

LAWYERS' RIGHTS WATCH CANADA

NGO in Special Consultative Status with the Economic and Social Council of the United Nations

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Promoting human rights by protecting those who defend them

United Nations Prize in the Field of Human Rights
Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights
Palais des Nations
CH-1211 Geneva 10
Fax: +41 22 91 79004
Email: humanrightsprize@ohchr.org

Dear Messieurs and Mesdames;

Re: Nomination by the Asian Human Rights Commission (AHRC) and the Asian Legal Resource Centre (ALRC) of Aitzaz Ahsan for United Nations Prize In The Field Of Human Rights 2008

Lawyers Rights Watch Canada (LRWC), a committee of Canadian lawyers who promote the rule of law and advocacy rights internationally, supports and endorses the nomination of Mr. Aitzaz Ahsan for the award of the United Nations Prize in the Field of Human Rights for 2008, in recognition of his critically important role in the Lawyers Movement in Pakistan and his decades-long contribution to human rights in Pakistan.

Mr. Aitzaz Ahsan's extraordinary contributions to the peaceful struggle for human rights in Pakistan, as summarized in the nomination petition submitted by ALRC/AHRC, are well known to LRWC and other NGOs around the world.

LRWC believes that it is of particular importance that Mr. Ahsan's example of principled human rights advocacy be recognized and celebrated by the United Nations at a time when governments around the globe are invoking violence and dismantling human rights ostensibly in the name of 'fighting terrorism' and 'improving security'. It is also important to recognize and celebrate the peaceful and lawful advocacy of Aitzaz Ahsan and the Pakistan Lawyers Movement at time when forces within and without Pakistan threaten the illegal use of force.

Thank you.

Gail Davidson
Executive Director, LRWC