

Loss of stalwarts from the Pakistani and International Labour Movement

Three team members of the Labour Education Foundation (LEF) in Pakistan and their driver died in a road car accident near Pasni in Baluchistan on 13 December, while a trade union leader received serious injuries.

Najma Khanum, Rehana, Abdul Salam from Labour Education Foundation (LEF) Karachi office and Rafiq Baluch central president of National Trade Union Federation were returning after a meeting of home based women workers when their car turned ups side down.

The car driver tried to save some cows who suddenly came in front of them on the main road. Najma and Rehana died on the spot while the car driver died later in the hospital. Abdul Salaam died two days later. They were on a visit to organise home based women workers in a union.

Najma and Rehana were also active members of Labour Party Pakistan. Najma Khanum was one of the delegate that participated Peoples SAARC in Sri Lanka in 2008. They both were working for LEF as social mobilisers. Abdul Salam was working on LEF's trade union project and was also a known trade union leader. The injured Rafiq Baluch is a prominent trade union leader of Baluchistan and is central president of NTUF.

Our deepest sympathy goes to the staff and family of comrades Rehana, Najma Khanum, Abdul Salam and Wahid Baluch. We wish that Rafiq Baluch will soon recover from his injuries.

With this tragic accident, LEF and LPP in Sindh have lost four of the most active youth members and may the other members keep the candle of the memory of their lost comrades alive and continue the struggle with strong spirit.