



CEN MUN 2017

Background Guide



UNITED NATIONS HUMAN RIGHTS COUNCIL

AGENDA: HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS IN BALOCHISTAN

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Message from the Executive Board

Dear delegates,

We are pleased to welcome you to the simulation of The United Nations Human Rights Council at CENMUN 2017. The agenda for this committee is '*Human Rights Violation in Balochistan*'

- *It is imperative that this generation realizes that the real problem does not lie in the inability of solving a problem but in ignoring it. MUN is an important platform as it gives a young mind, which is not gripped by any kind of greed or prejudice, the power and position to voice their opinions and the solutions that are offered may actually prove to be effective. Adding to that, it is an important opportunity for the students to acquire important skills like diplomacy, critical thinking, and the art of negotiation and leadership skills. We expect the delegates to prepare well in order to make the debate productive and take back an unforgettable experience.*

The following information is intended to give you a basic guidance in the research of the agenda in hand and the topics that can be debated in the committee. However, the given list of topics is not exhaustive and is simply indicative of pressing issues and topics of concerns which must be addressed and will merely give you a bird's eye view of the issue. The delegates are at full liberty to bring up any other relevant point for discussion. The list of research links given at the end of this document can also be used for further research. We expect the delegates to follow the rules of procedure of a MUN conference at all times and make the most of this experience without compromising with the quality of debate. The agendas in hand are multi-faceted and a concrete outcome from the debate can only be obtained by keen participation and contribution by each and every delegate.

Lastly, in preparation for committee session, delegates are encouraged to familiarize themselves with the work, mandate, and role of the UNHRC within the United Nations. We look forward to two days of quality debate and discussion. Feel free to contact us at any point of time for any further queries.

Happy Researching.

Best Regards,

The Executive Board.

About the Council



The Human Rights Council (HRC) is the main organ of the UN “responsible for strengthening the promotion and protection of human rights around the globe and for addressing situations of human rights violations and making recommendations on them.”⁵ Its duty entails responding to urgent human rights situations around the globe by tackling issues regarding accountability and liability for violations of international human rights and humanitarian law.

Founded in 2006, the UNHRC deals with a wide variety of topics which impact human rights on a global scale. UNHRC was created by the General Assembly under resolution 60/251 to replace the United Nations Commission on Human Rights.

MANDATE:

The HRC possesses a unique and comprehensive mandate outlined in GA resolution 60/251. The GA mandated the HRC to promote universal respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms; to address and provide recommendations on all, particularly grave and systematic, violations of human rights; and to promote an effective system of coordination within the UN system, including mainstreaming mechanisms, with respect to human rights issues. Further, the GA designated the HRC as a forum for debate and dialogue on all human rights issues, including addressing violations and responding to emergencies, promoting cooperation and education on human rights, reviewing Member States’ track records, and preventing abuses from occurring. The HRC is guided by the underlying principles of “universality, impartiality, objectivity and non-selectivity, constructive international dialogue and cooperation.” Also crucial in informing the mandate and work of the HRC is the International Bill of Human Rights, which comprises the UDHR, the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (ICESCR) (1966), and the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR) (1966) with its two Optional Protocols.³¹ These documents are the pillars that guide the HRC in its recommendations by outlining the fundamental obligations and commitments of Member States in international human rights law.

MEMBERSHIP:

Through a majority vote, the GA elects the HRC’s 47 Member States, each of which serves for a period of three years. While re-election is possible, states cannot serve more than two terms consecutively. The 47 Member States are spread out in regional groups as follows: 13 for Africa, 13 for Asia, six for Eastern Europe, eight for Latin America and the Caribbean (GRULAC), and seven for the Western European and



Others Group (WEOG). The General Assembly Third Committee (Social, Humanitarian & Cultural), which is responsible for evaluating questions related to human rights, considers the annual reports of the HRC and works closely with the 52 HRC assigned Special Rapporteurs, chairs of working groups, and independent experts.

