



Christian Care Foundation[®]

A Social Agenda for Participatory

Development and Equal Rights

Transferring Power in the Hands of Communities

8/11/2020

NATIONAL MINORITIES DAY 2020

Jointly organized by:
Ministry of Human Rights
Government of Pakistan
And
Christian Care Foundation



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Background:

National Minorities Day is observed every year on 11th August to honor Quaid-e-Azam's vision for rights of minorities. The day was first celebrated in 2009. Its celebration on 11th August is associated with the first speech of the Quaid-e-Azam to first Constituent Assembly of Pakistan on the same day in 1947 where he outlined his vision for minorities of the country. Addressing the Assembly, Quaid-e-Azam said, "You are free; you are free to go to your temples, you are free to go to your mosques or to any other place of worship in this state of Pakistan. You may belong to any religion or caste or creed that has nothing to do with the business of the state".

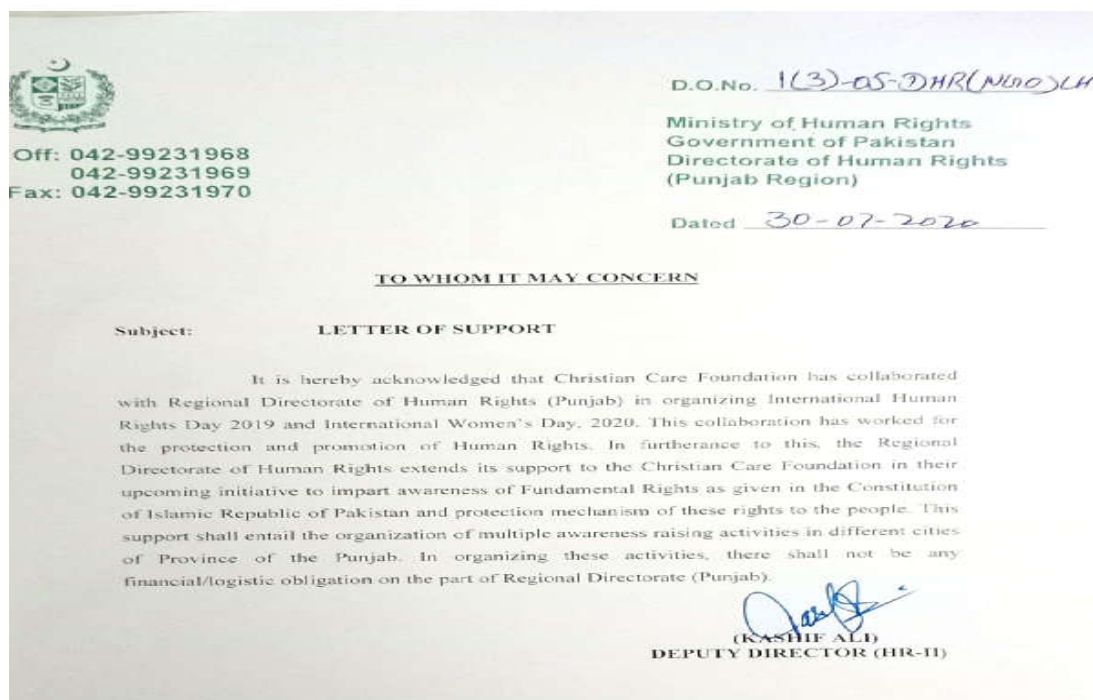
Laying the foundations of principles of Equality and Non-discrimination, he further said, "We are starting in the days where there is no discrimination, no distinction between one community and another, no discrimination between one caste or creed and another. We are starting with this fundamental principle: that we are all citizens, and equal citizens, of one State".

The Day is celebrated at official level every year since 2009. Federal and Provincial Governments organize different events to renew their commitment to realize the vision of the Quaid-e-Azam for rights of minorities and to highlight challenges faced by them. President of the country, Dr. Arif Alvi, in his message to nation this yearsaid that minorities have rendered countless sacrifices for the construction and development of Pakistan, adding that members of the minority communities are playing a key role in the country's development, including in the field of education and medicine. The president reiterated Pakistan's commitment to refrain from discriminating against minorities and to maintain an atmosphere of tolerance and brotherhood within the country.

Collaboration:

To celebrate National Minorities Day, the Christian Care Foundation has established a collaboration with Regional Directorate of Human Rights (Punjab), Ministry of Human Rights, Government of Pakistan. The Regional Directorate has issued a Letter of Support in favor of Christian Care Foundation to not only

collaborate in celebrating National Minorities Day but also in arranging awareness about Human Rights.



