

## **Art as Resistance against Political Tyranny in South Asia**

Art has always been a tool of expression and poets, singers, dancers, painters and sculptors have been expressing their feelings and sentiments through it for centuries. The artist, being a sensitive soul and with a sense of indebtedness to society, however, feels compelled to contribute in transforming societies in a way that people feel free of all kinds of oppression and tyranny.

When we narrow down the spectrum to South Asia and its recent history, we find a number of such occurrences where people have been subjugated by despots and tyrants, and somehow such tyranny is continually being inflicted in many parts of the region even today. The rights of people, especially freedom of expression, have always been the first casualty of such autocratic regimes. Hence, artists in such situations have been taking it upon themselves to keep raising their voices for the people through creative writing, folk music, painting and even dance as symbols of 'art as resistance to political tyranny'. To honour and acknowledge such contributions made by artists in South Asia, this panel has been arranged.

### **Panel Organiser:**

Mr Ahmad Salim, Sustainable Development Policy Institute, Islamabad, Pakistan.

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