



SASNET Seminar

– in collaboration with Association of Foreign Affairs at Lund University (UPF)



Contemporary Pakistan: Islamism, Human Rights and Terrorism

– **PROF. ISHTIAQ AHMED**

Visiting Research Professor
Institute of South Asian Studies (ISAS), National University of Singapore

– **DR. RUBYA MEHDI**

Senior Researcher, Carsten Niebuhr Institute
Dept. of Cross-Cultural and Regional Studies, University of Copenhagen

Moderator: Dr. Stig Toft Madsen, SASNET

Wednesday 16 September 2009, 19.30 – 21.00

Venue: Café Athen, Akademiska Föreningen (AF), Sandgatan 2, Lund

Ishtiaq Ahmed is working on a research project entitled "Is Pakistan a Garrison State?" The aim of the study, that is carried out at ISAS in Singapore, is to generate a comprehensive analysis of the reasons why the military came to play the dominant role in Pakistani politics.

He is also in the process of completing a major study based on first-hand accounts of the partition of the Punjab in 1947.

Ishtiaq has taught and carried out research on issues of human rights, women's rights and minorities extensively in South Asian contexts in general and in Pakistan in particular. He has also written extensively on the politics of South Asia, especially Pakistan. He wrote a weekly column in the Pakistan English-language newspapers, The Daily Times and The News International during May 2002 and June 2007.

Besides, he is on the editorial advisory board of Asian Ethnicity, Journal of Punjab Studies, IPRI Journal and PIPS Journal of Conflict and Peace Studies.



Rubya Mehdi has a PhD in Law. She is one of Denmark's leading experts in Islamic law, and has conducted research in Denmark for 20 years. She is also a visiting professor with the Higher Education Commission of Pakistan, and she was involved in the Protection of women Act 2006, which was passed to improve the situation of women in Pakistan. It also tried to make some changes in the Hudood ordinance which was very much discriminating against women in rape cases.