FUNCTIONS AND POWERS:

In 2007, the HRC adopted resolution 5/1, which established mechanisms and structures to guide its program of work, rules of procedure, and other operational functions. The resolution also set up the format for the Special Procedures, the Universal Periodic Review, and the Complaint Procedure, which encompass the main powers of the HRC.

Refer:

<http://www.ohchr.org/EN/HRBodies/SP/Pages/Welcomepage.aspx>

<http://www.ohchr.org/EN/HRBodies/Pages/HumanRightsBodies.aspx>

<http://www.ohchr.org/EN/HRBodies/UPR/Pages/UPRMain.aspx>

<http://www.ohchr.org/EN/HRBodies/HRC/ComplaintProcedure/Pages/HRCComplaintProcedureIndex.aspx>

The HRC addresses human rights on global, regional, and national levels, endeavoring to ensure that all Member States safeguard the fundamental freedoms and rights articulated by international law. The post-2015 development agenda presents an important opportunity for significant progress to be made in the field of human rights. Issues such as minority rights are critical to an “inclusive post-2015 development agenda”; the HRC has a crucial role in defining minority development in particular, which it has characterized as multifaceted and extending beyond income and poverty.

Nature of Proof

Nature of Proof and Evidence Documents from the following sources will be considered as credible proof for any allegations made in committee or statements that require verification:

- Reuters: Appropriate Documents and articles from the Reuters News agency will be used to corroborate or refute controversial statements made in committee.



- UN Document: Documents by all UN agencies will be considered as sufficient proof. Reports from all UN bodies including treaty based bodies will also be accepted.
- Government Reports: Government Reports of a given country used to corroborate an allegation on the same aforementioned country will be accepted as proof.

A Brief Background

The Region in question:

Balochistan, also spelled Baluchistan, westernmost province of Pakistan. It is bordered by Iran (west), by Afghanistan (northwest), by Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and Punjab provinces (northeast and east), by Sindh province (southeast), and by the Arabian Sea (south).

After centuries of disputed occupation, the most notable of which on behalf of the Persian Empire, Baluchistan was formally annexed by the British Empire in 1887. Prior to the formal declaration of occupation of Baluchistan by the British Empire, an unprecedented attack was launched on the western front of Baluchistan by Iran. The region annexed in 1871 still remains known as the Iranian state of Sistan and Baluchistan. It was at this moment in 1871 that Iran formally began the process of the fragmentation of Baluchistan. However, August of 1947 marked the official moment of completion of fragmentation processes in Baluchistan. The situation in Baluchistan after its final fragmentation was differentiated across the three respective borders of Pakistan, Iran, and Afghanistan. Amongst these differentiating factors were the varying methods of Baloch treatment, the extent to which human rights were actively violated on behalf of the government, and the amount of autonomy granted to the Baloch within the three regions. However, in this committee we shall consider the agenda specific to human rights violations in Balochistan province of Pakistan.





Insurgency in Balochistan:

The Baloch people are a unique ethno-linguistic group spread between Afghanistan, Iran, and Pakistan. Throughout history they have been the victims of marginalization within their respective countries. The Baloch insurgency in Pakistan is the result of both historical and contemporary factors. However, relations between Baloch nationalists and the central government have been confrontational since the creation of Pakistan in 1947, periodically turning violent. In 2004, the long-simmering tensions broke out into renewed insurgency. The conflict stems in part from the central government's imposition of a historical narrative of the creation of Pakistan as a religiously homogenous country onto the ethnically distinct Baloch. Today these divisions are also intimately tied to the headline-dominating issues mainly concerning the human rights of people in Balochistan. There are many historic as well as contemporary drivers of these conflicts. It is important to understand these drivers in order to fully understand the current predicament the region currently finds itself in. Please refer to the following links to study elaborately about the same.

https://ipfs.io/ipfs/QmXoypizjW3WknFiJnKLwHCnL72vedxjQkDDP1mXWo6uco/wiki/History_of_Balochistan.html

<http://www.iar-gwu.org/sites/default/files/articlepdfs/Pakistan%27s%20Baloch%20Insurgency.pdf>

<https://thediplomat.com/2015/06/cracking-pakistans-baloch-insurgency/>

Introduction to the Agenda

"We the Peoples of the United Nations, determined to reaffirm faith in fundamental human rights, in the dignity and worth of the human person, in the equal rights of men and women and of nations large and small..."

