

Asma Jahangir - Human rights icon elected as SCBA President in Pakistan

Tuesday 9 November 2010, by [Collective / Multiple signers](#) (Date first published: 1 November 2010).

Contents

- [PFUJ felicitates victory \(...\)](#)
- [Asma victory, a break through](#)

PFUJ felicitates victory of Asma Jahangir

ISLAMABAD, Oct 30: The Pakistan Federal Union of Journalists (PFUJ) has congratulated Ms Asma Jahangir on her victory to the top slot of the Supreme Court Bar Association and termed it a victory of the rule of law, human rights, democracy, freedom of expression, press and country's transition to genuine civilian rule.

In a statement issued here on Saturday, the PFUJ said that the election of Asma Jahangir would make her the first women to lead Pakistan's most influential forum of lawyers, and her success is victory of democratic forces, lovers of freedom of expression and independence of media.

Another distinction of Asma Jahangir is that in 1969 rights movement of media persons against atrocities, censorship, black laws, and for their economic rights, and against retrenchments she always stood with the PFUJ and its affiliated unions.

In a number of legal battles she represented the cause of working journalists without any professional charges, which indicates her commitment to oppressed and depressed classes.

She is undoubtedly the champion of the cause of justice, equity and fairplay and freedom of expression, the PFUJ added.

"The success of Asma Jahangir to head the most prestigious office of SCBA would no doubt infuriate those who are opposed to her decade-long principled advocacy for human rights, dignity, civil liberties, supremacy of civil and constitutional rule," the said PFUJ.

"The election honors not only Jahangir's unflinching integrity, but also all of those who are struggling for the rule of law."

From 1998 to 2004, Asma Jahangir served as the UN special rapporteur on extrajudicial, summary, or arbitrary executions.

From 2004 until July 2010, she was the UN special rapporteur on freedom of religion or belief. She resigned as chairperson of the Human Rights Commission of Pakistan in July to run for the SCBA presidency.

The PFUJ is confident that Asma will continue her struggle for rights, independence of judiciary, rule

of law, dignity of the lawyers, rights of the underprivileged segments of society and for the cause of media persons with the spirit she had displayed throughout her career.

Shamsul Islam Naz
Secretary General
PAKISTAN FEDERAL UNION OF JOURNALISTS
<http://www.pfuj.pk>

Asma victory, a break through: Messages

Dear All,

I congratulate Asma Jahangir to win over the important position of Supreme Court Bar Association. She deserved that. Being an Advocate, I have lot of expectation from her. I think her vision, mission and bold leadership quality will lead the legal fartenety on right track. Labour Party Pakistan has supported her candidacy and we are proud that all the Left leaders supported her. Abid Hasan Minto advised all the Left leaning advocates to go public in supporting her.

Her election is an indicator of a new direction, if we are able to take this struggle forward along with trade unions, peasant organisations and social movements. We will do our best to mobilize the exploited classes along side with the lawyers movement to fight for a just society and for a radical social change.

Nisar Shah
General Secretary
Labour Party Pakistan

Dear Asma,

I will join all the others and congratulate you here, but along with you I would also like to congratulate all those who have been struggling against all odds into giving Pakistan its secular identity. Your election campaign has shown that if we persist, remain focused and conscientious success is possible.

Your success has shown that there is still a large segment in the adult population (if we can take the lawyer community as a sample) who have not been influenced by all the propaganda against you and we hope also support the same causes as you have done very vocally without any inhibitions or diplomacy.

But along with these reason for celebration, your election has also clearly shown that those who will support and maintain the status Pakistan has achieved over the lives of all the victims of terrorism are also many. The forces which supported the jihadi mentality, the donation camps on road sides, used religion for their own end, using people's emotions, or fear to be more precise, of loosing this beautiful piece of land we all call our home.

I do hope that what all our country has been through in the past 5 years is going to give us the

confidence that we are here to stay, there has been ample opportunity and help for us to get divided (efforts are still going on) but seem to keep getting chances (in adversity mostly) to show solidarity with each other from.

To put it simply your victory has brought a smile to our faces because at the back of this is the hope that has been rekindled and strengthened.

