

Peace Award 2007

Gilgit-Baltistan National Alliance (GBNA) organized a peace award ceremony in a local hotel at Gilgit Northern Areas of Pakistan. GBNA is an umbrella grouping of 13 political and religious parties in Gilgit-Baltistan region. The GBNA is the only liberal, secular and democratic alliance in the region which is struggling for political rights of area which is being administered by the federal government of Pakistan with few political rights of more than one and half million people.

Peace award was given by the chairman GBNA to those individuals, committees, and organizations that played their crucial role for peace building in the region during sectarian armed conflicts in 2005. More than 60 peoples, committees, and organizations received peace award which included Aman Jirga (peace Committee), journalists form local newspapers, government officials, families of those persons who were killed while saving the people during the conflicts, literary originations etc. Association of Global Humanists & Ethics (AGHE) was the only non-governmental organization (NGO) that was selected by the executive committee of GBNA for "Peace Award" for its peace building efforts during the sectarian conflict in 2005.

Malik Maskeen Speaker Northern Areas Legislative Council and Head Aman Jirga (peace committee) during his presidential address in the award ceremony pay tribute to the organizer of ceremony and tiring efforts of member parties of the Alliance for their contribution in peace building in the region. He especially thanked to the chairman GBNA Mr. Innayat Ullah Khan Shumali for encouraging the peace lovers.

Malik Maksin while his speech in the ceremony also admired the efforts of AGHE for peace building in the region. He publicly admitted that AGHE led and has honored to speak up against sectarian violence openly and firstly. He said that AGHE's volunteers organized the peace rally at the time when there was fear, silence, terror and uncertainty every where in the region.

On the behalf of AGHE, Mr. Shoukat Akber Khan, President Regional Executive Body of AGHE Northern Areas received the peace award. On the behalf of GBAN, Mr. Shifat Ghazoor, Inspector General of Police Northern Areas of Pakistan presented the award shield to Mr. Shoukat Akber Khan.

More than 200 men and women from each sector life which included legislators, high government officials, journalists, social workers, artists, educationists and representatives of NGOs attended the peace award ceremony. It was first in the history of the Northern Areas of Pakistan that a civil society organization and a political alliance awarded the peace builders in the region.

President Central Executive Body of AGHE, Mr. Syed Ijaz Hussain Shah thanked the Gilgit Baltistan National Alliance for considering the AGHE for peace award. He said that GBNA acknowledged AGHE's efforts for peace building in the area and AGHE mark respect of GBNA for setting a new trend in the area to make the peace process sustainable.