



SHARP

Society for Human Rights & Prisoners Aid

**ALAC IV Karachi
Celebrated**

**WORLD REFUGEE DAY
On June 23, 2008**

**At Al-Asif
Afghan Refugees Repatriation Center (ARRC)**



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- Display and exhibition of Afghan carpets and Handi craft by Ibrahim Mongol

PROGRAMME:

- 10:30 Arrival of the participants
- 11:00 Recitation of Verses from Holy Quran by an Afghan refugee Qari
Muhammad Yaqoob
- 11:05 Short introduction of SHARP by Ms. Shahida Ghani ALAC IV Lawyer
- 11:15 Speech by Haji Abdullah chairman, Afghan Settlements, Sindh Karachi
- 11:25 Speech by Qari Nisar Ahmed an Afghan Elder
- 11:35 National Anthem of Afghan and Pakistan and welcome song by Ibne-Sena School
- 11:40 Speech by Dr. Raheemi representative of Afghan Cultural association
- 11: 55 Speech by Mr. Rana Asif president of Initiator (NGO)
- 12:10 Speech by Afghan Carpet Industries member Haji Hassan
- 12:20 Afghan National Songs by Afghan Musical Star Group
- 12:40 Display and exhibition of Afghan carpets and Handi craft by Ibrahim Mongol

ALAC (Advice & Legal Aid Center):

In the year 2002 when repatriation Afghan refugees was to start, it was felt that some centers are required where returnee could get information about their country of origin before moving back to Afghanistan . The other core objective was to help returnees in their legal and protection issues.

To serve the purpose SHARP was assigned to established Advice and Legal Aid Centre in Islamabad, Lahore, Mianwali and Karachi. All these centers are actively providing legal aid thousand of Afghan refugees and also paying a vital role of bridging the communication gap between refugees and the concerned authorities.

The basic strategic plan of ALACs include early intervention, outreach activities and the provision of legal aid .The activities carried in this connection include visits, coordination meeting ,legal camps, seminars, and workshops. In this regard the World Refugee Day was celebrated by SHARP o 23rd of June 2008.

World Refugee Day 2008:

The event was celebrated on June 23, 2008 at Al-Asif Afghan Refugee Repatriation Centre (ARRC). According to United Nations Refugee convention of 1951 defined a refugee as a person who is outside his or her country of nationality or habitual residence and who has a well- founded fear of persecution because of race, religion, nationality, membership of particular social group or political opinion. Though the Afghan Refugees can be found in 72 countries worldwide, 96 percent of them are living in Pakistan and Iran. Pakistan is counted one of the top hosting countries in the world for Afghan refugees. To see this SHARP/ ALAC decided to celebrate World Refugees Day.

All the distinguished guests and Participants were welcomed by Ms. Shahida Ghani on behalf of SHARP/ALAC. The participants were given a concise introduction of ALAC and its mandate.

Proceedings of the seminar

Recitation of Holly Quran:

The program started with the recitation from the Holly Quran by an Afghan refugee Qari Muhammad Yaqoob.

Remarks by Hajji Abdullah, chairman Afghan Settlements, Sindh

Karachi:

Haji Abdullah Expressed thanks and gratefulness to the Government of Pakistan for its cooperation. He also thanked SHARP/ALAC for assisting them in their legal and supporting them in the petty matters and hoped that SHARP will continue this cooperation.

Speech by Qari Nisar Ahmed an Afghan Elder:

Qari Nasir, A religious scholar from Afghan Ulema council expressed his thanks to SHARP for the celebration of world Refugee Day and also paid thanked to GoP for their full freedom as compared to the other refugee-host countries. He further included that Pakistan has the largest number of refugees in the world- living here since last 25 years. He highlighted the right and obligation of refugee and host entity in the background of Islamic migration (From Macca to Madina) Further more he added that SHARP should create awareness among Afghan Refugees about their rights and obligation to the Government of Pakistan.



National Anthem of Afghan and Pakistan and welcome song by Ibne-Sena School:



The National anthem of Afghanistan & Pakistan were sung with great zeal and a cultural tableau of Afghanistan was presented by the students of the Ibne-Sena School.

Speech by Dr. Raheemi representative of Afghan Cultural association:

Speaking on the occasion Dr. Raheemi paid his thanks for inviting his school, Ibne-Sena to perform cultural tableau and singing Pak-Afghan National anthems. He expressed his hope from SHARP to highlight the importance of Afghan education system and helping them through UNESCO for a large number of Afghans are residing in Karachi. His emphasized upon UNHCR for giving them education otherwise illiteracy would have again lead the new generation towards more wars.



Speech by Mr. Rana Asif president of Initiator (NGO):

Mr. Rana said on the occasion that Afghan Nationals are our brother and they required respect in the host country and basic facilities from Government.

Speech by Afghan Carpet Industries member Haji Hassan:

Afghan carpet and handicrafts exhibited by Haji Hassan and his team. He thanked SHARP for invited him and his team on World Refugee Day. His voluntarily co-

operation in decoration of this event is remarkable .Furthermore he added that this will be continuing in future.

Afghan National Songs by Afghan Musical Star Group:



On the occasion, the Afghan National song sung by Star Musical group. The group led by Rabi Shah. The entire participants enjoy in this program and appreciate SHARP efforts.

Display and exhibition of Afghan carpets and Handi craft by Ibrahim Mongol:

Afghan carpet and Handi crafts were also display by Ibrahim Mughal public relation officer, Mughal Carpet weavers Association, Afghan Refugees.

Electronic and Print Media Participants:

This event covered by media very successfully and it highlighted the efforts of SHARP/ALAC for Afghan Nationals. The event covered by the following media team.

- Dawn News
- SAMAA T.V
- CNBC
- PTV
- The News
- Ummat news paper



Conclusion:

At the end of the event SHARP/ALAC thanked all the participants for their cooperation and media team who covered the event. Afghan Nationals were very happy and thanked the team for its remarkable event which celebrated after a long time and it will continue in future. The team reiterated for its cooperation and coordination for the welfare deserving and poor Afghan nationals

Reported By:

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