

The focus of WS activities, as ever, has remained to raise the awareness of the international community with regard to the disadvantaged position and suffering of Sindhi nation.

Let me explain the circumstance in which we carried out our activities last year. Sindh na sanbhre sukh, but the last year has been particularly difficult and torturous for Sindhi people. The continued anti-people and particularly anti-sindhi rule of Musharaf had put enormous stress on Sindhi society. The policies of political, economic and social apartheid brought enormous suffering, pain, poverty and misery to Sindhi people. Hundreds of Sindhi and Baloch political activists were in the torture centres including Dr. Safdar Sarki and Akhtar Mengal. A military operation was continuing in Balochistan. Then a day of great sadness and grave consequences for Baloch and Sindhi people came on 20 Nov 2007 when Mir Balaach Marri was murdered.

The worst was yet to come. Muhtarma Benazir Bhutto was murdered on 27 December. The whole Sindh started burning. The people without any political guidance were mourning the death with the perception of daughter of Sindhi nation. It was a colossal loss of Sindhi people, the consequences of which have yet to emerge and will continue unfolding for next few decades.

I briefly present here the activities carried out in last year under various headings in the backdrop of the above situation.

### **Rallies and Protest Demonstrations:**

In last year we had organised 5 rallies and demonstrations. Four in front of 10 Downing Street and one in front of the USA embassy in London. The demonstrations were held on 03 August 2007, 16 Dec 2007, 28 Jan 2008, 26 Feb 2008 and 30 March 2008. The rallies were held with regard to grave human rights violations committed against Sindhi and Baloch people with particular reference to release of disappeared political activists including Dr. Safdar Sarki and Akhtar Mengal, military operation in Balohistan resulting in killing of innocent Baloch people.

### **Conferences, Seminars and Meetings**

During last year we have organised the following conferences, seminars and meetings:

1. WSC held its 19<sup>th</sup> international conference on 03 Nov 2007 titled "Policy Options of International Community for Pakistan: A case of Sindh and Balochistan" at this same venue.
2. Remembrance meeting to pay tribute to Mir Balaach Marri on 02 De 2007 at London University
3. International seminar titled Muhtarma Benazir Bhutto - A Sindhi Martyr: Aftermath and Implications, to remember and pay tribute to Muhtarma Benazir Bhutto on 13 Jan 2008 in Univerity of London

## World Sindhi Congress Activities Report 2007-2008

---

4. Commemoration of 104<sup>th</sup> birth anniversary of Saeen G. M. Syed in Houston on March 8, 2008
5. Commemoration on the 13<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Saeen GM Syed at this location on 28<sup>th</sup> April 2008
6. A welcome reception to Dr. Safdar Sarki in London who came after 26 months disappearance and torture on 14 June 2008

### **Other Activities**

1. Participated in the 9<sup>th</sup> Session of the UN Human Rights Council in sep 2008.
2. Participated in the AGM of Liberation, with whom we have long-term collaboration. WSC was elected to be represented at the Central Council of Liberation.
3. Participated in the interactive discussion of Sindhi diasporas organisations in the UK and formulated Sindh Vision Group
4. Participated in the events of other Sindhi diasporas organisations: Sindhi Sangat UK, Sindh Doctors Association, Sindh Doctors Forum.
5. WSC was invited as a keynote speaker at an interactive seminar on Sindhi language and culture organised by Sindhi Community Centre.
6. Participated in 6 demonstrations in front of British courts against the persecution of Baloch human rights activists in the UK.
7. Participated in remembrance event for Jiji Zarina

We are not complacent about what we have done. The conditions of Sindh and Sindhi people require much more. Still, when we look back we can not believe how we were able to undertake so many activities with only limited resources. The only reason that we can understand is the continued teamwork, commitment and contribution of WSC EC and membership who have worked tirelessly over the last year like all the past years. We are grateful from depth of our heart to Balochistan Action Committee who has stood by us shoulder to shoulder under all circumstances. Most of the above activities were held in collaboration with Balochistan Action Committee. We are also grateful to other Sindhi diasporas organisations, Sindhi Sangat UK, Sindhi Doctors Association and Sindh Doctors Forum, who over time have developed a better understanding of each other and have worked together more closely in many ways. Last but not the least none of these activities would have been possible without your participation, we greatly value it and gratefully acknowledge it. We hope that this cooperation would continue in the future as the challenges for Sindhi nation remain gigantic.