

January 6, 2011

Candles lit to remember Taseer

AHMAD AHMADANI

ISLAMABAD – The representatives of the civil society, workers of Pakistan Peoples Party, members of student unions, human rights activists, intellectuals, poets and general public Wednesday observed a candle light vigil at Kohsar Market to pay homage to the slain leader Salman Taseer.

They observed the vigil reiterating their resolve that they would continue the struggle of Salman Taseer to promote tolerance, moderation, co-existence, equality, and an end to violence against women, extremism for growth of democracy and secularism in Pakistan.

Human Rights Activists Naeem Mirza, Anees Haroon, Uzma Gillani, Farzana Bari, Mrs Robina Khalid, Mushtaq Gaddi, Wasim Wagha and others including Senator Saeeda Iqbal, Awami National Party's Member National Assembly Jamila Gilani and Amjad Bhatti were present on the occasion.

They all paid rich tributes to late Salman Taseer for his struggle for the rights of women and democracy in the country.

They said that the assassins of Salman Taseer were diminishing one by one but her name

world.

Naeem Mirza while exclusively talking to The Nation said it was the responsibility of the political forces as well as the citizens of the country to choose one between two paths. One path will lead to self-destruction/annihilation while the other path leads to prosperity.

"We are under siege by few. We have to break siege and silence to uproot the legacy of a dictator to end extremism in Pakistan," he said.

Mushtaq Gaddi said time had come to end extremist mindset for the well being of the democratic forces in the country. Political forces should let the liberal and moderate forces change the destiny of the state as well the nation. He said, "Evil forces are trying to play with the fate of the nation in guise of religion and we are very much concerned about the future of our generation".

Dr Hassan Nisar President Awami Part Pakistan while speaking on the eve said they would continue Salman's struggle to make this country a moderate, secular, democratic according to the dream of Jinnah. However, People of Pakistan have to decide about the fate of extremism or secularism in the



ISLAMABAD: Activists of civil society light candles outside Kohsar Market on Wednesday to pay homage to slain