



# BALOCH VOICE ASSOCIATION

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**Dear esteemed Members of the European Parliament,  
and Members of EU Human Rights Commission  
European Union Brussels, Belgium.**

We the following Baloch organizations are writing to you today with great concern over the ongoing human rights violations taking place in Balochistan, Pakistan, particularly the enforced disappearances of Baloch women. The situation in Balochistan is dire, and the international community must take action to put an end to the atrocities being committed against the Baloch people.

For several years now, the Baloch people, especially Baloch women, have been subjected to enforced disappearances, torture, and extrajudicial killings by Pakistani security forces. The Baloch people have been subjected to a brutal campaign of repression by the Pakistani authorities, with enforced disappearances being a common tactic used by the state to silence dissent. These disappearances have left families shattered and communities devastated. The Baloch people have been calling for justice and accountability, but their voices have fallen on deaf ears. Contrary this has resulted in the disappearance of thousands of Baloch people, including women and children, who have been taken into custody without any legal justification or due process.

The situation is particularly dire for Baloch women, who are not only subjected to enforced disappearances, but also to sexual violence, torture, and other forms of abuse. They are often targeted simply for being Baloch activists, journalists, or human rights defenders, and their families are left with no information about their whereabouts or well-being and even nor their fate.

Even today protests continued in Quetta, Karachi, Mand, Kech, Hub Chowki and other parts of Balochistan against the enforced disappearances of Baloch woman.

The enforced disappearances are not a new phenomenon in Baluchistan. As per reports on 28 February 2001 Pakistani spy agency whisked away Ali Asghar Bangulzai and Mohammad Iqbal in front of degree college Quetta. After passing of 24 days Mohammad Iqbal was released, however, after two decades there is no trace of Ali asker Bangulzai.

Similarly, Jalil Raiky, who was an advocate was abducted by Pakistani security forces in the Ketchy Baig area of Quetta in 2009, after three years of disappearance, his along with Tekadar Younus Baloch mutilated dead bodies were thrown away in the mountains of Mand. Ketch. After this, the enforced disappearances of Baloch became so frequent and have an objectively continued to date. Pakistan is not only targeting Baloch political activists but also forcibly disappearing and killing the relatives of them as a policy of collective punishment.

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## **Enforced disappearances of Baloch Women:**

Similarly, Baloch women have been a target of enforced disappearances by the Pakistani security and intelligence forces from a long time, in 2006 a Baloch woman teacher Zarina Marri became a victim of enforced disappearances with her infant child Morad Marri till date her whereabouts are unknown lastly, she was seen by another victim of enforced disappearances in Karachi Malir Kent Military Intelligence (M.I.) torture cells.

The Pakistani security forces kept the practise of disappearing the Baloch woman by force systematically in different areas of Balochistan. Particularly during the military operations in Dera Bughti, Awaran , Mand, Khuzdar, Khohlu Kahan, Karachi, etc.

Pakistan opted policy of systematically disappearing the families of those who are associated with the Baloch national struggle. Even before the incident of forcibly disappearing of the Zehri family on February 3rd, 2023, the Pakistani forces did immense levels of brutality. Even before this many people belonging to the same family have been victims of enforced disappearance, killed in fake encounters and their mutilated bodies thrown in the deserts. On June 21st, 2021, the forces abducted Two youths named Tabish Waseem and Liaquat from the same family and moved them to an unknown location, while Tabish was killed along with four other people in a fake encounter after being missing for 17 months and the fate of liaquat is still unknown. Apart from this, Tabish Waseem father was shot and seriously injured by unknown gunmen in Zehri Bazar, and the shooters are said to have belonged to a state backed armed group.

Another youth Zahoor belonging to the Zehri family was forcibly disappeared by the forces on April 11, 2017, and his mutilated body was recovered 12 days later. Zakaria Zehri is of the same family, became the victim of enforced disappearances and there is no clue of his fate and whereabouts.