—United Nations Charter



For decades now, there has been an uprising in Balochistan seeking greater autonomy and wealth share from its rich mineral resources. However, over time, it metamorphosed into an independence movement under the likes of Nawab Akbar Bugti who led an armed movement against Pakistan. He was killed by Pakistan army in 2006 in an operation ordered by then president Pervez Musharraf. While Pakistan expected the uprising to die down with the killing of Bugti, it only ignited the fire, resulting in violent protests ever since.

According to Baloch activists, the Pakistan army is given a largely free hand in Balochistan and anyone who is suspected of links with pro-independence groups can be picked up without any warrant. Activists say those picked up are later tortured into making submissions. This is just one of the many voices crying against the plethora of human rights violations, gravely affecting the lives of people in the region.

This largest province of modern-day Pakistan, encountered several human rights violations noticed by the international community. According to the Human Rights Watch (HRW), the violations which have taken place during the ongoing Baluchistan conflict between Baloch nationalists and the Government of Pakistan, over the rule of Baluchistan, have reached 'epidemic proportions'. These violations largely include- Extra-judicial killings, forced disappearances of civilians and activists, torture, harassment of activists and media personnel etc. These human rights violations of the Baloch populous has been exponentially rising as reported by many regional, National and International bodies and independent sources. The Human Rights Commission of Pakistan (HRCP), an independent non-governmental organization, said in its report that lawlessness in the province had proliferated at an alarming rate with a growing number of targeted killings, kidnappings, enforced disappearances and attacks on religious minorities. With numerous existing indicators, there are valid reasons to paint a murky future scenario for Balochistan vis-à-vis the state of human rights. We shall further discuss the different facets of these violations in detail.

Different Forms of Human Rights Violations in Balochistan

Injustice is present in a plethora of forms and appearances. Ever since the resurgence of Baloch insurgencies in 2005, government military bodies and secret services have managed to silently suppress the voices of the Baloch. Noting thousands of proven, yet



unregistered deaths in the region at the hands of such forces, the local population is now plunged deeply into the realms of anger and mourning.

Poverty and lack of basic amenities:

In order to understand the problems faced by the people in Balochistan that in-turn threatens their basic human rights, it is imperative to understand the underlying causes of social and economic under-development of the province. It is important to ask why in spite of having huge resources and endowments Balochistan has remained the poorest and economically the least developed region in Pakistan. Notwithstanding the economic potentials and massive geopolitical importance, Balochistan presents the picture of extreme poverty, backwardness and lagging far behind other provinces in terms of every social and economic indicator.

A section of the political leadership in the province believes that the centralist nature of Pakistani federation is such that smaller units like Balochistan would find it difficult to accommodate within the federation. That is because the resource distribution and representation to both elected bodies and state institutions are based upon population, and Balochistan in spite of having 44% of Pakistan territory resides only 5% of country's total population, thus the province is not proportionately represented within the federation. 52% of household live below poverty line in Balochistan according to the report Clustered Deprivation published by Sustainable Development Policy Institute.

Water scarcity specially of potable drinking water poses yet another threat to the lives and wellbeing of the people in Balochistan. Most of the province's 10 million people raise livestock or are engaged in other forms of dry land farming. According to the International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN), the world's largest global environmental network, Balochistan's land is "highly degraded" due to over-grazing, illegal logging and other factors. Water scarcity is at the root of the problem. Annual precipitation ranges from 50 to 500mm, with much of Balochistan lying outside the monsoon zone, and evaporation rates are extremely high. Many activists and officials including Farid Ahmed, who is the provincial coordinator for the Human Rights Commission of Pakistan in Balochistan, have noted that the Government has given little or no thought in putting in place schemes to provide people with safe water or other related facilities.