Samina khan
Sungi development Foundation

Asma's victory is an evidence that there are still sane elements in the society. It was difficult for her to win with so much of negative campaign against her, for being a progressive woman and human rights activist. It's our victory, a beam of hope for better future. Asma, it won't be easy to combat all that's happening in our country, but you are a crusader, you'd make it. Congratulation

Sheen

It's a great change as first ever lady SCB President has been elected after 6 decades of our independence ,,,

I hope and pray that AJ tells the nation through her leadership that she can bring about changes as anticipated by this nation,,,,

Maj (R) Tufail Ahmad Memaar Associates

Respected Asma Jahanger Sahiba;

You deserved this position. In fact you deserve much more. We expect that under your leadership, lawyers movement would turn to constructive side and you will be able to reclaim impartiality of the judiciary, with capacity to coexist with other democratic institutions. We wish you all the best

Regards Nizamuddin Nizamani Karachi

The victory of Asma Jahangir may be treated as the first step to peace, democracy and Human Rights. The fact is that peace is still Idea in Pakistan; it is not the fact of life. The same is the case with democracy and Human Rights. The Idea of peace, democracy and Human Rights would start to be the fact of life in Pakistan at the moment when our Supreme Court of Pakistan may be pleased to DECLARE that State Religion violates the Liberty OF and FROM Belief. Now, on the victory of Asma Jahangir as the President of the Supreme Court Bar Association, there is a reason to hope that she may be pleased to do some thing active, effective and meaningful in this respect by moving to the Supreme Court of Pakistan. The repeal of State Religion from the Constitution of Pakistan is must as it would be in the interest of peace, democracy and Human Rights in Pakistan and South Asia. This is the time to realize that State Religion of Pakistan is the big hurdle on the High Way of Peace, Democracy and Human Rights.

Yours truly,

(G M LAKHO)

Advocate/Proposer of

(1) THE INTERNATIONAL DAY AGAINST STATE RELIGION _

<http://internationaldayagainststatereligion.blogspot.com/>,

(2) THE CAMPAIGN AGAINST THE STATE RELIGION OF PAKISTAN

<http://saynotothestatereligion.blogspot.com/>

(3) THE MOVEMENT FOR RENAMING PAKISTAN AS INDUS REPUBLIC

<http://renamingpakistanasindusrepublic.blogspot.com/>

Hearty Congrats to Asma Jehangir. This is a well deserved honor.

Farzana Hassan

http://www.mcfarlandpub.com/searches/advanced_search2.php?advanced=farzana&x=12&y=5

<http://www.farzanahassan.com>

Congratulations

Mohsin Zaheer New York

Congratulation Messages to Asma Jehanghir

Please find enclosed a picture I just took after Asma Jehanghir won the president of Supreme Court Bar Association.

It is a victory of the progressive forces.

Farooq Tariq

Dear Farooq,

Thanks for sharing the picture. Yes, it is a great victory for progressive and pro-democracy forces. Asma Jahangir has been the voice of reason, a voice for rule of law and also a voice for the oppressed. She has stood for the rights of women, minorities and the voiceless people. Hope her victory will bring reason and some change to the high pedestals in our society. She had a message for some gods in our society in her post election remarks. As per Dawn:

“Ms Jahangir congratulated her supporters saying her win was the victory of those who had been fighting for the rule of law in the country. The new SCBA president told reporters that she would work to end the conflict between state institutions and that the bar would not allow anyone to

achieve vested interests in the name of rule of law."All institutions should work within their constitutional limits," she said.

Ms Jahangir condemned a vilification drive she had been subjected to in the run-up to the election — in reference to an anonymous pamphlet aimed at her character assassination as also with regards to the public allegations by her opponents who sought to paint her as a government-sponsored candidate."

(<http://public.dawn.com/2010/10/27/polling-starts-in-scba-presidential-election.html>)

The people who haven't learned after so many disasters and debacles must take a back seat now. People must put leaders like Asma Jahangir in the PM house, the presidency and other such powerful places. That is if we want to survive ... if not then let them continue ...