On 18th February 2023, Mahal Baloch was forcibly disappeared from Quetta. She belongs to a political family in district Ketch. Her, late father-in-law Mohammad Hussain is one of the founding members of a Baloch political organisation.

Bibi Gul Baloch the chairperson of the Human Rights Council of Balochistan, an organisation working on human rights violation in Nalochistan, is the sister-in-law of forcibly disappeared Baloch woman Mahal Baloch. In the past, their houses in the Gomazai area of Ketch district were destroyed and burned several times by the forces due to which their family was forced to migrate from there and live in a rented house in Quetta. It's believed that her husband and brother-in-law have also been killed by Pakistani forces.

However, after the abduction of Mahal Baloch the people of Balochistan sharply reacted against her extra judicial arrest. The provincial government of Balochistan said that the victims are not in the custody of law enforcement agencies.

Civil society representatives' human rights organisations and political organisations agitated and demanded the immediate recovery of all enforced disappeared people of Balochistan. Woman protested in Quetta, the capital city of Balochistan, and staged a sit-in protest for several hours by blocking the main entrance to Quetta city. They ended their protest after negotiating with an administrative official ensuring that Mahal Baloch would be released within 48 hours and all false acquisitions levelled against her would be withdrawn.

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Apart from Quetta, protests and demonstrations are also going on in Ketch, Mand, Lahore and Karachi. While on social media, Mahal Balouch and the enforced disappearance of Baloch woman have been trending for the past several days.

Baloch society is very sensitive about women. Experts say that such incidents will further Worsen the situation in Balochistan and the reaction of Baloch to such incidents is a bad omen for the state of Pakistan. The forced disappearance of Mahal Baloch and other Baloch woman has given rise to a new debate in the political circles of Balochistan, where Baloch consider such actions as a violation of Baloch cultural codes and traditions, while the enforced disappearance of women is also increasing. Baloch are willing to break their silence against state led operations and adopt measures that would be a path to preserve their national identity.

As members of the European Parliament, you have a responsibility to uphold the values of democracy, human rights, and the rule of law. I urge you to take immediate action and hold Pakistan accountable for its gross violations of human rights in Balochistan. The European Parliament must make it clear that such atrocities are unacceptable, and that the international community will not tolerate them.

We the organizations, urge you to use your position to raise awareness about the situation in Balochistan and to pressure the Pakistani government to end the enforced disappearances of Baloch women and men. We also call on you to support the Baloch people's right to self-determination and to ensure that their voices are heard at the international level.

As members of the European Parliament and the EU Human Rights Commission, you have a moral obligation to speak out against these gross human rights violations and take action to hold the Pakistani authorities accountable for their actions. The EU has long been a champion of human rights and democratic values, and it is time for you to use your influence to put an end to the suffering of the Baloch people.

We urge you to:

1. Condemn the Pakistani authorities for their human rights abuses in Balochistan, particularly the enforced disappearances of Baloch women.
2. Call on the Pakistani government to immediately release all those who have been unlawfully detained, including Baloch women, and provide information to their families about their whereabouts and well-being.
3. Urge the Pakistani government to conduct an independent and impartial investigation into all cases of enforced disappearances in Balochistan and hold those responsible accountable for their actions.
4. Send an Investigation team to Balochistan to enquire about issues of enforced disappearances of Baloch peoples.
5. Consider imposing sanctions on Pakistani officials who are responsible for human rights abuses in Balochistan, including those involved in enforced disappearances.



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We believe that the European Parliament and the EU Human Rights Commission can play a crucial role in addressing the human rights crisis in Balochistan, and we urge you to take action without delay. The European Parliament has the power to make a difference, and We implore you to take action now to end the sufferings of the Baloch people.

Thank you for your attention to this urgent matter.

Sincerely,

Baloch Voice Association (BVA)

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## **Petitioners :**

Baloch Voice Association

Voice for Baloch Missing Persons (VBMP)

Baloch Peoples Congress (BPC)