



**Pakistan Coalition for Education**

The Honorable,  
President of Pakistan  
Prime Minister of Pakistan  
Chief of Army Staff /through DG ISPR  
Ministers of Information, Interior, Education, Social Welfare  
Heads of Political Parties  
Media Heads

Friday 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2009

**Signature & Petition Campaign for Swat and FATA – (Jan 16<sup>th</sup> to 23<sup>rd</sup> 2009)**

Honorable Leaders

Enclosed are 3528, signatures<sup>1</sup> on the petition that was sent to you on the eve of the January 15<sup>th</sup> 2009 deadline for closure of schools in Swat, by the Child Rights Movement and the Pakistan Coalition for Education (PCE) (annex). The signatures have come from:

- Children in formal schools (government and private)
- Children in non-formal centers (child labor and drop in centers)
- Teachers, Educators
- Housewives
- Doctors/engineers
- NGOs
- Government officers
- Parliamentarians
- Media personnel
- Pakistanis living in the UK, USA and Europe

The campaign for restoration of Peace and Education is continuing through articles in the media, television documentaries, protest demonstrations and the signature campaign. This will continue until we see rights restored and schools re-opened in Swat and FATA.

The numbers of displaced persons is increasing and there is no provision for accommodating them and their children in schools or shelters. There is an URGENCY for the displace persons as well. The children would be missing their exams and losing a precious academic year. The families in need of social safety nets must have a swift linkage with Pakistan Bait ul Maal, (PBM), Zakaat and the Benazeer Shaheed Income Support Program, with a fast track mechanism with NADRA verification processes.

ACT NOW! Restore the WRIT OF THE STATE and fundamental rights of the Citizens of Pakistan

On behalf of the

**Child Rights Movement (CRM)** a coalition of 17 NGOs, INGOs and human rights activists  
**Pakistan Coalition for Education (PCE)** a coalition of 130 organizations in 55 districts

Cc: To all members of Child Rights Movement (CRM) & Pakistan Coalition of Education (PCE)

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<sup>1</sup> Three Sets of signatures 3528 delivered to The President, Prime Minister and Chief of Army Staff

## Annex

### **THE OFFICIAL SILENCE MUST END NOW ON GIRLS' EDUCATION.**

As members of Child Rights Movement (CRM) and the Pakistan Coalition of Education (PCE), we demand that the Government, Armed Forces, Parliamentarians and Media take urgent action in Swat where over a 100 girls schools have been torched and in FATA where another 150 schools have met the same fate.

The closing down of schools on January 15<sup>th</sup> 2009 will be a dangerous precedent for the citizens and children of Pakistan that will irreversibly push us into the dark ages. It will signal an era of entrenched anarchy in Pakistan denying our children their fundamental right to education, ushering a rapid disintegration of society and our country. The state cannot, and must not abrogate its responsibility simply because its writ has been challenged by anarchists seeking legitimacy through carnage and savagery.

#### **We recommend that:**

- 1. Immediately implement measures in the affected areas to ensure security of children**
- 2. Place security forces in front of each school to resist any further torching and closing down of girls' schools/colleges**
- 3. Torching of schools/education institutions must be announced as a heinous criminal offence to be handled through fast track mechanisms.**

This petition has been initiated on an emergency basis by the citizens of Pakistan in response to the open calls being made by the affected in those areas. Many more organizations will join in this cause in the coming days and weeks.

Sincerely, and with expectations to take immediate action !

For and On behalf of the

**Child Rights Movement (CRM)** a coalition of 17 NGOs, INGOs and human rights activists

**Pakistan Coalition for Education (PCE)** a coalition of 130 organizations in 55 districts

For CRM, House # 2-A, Street # 40, F-6/1, Islamabad. Tele # 051-2824838



Pakistan Coalition for Education

## Signatures Collected for the SWAT /FATA Petition January 15-22, 2009

<b>Organizations and Individuals</b>	<b>Number of Signatures</b>
KIPS College , Lahore	15
Sanjan Nagar Public Education Trust	359
Sanjan Nagar Institute of Philosophy and Arts	25
Meeting with parliamentarians in Lahore with NGO's	14
ITA, Lahore	16
Renaissance Education Foundation School	62
Youth Education Society	110
Institute for the Sister of Charity	274
ITACEC, UK	23
C.D.G Girls High School Allama Iqbal Road, Lahore	66
Govt. Girls Middle School, New Basti	27
Govt. New Islamia School, Gari Shahu	46
Govt. Malik Girls Middle School, Gari Shahu	51
C.D.G Junior Model Girls School , Masiti Gate, Lahore	30
City District Govt. Primary School, Yaki Gate, Lahore	27
City District Junior Model Middle School, Sooter Mandi , Lahore	26
C.D.G Girls High School, Paisa Akhbar	24
DCHD	42
Child Domestic Labour Program	666
TV- One	16
Govt Girls Primary School , Chiniot.	454
Meeting with Parliamentarians PCE	189
Government Schools District Multan	109
Allama Iqbal open University	31
Mr. Iqbal Riza, Ex Asst. Sec. General UN, Madrid	1
Faryal Khan, Paris	1
Tarfa Khan, USA	1
Concerned Citizens from Lahore	<b>23</b>
Schools, City District Govt. Lahore	500
Community Memembrs / Concerned Citizens	300
<b>Total</b>	<b>3528</b>