

A Tribute to Asma Jahangir

Throughout her life, Asma Jahangir lived according to her principles of standing up for the good and right cause, even though this might result in punishment by other forces, which she experienced in forms of imprisonment and house arrest. Working as a human rights lawyer and social activist, she is known for co-founding and chairing the “Human Rights Commission of Pakistan”. Furthermore, she served at the UN as the United Nations Special Rapporteur on Freedom and Religion of Belief. Besides others, further important positions of her were activism for the Lawyer’s Movement as well as her serving as a trustee at the International Crisis Group.

Her numerous achievements in her struggle for more equality, freedom and justice have been given credit by many awards, including the “Right Livelihood Award” in 2014, the “Freedom Award” in 2010, the Martin Ennals Award for Human Rights Defenders” in 1995 and many more.

At the age of 66 years, Asma Jahangir passed away at the 11th February 2018. To honour her work, the India Peace Centre organized “A Tribute to Asma Jahangir” at the 25th February 2018. The program was attended by 25 grieving participants from Nagpur, including social activist and workers. In the past, the India Peace Centre and the Pakistan-India Peoples’ Forum for Peace and Democracy that was co-founded by Asma Jahangir have been in contact and working together, as the Peoples’ Forum held some meetings on the premises of the India Peace Centre.

The Tribute to Asma Jahangir gave people and activists from Nagpur the chance to speak about Asma Jahangir’s life and to honour her work. Speeches were given by Dr. Yagul Rayalu, Adv. Prakash Meghe, Mr. Mohan Pande, Prof. Shoma Sen and Mr. Jatin Desai. Following this, participants of the program took the opportunity to come in front and say some further words in behalf of Asma Jahangir’s achievements.

