

Saturday, March 31, 2012



REMEMBRANCE: Members of civil society hold placards at a vigil in memory of Fakhra Younas Friday. — Dateline: Sohail Shahzad

## Civil society holds vigil for Fakhra

■ DATELINE REPORT

ISLAMABAD — Insani Haqooq Ittihad (IHI) held a vigil and fateha khawani for the late Fakhra Younas Friday evening.

Participants demanded immediate arrest of Bilal Khar, accused of defacing Fakhra Younas with acid.

Fakhra committed suicide a few days back after struggling for justice for over 12 years.

Vigil-participants carried placards inscribed with slogans against the accused. They censured political parties for interceding on behalf of a feudal lord.

Tahira Abdullah, rights activist, said political parties are controlled by feudal lords and cannot go against them.

She said the recent Acid Crime Bill is meaningless until the culprits are nabbed, tried, and punished according to the law in crimes against women.

Among others who spoke on the occasion included Rehana Hashmi, Samar Minallah, Arifa Mazhar, Valerie Khan, and Rabbia Aslam.

Wasim Wagha, representative of the Aurat Foundation, read the statement on behalf of the civil society networks including IHI, EVAW, WAF, NHN, and PRHN.

"We are outraged at the failure of the state to protect women and provide justice, making a travesty of fundamental constitutional rights as a citizen of Pakistan.