

**Report on celebration of international Human Rights day 2006**



*Venue: Mingora, Swat, Pakistan*

*Date: December, 10<sup>th</sup>, 2006.*

*Participants: Civil society Representatives, Local Government  
Representatives, Students and Businessmen*

*Swat Youth Front  
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*Process:*

*Like other years, Swat Youth Front organized a one day seminar on the theme "FIGHTING POVERTY: A MATTER OF OBLIGATION NOT CHARITY at the occasion of International Human Rights day 2006 at Mingora Swat. The main purpose of the event was to create awareness among the public regarding Human Rights. More than 500 boys & girls students of various schools and Colleges, teachers & lecturers, civil society representatives and Local Government representatives participated in this event.*

*The program was started with the recitation of Holy Quran by Qari Akbar Ali. In the inaugural Address Mr. Badar Zaman, Executive Director SYF, welcomed all the participants. In his address he expresses his deep concern that millions of people are systematically deprived of fundamental human rights simply because they are poor. He added that from a human rights perspective, poverty can be described as the denial of a person's right to a range of basic capabilities. He points out that Poverty is not more than just a lack of income. But also about power and inequality. He also emphasizes that Access to and control over resources, social practices, and legal and institutional structures are also determinative factors in causing poverty.*

*Mr. Liaqat Shah, Representative from NGO Sector, tells the participants that poverty is a cross cutting issue and a grave human rights challenge. It exacerbates the occurrence of human rights violations, reinforces discrimination against groups and*

*communities, and denies individuals the ability to claim their human rights and seek a remedy.*

*Miss Pass Bibi, District lady Councilor, in her speech highlighted that women in our country are particularly troubled by the heightened effects of poverty, refrain them from education, basic health facilities, and decision making. Furthermore she added that if we want to eradicate Human Rights Violation we should wage a war against poverty.*

*Riaz Hussain, Student leader, affirms that Poverty is the main cause and a product of human rights violations. It is this double edge that makes poverty probably the gravest human rights challenge in the world. Moreover he added that Human Rights and poverty are inter related with each other. People who are victims of discrimination are more likely to be poor. Generally they find it harder or impossible to participate in the labour market and have little or no access to basic services and resources. Meanwhile, the poor in many societies cannot enjoy their rights to education, health and housing simply because they cannot afford them. And poverty affects all human rights: for example, low income can prevent people from accessing education -- an "economic and social" right -- which in turn inhibits their participation in public life -- a "civil and political" right -- and their ability to influence policies affecting them.*

*At the end Muhammad Arif, Union Council Nazim told the participants that if we are to be serious about human rights, we must demonstrate that we are serious about deprivation. We must*

*answer the call to fight poverty as "a matter of obligation, not charity". By following the Millennium Declaration and the Millennium Development Goals we can get freedom from want, freedom from fear and freedom from suppression.*

*After the seminar a walk started ,the participants displaying banners and cards containing the slogan on the theme "FIGHTING POVERTY: A MATTER OF OBLIGATION NOT CHARITY After covering the main areas of Mingora, the walk ended at Nishat Chowk Mingora, Swat. The event was project and highlighted in the local and national Newspapers.*

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