

Friday, September 20, 2013

Protest against rape

Government asked to ensure children's protection

Rights activists, citizens demand arrest, prosecution and conviction of perpetrators

NEWS DESK

Civil society activists continue to express outrage at the shocking number of paedophilia cases that have surfaced in various parts of the country over the past four days.

In connection with this, a huge demonstration at F-6 Markaz was held on Monday, where the Pakistan Gender Coalition and women's groups came together to protest against the rape of a minor girl in Lahore. Chanting slogans, the civil society organisations demanded the immediate arrest, prosecution and conviction of the rape's perpetrators.

Terming rape a crime against the state and society, they also urged the survivor's family to remain strong and not be pressured to accept an out-of-court settlement or compensation through the police or perpetrators' influence.

They pledged to continue their protest and raise their voices against inhumanity until the federal and provincial governments took action to urgently enact pending child protection laws, which include meting out maximum



SEEKING JUSTICE: Chanting slogans, the civil society organisations demanded the release of missing video clips of Ganga Ram Hospital's security cameras and strongly condemned the wilful destruction of valuable forensic, chemical and DNA evidence. PHOTO: EXPRESS

punishments of life-long imprisonment without parole, remission or pardon for rape convicts.

They demanded the release of the missing video clips of the Ganga Ram Hospital's security cameras and strongly

condemned the wilful destruction of valuable forensic, chemical and DNA evidence, including the survivor's

clothes.

The activists didn't stop short of apportioning blame on the media. They called on

Protesters urge the survivor's family to remain strong and not be pressured to accept any out-of-court settlement or compensation

the electronic media in particular to devote five per cent of airtime to public service messages to raise awareness and sensitise viewers to change entrenched societal perceptions of and attitudes towards women and children, particularly girls.

Prominent rights activists at the rally included former NCSW chairperson Majida Rizvi, Anis Haroon, Uzma Noorani, Naeem Mirza, Dr Tahira Aftab and Shagufta Alizai.

Cases of child molestation were reported from Punjab, Sindh and Khyber-Pakhtunkhwa and included Faisalabad, Dera Ismail Khan, Gujranwala, Kasur, Peshawar, Shujaabad, Bhakkar, Sargodha, Karachi and Chachro.