

WSC Activities Report 2010-2011

The period this report covers, 2010-2011, has been one of the worst for Sindhi people, the worst human disasters further marred by ineptness, corruption, mismanagement and apathy. The entire Sindhi nation suffered. The killings and abductions of Sindhi political activists and the designs to play with the history and geography of Sindh.

During these very difficult times World Sindhi Congress have continued to work to its capacity for the cause of Sindh and Sindhi people with the support of its team, its entire membership, its cooperating and collaborating organisations and many individuals.

I would provide a brief summary of our activities during the period of 2010-2011

1. WSC is proud to be the only Sindhi organisation that has consistently represented Sindhi people on the prestigious platform of the UN for the last 23 years to raise the case of marginalised Sindhi people. WSC has participated in all the Human Rights Council (UNHRC) sessions in Geneva during this year. A brief account of participation is as follows:
 - i. A delegation of WSC comprising of Dr Hidayat Bhutto and Dr Lakhu Luhana participated in the 16th session of UN Human Rights Council in Geneva. WSC delegation made statements at events organised by Interfaith International and RADDHO (Rencontre Africaine Pour La Defense des Droits de L'Homme)
 - ii. A delegation lead by Dr Lakhu Luhana participated in the 17th session of UN Human Rights Council in Geneva. Dr Luhana was a panellist in a briefing organised on 15 June by OCAPROCE International titled Human Rights in Security Zone.
 - iii. A delegation comprising of Dr Hidayat Bhutto and Dr Lakhu Luhana participated in the 18th session of UN Human Rights Council in Geneva held from 12-30 September 2011. Dr Luhana was a panellist in a briefing organised by UNPO (Unrepresented Nations and Peoples Organisation) on 15 Sep titled 'Human Rights in Pakistan'. Dr Bhutto spoke at a briefing on 19 Sep organised by ECOSOC accredited NGOs, RADDHO and OCAPROCE International. Dr Bhutto also had an opportunity for intervention on Item 5 'The Role of Languages and Culture in the Protection of Wellbeing and Identity of indigenous Peoples'.

During these briefings and interventions WSC delegates informed the Human Rights Council about the continued gross human rights violation of Sindhi people. During the attendance of these sessions the WSC delegates also met with numerous ECOSOC NGOs, human rights defenders from South Asia region and from other oppressed nations. In these meetings, the delegation had detailed discussions about the worsening situation of human rights of Sindhi people.

UNPO (Unrepresented Nations and Peoples Organisation)

1. Dr Rubina Greenwood from WSC has participated Unrepresented Nations and People Organisation (UNPO) in February 2011 in collaboration with World Sindhi Institute. Where, WSC and WSI jointly presented case of Sindh during UNPO 20th Anniversary. UNPO presents and lobby the right of self-determination of unrepresented nations at UN and EU level. Currently, Sindh sits at UNPO's presidency. WSC and WSI delegation undertook lobbying activities organised by UNPO European Parliament and discussed Flood situation in Sindh and inadequacy of Pakistani government provide aid and relief to flood victims. WSC and WSI jointly raised the issues of manipulation and exploitation of natural resource of Sindh.
2. Dr Lakhu Luhana was an invited specialist speaker at a seminar organised by UNPO in Brussels on 05 May 2011. He did a presentation about the environmental degradation including mega dam building in Gilgit Baltistan and its relevance to

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environmental degradation in Sindh. On 06 May 2011 in another seminar organised by UNPO in Brussels he spoke in detail about the policies of demographic changes to convert Sindhis and other oppressed nations in Pakistan into a minority.

