



Muslims for Secular Democracy

مُسلِمِس فَا ر سِیْکُولَر ڈِیْموکریسی

For Equality & Rule of Law

For Gender Justice

Against Mob Terror

Against Bomb Terror

Press Release

June 28, 2005

Deoband fatwa inhuman and anti-women

Muslims for Secular Democracy (MSD) is horrified at the *fatwa* of a mufti from Darul Uloom, Deoband declaring that Ms. Imrana, a victim of rape by her own father-in-law, can no longer live with her husband.

The reported *fatwa* of Mufti Habibur Rahman is unacceptable because it is illogical, irrational and against all principles of natural justice for it effectively punishes the victim and not the culprit of the crime. It is nothing short of a double victimization of Ms. Imrana.

Without laying any claim to expertise in *Shariah*, Muslims for Secular Democracy emphatically states that above all, Islam teaches compassion (*insaniyat*), justice (*insaaf*), equality and a fair deal for women. The *fatwa* on the other hand is inhuman and unfair, which treats women as mere commodity. By its virtual endorsement of the Deobandi *fatwa*, the All India Muslim Personal Law Board (AIMPLB), too, has disgraced itself and once again shown itself to be a male-centric body.

We salute the husband of Ms. Imrana, who despite the outrageous proclamation of the local *panchayat* had so far stood by his traumatized wife. The Deoband *fatwa* and its endorsement by the AIMPLB is nothing short of the terrorizing of an already traumatized family.

MSD expresses its unhesitating solidarity with Ms. Imrana, her husband and her children and demands speedy prosecution and exemplary punishment of her father-in-law, as per Indian law.

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