



## Report

# CAPACITY BUILDING OF JOURNALISTS



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## **Summary & Rationale for the Initiative:**

Since long time, the need for the capacity building of journalists was felt by the civil society of Tando Allahyar. There were requests from the journalist community for such organizing seminars, lectures on important topics for improving the skills, knowledge and expertise for performing the jobs. RightsNow Pakistan had a joint meeting with the office bearers and other members of Tando Allahyar press club and discussed the areas where journalist need trainings. RightsNow Pakistan agreed to organize monthly seminars, workshops for the journalists of Tando Allahyar and journalists of Jhando Mari, Missan, Chambar, Nasarpur and other small towns who plays important role in covering the incidents and protection and promotion of human rights.

Press Club Tando Allahyar and RightsNow Pakistan signed a Memorandum of Understanding and decided the terms and conditions for this initiative. This initiative, currently, is not supported by any funding of donor and being undertaken by both RightsNow Pakistan and journalists of Tando Allahyar District. However, cooperation and support is being expected from the District Administration and civil society of Tando Allahyar. Later, traders, industrials, and other active citizens of Tando Allahyar are also praise the initiative of Tando Allahyar and have promise their full cooperation and support.

## **Profile of RightsNow Pakistan**

RightsNOW Pakistan is a local civil society initiative. Governed by a vibrant board consists of renowned journalists, lawyers, development actors and human rights activists who develop its policies and strategies. RightsNOW Pakistan envisions a just, equal, democratic, informed society that respects human rights, rule of law, values diversity and acts nonviolently. In order to get there, RightsNOW Pakistan has its dynamic leadership, visionary Board of Directors with clear road map to achieve the target. RightsNOW Pakistan works on protection of human rights and human rights defenders, who play important role in the protection of human rights of community and individuals. It works on protection of religious minorities, women rights, and children. For more information, you are requested to visit our organization's website and blog respectively: [www.rightsnowpk.org](http://www.rightsnowpk.org) & [www.rightsnowpak.wordpress.com](http://www.rightsnowpak.wordpress.com)

RightsNow Pakistan organized an inauguration event cum seminar on CAPACITY BUILDING OF JOURNALIST on November 5, 2012 held at the Office of the RightsNow Pakistan, Nasarpur Road Tando Allahyar. Following were the objectives of the initiative being undertaken jointly by the RightsNow Pakistan and journalists of Tando Allahyar.

### The objectives of the capacity building initiative:

- To orient the Journalists of Tando Allahyar regarding the initiative
- To aware them about the developments in the field of media
- To exchange the copies of M.o.U between RightsNow Pakistan and Press Club Tando Allahyar.
- To welcome the newly elected body of the Press Club Tando Allahyar.
- To invite District administration, civil society, business community, women, lawyers and encourage them to weave themselves into a District Network

### Proceedings:

Program started at 3:00 pm with the recitation of holy Quran by Mr: Suhaib Farooque Kaimkhani, Chief Executive of Foundation Schools Tando Allahyar and an active civil society actor at the Conference Hall, RightsNow Pakistan Office, Tando Allahyar. Program was conducted by Miss Ain Syed, (**Management & Admin Officer of RNP**)



She oriented the participant about the work of RighthNow Pakistan and rationale for starting human rights work in Tando Allahyar district. She also shared the role of organization in promotion and protection of human rights during the floods in the district. Main current initiatives of the organizations started for the youth, lawyers and business community were also shared with the participants of the event. While talking on the importance of media Miss Ain said that media is the fourth pillar of any democratic society. Without media the promotion of human rights is very difficult. Media plays important role in

bringing about the change in the society. It strengthen democracy, judiciary, empowers women and protect human rights defenders.



**Mr .Ali Palh Advocate & Chief Executive RNP** welcomed the newly elected body of the Press Club, Tando Allahyar and shared the reasons for strengthening the media and building the capacity of journalists. He also shared his human rights experience in Sri Lanka, Nepal, Thailand and other countries where journalists played important roles in protecting human rights in conflict ridden areas.

