

Peace Rally

Date: January 1st, 2010

Venue Regal Chowk to Charing Cross, Lahore

Objectives:

1. Express solidarity with those affected by violence and injustice
2. Reaffirm commitment to promoting peace and build citizen demand for democratic governance, rule of law, justice and a life of dignity for all
3. Promote connectedness between citizens and citizen organizations committed to peace

Aman Ittehad organized a Peace rally on 1st January, 2010, from Regal Chowk to Charing Cross, at Lahore. A large number of people including members of the civil society, representatives of non-governmental organizations (NGOs), human rights activists, students and members of labour organizations participated in the rally.



Aman Ittehad, a citizen's platform of trade unions and civil society organizations – organized the rally to show solidarity with people affected by violence and injustice. It was also a demonstration a reaffirmation of public resolve that prevails – against injustice, intolerance and violence. The Solidarity Day was also an expression of public commitment to strive for peace, democratic governance, rule of law, justice and a life of dignity for all.

The rally started from Regal Chowk and concluded at Charing Cross in front of the Punjab Assembly building. The participants of the rally carried placards demanding peace and raised freedom from all forms of terrorism and shouted slogans in favor of peace and against terrorism'.

At Charing Cross, the rally was addressed by Ms. Asma Jahangir, Chairperson Human Rights Commission of Pakistan (HRCP), Mr. I.A. Rehman, Secretary General (HRCP), Mr. Farooq Tariq from Labor Party and Mr. Irfan Mufti, Deputy Director – South Asia Partnership Pakistan. They said rally was against the terrorist activities being carried out in the country and against the recent incident in Karachi city on a religious procession which caused many lives; they said people wanted peace and democracy in country. Government had to take action and stop injustice with civilians living in the country especially in rural areas.



They said the nation should stand united against terrorism and the forces working to destabilize the country.

Aman Ittehad demanded a redefinition of the state's relationship with citizens by shifting its priorities from a security state to one that is unambiguously oriented towards development and responsive to the needs of all citizens, irrespective of gender, class, nationality, religion and occupation. It called for the supremacy of parliament and an end to the dominance of the military and intelligence agencies.