Lack of employment and poor education standards of the region also contribute majorly to the degraded quality of life of people in Balochistan. There is an established correlation between lower educational levels and higher rates of poverty. Studies performed in a number of Latin American, African and Asian countries have shown that a higher percentage of GDP spent on education, resulted in better educational levels



and standards, which in turn resulted in higher economic growth rates and higher living standards (Winkler and Gershberg, 2000). The situation of education standards in major part of the province is at decline majorly due to teacher absenteeism, poor facilities, and lack of school supplies. Quality of education is the major factor resulting in low enrolment and high dropout rates. Lack of access is also a major problem for certain remote population in Balochistan. Expansion of elementary and secondary schools may be required in certain locations to accommodate remote areas and increasing enrolment of students, especially girls. Special efforts are needed to rationalize resources and to improve the internal efficiency of the education system. Unemployment is unarguably the biggest contributor of the abject poverty in the region. The two pressing factors leading to the systematic unemployment situation in the region are: huge gap between the number of graduates produced per year and the employment opportunities available; Secondly, the destruction of the rural economy due to successive governments' disinterest in the agriculture, forestry, mining, livestock, fisheries and irrigation sectors has caused massive urbanisation, courtesy the migration of people to Quetta from all over Balochistan. Urban unemployment stands at 12.5% in Balochistan, compared to a country-wide average of 5.9% in 2015. No policies for the reduction of poverty and unemployment in Balochistan can be successful without understanding the real problem of unemployment. All concerned must understand that the vast majority of unemployed are the uneducated and unskilled farmers, animal risers and fishermen living in the rural area of Balochistan. According to a report, each year nearly 25,000 people graduate from Balochistan. Unfortunately, hardly around 2,000 of them can secure jobs. Government jobs are the only source of employment in the province. The government jobs were easy to get in the past because of the smaller population. But the increase in population is making matters worse.

According to a report on Pakistan's Multidimensional Poverty Index (MPI), compiled in 2016 with support from United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) Pakistan and the Oxford Poverty and Human Development Initiative (OPHI), University of Oxford, nearly 39% of Pakistanis live in multi-dimensional poverty, with the highest rates of poverty in Federally Administered Tribal Areas (FATA) and Balochistan. The Multidimensional Poverty report, issued by the UNDP and Ministry of Planning,



Development and Reforms in June reveals th2016, at the incidence of poverty in Balochistan is 71.2 per cent. According to this report, Balochistan is only better than FATA, which has a 73.7 per cent incidence of poverty. Four of the five poorest districts of Pakistan, where the poverty level is alarmingly high, are situated in Balochistan.

Public Health is also at an alarming decline in the region. According to Pakistan Health Demographic Survey (PHDS), when it comes to maternal and infant mortality, the statistics are equally damning. While the national Maternal Mortality Rate (MMR) rate hovers around 272 per 100,000 live births, in Balochistan that rate is 785 per 100,000 live births. Nationally, the Infant Mortality Rate (IMR) is 74 out of 1000 die while in Balochistan 97 out of 1000 die. UNICEF confirms "lack of access to safe water and sanitation" is the main cause of child deaths, which are also closely linked to poverty and malnutrition. The overall lack of infrastructure and facilities has a devastating impact on health, particularly that of women and children.

Forced Disappearances:

The human rights lobby and liberals accuse the intelligence agencies of engaging in the immoral, illegal and unconstitutional practice of enforced disappearances with ill intention and impunity. The rights group's report, entitled "We Can Torture, Kill, or Keep You for Years", documented cases of uniformed paramilitary troops, police and the much-feared ISI intelligence agency being involved in the abductions

As for the intelligence agencies, can they deny that they have engaged in enforced disappearances in view of the following facts? Firstly, two official Commissions of Inquiry on Enforced Disappearances, in which both the ISI and MI participated, recognised enforced disappearances. Secondly, the report of a Federal Task Force on Missing Persons, of which both agencies were a part, also recognised enforced disappearances. Thirdly, the Supreme Court judgements in the 'Muhabat Shah' case and 'Law and Order Case on Balochistan' recognised enforced disappearances. Fourthly, an official ISI statement, attached as Appendix I to the book The ISI of Pakistan by Hein G. Kiessling, recognises the practice of enforced disappearances and details efforts made to solve it.

