

## PRESS RELEASE

### Norwegian trade union leaders visit PILER; meet Pakistani counterpart



KARACHI, April 4: Ms. Renee Kristin Rasmuseen, General Secretary, Norwegian Trade Union Federation and Ms Sandra Petersen, Executive Director NHRF (Norwegian Human Rights Fund) held a meeting with Pakistani trade union leadership at PILER Centre, here on Tuesday and exchanged views about situation of trade unions.

Karamat Ali, Executive Director, Pakistan Institute of Labour Education and Research (PILER) said on the occasion that trade union situations in Pakistan is very unfavourable for workers as only one percent of total work force is associated with the trade unions movement. In such a situation, he said, the labour have failed to exercise their right of collective bargaining, thus suffer economic problems.



The introduction of contract system in the employment and privatization has eroded the trade unions movement. Despite the fact Pakistan has acquired the Generalised System of Preferences (GSP)-Plus facility for duty free export of goods in European market on the condition that it would implement 27 international conventions and covenants, but no serious effort has been made to implement those conventions.

Eight core labour rights conventions of International Labour Organisation (ILO) are also part of these 27 conventions, which must be implemented to continue enjoying the GSP-Plus status, he added.



Speaking on the occasion Ms. Renee Kristin Rasmuseen, General Secretary, Norwegian Trade Union Federation (LO) said that in Norway 48.5 percent of workers are not registered in any trade union, whereas over 26 percent of total workforce of Norway is associated with her Federation.

She informed the meeting that there are 920,000 members of the federation, which include 50.1 percent females and 49.9 males. Around 125,000 members under 30 years, about 100,000 are academics and 18,000 are students.

Chairperson, Sindh Human Rights Commission Justice (Retd.) Majid Razvi also attended the meeting.

Habibuddin Junaidi, Convener of Sindh Labour Solidarity Committee; Shafiq Ghauri, Sindh Labour Federation; Liaqat Sahi, Democratic Workers Union (CBA), State Bank of Pakistan; Mir Zulfiqar Ali, Workers Education and Research Organisation; Qamrual Hassan, IUF; Jannat Hussain, PTUDC; Shaikh Majeed, Sindh Labour Federation; Ms. Rafia Gulani, Sindh Hari Poryat Council; Jalil Shah, KPT Labour Union; Dr. Ghulam Haider Malookhani, Green Rural Development Organisation; Zahid Farooque, Urban Resource Centre; Mirza Maqsood, Voice of Pakistan Steel Officers; Akram Khaskheli of Hari Welfare Association, Zulfiqar Shah of and others attended the meeting and took part in the discussion.