

First of all I would welcome the British delegation comprising Khalida Cox (Child Abduction Section, FCO, UK), Denise Carter (Director of Reunite (NGO UK) and Mr Albert David (Head of assistance unit consular section, British High Commission Islamabad).

District Bar Association Mirpur is a largest bar association. This Bar has created famous judges, political and social workers and had played a prominent role for the Kashmir freedom movement, civil liberties and to achieve basic human rights.

Mirpur is a city of those people who migrated. A large number of them have taken up their residence abroad, especially in United Kingdom. We the people, who are living in Azad Jammu Kashmir or UK, we consider United Kingdom our second home. In this way if any problem crops up in one country, the other country will also be under the effect of a given problem.

There may be many serious problems but one of them is a problem of Parental Child Abduction. And to deal with it, it requires our joint effort.

About Child Abduction, a UK-Pakistan judicial protocol was signed between the President of the family division and Chief Justice of Pakistan in January 2003. According to this protocol it was assured from both sides that steps will be taken to prevent the evil of Child Abduction. Further more in this protocol was said that one judge from each country will be appointed and an administrative service will come into operation and to achieve better results through this protocol, judiciary, lawyers and NGO's will do their best, also public awareness was assured to be generated for this protocol. More over it was mentioned that the judges and lawyers for such cases will receive proper training. Apart from creating judicial links between the two countries. It was considered appropriate to provide traveling opportunities to Judges and lawyers of both countries.

Almost six years ago when this protocol was signed but we have not been able to achieve these aims and fruitful results.

In today's gathering, I would like to say that Azad Jammu and Kashmir state has its own identity and independent status, it has its own constitution, own flag, own assembly, own president, own prime Minister and its own Supreme Court. Majority of Kashmiri people who resides in UK is from Mirpur. Therefore it is necessary to have a similar protocol to be signed between Azad Jammu and Kashmir Supreme Court and United Kingdom as a judicial protocol had been signed between United Kingdom and Pakistan. And to know the judicial systems of each country, judicial links should be created, judges and lawyers should be appointed. Besides generating the public awareness the lawyers those work in this field should be encouraged. I am feeling proud to work with REUNITE NGO UK as well as British High Commission Islamabad and expecting more good working relation for the elimination of Child Abduction, forced marriage and other political and social problems.

Thanking the delegation once again I end my speech.

From,

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Mirpur Azad Kashmir, Pakistan.

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