



PRIME MINISTER

10 April 1996

Dear Chairman,

The flame of liberty shines brightest in the dark. Thus, for Julius Salik, General Zia's decade of dictatorship was his finest hour. While other individuals and parties struggled against military rule, Mr. Salik's was the loneliest path for he fought not only for democracy, but for the rights of the minorities as well. Frequently jailed and beaten by the junta, he soldiered on despite the hardships he endured.

2. Even after the restoration of democracy in Pakistan Julius Salik has found many causes to espouse. He has visited Bosnia during the peak of that murderous civil war to pray for peace. His Peace Education Foundation of Pakistan is the hub of activity aimed at the promotion of peace and goodwill. With his elevation to Federal Minister, Mr. Salik is now well-placed to protect the rights of the minorities, the weak and the downtrodden. Indeed, his concerns reflect this government's commitment to the exploited sections of the population.

3. Born in a modest Christian home in Lahore in 1948, Julius Salik has spent the last 20 years in his tireless crusade for peace and liberty. In particular, his courageous defence of the rights of Pakistani Christians highlighted their plight under Zia's harsh and benighted dictatorship. In one incident, he even burnt his belongings in public to dramatize the persecution of the Christian minority.

3. For many Pakistanis, Julius Salik has become the nation's conscience. But his passion for peace transcends national frontiers: during the Iran-Iraq war, he undertook a long peace



march. And he publicly appealed to Iranian leaders to release American diplomats during the hostage crisis. Mr. Salik has consistently raised his voice to protest human rights violations wherever they occur.

4. We can think of no worthier candidate for this year's Nobel Peace Prize and, as the Leader of the House, I have the honour to nominate Mr. Julius Salik for this year's award.

*Sincerely,*  
*Benazir Bhutto*  
(Benazir Bhutto)

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