Aziz Narejo

Dear Farooq saheb,

It is a great news, congratulations to you all. I think Asmaji would be first woman to be elected as the president of SC bar association. We are proud of her.

In solidarity
Roma from India

Indeed I am glad that she won in spite of some powerful opposition. She has been courageous all through.

Regards
Babar Ayaz

Dear All,

I congratulate Asma for her victory. In Pakistan Supreme Court Bar Association is an active body. I am sure the organization will achieve many many things under the leadership of Asma.

Jatin

Congratulation Asma for your victory! Probably a giant step forward for force of law against the law of force in Pakistan.

Cheers Farooq and friends for your ceaseless support and solidarity!

(Kindly forward this mail to Asma as well).

Regards,

Gopal Krishna Siwakoti, PhD
President, INHURED International
Secretary General

Dear (SPN) List members,

From SPN moderator: Please find below some message of congratulation to Asma Jehanghir. Those who sent the congratulation messages include

Ume laila, Ali Palh (Sri Lanka), Mazhar Abbas, Maliha Hasan, Himaira Malik, Fareeda Shaheed, Mohammed Yaqub, Aijaz Ali Khawaja, Adam Malik, Maj. (R) Tufail Ahmad, Nizamuddin Nizamani, Ghulam Mustafa Lakhu Advocate, Farzana Hasan, Muhsan Zaheer

Asma victory, a break through

Congrats Asma for being the first women president of SC bar. Ineed a happy moment
In solidarity Ume laila

We like lawyers' decision.....

Asma jee, congratulations, for your victory.

Hope that under your leadership SCB will work on human rights, justice and peace in Pakistan.

Best wishes, Ali Palh
Project Coordinator
Human Rights Defenders Project
NonviolentPeaceforce, Sri Lanka.

Well done asma but real challenge for u start now.

Regds mazhar abbas

The first woman and the perfect woman for this position! She sure has earned it! Congratulations to Asma!

Maliha Husain
Program Director MeherGarh/AASHA 33A, Street 16, F-7/2 Islamabad.

This is indeed something to celebrate in an environment of suppression and depression all over Pakistan because of so called judiciary and other similar elements! Her victory has once again given some life and rays of hope to continue struggle for true democratic Pakistan.

Humera Malik

WELL DONE ASMA!! - great news indeed, especially given the opposition's tactics...

Farida

We all congratulate Asima Jahangir over this success and feel proud for marvelous victory of civil society

Muhammad Yaqub

Takhleeq Foundation House # L, Str. 3, PECHS, Block II, Shahrahe-e-Quaideen, Karachi

I congrats all comrades on victory of Asma Jahangir. Now, atleast, check and balances on court and bar related issues will be strengthened. Bravo hope for Asma's great success.

Rgds, Aijaz Ali Khuwaja

Dear All,,

My heartest congratulations to human rights champion Asma Jahangir and her comrades , on her election as a first female president of the Supreme Court Bar Association. I hope her victory will pave the ways for supremacy of the judiciary and provision of easy and cheap justice to the people of this country.

Regards,

Tariq Hassan

Congratulations to Asma Jahangir on her election as President of Supreme Court Bar Association in Pakistan. Simultaneously congratulations to everyone concerned for rule of law and emerging democratic process in the country. This wise decision by lawyers community has stopped the efforts of creating conflicting situation among lawyers community and emerging democratic process in Pakistan. There was an attempt to create an impression that independent Judiciary is in contradiction with emerging political and democratic process in Pakistan. All democratic, progressive individuals, groups and parties will play their due role in support of lawyers community for their endeavours to develop public perception for free, fair and impartial judiciary.

I wish all the best to Asma Jahangir and her team

Adam Malik

Asma Jahangir

Thank you for your message of support. I hope I will be able to come upto everyone's expectations.

Regards.

Asma Jahangir

Dear Colleagues,

I want to sincerely thank all my supporters who stood by me during a tense campaign and for placing their faith in me. I would like to assure all members of the SCBAP that I will serve the cause of justice with integrity and to the best of my ability.

Regards,

Asma Jahangir

P.S.

* All these messages circulated on the SPN email list.