

WAF- Lahore GB Meeting 8th July, 2006

Venue: ASR

Present: Sameena Rehman, Maisoon, Hina Jilani, Huma, Nighat s. Kahn, Khawar Mumtaz, Nasrene Shah, Shah Taj, Jugnu Mohsin, Nausheen Rehman, Ghazala Rehman, Neelam Hussain, Khadija Rehman.

Chair: Sameena Rehman; **Minutes:** Khawar

Agenda:

1. Hudood Ordinances
2. November 2006 Convention
3. Procedures/process

1. Process: Members were informed that of the 4 Committees formed at the last GB held on 12 June 3 Committees (Principles, Methodology, and Issues) decided to merge ~~at their meeting~~ following the GB. Minutes of the meeting were circulated. The Events Committee has not yet met.

Maisoon was nominated as the convener of WAF at the 12 June meeting and Sameena volunteered to help her in convening today's meeting. 250 notices for the GB were posted out of which 100 came back. Decision therefore is required on the duration of the convener's office and her responsibility/authority. The other issue was of Committee conveners who seem to be dropping out.

Given that this has to be seen as an interim period where new elections are not possible and our effort is to try and get maximum members to participate we should follow the principle of "willing and present". ~~Arbitrariness should not be seen as a problem.~~ After discussion it was **decided** that:

1. **Maisoon and Nighat would be conveners of WAF**
2. **When WAF Lahore inputs are required in draft resolutions of other chapters each member can give comments directly.**
3. **In any resolution/event initiated in Lahore by WAF, we need to meet as GB and get in touch with at least all those who attend regularly.**

2. Hudood Ordinances: Discussion was with reference to the recent CII debate on the law and whether the govt. intends to repeal or amend the law. However it is not clear what will replace the law if repealed or amended. WAF's position has been for repeal with the assumption that there would be a reversal to the Penal Code. Hina threw light on the possibilities and their implications.

*WAF
Conveners
also getting
in touch with
members
of their
successors
or a
feedback
from some
members of
WAF*

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and June various Committee
Arbitrariness should not be seen as a problem.
One other
or other matters by
WAF Lahore will work on it
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It seems that CII intends to bring the entire zina law into the penal code which would tantamount to Islamicising the PPC. Another possibility is to retain the "Hadd" part in the Hudood Ordinances and take the "Tazeer" component of it to PPC. In other words whether there is "repeal" or "amendment" it would be in name only and will serve govt's PR/image purpose, without any change in the law itself. Hena's thinking is that the govt. will bring an amendment in Criminal Law with amendments in several laws including Hudood.

WAF therefore should ask for the repeal of the Hudood Ordinances and for fresh legislation on rape as we do not think the prior penal code provisions were satisfactory. WAF should draft a rape law and recommend regulations re circumstantial evidence and the kind of corroboration required. It should now demand a new "rape law" and a new definition of "rape" along with its demand for the "repeal of Hudood Ordinances."

It should also create awareness about the govt's real intentions behind its current rhetoric of "amending/repealing" the law."

Decisions:

1. **Resolution to be drafted to clarify the above to the GB and the Press and public at large.** Points to be included in the resolution/statement :
 - We do not respect CII recommendations unless these match ours;
 - We should ask for repeal
 - We should also define the content of the replacement law.
2. **Consultation on this issue to raise awareness** – educate the meeting of WAF demands. Lay them out clearly and no discussion on this.
3. **Signature campaign** to be addressed to the Parliament and copied to Gen. Musharaf.
Open Meeting
4. **Press conference:** Thursday July 13th Tuesday 4.00 Press Club (will cost Rs.6000).
 - Statement to be drafted in AGHS on 10 July, Monday 4.30 p.m. ~~for~~ inviting statement)
 - Mobilization – Convenors to send notice of meeting to the WAF 150 addresses; inform other networks, contacts.
 - Get the press to give out free ads to announce the meeting. text: "**End the Tyranny of Hudood Laws**"
WAF – Open meeting meeting:
Press Club 4-6 P.M. ~~Come One ; Come all.~~
 - Jugnu to get the ad written/formatted and send to Hina for Dawn, to Gulnar for News and Jang. Jugnu to get it in Daily Times as public Interest ad. All ads to run from Monday to Thursday. Urdu translation also agreed upon: *Hudood Ordinance kay jabirana qawaneen say nijat; khawatenn mahaz-e amal ka khula ijlas. Sab ko anay ki daawat.*

3. Convention November 4-5 (2 days): One day Convention the first day open to duly mandated members of WAF from all chapters (other members may attend as observers). Open meeting the next day ending with celebration.

WAF has an existing amount of \$ 3568. Estimated cost of the convention is between Rs. 100,000 – 150,000. More work needs to be done re the number of participants expected and the nature of events before any further decisions are made. The attempt would be to raise the necessary funds from members or donations and not dip into reserves. Mementos for the event e.g. diary, bags should also be planned. The Events Committee will need to get activated.

It was agreed that the next General Body will be on the 20th July in AGHS at 4.00 pm