



# World Sindhi Congress

## ورلڊ سنڌي ڪانگريس

# World Sindhi Congress®

Annual Report 2010  
for the period from October 2009 to October 2010

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*UK, USA and Canada*

[www.worldsindhicongress.org](http://www.worldsindhicongress.org)

## Purpose of the organisation

World Sindhi Congress (“WSC”) is a human rights advocacy organization based in the UK and USA. It aims to create a better understanding among the international community about the disadvantaged status of Sindhis in Pakistan and about Sindhi people’s struggles for their human rights, including the right to self-determination. In addition, WSC strives to create an association of Sindhis around the world. WSC is a registered company in England and Wales, UK and Louisiana, USA, organized to carry out non-profit activities only.

We advocate and campaign for:

- Non-violence and Conflict resolution
- National Self-determination
- Democracy
- Human Rights Education
- Separation of State and Religion
- Environmental Justice
- Equality for women
- Sindhi language and culture preservation
- Denuclearizing

## International campaigning for the cause

WSC is proud to be the only Sindhi organisation which has consistently represented the case of Sindhi people on the prestigious platforms of the United Nations for the last 22 years. In this connection, WSC has participated in all the United Nations Human Rights Council (UNHRC) sessions held in Geneva during this year:



*Sindhi and Baloch delegates in 15th session of UN Human Rights Council in Geneva - September 2010.*

- a) A delegation of World Sindhi Congress (WSC) comprising of Dr. Haleem Bhatti, Dr. Hidayat Bhutto and a) Dr. Lakhuhana participated in the 13th session of the United Nations Human Rights Council in Geneva, held from 2nd to 26th March 2010. The briefing was attended by the representatives of UNHRC, European Union, representatives of a number of countries and various human rights organisations. The delegation members deliberated in a briefing organised by Interfaith International on a wide range of human rights, economic, social, political and cultural issues facing Sindhi people.

- b) WSC delegation comprising of Dr. Hidayat Bhutto, Dr. Rubina Greenwood, Ambreen Hisbani and Dr. Lakhu Luhana participated in the 14th UNHRC session held from 31st May to 18th June 2010. The delegation was provided opportunity to present Sindhi people's viewpoint at a briefing titled 'Open Dialogue on Fundamental Rights of the People's: Self Determination and Autonomy' organised by Interfaith International.
- c) A delegation of WSC comprising of Dr Hidayat Bhutto and Dr Lakhu Luhana participated in the 15th session of UN Human Rights Council in Geneva held from 13 September - 1 October 2010. WSC delegation made statements at two briefings about the human rights situation in Sindh and about the worst flood disaster in Sindh and apathy of the government in relief and rehabilitation work. The delegation also met with numerous human rights defenders and ECOSOC organisations to deliberate about the human rights situation in Sindh.



*Dr. L. Luhana of WSC and Sana Baloch, ex-Senator of Balochistan in a briefing organized by Interfaith International and UNPO Geneva – March 2010.*

On invitation from WSI, WSC participated in the 10th General Assembly session of The Unrepresented Nations and Peoples Organization (UNPO) held in Rome, Italy from 27 to 29 May 2010 and was represented by Suraiya Makhdoom. In her presentation she focussed mainly on the constitutional, political and civil rights, freedom of expression and that of religion and language and culture.

WSC wrote letters to a number of international donors including DFID (Department of International Development) UK, Red Cross and Doctors without Borders about the flood situation in Sindh and transparency and proportional to damage distribution of aid. The campaign received favourable response from donor organisations.

## Conferences and events

In 2009-2010 WSC organised a number of events and conferences, raising the political and cultural awareness among the delegates and promotion of the causes of the organisation. The following is a brief account of the key events held during the period 2008-2009:

1. **Annual General Meeting:** The Annual General Meeting of WSC was held on 10 October 2010 in London.
2. **Annual International Conference:** WSC held its 22<sup>nd</sup> International conference on 'The National Self Determination of Sindhis in the Context of International Peace and Security' on 9 October 2010 in London. A consensus view was adopted at the conference that the decentralization of Pakistani hegemony and the presence of a sovereign Sindh could create a new path to democracy and a new method of counteracting pan-Islamic forces.

