

Saturday, August 20, 2011

HR activists for end to Karachi violence

Fear violence to spread other parts of country if not curbed in Karachi

OUR STAFF REPORTER

ISLAMABAD – A group of citizens of Islamabad and Rawalpindi, joined by Insaani Haqooq Itihad (IHI) and senior citizens, workers of various political parties, gathered outside the National Press Club, Islamabad, to condemn the brutal and incessant target killings in Karachi.

Participants were of the view that any religion, ideology, and political philosophy never permit violence to play with the human beings. They said that the situation of Karachi needs the entire nation to stand up and say 'enough is enough' - 'We cannot bear it any more', 'If we let it go on, then we are no more'. They feared that if the violence in Karachi was not stopped, it will spread to other areas of Pakistan - which means that tomorrow the whole Pakistan will become what Karachi is today, if didn't stand up and unite to bring peace.

The participants demanded the government that it shall feel the heat of its responsibility and immediately stop the target killing in Karachi. The human rights activist and organisations also mobilised their friends and organisations in Karachi to organise a similar protest. The citizens of Karachi and human rights organisations have planned to hold a wide protest in

Karachi on August 20.

The protest demonstration was addressed by Simi Kamal, a human rights activist from Aurat Foundation, Anis Haroon, Chairperson National Commission on the Status of Women (NCSW), Dr Rakhshanda Perveen (Creative Anger), Anbreen Ajaib (Coordinator Insaani Haqooq Itihad), Dr Farzana Bari, Mazhar Ali and renowned human rights activist Jahangir Akhtar.

Jahangir Akhtar announced that he is going on hunger strike till death from 12th September on two issues including corruption in Pakistan and oversized military budget'.

Simi Kamal, Alya Mirza and Anis Haroon, in their address to the participants said that this is a just beginning of the 'protest for peace' and they would continue this in coming days. Wasim Wagha, Member Insaani Haqooq Itihad (IHI), while giving some details of the future strategy said that on Monday next, the group would organise a 'candle light vigil' after the If-tar time.

Naeem Mirza while talking to this scribe said that a strategy is under process to hold demonstration against the losses of innocent citizens. He further reiterated that this protest would continue till the restoration of peace. He urged the fellow countrymen to come for-



ISLAMABAD: Human rights activists holding a protest rally outside the National Press Club on Friday against target killings in Karachi.—Staff photo by Syed Mehdi

ward and join hands with them to play positive role for the welfare of nation.

Seemi Kamal informed to this scribe that they are planning to arrange a long march against

this massacre. She informed that this march would start very soon from Islamabad and would end in Karachi to show solidarity with the affectees of Karachi carnage.

Anis Haroon alleged land mafia along with other mafias working to sabotage the peace and order of metropolitan city. "We do not know who is behind this massive killings but we peo-

ple of this country demand the government to restore peace, law and order in biggest city of the beloved homeland," Wasim Wagha said, adding, that silence of political elite is a crime.