

PRESS RELEASE

e: 30th June 2005

PCHR condemns the burning of Hindu Temple at Nowshera

Islamabad: Parliamentarians Commission for Human Rights condemns the act of burning Hindu Temple in Nowshera at the hands of infuriated mob over the alleged desecration of Holy Quran by a Christian named Yousuf Massih. Commenting upon the incident, Director PCHR, Engineer Gyan Chand Singh MNA said that the alleged culprit Yousuf Massih is not only deaf but he is not mentally well. He said that Quran is not only the sacred book of the Muslim; it is also respected and regarded by other religious minorities in the country. In addition to this, he said that the culprit Yousuf Massih seems to have committed the act unintentionally, because apart from being mentally ill, he is uneducated too.

Eng: Gyan Chand added that burning of Hindu Temple might be the act of some terrorists' elements who intend to distort law and order situation in the country as well as infuriating religious hatred. He maintained that it does not make any sense that act is committed by Christian person while on contrary, Hindu Temple containing holy books and statues of Hindu Community has been set ablaze. He added that the adjacent Hindu population has been migrated to some other areas and is exposed to infuriated mob attacks. It is responsibility of the concerned authorities to provide security to the affected Hindu population in the area.

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 emphasizing upon the fact he maintained that whosoever is involved in desecration of Holy Quran and burning of Hindu Temple must be punished without differentiating religious or ethnic belonging. He also added that he is going to call a meeting of all the minority leaders in Peshawar with the aim to set future strategy for the protection of minority rights in the country. In the end, he appealed the President of Pakistan Honorable General Pervez Musharraf and Prime Minister Mr. Shaukat Aziz to personally look into the matter and employ their personal dynamism to protect the rights of minorities in the country.

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

Media Cell PCHR