

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,

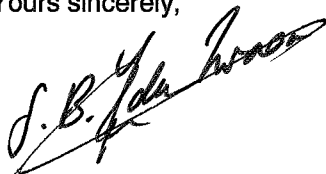
Justice and Peace Netherlands strongly supports the nomination of Mr. Aitzaz Ahsan for the 2008 United Nations Prize in the Field of Human Rights, which was jointly submitted by the Asian Legal Resource Centre and its sister organisation the Asian Human Rights Commission.

Justice and Peace Netherlands promotes the human rights of minorities and women in Pakistan. An independent judiciary is essential for the protection of the human rights of these groups.

The commitment of the Lawyers Movement to defend the independence of the judiciary serves as an example for human rights defenders in Pakistan and other countries in which the judiciary is under threat.

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

Yours sincerely,



S.B. van der Zwaan
Acting director