

May 3, 2007

H.E. General Pervez Musharraf
President
Islamic Republic of Pakistan
ISLAMABAD
Fax:

SUB: Conditions of Dalits in Mirpurkhas Division

Dear Sir,

Your scheduled visit to Naunkot, the centre-point of the Mirpurkhas Division and the region where Dalits form almost 35 per cent of the total population is being viewed by Dalits as very important. The reason is that you have taken some steps to pull the Dalits of Pakistan, known as Scheduled Castes, from the tragic history of sufferings in the form of untouchability, caste-discrimination, and human inequality of different forms and manifestations.

Though it may surprise your honour and your local so-called upper caste people, both Muslims and Hindus, may term it as part of their culture, but the fact remains on the ground that Dalits in Pakistan are still being subjected to many forms of untouchability, caste discrimination, human inequality and humiliation just because they are born as Shudras. All these sufferings are ordained in the Manu Samriti, or Law (Code) of Manu. Some of these Codes, which could be found as being implemented in this region, which your honour is visiting, are as follows:

A low-caste man who tries to place himself on the same seat with a man of high caste shall be branded on his hip and be banished, or [the king] shall cause his buttock to be gashed. (Any form of punishment for this 'crime')

A man of low caste, who, through covetousness, lives by the occupations of a higher one, the king shall deprive of his property and banish.

No collection of wealth must be made a Shudra, even though he be able [to do it], for a Shudra who has acquired wealth gives pain to Brahmins.

A Brahmin may confidently seize the goods of [his] Shudra [slave], for, as that [slave] can have no property, his master may take his possessions [] and they should not have any property except dogs and donkeys.

Mr. President,

The conditions of Dalits in Pakistan have not improved despite the promise of Founder of the Nation Quaid-e-Azam Mohammad Ali Jinnah, who addressed a Press conference on August 15, 1944 and said "I can tell my friends of the Scheduled Castes that at no time have I overlooked their interests and position and I may claim that in the past I have done all I could to help them, and I

shall always stand for their protection and safe--guard in any future scheme of constitution for I think that the wrongs and injustices inflicted on them for centuries should not be allowed to continue under any civilized form of government."

In Tharparker, Umerkot, Mirpurkhas, Badin, Tando, Allahyar and other districts of lower Sindh, the utensils for Scheduled Castes are kept separate in government schools, government departments and public places.

In Tharparker, the Scheduled Castes who form 35 per cent of the population, have practically been deprived their due share in development schemes worth billions of rupees under your government.

An in Tharparker alone, thousands of Scheduled Castes people have been deprived of their cattle, moveable and immovable properties through theft and forced occupation. Under what law this is done, perhaps it is the same Manu Samriti reinvented by the upper castes.

I hope your honour will take swift action to end all these sufferings and deprivations of the Scheduled Castes while addressing the people in Naunkot on May 5, 2007.

The Scheduled Castes of Pakistan hope you would consider remedial for these ills.

With Best Regards,

S Surendar Valasai
Founder-President
Scheduled Castes Federation of Pakistan (SCFP)
Tharparker/Karachi

Website <http://www.geocities.com/pakdalits/1/main.htm>