

CENTRE FOR LEGAL AID ASSISTANCE & SETTLEMENT

Mr. M.A Joseph Francis MBE (National Director)



Mr. Muntizar Anthony Joseph Francis started CENTRE FOR LEGAL AID ASSISTANCE & SETTLEMENT (CLAAS) in 1992 and serving as National Director since the creation of CLAAS. As National Director Mr. Joseph Francis provides overall leadership and strategic direction for the organizational matters and manages its 25 person staff in Lahore. He is handling the overall administration as well as national and international affairs of CLAAS and heading fact-finding missions. He is also pursuing cases in the courts as well. The National Director creates and implements annual development plan and strategy to manage the projects. He is providing professional and personal support to staff and observe & evaluate them as needed. He is presiding staff meetings, coordinate professional development for high performance and directed recruiting & staffing. He is counseling the victims and assisting them in their cases and other related issues. Mr. Joseph Francis appears regularly in major media outlets and speaks to audiences around the country. Mr. Francis's is playing pivotal role in the effort to highlight discriminatory treatments faced by the religious minorities in Pakistan.

Mr. Francis is instrumental in the organization's recent effort to assemble a group of Christian organizations called Pakistan Christian Democratic Alliance to speak out publicly against policies and discriminatory laws especially the blasphemy laws in the country. He is a council member of the Human Rights Commission of Pakistan (HRCP), Executive member of Advocates International Washington and Advocates International Asia. He is also Chairman Pakistan Christian National Party and President Pakistan Christian Democratic Alliance (PCDA).

Mr. Joseph Francis has a distinguish record of human rights advocacy in Pakistan and his services recognized nationally and internationally. In 2000, International Christian AWAZ Canada presented appreciation award in recognition Mr. Francis's dedication, commitment and sensitivity for the Christians of Pakistan. He was honored with French Republic Human Rights Prize in 2002. The British Police Department the LANCASHIRE CONSTABULARY presented an appreciation certificate with Constabulary Medal in 2002. Martin Luther an appreciation award for his work for persecuted Christians in Pakistan presented by Gesellschaft Fur Menschenrechte (IGFM) Germany. Church world Services – Pakistan/Afghanistan awarded CLAAS & Mr. Francis for being a voice for the voiceless & a beacon of hope for the last forty years. Full Gospel Church awarded in recognition and dedication services towards Christian community. The Advocates International presented "A GOOD SAMARITAN" award in 2004. The Bright Future Society awarded a gold medal and certificate of excellence for outstanding services for protecting human rights in September 2006. Peace Award from National Commission for Inter-Religious Dialogue Ecumenism in December 13th, 2006. In 2009, the International Gesellschaft Fur Menschenrechte (IGFM) Germany honored with an appreciation certificate and cash prize for the protection of persecuted Christians in Pakistan 2009. Mr. Francis was appreciated by presenting 2 appreciation certificates on January 28, 2011 by the House of Commons the federal

Government of Canada and the Provincial Government of Ontario for the valuable work of CLAAS for minorities of Pakistan and providing them protection at CLAAS rehabilitation centers. Most recently Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth the II has nominated me as an Honorary Member of British Empire (MBE) In June 2011 for my work in Pakistan for minority communities and for legal help to blasphemy victims through CLAAS.