

Islamic Republic of Iran human rights violations in Balochistan

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An introduction of Balochistan Human Rights Group (BHRG)

Balochistan Human Rights Group (BHRG) is an independent and non-profit human rights organization which works to provide information to fill the gaps cause by the lack of independent media in Balochistan through investigation, effective communication and gathering reliable documents.

BHRG provides relevant, verified and up-to date information regarding the human rights situation in Western Balochistan.

Increase in the executions of Baloch people in Iran

The Islamic Republic of Iran under the leadership of Ali Khamenei and President Ebrahim Raisi continues to execute prisoners in Iran. Baloch citizens have been arrested by the regime on various charges, tortured, and forced to make confessions in detention which ultimately lead them to being awarded death sentences.

Hence, Zahedan prison ranks third in the country in terms of execution of death sentences in the country, and since the beginning of the Iranian Calendar year (1401), 102 Baloch citizens have been executed in prisons all over Iran.

These verdicts have sometimes been implemented collectively, including.

- Execution of 12 people including one woman on June 6th, 2022 in Zahedan prison.

- Execution of 6 people on June 6th, 2022 in Gorgan prison.

Baloch fuel carrier risk their lives in order to provide food to the family

During the last 43 years, the Islamic Republic of Iran with its discriminatory policy against the oppressed ethnicities has been engaged in destroying the facilities and resources of marginalized communities in their areas.

In Balochistan, by handing over the sea of Balochistan to Chinese fishermen who are involved in illegal Trawling causing the destruction of marine life and resources and ultimately snatching the livelihood of local Baloch people. As a result, Baloch citizens are left with dangerous jobs such as fuel delivery to meet their basic needs and to earn money for their families, in such a way that by buying and selling and transporting petroleum products cross-border to Pakistan risking their very lives as that expose the fuel carriers to all kinds of dangers, from direct shooting by military forces to road accidents and fires.

In the first half of 1401, 89 fuel carriers lost their lives, 33 were injured, and 5 were arrested. (Appendix Table 2)

Additionally, it has increased insecurity and danger to the life of other road passengers as often they become victims through accidents or get caught in random shootings by military forces from both sides of the Iran-Pakistan border. On the 3rd of August 2022, 32 passengers of the bus were injured due to an accident between a fuel truck and a bus.

Arrest and torture of Baloch citizens by either the security forces or the individual armed forces

The regime of the Islamic Republic of Iran is trying to eliminate its opponents in various ways throughout Iran, and it is pursuing this issue in Balochistan in other ways and with more intensity. In Balochistan, as opposed to the constitution, military agents receives orders from higher-ups to shoot citizens without any prior warning.

In the first 6 months of this year, 39 Baloch citizens have been killed by police officers and 16 others have been injured (Appendix Table No. 3) 32 people have been arrested in Balochistan (Appendix Table No. 4).

In addition to these cases, the Revolutionary Guards distributed firearms to their plain clothes personnel in Balochistan, posing a serious challenge to the security in Balochistan, as these seemingly unofficial forces of the Revolutionary Guards starts shooting with firearms and carrying out armed looting of ordinary Baloch citizens. During the first 6 months of 1401, 101 Baloch citizens were attacked by unknown armed men, 70 of whom were killed and 31 injured.

Drowning of Baloch children in 'hootag' and rivers

Since the acute shortage of water in many villages in Balochistan due to negligence by the state as no water supply system is in place, local Baloch people collect rainwater in a large ditch locally called 'hootag' or fetch water from the river, where the river flows.

In rural areas, especially in the Dashtiari district, the people are still forced to use the obsolete and unhygienic hootag system to fulfill their water needs, which has become a big challenge for children's safety as they pose a danger & life risk to children's life as they often accompany their mothers or family members to fetch water or go their unaccompanied to play and due to lack of bar around the ditch, many children slip into the water and are drowned.

On the other hand, the lack of suitable entertainment facilities for children and teenagers, such as adequate and suitable swimming pools in the cities of Balochistan, children, and teenagers go to seasonal rivers or the sea for swimming and water play and never get drowned. In the first half of this year, 13 children and 4 adults drowned and lost their lives in hootags, and 15 citizens in rivers or the sea.

Torture and death of Baloch prisoners in different prisons

Iran's prisons do not have the standard infrastructure to protect the lives of prisoners. Due to severe torture of prisoners and failure to attend to the medical needs of prisoners and even deliberate killing of prisoners, in the first 6 months of the current year, 4 Baloch citizens have died in Iranian prisons, such as:

- Mr. Mohammad Faraz from Cheraghabad village of Konarak, who was subjected to severe torture during his arrest, unfortunately, died in Zahedan prison on the 5th of May.
- Mr. Gol Agha Naroi, the son of Rasool from the village of Haidar Molashrif Zahak, who was arrested on charges of drug-related crimes, died on the 27th of May due to cardiac arrest in Birjand prison.
- Mr. Musa Rahimi, one of the Sunni religious scholars who was arrested for not following the state announcement regarding the Eid al-Fitr, died suspiciously in Bandar Abbas prison on the 25th of April.

An increase in the number of suicides of Baloch citizens which is the result of psychological, economical pressures and systematic discrimination.

Systematic discrimination, second class treatment in the hands of authorities, many Baloch youths succumb to psychological pressures arising from the economic crisis and overall frustration with the discriminatory system and commit suicide. Owing to the aforementioned reasons, 6 people mainly children and youth have committed suicide since the beginning of the Iranian calendar 1401.

Demolition of houses of Baloch people by state authorities

Marginalization in the big cities of Balochistan such as Zahedan, Chabahar, Iranshahr, Khash, and Saravan is the result of the destruction of the agricultural land and the occupation of the villagers by the regime of the Islamic Republic of Iran.

Instead of providing a suitable place to live and shelter to its citizens, which is one of the basic rights of every human being, the relevant government institutions destroy their houses.

According to the Mekran coast development plan, the regime intends to settle 5 to 10 million citizens from the central regions of Iran into the coasts of Balochistan and is building large settlements on these coasts for these immigrants.