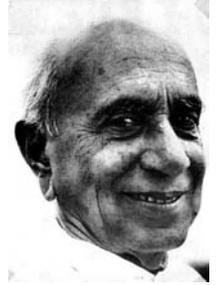




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A.R. KAKEPOTO – INFORMATION SECRETARY

Two Luminaries Honored for their Contributions to Sindhi Society

LONDON, 28 OCTOBER, 2006. Renowned Sindhi writer and activist Mr. Mohan Gehani (69) of Bhopal, India was conferred with the prestigious G. M. Syed Memorial Lifetime Achievement Award 2006 in recognition of his exceptional contributions to Sindhi culture, identity and the Sindhi rights movement.

Writer, historian and activist Mr. Khadim Hussain Soomro was awarded the G. M. Syed Memorial Advocacy Award 2006 for his literary and advocacy work promoting the teachings and life's work of G. M. Syed.

These awards were announced on 28 October 2006 during the 18th International Conference on Sindh, organized by the World Sindhi Congress (WSC), a UK- and USA-based human rights advocacy group. These awards are jointly sponsored by WSC and the G. M. Syed Memorial Committee, a Houston, TX-based educational group.

G. M. Syed Memorial Awards are conferred to honor the memory of Mr. Syed, a visionary leader who pioneered the Sindhi freedom movement and was a beacon of the Sindhi people's struggle for national self-determination. In 2004, three renowned scholars, Mr. Keerat Babani of Mumbai, India; Mr. Ibrahim Joyo of Jamshoro, Sindh, Pakistan; and Dr. Motilal Jotwani of Delhi, India, received awards in recognition of their exceptional contributions to Sindhi culture, identity and Sindhi rights movement. In 2005, Mr. Sobho Gianchandani of Larkano and Mr. Azad Kazi of Karachi were awarded the G. M. Syed Memorial Lifetime Achievement Award and the G .M. Memorial Advocacy Award respectively.

Mohan Gehani is a prominent Sindhi writer and poet who is one of the most influential figures uniting the Sindhi diaspora in India and Dubai with the Sindhi in Sindh. Mr. Gehani was born in Karachi, Sindh and now lives in Bhopal, India. He has written several books, the most notable of which is *Jhalkyoon*, a brief account of Sindh's history. He has been active on numerous cultural and literary forums and is regular contributor to Sindhi magazines and research projects.



The G. M. Syed Memorial Lifetime Achievement Award is bestowed on Mr.



Gehani in appreciation for his lifelong struggle to promote unity, peace, and freedom for Sindhi peoples throughout the world and to recognize his literary works and grassroots efforts.

Mr. Khadim Hussain Soomro is a historian, researcher, biographer and activist who has authored seven books and done research on Sindhi Sufism and Sindhi history and culture. He has been active in numerous social and political forums since his teenage years and remained one of the closest associates of Sain G. M. Syed. Presently, Mr. Soomro is the executive director of the Sindh Sufi Institute and proprietor of *Sain Publishers*, both of which are based in Karachi Sindh.



Through these organizations he is working to revive the secular and Sufi legacies of Sindhi culture and society. His notable books are: *The Path Not Taken, G. M.*

Syed: The Vision and Valour in Politics; Baba Guru Nanak Aur Sindh ke Sufia; Sufis of Indus Valley, Harchandrai: Father of Modern Karachi, Vishindas: A Great Philanthropist; and Allah Bux Soomro: Apostle of Secular Harmony.

The G. M. Syed Memorial Advocacy Award 2006 has been awarded to Mr. Soomro in appreciation of his literary and advocacy work to promote the teachings and life's work of G. M. Syed, and his contribution to the Sindhi Rights Movement.

The World Sindhi Congress (WSC) is one of the most prominent human rights advocacy organizations for Sindh and Sindhis. The main objective of WSC is to create a better understanding among the international community about the persecuted status of Sindhis in Pakistan and about the Sindhi people's struggles for their human rights, including the right to self-determination. WSC is a registered company in England and Wales, and California, USA, organized to carry out non-profit activities only. For more information, visit <http://www.worldsindhicongress.org>.

The G. M. Syed Memorial Committee is a Houston, TX-based educational group organized to promote G. M. Syed's message of non-violence, democracy, secularism and the right to self-determination for Sindhis and other oppressed nations within the international community. For more information, visit <http://www.gmsyed.org>.