

Editorial

Now there are no basic facilities in Machhi Mayan fishers' village in the Gizri area. There was no school and dispensary for them from the very beginning. But there was a water pipeline that fulfilled the water needs of the fishers, unfortunately, that was terminated some years ago by Defence Housing Authority (DHA). The DHA officers want the fishers to flee away from the vicinity as they could make millions.

These poor fishers' forefathers took active part in the development of Karachi, now through developmental schemes the fishers are threatened to leave away from the Gizri area because, a so called excuse by DHA, the fishers are ugly and add ugliness to the area. However, DHA officers' avaricious motives are visible to all. They in the name of development have shown their repulsive faces. Besides cutting the fishers off from the basic facilities and blocking their paths from their ancestral abodes to the shoreline and market-centers, DHA has stopped them to anchor their fishing boats at their traditional makeshift jetty. The fishers are asked to stop their boats 500 meters far from the bank. It is ridiculous that in order to reach the boats on the sea water, fishers have to swim along with their gears. In the same way, they have to bring their nets and fish catch back to the bank.

How will the DHA officers (Col Javed Ahad, Brigadier Kamran Aziz, Captain Naseeb, Major Sajad Security Officer and Colonel Rizwan) feel if their families face the same? Let's place these officers in fishers' position. In addition to absence of basic facilities, lack of market skills and unaffordable prices of food items owing to increasing inflation, hunger and poverty, if these military men are abandoned to catch fish (work) and time to time humiliated on their ways to the markets for the (fishing) work, how will these officers feel? Born in elite families, how these military men can understand the plight of a poor fisher.

In Sanghar, Hyderabad and all over Sindh, Waderas, particularly Nizamani and Zardars, and bureaucrats are working merciless against the fishers. They still occupy water bodies even the government has abolished contract system on all the 1260 water bodies.

There is another course of atrocities against the fishers, which have and still aim to affect the fishers' socioeconomic and political life; among those, Karachi Strategic Development Plan (KSDP) 2020 and Seafront Development project. The later project has agenda to construct Sugar Land City and Diamond Bar and Island City. These all initiatives cheer the rich but brining the sad news of displacement and poverty for the fishers as well as a mass cutting of mangrove forests- a irreversible natural loss. In these anti-fisher developments, role of the state's institutions established to safeguard the poor fishers, is completely missing rather supportive to DHA, land mafia and Waderas. This all injustice happen with the fishers and many other sections of society because all the state's institutions and laws are broken down and disable to protect the marginalized people's rights. The plight of fishers in Gizri and all over the country is symbol of state's inability and impotency. At the one hand, elites are dominant on the institutions and on the other, they prepare and promulgate so called developmental policies for enriching themselves and kill the poor by dislodging them from their abodes and depriving them of any opportunity that could benefit them.

But, how long these DHA officers, Waderas and bureaucrats will keep advancing the gap between the rich and the poor by applying these nasty tricks. How long they will dare to keep the fishers dislodging from their abodes and barring them from catching fish in the sea, lakes and ponds. The country is in the severe grip of inflation due to sky-rocketing food and fuel prices. More on that, military-men, bureaucrats and Waderas are pushing the poor up the wall. PFF believes that the DHA, bureaucrats and Waderas' have an end to their atrocities and vested interest by should having an effective fisherfolk movement that will ensure the socio-economic and political justice for the fishers. PFF is heading towards that goal.

Fisheries Minister paid visit at PFF's secretariat

"It is great honour for PFF that the Sindh Fisheries Minister, Zahid Bhurgari, has come down to the PFF's secretariat at Ibrahim Hyderi. Minister's this gesture has created a hope that the present government will work together with PFF against all the anti fisher activities" said Saeed Baloch, General Secretary PFF during his welcome speech for the Fisheries Minister Sindh on 13th June. A great number of journalists from the print and electronic media were present on the occasion. Also several local fishers attended the gathering.

The minister was warmly welcomed at the secretariat. The rose petals were thrown at the minister and was also given ajrak by the PFF representatives.

Muhammad Ali Shah, Chairperson, said that it is a very positive step by the minister towards developing the development of deprive fishers and sustainable fisher policy that will ensure the fishers' sovereignty on the water resources.

"We will auction the lakes of Sindh" said Zahid Bhurgari. "This is the language of Arbab Rahim and Jadam Mangrio" replied Muhammad Ali Shah. Such exchange of words took place between the Chairperson PFF, Muhammad Ali Shah and the Minister for Fisheries, Zahid Bhurgari during a PFF delegation's visit at the minister house on 10th May 2008.

Shah briefed the minister about the coming of PFF into existence. There was, and still is, complete dearth of socioeconomic and political justice for the fishers. The fishers were completely marginalized due to the absence of just fisheries policy which invited profit maximizers to grab water resource in their hands. He told the minister about different kinds of issues which have embraced the fisheries sector. These issues are: the detention of fishers in the Indian jails, over fishing, increase in the fishing vessels, over population in the sector, occupation of influential people on the fishing grounds, industrial fishing by the deep sea fishing trawlers, use of armful nets and growing degradation of the wetlands (Indus Delta Eco-system). He added that there is a lack of coordination between the departments in the fisheries sector.

Shah put forwarded many points for improving the fisheries sector. He said that minister should act upon the proper implementation of the license system on inland fisheries. During Arbab's Rahim's government, in 2005, the contract system was abolished through an official notification. Arbab also announced to encourage the license system then. Shah said PPP government should bring over the proper legislation against the contract system through Sindh assembly and promote the license system.

Chairperson PFF asked the minister to work to improve the infrastructure at the fish landing sides. In order to improve the quality of fish for the export, the fishers should be trained and provided with modern equipments. And the fishers' boats should be modified.

Unfortunately, the fishers who for several days toil in the sea for the fish get very little that a middle man or mole holder gets. This is why the government must work to develop direct linkages between the fishers and market. Fishers should have a direct link with the market. For this, the fishers should be helped in every step that is taken in the supply chain process.

Ali said that there should be a complete ban on the industrial fishing deep sea factory trawlers. He said that the over fishing and pollution about 70 percent of the fish stock has been depleted from the sea and by 2048 there will be no fish in the sea.

Shah said that from the zero to 12 nautical miles the provincial government should have control over the sea.

The mighty sea is upset due to marine pollution. The present government and particularly the fisheries ministry should not let a single polluted drop getting into the sea. Besides, the government should ensure the fishers that there will be no more cuts, dams, barrages and canals on the River Indus.

After highlighting the plight of fisher communities in the coastal areas, Shah advised to the minister that on the emergency basis hundreds of shelters should be constructed in the coastal areas as the fisher families can hide in the times of cyclones and floods. These shelters will also be used as schools.

Shah said people living in islands are cut off from all the basic facilities. They do not have drinking water facilities. In this regard, the minister must put his efforts to organize boat water-tankers for the remote area communities especially at Kettibander and Kharochaan. Also the establishment of windmill turbine and desalination plants will be useful for the coastal area villages. Besides, mobile boat schools should be arranged for the fisher children who stay in the islands with their families. Competent fisher students should be awarded scholarships.

While condemning anti fishers and people developmental schemes launched by the previous government, Shah demanded the minister to stop the KSDP 2020 and other water front development projects. Moreover, he informed the minister about the plight of fishers in the context of Defence Housing Authority atrocities.

Besides, Shah also advise to Zahid Bhurgari that government should do the following things: to establish the solar energy plants in islands villages; to announce a development package for the fishers; to distribute Kacha lands in the riverine fisher communities; to establish disaster prevention and management autonomous authority; to provide the right of social protection and health and safety; and to rectify ILO's Work in Fishing Convention 2007.

Then Hussain Jarwar, Manager Programmes at PFF, briefed the minister about PFF's on going projects being run with the support of international partners, which are Oxfam GB, Action Aid, National Endowment for Democracy, Alternatives Canada, UNDP, Oxfam Novib.

Under these projects, PFF is working to mobilize the fishers for an effective social movement, also functioning to empower men and women economically and socially by providing them services.

Under the Development Area 14 project, PFF is providing assistance to seven formal and four non-formal schools in Bin Qasim and Keamari town. In the same areas, PFF is organizing weekly mobile clinics. Besides, PFF is advocating the fishers' rights and issues.

Through PKNA 99 project, PFF is working in 20 villages of Deh Allahbanoo Bin Qasim Town. In both towns, two shelters are constructed. For the economic uplift, goats are distributed among the poor womenfolk as they can help their economies through this alternative livelihood (sources). Under the same project, sessions on the health and hygiene conditions are conducted. Also trainings have been provided on the fish preservation.

PFF worked in the Jati Taluka which is considered the most cyclone prone area. In the twenty villages of the taluka, two shelters cum schools and ten culverts (bridges) have been constructed. Also livestock and agriculture tool kits have been distributed among poor women; 27 hand pumps with washing pads have been installed; sessions on the disaster risk reduction, health and hygiene and mock drill exercises were organized.

Hussain told that also a community empowerment project is going on for the advancing of democratic and effective fisherfolk movement. Although in this context, PFF is working all over the country, but under this project it is focusing on in 20 villages of UC Ahmed Rajoo and Bugra Memon and 10 villages of district Sanghar. In these villages, community organizations have been formed and leaders of these COs have been trained to run their organizations. Also advocacy on the fishers' human rights is going on.

Besides, PFF is working to install windmills and desalination plants in the coastal belt of Thatta. Moreover, sessions on the importance of environment had been held.

Foreseeing the future

PFF will deeply focus on the strengthening of local, provincial, national, regional and international networking on the fishers' issues. It will speed up the campaign on LBOD, RBOD and marine pollution, and will continue to struggle for the fishers' sovereignty on the natural resources in the water bodies. Bringing up a sustainable fisheries policy will also be the core of PFF's future struggle.

After a long session of the presentation the minister delivered his speech. The minister said he does not want to do the drawing room ministry, rather prefer to be in the field with fishers and take decisions with their help.

He showed great concern over the ban by the European Union on the fish export from Pakistan. Its main reason is improper fishing methods and the fish processing methods and tools.

“Today I have noted down your [PFF’s] presented issues and solutions and will take these to the Chief Minister of Sindh”.

He said he is worried over the sea pollution. The Karachi City Government is responsible of it. In order to deal with this danger, he said, the government is planning to install treatment plants at various points in Karachi.

Since deep sea trawlers are equipped with modern gears this is why they take away all the fish. It may not happen that these trawlers deplete the fish stocks from the sea. For that, minister said, he will talk with the Federal Government.

He acknowledged that fishing rights are the rights of the fishers. No one should control the fisher.

While referring to his participation during PFF’s hunger strike in front of Karachi Press club against the contract system, he said he will put forward this issue in front of the Chief Minister of Sindh.

He asked Ali that PFF should devise a strategy to deal with the feudal lords who occupy large water bodies in Sindh. Moreover, he said that he will play a role of a bridge between the government and PFF.

After the speech, the minister was taken to Rehari Goth where a couple of days ago sea water had inundated the fishers houses.

Dawn:

<http://dawn.com/2008/06/14/local9.htm>

The

Nation:

<http://www.nation.com.pk/pakistan-news-newspaper-daily-english-online/Regional/Karachi/14-Jun-2008/Minister-promises-to-resolve-fishermens-chronic-problems>

Defenceless fishers up against the mighty Defence Housing Authority

“Go back, otherwise, you will not be OK” (*wapus chaley jayo, warna tumhara khier nahen hey*)” Usman Motani recalled the words that a security man had said to him. This incident that had made him feel that the fishers are not human being. Two months ago that incident took place between some DHA (Defense Housing Authority) security men and Usman; security men were posted at the security check point to monitor the fishers of an old Machhi Mayan village in Gizri creek area. Usman knew that he and his other fishers have strictly been told by DHA security persons to not come to the bank and fish in the sea but since his boat was in the sea for the last three days, so he could not stand seeing his boat drowning in the water. He was scared that his boat



Editorial

April 23, 2008

Wednesday

Rabi-us-Sani 16, 1429

The plight of fisherfolk

THE Pakistan Fisherfolk Forum has done well to highlight the plight of its members who have been barred by the Defence Housing Authority from coming close to the Gizri coast. The fishermen have been fishing in this area for generations. DHA has imposed the ban ostensibly to protect its beach projects. It is a pity that misery is being heaped on the poor folks to facilitate the acquisition of mega bucks by the rich in the name of development. This is the fourth time in the last three decades that fishermen have been evicted from a jetty by the DHA. The latest move is all the more deplorable because it has been executed notwithstanding a written agreement between the two parties that had allowed fishing activities in the area from 6am to 6pm.

This is just one aspect of the development that is taking place at the cost of human living. There is the larger context of waterfront projects and beach development activities that were initiated by the previous government. This it had done despite serious reservations that were voiced by all concerned — fishermen, technocrats, civil society and politicians — for being a clear violation of Common Land regulations that allow all citizens easy and free access to public areas such as sea beaches. By handing over 84,000 acres of coastal land to foreign investors, the authorities allowed by a single but fateful stroke of pen, among other things, displacement of population, deprivation from natural source of income, depletion of mangroves and heightened marine pollution. The only ray of hope in this rather grim situation is the stand that was adopted by all the major political parties that happened to be in the opposition at the time. Now that every one of them is part of the grand coalition, there is reason to hope that things will change for the better and that the ruling partners will not get swayed by the not-so-invisible compulsions.

is not strong enough to hold the water out for that long.

One of the security men, to whom Usman did not know, forced him to get off from the bicycle, “as I got off from the bicycle, the security men slapped me twice on my head and took my bicycle away and said do not come back again”. Usman returned home with anger and frustration. He said that he was greatly worried about his family for which he has done nothing; he had no money to buy food for his children. Some other fishers who were supposed to join Usman for the fishing in the sea had also met the same ill-treatment by the DHA security men. Upon his return, Usman shared the incident with his community leaders who then approached Pakistan Fisherfolk Forum.

It was the end of March 2008, the rich DHA again started showing its hostility to the fishers of Gizri creek again, of which, Usman was one of the victims. Several fishing boats have been destroyed and set on fire. “These hostilities have again staked days of depressions on the fishers, notwithstanding, DHA’s such antagonism is leading towards balancing the scale of justice between the rich and poor. We will see it very soon”, said Muhammad Ali Shah, Chairperson PFF.

PFF responded to the DHA’s persistent atrocities by holding a press conference at Karachi Press Club on 18 April 2008. Saeed Baloch, Akhtar Sheikh, Majeed Motani, Hussian Dorahi and Sami Memon informed the media that how DHA has been destroying the fishers’ boats by setting on fire. They warned DHA and announced for a struggle.

After two days of the press conference, a visit of journalists was organized from the print and electronic media on 20th of April. Journalist met the community people in their village, Machhi Mayan, and at the traditional anchoring place in Gizri area. On the next day of visit, almost all newspapers (Dawn, Nation, Daily Times, Umat, Jurat, Awami Awaz, Hilal Pakistan, Tameer e Sindh and Halchal) wrote reports on the issue. Besides, the electronic media that includes Geo, Kawash Television Network, ARY, Express, AAJ, Sindh TV, Waqt TV, Channel 5, TV One Dhoom and Sun TV broadcasted five to ten minutes documentaries.

A Letter

To: PAKISTAN DEFENCE OFFICERS HOUSING AUTHORITY,
2-B, EAST STREET, PHASE-I
KARACHI-75500, PAKISTAN

Dear All,

We are from Indonesia Fisherfolk Union, would like to express our solidarity with the fisherfolks who are on a hunger strike in front of Karachi Press Club protesting against the decision taken by Defense Housing Authority (DHA) to ban the fishers from anchoring their boats nearby shoreline in Gizri creek.

We are in very deep concern to the situation that our brothers and sisters in Pakistan going through, since this happened while the majority of fisher people in the world are in the poor condition because the government policies those only benefit the capitalists interest.

From the explanation letter which came from our partner in Pakistan, we can feel the injustice treat that they were going through and we demand the immediate measures to restore justice in the interest of small scale fisher, and we will endorse this case in our country by building wider solidarity and force our government to take an adequate action in international talks.

Stop killing small scale fishers by pushing them away from their livelihood!

Muhammad Reza
Indonesia Fisherfolk Union
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Then on 22nd April a peaceful protest was held in front of Karachi press club. About 400 fishers took part in it. Then a chain of activities were carried out. Apart from Gizri area, hundreds of fishermen, women and children had joined the demonstration from Ibrahim Hyderi, Rehri Goth, Hacks Bay, Deh Allah Dino, Kiamari, Khada and so on. Chairperson, Mohammad Ali Shah, General Secretary Saeed Baloch, Deputy General Secretary Musrat Mandherio, Vice Chairperson Tahira Ali, Hussian Dhorai and others addressed the gathering. The fishers were holding placards and banners in their hands which were inscribed with ‘save fishers from DHA atrocities’, ‘save us from hunger and deprivation’, ‘restore fishers’ basic rights’, ‘restore our jetty’ and ‘stop eviction of fishers’. Their slogans were louder and heard at too far.

Earlier and after to this protest, there are some accounts on the issue between the fishers of Gizri and

DHA. Since 1980, the year DHA was established it started dislodging the fishers from their ancestral abodes. The fisher had severe problems

From 2000 to 2005, the fishers of Machhi Maya were completely barred to catch fish. PFF and the fishers started a campaign together that resulted in an agreement reached between the parties in 2005. From 2005 onward the fishers were partially allowed to fish in the area. The then administrator had signed a letter that visibly allowed the fisher to catch fish in that area.

But now the DHA administrator, retired Brigadier Kamran Aziz, told the media persons (reported in 21 April 2008 Dawn newspaper) that “fishermen had just been stopped from bringing their boats to the shore. They can do fishing but they can’t bring their boats near the shore. I do not know how they can do that...we cannot give them the permission”. The fishers say that the DHA authorities have directed them to anchor their boats 500 meters away from the shore. It is quite hilarious to think about fishing in the sea without using boats. It is wonder to say how the fishers can execute their tasks wanting bringing over their boats to the coast.

Suleman, the fisher, said eight of their boats have so far been damaged and two were burnt some time ago. The process of torturing is continued. Their bicycles are taken away by the DHA security personnel.

There are about 200 fisher families in Machhi Mayan village which is surrounded by beautiful villas. Sadly only rich families in these villas can enjoy the facilities while the oldest residents are deprived of everything and unfortunately stopped to earn their livings. Some years ago, the fishers were receiving the drinking water through a pipeline which has been blocked by DHA.

PFF tried to solve the matter through a dialogue with DV but he did not accept any thing. Then PFF planned a drive against this attitude and system.

Before the protest by PFF in front of Karachi press club, PFF had continued the dialogue with the DHA because PFF believed in a democratic dialogue process and tried to help the DHA’s retired Brigadier to understand the basic rights of the fishers but he does not believe in any such things. In this regard, two round meetings have been held with Colonel Rizwan Ahad (Director Vigilance). In result of these meetings, DHA agreed to allow the fishers for fishing but DHA asked PFF to select any one feasible spot for a proper jetty where fish workers can anchor their boats. Although, PFF has provided three feasible spots for a jetty but there is no use of it. In the process of PFF’s struggle on the issue, there is a good number of activities. A letter to the Chief Minister Sindh, Qaim Ali Shah and Speaker of Sindh Assembly Nisar Ahmed Khuhroo has been written. They were asked to take immediate steps by investigating into the matter and allowing the fishers to catch fish in the area.

