

Pakistan: AMP demonstration and rally on the eve on International day of peasants

Thursday 22 April 2010, by [TARIQ Farooq](#) (Date first published: 17 March 2010).

Dear all,

Please find enclosed some pictures [not reproduced here] of the demonstration and rally of Anjuman Mozareen Punjab on the eve on International day of peasants. Over a thousand peasant were able to reach Lahore from different districts of Punjab despite all the efforts of police to stop them in their districts. There was a blockade of Okara district and several buses and vans were stopped leaving the district.

At Lahore, they gathered at Shimla Pehari Chouck and then moved to Charing Cross at Mall Road Lahore. For over two hours they gave a sit in on the main road. The Punjab government then asked a delegation of AMP to negotiate with the government. A six members delegation went to see the head of a committee formed by the government to solve the issue of the tenants. the delegation was headed by Mehr Abdul Sattar, general secretary AMP. Meanwhile, the rest of the participants of the rally refused to leave the main road and told the police that they will wait the return of their leaders and then they will decide what to do. Several television channels broad cast the sit in live from the scene.

The Punjab government have assured the delegation to solve the issue and that the land they are cultivating will be registered on their name. They also told them that the committee will only negotiate with the real representatives of AMP and that they are happy to meet this delegation. They said that there will be separate committee formed for each farm and the committee will include the representatives of AMP.

Fierce speeches were made at Mall Road and representatives of AMP made it clear that they will fight until they are the owner of the land that they are cultivating over 100 years.

The peasants were holding red flags of Labour Party Pakistan and of AMP. They were raising slogans like, "ownership or death, no to corporate farming, no to feudalism, distribute land among peasants, we will liberate ourselves, workers and peasants unite to fight capitalism, down with imperialism.

At Mall Road, Naeem Shakir, deputy secretary Workers Party Pakistan, Moeen Nawaz Punno chairman National Trade Union Federation Punjab, Azra Shah chairperson Women Workers Help Line, Farooq Tariq spokesperson Labour Party Pakistan and several peasant leaders addressed the gathering.

April 17, 2010

Farooq Tariq

AMP peasant conference

A peasant conference was held at Kalyana Military Estate Okara to demand land rights. The conference was organised by Anjuman Mozareen Punjab. Over 5000 participated with nearly 2000 peasant women. The conference gave warning to the government that if demands are not met, they will march to Lahore on 17 April.

Dear all,

Over 5000 peasants are in attendance at a conference on the eve of the first death anniversary of three tenant leaders. Over 2000 women without a veil or burqa, shoulder to shoulder with others are making the event the real culture of peasantry.

The main demand is to own the land they are cultivating over 100 years. Today more public farm tenants have joined the movement.

The leaders of peasants announced to block Lahore on 17 April, on the international day of peasants. Thousands of peasants will gather at GPO Chouck to march towards Charing Cross Mall Road Lahore.

They told the government that we do not need committees but we need the land. They demanded that Punjab government declare clearly that Military Farms Okara, Renalakhurd, Lahore and Pakpattan land will be given to tenants.

Speakers included Nazli Javed member Labour Party Pakistan Federal Committee, Bushra Khaliq general secretary Women Workers Help Line, Asim Sajad Akhtar Workers Party Pakistan, Irfan Choudry and Alia Amir Ali National Students Federation, Mian Ashraf, Mehr Abdul Sattar, Nadeem Ashraf, Badur Nisa, Mohammed Salim Jhakar, Liaqat Ali, Khushi Majeed Daula of Anjuman Mozareen Punjab, Jamil Umer secretary Awami Jamhoori Forum, Maqsood Mujahid LPP Federal Committee and Mohammed Ayub Nankana Sahib Anjuman Mozareen Punjab and my self.

There was a lot of enthusiasm and they raised slogans Malki Yaa Maut, we want freedom, down with military junta, down with American imperialism, down with capitalism and feudalism, me and you are starving while GHQ continue plundering, end military operation in Baluchistan and Pukhtoonkhawa, solidarity with Faisalabad textile workers.

They also announced to contest the coming local bodies elections in every area where there are tenants. They expressed full support for Faisalabad labour leaders Abdul Qayum participation in bye election.

More details later, the public meeting still continue for the last four hours,

April 6, 2010

Farooq Tariq
