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Monday 13 March 2006, by <u>AJT</u> (Date first published: 12 March 2006).

Six Pakistani Left parties and groups have united to form Awami Jamhoori Tehreek AJT (Peoples Democratic Movement). The decision to from this united movement was announced in a press conference held at Lahore press Club this afternoon on 12th March. The leaders of AJT met for four hours to discuss the final programme, strategy and organization before announcing it in a press conference.

The joining parties are National Workers Party (NWP), Labour Party Pakistan (LPP), Awami Tehreek (AT), Pakistan Mazdoor Kissan Party (PMKP), Pakistan Mazdoor Mehaz (PMM) and Meraj Mohammed Khan group (MMKG).

A 12 member convening committee is been formed with two members from each groups. The twelve are Abid Hassan Minton and Yousaf Masti Khan from NWP, Farooq Tariq and Nisar Ahmed Shah from LPP, Rasool Bakhash palijo and Jami Chandio from AT, Afzal Khamoosh and Abdullah Kamoka fromPMKP, Shoukat Choudary and Raja Ahmed Qureshi from PMM and Meraj Mohammed Khan and Azhar Jamil from MMKG.

AJT has announced a plan of action to oppose the growing militarization and grip of imperialism and religious fundamentalism in Pakistan. On 18th March, a rally will be taken out in Lahore on the eve of third year of Iraq occupation; a public meeting at Karachi will be organized on 21st April to oppose the military action in Baluchistan and nationwide demonstration on 1st of May with a mass workers rally at famous Nishter Park Karachi. The next meeting of the convening committee will take place in Karachi on 21st April to discuss the final programme and entry of the other left groups and individuals.

Abid Hassan Minto will be the national convener and Afzal Khamoosh will be secretary of the CC. The secretariat of AJT will be at Lahore and Labour Party will take care of that.

AJT will help to strengthen the workers and peasants organization and special attention will be given to the issues of women and minorities. It calls for the abolition of all discriminatory laws against women and minorities. It has discussed the draft programme of the AJT which is mainly an anti imperialist and anti capitalist and feudal programme.

The press conference has already been televised by several private channels.

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