



Balochistan Human Rights Group

Annual Report

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I. Introduction

✓ An introduction of Balochistan Human Rights Group (BHRG)

Balochistan Human Rights Group (BHRG) is an independent and non-profit human rights Non Governmental Organization(NGO), that works on providing 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.

II. Overview of the human rights situation in Balochistan

✓ Iranian regime pursues intensely the execution of Baloch citizens

The Iranian Regime with the presidency of Ibrahim Raisi has accelerated the execution of Baloch citizens in Balochistan. The authorities of regime in Iran continue to commit widespread and systematic human rights violations against the Baloch nation in Iran, from confiscating forcefully their properties, to chasing them to death and executing them without any trial or through unfair show trials. The Iranian regime continues to use the death penalty as a tool to intimidate and eliminate its dissidents. The present president of the regime, Ibrahim Raisi is responsible for the massacre of political prisoners in 1988 and crimes against humanity. He has defended himself proudly regarding these heinous acts **and w**

The gathered data illustrates that 30% of the total executions in Iran have been of Baloch prisoners, while they constitute only 5 to 6% of Iran's population.as rewarded for defending people's right and security.

According to statistics compiled by the Balochistan Human Rights Group, the Iranian regime has executed more than 184 Baloch citizens in 26 different prisons.

Seven Baloch were executed for political charges, 143 for drug-related charges, 26 for murder, and eight with other unspecified charges

Meanwhile, the MIZAN News Agency, affiliated with the judicial authority of the Islamic Republic of Iran, reported in December about the execution of an individual who had been charged with political activism in Zahedan without disclosing his identity.

The actual number of executions could be much higher as the regime carries out many of such executions secretly and out of the public eye.

There is incontestable evidence that many of victims are tortured in order to extract false confessions. As most of Baloch citizens are executed for drug-related offenses, this is an easy excuse for the regime to label the Baloch dissidents as criminals and drug traffickers. There are still many Baloch citizens who are imprisoned in Iranian jails and might be executed under various pretexts therefore, Balochistan Human Rights Group calls on international human rights bodies and European countries to take immediate action to save their lives and include this issue in their agendas before doing any sort of negotiations with the Iranian regime.

✓ Baloch citizens being killed by armed forces with unknown identities

The Revolutionary Guards distributed firearms to the ununiformed 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

According to reports gathered by the Balochistan Human Rights Group in 2023, 192 Baloch citizens were subjected to armed attacks by unknown individuals, with 150 fatalities and 42 injuries. Among these individuals were at least five children and four women.

In Sistan and Balochistan province, as well as Baloch-populated areas in Kerman and Hormozgan provinces, the Islamic Republic of Iran's security forces are arming certain individuals in an attempt to advance their own goals. These entities not only request espionage from armed individuals, but also ask them to assassinate opponents and sometimes even trusted individuals who do not agree with the government's policies. Balochistan is one of the regions where the role of local dignitaries and tribal leaders in community affairs is very prominent. Security forces sometimes secretly arm individuals from two armed factions and, by taking advantage of personal differences, force them into armed conflict. The benefit that the Islamic Republic of Iran derives from these conflicts is that when influential members of a faction are killed, security forces can easily infiltrate the faction's members and thus increase their control over the community.

✓ Extra judicial killing

The military and security forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran in Sistan and Balochistan province and also in Baloch-inhabited areas enjoy immunity from prosecution. They carry out indiscriminate shootings that annually result in the death and injury of dozens of Baloch citizens without any judicial order. In addition, these forces and military institutions threaten and pressure the families of victims to dissuade them from filing complaints against the guilty officers. Even if the families of victims file complaints against these forces in judicial authorities, no action is taken, and the case is closed without any result.

Releasing military forces to carry out arbitrary actions and illegal behaviors such as direct shootings towards citizens has led to an increase in violations of citizens' rights by these forces and has caused more anxiety and fear among people towards the police and military institutions.