On 21 May 2008, in continuity of struggle, PFF kicked off three days hunger strike in front of Karachi Press Club. The hunger strike was observed till 23 May. The fishers had joined the strike from Ibrahim Hyderi, Rehri Goth, Hacks Bay, Deh Allah Dino, Kiamari, Khada and so on.

During the second day (on 22nd May), several political parties’ leaders, civil society representatives and others visited the camp. Among those were Saleem Zia, PML (N) Sindh, Yousif Masti, and General Secretary of Pakistan National Workers Party, Usman Baloch, Khalique Junejo, Jaye Sindh Qumi Mahaz and Sahla Rizwan, Labour Party of Pakistan. These visitors condemned the DHA’s attitude. On third day, Majeed Motani, president PFF Karachi Committee, surprised over the present government’s response said that still no government representative has come to ask about the fishers’ problems and DHA’s ill-treatment. Also there is no pressure on DHA as it should leave its harsh attitude behind and come forward to accept the fishers’ demands. He warned that after the end of three days strike if DHA again stopped the fishers to anchor their boats around Gizri creek then the fishers from across the country will rush to the DHA office and will stay there until their demands are accepted.

The hunger camp was led by following people through out three days: Khuda Ganj Shad, Saeed Baloch, General Secretary PFF, Umeed Bux Baloch, Akhtar Sheikh, Sami Memon and Hussain Dhorai. On the

occasion, Saeed Baloch asked the Federal Government and Sindh Government's representatives, particularly Nisar Khuhro, Speaker Sindh Assembly, Qaim Ali Shah, Chief Minister Sindh to solve the problems of the fishers of Gizri area. Otherwise, PFF's will go for a mass struggle.

During three days hunger strike, emails were written by PFF's international friends to DHA. Among these are the Movement for Land and Agricultural Reform (MONLAR), a network of people's organizations in Sri Lanka and Indonesia Fisherfolk Union.

After PFF's peaceful demonstrations and protests, the DHA turned out very hostile towards the fishers of Machi Mayan village. On 15th June Hanif fisherman's boat was found nearby Hyder Shah's tomb's in the Korangi Creek. His boat reached nearby the tomb because DHA security men had cut its rope and it floated away with the waves. On the same night also boat machines had been stolen from Abdullah and Umar's boats.

On 15th June when the fishers returned from the search of a boat, which they had carried out after the DHA security personals had cut the rope of the boat, the DHA's security persons stopped them from coming to the shoreline. The security personals pointed guns at the fishers and warned them if they got off at the shore. Due to it, the fishers remained hungry for 20 hours. On the spot, Pakistan Peoples Party leaders, Union council Nazim and electronic media personal intervened, but DHA security men did not let the fishers to come at the shore.

DHA security men showed their hatred towards the fishers and said to them that there is no use of protests and rallies. If anybody dares to go for it, he/she will be left restless because the DHA is military area.

DHA focused on dislocating the centuries old fishers, Sami Memon spells out.

1947's partition of the subcontinent and post-partition infrastructural development brought uncountable problems to the fishers of Pakistan. Particularly, the fisher communities at Mubarak Village, Hawks Bay, Kiamari, Gizri, Ibrahim Hyderi, Chasham Goth and Rehri village became victims of multi-faceted forces. They suffered a lot in the name of so called development. One of the alarming examples is the dislocation of thousands of fishers' families from their ancestral abodes.

The accounts of the displacement of the fishers are so long and many but hereby I would like to highlight the case of fishers of Machhi Mayan village in Gizri. For the last two months, starting from the late March 2008, the fishers of village are facing a worse attitude by Defense Housing Authority (DHA). The fishers are abandoned to catch fish in the sea and barred to anchoring their boats near the traditional places in the Gizri creek. The fishers possess the documents and notifications issued to them by the authorities of Bombay Presidency.

Once prosperous, the fishers of Machhi Mayan village – with about 200 fisher families with 1500 souls – have now become prisoners. Their mobility is restricted and have no access to their livelihood resources. The whole area is characterized by broken roads and drains and without drinking water facility. The level of literacy is very low. Sadly there are only 8 literate persons and not a single person has employment in the public.

In 1980, DHA was established. The year it established, it started exercising the power in the name of army and put the fishers' lives into trouble particularly for these fishers of Mayan village who have been dislodged several times in the history. The first point of making them deprived was to abandon them to anchor their boats at the traditional places on the shoreline. Just because the fishers are dirty and they add ugliness to the area. The development at the cost of living and livelihood of the fishers cannot be called a development. The replacement of the poor and powerless community with the rich and powerful community is not an indicator of development.

The DHA stopped them to leave their boats at Main Gizri (near Gizri Creek). From there, they moved to the Jama Mosque in the premises of Gizri but DHA did not tolerate it also and forced them to move from that area. From Jama mosque they were forced to migrate to area close to Marina Club. Then, from Marina Club they were forced to leave for Gutter Bageecho. Hence, it has been harassing and threatening and causing every kind of loss to them in order to make them leave their village and sell their houses at low prices.

DHA located in the South Karachi had come into existence through a Presidential Order No. 7 of 1980. Later on the National Assembly of Pakistan approved it. Its control is over about 9000 acres.

For the last two months, starting from the late March 2008, DHA besides barring them to leave their boats in Gizri area has been torturing the fishers. On their way to their spots where their boats are anchored, their bicycles are taken away, their boats are set ablaze and they themselves are threatened to not to return to the spot where they anchor their boats.

DHA has purchased the land at a very insignificant price from Sindh Revenue Department and sold it for millions to the elites. To date DHA has demolished three traditional makeshift places of anchoring boats in Gizri creek. In doing so, DHA has gulped about 9,000 acres of land, but its authorities have no shame on their faces for sparing one acre of the total land to the indigenous people of the area who are living for more than five centuries.

DHA has also been violating an understanding reached between the Pakistan Fisherfolk Forum with the fishermen and DHA. That understanding took place in a meeting on 5th June 2005. After the meeting, the then Director Vigilance (DV), Lt Col Javed Ahad, of DHA issued a letter on 10th June 2005 with reference DHA/119/Ph-5/Vig. That letter says “the competent authority is pleased to allow fishermen of Gizri area to

carry out fishing from 0600 hours to 1800 hours”. However, the current administrator refuses to honour the statement of the letter.

After the issuance of letter, the fishers peacefully continued their fishing activities for about three years but in 2008, the current DV did not accept the above mentioned letter and barred the fishermen to catch the fish in the sea and anchor their boats at any spot along the shoreline in Gizri creek.

With the given unacceptable attitude of the DV, fishermen did not leave the curtain of negotiation and continued to have dialogue with him for their rights, but DV ruled out every thing. In the given depressed and miserable life, where fishermen have no other market skills to earn money, there they along with PFF have kicked off their struggle for their basic livelihood rights.

The DHA bulldozed their graveyard which is inhuman and irreligious and immoral act acceptable to none of the communities all over the world.

At the one hand, the fishers were harassed and threatened. On the other, they were deprived of the basic facilities like drinking water, school and dispensary. Harassment is being done in the name of security. All this was done to create an atmosphere which could render them helpless, hopeless and compel them to flee away from their centuries old villages and vacate land for

further construction of palaces for military elite and other rich people.

DHA bulldozed their graveyard that is an acceptable to none of the communities all over the world. At present, in case if there is any death in the community, the fishers have to hire the bus from Rs.3000 to take the dead body to the graveyard. For that, they get financial help from different trusts and welfare organizations.

The political parties, human rights organizations and civil society representatives are not taking enough stand for the civil, political, economic, social and cultural rights of these badly affected fishers. It is because DHA is powerful. The Federal Government and Sindh Provincial Government do not bother to take the notice of this genuine issue.

For their survival, they need provision of proper jetty with unhindered access. The guarantee is needed in written for permanent solution of the problem. The DHA will have to accept them as the human beings living there since centuries. They are harmless and law abiding persons enemy to none. Hence, they should not be treated as second-class citizens. Their all rights should be recognized by the DHA and the concerned authorities. The inhabitants of this village should be given all the facilities and rights which have been given to the people of this area: schools, health facilities, drainage system, roads, jetty and access to the sea for fishing. This action would enhance and rebuild the trust of the local communities and would make them realize that the Defense Forces are not involved in such inhuman and unconstitutional deeds.

Letter

PAKISTAN DEFENCE OFFICERS HOUSING AUTHORITY
2-B, EAST STREET, PHASE-I, KARACHI-75500, PAKISTAN

Dear Members of Pakistan Defense Officers Housing Authority

We, the Movement for Land and Agricultural Reform (MONLAR), a network of people's organisations in Sri Lanka, would like to express our solidarity with the fisherfolk from different areas who are on a hunger strike in front of Karachi Press club protesting against the decision taken by Defense Housing Authority (DHA) to ban the fishers from anchoring their boats nearby shoreline in Gizri creek.

We are a network of farmers' organizations working in solidarity with the fisher people's organizations in Sri Lanka such as the National Fisheries Solidarity and with the World Forum of Fish Workers. It is obvious

that the decision taken to prevent fisher people in this region to anchor their boats in the shoreline in Gizri creek where they have been anchoring their boats traditionally is a way of preventing them from continuing their fishing livelihoods. We firmly believe that the fisher people's right to continue their fishing livelihoods should be respected and the only way this can be done is by respecting their right to use above shoreline to anchor their boats. Prevention of this would push them to hunger and deprivation. Restoring their right to livelihoods is equivalent to restoring their jetty and stopping the eviction of the fishers.

We are surprised and angered to note that this decision to prevent them from anchoring their boats in this location has been done disregarding the "ownership documents which were issued to the fishers by the then Mumbai government. DHA has gulped nine thousands acres in Gizri while they cannot spare one acre for the fishers who are living in the area for centuries. It is an open injustice" as stated by the fishers' organization. For the last two months the fisher families are going through depressed and miserable life. The DHA has violated an understanding reached between the Pakistan Fisherfolk Forum along with the fishermen and DHA. That understanding took place in a meeting on 5th June 2005. After the meeting, the then Director Vigilance (DV), Lt Col Javed Ahad, of DHA issued a letter on 10th June 2005 with reference DHA/119/Ph-5/Vig. That letter says "the competent authority is pleased to allow fishermen of Gizri area to carry out fishing from 0600 hours to 1800 hours".

We also would like to note that this trend of pushing small scale fisher people from their livelihoods and from access to beaches and the sea is a continuing tendency in many countries. This is also the trend in relation to small scale farmers whose right to land and livelihoods is taken away. We would like to remind the relevant authorities that this process of destruction of livelihoods, access to land, the seas and other natural resources is pushing more and more people to hunger, poverty and destitution. There is a worldwide movement of fisher people, farmers and other people whose traditional livelihoods are threatened who have begun to fight against this unjust and destructive tendency. They demand that this be stopped immediately and their rights restored. Therefore this resistance and struggle of the fisher people will be supported by such people and their organizations in your country and globally.

Therefore, we would like to appeal to the DHA and other relevant authorities and the Government concerned to take immediate measures to remedy and restore justice in this case. If immediate measures are not taken this struggle would certainly expand and we would also communicate this with other organizations which will certainly extend their solidarity and support the just struggle of these people. It is part of a growing global struggle that is gathering momentum.

Thanking you,

Yours sincerely

Sarath Fernando, Moderator, MONLAR, 1151/58A, 4th lane, Kotte Road, Rajagiriya, Sri Lanka

Master Plan not for all, why?

Zahid Pirzado says it will be humorous if any one found an action, activity or plan that has been taken for the development of fishing communities of Karachi under the Tameer-e-Karachi program. In this report, Pirzado has offered his understanding based on a close look of the ongoing program activities and a vision behind it.

The City District Government Karachi (CDGK), under the name of “Tameer-e-Karachi Program”, had chalked out a plan called ‘Karachi Strategic Development Plan 2020. This plan is in contradiction with the program’s vision i.e. “Create an inclusive city that provides opportunity and a better life for all its citizens”. The city will be characterized with areas of high amenity, competitive atmosphere, opportunities for all to earn income, work and invest and minimal poverty.

The program was aimed to provide opportunities to all the residents of Karachi as they can ‘earn income, work and invest’. In the first place, all sections of the society had to be consulted and asked their priorities but sadly not even a single time residents of Lyari, Gadap, Bin Qasim and Keamari were consulted. The concerns, protests and reservations of Union Council Nazims of these areas were even bothered.

In these four towns, millions of fishers rather than getting benefits of the program have adversely been affected. The whole master plan does not recognize and safeguard the rights of fishing communities. Neither there is a plan to construct jetties for fishing communities nor any account and plan for an ecologically sustainable fishing. In nut shell, to say, planners did not bother to think about the fishers.

The members of opposition benches including Town Nazims, UC Nazims and Councilors who have huge mandate of millions Karachiites, have complains that they were kept in the dark about the nature and spirit of the plan. They complained that the incomplete copies of KSDP 2020 were shared with them on the day of the presentation and passage of the plan. During press conference organized by the Opposition, Rafiq Ahmad mentioned that the master plan copies distributed among the members were not complete versions of the KSDP2020; they lacked maps, figures and tables. They, further, criticized that they were not listened to in the house in spite of their protest. They demanded the time of one month to review the plan but their demand was not given due weight. They say that the plan was passed only on the basis of majority.

The opposition members, Juman Darwan and others termed the Master Plan “a conspiracy against the people living in the hundreds of Goths in Keamari, Gadap and Bin Qasim, as they are being abolished in the name of development.

The plan in hand will be further extended to 2030 (under the Federal Government’s Vision 2030) to cover the city’s region that includes part of the surrounding districts of Thatta, Jamshoro and Lasbella

The ruling party was not allowing for an open debate in the council on this issue. Saeed Ghani, opposition leader in the City Council, said that the CDGK did not allow a proper debate on the floor. “The EDO came in the council and just read a few points from a paper which was not a complete document either”, Ghani added. The opposition members, Juman Darwan and others termed the Master Plan “a conspiracy against the people living in the hundreds of Goths in Keamari, Gadap and Bin Qasim, as they are being abolished in the name of development. They do not agree to accept it as development plan but to them it is land acquisition and power (monopolistic) achieving plan.

The Town Nazim of Bin Qasim, Jan Alam Jamote, denies that any presentation having been made to him despite the fact that his town comes under the expansion plan. “I don’t have such information, they might have given the presentation to 14 towns only,” he said. Naib-Nazim Yousuf Shah said he had no information either. The Opposition bench members at the City Council, the legislative forum for the elected representatives of the city have alleged that the

The important stakeholders of Thatta, Jamshoro and Lasbella were even not aware of the expansion plan which is stated under section 1.8 and is reproduced “The plan in hand will be further extended to 2030

(under the Federal Government's Vision 2030) to cover the city's region that includes part of the surrounding districts of **Thatta, Jamshoro and Lasbella**”.

Planning and Development Control by a Single Authority: The plan expresses that the Planning and Development Control should not be vested into single authority which is monopolistic and undemocratic. It is over centralization of authority not decentralization and devolution. The democratic approach encourages pluralistic method. The means the existence and planning actors. The planning can only be when it involves all the groups stakeholders in its preparation and implementation. The pluralistic planning and development is ensuring the rights of different segments/groups of Karachiites. This plan should enhance the already existing gap among different cleavages of Karachi. To avoid this, CDGK should share the responsibility with all the Karachiites. It is unwise to suppose that it would single-handedly carry out all the plans in fair and square manner.

YEAR	Area (sq.km)	Population
Before Partition	8.8	430000
1955	112.7	1500000
1974	301.3	4160000
1987	572.4	6720000
2001	878.8	11610000

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The marginalized communities of aforementioned regions of Karachi can be empowered by issuing the notification for making them separate Districts under Land Revenue Act 1967 for the sake of development why not Karachi for the sake of

The communities of Malir and Lyari desire that the MDA (Malir Development Authority) and Lyari Development Authority) LDA should exist with all their pre-devolution powers including and be vested with the P&D powers. The Government of Sindh should give status of districts to Keamari, Bin Qasim, Gadap and Lyari enabling them for planning and development for themselves. The marginalized communities of aforementioned regions of Karachi can be empowered by issuing the notification under Land Revenue Act 1967 for making them separate Districts for the sake of

development of marginalized Indigenous People. The Schedule 6 of Local Bodies Ordinance incorporated through Legal Framework Order be withdrawn and provincial governments should be given powers to legislate for the Local Governments (District and City Governments). It is, further, suggested that the Local Governments' powers be limited to Municipal Services and Community Development.

Poor people deprived of recreation: The plan states that the management of the parks would be given to the private sector. This is anti-people approach. The rich and affording class would afford to enter into the parks, while it would deprive the poor from recreational rights.

Disaster Inducing Plan: The plan (in its section 4.5) points the occurrence of the disasters and expected targets of the cyclones (including two ports) but does not have any plan to take appropriate measures for coping disasters except committees and collaborative mechanism. The cyclones and tsunamis can be checked only by the plantation and conservation of mangrove –the coastal sentry. There is no other option to think for. The plan does not even mention the necessity of the Mangrove Forests. The millennium's worst super-cyclone that hit the eastern Indian coastal state of Orissa in 1999 killed more than 10,000 people and damaged three million houses. Almost all beaches in Orissa were affected except for the Nasi Island in Kendrapara district. "One reason attributed for this miraculous exception was the presence of an army of mangroves that dissipated the cyclonic power," says S.R. Bhat, a scientist with the National Institute of Oceanography at Goa (NIO-Goa), a mangrove expert. The communities in Indonesia and adjoining countries have named mangroves as tsunami trees. It is tribute and recognition of the mangroves by wiser communities who understand that one mangrove tree can save on house from cyclone.

Not any Pragmatic Plan for Coastal Marine Environment: The plan suggests only corrective measures which are not sufficient. The coastal marine environment can be spared by two ways; Firstly, the mangrove forests (water purifiers) be planted and conserved; secondly, halt the discharge of chemical and contaminated water into the sea. There is no third option to secure the marine life from the colossal losses. The “Coastal Zone Management and Environmental Impact Assessment” study (1997-2001) conducted by

Centre of Excellence in Marine Biology, University of Karachi, Sindh, Pakistan, in collaboration with DFID found that it was particularly true of the coastal zone near Karachi, where the mangrove swamps of the Indus Delta were subjected to huge population pressures and massive pollution problems.....'However, it is also becoming progressively polluted by man's activities and impact, and is likely to be further endangered by the effects of global warming and sea level rise in the 21st century”.

Fishing Communities kept at arms' length in Reclamation of Sea and Backwater: The plan says that only port authorities would be interacted in the process of reclamation of the sea and backwaters. It is proposed that only Port Authorities would be involved. But the Coastal and fishing communities-the major stakeholders are neglected. It indicates that their rights have not been recognized.

Undue Insistence on Water Front Development: The plan in its **section 7.4.21**, insists on the waterfront development which is hazardous for marine environment and life. The waterfront development would cause the cutting of mangroves which natural fort/wall against any tsunami and cyclone. Any loss to these trees would invite risk of natural disasters which (May not occur) would wipe out the waterfront development in its first stroke. Hence, the structures on waterfront should be excluded from this plan.

On or near the front of water, there are the breeding grounds for marine life particularly fishes and shrimps. The waterfront development would annihilate them. The plan states, “Green Turtles, Mangrove Ecological System Preserved” but how? When the islands are sold and waterfront structures are established which are hostile to ecological system.

