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A BRIEF NOTE ON THE STATE OF PEACE AND HUMAN RIGHTS SITUATION IN BALOCHISTAN: SEPTEMBER, 2026

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Abstract

The research paper is a preliminary effort towards situation of peace and human rights while investigating, exploring and examining the overall peace situation and human rights in the province. Indeed, the least impoverished, rich in terms of unexplored natural resources such as Gas, Gold, Copper, Coal and Marble etc., its inhabitants are by and large poorest among their fellow citizens, but charged politically about this unjust. The economic marginalization combined with political exclusion with regard to its natural resources and mechanisms of resource allocation have gone beyond political arena to armed conflicts between state machinery and armed separatist groups. This situation has already tantalized and jeopardized the peace and human rights situations. The ongoing situation if not properly, sagaciously and logically addressed might lead to further deteriorating situation in the province. The lack of political will, supremacy of establishment and ignorance about the province has already threatened any foreign investment that might lead towards peace, progress and prosperity and even separation of Balochistan from Pakistan as an independent sovereign state after Bangladesh in 1971. The companies supported by Federal Government have been facing challenges and pragmatic hurdles to continue with their interventions regarding exploration of natural resources and bringing about a paradigm economic change in the province. This is happening due to only and only reason that the owner of natural resources i.e. inhabitants of province, particularly Baloch community has not been ever consulted to seek their engagement in matters of policy and operational activities with regar4d to natural resource use pattern by federal and provincial government. As the result the Baloch insurgency movement has gotten momentum leading to armed conflicts between state machineries and armed separates groups. As a result the situation of peace and human rights is deteriorated in the province. Findings indicate that during periods of intensified conflict, human rights protections deteriorate significantly, with documented patterns of enforced disappearances, extrajudicial killings, and collective punishment by state forces, alongside attacks on civilians by non-state armed groups.

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INTRODUCTION

Balochistan, the largest and least populated province of the country constitutes nearly 44% of Pakistan is impoverished in many aspects of life. Apart from mass poverty, confronted with multifaceted socio-economic issues, the peace and human rights situation had never been satisfactory during past many decades. The intensity of deteriorated peace situation and violation of human rights cases got further shocking during recent past three decades. Thousands of innocent individuals belonging to Hazara nation got killed by terrorist groups to portray to international community that Baloch insurgency does not exist in the province; rather it's a sectarian issue. Among Pashtoon belt new leadership through mushroom growth of commanders got emerged to defame Pashtoon political parties and break their voices as Pashtoon concerns. The current harsh waves of insurgency movement of separatist groups combined with state based interventions to curb it added fuel to the already burning issue of dislike among masses in general and Baloch population in particular. The province, according to official statistics home to approximately 5% of Pakistan's entire populace is relatively wealthy in terms of natural resources ranging from five different ecological zones to longest and almost virgin coastal belt, from natural gas to heavy deposits of Gold, Silver, Copper, Coal and Marble. However, despite all such richness, these natural resources have not yet benefited towards its peacefulness, progress and prosperity. Rather, the initiatives taken by Multi-National Companies with the support of Federal Government and initiative taken by both tiers of federal and Provincial Government resulted to refused, agitated against and strived to be suspended by the local masses, particularly the armed forces of Baloch nation through armed conflict between law enforcement agencies and separatist groups and individuals. The prevailing movement of dislikes and refusal of all such actions initiated by Federal and Provincial Government are vividly getting momentum as provincial based political parties and other actors of civil society also second the voices of majority of the inhabitants of the province but with somewhat peaceful settlement in the province

The very indivisible and interdependent link between human rights and peace situation are not only mutually reinforcing, but creates a never ending debate among intelligentsia / academicians, political figures and social activists. One group does believe on the notion that, where there is justice, there is peace, whilst the other groups believe otherwise i.e. where there is peace, there is justice. The debate has not yet come to any conclusions to reach any solid opinion and restore peace in the province. No doubt, absence of peace does promote a situation where armed conflict, insurgent suicidal attacks by both state and non-state actors do give birth to a situation and where peace situation is always tantalized. This in turns pave the ways towards systematic human rights violations and abuse. Such a situation does not promise good days, but intensifying concerns and grievances of masses, by designing a cycle of insurgency, where peace situation is always at high risk and abuse of human rights is a common practice.

A case study, qualitative and descriptive research design was taken into account to prepare this paper, which is aimed to examine the already deteriorating peace situation and cases of human rights violation in the province. Efforts have been made to draw some sort of analytical approach to gauge the impact of dearth of peace and deteriorating human rights situation for the inhabitants of Balochistan such as Baloch, Pashtoon, Hazara and settler communities and their economies, which is at high risks to be shrinking further. The study draws on multiple sources including United Nations communications, documentation from human rights organizations such as Amnesty International, conflict monitoring data from ACLED, peer-reviewed academic research, and news reports from both regional and international outlets.

