

PRESS RELEASE

Killing of 15 innocent worshipers in a bomb blast in a mosque condemned

Commission for Peace and Human Development (CPHD) has strongly condemned the brutal act of killing 15 worshipers and injuring over 100 in a bomb blast at the Friday prayer in Haidery mosque within Sindh Madrassat-ul-Islam in Karachi on May 7, 2004.

Expressing his anguish and anger over the brutal murder of 15 worshipers in a mosque in Karachi on Friday during the Friday prayers, Waseem Anthony, the Executive Director of CPHD, said that this heinous and disgusting crime could not be rooted out from the society unless there is a strong movement from the civil society to oppose this. He was of the view that such cowardice tactics could only be faced by determination of the citizens to do away with the root causes of spreading hatred and intolerance, most nourishing conditions for terrorism.

He showed apprehension for the worst atmosphere for living in the country, where there is no protection to the life of citizens in their own homeland. The vulnerability of the worship places in a country shows the moral deterioration of the society as well as lack of law and order. This attack following the firing and bomb attack on an Ashoora procession in Quetta two months back, in which about 50 people were killed and an effort to attack a Shia mosque in Rawalpindi is a sign of revival of a wave of terrorism in the country which has to be dealt away sternly by the government.

He also blamed the long-term policy of different governments especially the Government of general Zia to encourage and patronize fundamentalism, which have resulted in the form of hatred, religious intolerance, and terrorism, which we are facing today. He said that terrorists are taking advantage of the religiously intolerant atmosphere of the country.

He urged the civil society to oppose any effort, which is responsible for promoting hatred, religious intolerance and terrorism. Such acts should be strongly opposed at every level by the citizens.

He also urged the government to boldly take positive steps to curb the religiously intolerant atmosphere of the country, which is most favourable for terrorism in the stratagem of religion and improve the condition of law and order to protect innocent lives.

Waseem Anthony
Executive Director

May 8, 2004