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Human Rights and Terrorism

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MAHARASHTRA UNITED NATIONS ASSOCIATION

Report on activities by Sh. A.A. Syed Secretary General

MUNA Celebrated United Nations Day on Wednesday 24 October, 2001 at Century Hall World Trade Centre, Cuffe Parade, Mumbai. Hon'ble Justice Vishnu Sahai of Mumbai High Court was chief guest. The guests of Honour and speakers were H.E. Mark Moren Council Head of the Republic of Poland, Mr. Rafique A Dada Senior Counsel Bombay High Court and Mrs. Chandra Ganesh Iyer Asstt. Dean of Students Welfare SNTD Women's University. This function was organised in collaboration with the Govt. Of Maharashtra and Rotary Club of Bombay Hills South. The programme opened with National Anthem and just after two minutes silence was observed for the victims of terrorism all over the world.

Mr. K.M. Abraham Vice President welcomed Chief guest, guests, speakers and invitees. Ms. Mohini Mathur – Executive Chairperson in her address high lighted activities of MUNA and role of United Nations in maintaining world Peace. Each



U.N. Day-2001 held on 24th October 2001, at World Trade Centre sitting from left to right Mr. A.A. Syed, Secretary General, MUNA; Dr. S.V. Rege, Hon. Secretary of Rotary Club of Bombay hill south; Mr. Rafique A. Dada, Sr. Counsel Mumbai High Court; H.E. Mr. Morek Moren-Consul-Head of the Republic of Poland; The Hon'ble Mr. Justice Vishnu Sahai, Mumbai High Court; Ms. Mohini Mathur, Executive Chairperson of MUNA; Mrs. Chandra Ganesh Iyer, Asstt. Dean of students welfare S.N.D.T. University; Mr. K.M. Abraham Vice President, MUNA

Speaker enlightend the audience on the different aspect of work done by U.N. and its Specialized Agencies. A Cultural programme was presented after the speeches. Children of Indonesian School recited poems on theme of "Struggle for Freedom". Students of Green Lawns High School enacted a play on 'Environment'. A Tableau 'Father of the Nation' performed by A.R. Undre English High School, was applauded

by all 'Variations' group presented Folk dances on Indian Culture. All the participants of Cultural programme were given Certificate of appreciation.

Vote of thanks was moved by Mr. A.A. Syed, Secretary General.

The function concluded with "Sare Jahan se Accha Hindustan hamara" played by Maharashtra Police Band.

MUNA OBSERVE HUMAN RIGHTS DAY

Human Rights Day was observed on 10 December 2001 AT Y.B. Chavan Center. H.E. Mrs. Nancy Rossignol, Consul General of Belgium was the Chief Guest. Mrs. Niloufer Bhagwat, Prof. Dr. Lionel Fernandes and Prof. Dr. P. Daniel were the speakers. Mr. K.M. Abraham. Vice President of MUNA, welcomed the guests, Mrs. Mohini Mathur highlighted the role MUNA is playing to propagate awareness about the U.N. and its Programmes. Prof. Dr. Lionel

Fernandes stressed on giving Human Rights Education at school level so that, right from the beginning every individual should know the rights. Prof. Dr. P. Daniel spoke about violation of human rights at all levels. Mrs. Nioufer Bhagwat was also critical about the violation of Human Rights, H.E. Mrs. Nancy Rossignol in her address said that terrorist act on 11 September has been declared a crime against humanity by the U.N. Centre for Human Rights. She

continued, Human Rights are an essential element in the shaping of an ethical foundation to Globalization and to assure for all people the right to health, housing education and justice etc. Ethical Globalization requires greater International co-operation; She referred to unprecedented international co-operation for terrorism. A similar co-operation for human rights is needed. Mr. A.A. Syed moved vote of thanks.

1946 UN Commission on Human Rights

In 1946, the UN established the Commission on Human Rights – the principal policy-making body for human rights within the UN system.

Under the Chairmanship of Eleanor Roosevelt, human rights activist and widow of former U.S. President Franklin Roosevelt, the Commission took up the job of defining basic rights and freedoms. Key contributors included René Cassin (France), Charles Malik (Lebanon), Peng Chun Chang (China), Hernán Santa Cruz (Chile), Alexandre Bogomolov and Alexei Pavlov (Soviet Union), Lord Dukeston and Geoffrey Wilson (United Kingdom), William Hodgson (Australia) and John Humphrey (Canada).