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For examination of the Pakistan's record on the implementation of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR) by the UN Human Rights Committee on 11th and 12th July in Geneva, the Human Rights Council of Balochistan (HRCB) in its



submission stated that hundreds of activists seeking self-determination, human rights defenders, writers, etc. have been extrajudicially executed, abducted or forcibly disappeared in Balochistan. The HRCB stated that 291 cases of extrajudicial executions were reported Balochistan in 2016 and 117 cases were reported during January to May 2017. At least 1,080 persons were abducted and forcibly disappeared by the Frontier Corps, and other security forces in 2016 and around 625 persons were victims of enforced disappearances during January to May 2017.

The International Commission of Jurists (ICJ) in its submission stated that even the Supreme Court of Pakistan has acknowledged the practice of enforced disappearances, particularly in Balochistan, and in October 2012 issued an interim order in what is known as the “Balochistan Law and Order case”. In spite the local efforts and international concerns the problem of enforced disappearances in Balochistan still continues.

Torture and Extrajudicial Killings:

The United Nations Committee against Torture (CAT) has raised serious concerns over widespread torture, enforced disappearances and extra-judicial killings in Pakistan. During its meeting in Geneva, the committee experts said the impunity for such acts committed by state officials and forces associated with the state, including military, the police and intelligence agents, is a cause of worry. "Some 1,200 cases of enforced disappearances had been registered since 2010, while 487 cases of alleged torture had been documented by non-governmental organizations during the 2014 to 2016 period. The latest US Department of State Human Rights Reports for 2015 and 2016 spoke of “politically motivated killings of Baloch nationalists in Balochistan.” HRW also discovered that custodial beatings with batons and strips of leather, sexual violence, and forcing criminals to witness torture were commonly used by police. Suspects were tortured "to obtain confessions or other information, to coerce bribes or because of pressure from local politicians or landowners."

According to the Federal Ministry of Human Rights, at least 936 dead bodies have been found in Balochistan since 2011, Rights activists said the figures pointed to large-scale extrajudicial killings. According to an article in UNPO Pakistani forces (military, FC, intelligence, and Para-military) have abducted 480, killed 26 people including women and children, and torched at least 500 properties in more than 100 offensives from 1st March to 31 March [2017]. Only 30 people have been released so far. None of the abducted persons have been presented to any court or given the right to defend



themselves. These practices of extrajudicial killing dumping the bodies with signs of torture and often mutilated has commonly come to known as the 'kill and dump' policy. One such incident, when On August 13, 2016, the dead bodies of Gazain Baloch and Salman Qambrani were found dumped in Balochistan. The last time they were seen alive was when they were arrested a year earlier on July 7, 2015, at their residence situated on Qambrani Road in Quetta

The major concern is also over the targeted killings and abductions of social activists, human rights defenders and other influential individuals raising voices against the rampant human rights violations. Over the past few years, the Human Rights organizations and Social activists have expressed their worry over the killings of Human Rights defenders in Pakistan, with atleast 8 human rights defenders killed between 2011-2016 in Pakistan

The South Asia Terrorism Portal (SATP) recorded that journalists, teachers, students and human rights defenders were targeted by state and non-state actors in Balochistan. As of November 20, at least 244 civilians were killed in Balochistan in 2016, compared with 247 during 2015.

The question of CPEC in the context of Human Rights:

is a planned network of roads, railways and energy projects linking southern Pakistan, and the Gwadar Port, to China's restive Xinjiang Uyghur autonomous region. Keeping in mind, the ongoing disturbances in Balochistan, the China-Pakistan Economic corridor is a subject of continuous debate among the supporters and adversaries of the project, majorly with the concern of human rights of the people in the region. On one side, the government officials and the advocates of the projects firmly endorse that the project will improve the socio-economic condition of the people in the region by creating jobs and in-turn reducing poverty and improving standard of living. The Minister of State for Petroleum and Natural Resources, Jam Kamal Khan has said that the completion of the China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) would increase the economic and industrial activities in Gwadar and would bring development and prosperity in Balochistan. He added, "This project would also positively contribute towards national security and solidarity."

