



women's action forum

خواتین محاذِ عمل پاکستان

WAF Rebuts Khurram Khosa's Statement

18 March 2008

WAF is shocked at Khurram Latif Khosa's statement in the The News (18 March 2008) that there is a rift between the movement for the restoration of the judiciary and WAF. Nothing could be further from the truth. We take strong exception to Mr. Khosa's attempt to misrepresent civil society organisations to further his own interests and create confusion by conflating the issues of individuals' right to exercise their vote and the restoration of the judiciary. We condemn this politically motivated attempt to weaken the unprecedented unity of lawyers and civil society organisations.

WAF was the first civil society organisation to respond to the lawyers' call in March 2007 for the restoration of the judiciary and the rule of law. It joined the hunger strike camps as well as the weekly protest demonstrations in Lahore as well as all events organised by lawyers/civil society in Karachi, Islamabad and Peshawar. As a member of the Campaign for Democracy and Rule of Law (CDRL) it has been active in demonstrations, vigils outside the houses of deposed judges and Aitzaz Ahsan, giving statements, distributing flyers, facing tear gas and arrest.

WAF would like to remind Mr. Khosa that WAF in its press conference (where he was present) on International Women's Day (8 March) announced its full support of the Black Flag Week with distribution of black flags and fliers. Following the press conference WAF took out a rally outside the Press Club to commemorate Women's Day and to press for the restoration of the judiciary. WAF also participated in various events during the Black Flag Week.

WAF reiterates its support for Aitzaz Ahsan and the lawyers in their tireless struggle for the restoration of the judiciary – a cause which has the support of all major political parties. We expect The News to carry this rebuttal as prominently as it has carried Mr. Khosa's statement.