



women's action forum خواتین مخاتر عمل پاکستان

## A TRIBUTE TO NAJMA SADEQUE

Women's Action Forum, Lahore salutes Najma Sadeque a founder member of WAF which was set up in 1981. Her passing has created a vacuum not only for the women's movement but for all social movements in which she engaged with passion, integrity and with an informed commitment.

Najma played an intrinsic role in laying the foundation of the principles that WAF adheres to. Her commitment, strength of purpose and resilience was crucial especially in the early years.

These years were particularly challenging as WAF confronted both the military government of General Zia ul Haq and his policy of 'Islamization'. Najma kept her eyes open, her pulse on what was going wrong and her pen and paper ready to dash off an article in the press pitting the 'pen against the sword'.

WAF recalls many struggles that were propelled by Najma as she alerted it to the issues that were suppressed by a highly controlled press. Najma's role and contribution to WAF and the women's movement as a whole will always be remembered as integral to women's 'herstory'.

In addition to her commitment to the women's movement, Najma's qualities of head and heart made her alive to violations of the rights of the dispossessed and the vulnerable. This led to her engagement with different social movements as testified by her work with the fisher folk, labour, peasants, religious minorities and against globalization and militarization and for sustainable development.

Najma kept abreast of current developments and debates and linked this information to indigenous knowledge forms and practices to produce work that was clear and easily accessible.

WAF Lahore celebrates her life and honours her.