

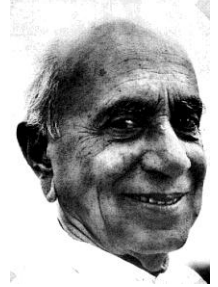


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Two Luminaries Honored for their Contributions to Sindhi Society

G M Syed Memorial Awards 2009 Announced

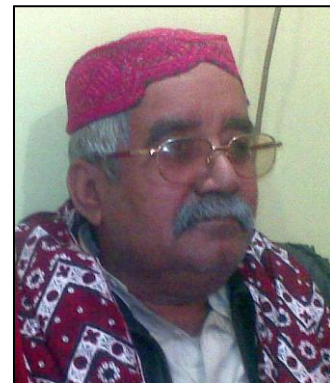
HOUSTON, Texas. In recognition of their contributions to the preservation and promotion of *Sindhi identity, language and Sindhi human rights*, two Sindhi luminaries, **Mr. Khamiso Khan (Khaki) Joyo (66)** of Nawabshah, Sindh and **Dr Baldev Matlani (59)** of Mumabi, India were conferred the prestigious *G. M. Syed Memorial Awards 2009*.

The awards were announced during the 106th Birthday Anniversary Commemoration of G M Syed, on 16th January 2010 in Houston, TX and London, UK. These awards are jointly sponsored by the *World Sindhi Congress* (WSC) and the *G. M. Syed Memorial Committee*, an education group based in Houston, Texas.

G. M. Syed Memorial Awards 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 include renowned Sindhi luminaries such as *Mr. Keerat Babani* (now residing in Mumbai, India); *Mr. Ibrahim Joyo* (Jamshoro, Sindh); *Mr Sobho Gianchandani* (Larkano, Sindh); *Mr. Mohan Gehani* (Bhopal, India); *Mr. Ghanshyam Hotumalani* of Delhi, India, *Dr. Motilal Jotwani* (Delhi, India), *Mr. Azad Kazi* (Karachi, Sindh); *Mr. Khadim Hussain Soomro* (Sehwan, Sindh), *Dr Safdar Sarki* (Texas, USA), *Mr. Abdul Wahid Arisar* (Umerkot, Sindh), and *Mr. Sunder Agnani* (Jaipur, India).

Khamiso Khan (Kahki) Joyo, a political leader, poet, intellectual, and a writer was born in 1942 in a small village of Nawabshah in Sindh. Since 1969, he has remained active in Sindhi rights movement and has been to the central leadership positions in the *Jeay Sindh* movement (A group pioneered by Saen G M Syed which struggles for Sindh's freedom).

Khaki Joyo's is the author of ten influential books and a soulful poet whose grassroots activism has inspired three generations of activists. He is considered one of the most prominent intellectuals promoting Syed's message of universal justice, non-violence and freedom for the people of Sindh. Mr. Joyo served as the founding editor of the popular Sindhi literary



Khamiso Khan
(Khaki) Joyo



and political magazine named ‘Sanjah’ (Identity) for 20 years. He is the current President of the *Jeay Sindh Thinkers Forum*.



Mr Khaki Joyo with Saen G M Syed

The G. M. Syed Memorial Award is bestowed on Mr. Khamiso Khan (Khaki) Joyo “in appreciation for his struggle and advocacy for national self-determination and freedom for the Sindhi people and in recognition of his literary works on Sindhi politics and identity.”

Dr. Baldev Matlani, a prominent Sindhi language researcher and scholar, is *Professor and Chair at Department of Sindhi at the University of Mumbai, Maharashtra, India*. Dr. Matlani was born in Larkano, Sindh and later migrated to India. He has authored and translated ten books, as well as a number of academic articles. Dr. Matlani has taught Sindhi in various institutions in Sindh and India for more than three decades. He is the organizer of a prestigious international seminar on Sindhi, held annually at the University of Mumbai. Dr. Matlani is a recipient of several awards for his teaching and social service. Among his cultural services, Dr. Matlani has been serving as a Vocal Artiste at All India Radio, and a Master of Ceremony for numerous Sindhi cultural events throughout the world. Dr. Matlani has dedicated his life to the preservation and promotion of the Sindhi language in India. Through his various professional activities, Dr. Matlani serves as an important academic bridge between Sindhi scholars in India and Sindh.



Dr Baldev Matlani

The G. M. Syed Memorial Award is bestowed on Mr Baldev Matlani “in appreciation for his life-long struggle for the preservation and promotion of Sindhi language and institutionalizing Sindhi language research and education in India.”

The World Sindhi Congress (WSC) advocates for the human rights of Sindh and Sindhis. The primary objective of WSC is to create a better understanding among the international community about the persecuted status of Sindhis in Pakistan and about the struggle of the Sindhi people for their human rights, including the right to self-determination. WSC is a registered company in England and Wales, and in 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>.