Sale of Islands for Diamond Bar Island City: It is not out of context to mention the sale of twin islands by the Federal Government and City Government by keeping two most important stakeholders i.e. Sindh Government and Fishing Communities in the dark. The Bhundar (Bundal) and Dingi (Budo) islands, extending to 12,000 Acres, were sold to EMAAR Company in \$43 billions. The construction of Diamond Bar Island City would deprive about 400,000 members of the fishing communities. On and near these island (the sold area), the mangrove forests are situated which would be deforested causing loss to marine environment on one hand and on the other wiping out the safety nets from disasters.

The dispossession of the fishers from these islands is not only the matter of their economic and social rights or environmental rights of humanity but it is the gross violation of cultural rights of the fishing and indigenous communities.

Note: Major stakeholders, political parties, the Sindh Government and Civil Society should take decisive action for withdrawal of the sale of islands. It must be kept in mind that there are about 200 islands which can (otherwise) be sold in the same way.

Sale of Coastal Land for Waterfront Sugar land City and Crescent Bay Island City: The land extending from Hocksbay to Manora covering 60,000 hectares was sold to Nakheel Group in \$ 68 Billions for construction of Waterfront Sugarland City. This construction on coast would dispossess tens of thousands of indigenous people of about 200 villages in 3 UCs. The fishing communities would lose their livelihood resources.

This would pose greater threat to the marine ecology particularly the green turtle (the rare species) of marine. The structures at the cost of environmental degradation and displacement of thousands of people are contradictory to the spirit of sustainable development which is acceptable to none.

Over Emphasis on Land Use: Decongestion is not panacea for all the issues of Karachi. The traffic Jams and air pollution can be tackled by adopting other suitable and sustainable measures. The plan is ambitious for two targets; firstly, it is ambitious for acquiring the vacant land (approximately 2300 Sq Km) in 4 towns of Keamari, Bin Qasim Malir and Gadap; secondly, establishing hegemonic power over the Karachi as nothing can budge an inch without City District's prior approval.

The table pertaining to the land acquiring/allocation is missing in the soft copy uploaded to website: <http://www.kmcdp.gos.pk/lsu/kmp.html> The proposed 5000 Acres of land are to be utilized for truck stands, treatment of water, graveyard and solid waste etc.

The table pertaining to the land acquiring/allocation is missing in the soft copy uploaded to website: <http://www.kmcdp.gos.pk/lsu/kmp.html> .5000 Acres of land are to be utilized for truck stands, treatment of water, graveyard and solid waste etc.

Conclusion: The KSDP 2020 is neither cost effective nor friendly to the environment and ecological system, rather hostile to the coastal and fishing communities. It lacks a proper vision in its formation that ignores the aboriginal inhabitants-the marginalized fishing communities. In brief, it is faulty, incomplete, partial, based on favoritism which hunts for plans with unchecked and unshared authority and unlimited power over precious resources i.e. Land and the Sea.

The plan neither involves the marginalized and deserved Karachiites (the major stakeholders) in the planning and decision making processes nor has input from the opposition parties and representatives of civil society organizations. It is imposed upon the people of Karachi. It is devoid of preserving, protecting and projecting socio-cultural rights of indigenous fishing communities and poor residents of the city.

Such situation strongly demands that the plan should be redrafted after the full involvement of all the stakeholders on equity basis. Their technical expertise and input should be taken on the sustainable and environmental development. The prepared plan should be presented in City Council for discussion, further input and passage of the revised and all inclusive draft.

In the given circumstances, it is also the prime responsibility of both the Federal and Provincial Governments to intervene for the sake of all inclusive, sustainable and environment friendly development plan for Karachiites.

PFF demands that a vigilance committee of national and international experts should be formed that monitor the process and that committee should bring those people to the justice who deliberately made the plan for their personal vested interests.

Local govt system being scrapped, says PPP leader by Latif Baloch

Rejecting the Karachi Strategic Development Plan 2020, speakers at a seminar held here on Friday termed it “a conspiracy” against the interest of the local population of the city.

The seminar presided over by a leader of the Pakistan People’s Party (PPP) and former senator, Taj Haider, was jointly organised by the Pakistan Fisherfolk Forum (PFF) and the Strengthening Participatory Organisation (SPO).

Speakers urged the Sindh government to scrap what they described as the “so-called” master plan and to prepare a new development scheme in consultation with the members of civil society and the local population.

They slammed the city government for allegedly working against the interest of the local populace by illegally capturing their valuable land and resources on the pretext of development. They also accused the CDGK of hatching a conspiracy to take over the control of the coastal areas of the province.

Dr Aly Ercelawn from Pakistan Institute of Labour Education & Research (PILER) said that it is time to test the Land Acquisition Act 1894. The act does not allow any party to take away land of any body who is unwilling to sell it. Therefore the act will help us to stop the Federal, Sindh and City Governments for this project.

THE LAND ACQUISITION ACT - 1894

“The acquisition of private properties for public purposes including development projects in Pakistan is governed by the Land Acquisition Act 1894 (LAA). It comprises of 55 Sections pertaining to area notifications and surveys, acquisition, compensation and apportionment awards and disputes resolution, penalties and exemptions.” (Source: Pakistan Watergate Way:

<http://www.waterinfo.net.pk/fsrp.htm>)

Dr Aly was one of the speakers at the seminar on Karachi Strategic Development Plan 2020 on 30th May 2008 at Regent Plaza.

They said that if the proposed master plan got implemented as many as 200 villages of fishermen would be demolished sooner or later.

Referring to the history of Karachi, the former speaker of the Sindh Assembly, Hussain A. Haroon, said that the city originally comprised various fishermen's settlements and the land of the city actually belonged to the then major communities including Balochs, Sindhis and the Kachhis, a fact that was even recognised by the British government as well. He said that this could also be proved in a court of law.

Mr Haroon deplored that the land of the natives had been usurped by the land mafia and builders with the connivance of government functionaries in a bid to convert a majority into a minority.

He said that an atmosphere of peace and harmony could be established in the province by giving due rights to the native population including their right to ownership of their land and resources.

Mr Haroon argued that the present local body system had failed to deliver and, therefore, there was a need for a new local body system that could ensure the rights of the old populace of the city.

He also suggested the establishment of a new colony "Benazir Basti" in the periphery of the city for the rehabilitation of those who came to the city from the interior of Sindh in search of jobs.

Mr Haroon hoped that the current Sindh government would work for the betterment of the natives by taking appropriate and effective measures.

'Master plan a conspiracy'

The central leader of the National Workers Party, Yusuf Mustikhan, said: "We have not only been deprived of our socio-political rights, we have also been facing an identity crisis."

He said that under a systematic plan, the natives had been deprived of their land and resources. He further charged that efforts were being made to deprive the natives of their culture and language as well.

The NWP leader said that an abiding peace in the province could not be established unless the due rights of the local populace were recognised.

Criticising the proposed master plan, he called for a joint struggle to foil what he described as a conspiracy to control the land of the local populace.

A former minister and chairman of the former district council Karachi, Hakeem Baloch, also termed the master plan document a grand conspiracy against the local population.

Slamming the city government and the overall local body system introduced by the Musharraf government, he alleged that under the so-called devolution plan the city government had destroyed Karachi and decimated the local population by uprooting them from their lands.

Mr Baloch said that Karachi had been deprived of its green belts and a new concept of urban agriculture had been introduced to plunder the resources of Karachi.

He also called for the revival of the Malir district. In his address, Mr Taj Haider said that the Pakistan People's Party had opposed the master plan when it was tabled in the City Council and added that the Sindh government had not issued any notification in this regard so far.

Criticising the Sindh Local Government Ordinance (SLGO), he said that certain sections of the ordinance were in direct contravention of the constitution.

He also informed the audience that the provincial government was preparing a new draft of law to replace the existing local body system.

The PPP leader said that under the new law the definition of a village would be revised and new districts would be created.

Mr Haider also disclosed that the government would launch new housing schemes which would be announced in the next budget.

He said his party stood for the rights of the poor sections of the population and every effort would be made to mitigate their sufferings.

Mohammad Ali Shah, chairman of the Pakistan Fisherfolk Forum, SPO senior coordinator Ellahi Buksh Baloch, MPA Haji Muzafar Ali Shah Shujra, Mustafa Baloch and Ali Arsalan also spoke. Courtesy Dawn Newspaper (<http://dawn.com/2008/05/31/local1.htm>)

Mohammad Ali Shah, chairperson Pakistan Fisherfolk Forum (PFF), also delivered speech at the Regent Plaza Programme on KSDP 2020. He termed the plan anti-human and environment and said that the plan will provide ways to land mafia to gulp 3,600 Sq. km land in Gudap, Kiamari and Bin Qasim areas. This land is being used for the agriculture purpose. The plan will bring mass displacement for the people, particularly for the fishers, in the above mentioned areas. The plan will be further extended to 2030 (under the Federal Government's Vision 2030) to cover the city's region that includes part of the surrounding districts of Thatta, Jamshoro and Lasbella. By this the governments want to establish greater Karachi by bringing over 1.7 million immigrants from out of the country by 2030. Under the plan, Water Front Development Project has been designed on 135 kilometer coastal belt of the Karachi. From now on in the Clifton and Gizri areas, the fishers are abandoned by the agencies to fish in the sea.

Irreversible negative impacts of Sugar Land City

In 2006, Pakistan's Ministry for Ports and Shipping has signed the memorandum with the Limitless- an entity of Dubai World business groups- to construct the Sea Front Sugar Land City at Sea View. Ex-Prime Minister Shaukat Aziz had invited the companies as part of the scheme to magnetize direct foreign investment for beach front projects at Sea View and Gwadar. The City will be built on international standards spread over the 60,000 acres on the Manora area, with total cost of \$68 billion. It will have deluxe hotels, apartments and beach huts for foreigners.

The Sandspit, a sandy beach located in the project area, is spread over the five kilometers has a unique eco-system of endangered species of green turtle. This is a major breeding point of the green turtles. The environmental preservation agencies have repeatedly been warning over the mega construction projects which will completely perish the fragile eco-system that helps green turtle to live and grow. The strip also has mangrove and other vegetation species (covering over 400-500 hectares- over 1000 acres) that provides resting place to a variety of migratory birds. The project will increase the noise and human presence in the area which will deter migratory birds to come in this area. Mangroves not only offer resting place for migratory birds but are natural nursery for shrimp and several other fish species. Besides, mangroves forests are considered as a shield to negative climatic impacts on coastal areas. It is proved as a natural barrier to cyclones, tides and sea winds but with erection of city, Karachities may see unforeseen climatic impacts.

The city will deprive millions of country people from the most beautiful resorts on the Hawkesbay in Pakistan. These resorts are Cap Mounz, French Beach and Paradise Point. With the construction of city none of the common persons will have access of the views of nature. Moreover, hundreds of daily wage earners at these picnic points will loose their jobs. Local properties, particularly huts, will be demolished; if these huts are removed and people stop visiting picnic points, several hundred local villagers will loose their livelihood resources.

The construction of artificial islands and mega structures on the beaches will not only complicate the climatic impact on Karachi but it will also pave the way for a great social imbalance in favour of the privileged class, certainly, it would boast more social disharmony and social stratification. Abdullah Khoso

Save Indus River, Save Indus River Delta

Hussain Jarwar

The Indus civilization is the greatest reward of the Indus River. Its history is extended over centuries. The river starts from the Tibetan plateau and ends in the Arabian Sea. Before entering into the sea, the river enriches its seventeen tributaries (The seventeenth Sir Creek is disputed between India and Pakistan). The river has created in an arid climate under conditions of high river discharge to the proportion of four billion tons of sediment per year.

Numerous historians have written on the prosperity, economic and cultural soundness of the Indus River Delta. Unfortunately, in the present circumstances this great natural resource is under the threat due to the acute water shortage. The Indus Delta has world's important ecosystem. It has mangroves forests, several fish species, various birds inhabiting in mangroves, reptiles like beaked, pelagic sea sneaks. Besides, it is enriched with other resources that are beneficial to the indigenous fisher communities for their livelihoods. Now these have reduced to the extent of their extinctions.

The millions of peoples are living in the riverine areas at the both sides of the Indus River. In the same way, thousand fisher millions of the people belonging fisher communities are settled in the coastal areas that are mostly dependent on fishing and water flow to the downstream Kotri. During the fishing season, they are engaged in fishing and after the season they engage themselves in livestock rearing. But this source is also at stake due to the acute water shortage in Kotri down stream.

The geographical area under Sindh coastal belt is estimated to be about 17,500 sq (350 long and 50 km wide). According to the SPDC' (Social Policy and Development Center) annual report 'Social Development in Pakistan 2001', two deltaic districts, i.e. Thatta and Badin, are the most deprived districts of Sindh both in terms of survival in the poverty and poverty of opportunity.

Another study picturing the geographical location of the deltaic area states, “The Delta spreads from eastern villages of Karachi, crossing coasts of Thatta, to Sir Creek in Badin near Sindh Gujrat borders with the population of 2.7 million. That can further be specified in 128,720 inhabitants of Karachi coast, 1,113,194 in Thatta and 1,136,044 in habitants in district Badin”.

Though deltaic area was full with the dense population, yet it had not been facing any kind of problem of

Eva Express her feelings

PFF's 10th Anniversary

When I met PFF for first time in Karachi, in 2006, I found a strong group of fishermen and also a strong group of women in and around. Within the framework of the Spider Project, funded by the European Union, we could learn about the defense of the Indus Delta Echo Region.

The Indus River is the nockt, the core and the soul of the region. But PFF's struggle is not only for its protection and it's recognition as fountain of life and resources. PFF's struggle is a continuous defence of the people within the area, of their rights and of their future.

No fresh, clean, public water, no future. No mangroves, no fisheries, no future. It is the same story all around the coastal areas of the planet.

Let me say that PFF is not alone. PFF has friends and partners all around the world. In Europe, for instance, from the biggest trade union in Spain to which I belong, Comisiones Obreras, to teachers and cathedratics in the Universities of Barcelona or Zaragoza. In the world, from Greenpeace to Red Manglar, a net in Latin America which joins ishermen and local population in mangrove areas.

That is why from all of these organizations we have supported PFF when needed, writing to the Pakistan President, being near you. Watching what's going on in the Indus Delta.

PFF is not alone in its struggle. Its work is well recognized in the world. A simple example of this is that the Pakistani Case of the Indus Delta Echo Region and the victims of the Hydraulic Policies in Pakistan will be represented in the International Exposition of Zaragoza 2008, Spain. Some panels with pictures of Indus Delta's people will be there. Everybody will know your story, your struggle, as an example of honesty and courage, defending the poorest's rights through a non-violent way.

I am proud to have worked with you. No doubt I have learnt from your example.

I wish all you a good celebration of your 10th anniversary. Good look, my friends, in your fair struggle. All the best.

Eva Hernández Jorge

Área de Medio Ambiente

Instituto Sindical de Trabajo Ambiente y Salud (ISTAS) Madrid

obtaining food and fulfilling other needs for its livelihood. The life cycle depended on water of the Indus River that was frequently available from the upstream.

Although the actual data about the water in Indus System has been controversial but one of the studies shares that "Some decades ago, Indus and its tributaries on an average brought about 154 Million Acres Feet of water annually. That included 144.9 MAF from three western Rivers and 9.14 MAF from the eastern rivers. Most of this about 104.7 MAF was diverted for irrigation, while 39.4 MAF flowed to the sea. The flows of Indus and its tributaries vary widely from year to year and with in the year. Like water availability, there is significant variation in the annual seaward flows"

(source: Indus Delta an environmental assessment conducted by PFF).

After the Indo-Pak division, different Federal Governments with the support of Punjab government constructed various dams, barrages and canals on the Indus River. Consequently, the flow of water in Indus River gradually decreased. The actual losses of the degradation and destruction of the Indus Delta have not been reflected regularly. No serious efforts have been made for sparing it from slow and gradual death. About 1.22 million acres fertile land went under sea intrusion.

Moreover, the mangroves forests which were spread on 600,000 acres in the deltaic region have gradually been reduced for the same reason- non-availability of fresh water in the Indus Delta. Thus, it is bringing major environmental change in the area and now the Delta is diminished to only 10% of its original geography. In this way, the safety belt for the Indus Delta and deltaic population has been affected badly.

As the agriculture land has been losing its fertility due to non-availability of irrigation water, so is the problem with the underground water because of the same reason. The underground water has turned into brackish which is source of many health and hygiene problems and diseases. It also caused high level human displacement in the affected areas.

So it is the responsibility of the Federal Government of Pakistan and provincial governments as well as the national as well as international institutions to play their due role for the protection of natural resources of the Indus Delta.

According to the 1991 water accord, the government should at least ensure the minimum flow of 10 MAF water in the downstream Kotri. The construction of more dams and other mega projects on the Indus River should be immediately stopped.

Recommendations for the restoration of Indus Delta and rehabilitation of affected people

From PFF to IESC for Indus for All Programmes

PFF is on the Indus Eco-region Steering Committee (IESC) of Indus for All Programmes of WWF, Pakistan. On 20th November IESC meeting was held. From PFF, Mohammad Ali Shah, Chairperson PFF, attended the meeting and asked IESC to include some work related to advocacy on the water issues. The Indus for All Programmes is completely devoid of this very significant area, in particular the issue of reduced flow of water to the downstream Kotri Barrage. Shah was asked to submit recommendations and work plan on it. In response, PFF has submitted following draft of the recommendations to the IESC:

The Federal Government of Pakistan should take sincere and serious efforts for the implementation of 1999 Water Accord. Although 10 Million Acres Feet (MAF) freshwater decided in the accord does not fulfill the actual water needs of the Indus Delta but even in the nine years (from the year when accord came into being) the decided 10 MAF freshwater has not been sent to the downstream Kotri barrage, that is the main cause of the depletion and devastation of the Indus Delta. Therefore, the government should immediately provide 35MAF water in the downstream of Kotri until the proposed study come up with the estimated or required quantity of water in the downstream Kotri.

There should be conducted an independent study through national and international universities. This study will determine the flow of fresh water in the downstream Kotri for the rehabilitation of Indus Delta and its survival in the future. The study should also determine about the ecological, social and economic losses of the Indus Delta people because of the upstream diversion, cuts and constructions of dams and barrages prior the partition of India to onward. In the light of above study the federal government should compensate all affectees people.

In this regard, the **New Water Culture Foundation (NWCF) at Zaragoza University** in Spain has offered their technical and scientific assistance. PFF will facilitate the coordination between WWF and the respective institution. IESC (Indus Eco-region Steering Committee) may decide about the Zaragoza University. Besides, technical and scientific services of the university in Sindh should also be taken for the purpose.

PFF has practically experienced that all issues have political roots and their solution lies purely in the political and democratic process and the Indus delta is simply a political issue. WWF and other stakeholders should see the issue in the same context and follow the strategies for a mass mobilization at national level. The problem should be given national and ecological color rather be dealt in Sindhi or Sindhi Nationalism context. For the mass mobilization, PFF advise to the IESC for the awareness campaign in Punjab province.

Advocacy and Lobbying

Democracy is a best rule of the government which provides space to all the segments of society, through it people raise their voices for their basic human rights; democratic process is the process for voiceless people. PFF has firm believe that this is a right time to raise the voice against the deprivation of people in the present era. There is a dire need to hold meetings with the parliamentarians, ministers, civil society members to involve, sensitize and engage them for the solution of the issue.