“Basically we could not have peace, or an atmosphere in which peace could grow, unless we recognized the rights of individual human beings... their importance, their dignity ... and agreed that was the basic thing that had to be accepted throughout the world.”

— Eleanor Roosevelt, USA

HUMAN RIGHTS AND TERRORISM



From right: Sh. T.N. Chaturvedi; Sh C.L. Goel, Sh. Dang, Sh. S.P. Kalra, Sh. K.K. Sood, Sh. Bharat Babbar.

Every year on 10 December Human Rights Day is observed to assess its violations and to assert resolve on its observance. For the last few decades this has attained much more importance, as its violence is on the increase and terrorism is most violative of Human Rights. Government is more worried to counteract this menace within the framework of existing laws or to enact new one for its suppression. This has raised controversy between Govt. and Human Rights activists as they assert that any such law enacted should not be violative of Human Rights. This year such atmosphere was prevailing as Govt. is keen to regularize Prevention of Terrorism Ordinance whereas National Human Rights Commission asserts it to be violative of Human Rights.

On 10 December, Indian Federation of United Nations Associations organised ‘Human Rights Day’ at Nehru Museum and Library auditorium, Teen Murti House, New Delhi. Hon’ble Justice J.S. Verma Chairman Human Rights

Commission delivered key note address. Other speakers were Hon’ble Sh. I.D. Swami Minister of State for Home Affairs and Hon’ble Sh. Ravi Shanker Prasad Minister of State in Coal and Mines and Mr. Feodor Starcevic, Director UNIC.

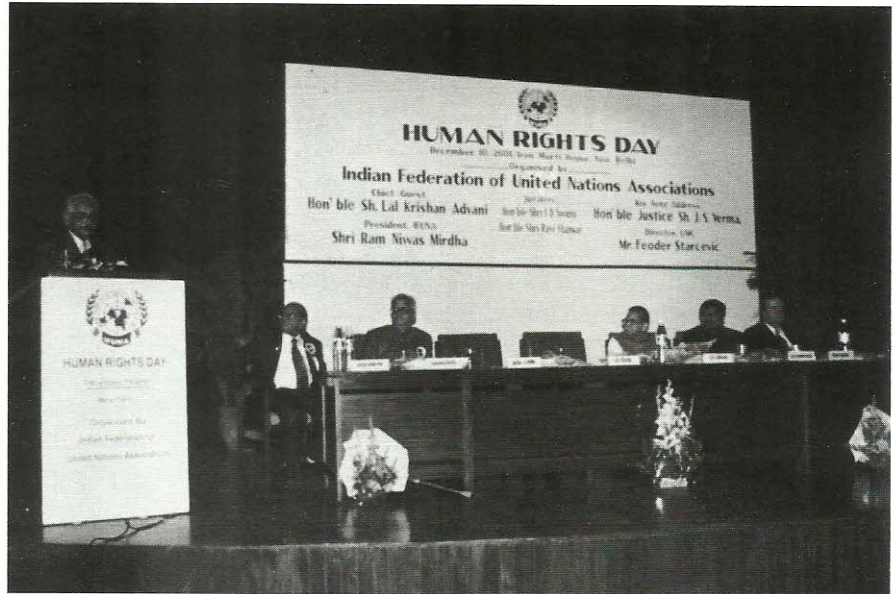
Sh. Ram Niwas Mirdha President IFUNA welcomed Hon’ble Justice Sh. J.S. Verma and Hon’ble Ministers, speakers and guests. The programme was inaugurated by lighting the Traditional Lamp by Hon’ble guests and singing of National Anthem. That in today’s world, that Human Rights are universal, has been legitimized and a wide framework of international legal instrument to check its violation exists. Mr. Starcevic said in his speech, he continued that there is commitment to strengthen the UN Human Rights Treaty mechanism, The system by which the adherence of governments to the core treaties is examined. The number of National Human Rights Institutions is growing. He emphasized that governments have responsibility to take

appropriate measures to ensure the Human security of their Citizens and residents.

Hon'ble Justice Verma in his keynote address laid stress that tolerance is essential to Human Rights; Tolerance of a point of view you don't like. He was referring to POTO. Justice Verma said "whatever decision is finally taken, everybody will abide by it. But in the decision making procedure, we must not shut our eyes to other views."

Justice Verma asserted that 'Human Rights were no hindrance to peace and security. Individual liberty and national security exists together. They are not inconsistent.