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In furtherance to this, another collaboration was established with Presbyterian Church of Pakistan and the event was arranged at Naulakha Presbyterian Church, Lahore. Presbyterian is one of the largest church organizations in Pakistan, having

more than 350 churches under its control. It has made extensive contributions in educational and health sectors of the country. It made its premises available for celebration of this Day.

Agenda:

An elaborate agenda was prepared for celebration of the Day. All topics of interest to minorities were included in it. The agenda looked like this:

Topic	Speaker
Significance of National Minorities Day	Mr. Tanveer Yaqoob, Chairman, Christian Care Foundation
Overview of Human Rights awareness programme	Ms Lubna Mansoor, Regional Director, Ministry of Human Rights
What does it mean to be a minority in Pakistan	Rev. Dr. Majeed Abel, Moderator of the Presbyterian Church of Pakistan
Challenges in implementation of Supreme Court judgment in S.M.C No. 1 of 2014	Dr. Muhammad Shoaib Suddle, Chairman, One-Man Commission on Minorities Rights



Ministry of Human Rights
Government of Pakistan



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PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
Pakistan

**Ministry of Human Rights Government of Pakistan
and
Christian Care Foundation
Cordially invite you to celebrate**

NATIONAL MINORITIES DAY, Tuesday, 11th Aug 2020

Chief Guest :
Dr. Muhammad Shoaib Suddle
Chairperson (One man Commission on Minorities
Supreme court of Pakistan)

Rev. Dr. Majid Abel
Moderator of the Presbyterian Church of Pakistan

Looking Forward
Mr. Tanveer Yaqoob
Chairman,
Christian Care Foundation
0300 - 8066977

RSVP:
Ms. Lubna Mansoor
Regional Director (Punjab)
Ministry of Human Rights
042 - 99231968 - 69

Venue :
Naulakha Presbyterian Church
8 Empress Road, Lahore

Chief Guest:

Dr. Muhammad Shoaib Suddle, Chairperson, One-Man Commission on Minorities, Supreme Court of Pakistan, was the Chief Guest on the occasion. He is regarded as a leading police and justice sector reform specialist in South Asia. He is a visiting criminal justice expert at the United Nations Asia and Far East Institute on Crime Prevention and Treatment of Offenders, Tokyo, Advisor Turkish National Police, and a resource person with several national and international organizations, including United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, Vienna. He is also International Director of Asia Crime Prevention Foundation, Tokyo. Dr. Saddle's most recent assignment was the Federal Tax Ombudsman of Pakistan. Before this, he headed the Intelligence Bureau (Pakistan's premiere civilian intelligence agency), following his stint as Inspector General Police, Sindh. He served as Police Chief of Balochistan, Director General, National Police Bureau, Consultant in the National Reconstruction Bureau, Director General, Bureau of Police Research &

Development, Police Chief of Karachi, Deputy Commandant, National Police Academy, and Director (Economic Crime), Federal Investigation Agency. His role in controlling urban terrorism in Karachi in mid 1990s and difficult law and order situation in Balochistan (2001-04) earned him wide acclaim, both nationally and internationally. In recognition of his exceptional contribution, he was decorated with the top gallantry award of Hilal-e-Shujaat in 1996 and top civil award of Hilal-e-Imtiaz in 2008.

Proceedings:

The seminar started with recitation of verses from Holy Quran and Bible. Mr. Tanveer Yaqoob, Chairman, Christian Care Foundation, highlighted the significance of National Minorities Day. He said that the Minorities Day remind everyone the principles of equal citizenship and non-discrimination.

Dr. Lubna Mansoor, Regional Director, Ministry of Human Rights, Government of Pakistan talked in detail about Fundamental Rights of people given in Constitution of 1973. She said article 8 to 28 of Constitution were related to Fundamental Rights of people. She said all citizens are equal according to article 25 and there is freedom of religion according to article 20 of the Constitution. The minorities are free citizen of Pakistan. She said Ministry of Human Rights has mandate to take notice on violations of human rights.

Dr. Majeed Abel, Moderator of the Presbyterian Church of Pakistan, welcomed all the participants to the seminar. He took the podium and invited representatives from Muslim, Hindu communities and members of different Christian denominations to share their views. He has written a book on inter-faith harmony jointly with Mr. Javed William. During the event, this book was unveiled by the Chief Guest.



