

PRESS RELEASE

OCTOBER 7, 2016

Rawalpindi: Defence of Human Rights Pakistan arranged a protest and candlelight vigil on Bank Road, Saddar Rawalpindi, to show solidarity with Khurram Parvez who was arrested from his home in Srinagar and then sentenced for 3 months unjust detention by the Indian forces. All the human rights activists and citizens of Jammu and Kashmir are facing severe persecution since the escalation of atrocities in the last 80 days in Indian Occupied Kashmir.

The event was the 3rd episode of the weekly protest announced by Amina Masood Janjua after the arrest of Khurram Parvez. The participants were wearing the shirts with the image of Khurram Parvez and slogan "I am Khurram Parvez", the slogan was chosen to show Indian authorities that you cannot silence the voice of Kashmiri human rights defender and if you do so you will find their voice in every justice-loving human being around the world. The traders and civil society of the Rawalpindi were invited to light the candles in the strong hope that Khurram will be released soon. The resolve for the struggle for Truth and Justice cannot be stopped, no matter what.

While addressing to the audience, Amina Masood Janjua said that we are so proud to have a leader like Khurram. Even from his unjust prison, he has given us an encouraging message of hope, and commitment and of being more resolved and motivated. We too will respond in the same way as he expects from us, with more hard work, feeling for the aggrieved, more empathy for the detained, tortured and disappeared than ever before. In fact the fuel and strength of all our efforts should be this inextinguishable thirst for doing good for humanity and standing up for truth and justice, in spite of all the challenges.

NOTE: *Father of Khurram Parvez with two member from Jammu Kashmir Coalition of Civil Society (JKCCS) met with Khurram Parvez on October 5, 2016 in Kot Bhalwal Jail, Jammu, Indian Occupied Kashmir. Khurram asked to share his message, Please find his message attached with Press release.*

Thanks,

In the end Amina Masood Janjua and all other protesters demanded in one voice immediate and unconditional release of Khurram Parvez.

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MESSAGE OF KHURRAM PARVEZ

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“I have been informed of the solidarity expressed by friends in Kashmir and outside - from Indian civil society and from different countries and international organizations including member organizations of the Asian Federation against Involuntary Disappearances. I thank all of you. I am doing well despite my disability. Over the last few days I have been meeting close to 200 detainees from different parts of Kashmir who have been tortured and mistreated by the police after their arrest and listened to the difficulties they have faced during detention. This has strengthened my resolve to face the difficult times ahead as an opportunity for building my understanding of the gross and inhuman violation that is arbitrary detention that I believe I and my organization have been unable to adequately cover through our work.

My struggle for justice forms only a part of the larger struggle of my co-detenues, and all those wrongly detained. Your solidarity is therefore to the larger struggle for justice and is greatly appreciated.”

Khurram Parvez

Chairperson

Asian Federation Against Involuntary Disappearances - AFAD

Program Coordinator,

Jammu Kashmir Coalition of Civil Society - JKCCF