

Media Update

14 April 2015

United Nations

MEDIA ADVISORY

Photo Exhibition: “*Pakistani People and United Nations - Human stories through photography*” opens in Lahore.

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What: The United Nations in Pakistan cordially invites you to attend the opening of the photo exhibition “Pakistani People and United Nations - Human stories through photography”. The event will be held in collaboration with the National College of Arts and the Lahore City Heritage Museum.

When: Thursday, 16 October 2015, at 5:00 p.m.

Where: Lahore City Heritage Museum/Tollington Market, The Mall, Lahore.

Organized in conjunction with the 70th anniversary of the United Nations, the exhibition showcases professional photographs documenting how the United Nations makes a positive difference for millions of people: vaccinating children, distributing food aid, sheltering refugees, deploying peacekeepers, protecting the environment, seeking the peaceful resolution of disputes, and supporting democratic elections, gender equality, human rights and rule of law. The exhibition will remain open for one month starting 16 April 2015.

PROGRAMME:

– Opening Ceremony: 1700-1800 hours

Chief Guest: Rana Mashhood Ahmad Khan, Minister for School Education, Higher Education, Youth Affairs, Sports, Archaeology and Tourism, Government of Punjab

Opening remarks:

- Ms. Jacqui Badcock, United Nations Resident Coordinator and Humanitarian Coordinator, a.i.

Welcome notes:

- Mr. Vittorio Cammarota, Director, United Nations Information Centre
- Mr. Quddus Mirza, renowned artist, art critic and head of the Fine Arts department, National College of Arts, Lahore
- Ms. Sumaira Malik, Director, Lahore City Heritage Museum

RSVP: By 15 April via email at: pro2lhrmuseum@gmail.com.

We look forward to your participation.

ILO

PRESS RELEASE

Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Bonded Labour System (Abolition) Act 2015 was passed unanimously by the provincial assembly

Islamabad 14 April 2015: Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Bonded Labour System (Abolition) Act 2015 was passed unanimously by the provincial assembly on 6th of April 2015. This follows the ongoing labour law reform in the country which is a result of 18th amendment to the constitution- under which, social subjects including labour was devolved to the provinces. The Government of KP had already promulgated 8 labour laws and this is another milestone. The Department of Labour KP with the support of the ILO is organizing awareness raising seminars and trainings on the existing legislation to engage workers, employers and government officials responsible for the implementation of enacted laws across all districts in KP.

This new Act has 28 articles which provide for the prohibition of the slavery and debt bondage in all of its manifestations and regulating matters leading to

debt bondage of workers. Once assented to by the Governor KP, the Act will be applicable throughout the province of KP.

Some of the salient features of the Act are as follows:

- Bonded labour system shall stand abolished and every bonded labourer shall be free and discharged from any obligation to render any bonded labour.
- No person shall make any advance under, or in pursuance of, the bonded labour system or compel any person to render bonded or forced labour; any custom or tradition, practice or contract and agreement making a person or his family member bound to work or render service as a bonded labourer shall be void and inoperative.
- Liability to repay bonded debt to stand extinguished; no advance shall be extended or taken for extracting or rendering any labour under bonded labour system; Interest Free Advance (Qarza Hasna) is allowed in a prescribed manner and will not exceed three times of the minimum rates of wages; property of bonded labour to be freed from mortgage; and creditor not to accept payment against extinguished debt.
- The authorities to be specified for implementing the provisions of the act; duty of the authorised officers, inspectors, maintenance and production of records, punishment for enforcement of bonded labour, punishment for extracting bonded labour, punishment for omission or failure to restore possession of property to bonded labourer, punishment for obstructing inspector and abetment to be an officer.
- Vigilance committees shall be set up at the district level in a prescribed manner and a 1st class magistrate shall try an offence under this act. Provisions with regard to protection against all sorts of discrimination including on the basis of gender have also been made.

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