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## Attack on Malala condemned, Pims offers treatment

By Our Staff Reporter

ISLAMABAD, Oct 9: The coalition of human rights activists and organisations, Insani Haqooq Ittehad (IHI) condemned the attack on Malala Yousufzai and two other girls accompanying her.

The IHI, an association of 15 NGOs working for human rights, considered the attack on the 15-year-old shameful and uncalled for.

Calling it an act of violence and terrorism and a conspiracy against bringing peace to Swat and the empowerment of women in the area.

According to one human rights activist: "It is unfortunate that one who struggled to save many lives, has herself become a victim. This is among the many instances when human rights activists have been threatened and attacked, being the second such attack in just three months. The human rights community has yet to recover from the brutal killing of the women's rights activist Farida Afridi in July."

The IHI demanded that the government urgently investigate the attack and bring the perpetrators to justice.

Demanding that the government to take full responsibility to ensure the safety of its citizens and take substantive preventive action against perpetrators to check the rising incidents of attacks on human rights workers.

It is important to note that Malala was hardly 11, when she became a public figure, for her statements against the Taliban. The Taliban had placed a ban on girls attending schools.

Mala wrote against the ban and expressed her views in a daily diary on the BBC website, under the pen name of Gul Makai.

She was the recipient of the National Peace Award, and the first Pakistani girl to be nominated for International Children's Peace Prize by Kids Rights Foundation.

On learning from media reports, Executive Director Pakistan Institute of Medical Sciences (Pims) Dr Mehmood Jamal, told *Dawn* that the hospital had made all necessary arrangements to receive and treat Malala Yousafzai, if she was flown from Peshawar to Islamabad.