

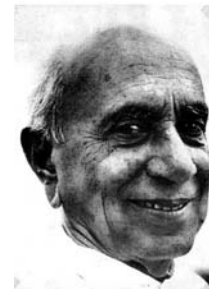


G M Syed Memorial Committee

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HOUSTON, TX

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

Mayor Bill White of Houston proclaims G. M. Syed Day

Texas Governor Rick Perry Sent Greetings for the Occasion

Hundreds of Sindhi-Americans gathered on Saturday, January 21, 2006 in Houston to commemorate the 102nd birthday of Mr. G. M. Syed, a national leader of the Sindhi people who waged a nonviolent struggle against Islamic fundamentalism and for the freedom of Sindh. 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 cities of the USA.

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

Texas Governor Rick Perry sent his greetings for the occasion over the phone.

Bill White, Mayor of Houston, Texas, proclaimed January 21st, 2006 as “***G M Syed Day for the City of Houston.***”

Two scholars, Dr. Lester Kurtz and Dr. Yvette Rosser, presented seminars on the topics of non-violence and self-determination. Seminars highlighted the work of Ghandi and Bachaa Khan, two great anti-colonial leaders of South Asia who were a great inspiration to Mr. Syed. Several prominent community leaders attended and addressed the meeting, including Jamil Daudi of the Sindhi Association of North America (SANA); Noorunissa Ghangro; Manzoor Memon, President Chamber of Commerce and Advisor to Mayor on Business Council; Dr. Zia Shah, President of the G. M. Syed Memorial Committee; and Dr. Saghir Shaikh, Chairman of the World Sindhi Congress.

Other notables who attended the event were Zafar Agha, Zeb Agha, Talat Talpur, Nicolita Talpur of Sarfraz Abbass, Umed Laghari, Amber Laghari, Khalil Memon, Manzoor Shah, Amanullah Turk, Akhtar Shah, Abhiman, and Mr. Shahani.



“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. Zia Shah.

This annual event is organized to create a global awareness about the plight of Sindh and Sindhis around the world. “At this critical juncture of history, when civilization faces the continued threat of terrorism from religious extremists, the Houston gathering lent the voice of Sindhi-Americans in support of the Sindhi nation’s peaceful struggle against a military dictatorship, which continues to promote Islamic fundamentalists, impose medieval laws against women and minorities, and teach religious intolerance and anti-Semitism in schools,” said Dr. Shaikh of WSC in his concluding remarks.

The meeting resolved 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. More recently, it has been bombing and strafing Baluch villages with military equipment provided by the USA to fight Al-Qaeda and remnants of the Taliban. Pakistan is also threatening to build mega-dams which would enable it to divert the flow of rivers that are the lifeline of otherwise arid Sindh.

Meeting participants signed petitions addressed to the US Senate and House of Representatives requesting that they encourage the government of Pakistan to respect the human rights of ethnic and religious minorities and demonstrate that the US does not endorse the persecution of indigenous people.

A dinner and Sufi music session concluded the meeting.

The World Sindhi Congress also organized a similar event in London on January 21, 2006.

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 <http://www.worldsindhicongress.org>.