

United Nations Prize in the Field of Human Rights
Office of the High Commissioner for Human rights
Palais des Nations
CH-1211 Geneva 10

The Hague, 8 August 2008
Our reference: 2008/FHA/145
Subject: Endorsement of the nomination of Aitzaz Ahsan for the United Nations Prize in the field of Human Rights 2008

To Whom it May Concern,

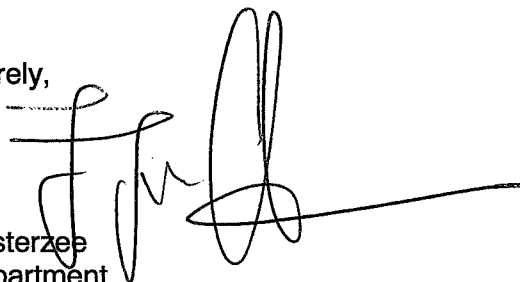
IKV Pax Christi in the Netherlands strongly supports the nomination of Mr. Aitzaz Ahsan for the 2008 United Nations Prize in the Field of Human Rights, which was jointly submitted by the Asian Legal Resource Centre and its sister organisation the Asian Human Rights Commission.

IKV Pax Christi supports democratic sections of civil society to contribute in a genuine process of democratisation in Pakistan. An independent judiciary is essential in a process to democracy.

The Lawyers Movement proved persistence and encouraged human rights defenders and other sections of Pakistani civil society to endorse its commitment to defend the independence of the judiciary. The Lawyers Movement also serves as an example for human rights defenders in other countries in which the judiciary is under threat.

The exceptional courage, under great sacrifices, that was shown by Mr. Aitzaz Ahsan – as summarized in the nomination petition submitted by ALRC/AHRC – deserves to be acknowledged.

Yours sincerely,



J.J. van Oosterzee
Head of Department
Middle East / Asia