

MESSAGE OF THE PRIME MINISTER SYED YUSUF RAZA GILANI ON
THE OCCASION OF MINORITIES DAY, 11TH August, 2010
Islamabad: August 10, 2010

The present Democratic Government has declared 11th August, as “Minorities Day”, the day when the father of nation laid down the foundation of a progressive, modern and a democratic Pakistan. The founder of the nation, Quaid-e-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah made a solemn pledge at the time of creation of Pakistan that the policy of equality, freedom and security for all communities shall be practiced.

History of Islam is full of instances in which the minorities enjoyed peace, protection and equal social status. Government of Pakistan stands committed for the preservation of rights of Minorities in Pakistan. We continue to be one nation living with mutual respect, honour, peace and harmony. We recognize that our Minorities are responsible and patriotic and are playing their due role in nation building. We will, therefore, never allow the miscreants to be successful in their ulterior motives.

One of the top priorities of the present Democratic Government is to protect the rights of the Minorities and to uplift and empower them. Interfaith Harmony is being promoted through our Ministry ‘at international and national levels. Many steps have been taken by the People’s Government for the protection and promotion of Minorities like the reservation of 05% quota in Government jobs/Services, reservation of four, seats for minorities in the Senate, declaration of 11th August, as the Minorities Day, including observance of optional holidays and celebration of the festivals of Minorities at official level. We acknowledge the contribution and sacrifices of all Minorities not only in the freedom Movement but also for the development and prosperity of Pakistan.

The “Minorities Day” provides with us an opportunity to reassure that despite belonging to different faiths, we are one Nation which continues to march on for a prosperous, Pakistan. I hope, this Minorities Day will go down in the annals of history as a memorable day.