Several distinguished scholars and activists from Sindh, Balochistan, UK, USA and Canada joined the conference, with prominent speakers including Nrij Deva, Member of European Parliament, Dr. Naseer Dashti, a Baloch intellectual and journalist, Sayed Ghulam Shah of Sindh United Party, Dr Safdar Sarki, President of Jeay Sindh Tahreek (JST), Dr Nichola Khan, a lecturer at the University of Brighton and Dr Katharine Adeney, a Senior Lecturer in Politics at the University of Sheffield. Also, Dr Charles Graves, the Secretary General of Interfaith International, a Geneva based NGO sent his paper which was read out in the session on floods.

Along with speeches, a book reading session by Mr. Imdad Ali Odho, the writer of a new book 'Jal Mashaal Jal' was also organized.



*New Elected Executive Committee of WSC Taking Oath in Annual General Body Meeting in London, UK – October 2010*



*Distinguished speakers presenting their views and papers at the 22nd International Conference of the WSC- October 2010*

The key feature was the session on floods, there was a WSC presentation on the floods, the losses and the plight of the victims. WSC team members presented the details of flood relief work done by WSC in Sindh and the fundraising and other events conducted in UK, USA and Canada by WSC on its own as well as in collaboration with other organizations. Finally a panel discussion was held in which WSC's Saghir Shaikh and two distinguished speakers from Sindh, Dr Safdar Sarki of JST and Mr. Ghulam Shah of SUP answered the questions from the floor.

The conference passed 12 major resolutions concerning human rights, distributive economic and political justice in Pakistan, restoration of political rights and civil liberties, rights of women, rights of religious minorities, fair policies for educational opportunities and jobs for Sindhis, rehabilitation of flood victims, reduction of military budget and elimination of nuclear weapons, and ceasing of military operations in Balochistan.

Conference demanded that flood aid be fairly distributed amongst the provinces based on the overall loss and damage not on the basis of 'population of provinces' as suggested by the government. It called for the inquiry of breaches made at the River Indus so save Military Cantonments in Sindh.

It also demanded that Pakistan government should immediately declare the whereabouts of missing people and release thousands of detained political and human rights activists of Balochistan and Sindh. Conference said the military operation in Balochistan is still continued; therefore the military operation in Balochistan should be stopped immediately.

Conference also demanded that Pakistan government has increased its 2010 defence budget 17% even at the time of this crisis. It claimed the Pakistan defence spending is proportionally higher than USA and UK defence budgets.

3. **Birth Anniversary of GM Syed:** WSC celebrated 106th Birth Anniversary of Saen GM Syed on 17th Jan 2010 in London in which Sindhi and Baloch activists participated. WSC in collaboration with GM Syed Memorial Committee organised celebrated 106th Birth Anniversary of Saen GM Syed on 17th Jan 2010 in Houston, USA. The event followed by a musical event and was attended by hundreds of Sindhi from across the USA.
4. **Cultural events – International Cultural and Solidarity Day (December 5<sup>th</sup>, 2009):** WSC organised Sindh Topi (Cap) Day in solidarity with Sindhi nation. The Topi Day rallies were held in London, Birmingham, Bristol, New York and in Manchester in collaboration with Sindhi Sangat UK.
5. WSC organised River Indus Day in London to support the Sindhi people's struggle for the waters of river Indus.



*Sindhis in Britain and their Friends Celebrating the International Cultural and Solidarity Day – December 2009.*

6. Sindhi Sangat UK and World Sindhi Congress undertook relief work during floods in Sindh by providing transport to flood effected Sindhi people.
7. WSC worked to facilitate to formulate coordination committee of Sindhi political organisations, intellectuals, writers to formulate strategy for joint working on relief and rehabilitation work for Sindhi people.
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9. WSC worked to forge United Front of Sindhi Diasporas Organisations – WSC, WSI and SANA on water issue. WSC has produced a document on the Sindh’s case on water.
10. WSC worked with Amnesty International on the issue of forced disappearances and other human rights violations in Sindh. Consequently, Amnesty International has issued Urgent Actions for Akash Mallah and Noor Mohammad Khaskheli and have been following their case.

**WSC USA chapter** also worked proactively and organised many successful events and organisational work.

- WSC organised two Book Reading Events with Ms Alice Albinia, author of the book ‘Empires of Indus.’ In Berkeley, CA and in San Jose, CA. These events were sponsored jointly with University of California Berkeley and Sindhi Association of North America (SANA) and Friends of South Asia (FoSA).
- Established new web site <http://www.pakistanaidwatch.org>
- Participated the International Conference on Baluchistan in November 2009 in Washington DC, organized by the American Friends of Balochistan
- Collaborated with SANA in Sindh Cyclone Relief Fund Efforts
- Updated GMSyed.org website, WSC facebook page, WSC main web page.