The Chief Guest of the event Dr. Muhammad Shoaib Suddle talked at length about rights of minorities in Islam. He narrated few incidents from the life of the Holy Prophet and quoted the Last Sermon to highlight that the principles of equality and non-discrimination are basic part of Islam. He said the Holy Prophet allowed Christians to offer their prayer in a corner of Masjid-e-Nabvi. He then quoted from the speech of Quaid-e-Azam of 11th August 1947 and said the Quaid wanted Pakistan to be a country safe for minorities. He said the speech of Quaid-e-Azam was a hallmark of his vision. After establishing a context for minority rights in Pakistan, he highlighted main points of judgment of Supreme Court of Pakistan delivered in Suo Moto Case No. 1 of 2014. He said main points of the judgment are these:

- (i) the Federal Government should constitute a taskforce tasked with developing a strategy of religious tolerance;
- (ii) appropriate curricula be developed at school and college levels to promote a culture of religious and social tolerance.
- (iii) the Federal Government should take appropriate steps to ensure that hate speeches in social media are discouraged and the delinquents are brought to justice under the law;

(iv) a National Council for minorities' rights be constituted. The function of the said Council should *inter alia* be to monitor the practical realization of the

rights and safeguards provided to the minorities under the Constitution and law. The Council should also be mandated to frame policy recommendations for safeguarding and protecting minorities' rights by the Provincial and Federal Government;

(v) A Special Police Force be established with professional training to protect the places of worship of minorities.

(vi) it is directed that the Federal Government and all Provincial Governments shall ensure the enforcement of the relevant policy directives regarding reservation of quota for minorities in all services.

(vii) in all cases of violation of any of the rights guaranteed under the law or desecration of the places of worship of minorities, the concerned Law Enforcing Agencies should promptly take action including the registration of criminal cases against the delinquents.

(viii) The office shall open a separate file to be placed before three Members Bench to ensure that this judgments given effect to in letter and spirit and the said Bench may also entertain complaints / petitions relatable to violation of Fundamental Rights of minorities in the country.

He highlighted the challenges in implementation of this judgment. For over four years, there was no progress in implementation. The case moved from one Ministry to another without any ownership. Then the Supreme Court appointed One-Man Commission on Minorities to oversee the implementation of all aspects of the judgment. He was appointed its Chairperson. He faced lot of hurdles in smooth functioning of the Commission. He said he was committed to make efforts for protection of rights of minorities as per spirit of judgment of Supreme Court. He thanked Christian Care Foundation in inviting him to the event.



