize but a girl 'Sahar Batool' of age 7 and half years reads in class 2 who belonged from Quetta and daughter of a gardener was kidnapped, raped and butchered brutally just for being Muslim and for loving Hazrat Muhammad (SAWW), doesn't that girl deserve any award by government, civil society or Human rights I appeal from all civil society, Prime Minister and human rights to condemn this brutal killing. Secondly a religious scholar named, "Muhammad Nawaz Irfaani" came from 'Para Channar' and a political agent without any written order just verbally asked him to leave the city and he left that place and came to Islamabad I raised voice along with Dr. Khalid Aftab, that religious scholar was martyred 4 days ago while going back to his home after offering his prayer but every government person stood quite in both the cases. He also talked about child trafficking for camel race in Arab countries and lack of basic necessities in the far flung areas.



8. DR. ARAISH KAMAL (EX MEMBER NATIONAL ASSEMBLY FROM SWAT)

He said that minorities are being suffered a lot in last 10 years like forced conversions in Baluchistan, Sindh and Khyber Pakhtoon Khawa and they are deprived of their basic human rights.



9. MS. HINA KHAN

She said that she was also with Malala, and was getting threats she moved to Islamabad but Malala stayed there and attacked by Taliban. She said that she is very happy for Malala that she has got the 'Nobel price' and together stand with Malala she will work for peace and education for Pakistan and Afghanistan.



10. NAGINA KHAN (CHAIRPERSON 3HE)

In her speech she said that we all keep on talking about human rights first we need to understand what human rights are. We need to learn to take care of others rights if we learned to fulfill our duties towards others we don't need to look towards any United Nation or Government.



11. Mr. NAZEER ALAM (BISHOP of PAKISTAN)

Representing minorities he said that we have been listening so many things about human rights since long, we are minorities here but we see ourselves as Pakistani. We have been listening about equal rights and equal status but pipelined and deprived of equivalency. We call ourselves the followers of 'The benefactor of Humanity (SAWW)' but there is no humanity. On this platform I want to say that we should become humans first that is respect others as humans. Bishops,



Churches and Mosques all represent and preach peace but who will bring peace we all have to perform our role to bring peace. We need some practical implementations to bring peace instead of just talking about it. We all belong to Pakistan and wish for its prosperity one that is violating the human rights should be punished without any discrimination of religion to bring peace in Pakistan.

12. MRS. RUKHSANA HASSAN (CHAIRPERSON GENDER STUDY DEPARTMENT, FATIMA JINNAH WOMEN UNIVERSITY)

She started her speech with a short introduction of Fatima Jinnah Women University. She said that Fatima Jinnah is working for human rights in collaboration with Department Of Human Rights Government Of Pakistan and also The Department of gender studies that started working in 2006 also work for the awareness not only among students and civil societies about rights of marginalized communities like minorities, women and transgender population. She said that the concept of Human rights is not a western concept but an inborn concept with Muslim society because when we talk about Human rights it is one of the most fundamental teachings of Islam and when we focus that the rights of others should come first (Haqooq Ul Ibaad) we will be a good better Muslims. All human beings are equal, racial supremacy is unacceptable and women have rights are the salient features of last sermon of Hazrat Muhammad (SAWW) which laid the foundation of present day human rights charter.



About women and human rights she said that there are numerous international and regional instruments which have drawn attentions to gender related dimensions of human rights issues the most important is UN convention on elimination of all forms of discrimination against women adopted in 1979 whose confirmation was done in 1993. Since these conventions and treaties are in focus still the picture is not very good. The examples are Malala Yousafzai, just because she wanted to get educated she was badly treated and of Sahar Batool that just because one fact that she had written “Labaik Ya Rasool Allah” on her forehead she was brutally killed these are the issues that are plaguing our society. She also talked about the fact that the basic necessities are not provided to the common people for example in “Cholistan” drinking water is not available to them.

13. MR. ABDULLAH GUL(CHAIRMAN PAKISTAN YOUTH MOVEMENT)

He thanked Dr. Khalid for organizing such an event. About the Human rights violation he said that Allah is God and Hazrat Muhammad (SAWW) is Mercy for all mankind and not only for Muslims or any other particular religion so why is this discrimination of religions in Pakistan and in rest of the world. Moreover, he said that the behavior opted with minorities can not be justified. Constitution of Pakistan says that Pakistan will serve the humanity and will work for the peace and prosperity of mankind. All this violation is due to the lack of legislation, legislation should be done against Sectarian extremism that is being done in Masajid by the use of loud speakers.



14. MR. J. SALIK



15. GHAZI GULAB JAMAL

Most of the earlier speakers associated human rights with Islam because of the misconception that Human Rights is a western concept, Since we agree that Holy Quran is bestowed on us from Allah Almighty but we do not bother to read Holy Quran's translation in our mother tongue but we are reading a lot of literature about human rights in books and internet. So first of all read the book you believe. Secondly there is a concept that we get educated so that we can have a good job and to earn money not because to get wisdom.

IDPs



16. HAJI ADEEL (SENIOR AUDITOR OF AWAMI NATIONAL PARTY)

He said that we were always against any partition talk about partition of sub continent or Bangladesh or if any one thinking about any future partition. Since Allah is the Lord of all mankind and he made His Prophet Hazrat Muhammad SAWW Mercy for all mankind not only human beings but also other creatures then being a Pakistani why we kill anyone whose cast, creed or religion is different from us, others have no right to live and we can kill or burn any one alive.



He mentioned Quaid e Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah's speech of 11th August Speech that You are free to go to your temple, churches, yours mosques and state has nothing to do with your religion and in due course Hindus would cease to be Hindus, Christians would cease to be Christians and Muslims would cease to be Muslims, not in the religious sense, but in the political sense as citizens of the State. Furthermore, he said that in the light of these sayings today's Pakistan is not a Quaid's Pakistan. He disagreed with all those who call them minority; they are a non Muslim Pakistani that's all, someone will be Hindu Pakistani why called minority. He advised them to broaden their vision join big political groups their must me some parties closed to their political views they should go for them not on the religion based parties.

About Malala Yousafzai he said that we are proud of her she is Daughter of Our Nation she got noble prize and he added that people who compare Malala with criminal and evil minded he feels sorry for their thinking. He criticized Khyber Pakhtoon Khawa Assembly for not passing the resolution in her favor. In the end he advised all of you to stay united to work for human rights and for the prosperity of Pakistan.

Recommendations