

PRESS RELEASE

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Help Appeal

Chairman PCHR, Riaz Fatyana Urges the International and Domestic Community to Help Earthquake Victims Generously

Islamabad Monday, October 12, 2005: Riaz Fatyana, Member National Assembly and Chairman, Parliamentarians Commission for Human Rights urges the international and domestic community to generously help the victims of natural disaster. Talking to media men here in PCHR Secretariat, he declared the natural calamity as one of the worst national tragedy in the country's history in which ten of thousands innocent people have lost their lives and millions are homeless.

At this moment, he urged the local and international community and philanthropists to help these victims on emergency basis. As the winter is approaching, he feared that death toll would be increased drastically if the victims could not get proper medical treatment and shelter. He also lauded the efforts of government to launch one of the largest and massive relief operation against this colossal loss of life and property. However, having meager resources on its part, it is not possible for government alone to cope with this national tragedy, he added. Government has mobilized all its resources to minimize the effects of massive earthquake, however, without the active support of civil society, these resource-oriented mobilization efforts will not prove much valuable.

Disaster management strategies are working very effectively in many developed and developing countries. However, he added that government institutions lack proper resources and effective strategy for disaster management in our country. In fact, through effective disaster management strategy effects of natural disasters could be mitigated, he maintained.

While, talking about PCHR efforts for earthquake victims, he told media men that a Special Committee consisting of Members of Parliament to monitor relief operation has been established. An emergency Cell has also been set up in PCHR Secretariat to assist the working of this Special Committee, which will work round the clock to facilitate Member Parliaments and their relief efforts such as supply of goods to safe and needy hands and actual affected areas. Chairman, PCHR also appreciates the member parliamentarians to establish relief camps at constituency levels to maximize relief efforts at this time of critical juncture. Members PCHR Dr. G.G. Federal Minister for Tourism, Ms. Mehnaz Raffi MNA, Ms. Kashmala Tariq MNA & Executive Director PCHR, Ms. Riffat Javed Parliamentary Secretary IT & Telecommunication, and Engineer Gyan Chund Singh appreciating the efforts of volunteers and emphasized upon the organizations engaged in rescue operation to work more laboriously to make the rescue operation effective and result-oriented.

Following numbers will be reachable round the clock for any information or help:
0300-8555570

Media Cell PCHR