Other Events, Demonstrations and Campaigns

1. WSC celebrated 107th Birth Anniversary of Saeen GM Syed on 16th Jan 2011 in London in which Sindhi and Baloch activists participated.
2. The GM Syed Memorial Committee and WSC gave Saeen GM Syed award to Mr Naz Sanai and MK Jetley for their contribution to the cause of Sindh and Sindhi people.
3. WSC undertook a campaign for the release of forcibly kidnapped political activists including Akash Mallah and Muzaffar Bhutto. UN's Working Group on Enforced or Involuntary Disappearances issued Urgent Action for Akash Mallah and pressed upon Pakistan government to release him. Amnesty International issued Urgent Actions for Akash and Muzaffar. An Urgent Action is awaiting for Muzaffar Bhutto UN's Working Group on Enforced or Involuntary Disappearances
4. On Sunday 1st May a rally was held at 10 Downing Street against killings on 21st April 2011 of Sindhi political activists Sirai Qurban Khuhawar, Roplo Choliani and Noorullah Tunio
5. Save Sindh Rally was held on 21 August 2011 at 10 Downing Street against the attempts to administratively divide Sindh

Working with Other Organisations

1. Liberation is a UK based old organization, fighting for the cause of oppressed people and nations and has a consultative status with United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC). WSC is an affiliated organisation of Liberation and has increased its presence by having two members on its Central Council. Dr Rubina Greenwood and Rizwan Bhatti represent WSC at Liberation.
2. We are proud that in the UK Sindhi and Baloch activists have stood side by side in all activities. The following activities were initiated by Baloch Human Rights Council UK and WSC collaborated in all these activities:
 - i. Demonstration against forcible Annexation of Balochistan on 27th March 2011 in front of USA embassy in London
 - ii. Rally on Sunday 31st July in front of USA Embassy, London against continued abduction and target killing of Baloch political activists
3. WSC worked to forge United Front of Sindhi Diasporas Organisations – WSC, WSI and SANA on issues critical to Sindh and Sindhi people such as water, floods in Sindh
4. WSC has issued a number of statements on a number of issues including:
 - i. Forced disappearance of Muzaffar Bhutto
 - ii. Fraud in population census
 - iii. Killings of Sindhi political activists Sirai Qurban Khuhawar, Roplo Choliani and Noorullah Tunio
 - iv. Atrocities against Sindhis people in Karachi
 - v. The restoration of historical and geographical character of Hyderabad and Karachi
 - vi. MQM designs to change the history and geography of Sindh

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vii. Government's failure for flood relief work in Sindh

USA Chapter

WSC with G.M.Syed memorial committee celebrated Saaiin G.M.Syed birthday in Houston . Sindhis all over the US attended the event. A large number of Sindhis listened the speeches and enjoyed the music. An auction was held for flood victims.

1. USA chapter collaborated with Baloch organization to hold peaceful protest in front of Pakistan consulate in Houston and memorandum was presented to Consulate General.
2. Dr Saghir Shaikh and Rehman Kakepoto attended the Amnesty International Conference in San Francisco and met with various delegates to inform about human rights situation in Sindh
3. Dr Saghir Shaikh worked with SANA Flood relief committee for selecting partner organization in Sindh. SANA partnered with Engro Checmicals non profit arm which ran Live stock project in Sindh.
4. WSC team including Umed Laghari, Malik Dino Shaikh and Mansoor Samoon attended SANA convention in St. Louis.
5. Farhan Soomro and Shahida arranged a fund for Life Bridge which is run by Dr. Geet Chainani also Dr Saghir Shaikh helped to raise funds for her organization in LA.

Canada Chapter

6. Sindhi Cultural Day event in Toronto on 5th of Dec 2010
7. Sindhi Cultural Day event in Calgary on 5th Dec 2010 - with SANA
8. Wrote letters to the Canadian Prime Minister and other ministers and members of parliament to request them to provide us the information regarding financial support provided to Pakistan in terms of loan, grants and other kind of military and civilian support during last 10 years. Asif Panhwar lead this task
9. Fund raising with SANA for 2010 flood relief work for Sindh

Sindh Chapter

10. Issue press statements and activities reports to Sindhi media
11. Relief work for flood effected Sindhi people