Beside this, there should be inclusive meetings with environmentalists, policy makers, technocrats and different organizations which have concern over the depletion of Indus Delta.

Media has a key role in society. It has brought a tremendous change in society. It provides information to people and is considered a very central apparatus in the struggle for rights all over the world. This forum should be sensitized and mobilized on the issue. Students of the universities and colleges should be invited to write research essays on the issues for the newspapers and WWF help to get these published. WWF should organize visits of the journalists for the deltaic area. Also an interuniversity debate competition should be organized on the worth of Indus delta.

The campaign should focus in the Punjab province. For that, exposure visits of NGOs, academia, students, teachers, journalists and lawyers should be organized of the Indus delta region. They will be briefed about the role of delta in the environment, economic resource and social development, why it is dying and how we can save it. Also they should be told how Pakistan can increase its energy capacity by utilizing Thar Coal project or else. If the respective project starts, it can fulfill energy requirements of Pakistan for several decades.

There should be walks and rallies in all the district headquarters of Punjab province. PFF will assist in organizing rallies. Besides, one peaceful rally should be organized from the Rawalpindi Press Club to the Parliament.

The Federal Government should advise its all educational boards in the provinces to incorporate some lessons in their **syllabus** on the Indus Delta, its decay and ways to save it.

Keeping in view the importance of international pressure and support, PFF advise WWF for an international conference on the issue of Indus Delta.

The New Water Culture Foundation (NWCF) at Zaragoza University in Spain is going to organize an international photo exhibition. On the PFF's advice, NWCF will include pictures of the Indus delta. On a very similar pattern, WWF should convene an **international photo exhibition** on the Indus Delta issue in Pakistan.

Threat to Karachi's seashore

By Ardeshir Cowasjee

"The following things are by natural law common to all — the air, running water, the sea, and consequently the seashore. No one therefore is forbidden access to the seashore ... for these are not, like the sea itself, subject to the law of nations.... But they cannot be said to belong to any one as private property, but rather are subject to the same law as the sea itself, with the soil or sand which lies beneath it." — Emperor Justinian, AD 482-565.

IN mid-2006, a Dubai-based developer, Limitless of Dubai World, sold a hare-brained scheme, Sugarland City, to our then prime minister, Shaukat Aziz, whose stated intent was to convert Karachi into a 'world-class city' (whatever that may mean!).

The project envisaged the transformation of some 65,000-plus acres of land, including Manora, Sandspit, Hawkesbay, bounded by the Hub River, Northern Bypass and the Western Backwaters, into "the most exciting 21st century urban quarter in the world".

Shortly thereafter, a video (www.youtube.com/watch?v=gzWRhoew2vE) of the project was floated. Replete with extravagant buzzwords like 'exciting new waterfront', 'bold new beginning', 'once-in-a-lifetime vacation escape', 'sun-drenched', 'world-class master plan', 'imaginative architecture', '590-metre tower' and 'leisure and lifestyle amenities', the presentation showed fantastic Dubai-like scenes with extensive reclamation of land in the sea. Details were also posted on the developer's website.

Based on the federal government's MOU with Dubai World, the Sindh government machinery was activated to examine premature cancellation of leases, and facilitate allotment of parcels of land to the venture "which promises to bring large Direct Foreign Investment to Pakistan". Beach-hut lessees were served with termination notices by the City District Government Karachi. To prove transparency and equal access to all, the Sindh government floated a Request for Expression of Interest in the press in Aug 2007. As insufficient responses were received, a fresh advertisement was published in Nov 2007 — what responses were received is not known.

Concerned citizens and civil society groups in the city reacted strongly to this takeover of the coastline and the promotion of a grandiose project that is totally unrelated to the realities of life in Karachi. To our credit, adverse news items and op-ed pieces in the press, letters to the editor, seminars and public statements by politicians, demonstrations by affected fishermen, and court cases by beach-hut owners began to multiply over the past year.

Dharti (sacred land) is a coalition "to synergise the diverse capacities of civil society organisations convinced about the centrality of the environmental framework within which all human activity takes place, in order to ensure that all actions undertaken by official and non-official sectors in Sindh, in particular, and in Pakistan, in general, respect the abiding values of ecological sanctity and of human well-being." Membership comprises the Human Rights Commission of Pakistan, Strengthening Participatory Organisation, Baanhn Beli, Shirkatgah, WWF, Women's Action Forum, Pakistan Maheegir Tehrik, Sahil Bachao, Helpline Trust, Indus Earth, Institute of Architects, Pakistan Institute of Labour Education & Research, Pakistan Women's Foundation for Peace and the Pakistan Fisherfolk Forum. Dharti is spearheaded by Naila Ahmed of Shehri.

Last week, Dharti conducted a seminar on the threat to the coastline around Karachi and the attending citizens passed this resolution: "The Dharti coalition of concerned citizen groups resolves that any development, especially along the coastline, shall be carried out in line with the principles given below. Consequently, the 'Sugarland' project at Hawkesbay/Sandspit, which is in violation of these standards, is opposed.

"1) The common-law 'Public Trust Doctrine', which mandates free and unfettered access to the shores of the sea for citizens to facilitate fishing, swimming, navigation, recreation, etc, for all, must be respected. 2) The

rights of the local fishing communities along the coast cannot be compromised under any circumstances. 3) There must be an EIA [Environmental Impact Assessment] and public hearings on all waterfront development projects. 4) Any extravagant development on the seashore (private beaches, etc) meant only for the wealth-laden will be opposed. People from all socio-economic classes must have unhindered right to use the natural resource of the beach. 5) The government must frame master plans of the coastal areas to preserve them for our future generations. The greed of builders and developers cannot be allowed to dictate utilisation of coastal areas. 6) Existing residents of the city have the first right to adequate/enhanced basic utilities (water, sewerage, electricity) and infrastructure. Diversion of these resources to high-class coastal development cannot be allowed to rob the citizens of Karachi of their birthright. 7) The governments, federal, provincial and city, must come clean about the waterfront development projects in all jurisdictions. 8) Sustainable development must be distributed uniformly across the geographical space, rather than being concentrated along the coast.”

The above guidelines apply to all the ambitious, environmentally-unfriendly, so-called development projects along the Karachi coastline, such as the DHA’s 14-km Waterfront Development Project; KPT’s Port Tower Complex involving a 190-acre reclamation of the seabed in front of Clifton Block 2; PQA’s Waterfront Development Project; the establishment of industrial plants along the Bin Qasim shoreline, and establishment of Diamond Bar City on Bundal and Buddo islands; the CDGK’s unplanned increase in floor-area ratio up to 1:9 for buildings along the Clifton beachfront so as to emulate Dubai.

Karachi has already grown far too large and is drowning in its own effluent and pollution. Law and order problems increase proportionately with the population, and with the increasing discrepancy between the haves and the have-nots. As pointed out by a participant in the Dharti seminar, the Quran states that human habitations must not be made too large: a new, separate habitation must be established when one has expanded to the extent that people no longer recognise one another.

We cannot afford to emulate Dubai, nor should we want to. WWF’s Living Planet Report 2006 (assets.panda.org/downloads/living_planet_report.pdf) shows that the ‘ecological footprint’ of the UAE exceeds its biocapacity by 1,387 per cent (the excess of that of the world is 22 per cent and of Pakistan 100 per cent). In order to assist in over-exploiting Pakistan’s natural resources, many local agencies have invited Dubai developers to teach us how to destroy our environment.

The ‘shape of things to come’ has been unfolded. The propensities of those most likely to assume de facto power next week need no elaboration. The non-possession of academic degrees by these worthies is of little consequence. Members of all the Dharti groupings and others wishing to save Karachi’s coastline and seashore can find details at www.shehri.org. The people will have to resist as best they can. Courtesy: DAWN

Mai Kolachi mangrove drama continues unchecked

By Jan Khaskheli

After destroying the mangroves on one side of Mai Kolachi Bypass with the establishment of the controversial KPT officers' colony, the other side of the mangrove swamp, which borders the NLC depot and a katchi abadi, is also being filled up by land-grabbers under a well-thought out plan.

The city's environmentalists are crying themselves hoarse while the city government and the other stakeholders concerned have decided to turn a blind eye to this ongoing drama that unfolds before the very eyes of the people. "Gradually," say observers, "the mangrove swamp is being filled with solid waste." This, they maintain, is the "beginning of the end."

The move to drain mangroves and turn them into reclaimed land for commercial or residential purposes comes at a heavy price. Environmentalists fear that due to global climatic change, Karachi is under threat of disaster as the process of land reclamation after cutting mangroves is going on without any check.

"Citizens residing in Clifton, Defence Housing Authority and other areas close to the coast cannot imagine how they are being placed in danger by cutting mangroves which are the only protection wall to avert floods and disasters," commented Dr Tahir Qureshi of the World Conservation Union (IUCN), while talking to The News.

"Cyclones, such as the one which affected Balochistan's coastline last year, can hit the city because rapid climate change is increasing the chances of disasters, cyclones and tsunamis all over the world. Hence the Karachi coast is not safe. We should be aware of this and take effective steps by avoiding cutting more mangroves," Dr Qureshi warned.

Other countries have learnt the lesson from the wide destruction of tsunamis and cyclones and are now initiating projects for mangrove plantation on their coasts to avert this threat. In Pakistan, the authorities concerned are looking at things differently. The clueless authorities are cutting mangroves for land reclamation and initiating projects of high-rises and commercial centers instead of planning more mangroves along the Karachi Coast.

They have already destroyed wide area of mangroves forest and developed commercial and residential areas near the city's coast. Now they are wiping out the remaining plants near Mai Kolachi and Boat Basin, which may create more threats for the people any time in future, warned Dr Qureshi.

These mangroves are also breeding grounds for fish species which provide livelihood to the local fishermen, who may be deprived of their only source of earning by this activity.

Dr Qureshi said the land reclamation will cause more sea erosion, which may cause further displacement in Thatta and Badin districts. He said due to receding River Indus water the sea is eroding more land and reached Ghora Bari, Thatta district after eroding 54 km fertile land. It will cause further sea intrusion if authorities and policy makers fail to address these issues and do not design environment-friendly policies.

Pakistan Fisherfolk Forum (PFF) chairman, Muhammad Ali Shah, said: "We had warned against the KPT plan of land reclamation long ago but the authorities did not listen." He also spoke about local fishermen who collect fodder from mangrove forests near their localities. "They are aware of their natural resources. They get fodder for their cattle from these forests, but they never destroyed the plants," Shah said.

"The community people and their animals are not threats to mangroves. Marine pollution and unplanned urbanization are real threats to these plants, which may create uncertainty for the residents."

These plants absorb port waste and provide oxygen to the marine life. They also absorb smoke and carbon dioxides of vehicles and factories.

Population	Male	594
	Female	506
No. of Migrated Families		40
Literacy Rate	Male	.01
	Female	Zero
Basic Facilities	Primary School	No
	Health Facility	No
	Gas	No
	Electricity	No
	Drainage System	No
Sources of Livelihood	Men	Fishing
	Women	Fishing and making pots with wooden sticks
	Children	Support to Men and Women in earning Livelihood
Quantity of Boats		10 boats. One boat is owned or shared by 2 or 3 families (3 to 4 persons go for fishing on one boat)
The number of families having no boats for earning		89 Families
Law and Order Situation		No security for them (Even their women have been victim of the rape)
Socio-economic and Demographic Status of the village		

Mangroves have acted as protective walls around the city to avert threats of disasters in the past. But since the illegal settlements were developed near the coast by earth-filling it has become dangerous for the ecosystem.

Shah said since the government has awarded contracts to UAE-based investors to establish waterfront projects along the entire 129-km-long city coast it would affect the environment and destroy the ecosystem. These are manmade threats. "We should learn something from the effects of tsunamis and cyclones and we should withdraw these projects and stop the destruction of these plants," the PFF chairman maintained. Courtesy The News International

Where there are no facilities, it is the village of fishers

A Case Study of Bakhshan Shah Village located at Gudu Barrage by Zulfiqar Narejo

Bakhshan Shah in district Kashmore is a wonderful assimilated village

which blends two groups of fisher communities belonging to Sindh and Seraiki (Punjab) regions. There is only physical demarcation between them- the street bifurcating them into two Mohallas of one village. Otherwise, they are culturally and socio-economically blended. They have also matrimonial relations with each other. Both have been absorbing each others core values and traditions and have been diminishing the ethnic gap in exemplary manner.

They do not only share norms and mores, they also share same heart-tearing pangs of life and livelihood. But by the society, politicians and the state, they are treated as third-rate citizens.

While recalling the past the community members informed that they and their forefathers were prosperous. Socially, economically and psychologically they had good days. They had no stress and strain about their subsistence. They believed that nature had bestowed them with bounteous natural resources in the form of water and life produced from it. They lived by fishing.

At present, villagers are in a pitiable condition and living below the poverty line. Average four persons use on boat for fishing in the river and bring average 3-4 kilogram in a day. One Kilogram gives them 150 rupees in the market while they have to spare 200 rupees for the mechanized boat each day.

Their earnings are not sufficient for purchasing flour, medicine and other daily life necessities. This situation calls attention of the world, the announcers of the Millennium Development Goals and claimers of poverty alleviation. One of the factors, among many factors of their current desperate state of life, is the cuts, diversions and dams on the Indus River. Among other fish species, which had journeyed from the tail of Indus River up to the Gudu Barrage, Palla (Tenuulosa Ilisha) was the major sources of income of the

villagers but now it is being diminished. The breeding of Palla species takes place mostly in the tail end of the Indus River. Construction of barrages and reduction of water in the downstream Kotri have been major causes for reduction of this species.

The villagers said that the last attack on their livelihoods was the construction of Gudu Barrage which compelled them to shift their residence from their boats (Indus Water) to the land on the right bank of the Indus River adjacent to Gudu Barrage and Gudu Thermal Power Station. This shifting, they label as unnatural. To our wonder, when the fishers of the Manchhar Lake were offered the good houses on near its bank by WWF, they flatly refused to shift themselves from boats to buildings.

The second major cause of their backwardness is the socio-political structure of the village and society over all. They are weaker and have no voice and no share in almost all spheres of life. The situation is 100% applicable in the case of Bakhshan Shah Village.

Head of the village Pir Bakhsh Mallah said that they do not see their future, “it is bleak. **Women compose Khara** (the items used for sparing cooked food from cats, dogs and other animals in rural areas) made from the thin branches of riverine trees (locally called layee). Average income from the *Khara* is **not more than Rs. 20-30 per day**. Majeed Ahmed Mallah informed that in the last few years **40 families have migrated** to other locations such as Sukkur, Multan and Faisalabad in search of labor **while female and children are begging**. Moreover, he informed that the Gudu Authorities have made up mind to dismantle the village for which they have sent their persons who have threatened them to vacate the village. Villagers were quite happy over the abolition of the contract system and implementation of the license system.

The fishers of the village asked the state to pay attention on their problems and provide them their genuine socio-economic rights.

Hunger week against Brutal price rise

Continuous rising prices of food and increasing graph of poverty and unemployment have driven the fishers of coastal areas of Pakistan up to the wall. They are compelled to live but to live hunger and poverty ridden lives. Keeping in view the fishers' marginalized state, Pakistan Fisherfolk Forum announced to observe a hunger week which started on 26th May and ended on 31st June, 2008.

On the first day, one kilometer pedestrian march was held from Dabla village to Rehri Goth in Ibrahim Hyderi Karachi. The march attended by hundreds of men, women and children was led by Tahira Ali Shah, senior vice chairperson PFF, Akhtar Sheikh, Nawaz Dablo and Khadim Panhwar. The marchers had placards and banners in their hands. On which slogans were written to: 'End inflation, reduce food prices, ensure access to consumable food, save the fishers from hunger and poverty and raise prices of fish'. The marchers sat in in-front of Rehri Union Council.

On 27th, PFF put the march ahead and staged another rally at Press Club Karachi. About 400 men, women, children and youth had banners and placards which were inscribed with slogans against the price hike and food insecurity in specific of no access to flour for fishers and oil price hike put the lives of fisheries with no choice and they were surviving under starvation.

On the occasion, Tahira Ali Shah addressed the marchers and said that the country has been engulfed into a series of protests by Lawyers, shortage of food, continuous load shedding, absence of law & order and uncertain political situation. These conditions have increased the level of poverty and inflation that have not only shattered poor people in urban areas but it has crushed the fishers' socio-economic lives. It is the mere poor who knows the brunt of poverty.

She said that on the one hand due marine pollution and excessive fishing in the sea by using lethal nets, the fishers do not bring much fish from the sea and on top of that flour, which a few days ago was 28, is not sold from Rs38. Many fishers have stopped their boats at the bank due to higher oil prices. The fish catch from the sea does not get good prices in the market, molders take the benefits. This all has broken the fisher badly and put them into unending vicious circle of poverty.

Tahira Ali demanded the government to control the prices and provide relief to poor. Besides, government should announce such schemes that directly benefit to the fishers.

On the occasion, Khadim Panhwar said that PFF in join venture with ActionAid Pakistan is observing a hunger week. During this week tableaus and corner meetings will be organized to aware the fishers and other communities about their role and how a positive role they can play which further can push the government to control the increasing poverty and hunger. He added that if government does not take prompt actions to control inflation and poverty then there are greater possibilities that public may become violent and march towards posh areas.

1.1 Theater Performance

Pakistan is facing numerous challenges at local, national and global level. National security is the greatest among those. In order to address the issue of national security, each year defence budget is increased up to billion dollars. Unfortunately, our policy makers, state representatives and the military itself have never realized that major threat to Pakistan's national security comes from the poverty. It is vicious circle of poverty that compels the poor to get influenced by the ill motives of devil groups and take part in their anti-national and anti-human activities.

The entire world realizes that poverty is the curse that drives nations into unknown waters of problems. In order to save our nation and the entire humanity from this curse, each individual is responsible to think seriously upon it and help the state and military representatives to act in a right direction. Each individual can perform this role effectively and positively, if they are properly geared with knowledge about a link between the poverty and national security. In order to gear them up with the respective knowledge, PFF has always been engaged in some practical modes of teaching or enlightening the public. One of those modes is the theater performance.

On 27th May, after the protest rally in front of Karachi Press Club, PFF's theater group performed to highlight the same issue of poverty and national security. The group through its excellent performance displayed that due to investment of a large size of gross domestic production (GDP) on the defense, we are suffering from the poverty and malnutrition. The play showed a difference of lives at two sides; lives of poor people and lives of military men. Performers were appreciated for their roles.

The play portrayed that our foreign policy is very narrow to the national security and through it we define our national interests. This is why Pakistani government is playing a narrow role, limited to the one cage of problem while it has to work and create other opportunities that build a sense of nation among all. Attainment of human security by providing protection to the lives and decent livelihoods for people should be a key to our national security.

1.2 Art Session

In the continuous of Hunger Week, DA team conducted Art Session with 70 students of Government Primary School Abdullah village, Keamari town on 28th May 2008.

The art session was one of the medium to explore the despondency of the poor fisheries. Through this session the students drew the pictures reflecting hope less figure of fishers facing food insecurity problems in the coastal area and how the price hike in specific of oil and kerosene aggregates their lives towards worse condition.

Fisherfolk is expanding beyond its geographic limits

PFF is engaged to advancing the cause of socioeconomic and political justice for the fishers in various parts of the country but still there is dire need to mobilize the fishers in all parts the country. No doubt, PFF for its works is known in the entire world but in terms of geography or location of its members, it is limited to some areas. This is why geographical expansion is one of the targets of PFF.