**WSC Canada** undertook the following activities:

- Sent letters (email/Fax/mail) to Canadian Government, members of parliaments and donor agencies especially CIDA (Canadian International development Agency) asking how they distribute funds to Pakistan and followed up on the phone.
- Worked on Fund raising for flood relief in Sindh
- Celebrated International Cultural and Solidarity Day in Calgary in December, 2009



*A reflection of Sindhi culture from Sindhi Cultural Day celebrated in Calgary, Canada  
December 2009*

## Expressing our views – *press releases*

WSC has remained conscious of the human rights violations and other issues affecting the Sindhi people as well as Balochistan and has not stopped from issuing press releases and policy statements:

- Atrocities against Sindhis people in Karachi
- The restoration of historical and geographical character of Hyderabad and Karachi
- MQM designs to change the history and geography of Sindh
- Karachi rally of Sindh Tarqi Pasand Party
- Construction of Bhasha Dam
- Assassination of Habib Jalib Baloch
- Dismal flood relief work in Sindh

## Working side-by-side with Baloch activists

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:

- Martyrdom Anniversary of Mir Balaach Marri
- Martyrdom Anniversary Nawab Akbar Bughti
- Demonstration against murder of Habib Jalib at 10 Downing Street



*The 3<sup>rd</sup> Martyrdom Anniversary of Mir Balaach Marri in London – November 2009*

## Our affiliation with Liberation

Having consultative status with United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC), Liberation is an old organization, fighting for the cause of oppressed people and nations all over the world. Liberation is chaired by Jeremy Corbyn MP. WSC is an affiliated Organization of Liberation and as such has a seat on its Central Council.

- During 2009-2010 Ms Suraiya Makhdoom represented WSC on the central council of Liberation. Dr. Rubina Greenwood has been now elected to represent WSC on Liberation central council during 2010-2011.
- On 7th November 2009 liberation held an International Event at the Irish Cultural Centre, London. Ms. Suraiya Makhdoom and Acher Bozdar on behalf of WSC organised a stall there, which displayed some material on Sindh, T-shirts, ajraks, etc.

## Recognition of work for the cause - *GM Syed Memorial Award*

This award has been established by WSC in collaboration with The G M Syed Memorial Committee (GMC) to honour the memory of G M Syed and encourage those who share his dreams of freedom of Sindh and other oppressed nations in Pakistan. Each year, this award is granted to one or two activists or scholars, who have made exceptional contributions to peace and justice in Sindh and/or to awareness about Sindh. For the year 2009, The GM Syed Memorial Awards were given to Mr Khaki Joyo of Sindh and Dr. Baldev Matlani of Mumabi, India for their contribution to the cause of Sindh and Sindhi people and promotion of Sindhi language and culture.

## Flood Relief Work in Sindh

- WSC members in collaboration with various other organizations and collected the donations for flood relief and carried out the relief work in Sindh.
- In UK, WSC worked with UK Sindhi Sangat and sent donations to Sindh for transportation of flood affected families to flood relief camps.
- In Birmingham, UK, Ms. Suraiya Makhdoom and other WSC workers collected relief goods and sent to Sindh.
- In USA and Canada, WSC workers collected some money and reimbursed to various camps in Sindh and supported a few families in their rehabilitation.



*WSC carried out some flood relief work with collaboration of local NGOs in Sindh.*



## Our Organization

| Officers (2010-2012) |                          |
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| Hidayat Bhutto       | Chairman                 |
| Lakhu Luhana         | Secretary General        |
| Umed Laghari         | Sr Vice Chairperson      |
| Rubina Shaikh        | Vice Chairperson         |
| Sanjay Ahuja         | Deputy Secretary General |
| Sultan Mahar         | Finance Secretary        |
| Ali Memon            | Information Secretary    |
| Rizwan Bhatti        | Cultural Secretary       |
| Haleem Bhatti        | Organizer UK Chapter     |
| Farhan Kaghzi        | Organizer US Chapter     |
| Siraj Makhdoom       | Organizer Canada Chapter |

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