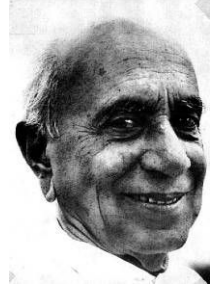


G M Syed Memorial Committee

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Sindhi-Americans Gathered in Houston to Pay Tribute to Their National Leader

International Day of Women was also Observed--Release of Dr Safdar Sarki Demanded. Murder of Benazir Bhuto Mourned.

HOUSTON, TX, USA. Hundreds of Sindhi-Americans gathered in Houston on Saturday, March 8, 2008 to commemorate the 104th birthday of Mr. G. M. Syed, a national leader of the Sindhi people who waged a nonviolent struggle against Islamic fundamentalism and for Sindhi freedom. Sindh is home to the ancient Indus Valley civilization and is now a province in Pakistan. A vibrant Sindhi-American community numbering in the tens of thousands lives in various U.S. cities.

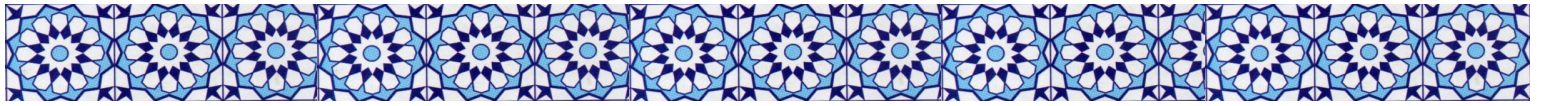
More than 30 million Sindhis live in Sindh today. Sindhis are supportive of democracy and secularism and have been marginalized by Pakistan's military dictatorship and its Islamist ideology.

Dr. Zia Shah of the G. M. Syed Memorial Committee and Dr Saghir Shaikh of World Sindhi Congress spoke on the life and legacy of Mr Syed.

"Mr. Syed's message of non-violence, tolerance, and peace has a universal appeal, and the core principles of non-violence and conflict resolution are applicable to all the struggles for self-determination at individual, communal, or national levels," said Dr. Saghir Shaikh.

This annual event is organized to create a global awareness about the plight of Sindh and Sindhis around the world. "We must follow Syed's legacy of non-violent struggle and support the legitimate struggle of the peoples of Sindh and Balochistan," said Dr. Zia Shah, president of the G. M. Syed Memorial Committee, in his concluding remarks.

Mr. Jamil Daudi, Mr Nicole Talpur, Mr Talat Talpur of Sindhi Association of North America, Malik Dino Shaikh, Zubair Bhambro, Ghaffar Soomro Noornisa Ghangro, of World Sindhi Congress, and Dr Nusrat Malik also spoke at the event.



Since March 8th is also the International Day of Women, Ms Noornissa Ghangro conducted an interactive community dialogue session among the participants on the issues of women's rights and role in Sindhi society.

Audience also jointly observed one minute silence over the martyrdom of **Ms Benazir Bhutto** who was brutally killed in December 2007.

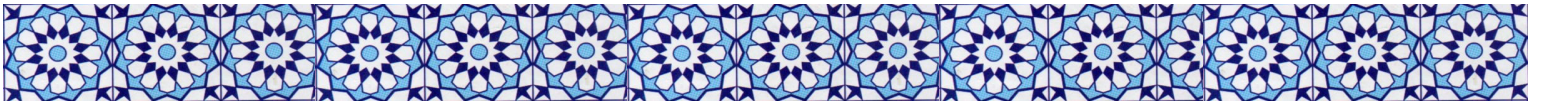
During this event, G M Syed Memorial Awards for 2007 were also announced. Two Sindhi political leaders **Dr. Safdar Sarki (45) of Texas, USA** and **Dr. Ghanshyam Parkash-Hotumalani (50) of New Dehli, India**, were conferred with the prestigious 'G. M. Syed Memorial Awards 2007' in recognition of their contributions to *Sindhi rights movement*. These awards are jointly sponsored by the World Sindhi Congress and the G. M. Syed Memorial Committee.

The meeting concluded that the Pakistani government has been systematically violating the human rights of the secular-minded people of Sindh and Baluchistan. Pakistan has propped up Islamic fundamentalists, encouraged migration to reduce the indigenous people to a minority, and exploited the natural resources of the two provinces. Since last three years, it has been bombing and strafing Baloch villages with military equipment provided by the USA to fight Al-Qaeda and remnants of the Taliban. In year 2006 and 2007 the great Baloch leaders were assassinated: Sardar Akbar Ali Bugti and Balach Marri. Several hundreds of Baloch and Sindhis have been kidnapped by the Pakistani military over the last few years. The meeting expressed special concern about the Sindhi-American Dr. Safdar Sarki, who is under the custody and of Pakistan agencies since February 2006.

A dinner and Sufi music session concluded the meeting.

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>.

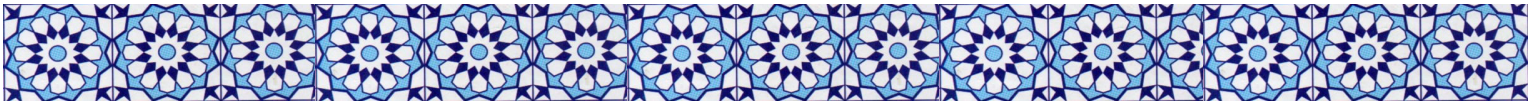
The World Sindhi Congress (WSC) is one of the most prominent human rights advocacy organizations for Sindh and Sindhis. The main objective of WSC is to create a better understanding among the international community about the persecuted status of Sindhis in Pakistan and about the Sindhi people's struggles 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



Speakers (Right to Left)

Top: Zia Shah, Saghir Shaikh, Noonisa Ghangro, Nusrat Malik

Bottom: Talat Talpur, Zubair Bhambhro, Umed Laghari, Malik Dino Shaikh



G M Syed Memorial Award 2007 was conferred upon Dr Safdar Sarki and Dr Ghanmshayam Parkash. Mr Bashir Shahani received on behalf of Dr Safdar Sarki and Mr Abhiman Parwar on behalf of Dr Ghanshyam Parkash. Dr. Zia Shah presented the awards.