PFF Chairperson, Muhammad Ali Shah's visit of the northern Sindh, from 18 to 21st April 2008, was aimed to expand PFF's geography. In this regard a very important point to mention is, when the PFF had success to get the centuries old contract system abolished from the water bodies of Sindh then the millions of fishers who never came close to PFF and took part in the activities, they realized the importance of united fisherfolk and asked Ali Shah to guide them and unit them for further developments for the fishers. The abolition of contract system did not benefit to merely a few fishers but to all whether they participated in the struggle or not.

"When we paved the stone of PFF we wanted to have it heard all over the world through united fishers of Pakistan. We aimed to gather all the fishers from each corners of Pakistan. I visited fisher communities in upper part of Sindh for getting them close to PFF's limb" said Muhammad Ali Shah who had just returned from a four days visit of the Northern Sindh. His caravan was comprised of Mustafa Mirani, Gulab Shah, Maqsood Mirani, Hussain Bux Merani, Ali Hassan Mirani and Muhammad Mallah.

In the first place, his caravan arrived in Sukhar with a warm welcome from the fishers of the area. They were received at Tool Plaza Sukhar and then were taken to the Sukkar Press club. The chairperson talked with media personals and informed them how a successful struggle against the feudal and landlords can be run. After the press conference, he addressed to a large gathering of fishers. He condemned the dislodging of fishers of Bandrowall from their village.

The next destination of the caravan was Guddo Barrage in Sukkar. There Shah said that it is time to unit for getting the license system implemented on the water bodies. Bringing the license system into function was a painful process. Hundreds of fishers had gone to jails and suffered from the tortures. So in order to keep the license system surviving, the fishers have to organize themselves and strengthen the organization.

Then the caravan traveled to Shikarpur. The president PFF Shikarpur, Maqsood Mirani, welcomed Muhammad Ali Shah. Maqsood said that the fishers of Shikarpur had been desperately waiting for M. Ali Shah's visit. "Due to his visit, the fishers feel confident and strengthened, there was dearth of a leader and now we have it among us" said Maqsood. There were also many PFF members and volunteers at PFF's Shikarpur Office.

After Shikarpur, Muhammad Ali Shah was greeted in Qambar. He visited PFF's office and asked the fishers to organize themselves as landlords do not dare to seize their livelihoods.

In Larkana Shah paid visit at the tomb of Mohtarama Benazir Bhutto and her father Zulfikar Ali Bhutto. He paid tribute to both political legends of the history. Then meet with fisherfolk and listened to their problems.

Shah heard a similar hue and cry of the fishers when he arrived in Sunn. PFF's representative in Sunn told to Shah that the former fish contractor of the Jalbani village has too much annoyed the fishers.

Upon his return at the PFF's secretariat, Shah said that there is great space for mobilizing the fishers for their genuine rights. The fishers of upper Sindh need political education and support to fight on their rights.

Unusually high tide floods coast, inundates homes

By Jan Khaskheli

Unusually high tides which started flowing in Friday evening have affected many coastal localities, including parts of the second largest locality, Rehri Mayan, as well as the Dabla and Lut Basti neighbourhoods. A large number of houses situated near the seashore have become inundated, and residents have been compelled to abandon their dwellings.

Meanwhile, government authorities concerned have failed to provide quick relief to the affected families, especially the residents of Dabla. The latter, comprising 300 houses, is completely under seawater now.

living in areas situated below sea-level face in the monsoon season and high tides but they had to relocate. This time around, however, "strange waves" forced them to leave their large number of families have been displaced by tides and fear still prevails, said a local activist. Earlier, the Fishermen Cooperative Society built a protective wall in front of the seashore. embankment was, however, never repaired. high tides, especially in June and July, houses shore have become flooded with seawater. to the local villagers, high tide hits the locality month, because the village is below sea level. The current waves are, however, much higher than usual.

The same high tides in the Arabian Sea had also inundated hundreds of village in Thatta, particularly in Jatti tehsil, which had occasioned troubles for the fisher families. After the incident no official authority visited the villages and assessed any need that has erupted afterwards.

People difficulties have never these houses. A the high (FCS) The During near the According twice a

A team from the Pakistan Fisherfolk Forum (PFF), led by PFF Chairman Mohammed Ali Shah reached the area to rescue the people. About 2000 residents, including children, have been waiting to receive food for the last two days.

Moreover, despite the fact that Sindh Chief Minister Qaim Ali Shah has lifted the ban on fishing during June and July, traditional fishermen do not go out into the open sea because they are of the opinion that these two months are the breeding season.

An old fisherman Hassan Dablo said that while they have stopped fishing as is usual between June and July, the strange high tides have now hit their abodes and deprived them of their belongings. He said that the residents also lost food items to the incoming waves.

Akhtar Shaikh, a PFF activist, said that one resident, Siddique Shaikh, has been admitted to the Jinnah Postgraduate Medical Centre (JPMC) because he was vomiting. The incoming oily and filthy seawater may cause an outbreak of diseases in the area, if authorities concerned do not act on time, Akhtar Shaikh said. The villagers have made wooden places above the ground to save their belongings and mostly sleep over them in order to protect themselves because the high tides always hit them at night. They have also built their kitchens above the sea level. Several courtyards can be seen inundated in the filthy seawater.

When the waves first crashed in, several residents started crying for help and believed that they had been hit with a disaster, PFF activists told The News. The PFF activists started to develop the damaged embankment but due to the unavailability of earth, the community people could not repair the wall. Later Bin Qasim Town Nazim, Jan Alam Jamot; former Sindh Assembly member, Mahmood Alam Jamot and present MPA, Haji Muzaffar Shujrah visited the affected areas.

The town nazim sent trucks containing gravel to save the village but the gravel could not stop the rising tides. According to the reporters who reached there, the residents are still out of their abodes.

The residents of Dabla had earlier immigrated from the Indus Delta after the sea erosion started there, and their houses and fertile land vanished into seawater. Due to a lack of fresh water in the River Indus they left their ancestor's homes and settled at the Karachi coast.

PFF activists accused "the mangrove-cutting mafia" for the disaster. Mangroves are natural shields around coastal localities, they said, adding that the destruction of these shields may prove to be disastrous for other seashore localities as well. Courtesy The News.

Looting the fishers in the name of Asif Zardar

In Sanghar, landlord took away 120kg of the fish catch from three fishers (Arab, Hayat and Ghous Mallah). These fishers hold licenses for fishing. After the fishing in the Naral Canal when the fishers were about to take their catch to the market, they were attacked by Wadera Qasim Zardari. Dozens of people with Wadera appeared in two vehicles and started beating the fisher up. The SHO (Senior House Officer) of Tando Adam Thana has also turned against the fishers. Wadera repeatedly takes Asif Zardari's name and is saying that he will not allow the fishers for fishing in the Nara Canal.

On the next day of the incident, hundreds of fisherfolks including women and children held a rally in Sanghar town. They walked on the streets of town and chanted slogans against Wadera Qasim Zardari and at the end sat-in in-front of District Police Officer (DPO) office.

PFF's role is credible in helping poor children and we want to establish children's assembly with the support of PFF said children from SPARC who came to visit PFF's secretariat

About two dozens of intelligent students from SPARC office-Karachi had come to visit the Pakistan Fisherfolk Forum's (PFF) secretariat in Ibrahim Hyderi. They had come up with thought provoking questions and surprised information. Muhammad Ali Shah, Chairperson PFF, and entire PFF team met them and addressed to their queries. Children shared that they have observed extreme poverty, ignorance and violation of human and children's rights, and PFF is working to end these violations.

Children said that they are really happy to see the PFF working for the alleviation of fishers. They are motivated with its work and this is why seeking a great support from PFF for organizing a children's assembly.

Muhammad Ali Shah while answering to their questions said that Karachi is the city of fishers known after a fisherwoman, Mai Kalachi. Their source of livelihood is associated with the resource in the sea. For the last 60 years, no government has thought about fishers' welfare. These fishers from generation to generation have been ignored by the state. In result, the fisher children rather going to the school go to the fishing in the sea with their parents. Uncountable young age children in the fishing communities are engaged catching fish, drying it up and cleaning seeps. According to ILO's Conventions on the fisheries, fishing is the most hazardous sector of the economy, most of these Pakistan has ratified but there is no social and institutional mechanism that could stop children getting involved in the hazardous sector.

Shah said that there are no basic facilities in the fishing communities. In the absence of schools, lack of safe drinking water and proper nutrition, children's health is very weak. And they are victim of malnutrition. Shah shared with them that 70 percent of fish resources have been depleted due to excessive fishing by deep sea trawlers and pollution.

Shah emphasized on the children to learn about issues of fishing communities' children and moreover, to share these issues with other children at their schools, as a strong network of children of Pakistan could be established. Children can pivotal role in awakening our masses. PFF chairperson said that PFF has been working to eliminate poverty in the fishing communities by advancing social justice for them and will form children's units in the fishing communities who will join children in entire Pakistan.

Children were taken on the boats to visit the sea. They met also meet with children in the communities and then returned to their homes happy.

Nazra Jahan, SPARC children In-charge, paid thanks to Muhammad Ali Shah.

The new Sindh fisheries minister and his secretaries should hold them back. The contract system is obsolete and tabooed to be spoken

On 3rd June, Livestock and Fisheries Department of Government of Sindh had served a notice to its members for an urgent meeting "to restore the contract system on inland waters". Notice number: SO (Fish)/L&F/19(23)/2008. Meeting was scheduled on 7th June 2008 at Sindh Secretariat opposite Sindh Assembly Building Karachi. On Pakistan Fisherfolk Forum's (PFF) verbal protest, the department has changed the agenda from the above to this, "to review the progress of license system". This meeting has caused serious concerns and anguish among the fishers of Sindh.

On 6th June 2008, the fishers' leader had gathered at PFF's Secretariat in Ibrahim Hyderi to discuss the wrong intension of the some of the misguided elements in the current government and in the fisheries department who wants to bring back the lethal contract system in in-land fisheries of Sindh. PFF has serious concerns over the appointment of a corrupt personal secretary of the Minister of Fisheries Ministry. This is the same secretary who with the then Chief Minister had distributed water bodies of Sindh to the landlords and bureaucrats. The system puts the fishers into life long bondage.

The meeting was held at Sindh Secretariat on the date in which PFF representatives Sami Memon and Ghulam Mustafa Mirani participated. The meeting remained inconclusive. The fisheries department as usual counted the contractors in the category of fisher people reps. PFF leaders protested on this insane attitude of the fisheries officials. The fisheries department gave the impression that license system has flopped, this is why, they are tending to bring back the contract system into practice. In the meeting, PFF condemned the contract system and warned to the respective department for thinking about restoring the in human system that drives the fishers into bondage.

She left the message of peace among us to promote it

On the labour day of 2008 Didi Narmala Desh Pandey left this world. To us, she is known as a great person that bowed down to the humanity in her whole life but not to anti human ideas. Didi promoted not merely peace between Pakistan and India but worked industriously for bring the entire region people on the table of peace. Didi

wanted that India and Pakistan should spend their defence budget on education and welfare of poor people. Sadly, her dream could not come true in her life.

She has written several books and has been awarded prizes on different time. She had been a member of Indian Rajya Sabha since 1997 and was widely respected by all political parties in India.

Didi wished that after her death part of ashes should be immersed in the River Indus. In this regard, on 17th May civil society members, including PFF representatives Mustafa Merani and Ayoub Shan and from PILER Karamat Ali reached at Sadh Belo in Sukhar. They immersed her part of ashes in the river.

Civil Society Alliance Thatta

Thatta district is overwhelmed with uncountable problems because it is completely **is cut off from the development** and unfortunately there is no mechanism that brings an end to the problems, or if there is any mechanism that is found dysfunctional. PFF felt that there is dire need to form a social alliance of the NGOs working in the district for putting a full stop to these and push the prevailing mechanism as they can be useful to address the issues.

From its long struggle, PFF has learnt that **social alliances are the best ways to deal with social issues and problems. Visualizing the importance of social alliance network**, PFF convened a consultation meeting of the organizations in Thatta that are individually addressing the issues and problems of Thatta District. PFF wanted to make these individuals efforts as collective efforts. The meeting was held on January 17, 2008 at RADO Office Thatta. Twenty representatives of six the organizations, i.e. PFF, WWF, GWDO, WHDT, MALHAR and NSWA participated.

Mohammad Ali Shah, the Chairperson of PFF, shared the agenda of the meeting with the participants. The agenda was: Identification of the Socio-economic (Livelihood), Environmental issues and problems in district Thatta; in the light of identified issues and problems, preparation of measures and initiatives.

After great deliberation and discourse, the participants identified the issues. To them, the major issues were social, economic and political which are stemming from the following practices:

They all agreed that due to insufficient flow of freshwater in the downstream Kotri, employment opportunities have been reduced which resulted people have engaged in crimes. Low income has severe impacts on people's health. They do not have required minimum nutrition from the food that could maintain their health; this is why they are easily assaulted by the bacteria/diseases. Their bodies do not have a strong immune system that could protect them from the diseases, particularly children and pregnant women are more vulnerable to the diseases due to their weak health. Also due to absence of freshwater, the sea has encroached upon the land that has turned underground sweet-water into brackish. To this quality of water, Right Bank Outfall Draining is also responsible.

Low economy accompanied by manmade disasters and natural disasters have disabled entire society to think progressively. In that situation, feudal and bureaucrats are enjoying the benefits of any resource that exists in the district.

The participants also discussed environmental degradation, sustainable fisheries policy and ruining of historical cultural heritage. The participants came to the conclusion that there should be a platform for collective decision making and campaigning as above discussed problems can be solved. In result, an alliance namely **"Civil Society Alliance Thatta"** was formed. This alliance formed a committee that was made responsible to organize and strengthen the newly formed alliance and devise the Code of Conduct for it. The members of the organizing committee were nominated by the representatives of all the NGOs. The nominated members are: Mr. Khalid Hussain Memon, Mr. Ismail Memon, Syed Gulab Shah, Mr. Adam Gandro, Mr. Ibrahim Hejab, Dr. Akash Abassi and Mr. Bilawal Samo.

On 15th February 2008, the Alliance organized a meeting at Thatta Press Club for paying tribute to Shaheed-e-Jamhooriyat Mohtarma Benazir Bhutto. All at the occasion believed that Benazir was not only the leader of PPP workers but she was the leader of all who believed and worked for a true democracy. She was the woman who made other women realize that a woman can play an effective and productive role in the politics and lead country towards a bright future.

PFF's Chairperson said that Benazir was the symbol of the struggle for democracy and braved all the challenges without any tinge of fear. She preferred the martyrdom for the supremacy of people and democracy. She was selected for the struggle by the nature.

Qadir Ranto added that Benazir achieved great success in her life and defeated the undemocratic forces. She was enlightened and moderate leader of the people. Ms Nazly viewed that though Benazir was a woman but she played the role beyond the courage of a man. She was very brave and committed lady. Dr. Maqbool Khushak opined that she was assassinated because of her success in the field of democracy. Gul Mohammad Khushak, Bilawal Samo and Sami Memon also paid tribute to the great leader.

The Civil Society Alliance Thatta intends to launch movement for the rights of the worst affected communities of the Thatta District. It would take the issues pointed out in the first meeting when it was formed.

Seminar on Human Rights of Fisher People and Role of Democratic Government

Today, about 4 million fishers are deprived of their basic human rights granted to them by the constitution of country, UN's conventions and ILO Conventions. It is the responsibility of the state, particularly of the current government which has been given large mandate by people and fishers, to provide safeguard to masses, particularly fishers who today are living in the worse conditions than the people of any other profession. Due to numerous so called developmental programs initiated by government of Pakistan on the sea and inland waters, today thousands of fisher families are driven to a miserable life, and their survival is at stake. Their human rights are violated.

In order to review the current status of the fishers of Pakistan in the context of Human Rights, Pakistan Fisherfolk Forum (PFF) organized a seminar on human rights of the fisher people and the role of democratic government at Hyderabad Press Club, Sindh, Pakistan on 24 April 2008.

A large number of participants from the civil society organizations, university students, teachers, fishing communities, electronic and print media; and also people from all other walks of life including women and children took part in the event.

Participants at the occasion confirmed their commitment in advancing socio-economic justice, democracy and human rights to deprived fishers of Pakistan. They also decided to devote their lives to PFF's dream of a just political, economic, social and cultural system which is free from of all kind of discrimination, distinction, exploitation and oppression- a system where fishers and all citizens have an access to their basic human rights.

The fishers condemn the practices, policies and programs of the state that threatens the natural resources and livelihood of fishers.

The fishers and civil society members, on the occasion, demand from the present government to play its proactive role for a better and bright future for fishers' children and country. The fishers urged the government to take following measures to tackle poverty, hunger and deprivation and for uplifting of the fisher communities:

1. Development of a new and just fisheries policy which should be prepared after consultations with fishers of the country and which should be under the light of UN conventions on Human Rights, Constitution of the Country and ILO recommendations.
2. New fishery policy should also include fishers of inland waters.
3. Not only ban should be implemented on deep sea trawlers but exemplary punishment should be given to those who violate the ban.
4. Efforts should be taken at highest level to get the fishers released from the Indian jails who are detained for years on the false pretexts of cross border smuggling. Also Indian fishers who are detained in Pakistani jails should be sent back to their poor families immediately.
5. In the past the Sindh Government promulgated the Sindh Fisheries Act 1980, which gave legal status to the licensing system, but it was never implemented. Rather government introduced contract system on the waters. The Government of Sindh should pass a resolution to abolish the contract system on rivers, lakes and barrages. This system deprives the fishers to make their survival and it also enrich the influential.
6. Fishers should be given rights and control over water bodies all over the country.
7. Fishing is only source of livelihood for thousands of families but the water bodies in inland and sea are occupied by the influential waderas and capitalists. Government should take strong measures to restore fisher people's right on the waters.

8. It is main responsibility of new government that it plays a vital role for the restitution of Indus Delta, which is destructed and degraded through various Projects launched by different federal governments of past. Due to those projects, the required 35 MAF water of Kotri down stream was not allowed to go to Delta, which resulted in millions of fishing communities' loosing their livelihood. In addition to this, the deltaic and coastal land was degraded and Mangroves forests were destroyed. We demand that new government should provide 35 MAF water for Kotri down stream.
9. There are two million people that are affected by the above said situation. It is therefore our demand that new setup should take measures for the rehabilitation and restoration of the displaced people and compensate those communities who have lost their lands by sea intrusion;
10. The construction of Dams and barrages on Indus River is not acceptable. Therefore new setup should make sure that no new Dams or other mega projects are constructed on Indus River. Fishermen are not against the development, but they cannot afford development at the stake of their resources. So it is our demand to stop the construction of Mega Projects including Kalabagh Dam.
11. The LBOD (Left Bank Outfall Drainage) and RBOD (Right Bank Outfall Drainage) project wiped off the fertile lands of Sindh, the sweet water ponds and the lakes of Dadu, Sanghar, and Badin. These areas were major source of drinking waters for the villagers which now have been converted into lake of poisonous saline water. We demanded from the current government of Pakistan that they should conduct an immediate enquiry, which will investigate the actual losses and will identify the responsible person who designed this disaster for Sindh and compensate all affected families.
12. Karachi is a hub of large and small scale industries, which for decades have been flushing tons of chemicals into sea without proper treatment. The filth going into the sea water has resulted in decay of nature, marine resources, beauty of planet and loss of natural safeguards (mangroves). Mangroves are protective bunds against unstoppable tsunamis. These are part and parcel of fishers' lives. Government should save nature and mangroves at any cost.
13. Removal of fishers from the jetties has become a routine course for DHA, KPT and other authorities. Thousands of fishers have been expelled from their ancestral villages and their jetties. Currently DHA is persistent to evict fishers from the gizri jetty. DHA should be refrained from committing such an act and there should be an enquiry against DHA administration. Government should construct jetties at all the costal belts of Karachi which will ensure employment for fishers.
14. Fishermen communities lack health and education facilities. On emergency basis, government should announce relief package for poverty ridden fishers.
15. Government should implement all labor laws on fishing sector. Under these laws, fishers should be provided social security and minimum wage.
16. Government of Pakistan should ratify International Labor Organization's (ILO) fishing sector Convention 2007. The Convention guarantees all labor rights to fishers in both small and large scale fishing activities.