However, Human rights activists have raised their dissent on the project citing it as another threat to the rights and well-being of the people, especially the people of Balochistan who are already in the grip of grave human rights abuses. "Since the agreement between China and Pakistan in 2015, hundreds of thousands of Baloch people has been forcefully displaced from the home town along their CPEC route. 12,000 army personnel deployed on the security are basically paving the way for CPEC

by massacring the the local populous," said the BRP representative to UNHRC Abdul Nawaz Bugti.



According to the activists, since the CPEC project started, Balochistan has hit the worst form of human rights violations. They also claim that since the construction of CPEC has begun, Baloch people have been forcefully cleared, enforcedly disappeared and effectively excluded from the project on all levels despite plentiful promises made by the Pakistani authorities of development and employment. Any form of dissent against the project has been brutally silenced, showing the respective authorities dedication to go forth with the construction undisturbed.

Till date, there have been numerous reactions and criticisms that have been shared by International organizations and at times by individual Nations. But still, there has been little or no change in the condition of human rights of the people of Balochistan. The delegates of UNHRC will be expected to discuss, deliberate and sought out feasible, pragmatic and durable solutions to the problem at hand.



Guiding Questions

1. What is your country's stand on the situation in Balochistan?
2. How can the standard of living be improved in the region?
3. How can different national, regional and international organizations contribute in preventing human rights violations in Balochistan?
4. How can the human rights violations practiced by the non-state groups and government actors be differentiated and prevented accordingly?
5. What is the effect of CPEC project on the human rights of people in Balochistan?
6. How can socio-economic conditions be improved in the region?

Further Reading

<http://thebalochistanpoint.com/balochistan-insufficient-facilities-in-health-sector/>

<http://puf2015.pakistanurbanforum.com/Session/2/Urban%20Challenges%20of%20Balochistan%20v2.pdf>

<https://www.dawn.com/news/1274809>

<http://newslinemagazine.com/magazine/balochistan-gainlessly-unemployed/>

<http://www.worldwatch.org/node/5188>

<https://www.scribd.com/document/44775278/Balochistan-Economy-Development>

https://www.huffingtonpost.com/malik-siraj-akbar/why-pakistan-is-embarrass_b_4937159.html

<http://www.msf.org/en/article/pakistan-guide-malnutrition-balochistan>

<https://www.sdpi.org/publications/files/Social%20Protection%20in%20Balochistan.pdf>



<https://www.reuters.com/article/us-pakistan-baluchistan/rights-violations-worsen-pakistans-baluchistan-idUSTRE75S2GP20110629>

<http://www.indiatimes.com/news/world/pakistan-s-raw-nerve-balochistan-a-story-of-occupation-human-rights-violations-and-genocide-260955.html>

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<http://alrc.asia/pakistan-extra-judicial-killings-ongoing-with-impunity-notably-in-balochistan/>

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<http://www.bexpress.com.pk/2016/12/httpwp-mep5f0gk-6vu/>

<https://reliefweb.int/sites/reliefweb.int/files/resources/AHRC-PRL-035-2011-01.pdf>

<https://balochhumanrights.org/?p=1149>

<https://www.scribd.com/document/106483276/UN-report-on-enforced-disappearances-in-Balochistan>

<http://www.bolantimes.com/a-delegation-of-human-rights-activists-will-meet-and-brief-the-un-working-group-on-enforced-disappearances-in-pakistan-baloch-voice-association/>



http://www.lifeissues.net/writers/hra/hra_257calltoratifyprotection.html

<http://www.ohchr.org/EN/NewsEvents/Pages/DisplayNews.aspx?NewsID=21514&LanglD=E>

<https://www.telegraphindia.com/pressrelease/prnw/57605/balochistan-and-china-pakistan-economic-corridor-cpec-discus.html>

<http://unpo.org/article/19421>

http://www.ecfr.eu/article/commentary_the_balochistan_tinderbox7133

<https://thediplomat.com/2016/08/balochistan-the-troubled-heart-of-the-cpec/>

<http://www.republicworld.com/s/1810/baloch-activist-appeals-to-un-against-pak>
