

PRESS RELEASE

June 9, 2004

EU DELEGATION VISITS PCHR OFFICES

ISLAMABAD: A delegation of European Union visited Parliamentarians Commission for Human Rights (PCHR). Ambassador of Netherlands Mr. M. Kurperschoek led the delegation.

Other members of the delegation were Tim Enderlin Deputy Head of Mission Switzerland Embassy, Ms. Haleen Vander Beek First Secretary Nether land, Mr. Saiad Fazili, Mr. Alex Boudoris Deputy Head Of Mission Greece Embassy, Caroline Courtois Advisor Human Rights European Union.

Chairman PCHR Mr. Riaz Fatyana MNA briefed the delegates about PCHR and its activities. Various Human rights issues in Pakistan were discussed in the meeting .Major issues which came under discussion included minority rights, Women rights, Children rights, Prisoners rights, Hudood Ordinance, and misuse of Blasphemy law. Chairman PCHR told them that commission is already considering these issues on priority basis and its different committees are working in consultation with civil society groups. He informed the delegation about the bills presented in National Assembly to protect the public rights. He gave brief description about Senior citizen Bill and Amendments in Foreigner's act. Senior citizen bill will provide institutionalize set up for protection to elderly people. Foreigners act will provide legal protection to all refugees and asylum seekers. PCHR members also discussed the Human Right situation in Europe. Dr. G. G. Jamal MNA informed the delegation about the working of PCHR. He informed that through legislation PCHR was active to raise Human Rights issues in both houses of Parliament. Senator Anisa Zeb TahirKheli told the delegates that PCHR is fully committed to protect the human rights in Pakistan. She argued that illiteracy, poverty and unemployment were the main reasons of human rights abuses in the country. She explained the issue of Hudood ordinance and Blasphemy law to the delegation and strategy of PCHR to address these issues. She told that PCHR has submitted a bill in National assembly recommending amendments in Pakistan Penal code to stop the misuse of law for Honor Killing. She informed the delegation that PCHR has clear approach that all controversial issue should be dealt with new vision to remove its biasness and misuse. Senator Mr. Naseer Mengal briefed the delegation about the bill for Human Organs Transplant. He gave them complete history, background and importance of the bill. He told that there was no legal shelter available to human organs transplant. This was the reason many poor are exploited due to poverty. This bill will stop illegal human transplant in country.

The delegation appreciated the sprit and vision of PCHR members and their struggle for promotion and protection of human rights in country. They offered them all sort of technical assistance and cooperation especially in the area of research and advocacy. They urged the need for enhancement of mutual cooperation between PCHR and European Union. Other PCHR members spoke on the occasion were Sardar Gyan Singh MNA, Syed Tahir Shah MNA, Ms. Fuazia Wahab MNA, Sardar Ayaz Sadiq MNA and, Shafique Chaudhary Coordinator PCHR.

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

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