



WORLD SINDHI CONGRESS®

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Sindhi Delegates Participated in Annual Meeting of Unrepresented Nations and Peoples Organization

A delegation of the World Sindhi Congress, led by Senior Vice Chairperson Dr. Haleem Bhatti, participated the 7th General Assembly of the Unrepresented Nations and Peoples Organization (UNPO), held in The Hague, Netherlands from 24th June to 26th June 2005. The topic of this year's General Assembly was ***“Globalize Democracy: To Defend Human Rights and the Right to Self-Determination.”***

UNPO is a democratic international membership organization. Its members are indigenous peoples, occupied nations, minorities and independent states or territories who have joined together to protect their human and cultural rights, to preserve their environments and to find non-violent solutions to conflicts that affect them. Known upon its inception as a “shadow UN” for oppressed peoples and nations worldwide, UNPO is an ever-expanding international membership organization from the Pacific to Africa, from Europe to Far East Asia. The first day of this year's event was organized in the Great Hall of Justice, Peace Palace, International Court of Justice, and the next day's proceedings were at the city hall of The Hague.

Dr. Haleem Bhatti was invited as a guest speaker to present Sindh's case for the right to self-determination and to inform members of UNPO and other delegates from all over the world about the plight and sufferings of the Sindhi people. In his speech Dr. Bhatti said, “Sindhis, a nation of 40 million people, have been victimized by the rulers and army since the creation of Pakistan. In 1947 Sindhis were forced to join Pakistan and now they are denied the right to govern themselves. They have been deprived of their water rights, their ports, oil and natural gas, and their mineral wealth. They have been denied education in their own language by the closing down of Sindhi medium primary Schools. Sindhi is not an official language of Sindh and Sindhi media does not receive any official assistance. It is time now that world bodies should speak out for the rights of Sindhi people, including their non-violent struggle for the right to self-determination.” He requested UNPO to recognize its responsibility to serve as an advocate for the Sindhi people as they exercise their right to self-determination.

Dr. Bhatti had a lengthy discussion with newly elected Chairman of UNPO Mr. Goran Hansson, Vice Chairperson Mrs. Mary Simat and Secretary General Mr. Marino Busdachin. Dr. Bhatti congratulated them for being elected as Office bearers for next term and discussed with them in detail the current situation in Sindh and the role of WSC.

During his visit to the Netherlands, Dr. Bhatti met various representatives of non-governmental organisations and delegates of several countries participating in the session. He also met with Mr. Michael van Walt, former Secretary General of UNPO and currently Executive President of the International Peace Council for States, Peoples and Minorities; Prof. Linnart Mall, Head of Oriental Studies University of Tartu, Estonia; and Mr. Erkin Alptekin, former Secretary General of UNPO and currently a member of the organizing committee. They also promised their support to the Sindhi nation.

About the World Sindhi Congress (WSC): WSC is a UK, USA and Canada based human rights advocacy organization. The main objective of WSC is to create a better understanding among the international community about the persecution 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, Wales and the state of California, USA, organized to carry out non-profit activities only. For more information visit <http://www.worldsindhicongress.org>.