



ASIAN FORUM FOR  
HUMAN RIGHTS AND DEVELOPMENT

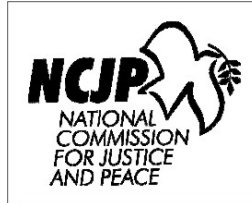
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25 April 2006

Dear Prime Minister Shaukat Aziz,

CC:

President General Pervez Musharraf  
Mr. Khurshid M. Kasuri, Minister of Foreign Affairs  
Mr. Muhhamad Wasi Zafar, Minister of Law, Justice and Human Rights  
Mr. Shalid Akram Bhinder, state Minister for Law, Justice and Human Rights  
Mr. Munir Akram, Ambassador and Permanent Representative to the UN in New York  
Mr. Masood Khan, Ambassador and Permanent Representative to the UN in Geneva  
Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights  
Mr. Chenkyab Dorji, Secretary General of South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation

**Subject: First election of membership for the new United Nations (UN) Human Rights Council on 9 May 2006**

The Asian Forum for Human Rights and Development (FORUM-ASIA), Human Rights Commission of Pakistan, Human Rights Education Forum of Pakistan and National Commission for Peace and Justice appreciate the advanced declaration of Pakistan's interest in standing for the election for membership in the new Human Rights Council.

As the next step, we **urge Pakistan to make specific and credible public pledges and commitments** in support of your Pakistan candidacy to the Human Rights Council. The General Assembly Resolution establishing the Human Rights Council (A/60/251) clearly states that "when electing members of the Council, Member States shall take into contribution of candidates to the promotion and protection of human rights and their **voluntary pledges and commitments** made thereto" (para 8).

Given that Asia is the only region in the world which lacks a regional human rights mechanism, we consider it particularly important for Asian countries to publicly commit themselves to promoting and protecting all human rights.

Other candidates have issued pledges that they will implement as a member of the Council, such as:

- Issuing standing invitations to the Special Procedures;
- Improving opportunities for contributions to the Council by NGOs;
- Ratifying additional international human rights treaties;
- Submitting the reports to the Treaty Bodies within the deadline and ensuring follow-up to the recommendations;
- Enhancing cooperation with the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR).

We call on you to commit Pakistan to promote and protect human rights both domestically and internationally through making specific commitments, including but not limited to the commitments we attach to this letter.

We look forward to your response and the public announcement of Pakistan's pledges.

Yours Sincerely,

Anselmo Lee, Executive Director, FORUM-ASIA  
Iqbal A. Detho, President, Human Rights Education Forum-Pakistan  
I. A. Rehman, Human Rights Commission of Pakistan (HRCP)  
Peter Jacob, Chairperson, Director, National Commission for Justice and Peace (NCJP)