LITERATURE REVIEW

Theoretical Framework

A multidimensional approach as theoretical framework is the need of the study to understand the relationship between peace and human rights

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situation. As one of them cannot survive without prevalence of the other, for instance, there would be no peace if human rights are not protected. Similarly, abuse of human rights does not ensure prevalence of peace, progress and prosperity anywhere in the world including Balochistan. Unfortunately, here both are jeopardized by both state and non-state actors.

The available data and findings of key informant interviews do represents the following reasons as major issues to be addressed such as robotic type of governance, historically deprivation of socio-economic rights of province within the Pakistani context of governance, social sanctioning of organized crime under political slogans. These themes form an interconnected feedback loop in which governance failure serves as the central catalyst, intertwining with the other factors into a mutually reinforcing cycle of instability.

The framework do not held solely responsible one party for the dearth of peace and deteriorating human rights situation in the province, but it tries to recognize the complex interplay between the two. This was a common concern of almost every key informant interviewee that ensuring presences of Frontier Corpse FC is prejudice to ensure peace situation in Quetta and other districts. The Frontier Corpse FC must be relocated into activities that might help in protecting borders, not getting indulged into political matters that exist in cities, which has political solutions. Adopting such as theoretical framework helped to avoid one sided blame on one side the human rights abusers, rather findings the misdeed being carried out by both the parties i.e. state and none state actors and factors to reach any positive conclusions over the issue of Balochistan.

1. Historical Context of the Balochistan Conflict

The Baloch insurgency is not a new phenomenon; soon after independence of country from British Empire in 1948 the resistance against policies of Government of Pakistan got started by few Baloch political figures and advocated to the world for paradigm shift in the form of an independent Baloch state. This pleas had never been vanished altogether during the farmer ruling elite, however its intensity was soften sometime temporarily during various phases. Now the current armed conflict is the extreme concentrated in the history of Balochistan peace situation.

After independence and amalgamation of various states into Pakistan as a province followed the legacy of British Empire i.e. divide and rule while awarding titles and financial benefits to bigwigs to ensure indirect command over the masses as obedient citizenries. Having allowed private Militias to tribal bigwigs continued till the year 2000. The General Musharraf, the former Army Chief and then President had introduced to replace levies forces by police had been initiated as a matter to bring about drastic changes into tribal set up and the mindset that it encompasses to introduce the concept of obeying state rather than tribal chiefs. The once Dictator General Musharraf was, by and large, a person who believed on drastic changes instead of reforms. He tried to replicate local government as third tier of governance without knowing the consequences, which got failed once we left the power. The biggest crime the dictator has committed in the history of Balochistan was to targeting the well-known Baloch Tribal Chiefs by empowering new tribal heads, which ended with the suspicious and extra judicial killing of Nawab Akbar Bugti on August 26th 2010. The unlawful assassination / martyrdom of Nawab Sahib paved the way towards armed conflicts in the province, which is a main cause of absence of peace and abuse of human rights

2. Resource Extraction and Grievance Formation

The multinational business from across continents about heavy deposits of natural resources including Gold, Copper and Gas etc got attracted towards the province, but not its inhabitants, particularly Baloch, who has since long been demanding autonomy to get it managed by province, not federal government even before 18th constitutional amendment. After the 18th Amendment of 2010, that declare the matter as provincial chapter as a constitutional provision, the concerns and reservations of inhabitants of province particularly Baloch did not receive due attention by the state. The matter is thought to be a systematic marginalization and economic exclusion by

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masses in Balochistan. The dearth of getting the matter of natural resources exploration without meaningful consultation or engagement and benefit sharing has fueled political unrest and ongoing human rights violations in the province. The Baloch people, who identify themselves as Indigenous, have consistently, demanded greater autonomy and the right to determine how their natural resources should be managed.

3. Universal Declaration of Human Rights and Pakistan

Unlike various conventions and treaty to which Pakistan is either a signatory of ratified it, she is a member of UN General Assembly and thus obligatory responsible to make certain actions to ensure promotion and protection of human rights as International Law. Policy making, legislations, reforms in institutions and creations of awareness are four major expected measures that a member nation state has to make once he becomes member of UN General Assembly. Pakistan, officially has done all of them, but its true implementation has always been questioned. The ongoing cases of human rights abuse both by state and none-state actors in Balochistan has been increasing pressure to improve peace situation and avoid abuses of human rights and come to a peaceful settlement with insurgents / separatist groups in the province

METHODOLOGY

The study is purely qualitative in its nature, where the province Balochistan is taken as case study. Data were explored from multiple published research reports, official documents and key informant interview to examine the relationship between human rights and peace situation. The following sources were examined;

1. Reports of working group on enforced disappearance and Business and Human Rights, United Nation Communications
2. Reports and urgent actions, Amnesty International and other human rights organizations Human Rights Organization.
3. Conflict Monitoring Data: ACLED (Armed Conflict Location & Event Data Project) expert commentary and analysis
4. Peer-Reviewed Academic Research papers
5. News Reports: Coverage from regional and international media outlets, including both state-aligned and independent sources
6. Various relevant websites
7. All types of media reports such as print, electronic and social media