Mr. Palh also highlighted the capacity needs of the journalists require for reporting the human rights violations from remote and excluded areas of the district. Skills and expertise needed for authentic and impartial reporting of the incident was also included in the

talk given by Ali Palh. He openly and frankly discussed the corruption in some pockets of media and stressed the need of discouragement for this sector. Meanwhile, Palh also appreciated the work of journalist in difficult situations and contexts and emphasized the security needs of the journalist while they work on the important issues of the society. He also promised workshops on risk and threat assessment, threat reduction, and safety of the journalists. Palh also shared the names of organization working on the protection of journalists and common citizens including FrontLine, South Asian Free Media Association (SAFMA), Committee to Protect Journalists (CPJ), Women Media Center (WMC), APP, Ethical Journalism Network, Youth Journalism, Pakistan Federal Union Of Journalists (PFUJ), Asian Human Rights Commission, Forum Asia, Committee on Protection of Journalists and other institutions. He also shared the fellowship opportunities for journalists available for the journalists across the world.

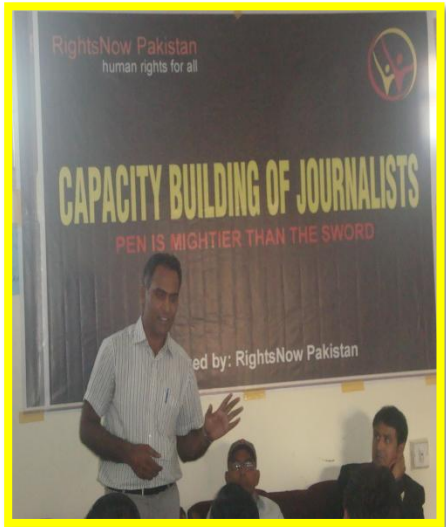
Mr: Ali Ahmed Palh is a professional Advocate as well as Chief Executive of RightsNow Pakistan. He got his degree of L.L.M from U.S.A offered his skills and knowledge for the capacity building of journalists and networking of journalists with their counter parts in the country as well as region. Mr. Palh stressed the role of media and journalist, District administration, business community, civil society and lawyers in prevention of corruption and crime which is affecting the innocent citizens of the district. According to Mr. Palh, who quoted figures from the local sources, crime rate in Tando Allahyar district is increasing which is affecting people's freedom of movement, education, business and everyday life. Women are the main victims of the crime in the district and unfortunately their cases are not being reported properly. Finally, he requested the media for playing its strong role in voter education and ensuring the free and fair election in coming few months. He was of the view that journalist community deserves special treatment by all of us because they perform their jobs in difficult situations with scarce resources.



**Mr: Aijaz Maganhar is new elected president of Press Club Tando Allahyar.** He thanked RightsNow Pakistan for its initiative and promised their full support in the implementation of it. Mr. Aijaz said, it is one of the first initiatives of its kind in the district. Nobody has worked on these areas before. This initiative will have very positive impact on the overall situation of Tando Allahyar. Journalists will be the main direct beneficiaries of this initiative; however, the business community, civil society, lawyers, women, industrialists and common citizens will also enjoy the fruit of this. He was of the view that District administrations' support in this regard is crucial and we hope it will be provided to us.



He said Pakistan is developing country and our society is going through transition phase. Therefore, media needs to be further strengthened. Journalists face many difficulties every day. Many of our colleagues have lost their lives while working in this field and we resolve to follow their foot prints. He added: media is the fourth pillar of the state and an important factor for creating a democratic society. Mr. Mangrhar was of the view that ethics or code of conduct need to be followed by every profession and department including media. We hope RightsNow Pakistan will include that area in its capacity building initiative of journalists.



