

27 August, 2010
Brussels,

To,
Honourable Mr. Asif Ali Zardari,
President of Pakistan,
Presidency Palace,
Islamabad.

Honourable Mr. President,

We have gathered in front of your Embassy in Brussels to organise a prayer for those innocent people from minority communities of Pakistan, who are being denied their basic human rights in Pakistan. There are so many incidents happening against minorities of Pakistan that we feel that you should take bold steps to ensure the security of the lives, property and honour of these patriotic Pakistanis, though not belonging to Islam.

Islam guarantees basic human rights for everyone irrespective of their cast, creed, culture, religion, sect, sex and ethnicity. Pakistan is a country created in the name of Islam. One should not forget that these Pakistani minorities have sacrificed in no way less than Muslims for the creation of this country during the movement led by the great leader Mohamed Ali Jinnah, who in a 14-point declaration stated that minorities were to be free to profess their religion in Pakistan. The declaration also guaranteed a 5 per cent quota for minorities in government and semi-government jobs and opportunities for admission to professional, academic and other higher educational institutions. However, we the minorities of Pakistan have lost our very fundamental right, the right to life.

We are holding this prayer and peaceful protest following reports of an ugly crime, committed by a Muslim Doctor against a poor Christian girl. Here is the brief text of the news:

Karachi: July 14, 2010. Dr Jabar threw Miss Magdalene from the fourth floor of Jinnah Post Graduate Medical Centre, Karachi after raping her. The hospital is named after the Founder of Pakistan, Quaid-e-Azam Mohammad Ali Jinnah, where all doctors are Muslims. Some visitors who had come to see a patient saw Magdalene Ashraf, wearing a nurse's uniform being thrown from fourth floor by a person in a white coat and called the hospital security.

The victim is a Christian, aged 23, and daughter of a poor Christian Ashraf Masih who had dreams of a good future for his daughter Magdalene after her graduation in JPMC School of Nursing. As the news reached Ashraf Masih that his daughter was raped and a doctor attempted to kill her, he rushed to the hospital where he found her in critical condition fighting for her life. He called some Christian leaders to seek

help and justice.

The Gojra incident is not very old. Last year hundreds of Muslim fundamentalists attacked a Christian locality, ransacking, and looting, plundering and setting fire to homes of innocent people. Many innocent Christians were killed in that incident and many Christian girls were raped. Even after one year, these victims have not got any compensation that was promised by Shahbaz Shareef, the Chief Minister of Punjab. Is this the Pakistan that was promised to us by Mr. Jinnah?

A couple of months back, the place of worship of another religious minority of Pakistan, the Ahmadyya community was attacked by Muslim extremists killing dozens of innocent Ahmadyya minority of Pakistan.

Honourable Mr. President,

Pakistan needs a change. You, would be lauded as a great leader in history, if you take bold steps to change the Constitution of Pakistan and repeal the notorious Blasphemy law. This draconian law is a tool in every misguided Pakistani Muslim's hand to settle personal scores against their Christian brethren.

We, therefore, request you to ensure that the minorities of Pakistan enjoy their fundamental human rights and live in peace and honour in Pakistan.

Thanking you,

Yours sincerely,

Shirley Anjum,
European Organisation for Pakistani Minorities
Minorities.pak@gmail.com

CC

To H.E. Jerzy Buzek, President, European Parliament
To H.E. Jose Manuel Barroso, President, European Commission
To H.E. Herman Van Rompuy, President, European Union
To Mr. Jalil Abbas Jilani, Ambassador, Embassy of Pakistan to Belgium