RESULTS AND FINDINGS

The Peace Situation: Escalation of Armed Conflict

The armed conflict expedited during 2025-26 to extent that every day some incidences are reported through both print and electronic media plus social media. As of 2026 so far 540 armed clashes between separatist groups and law enforcement agencies have happened as compare to figures of 299 incidences in 2025. There are reports of high jacking public transports including cars, passengers' buses and specially the trucks and sophisticated vehicles carrying in and out to transport natural resources were burn out in the day-light on national highways. The number of attacks on check-posts and places being occupied by personnel's of law enforcement got increased along with increased incidences of looting and burning of Banks an official buildings.

- The escalation is demonstrated by several major operations:.

Continued Attacks escalated the responses of security forces across districts in the province. The overall peace situation and violation of human rights have always been there no matter either it's an attack by separatist groups or a retaliation move by the law enforcement agencies. In both cases, peace situation got further deteriorated and human rights got exploited including of women and children and innocents people. The major economic opportunity namely China-Pakistan Economic Corridor CPEC projects got suspended including chances of foreign investments in the province

The State of Human Rights: Violations during Conflict

- Enforced Disappearances

The ugliest face of human rights violation in the province is Enforced disappearances, combined with extra-judicial killings and abduction of individuals for ransom in Balochistan. A communication from UN Special Procedures to the Government of Pakistan notes that state

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security forces have reportedly carried out extensive crackdowns marked by unnecessary and disproportionate use of force to silence and suppress social and political movements advocating for Balochistan's rights, leading allegedly to the enforced disappearance of up to 18,000 people in the province since 2000.

- Reprisals Against Human Rights Defenders

The issues of enforced disappearances, arbitrary arrests and detentions got wider echoed into various forum including UN and human rights outlets internationally. In its response the provincial government had taken few initiatives including legitimate actions to be taken by law enforcement agencies. However, the situation did not improve due to one reason or the other including ineffective security measures, lack of financial resources and indeed political will. Consequently, the human rights defenders got either silent or faced multifaceted hardships and defame by both state and none state actors and factors with regards to human rights promotion and protection.

DISCUSSION

The Cycle of Violence of Human Rights

Peace promotes social justice, so does actions associated to promotion and protection human rights is not either a leisure, part time and lavish act, it a full time engagement for all to become assertive about human rights as a human shared value. Indeed, it's a standard without, which one cannot live a life of dignity. Though state of human rights had never been satisfactory in the province, country and across continents, during calamities both natural and manmade it get further deteriorated by both state and non-state actors.

Armed conflicts never guarantee restoration of peace, which results into situation of human rights violation, stoppage of progress and prosperity. The one's in power must give reconsider their strategies with regard to concerns and reservations of inhabitants of Balochistan, particularly Baloch in order to improve the situation of peace and human rights.

Vicious cycles such mass poverty breads discontents. Human rights violations give birth to further dislike including narrative of political scenario and armed conflict between state and the ones who suffer. The voices of masses cannot be heard, but politically, socially, culturally and economically ignored altogether. Every conflict at some point of time has been brought to the table for negotiations to ensure peace as where there is peace, GOD is.

The use of power to hide concerns and reservation of masses had never been useful, rather it further fuel the conflict and widen the gap between state and its citizenry. The lack of political will to address grievances with regard to socio-economic deprivation, political exclusion and natural resources governance are bitter facts towards dearth of peace and abuse of human rights in the province.

CONCLUSION / DOABLE SUGGESTIONS

Deteriorating peace situation in Balochistan as a case study illustrates cherished association abuse of human rights. During the peace time protective shields such as policy, legislation and adequate social awareness, whilst during active conflict human rights protections strategies and efforts get deteriorated for all communities, with state forces committing crimes such as unlawful detentions and enforced disappearances. While non-state armed groups carry out attacks that kill and injure civilians. And the same has been happening in Balochistan for last two decades

The vicious cycle as a result of governance failure to deliver do promote further the intensity of socio-economic deprivation, which in turn provide an enabling environment to insurgent groups to violate human rights. Political inclusion to include political parties in matters of resource governance and easy access to justice can help break this vicious cycle and reduce the ever increasing gap between state and citizenry.

The study concludes that the voices of relevant key informants as stakeholder must be heard that move around negotiation to reach peaceful socio-economic conditions. Such an environment will definitely help improve peace and human rights situation in the province.

Restoration of a sustained peace situation does efforts pertaining to effective and responsive actions with regard to good governance. Equitable

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resource distribution, provision of avenues pertaining to peaceful political expression and political will for negations are few prerequisite to protect human rights and improved peace situation. In the absence of such drastic changes in thoughts and behavior in ruling government, the dearth of peace will continue to be accompanied by a dearth of human rights protections for all communities in the province.

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