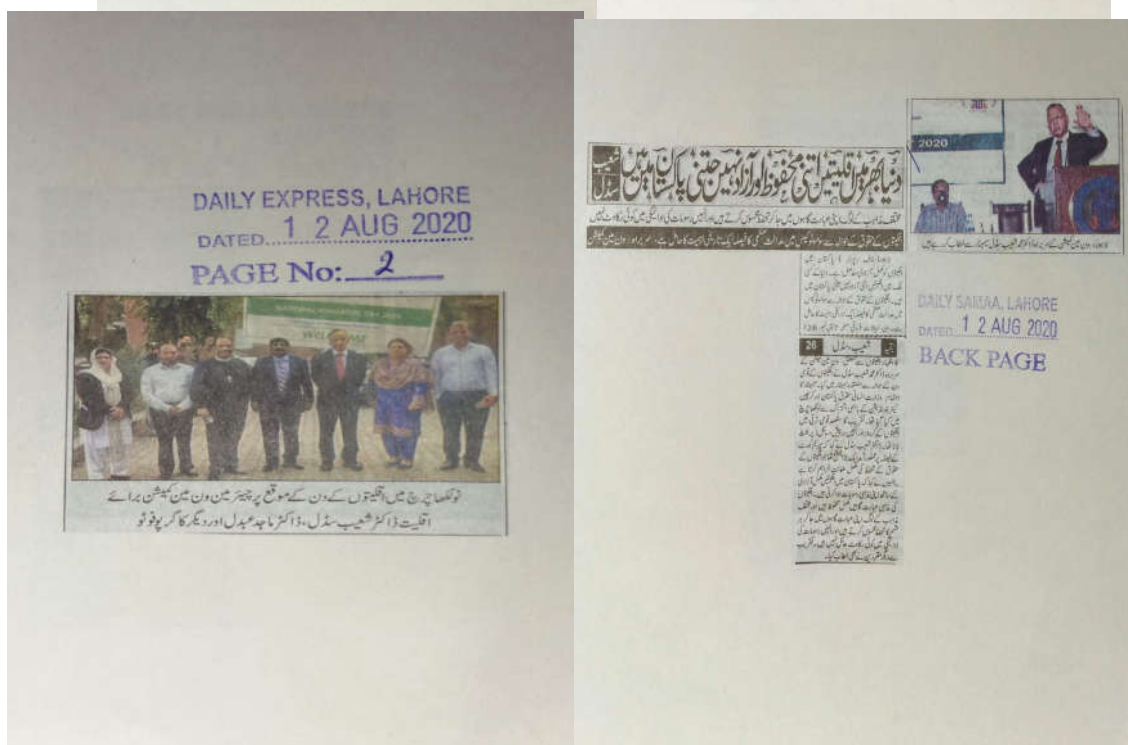
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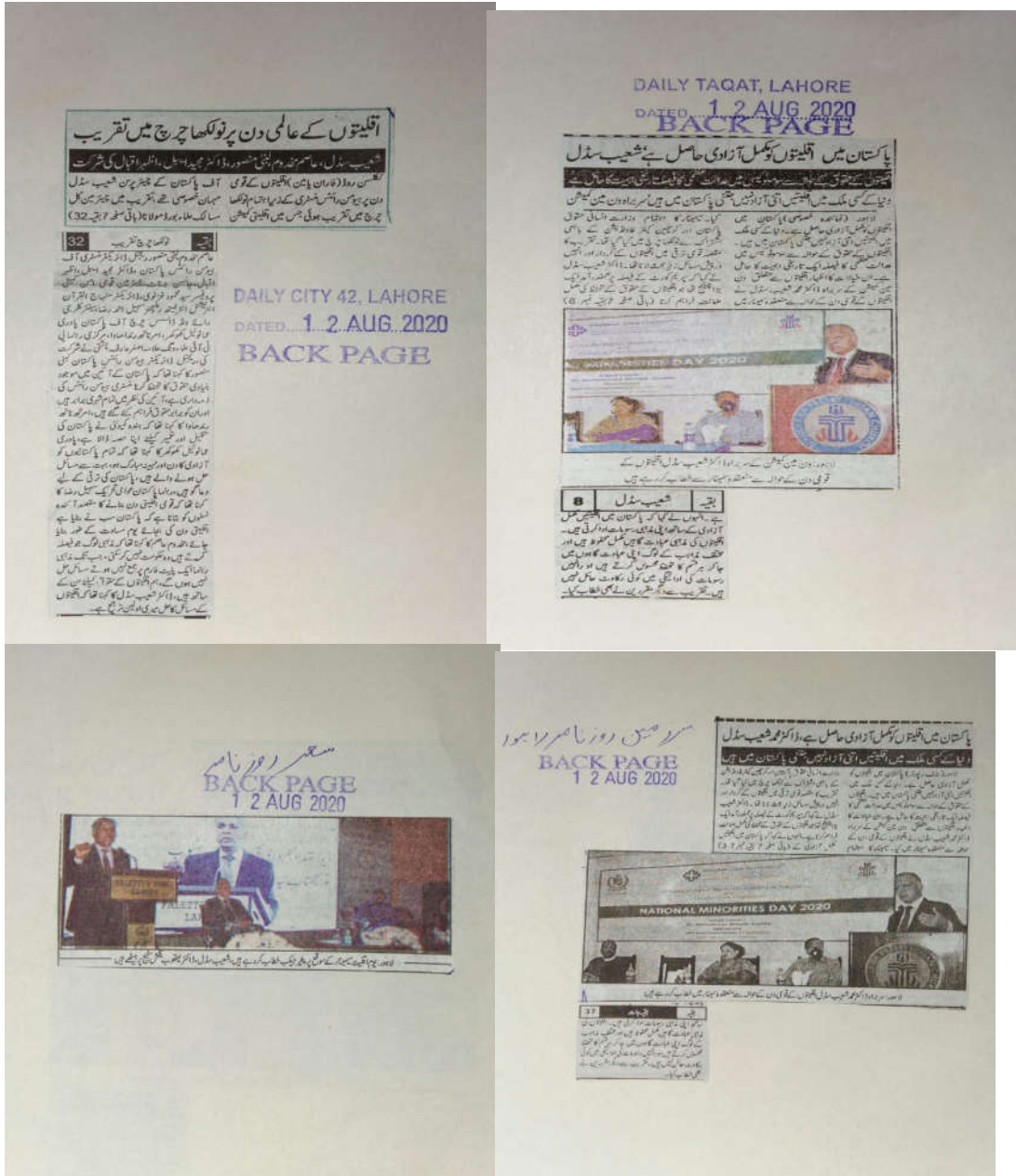
LAHORE: August 11 - Chairman One Man Commission on Minorities Supreme Court of PAKISTAN Dr. Muhammad Shoaib Suddle addressing a seminar on Minorities Day organized by Christian Care Foundation at Naulakha Presbyterian Church. APP Photo by Ashraf Ch

Media Coverage:

The event was given wide media coverage. PTV and City42 broadcast the event live. The following newspapers gave coverage to it:

1	Dawn
2	The Nation
3	Express
4	Ausaf
5	Samaa
6	Taqat
7	City 42
8	Sahar
9	Sarzameen
10	Sada-e-watan







Pictures:





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LAHORE: August -11 Regional Director Human Rights Lubna Mansoor addressing a seminar on Minorities Day organized by Christian Care Foundation at Naulakha Presbyterian Church. APP Photo by Ashraf Ch



