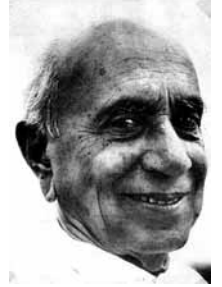


# G M Syed Memorial Committee

8427 Tamayo Drive  
Houston, TX 77083

Phone: 713-443-1410  
Fax: 408-715-0329  
Email: [info@gmsyed.org](mailto:info@gmsyed.org)  
Website: <http://gmsyed.org>

*September 22, 2005*



*1904-1995*

## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

A.R. KAKEPOTO – INFORMATION SECRETARY

## Two Luminaries Honored for their Contributions to Sindhi Society

LONDON, 24 SEPTEMBER 2005. Renowned Sindhi leader Mr. Sobho Gianchandani (86) of Larkano was conferred with the prestigious 'G. M. Syed Memorial Lifetime Achievement Award 2005' in recognition of his struggle for emancipation of Sindhis and other oppressed peoples of South Asia.

Another writer and political leader, Mr. Abdul Ahad (Azad) Qazi, was awarded the 'G. M. Syed Memorial Advocacy Award 2005' for his literary and advocacy work promoting the teachings and life's work of G. M. Syed.

These awards were announced during the 17th International Conference on Sindh, held on 24 September 2005 in London. The World Sindhi Congress (WSC), a UK- and USA-based human rights advocacy group organized this conference. 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. Last year, three renowned scholars, Mr. Keerat Babani of Mumbai, India; Mr. Ibrahim Joyo of Jamshoro, Sindh, Pakistan; and Dr. Motilal Jotwani of Delhi, India, were awarded in recognition of 'their exceptional contributions to Sindhi culture, identity and Sindhi rights movement.'

**Sobho Gianchandani** is a prominent Sindhi revolutionary who remains a source of inspiration for many generations of activists, writers and social reformers. Mr. Gianchandani, known lovingly as Comrade Sobho, has been associated with many political parties and campaign groups, including the Indian National Congress and Khudai Khidmatgar and is the founder of many progressive, democratic and nationalist campaigns in Sindh.

After the partition, Pakistani authorities pressured him – like millions of other Sindhi Hindus -- to leave Sindh and migrate to India, but Sobho refused, and in consequence he was forbidden to travel abroad until 1998. Sobho was imprisoned for more than a year during the British rule, and after the partition, he fell under the wrath of Pakistani establishment and has many jail sentences to his credit, including one in



1971 for opposing military sponsored genocide in Bangladesh.

Comrade Sobho and Mr. G. M. Syed were close associates and comrades in different aspects of the Sindhi rights movement. The G. M. Syed Memorial Lifetime Achievement Award is bestowed on Mr. Gianchandani in appreciation of his life-long struggle for emancipation for Sindhis and other oppressed peoples of South Asia and in recognition of his grass-roots efforts to promote tolerance, justice and peace.

**Mr. Abdul Ahad (Azad) Qazi**, writer, educationist, researcher and activist, has authored and edited more than nine books on G. M. Syed and has organized several seminars promoting Syed's message of secularism, freedom and democracy to the masses. Mr. Qazi has also done years of research work on Sindhi literature and society and is a regular contributor to Sindhi magazines and newspapers.

Mr. Qazi has been on the forefront of several Sindhi freedom movements and has led several civil rights campaigns. He currently teaches in the Sindhi Department at the University of Sindh, where he is writing his doctoral dissertation on G. M. Syed's political and social theories. The G. M. Syed Memorial Advocacy Award 2005 has been awarded to Mr. Qazi in 'appreciation of his literary and advocacy work to promote the teachings and lifeworks 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>