Mr. Iqbal Hyder–Mr. Mohammad Ali Shah, chairperson PFF –Speakers Co-chairperson of Human Rights Commission of Pakistan, ex federal Law Minister Mr. Karamat Ali, the executive Director of Pakistan Institution of Labor– Mr.–Professor Nauman from Karachi University, –Education and Research (PILER) Mustafa Baloch, the regional director of Strengthen Participatory Organization Dr. Sikander Shoro Member of the Provincial Assembly (MPA), Sindh,–SPO, Sindh, Mr. Wilson Lee Program Officer NED–Mr. Jami Chandio, the Director of CPCS, – Ms Jamzadi from–Mr. Abdul Rehman Malah from Sanghar district –south Asia region Mithal–Mr. Amir Bux Jat belonging to district Thatta, Sindh –Jamshoro district Mr Saeed Baloch, General–Tahira Ali, vic chairperson PFF –Mallah from Badin Secretary PFF.

Poverty in the fishers' communities

By Khadim Sindhi

For making the poverty history in the fisher communities, PFF and ActionAid got together in 2003. In this regard, six core key areas, i.e. education, health, food rights, good governance, women rights and peace and human security were selected to be addressed. The work on these core areas was done through the right based approach by involving the local people and lobbying with stakeholders. In the whole process, the major aim was to bring over the people into PFF's struggle for advancing social justice the fishers.

Since PFF had already been engaged with the fisher communities of coastal belt of Karachi in the mobilization activities therefore it had developed an understanding about the areas socio, economic and political conditions. These are counted as one of the most disaster prone areas of Pakistan. People are the most vulnerable of twister, cyclone and tsunami. The twister brought havoc and paralyzed the inhabitancy of the people as they had lost capacity of survival and were looking for assistance from the outside. Besides disaster prone, people are also deprived of basic amenities like drinking water, education, health and infrastructure in specific of bumpy plains non-melted roads that make the distance quite arduous. Lack of clean drinking water has also compounded their problems.

Keeping in view these conditions, seven villages were selected for the interventions. These villages are *Dabla Muhalla* and *Chashma Goth* in Union Council Rehri of Bin Qasim Town, *Tikkri Village* in Maripur Union Council, *Abdul Rehman Village*, *Abdullah Village*, *Mubarak Village* and *Singhu Village*. Under the ActionAid project these areas are called development areas (DA).

Education

Seven Government Primary Schools in the project area have been provided 21 teachers. These teachers are rendering their quality services to 927 students from the first to fifth grade in the schools regularly. Besides, four Adult Literacy Centers are opened where 52 female adults are seeking non-formal education. One Community Model School in Rehri Goth (village) is working efficiently.

Moreover, PFF also mobilizes the fisher community of the areas through consultative meetings, seminars, workshop and rallies by highlighting the importance of education, issues around it and what and how governments' education department can do.

In order to train the teachers as they would create child friendly environments for students and develop skills of students in various disciplines, a one day orientation training workshop on 'Quality Education' was organized on 28th January, 2008 at Singho Goth (name of village), Keamari town, Karachi, Sindh. There were 21 teachers and three social mobilizers in the workshop. Khadim Hussain was facilitator of the workshop and it was conducted in interactive and participatory learning mood covering the following contents: What is education? What is quality education? Importance of Quality Education, Objectives of training and linkages with quality education, Identification of Education Problems during Teaching, Role Play on Education Problems and it Solution, Introduction of Multi-grade Education System. Besides, one day School Management Committee training was organized on 21st February 2008 at Singho Goth, Keamari town, Karachi. There are 16 participants including head masters, chairperson of SMCs and teachers belonging to 06 Government Primary Schools GPS supported by PFF were participated the event enthusiastically.

With the aim to strengthen the **capacity of PFF** Karachi units' office bearers and workers, a **Organization Management Training Workshop** was conducted on 17th March 2008 at Singho Goth, Keamari town, Karachi. In the training 32 representatives including general secretary, president and social workers had participated. These trainings enabled them to run the small projects and plan, organize, implement and monitor and evaluate PFF activities and struggle for the rights and livelihood issues of fisher people successfully.

During field visits of schools, it was observed that children had to go to their nearby homes to quench their thirst off because there was no water tank in the schools. During school timing, going back to home only for drinking water was disturbing study of students. Therefore, students were provided **15 water coolers** in their schools. This tiny help has saved time as well as provided access to safe drinking water. Also in these schools about 160 students of 4 and 5 classes were given child **art materials** including pencils, sharpeners, erasers, foot scales and color boxes as they could take interest in drawing and displaying their talent through drawing messages. Moreover, each school was given sports materials like cricket bats, balls, wickets, rackets, shuttering cocks and jumping ropes.

An **exposure visit** for 50 students and four teachers of Tikri village was organized to visit the Pakistan Air Force (PAF) Museum Karachi on 29th March 2008. The objective of exposure visit of children was to turn immature minds of children towards peace and solidarity and memorize the history of war 1965 and 1971 fought b/w India and Pakistan which brought disaster both for India and Pakistan as well. Children enjoyed the day with mesmerizing memories. They took photos and did lunch at the park together.

In the absence of proper sporting opportunities, political education and democratic and peaceful environment youth is pushed towards the wrong directions rather to be useful citizen. In order to keep the youth away from those wrong lines, some initiatives were taken. One of those was establishment of a **library** at Singho village. Everyday about 12 youngsters attend the library regularly; they read newspapers, go through textual and literary books and also exchange their views over concerned issues with youth in prevailing society regularly.

A football match between young of Abdul Rehman and Tikri village was organized at Foot Ball Stadium Abdul Rehman on 7th February 2008. From each side 15 players played the match. At the end, teams and individuals were awarded with prizes and trophies in the presence of their parents who watched their match. Both teams performed well but the team from Abdul Rehman village took the trophy. In addition to other activities, PFF conducted four **meetings** with youth groups of Tikri village and Chashma Goth Karachi. These meetings were aimed to sensitize youngsters about their positive role in developing a democratic environment in society.

A **consultative meeting** with Mr. Mubark Sangho UC Nazim UC -08 including all councilors of the relevant area was conducted that meant to address the issue of drinking water in the Hawksbay area and realize the roles and responsibilities to local body representatives.

UNIDO with PFF Wants to Improve the Fisheries Sector

A delegation of International Expert from the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO) on 18th May 2008 paid a visit at Pakistan Fisherfolk Forum's secretariat in Ibrahim Hyderi, Karachi. The delegation was comprised of Dr. Mike Dillon, Dr. Ian Goulding (both have a vast experience in the fisheries sector in developed and developing countries), Mr Robert and Dr. Ali Abbas Qazilbash. PFF presented its vision and portfolio to the delegate and listened to their aims of visiting the secretariat. The delegation had come to discuss the future interventions and activities by the Trade Related Technical Assistance (TRTA) programme in the fisheries sector of Pakistan and to explore the possibilities of expanding the areas of intervention to include new landing sites, other than the Karachi Fish Harbour, and also to look at value addition of fisheries products destined for export. They aim to building relationship with PFF to strengthen the fish industry in Pakistan and assisting the fishers.

They viewed that European Union has put ban on the export of the fish from Pakistan because of the unhygienic conditions after the catch, at the landing sites and during the processing of fish. They were taken to visit the Ibrahim Hyderi fish landing sites, jetty and adjoining areas. At the end of their visit, the delegation invited the Chairperson to attend the workshop which was organized for the same purpose to strengthen the fish industry in Islamabad on 26th May 2008.

PFF team met with Dr Nazir Ahmed Kolachi, Taluka Health Officer (THO) of Keamari on 4th February 2008. The objective of meeting was to make the two government dispensaries functional at Deh Allah Bano, UC-8, Kemari town, Karachi, which remained dysfunctional ever since these came into being.

Prevention is better than cure. If people have knowledge, they can take preventive measures against common diseases. In order to aware the fishers, PFF convened a **lecture on Health and Hygiene conditions** at Abdullah Goth on 21st February 2008. Dr. Hasina Sheikh from HANDS delivered lecture on health & hygiene education to about 76 women from all walks of life participated. Dr. informed them that 50% diseases occur because of unhygienic environment. She emphasized the participants that they and their children should wash their hands before and after

having food, after using toilet or washing dishes or clothes because the germs speedily transfer into the human body through these moods. She emphasized them that they can control or reduce some communicable disease if they would apply personal hygiene, food hygiene, domestic hygiene and environment hygiene in their home to village level regularly.

On 22nd February 2008, Ms. Tahira Ali had a **formal session** with about 82 women on the bad impacts of *Gudka* (a powdery mixture of arecanut (supari), lime and tobacco) at Abdullah Goth. 82 women from all walks of life participated in lecture. In that interactive session, participants were asked about the meaning of addiction in their own perspective. Some of the participants replied as it is just like habit while the others said that people who are chained in financial or social crises, almost they use it as to get rid of from anxiety and depression as well.

After that Tahira Ali kicked off talking about how addiction of Gudka puts impacts on health and economy on the domestic as well as societal level. Gudka occasions higher chances of deadly diseases like mouth cancer, heart disease, respiratory tract infection and tuberculosis.

Social Mobilization is the engine of motivation by which interaction between the communities can be built. Keeping in view, the philosophy of social mobilization PFF field team conducted the regular meetings with male, female and youth of the communities to involve them in the right based approach practices like advocacy, lobbying and political education. During the reporting period (January to March 2008) 35 community meetings have been conducted both in male and female units at Dabla Muhalla, Chashma village, Tekkri village, Abdullah Village, Abdul Rehman village, Singoo Goth and Mubarak village.

Keeping in view alarming situation in the fisher communities regarding depleting resources of livelihood and the fisherwomen's role in the economy, **a consultative meeting** with more than 30 women from all walks of life was conducted on 19th March 2008 at Dabla Para, Rehri Goth Karachi.

The main objective of the meeting was to **sensitize** fisherwomen about disappearing livelihood resources. Fishing resources and fish breeding grounds are disappearing drastically due to the free and high moment of deep sea trawlers, usage of destructive nets, deforestation of mangrove forests (which are breeding place for fish and shrimps), and low rates of the fish catch in the market. In result the fishers fall in the grim poverty.

Besides, they also discussed the issues of domestic violence and male dominancy in all the processes in the families. There is no involvement of women in the family decision making process. Also the issue of dowry in Islam and its bad impacts were part of the discussion. During the discussion some of the participants also raised the issue of wata sata (exchange) marriages which leads the girls to isolation from their parents. Tahira Ali said that awareness and education on these issues are the good ways to get rid of from these ill practices in society.

In addition to fixed activities of social mobilization on the issues of rights of fishers, female social organizers conducted **regular meetings** with 06 women groups focusing on the issues of domestic violence, livelihood issues, education and no involvement in the family decision making.

PFF theatre group performed tableaux on the theme of Education and Poverty on 13th February 2008 at Chasma Goth, Bin Qasim town Karachi. More than 75 people from all walks of life including school teachers, students, parents and fishers had come to enjoy the theatre. It was real story of a young person named Golo who once had been counted amongst the clever students in his class. His family's only source of income was the fishing in the sea. Unfortunately his father expired and their rainy days started. He left education and went to catch fish for his family survival. Her mother also joined him by doing household chores on daily wage and faced bad comments of the community.

A Consultative Meeting on Issue of selling of Islands was held on October 5, 2008 at Abdul Rehman village Hawks Bay Karachi. In 2006, the Federal Government has made a contract with the Limitless a UAE based construction firm regarding construction of a Water Front Sugar Land City spread over the 60,000 acres with estimated cost of \$.68 billion.

More than three hundred community members from Ibrahim Hyderi, Rehri, Malir, Keamari, Gizzri, Abdullah Goth, Abdul Rehman Goth, Mubarak Village, Sangu Village, Layari, Maripure, including Sindh Assembly members participated in the meeting. The participants shared their concerns and views. They viewed that the construction of Water Front Sugar Land City will result the destruction of basic and traditional source of livelihood of the poor fisher communities, it would render the entire marine ecological system terribly unsustainable. Hundreds of fishing grounds would be annihilated. The unemployment ratio among poor fisherfolk will dramatically increase. Mangroves forests, which are already being rapidly destroyed, will suffer more due construction of new city. Mr. Muhammad Ali Shah, Chairperson PFF, condemned the sheer violation of human rights and dignity in the name of water front development project. He said Government should not build or construct the cities on the cost of lives and livelihoods of community. Fishermen community is historical custodian of the coastal area, we will not allow to any one to enter our homes and grounds without our permission, he added. He further said that the powerful lobbies in the country have always been behind these so called development projects. Shah appealed to the national and international human rights organizations, media and development experts to intervene into the matter and save the lives and livelihood of the poor people of the coastline of Karachi.

Unwrapped gifts/services or items used or purchased by Project



PFF in a joint venture with Oxfam Great Britain (GB) launched a Gift Unwrapped project, known as PKNA 71, for supporting people of Jatti, Thatta, to prepare them for the disasters like rainfall, cyclone and floods. Besides help them to uplift their economy and standards of lives. It started in August 2007 and successfully ended in April 2008. The over all objective of the project was to reduce the vulnerabilities of disaster prone communities through strengthened infrastructure facilities and response capacity. At the end, the project coordinator, Gul Muneer Noohpoto with the support of Abdullah Khoso compiled this short report for the newsletter.

Jati, the project area, falls in Thatta District of Southern Sindh. It faces floods, cyclone, heavy rainfall which has pushed to high poverty, unemployment discriminatory treatment towards women and other ills. In 1999, cyclone A2 had devastated them and their economy. People, particularly the fishers, have not forgotten the burnt of it. After A2 cyclone, flood from the river Indus hit them in 2005. In all this, the government has very limited role in the area to enabling people to cope with the consequences of floods and other natural disasters.

UC	Activities	Quantity	No of Villages	Beneficiary HHs	Beneficiary Population
Kar Malik	Shelter	1	21	1081	2634
	Latrine	35			
	Culvert	8			
	Agriculture tool kit	120			
	Hand Pump	22			
	Washing Pads	22			
	Health Hygiene Printed material	21			
Kothi	Shelter	1	9	463	6405
	Latrine	15			
	Culvert	2			
	Agriculture tool kit	50			
	Hand Pumps	8			
	Washing Pads	8			
	Health Hygiene material	9			
Total			30	1544	9039

Keeping in view the conditions, interventions were devised to support the most vulnerable families in Jatti areas. The most affected especially women and children were provided some facilities like construction of emergency shelters cum schools and communal latrines, installation of hand-pumps and construction of washing-pads surrounding the hand-pumps, construction of culverts around the irrigation channels and cluster wise health & hygiene sessions as to minimize the risk of loss of their lives during flood and other natural disasters. Besides, mock drills and distribution of printing material as well capacity building trainings were carried out.

Through extensive consultation meetings with the villagers in both UCs, **30 villages** (21 villages of Union council Kar Malik and 09 villages of union council Kothi) Taluka Jati were selected for the interventions.



All the beneficiaries in the villages were identified by the community and preference was given to the disaster prone area communities in the villages by considering their socio and economic conditions and those who had suffered from disaster.

All project activities were being carried out with active participation of community people. There were intensive community meetings for all activities. In this regard, resolutions were passed, ToPs were signed. This process not only organized the CCBs but also democratized the process. This process ensured the community involvement for all activities. This process not only empowered the communities but created a sense of ownership among the community members.

Three main areas are intervened in the project: (1) Education & Emergency Shelter (2) Water and Sanitation and (3) Irrigation, Seeds and Agriculture Tool Kits

1) Education & Emergency shelter

This segment encourages communities (both women and men) to play an active role in establishing shelters cum Community Model Primary Schools.

SMC formation: During the Community Organizations (CO) meetings, School Management Committees (SMC) of village Kalkan Chhani and Ishaque Thahmior were formed on 25th October 2007 and 29th November 2007 respectively. As per rules and regulations both SMCs were formed at village level. SMC looks after the school matters and is responsible to resolve the conflicts by using the participatory approach. SMC is broadly responsible for the school related decisions including progress, routine school management matters, enrolment, attendance and communication with education department.



SMC Training: A two day training programme was conducted to make the community members and teachers understand their role and responsibilities. Through this training they were educated about maintaining records financial matters of the School Management Committees.



of

Construction of School cum Shelter: Through a need assessment process two villages were selected for the school buildings. Both these villages are at the tail area of Tehsil and situated just at few meters distance from the Arabian Sea. These villages had no schools and had dire need of a shelter in the time of disaster. Also villagers had demanded that a school to be open for their girls.

By April 2008, about 40 students were enrolled in Kalkachhani and 30 in Ishaque Thahmior School. These schools are also provided with furniture. In the former school, one female and in the latter one male teacher are educating the children. These teachers were trained through capacity building workshop. The main modules of the training were integrated teaching methodology, concept of formal and informal education, teaching methodologies, class room management and teaching aid development. **Education material** was purchased for the schools which included wall posters, education kit and pictorial charts of useful items.

Mock drill exercises were organized for the students and teachers of both project schools, which has created confidence among children as well as knowledge about Disaster Risk Reduction, preparation, Early warning systems, importance of shelters and first aid etc..

Health Hygiene session: Under the project, 10 sessions on health hygiene were organized. In this regard, help was received from HANDS (an NGO working on health issues). These sessions were conducted in clusters with about 15 participants in each cluster. 165 females were trained on health hygiene issues i.e. how to protect lives in the disasters, deal with virus infection, malaria, hepatitis, neo natal care and so on.



Washing Pad

Installation of Hand Pump & Construction of Washing Pads: In the project area, majority of people were deprived of drinking water, particularly women had great problems due to its non availability. They had to go far away through insecure passages. Total 28 hand pumps have been installed. It was difficult to discover sweet-water through boring system. After 64 bores, the project team became able to get 28 spots for the hand pumps.

These hand pumps have got washing pads around. Community people were mobilized to use the hand pumps & washing pads as they can bring improvement in their hygienic conditions by using clean water.

Construction of Latrine: There was no a proper latrine system in these villages that caused serious problems for women of the communities. Total 50 latrines have been constructed in these villages. Construction of latrine has minimized the health issues.

3) Irrigation, Seeds and Agriculture tool kits

Construction of Culverts: The construction of culverts on very small canals aimed to support the coastal belt community regarding frequent movement at the time of disaster. In the project, ten culverts have been constructed. There is still dire need to construct culverts in the area.



