Parveena Ahangar – acceptance speech

I am immensely grateful for receiving this award from Rafto. People of the Rafto Foundation and Norway cannot know how much this means to me, to APDP, and to Kashmiris. You have recognized a mother’s grief and pain, and the grief and pain of Kashmiris due to the great injustices that we are facing. More importantly, you are recognizing our immense struggle for accountability and freedom. When I first got news of the award, I thought of my son, Javaid. I wished wherever he was that he would know that I will never give up the fight to see him and our dear ones of APDP. I will fight till I die. This is what the Rafto Foundation has recognized. The Rafto Foundation has made it possible for the outside world to recognize what is going on in Kashmir today. This is very special. We want the right to know what has happened to our dear ones. We want the right to live without everyday trauma and violence against us. We want to live in peace. We want to be free. When we leave Norway, we leave with a sense of hope that the Rafto Foundation, that Norway, is supporting us in our advocacy activities.

For this great strength, for this award, words cannot be enough in my thanks to the Rafto Foundation. I, APDP, and Kashmiris salute today the Rafto Foundation and Norway for this great gesture of international solidarity.