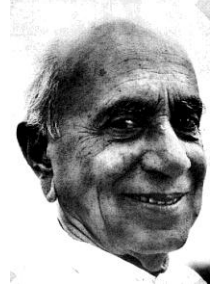




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Two Leaders Honored for their Contributions to Sindhi Freedom Movement

HOUSTON, TX. Two Sindhi political leaders **Dr. Safdar Sarki (45) of Texas, USA** and **Dr. Ghanshyam Parkash-Hotumalani (50) of New Dehli, India**, were conferred with the prestigious 'G. M. Syed Memorial Awards 2007' in recognition of their contributions to *Sindhi rights movement*.

These awards were announced during the 104th Birth Anniversary of G M Syed, held on 8th March, 2008 in Houston, TX. These awards are jointly sponsored by the World Sindhi Congress (WSC) and the G. M. Syed Memorial Committee, a Houston, TX-based educational group.

G. M. Syed Memorial Awards are conferred 'to honor the memory of Mr. Syed,' a visionary leader who pioneered the Sindhi freedom movement and was a beacon of the Sindhi people's struggle for national self-determination. Previous recipients for the years 2004-2006 include renowned Sindhi luminaries namely Mr. Keerat Babani of Mumbai, India; Mr. Ibrahim Joyo of Jamshoro, Sindh, Mr Sobho Gianchandani of Larkano, Mohan Gehani of Bhopal, India, Dr. Motilal Jotwani of Delhi, India, Mr. Azad Kazi of Karachi, and Mr Khadim Hussain Soomro of Sehwan, Sindh.

Dr Safdar Sarki, a tireless human rights campaigner from Sindh, who is currently languishing in torturous custody of Pakistani military agencies since Feb. 2006. Dr Sarki was born in 1963 in Jacobabad, Sindh. He has been an active member and leader of *Jey Sindh* (Sindh's freedom party pioneered by Saen G M Syed) since 1978. In order to avoid persecution by Pakistani authorities, Dr Sarki immigrated to USA in 1992. From 1992-2002, he remained active in World Sindhi Congress and was elected to be its chairperson from 1999-2002.



In February 2006, Dr Sarki became one of several thousand victims of Pakistani military's forcible disappearances campaign of political workers and journalists. After an international outcry, Dr Sarki, was 'declared' to be in custody of Pakistani agencies. Dr Sarki, is a naturalized US citizen, and US authorities including US State department and congressional members and international media have repeatedly called for his release.



Dr. Sarki is a non-violent advocate for the human rights including the right to self-determination for Sindhi people. The G. M. Syed Memorial Award is bestowed on Mr. Sarki in appreciation for his struggle and advocacy for national self-determination and freedom for Sindhi peoples.

Dr. Ghanshyam Prakash-Hotumalani, currently lives a life of an exile in New Dehli, India, since 1994, when he moved after bearing decades of imprisonment, torture and harassment and life threats from Pakistani Military agencies. He was born in Kashmore, Sindh in 1957 and at the age of 16, he started his political and grass-root activism through various socialist, students', peasants' and nationalist platforms. Through these platforms he worked diligently and consistently to raise the political consciousness among masses of Sindh and other oppressed nations of Pakistan. Due to his imprisonment during 80's under martial law regime of Pakistan and for his struggle for restoration of democracy, Amnesty International (AI) declared him as the "Prisoner of Conscience" in 1985.



Dr. Parkash-Hotumalani, currently runs an organization named Indus valley Research Institute, through which he continues to present the oppressed status of people of Sindh and Balochistan. In April 2002, he organized an International conference on G M Syed. In 1999, he was awarded human rights community award, by a Washington based United Nations Association of the National Capital Area.

Dr Parkash-Hotumalani is also an editor and publisher for an international Sindhi magazine "Sindhian Jo Sansaar" (World of Sindhis) since 1996. As a member of prestigious literary organization, Sindhi Academy Delhi, he also edits its quarterly magazine named "Jote (Light)."

The G. M. Syed Memorial Award is bestowed on Dr. Ghanshyam Prakash-Hotumalani in appreciation for his struggle to promote human rights and freedom for Sindhi peoples and to recognize his grassroots efforts.

The World Sindhi Congress (WSC) is one of the most prominent human rights advocacy organizations for Sindh and Sindhis. The main objective of WSC is to create a better understanding among the international community about the persecuted status of Sindhis in Pakistan and about the Sindhi people's struggles for their human rights, including the right to self-determination. WSC is a registered company in England and Wales, and California, USA, organized to carry out non-profit activities only. For more information, visit <http://www.worldsindhicongress.org>.

The G. M. Syed Memorial Committee is a Houston, TX-based educational group organized to promote G. M. Syed's message of non-violence, democracy, secularism and the right to self-determination for Sindhis and other oppressed nations within the international community. For more information, visit <http://www.gmsyed.org>.