

WAF Meeting Minutes
29 March 2016

In attendance: Nighat Said Khan, Neelam Hussain, Lala Rukh, Nyla Naz, Khawar Mumtaz, Sumaira Ishfaq, Nabiha Meher, Maisoon Aziz, Mina Malik, Aysha Raja

Agenda:

1. Terrorist attacks
2. Orange train feedback
3. Honour killing and rape bill
4. What to do with WAF files?
5. WAF email list
6. WAF blog activation
7. WAF chapter report
8. Photographic history
9. Lahore convention
10. New members sessions
11. Confidentiality

- Bomb, Islamabad, maulvis and rangers statement needed.
- Media blackout? But they are reporting.
- Govt statement? PM address to the nation
- Now military deciding how to go forward
- Religious groups did not abide by decision to have peaceful protest
- But government had put containers there
- Did state allow this to happen? Was pre planned.
- Army operation has started all over Punjab after the fact. First had a meeting, announced and instantly started.
- Started with central Punjab including Lahore.
- Civilian government should have called the army ideally instead of army making own decision, but current Punjab government is very slow and not quick decision making.
- Are we opposed to all militarisation? But how can we object to just Punjab when every other province is having army operations?
- Women & children make soft targets
- **Tahira's statement endorsed by WAF Lahore.**

- **Victims require support e.g. making sure they get their compensation.**

Orange train

- Stay has been extended
- Neelam suggestion: focusing mostly on heritage
- **Land acquisition relocation and compensation. Include environment. File petition.**
- Include blue and purple lines petition for information
- Destroying old city with new roads. Demand development plans from LDA.
- **Petition: Lahore is a heritage site. Heritage writ. Need pro bono lawyer.**
- **Demand Lahore development plans as a petition right to information. "Greater Lahore development scheme"**
- **Public interest case: right to culture & history after getting the information.**
- **Ask Anwar Kamal. Rani to call and get an appointment to discuss.**
- Land acquisition and environment specifically for orange line.
- Construction increases dust and particle matter.

- Great Lahore: all districts will be incorporate into the city. Mega city. The district will become the city of Lahore.
- We want to know: what are the implications? Small peasant lands. Good agricultural land turning into luxury housing. All villages will be demolished.
- **Aysha Raja to check with Rafay Alam if he has the master plan. Rani to check with Kamil.**
- 2 plans: Lahore city master plan & greater Lahore plans
- Filing land acquisition case and how? Lala is an affecte. Need to consult lawyer. Can ask Anwar.

Honour killings and rape bills:

- Met with Sughra Imam.
- **Very tight and sensitive negotiations are going on. Need for absolutely confidentiality.**
- **WAF needs to take up this issue with PML-N. They are creating the biggest hurdles.**
- Senate has passed both bills on “Anti honour killing law” and “anti rape law.” Passed some time ago. January 2014.
- Should have gone to national assembly automatically but were not taken there. Not presented within 3 months so now need a joint session.
- Joint session called for PIA. Senate refused to pass it. Passed in national assembly.
- Bills may pass if they do a deal. However, PML wants amendments and fear they will try to weaken it.
- JUI voted for it!
- Section 309: compromise should not take place until the case is decided. No pardoning until sentence is passed. Timing crucial.
- Section 311: under tazir, even if compensation, court allowed discretion.
- **Want to make bill stronger.**
- **Maulvi pressure. Worry is that PML-N will concede everything.**
- **PML-N is the main impediment. Important that they support it.**
- **WAF's task is to keep the pressure on and look at key people in PML-N. Need to identify.**
- Sharmin documentary sensational. Does not discuss history including how women's movement has lead us to this point and allowed this space.
- **WAF to write a letter to law minister regarding these bills especially honour killings. To be written with Hina J.**

Blog:

- Nabiha has reactivated blog
- There is also a Facebook page now

Chapter report:

- Is being translated into English
- Statement and papers to be put together as document to put on blog
- Blog: what is convention? Why were these papers prepared? All has to be written up to explain in context.

WAF history:

- **Lala to give an estimate on how much a photographic book will cost.**
- How many pages? Photos and text. In colour.
- Conventions: was there one in 1983? Two in 1982?
- 1991 WAF YWCA convention declared secular but charter changed a year later.
- Need to come up with a comprehensive history, fact checking and collective memory.
- **Starting from beginning until the split. Then to the merger.**

Lahore convention:

- Celebration in October or November.
- What space can we use? Need a venue.
- Expected participants: over 50.

Confidentiality:

- WAF is a safe space
- Convention information was leaked
- How to prevent this from happening?