Hon'ble Minister Sh. I.D. Swami and Sh. Ravi Shanker Prasad in their speeches had taken the line that POTO is not Violative of Human Rights which Hon'ble Justice Verma has asserted in his address. They said 'Human Rights are laudable' objectives but we cannot forget the reality that terrorists are bent upon destroying the rule of law, violating the basic Human Rights of Common Citizen and reducing them to 'victims of terror. Sh. I.D. Swami said' In the



From left to right: Hon'ble Justice J.S. Verma, Sh. Suresh Srivastava, Sh. R.N. Mirdha, Hon'ble Sh. I.D. Swami, Hon'ble Ravi Shanker Prasad and Mr. F. Starcevic.

U.S. it took three days to pass the law. On the first day, the House of Representatives passed it. Second day the Senate passed it and on third day President Bush put his seal on it.

He continued that government has to do fine balancing act between maintaining peace and security and Human Rights. This balancing act,

this tight – rope - walking cannot be done always. He added, "since the right to life had been destroyed by terrorists there is a need to meet this extra ordinary situation. He also claimed the government had information that some Human Rights organizations had links with terrorists and were being funded by them, without naming any.



Hon'ble Justice J.S. Verma, Chairman Human Rights Commission Lighting Lamp
From left Mr. Ravi Shanker, Mr. Feoder Starcevic, Sh. R.N. Mirdha and Sh. Parvesh Khanna

Sh. Suresh Srivastava, Secretary General IFUNA, moved vote of thanks. Mr. Srivastava said that... the observance of the International Human Rights Day is very close to the cause of IFUNA. As the members of IFUNA know that, the World Federation of United Nations Associations was formed on 26 June 1946 immediately after the formation of the United Nations. The preamble of the United Nations Organization starts with the world "We the people of United Nations" but in practice all the Governments of the world are the members of United Nations Organization which may not necessarily reflect the view of the people of the respective countries. Therefore, great thinkers like Mr. Jan Masreck the former Foreign Minister of Yugoslavia and Ms. Roosevelt the

U.N. DAY CELEBRATION



From left to right Mr. K.M. Abraham, Vice President MUNA, Dr. V.S. Rege, Hon'ble Secy. of Rotary Club of Bombay Hills South, Mr. Rafique A Dada, Sr.-Council Mumbai HighCourt, Mr. Vimal V. Shah, President Rotary Club of Bombay Hills South, H.E. Mr. Marek Moran, Council - Head of the Republic of Poland, The Hon'ble Mr. Justice Vishnu Sahai, High Court, Mumbai, Ms. Mohini Mathur, Executive Chairperson of MUNA, Mr. Chandra Ganesh Iyer, Asstt. Dean of Students Welfare S.N.D.T. University, Mr. Amal C. Chaudhari, Ex-President, Rotary Club of Bombay Hills South, Mr. A.A. Syed, SecretaryGeneral (MUNA)

wife of the then President of USA Mr. Franklin Roosevelt and many other prominent personalities of the world decided to form WFUNA. IFUNA which represent India in the world body is part of the movement of the United Nations ideals but the cause of human rights is very close to IFUNA, for the reason, that the founder of the WFUNA Ms. Roosevelt was the Chairperson of the Human Rights Committee under whose aegis Charter of Human Rights declaration was prepared and adopted. Ms. Ellen Roosevelt was also the President of WFUNA in a way the Universal Declaration of Human Rights is the gift to the civilization from WFUNA. We know it that inspite of the constraints of being the Minister of State in the Home Ministry and to maintain Law and Order of the country for Sh. I.D. Swami, Human Rights is an Article of Faith. More than 50 Years have passed since the adoption of Universal declaration of Human

Rights and much water has flown down the seven seas. A new threat to Human Rights has emerged in the shape of Terrorism. The terrorist kills innocent men, women and children with impunity and they seek to defy state machinery which is committed to protect the life of citizens and the terrorist not only kill innocent people but also unleash a reign of terror on state machinery by various dubious means including suicidal bombing. The right of innocent victims which includes ordinary citizens and forces who are committed to protect the life of innocent people could not be ignored and need to be taken care off.

Shri Suresh Srivastava said that we are enlightened by the thought provoking speeches by Sh. I.D. Swami Hon'ble Justice J.S. Verma, Sh. Ravi Shankar Prasad, Sh. Feodor Starcevic. Sh. Ram Niwas Mirdha. We thank them for sparing time from their busy schedule.

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