Agriculture tool kits and seed were given to 170 poor women. Purpose of this distribution was to help women in their economic matters. These women were more vulnerable to any disaster or economic upheaval.



The project has produced a number of short term outcomes. In the first place, people have started taking interest to improve their lives by utilizing the services. In the second place, women have got enough time and energy for other activities which they usually used to spend in search of water. Also women are confident about growing their own

vegetables. In this way, they are able to save time for their families as well as create a sense of effective use of water for more benefiting activities. Villagers claim that due to construction of culverts on the small streams their journey to the city has become easier.



On 16th April 2008, Chairperson PFF, Muhammad Ali Shah and Education District Officer Thatta, Qamar-ul-Zaman Siddiqui, inaugurated the shelter cum Community Model Primary Schools in both villages, i.e. Kalkan Channi and Ishak Thahmior. EDO appreciated efforts taken for establishing school cum shelter in far flung areas where the government has still not been able to reach. On behalf of education department, he announced that they would provide books to school children and also informed that soon the schools will be registered with education department.

Speaking on the occasion, Shah paid thanks to the Oxfam GB for its support in providing gifts to the people of disaster prone area.

Besides, he recommended to Oxfam management to enhance such interventions for the area to increase the living standards by providing basic health awareness, increase education. Activities, like construction of Shelter, Construction of Culvert's, Construction of regulators (for the drainage of rain water and restricting the movement of sea water to coastal areas) , Construction of Latrine, Installation Of hand pumps and



Washing Pads surrounding the hand pumps and Health Hygiene Sessions due to hazards And its risk and need of these things.

PFF's campaign against Deep-sea Factory Trawlers

By Hussain Jarwar

According to the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), Pakistan is endowed with an 'immense wealth' of marine resources – such as shrimp, squid, mackerel and tuna – but due to over-fishing and pollution in the sea there has been significant socio-economic negative impacts the fishing communities.

It is estimated that there are about 22,000 vessels – which includes local boats, mid-sized locally flagged trawlers, and large foreign trawlers – fishing on the Pakistani coast. The Federal Government officials claim that not more than 25 licenses are issued to the deep sea trawlers, however, by the ground realities it is witnessed that around 50 big trawlers are operating in the Pakistani waters. The government officials receive money from the royalties and licenses by issuing licenses to the trawlers, the local fishers. On the flip side, they argue that the local fisher communities derive no benefits from the export trade. The combination of illegal, unreported or unregulated fishing, plus weak surveillance and policing of catch sizes and discarded fish, and little sanction against unfair trawler nets, has devastated the local fisher communities and the marine environment.

Also many deep-sea trawlers come from China and the Far East to catch fish in the Pakistani territory. They enter into the territory under the Pakistan's recent policy of opening up its waters to transnational fleets which have encroached upon the fishing grounds used by the local fishers but they are not allowed to fish inside 35 nautical miles zones. These fully mechanized and automated trawlers fish round the clock over the year. They use 3 kilometers lengthy trawler nets; most of them are extremely harmful for fish species. By using these nets catch millions of tons of fish. These indiscriminately catch fish and about 70 percent of it dump into the sea which is dead and useless to all.

As a result of intensive fishing by the deep-sea trawlers, the local fishers find little catch and consequently suffer from the increased hardship, debt and hunger.

The local fishers communities fish close to the coast with wooden and largely un-mechanized boats and go after a wide variety of species including catfish, ribbon fish, shark, sardine and snapper.

The case of Pakistan serves as a warning of the dangers for poor communities of inappropriate trade liberalization.

Besides creating pollution, these factory trawlers are also adversely affecting the local fishermen as about 70 to 80 percent of small boats were standing idle, rendering thousands of fishermen jobless. Moreover, they enter coastal waters and even into creeks, thus depriving local fishermen of their natural catch areas, while also destroying their nets.

In order to address deep sea trawlers issue, that which have been killing fish species and destructing livelihoods of the fishers, PFF has initiated its struggle. PFF has been engaged in mobilizing and organizing the fisher communities. It has launched an advocacy and struggle campaign for imposing complete ban on the deep-sea factory trawlers and industrial fishing. Also has been working to sensitize the media personal as the issue could be limelight.

Social mobilization is a basic tool for any organization for long-term interaction with community and carries on its activities. PFF also believes on effective social mobilization for collective action of community. Fisherfolk team organized 15 mobilization and awareness meetings with community where they were organized and made aware about the issues of deep sea fishing trawlers and industrial fishing. These meetings were attended by average 30 participants per meeting covering 900 community members directly. These meetings were organized at Fish Harbour Karachi, Rehri Goth, Chashma Goth, Ibrahim Hyderi, Mubarak Village, Tikkri Village and Singho Goth. In these meetings awareness material on the issue was distributed among the participants. Also action groups were formed at community level to further organized meetings at local level on the issue and create awareness on issue. These activities were conducted from July to December 2007.

Publication of Booklet in local languages Urdu & Sindhi: Two booklets in Urdu and Sindhi languages title “Deep Sea Fishing Trawlers aur hamaray barbad hotay huway sumandary zarai” (Deep Sea Fishing Trawlers and our destroyed marine resources) were published and distributed in the community. These booklets are used as educational material.

Meeting with Secretary Fisheries Sindh: On 16th of July 2007, PFF delegation met with the Secretary Fisheries Sindh, Mr. Mohammad Siddique Memon at Sindh Secretariat in Karachi. The meeting for lobbying was held to discuss and review the fisheries issues and evaluate the role of fisheries department in achieving their objective and also presenting the PFF’s stance. In the end, PFF team presented suggestions to the fisheries authorities. The participants of the discussion included Mohammad Yaseen Rind (Manager Programs), Sami Memon (PFF Media coordinator), Majeed Motani (PFF, president Karachi committee), and Secretary Fisheries Mohammad Siddique Memon.

The authorities accepted the standpoint of the PFF as genuine and assured their cooperation. It was also decided that the PFF in collaboration with the Secretary would hold a meeting with the Director General Marine Fisheries Department for reforms in the Fisheries Policy on Deep Sea Trawlers.

Meeting with the Director General Marine Fisheries Department: On 9th August 2007, PFF’s delegation held another lobbying meeting with Syed Qamar Raza, the Director General Marine Fisheries Department in Karachi. The delegation reminded the Director about the havoc of deep sea trawlers and asked him to put efforts to stop giving license to these and put ban on them. The Director said it is not in his hands to put ban on the trawlers. The Federal Government is responsible of it; however, he will do something.

Letters to Government

Authorities/Officials: Following the meeting with authorities PFF wrote detailed letters to all the higher authorities of Sindh fisheries as well as the Federal fisheries of Pakistan. Those letters provided ins and outs on the Deep Sea fishing trawlers issue and its impact on the sea resources, marine life and fishers lives.

Two demonstrations against the Deep Sea Trawlers activities:

On 16th November and 10th December two demonstrations were organized at Karachi Fish Harbor Authority and Karachi Press club respectively. At both occasions about 400 fishers and civil society members took part. Half of it was women.



A seminar was held at Karachi Press Club in which the members of civil society organizations, politicians and environmentalists urged the government to cancel the licenses of deep-sea fishing trawlers for saving the livelihoods of hundreds of fishers in Sindh and Baluchistan. The Seminar passed a resolution which demanded the Federal Government to put an on the deep-sea fishing trawlers which has depleted Pakistan’s fish stocks by 80 per cent since 1982. This activity has resulted lost of livelihoods for the fishers. The seminar also concluded that the government should provide compensation to local fishers who had suffered after the depletion of fish resources and because of the marine pollution caused by deep-sea fishing. Participants demanded the revenue earned through fines on illegal fishing and on violation of other marine laws should be spent on the welfare of fishers. The seminar also took note of the fact that there was no sustainable fisheries policy in Pakistan and demanded that the government should introduce the policy after having analyzed the “sustainable fisheries policy” draft prepared by the PFF.

Media Campaign

PFF gives great weight to its media campaign. In order to highlight issue in the public three visits of the journalist were arranged. In the first visit, on 29th July 2007, PFF team took journalists to observe dead fishes at Keamari, Hawks bay, Nati Jeti Bridge and Sea view. Journalists were briefed about the practices introduced by the deep sea factory trawlers. These throw back half of the total fish catch into the sea which is useless to them but it harms the marine resources and the fishers' livelihoods. These use destructive nets. The dead fish floating in the sea has come from that activity. Regarding this, The news published story on 30 July, 2007 (<http://www.thenews.com.pk/print1.asp?id=66306>).

On September 04, 2007 second visit for the journalists was organized. They were taken to visit Korangi Fish harbour and meet with the harbor administration. In this visit journalists were given the exposure of operating fishing trawlers and later they were briefed at Sachal Hall, Ibrahim Hyderi.

On 8th September 2007, journalists' group was driven to Mubarak Village, Hawks bay. Journalists met with the community and discussed the negative impacts of the deep sea fishing trawler. The fishers told them that their wooden boats could not compete with the huge factory-sized trawlers and fishing by these trawlers has reduced the quantity of fishing resources at sea. (<http://www.dawn.com/2007/09/17/local18.htm>)

Press conference: in order to address the issue strategically an action committee of fishermen organization was formed at Karachi Fish harbor that will strategically address the issue of deep sea fishing trawlers and industrial fishing. At first phase of this strategy, Press conference was organized at Karachi Press Club on issue of low fish/shrimp rates offered to fishermen by middlemen. In this press conference government policies were criticized and journalists were told that government has failed to address fishing community industrial problems at policy level. In this regard journalists were told that newly formed action committee will observe a complete strike at Karachi Fish Harbor and a protest rally will be organized in this regard at Karachi Fish Harbor. This press conference was attended by Mr Mohammad Shah, Chairman of the Pakistan Fisherfolk Forum, FCS Director Haji Shafi Jamot, FCS directors Haji Younis, Haji Ali, Habibullah Niazi and representatives of the Fisherfolk communities Haji Faqir Mohammad, Zur Khan, Asif Bhatti, Haji Sargand, Haji Ahmad Kuchchi and Gohar Khan. (<http://www.dawn.com/2007/08/08/local14.htm>)

PFF endeavors for the restoration of deposed Judges

PFF shares the equal responsibility to hand in to every movement aimed at the development of social and political institutions. Pursuing this value, PFF has struggled to work for the restoration of the deposed judges. These judges were deposed by the President Musharaf during an emergency rule. Previously, the President had suspended Chief Justice of Pakistan, Iftikhar Chaudhary on 9th March 2007, on corruption charges. By 20th July 2007, the Chief Justice was restored by the Supreme Court Bench.

On 9th March 2008, PFF actively participated to observe Black-Day chalked out by the Press Club Karachi, Bar Associations and Civil Society Organizations. PFF participation was more than 300 with greater ratio of females.

On the day, a rally was organized which started walking at 15:30 from Karachi Arts Council and ended at Karachi Press Club. The participants had placards and banners in their hands. Their slogans were demanding for the restoration of the 1971 constitution, restoration of democracy and restoration of the judiciary along with the restoration of judges of the honorable High Courts and Supreme Court including Chief Justice Chaudhry Iftikhar Hussain.

At the Karachi Press Club Karachi Mohammad Ali Shah, Chairperson, Pakistan Fisherfolk Form addressed to hundreds of listeners. He expressed that the political conditions were leading to the revival of democracy for which millions of people including civil society organizations had struggled for the restoration of the democracy. He told that it was the first time that judiciary had taken bold steps and people friendly stance that's why the people of Pakistan were demanding the restoration of the judiciary. Mr Shah claimed that the February 2008 election results are a referendum against Parvez Musharraf. Therefore, Musharraf should resign from the office of the presidency, if he would not do so, people of Pakistan would do that.

Mr Shah said that General Parvez Musharaf's ten years tenure is not people friendly, instead it is pro-American who has given the country suicide bombers, terrorists, inflation, bad governance and shortage of water, electricity, flour, hospitals and schools to the country. He depoliticized the people of Pakistan. He, further, said that Mohtarma Benazir Bhutto was assassinated in his era. The social institutions have been destroyed. Emergency was enforced for his extension of tenure of presidency. He deposed approximately 60 judges of Supreme Court and high courts. This was first time that a large number of higher judges were deposed by military dictator for the protection of his illegal steps. At the end of his speech, he demanded an immediate restoration of the Chief Justice and other judges of the Supreme and High Courts.

Devastation of May 1999 cyclone, a day in the memory of victims

On 19th May 2008, Pakistan Fisherfolk Forum (PFF) organized a gathering in the memory of victims of 19th May 1999 Cyclone in Badin and Thatta. Nine years ago A2 cyclone with 72 kilometers speed hit the coastal belt of Sindh and adversely damaged the social and economic life of the region as well as took away 400 lives with it. It kept hitting the coast for 36 hours. Cyclone, on the day, wiped out dozens of villages in the coastal belt of Badin and Thatta. The most affected were poor fishers who still have not forgotten the severity of that natural havoc that occurred suddenly and took away their beloved ones who were toiling in the sea and the only bread earners of their families. The cyclone caused massive destruction and left houses covered by mud and water and bodies strewn among the debris of collapsed homes.

Each year PFF organizes a day in the memory of victims of 1999 cyclone affected. On the day, it is reviewed what actions have been taken by the government in the rehabilitation of victims' families and what concrete measures have been taken have been taken by the government to reduce a huge impact of any future disaster coming from the sea and state's programmes and policies.

The gathering was held at Gym Khana Badin. Hundreds of fishers from the coastal belt of Badin and Thatta had gathered to remember their beloved ones. Also media persons, civil society representatives, teachers, students and local politicians and activists joined the conference and shared their feelings with the fishers' community over the loss of their beloved, economy and shelters.

All those gathered stood up and observed two minutes silence in the respect of victims. Muhammad Ali Shah, Chairperson PFF, Abdullah Mallah, principal Public School, Tahira Ali Shah (senior Vice chairperson), Sohail Mirza, ex district Nazim Badin, Mithal Mallah, president of PFF Badin district, Mohammad Khan Samoon, Allah Bachayo Jamali, Majeed Lund, Musrat Mandhryio, Shahnawaz Sayal and others delivered their speeches.

Mr Abdul Salam Memon, Coordinator PFF in Badin, provided glimpses of the disastrous cyclone. The Cyclone affected about half million people; 56,678 houses and 600 were completely destroyed; 18,000 livestock population was killed; about 200,000 wild birds lost their lives; agriculture production on 152,000 acre land was ruined; about 150,000 trees were uprooted.

Ghafoor Mallah told that at the time of cyclone he was with his two brothers, paternal cousin and friend which he lost in about 15 feet high waves. He said they were not informed about the sea killer winds and waves. Noor Mohammad Themore from Thatta district complained that the promises that the government had done with them for their rehabilitation have yet not come true. He said that Mai Leelan's seven family members had died, most of them were bread earners but no one has looked after her and her two daughters. Nawaz Sharif government pledged to make the Abdul Rehman village as a model village. Abdullah Mallah from Jati (Thatta) recited his poetry that he had done in the grief of his beloved that were killed in the cyclone.

Sohail Mirza, ex district nazim Badin, said that Pakistan Peoples Party is preparing to install desalination plants in the deltaic region as well as it aims to construct big shelters for the times of emergencies. Also trainings will be provided to the fishers to deal with emergency situation.

Tahira Ali, senior vice chairperson PFF said that government should devise a proper strategy that should address the fishers' problems in the coastal belt. She warned PPP government that if this time PPP goes reverse to its slogan of Roti Kapra or Makan (bread, clothe and shelter) then they will be stroked off from the fishers' political vision. No fisher will vote them in the future.

Khadim Talpur said that due to changing climate and donor led developmental projects, the people of coastal belt have to get ready to face numerous natural disasters that can come at any time. In this respect, if government does not give priority in solving these issues then the fishers may not be found on the coastal belts.

Professor Abdullah Mallah said that it is always unfair that governments' developmental schemes as well as nature proved to be enemies of poor fishers. However, the impact of natural disasters can be reduced if the early warning systems are improved but there is no excuse if the developmental schemes like RBOD bring havoc in the fishers' lives. While recalling the struggle of PFF and the fishers of Badin, he said we should learn from these deprived people who had no weapon but through the weapon of courage and clear vision they defeated Rangers. He demanded the government to declare sovereignty of the fishers on the water resources.

Muhammad Ali Shah, Chairperson PFF, said cyclone A2 brought havoc for the fishers because of the government's programmes and indifferent attitude. Government department knew about the cyclone but they deliberately did not warn to the fishers about the disaster. Government aims to remove the fishers from coastal belts as they can erect fancy and luxurious cities for elites. Particularly metrological department and the district administrative officers let the cyclone kill the poor fishers. Shah said that so far 8 cyclones have hit the Sindh's coastal belt.

While recalling the battle between the poor fishers and Rangers, he said that the fishers are determined to face all the manmade and natural challenges. No force can nail them down. He demanded the present government to table the bill on the fishers rights, before tabling it the fishers representatives should be involved into preparing the bill. Shah said proper legislation on the fisheries sector can protect the fishers from manmade and natural disasters.

He said the temperature is rising gradually and within a decade there are great chances the sea intrudes the coastal cities of entire world. He asked the fishers to be ready for such challenges and demanded governments to take measure to save deltaic region that will help to protect the people from sea intrusion.

The Federal Government of Pakistan should take sincere and serious efforts for the implementation of 1999 Water Accord. Although 10 Million Acres Feet (MAF) freshwater decided in the accord does not fulfill the actual water needs of the Indus Delta but even in the nine years (from the year when accord came into being) the decided 10 MAF freshwater has not been sent to downstream Kotri barrage, that is the main cause of the depletion and devastation of the Indus Delta. The Federal Government should immediately provide 35MAF water to downstream until the proposed an independent study come up with estimated or required quantity of the water downstream.

An independent study should be conducted through national and international universities. This study will determine the flow of fresh water to downstream Kotri for the rehabilitation of Indus Delta and its survival in the future. The study should also determine about the ecological, environmental and social losses of Indus Deltaic people because of the upstream diversion, cuts and constructions of dams and barrages prior to the partition of India to onward. In the light of above study the federal government should compensate all affected people.

He added that there is Sindh Coastal Developmental Authority and other departments which are mainly responsible for the protection of natural resources on the coast and support of local communities but they are doing the formality. He demanded that government should compensate the fishers' families who lost their family members in the cyclone on 19th May 1999 and to those who are affected by the destruction of Indus delta. He demanded that there is dire need to leave 35 million acre feet to the downstream Kotri as the Indus

delta could be saved. The gathering ended with this commitment that until the fishers rights are not given to the fishers till then peaceful struggle will continue.

International

Overfished Vietnam to subsidize new fishing boats

By Bjarne Wildau

Michael Akester, an advisor with Denmark's government aid organization who helped Vietnam develop its coastal management strategy, says that the target of moving people out of the fisheries sector had run up against severe pressure on fishermen.

Deputy Minister of Agriculture Nguyen Viet Thang said the subsidies will apply only to deep-sea fishing boats with engines greater than 90 horsepower, to encourage fishermen to venture past the coastal areas where stocks are said to be most depleted.

Thang said each new 90-horsepower boat would receive a government subsidy of 70 million dong (about US\$4,350) per year. "The aim is to encourage fishermen to upgrade their equipment for offshore fishing", Thang said. "The second objective is to help fishermen to overcome the rising price of fuel".

