

International Humanitarian day

"sacrificing one's life to save another"

GLOBAL PEACE PIONEERS-GPP

A Lecture arranged by Global Peace Pioneers – Pakistan celebrated on August 19, 2009 in connection with international Humanitarian day at Star Public school in Ternal, Islamabad

GPP celebrated International Humanitarian Day with the concept
"Sacrificing one's life to save another"

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contents

- **Executive Summary**
- **Background – International Humanitarian Day**
- **About GLOBAL PEACE PIONEERS (GPP)**
- **Excerpt of speeches**
- **Conclusion**
- **Pictures of the Event**

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BRIEF SUMMARY

To designate 19 August as World Humanitarian day and in order to contribute to increasing public awareness about humanitarian assistance activities worldwide and the importance of international co-operation in this regard as well as to honor all humanitarian personnel around the world who worked in the promotion of humanitarian cause and also those who lost their lives in the line of duty Global Peace Pioneers arranged a lecture in Star Public School in Ternol for the students and the teachers there.

The theme of the lecture was “***Sacrificing one’s life to save another***”.

The global Peace Pioneers representatives arrived at Star Public school and met informally with the students and the Teachers and briefed them about the topic of the lecture.

Ms. Hina Iqbal spoke to the pupils and teachers about the importance of Humanitarian day and outlined the various points as why we celebrate it. After her speech Ms. Ayisha Khan of GPP delivered the lecture. Followed by speeches from Mrs. Kiran Imran and Mr. Manzoor Suhata of GPP.

The students were mobilized and encouraged to participate and ask questions. The Teachers were also very co-operative and the whole Lecture was a successful event.

BACKGROUND – INTERNATIONAL HUMANITARIAN DAY

The sixty-third session of the General Assembly, United Nations announced in December 2008 to designate 19 August, the date of the 2003 Canal Hotel bombing in Baghdad, as World Humanitarian Day. The focus of the humanitarian day is primarily on commemorating those whose lives have been lost while engaged in humanitarian operations, but emphasis is also placed on current humanitarian needs and challenges.

This day is also an occasion for remembering humanitarian staff who lost their lives serving others. There are many, and they come from partner UN agencies, the Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement, and numerous intergovernmental and nongovernmental organizations. GPP remembers all those who have lost their lives with great sadness, but also great respect.

World Humanitarian Day was in part dedicated to all those humanitarian workers killed while trying to assist communities in distress, many of whom came from those very communities. Among those dedicated professionals was one of the

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great humanitarians, Sergio Vieira de Mello, killed along with 21 other colleagues in a bomb attack on United Nations headquarters at the Hotel Canal in Baghdad on 19 August 2003. GPP salutes their efforts to try and deliver humanitarian assistance continued to be limited in many places by ever more

Frequent and violent attacks, of which they were increasingly the targets. World Humanitarian Day is an occasion for paying tribute to the men and women who work to save the lives and protect the health of people affected by emergencies, whether caused by conflict or natural disasters.

ABOUT GPP

Global Peace Pioneers is a Non-Governmental Organization established to serve the communities of all faiths. GPP aims to create a new generation of peace workers and peace ambassadors to bring about a positive change in the community towards prevention of conflicts and promotion and sustenance of peace in the multi-ethnic, multi-cultural Pakistan and beyond. GPP is serving with its three main segments: Peace through Education, Livelihood and Relief and Rehabilitation. GPP is a nonpartisan, relief and development organization dedicated to promote religious tolerance, Peace, culture, interfaith harmony, and respect for all religions in our society through various development projects and working in joint venture with International and National Partners in Pakistan. GPP has organized various events for the promotion of Peace within Pakistan and will continue to serve the communities for the promotion and restoration of peace, justice, religious tolerance, economic stability of families and enable the citizens of Pakistan and the globe to realize their rights and obligations.

EXCERPT OF SPEECHES

Ms. Hina Iqbal – Chairperson Global Peace Pioneers

To mark the Occasion of World humanitarian day Ms. Hina Iqbal said that the focus of the humanitarian day is primarily on honoring those whose lives have been lost while engaged in humanitarian operations, but emphasis is also placed on current humanitarian needs and challenges that we face especially in our North Pakistan.” She said GPP abides by the mission of the humanitarian community. This is also a day on which she pay tribute to the legions of heroic humanitarian personnel. These men and women come from many backgrounds. But they share a conviction that one person’s suffering is everyone’s responsibility. She asserted that “we should be dedicated to the mission of Peace and never forget those peacemakers and Humanitarian workers who died

While performing their dangerous duties knowing the risks involved as the attacks on peace workers has increased in war zones in past a few years.”

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Ms. Ayisha Khan

Global Peace Pioneers

Ms. Ayisha of GPP honored many thousand of humanitarian workers who have devoted their lives to serving humanity, matching idealism with action, and principles with practice. She said: Humanitarian needs are growing faster than our ability to deal with them. Long-running and intractable conflicts are still exacting an unconscionable toll on civilians. Natural hazards are becoming increasingly severe and frequent. The international humanitarian community is facing new threats generated by the combined effects of global mega-trends: climate change, chronic poverty, the food and financial crises, water and energy scarcity, migration, population growth, urbanization, pandemics. While much has been achieved, the challenges faced by many millions of people around the world are still formidable, and the need for principled and effective humanitarian action is greater than ever.

Mrs. Kiran Imran

Global Peace Pioneers

Ms Kiran of GPP acknowledged the vital role played by the Humanitarian workers around the world and said. “Their selfless and non-political endeavors are vital for the assistance to the needy and should be provided impartiality and neutrally without reference to religion, gender or race”. Mrs. Imran reaffirmed Gap’s commitment to lead responses to the component of emergencies through the "humanitarian approach, uniting a diversity of skills and capacities from many partners. In doing so, she said “ we will continue to look for ways to streamline and better coordinate activities under demanding conditions of our organization.

Mr. Manzoor Sahota

Global Peace Pioneers

Mr. Manzoor of GPP encouraged the students and teachers to come forward and ask questions about the Humanitarian day and form a healthy discussion regarding the purpose and aim behind this special day. He emphasized on the importance of this day upon which we renew our commitment to help vulnerable, voiceless and marginalized people wherever they may be.

CONCLUSION

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The basic aim of this lecture was to create awareness in our youth and Future generation so they appreciate the hard and dangerous work of humanitarian and aid workers around the world who risk their own lives and selflessly go to dangerous and conflict zones to help the desperate and helpless people there. The lecture was celebrated in connection with international Humanitarian day so keeping this in view GPP tried its level best to sensitize young minds about the importance of Humanity and a role Humanitarian workers play to save lives around the world to safeguard lives and also play a vital role in relief and rehabilitation process of a crisis zone areas around the world.

“SACRIFISING ONE’S LIFE TO SAVE ANOTHER”

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