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**Promotion and protection of all human rights, civil,
political, economic, social and cultural rights,
including the right to development**

Written statement* submitted by Tumuku Development and Cultural Union (TACUDU), a non-governmental organization in special consultative status

The Secretary-General has received the following written statement which is circulated in accordance with Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/31.

[8 August 2022]

* Issued as received, in the language of submission only.



Human Rights Violations in Pakistan: Enforced and Involuntary Disappearances

The Tumuku Development and Cultural Union would like to draw the council's attention to the plight of the people of Balochistan. The Baloch people are facing human rights violations by Pakistan on an unprecedented scale. Although the Baloch people have been facing the systematic violation of human rights for the last many years, in recent months, these brutalities have increased in intensity and quantity and have resulted in a humanitarian crisis.

The alarming aspects of the state brutalities are the disappearance of political and social activists, extreme torture of detainees, extrajudicial killings, and the physical elimination of the cream of the Baloch society. Political and human rights activists' arrests and extrajudicial killings have become a norm in Balochistan, where security agencies operate with impunity. The security agencies' modus-operandi has been to abduct, torture, and hold the activists incommunicado for indefinite periods. These inhuman acts are being carried out to silence the voice raised by the Baloch people for their genuine socio-political rights.

According to data collected and verified by Baloch Human Rights Council (BHRC), from January to June 2022, 201 persons became the victims of enforced disappearances. In addition, security forces tortured and extra-judicially killed 59, and their mutilated bodies were discovered in various districts of Balochistan. Moreover, in June 2022, 55 mutilated bodies were recovered in Lahore and are believed to be the missing persons from Balochistan. Furthermore, in July 2022, mutilated and bullet-ridden bodies of 10 Baloch political activists in the custody of the security forces for many years were recovered from the Ziarat districts of Balochistan. BHRC has verified these figures from different sources and the victims' relatives.

Various human rights organizations, including the Human Rights Watch, reported that there had been an upsurge in the number of missing persons and mutilated bodies in recent months. According to data collected by the Baloch Human Rights Council (BHRC), the "kill and dump policy" had brought brutality in the province to an unprecedented level. BHRC sources verified that:

1. In January 2022, 48 persons went missing while nine were extrajudicially killed or their mutilated bodies found.
2. In February 2022, the number of missing persons was 29, while seven were extrajudicially killed or mutilated bodies recovered.
3. In March 2022, the cases of enforced disappearances were 26, while cases of extrajudicial killings and mutilated bodies were 11.
4. In April 2022, the cases of enforced disappearances were 33, and the number of extrajudicial killings and mutilated bodies was 1
5. In May 2022, the number of enforced disappearances is 27, and the number of extrajudicial killings or mutilated bodies is 10.
6. In June 2022, the number of enforced disappearances is 21. The number of verified mutilated bodies of missing persons is four, while 55 cases of mutilated bodies found in Lahore are being confirmed. However, it is believed that they are from the missing persons picked up by the security forces in Balochistan on various occasions.

The security forces are perpetrating atrocities in Balochistan with the help of their collaborating religious groups and parties, death squads, and anti-social elements. The formation of death squads by the army, the creation of proxy militant religious organizations, and the open patronization of the narcotics business are the tool by which the plans of socio-political and economic exploitation of the Baloch people is being implemented.

The present situation in Balochistan is alarming as the whereabouts of thousands of Baloch are still unknown. Neutral observers and humanitarian organizations have documented the verified numbers of disappeared persons in thousands. We genuinely believe that their lives are in grave danger.

Balochistan is in turmoil. The people are living in a state of siege. However, as Balochistan has been declared a no-go area for the international media and human rights organizations, nothing of the atrocities is reported in the international media. In the face of heinous crimes committed by the Pakistani security forces in Balochistan, it is high time for the international community to act. The Baloch are facing a systematic genocide. We believe that they need urgent help from the UN. We demand justice for the Baloch people. We believe that failing to do so is letting down a people who are being minced under the powerful jaws of the military establishment of a recognized rogue state. We believe that no individual or no state should be above International Law. Those responsible for grave human rights violations must be held accountable.

According to the United Nations General Assembly resolutions, many actions of Pakistani security forces and its auxiliary religious or extremist organizations come into war crimes. The Baloch, facing the worst of the atrocities and genocide acts, needs the help of the civilized world in a meaningful way. We request the United Nations to act before it is too late. We request that:

1. The council should send a UN fact-finding mission to investigate the extrajudicial killings and mass disappearances of the Baloch political and social activists.
 2. International community should bring the perpetrators of the heinous crimes against humanity in Balochistan to justice by initiating cases against them in the international court of justice in The Hague.
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