Thang said Vietnam could not directly subsidize fuel because that would violate its commitments to the World Trade Organization. With the encouragement of foreign aid organizations, Vietnam has adopted a long-term strategy of reducing the size of its fishing fleet to curb overfishing. A World Bank-funded project currently under discussion with the government would aim to cut the fleet in half.

The Vietnamese government's own five-year plan for 2006 to 2010 calls for the fleet to be cut by 40,000 boats. But the new subsidies appeared to run counter to that objective.

Seafood is Vietnam's third largest export industry, after crude oil and apparel. The country earned US\$3.74 bn from seafood exports in 2007, and aims at reaching US\$4 bn in exports this year. Akester said that reducing the size of the fleet would require finding jobs for up to 250,000 fishermen whose skills are largely maritime. Promising areas include aquaculture, maritime transportation and tourism. Source Samundra.

Alarm on depleting fish resources, says a research report

Fish and fish products provide important trade and livelihoods opportunities in many coastal developing countries. Nearly 40 percent of fish output is traded internationally with an export value of US\$ 58.2 billion, making seafood one of the most extensively traded commodities in the world. Exports of fish products from developing countries today comprise 20 percent of agricultural and food-processing exports – more than tropical beverages, nuts, spices, cotton, sugar and confectionary combined. These exports are likely to increase as demand for fish products continues to increase. In addition to providing a significant source of export revenue for developing countries, the fishing sector also constitutes a vital component of domestic food intake and an important provider of local livelihoods.

Meanwhile, fish stocks around the world are under significant pressure with some disappearing or becoming economically unviable. The UN Food and Agriculture Organization estimates that as much as 75 percent of global marine fish stocks are now fully exploited, over-exploited or depleted, confirming a consistent decrease since 1974 in marine fish stocks with little or no potential for further exploitation. Poor fisheries management and inappropriately designed subsidies to fishing industries have been widely recognised as the key economic drivers of overexploitation of fisheries resources by contributing to significant overcapacities of fishing fleets, particularly in developed countries. Large-scale industrial fleets combined with poor or no management have also contributed to secondary pressures on marine resources, such as increased levels of

bycatch – that is, species that are caught unintentionally by fishing gear – and the use of destructive fishing practices which harm non-target species and marine ecosystems.

The above excerpt is taken from the Forward of the report on Trade and Marketplace Measures to Promote Sustainable Fishing Practices (2006) by Cathy A. Roheim and Jon G. Sutinen from University of Rhode Island, USA. The Forward for the report is put forward by Ricardo Meléndez, Executive Director (International Centre for Trade and Sustainable Development) and Ortiz Simon Upton, Director (High Seas Task Force).

What is sustainable fishing practice?

Sustainability is a fashionable word in current conservation literature, but what exactly does it mean? One definition is “using resources in such a manner that they will be available to future generations. For our purposes, it means managing fisheries so that they continue to be healthy, functioning ecosystems that support breeding stocks of catchable fish. Sustainable fishing practices have two components: (1) thoughtful regulations that are grounded in good science and (2) angling practices that are ethical and in line with those regulations.

The Biological Basis for Fishing Regulations: Regulations may include bag or creel limits, slot limits, open and closed seasons, and restrictions on fishing techniques or tackle. Creel, size, and slot limits are all management tools. They allow anglers to harvest some fish while maintaining a healthy population. **Creel limits** are based on population ecology and aim to keep an adequate number of spawning-sized fish in a given body of water. Population ecologists use field data and mathematical models to decide what the appropriate creel and size limits are.

Size limits mandate that fish must be over some minimum length in order to be kept. The limit is chosen to guarantee that fish will get to reproduce before they are taken. These limits will vary, depending on the species of fish in question. For example, a female white sturgeon must be 15 or 20 years old and over 5 feet long before she reproduces. A bluegill sunfish, on the other hand, will reproduce at 2 years old. Both sturgeon and sunfish are popular angling targets. Which population is more likely to need the support of regulations to stay out (or get out) of trouble?

Slot limits protect fish within a certain “slot,” or size range. A slot limit of 14”-18” means that anglers may keep fish smaller than 14 inches or larger than 18 inches. Slot limits restrict the taking of fish to individuals smaller than reproductive age or trophy-sized. This serves two purposes: (1) fish are protected for their first few years of reproductive age and can spawn freely during those years, and (2) once fish reach reproductive age, they are more likely to be “promoted” to the next size class, which is the trophy class at the high end of the slot. A slot limit also has different effects on male and female fish of some species, like largemouth bass. One male can fertilize a number of females, so in order to maximize a population’s reproductive rate, there would ideally be many more males than females. When hunting for deer, people shoot males rather than females in order to keep the populations healthy. Male and female fish are much harder to distinguish than bucks and does, but since females grow much faster than males, a minimum size limit will usually result in the capture of many more females than males. Installing a slot limit instead of a minimum length limit will help ensure that more males than females are harvested, which will bolster the population and protect females while they grow to trophy size (Florida Fish & Wildlife Conservation Commission, 2001)

No More “Failures-as-Usual”!

World Civil Society put forward the statement on the World Food Emergency; PFF has signed the statement and is prepared to pursue the agenda.

Historic, systemic failures of governments and international institutions are responsible. National governments that will meet at the FAO Food Crisis Summit in Rome must begin by accepting their responsibility for today’s food emergency.

At the World Food Summit in 1996, when there were an estimated 830 million hungry people, governments pledged to halve the number by 2015. Many now predict that the number will instead increase by 50% to 1.2 billion, further threatened by unpredictable climate chaos and the additional pressures of agrofuel production.

In the midst of collapsing farm and fish stocks, skyrocketing food and fuel prices, new policies, practices and structures are required to resolve the current food emergency and to prevent future - and greater - tragedies. Governments, including those in the global South, and intergovernmental organisations must now recognize their part in implementing policies that have undermined agricultural productivity and destroyed national food security. For these reasons, they have lost legitimacy and confidence of the world's peoples that they can make the real, substantial changes necessary to end the present food crisis; to safeguard peoples' food availability and livelihoods; and to address the challenges of climate change.

The emergency today has its roots in the food crisis of the 1970s when some opportunistic OECD governments, pursuing neoliberal policies, dismantled the international institutional architecture for food and agriculture. This food crisis is the result of the long standing refusal of governments and intergovernmental organisations to respect, protect and fulfil the right to food, and of the total impunity for the systematic violations of this right among others. They adopted short-term political strategies that engineered the neglect of food and agriculture and set the stage for the current food emergency.

As a consequence, the UN agencies and programmes and other international institutions, dominated by a small group of donor countries, are badly governed, grossly inefficient, competitive rather than cooperative and incapable of fulfilling their (conflicting) mandates. The structural adjustment policies imposed by the World Bank and the IMF, the WTO Agreement on Agriculture and the free trade paradigm have undermined local and national economies, eroded the environment and damaged local food systems leading to today's food crisis. It has facilitated the development of corporate oligopolies and break-neck corporate concentration along the entire food chain; allowed predatory commodity speculation and financial market adventurism; and enabled international finance institutions and bilateral aid programmes to devastate sustainable food production and livelihood systems.

Social movements and other civil society organisations have joined together to determine a new approach to the dysfunctional global food system. We are developing the following global plan of action for food and agriculture and would be willing to discuss this plan with governments and intergovernmental organisations that will be attending the Rome Food Summit - the "High-Level Conference on World Food Security: the Challenges of Climate Change and Bioenergy".

We are prepared to work with committed governments and United Nations organizations that share our concerns and are dedicated to end the food emergency and develop food sovereignty.

We declare a People's State of Emergency for the ongoing food crisis. In a State of Emergency, people and governments can suspend any legislative or regulatory measures that could imperil the Right to Food and can also abolish any private arrangements considered damaging to Food Sovereignty. Any public or private measures that might restrict the ability of peasant and small-producers to get domestic food to market can be cancelled. Debt cancellation is urgently needed if the global South is to address the immediate and ongoing food emergency. We believe the current food emergency and the ongoing threat of climate change are sufficient grounds for declaring a State of Emergency.

We call on the Human Rights Council and the International Court of Justice to investigate the contribution of agribusiness, including grain traders and commodity speculators, to violations of the right to food and to the food emergency. High production input costs and food prices during the current food emergency are in some measure due to historic agribusiness profits and the actions of commodity market speculators. The oligopolies and speculators, who operate throughout the food chain, must be investigated and suspected criminal behaviour must be brought to justice. The UN Human Rights Council should undertake the necessary investigations. National governments should not hesitate, wherever other

governments have failed in their international obligations, to challenge abuses through the International Court of Justice. At the national level, anti cartel and monopoly laws should be strengthened. The Human Rights Council should support governments to guarantee that their public policies respect, protect and promote the right to adequate food, in the context of the indivisibility of rights.

We demand an immediate halt to the development of land for producing industrial agrofuels for cars, planes and energy production in power stations, including the use of so-called biomass "waste". The sudden sharp increase in large scale industrial agrofuel production threatens local and global food security, destroys livelihoods, damages the environment and is a significant factor in the steep rise in food prices. This new enclosure movement - converting arable, pastoral, and forest lands to fuel production - must be rejected. The Rome Food Summit should endorse the proposal of the UN Special Rapporteur on the Right to Food for a five year moratorium on the expansion of large scale industrial production of agrofuel in order to resolve conflicts with food production, develop rules for agrofuel production and to evaluate proposed agrofuel technologies.

We call for a new and truly cooperative global initiative in which we are full participants in the process of policy change and institutional correction. We will not stand aside to watch the rich and the incompetent destroy our lives and our earth. We will fight for food sovereignty including the right to food, for sustainable food production and for a healthy biologically-diverse environment. To achieve this:

We call for the establishment of a *UN Commission on Food Production, Consumption and Trade*. This Commission must have a significant and substantive representation of small-scale food producers and marginalized consumers. The Secretary-General's recently convened Task Force offers a clear and welcome political signal that the food emergency transcends individual institutions and demands urgent global action. However, the Task Force is dominated by the failed institutions whose negligence and neoliberal policies created the crisis. Those whom the governmental and intergovernmental systems have damaged – those we must feed and those who must feed us -- are once again, excluded. The Task Force should end its work at the conclusion of the Rome Food Summit and the new, inclusive, Commission must begin its work immediately thereafter.

Membership: The Commission should expand upon the format established by the Brundtland Commission 20 years ago which opened the way for the environmental summits that followed. In forming the Commission, the Secretary-General should be mindful of the findings of the *International Assessment of Agricultural Knowledge, Science and Technology for Development (IAASTD)* whose recently completed report was approved by nearly 60 governments, as well as the outcomes of FAO agrarian reform (ICARRD) conference and process.

Mandate: The mandate of the new Commission must include all forms of – and constraints to – food production; all aspects of – and barriers to – safe, adequate, affordable and culturally appropriate food; and a full analysis of the entire food chain in consideration of changing climatic conditions. The Commission should provide an interim report to the UN General Assembly and the governing bodies of FAO, IFAD and WFP by the end of 2008 and provide a final report, with recommendations, to these organisations in the final quarter of 2009.

We must fundamentally restructure the multilateral organisations involved in food and agriculture. Several food-related multilateral institutions have been criticised for their governance and programme failures. Notably, Independent External Evaluations (IEE) of FAO and IFAD have exposed serious systemic shortcomings. In particular, the IEE of FAO shows that the senior management of FAO -- while recognizing the urgent need for change -- does not believe that the governments or the institution is capable of substantive changes. The evaluation of CGIAR is ongoing and is exposing major governance failures that cannot be resolved within the CGIAR framework. Last year, the World Bank undertook an internal evaluation of its agricultural work in Africa and was deeply and appropriately self-critical. It is because of this that civil society is convinced that the Secretary-General's Task Force must evolve into the wider Commission outlined above. In order to facilitate the Commission's work, civil society recommends three immediate decisions:

I. □ The Rome Food Summit should agree to undertake a meta-evaluation of the major food and agricultural institutions (FAO, IFAD, WFP and CGIAR) by the end of 2008.

II □Based on this meta-evaluation, FAO's biennial budget for regional conferences should be adjusted to allow the convening of regional food and agricultural conferences, equally involving all the major multilateral institutions, in the first half of 2009. These meetings must ensure the full and active participation of representatives of peasant and small-scale farmers, pastoralists and fisherfolk.

III. Building from the meta-evaluation and regional conferences, the Commission – by the end of 2009 – must submit its report including a new architecture for the UN's food and agricultural work. Without prescribing the integrity of the process described above, we are convinced that responsibility for international policies and practices related to food and agriculture must reside with a single agency within the community of agencies of the United Nations where the principle of "one nation – one vote" must prevail.

3. We call for a local and global paradigm-shift towards Food Sovereignty. Food production and consumption are fundamentally based upon local considerations. The answer to current and future food crises is only possible with a paradigm-shift toward comprehensive food sovereignty. Small-scale farmers, pastoralists, fisherfolk, indigenous peoples and others have defined a food system based on the human Right to adequate Food and food production policies that increase democracy in localised food systems and ensure maximisation of sustainable natural resource use. Food Sovereignty addresses all of the continuing issues identified by the 1974 World Food Conference. It focuses on food for people; values food providers; localises food systems; assures community and collective control over land, water and genetic diversity; honours and builds local knowledge and skills; and works with nature.

Food sovereignty is substantially different from existing neoliberal trade and aid policies purporting to address world 'food security'. These policies are exclusionary; insensitive to those who produce food; silent on where and how it is grown or consumed; and have - since the 1970s - been proven failures. Governments and international institutions must respect and adopt food sovereignty.

4. We believe that the Right to Food prevails over trade agreements and other international policies. In the current food emergency, trade negotiations related to food and agriculture must halt and work should begin on a new trade dialogue under UN auspices. The structural adjustment policies imposed by the World Bank and the IMF, the WTO Agreement on Agriculture and the free trade paradigm have undermined local and national economies, eroded the environment and damaged local food systems leading to today's food crisis. Neoliberal trade policies have also strengthened multinational agribusinesses and encouraged windfall profiteering. Food dumping and artificially low-priced food exports have also destroyed local systems and must end. The international finance institutions and the WTO have forced the global South to close marketing boards and shutdown mechanisms for market stabilisation and price guaranties for food producers. Governments have been forced to abolish food reserves and eliminate import controls. Yet, state intervention in the market is necessary to fulfil the right to food, secure food production and the economy of small scale food producers. Therefore, FTA, EPA and WTO negotiations on the Agreement on Agriculture must be ended. These negotiations are hurting the vast majority of food producers. A new approach to international food and agricultural trade is urgently needed. This approach must be based on the right of countries to decide their level of self sufficiency and support for sustainable food production for domestic consumption.

Discussions leading to a new trade regime based on the diverse needs of people and societies and the preservation of the environment should take place within the UN system.

5. We insist that the right of governments to intervene and regulate in order to achieve food sovereignty, be reinstated. National governments have to take up their responsibility, control and push back elites and make food production for domestic consumption their priority. Countries have to raise their level of self sufficiency in food as far as possible and to achieve this the following measures must be taken:

- ☐ respect, protect and fulfil the right to adequate food, among other rights.
- ☐ Increase the budget support of peasant based food production;
- ☐ Implement genuine agrarian reform to give landless and other vulnerable groups access to land and other productive resources;
- ☐ Guarantee credit access to peasants and other small-scale food producers;
- ☐ Abolish all barriers preventing peasants and small-scale farmers from saving and exchanging seeds between communities, countries and continents;
- ☐ Strengthen peasant led research and support autonomous capacity building;
- ☐ Improve infrastructure so that peasants and small-scale producers can reach local markets;
- ☐ Develop strategies with peasant and other appropriate organisations to manage specific hazards and emergencies.
- ☐ Guarantee marginalised consumers access to domestic food and - if not available - to food brought in from adjacent surplus regions.

6. We reject the Green Revolution models. Technocratic techno-fixes are no answer to sustainable food production and rural development. Industrialised agriculture and fisheries are not sustainable. *The International Assessment of Agricultural Knowledge, Science and Technology for Development (IAASTD)* clearly shows the need for a major change in the current research and development model. This report shows that governments (South and North) have wilfully and tragically neglected agriculture and rural development, especially small scale farming and artisanal fisheries since the last global food crisis. This attitude appears to be changing as the current emergency unfolds. However, the new interest in agriculture remains fundamentally flawed as private US foundations partner with global agribusiness to press national governments and international research systems to pursue a so-called "green revolution" in Africa and elsewhere based upon technological quick-fixes and failed market policies rather than social policy decisions. Governments, research institutions and other donors must learn from this study; change direction; and support small scale sustainable crop and livestock production and fisheries based on the expressed needs of local communities.

The farmer/fisher-led programmes will lead to local and national self-reliance. Specifically, governments attending the Third High-Level Forum on Aid-Effectiveness in Ghana in September should reject the philanthro-capitalist directed models for a new green revolution and should reaffirm the central role of people and governments in setting the policy and practical framework for development.

7. We support an inclusive strategy for the conservation and sustainable use of agricultural biodiversity that prioritises the participation of small-scale farmers, pastoralists and fisherfolk. Biological diversity in agriculture is a prerequisite for securing food supplies. The huge loss in diversity, the use of GMOs and the patenting of seeds and genes make food production vulnerable. To support small-scale farmers that develops resilient, biodiverse production systems, we must work together to safeguard agroecosystems, species and genetic diversity that can adapt on-farm to new threats such as climate change. The Rome Food Summit should challenge governments, FAO, the UN Convention on Biological Diversity and the Global Crop Diversity Trust to provide massive and immediate financial support for *in situ* and on-farm conservation through farmer-led crop and livestock conservation and improvement.

8. We will participate in the development of a comprehensive local/global strategy to respond to climate change. Climate change is already causing major losses in food production and is devastating the lives of millions of people including those of migrants. The future is uncertain but most studies assume that climate change will be more damaging to people and food systems in tropical and subtropical countries than those in temperate zones.

There is an urgent need to cut greenhouse gas emission by at least 80 per cent by 2030. This is primarily the responsibility of the industrialised countries. The global South must also adopt different policies and practices for energy production. In agriculture, the high input fossil fuel driven industrial model for production and transport is a major cause of CO₂ emissions. The development of peasant led sustainable food production, based on the sustainable use of local resources is a key solution to reduce these emissions. In addition, however, the polluting industrial countries must accept responsibility for the destruction of our

environment and food systems and must pay reparations at levels, not less than 1 per cent of their annual GDP, that will help to alleviate damage and further development of sustainable and adaptable food and energy systems.

Social movements and other civil society organisations who are prepared actively to pursue the agenda we have described, at local, national and global levels, are invited to sign up to this statement. For more information and to sign up, see www.nyeleni.eu/foodemergency . *This statement was prepared by members of the IPC, the International Planning Committee for Food Sovereignty. The IPC is a facilitating network in which key international social movements and organisations collaborate around the issue of food sovereignty: these include ROPPA, WFFP, WFF, La Via Campesina, and many movements and NGOs in all regions (see: www.foodsovereignty.org/new/focalpoints.php). The IPC is coordinating a Parallel Forum to the FAO Food Summit in Rome.*

Goods there were heaps and manifold,
Traders forgetful were;
Some came in good time and purchased
All that the stores that hold---
Some loitered, and all things were sold
When they had come to buy

Sleep not O helmsman! Shun your cot,
When danger lurks ahead;
The shore is foaming like the curd
That foams in churning pot----
O helmsman, sleep befits you not
In such an awful state!

SURIRAAG (Sailing)