

Press Release

Call to murder must not go unpunished

Wednesday 20 December 2006, by [HRCP](#) (Date first published: 19 December 2006).

LAHORE: HRCP has been shocked to receive a copy of a horrifying Fatwa' (edict) issued by a cleric in the Darra Adam Khel area of the NWFP and has written to the interior minister asking him to do his duties.

The edict labels international organizations, including those falling under the UN umbrella and the International Red Cross, as well as local NGOs working for human rights, as agents of the Jews and the West. Most alarmingly, the Fatwa' declares that it falls among the duties of all Muslims to target these organizations all over the world by murdering their members, using weapons of mass destruction against them, destroying their homes, targeting their vehicles and seizing their assets.

This Fatwa' is only one among many issued this year in the NWFP targetting NGO activists, particularly women. Three women working with NGOs were murdered in the NWFP in 2006 alone. Another Fatwa' issued by a cleric in Mansehra, has called on NGOs to pull out from the Hazara area or face action against themselves. HRCP has received many other complaints of harassment or intimidation, which has already led to some organizations curtailing their activities in the NWFP.

What is far more disturbing than the threats themselves is the failure of authorities to prosecute those responsible for making them. The latest Fatwa', like many others distributed previously, is not anonymous. Its author has affixed to it his name and qualifications. The Fatwa' has also been pasted up as posters across the Darra Adam Khel area. Therefore, the authorities cannot claim they are unable to trace the source of incitement to hatred and murder. Pretending ignorance of those guilty of preaching violence amounts to collusion.

The latest call to kill is an outcome of a failure to act previously against those delivering such messages of hatred. HRCP can only call upon those in authority to act now, before it is too late, and some of the terrible crimes called for are carried out.

Asma Jahangir
Chairperson

LETTER TO MINISTER OF INTERIOR

Mr Aftab Ahmed Sherpao

Minister for the Interior

Islamabad

19th December, 2006

Dear Mr Sherpao,

This is to bring to your notice an edict that has been widely distributed and pasted on to walls in Darra Adam Khel. A copy is attached for your information and record.

The edict labels international organizations, including those falling under the UN umbrella and the International Red Cross, as well as local NGOs working for human rights, as agents of the Jews and the West. Most alarmingly, the 'fatwa' declares that it falls among the duties of all Muslims to target these organizations all over the world by murdering their members, using weapons of mass destruction against them, destroying their homes, targeting their vehicles and seizing their assets.

This 'fatwa' is only one among many issued this year in the NWFP targeting NGO activists, particularly women. Three women working with NGOs were murdered in the NWFP in 2006 alone. Another 'fatwa' issued by a cleric in Mansehra, has called on NGOs to pull out from the Hazara area or face action against themselves. HRCP has received many other complaints of harassment or intimidation, which has already led to some

organizations curtailing their activities in the NWFP.

What is most disturbing is the failure of authorities to prosecute those responsible for making these threats. The latest 'fatwa', like many others distributed previously, is not anonymous. Its author has affixed to it his name and qualifications. The 'fatwa' has also been pasted up as posters across the Darra Adam Khel area. Therefore, the authorities cannot claim they are unable to trace the source of incitement to hatred and murder.

We believe it is your obligation to act against those responsible for disseminating hatred and threatening lives.

Yours sincerely,

Asma Jahangir
Chairperson

Cc: Lt-Gen (retd) Ali Jan Orakzai, Governor NWFP

[see Text of Fatwa in Urdu by Mufti Khalid Shah
<http://sacw.insaf.net/free/Fatwa1.jpg>]

P.S.

* Circulatyed by South Asia Citizens Wire | December 19-20, 2006 | Dispatch No. 2335 - Year 8.