PRESS RELEASE

Date: 15th November 2005

Government should provided security and surety for the protection of minority rights and their workshop places

Islamabad. Following incident of setting fire on two churches in Sangla Hills, the minority groups in Pakistan have expressed their anger and concerns and termed the incident to be the severe violation of minority rights in country. Talking to the newsman, Director PCHR and member National Assembly Engineer Gyan Chund Singh said that incidents of such types are not new as there have been attacks on the worship places of minority prior to this new incident at Sangla Hills. He labeled the Saturday attack on two churches, a school, a student hostel and a priest's home in the remote village of Sangla Hill in eastern Punjab province brutal act against humanity.

Engineer Gyan Chund Singh said that it is responsibility of the government to make security arrangements for the protection of Christian population residing at Sangla Hills, because 80 percent of the village population has fled from their homes due to the fear of being attacked by infuriated mob. He maintained that every religious book deserves sanctity and respect by any minority group living in Pakistan society. He termed the incident of those intend to distort the law and order situation in Sangla as well as create rifts between two communities.

Eng. Gyan Chand Singh demanded the government to appoint a judicial inquiry of the incident to find out the real crux of the matter so that the culprits of this incident do not escape punishment, and emphasized upon the fact that whosoever is involved in desecration of Holy Quran and burning of Churches must be punished without differentiating religious or ethnic belonging.

Following numbers will be reachable round the clock for any information or help: 0300-855570

Media Cell PCHR