

Saturday, AUGUST 20, 2011

Civil society condemns Karachi carnage



ISLAMABAD: Members of civil society holding a protest outside the National Press Club against target killings in Karachi. — INP

Our correspondent

Islamabad

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

They urged the nation to stand against the brutal killings in Karachi and say 'enough is enough — we can not 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 would spread to other areas of Pakistan, says a press release issued by IHI. The participants demanded the government that it shall feel the heat of its responsibility and take immediate measures to stop the target killings. The human rights activist and organisations also mobilised their friends and organisations in Karachi to organise similar protests over there.

The citizens of Karachi and human rights organisations have planned to hold a wide protest in Karachi today (Saturday).

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), Executive Director Creative Anger Dr. Rakhshanda Perveen, Coordinator Insaani Haqooq Ittehad Anbreen Ajaib, Dr. Farzana Bari, senior citizen Mazhar Ali and renowned human rights activist Jahangir Akhtar who plans to go on hunger strike till death from September 12 to demand an end to corruption in Pakistan and cut in the military budget.

In their address to the participants, Simi Kamal, Alia Mirza and Anis Haroon said that this is just the beginning of the 'protest for peace' and they would continue this in coming days. While giving some details of the future strategy, member Insaani Haqooq Ittehad (IHI) Wasim Wagha, said that on next Monday, the group would organise a 'candlelit vigil' after 'Iftar'.