**Mr. Saif ullah Abro, Additional Deputy Commissioner -** appreciated the efforts of RightsNow Pakistan for capacity building of journalist. Mr. Abro who is a young, competent, self made officer has joined the district administration group after passing Public Service Commission's competitive examination. Saif ullah Abro shares the concern of RightsNow Pakistan for the community and human rights. According to Saif ullah, journalists are working in difficult situation, particularly journalists of rural areas where national and international donors are not focusing. These are the people who are working in a difficult situation. We must appreciate their work and encourage them. Mr. Abro liked the name of RightsNow Pakistan which, according to him,

means Rights Now. It is a very good name as well as slogan which mean rights should be given without any delay, he added. He emphasized on the issue of capacity and linked it with development. He said we live in third world and are called backward because we do not have capacity. This is an area where we need improvement which can help to enter in the first world. Mr. Abro, assured full cooperation and support from district administration and said RightsNow Pakistan initiative is highly appreciated and endorsed and any support needed from the district management can be fulfilled. This initiative will have a positive and larger impact on the society.





**Mr. Shuib Farooq**, a renowned social activist, educationist and religious leader appreciated the initiative undertaken by the RightsNow Pakistan. Such activities should be encouraged and supported. Mr. Shuib Kaimkhani highlighted different aspects of media, its positive and negative impacts and suggested few areas which need to be focused by the capacity building actors. For authentic reporting, privacy of public, exposing corruption and protection of human rights are domain of media. Recently, media has not

only highlighted human rights issues but helped the individual and community in gaining their rights. He suggested the journalists that before publishing and broadcasting any news, one must be a responsible journalist and verify the news through independent sources. Finally, he offered monetary support to the organization for organizing some other events like this in the district.



**Mr. Faisal Arain**, the member RightsNow Pakistan and renowned trainer, was invited as the last speaker. Mr. Faisal Arain, who works with PIA, is a vibrant young trainer who drew the attention of the participants and made the session participatory. All the participants took immense interest in the talk of Mr. Faisal who raised interesting questions related to the field of media. He pointed out some of the main challenges faced by the reporters included facing the camera, rights short but comprehensive stories in limited time, how to maintain balance in law and journalism and deal with confidentiality and privacy issue. Mr. Faisal Arain's session met with warm response and trainer was flooded with so many questions from the participants. Qazi

Naeem of Duniya TV asked, "The ethic of journalism," while Tauseef of Dhoom TV raised issue of maintaining balance between secret information of Government and public interest. Shabir Mashuri was interested in reporting crime. Mr. Jaffery of Daily Times asked about the ways of prevention of news manipulation.



**Mr. Saeed Jarwar**, active member, supporter of RightsNow Pakistan, an educationist and young thinker, who played very important role in organizing this event. Saeed Jarwar is also an excellent trainer and knowledgeable resource person who has played important role in the capacity building of youth at Tando Allahyar. On behalf of the organization, Saeed Jarwar thanked all participants for their participation and offer

of support. He also praised the event and said one of the objectives of this initiative is also networking among different actors including district administration, lawyers, civil society, media and citizens. It will promote peace, harmony and understanding among all actors and contribute to the better environment of the district

### **Comments, questions, suggestions, criticism**

- We applaud the initiative started by RightsNow Pakistan. Rarely any organization work for the capacity building of journalist in rural areas
- During work we do not see our weaknesses, today this workshop made us realized that everyone should be open to learning new things about new development in media. We all should be open to learning new things
- I learnt many things from today's event. Such event should be held on regular basis
- Most of the journalists have come in this field through different means and lack proper education and skills. Such initiatives will definitely help build our capacity.
- Social media is a new field, we would like to know more about it, said Zulfiqar Khaskheli.
- How to monitor and cover election and make it fair and free through reporting? What is a role of a journalist asked by Abdul Ghaffar.
- We know we can play important role in prevention of sexual harassment of women at work places but how? Please organize a workshop on it. Demand came from Abdul Hafeez
- I am fond of writing on cultural events but do not know how to start and how to cover?
- Are we allowed to cover incidents of mass death on T.v ?
- How can we achieve fellowship and be the part of election observation missions?
- Video sessions should be included into the seminars, workshops.

For feedback, queries, questions and suggestions, write email to RightsNow Pakistan at [rightsnowpak@gmail.com](mailto:rightsnowpak@gmail.com). For more detail visit our website : [www.rightsnowpk.org](http://www.rightsnowpk.org).