In general, military forces in Balochistan have very violent and humiliating behaviors towards Baloch citizens, which annual statistics of violations of citizens' rights by these forces indicate.

In 2023, reported incidents revealed that military forces' direct shootings led to fatalities and injuries of no fewer than 120 Baloch civilians. Among these, 80 lives were lost, while 40 individuals sustained injuries, including 9 children and 3 women. The data indicates that September was the most lethal month, witnessing 13 fatalities and 9 injuries among the Baloch populace due to indiscriminate shootings by military personnel.

✓ Worker Deaths

Sistan and Balochistan province, along with Baloch-populated areas in Kerman and Hormozgan provinces, face the worst economic conditions in terms of development. Statistics released by the Islamic Republic of Iran show Balochistan having the highest rates of unemployment and poverty. Many Baloch citizens seek work in other provinces, encountering issues like lack of insurance coverage and discriminatory behavior.

Reports in 2023 recorded at least six cases of Baloch workers' deaths in various parts of Iran. The most recent incident involved Mohammad Amin Shihakardak, a 19-year-old from Zahedan, who lost his life due to unsafe working conditions on November 30th, falling from a building.

✓ **Illegal arrests of dozens of protesting Baloch citizens and forced confessions under torture**

During this year which is the ongoing protests included, a large number of Baloch protesters have been illegally arrested by the security and intelligence forces of the regime. In detention under severe torture treatment they have been forced to give false confession.

According to reports collected by the Balochistan Human Rights Group, at least 1,112 citizen arrests occurred, which 37 teenagers and children under the age of 18, have been determined.

Most detentions were related to peaceful protests, and by the end of 2023, hundreds remained detained without trial, with severe judicial sentences for many, including at least seven individuals sentenced to death.

In late September 2022, due to a police commander's assault on a 15-year-old child during interrogation, Baloch people in various parts of Balochistan staged widespread protests and strikes. Iranian military forces, on September 30th and November 4th, 2022, shot and killed hundreds and injured many demonstrators. These massacres led to extensive Friday protests in Balochistan cities, resulting in thousands being detained by security forces over thirteen months of continuous street protests.

✓ **Drowning of Baloch children in 'hootag' and rivers because of lack of entertainment facilities**

The lack of suitable and sufficient entertainment facilities for children in Balochistan has caused them to use rivers or hootags to play or swim, which has caused many children to drown every year, so that during the year, 35 persons have lost their lives.

✓ **Baloch fuel transporter/carrier(Sokhtbar) loosing their lives to earn a decent living**

Fuel transporters are some of the less privileged people living in border areas in Balochistan. Unemployment and poverty have forced the Baloch citizens of these areas to take up dangerous jobs such as cross border fuel transporting. Among these one can find people of all ages and walks of life. From children as young as 12 years old to 70 years old, from university students to highly qualified persons. They are constantly subjected to face direct and indiscriminate firings from Iranian security forces, accidents of their vehicles or catching fire of their cars and losing their lives on the route to find a piece of bread to feed their families and to survive. Incidents such as the overturning of cars chased by security forces have increased drastically as such countless Baloch citizen's bodies turning to ashes in burning vehicles.

According to reports compiled by Balochistan Human Rights Group for 2023, there have been more around 223 deadly incidents involving Baloch fuel transporters which resulted in death and injuries of, at least 321 fuel transporters. Among these, 45 were killed or wounded in uncontrolled and direct shootings by military forces, with 28 killed and 15 injured by gunfire, and two wounded by the military's use of knives. Furthermore, 252 transporters were killed or injured in road accidents, with 194 fatalities and 58 injured individuals. Unknown gunmen also shot eight people dead and two wounded. Other incidents, such as floods, fires at fuel storage sites, and one unidentified incident, resulted in at least 14

deaths and injuries.

✓ Public Flogging and Judicial Sentencing

Based on the compiled reports in 2023, at least once a public flogging sentence was carried out in the city of Dalgaan, although there is no precise information available regarding its date and specific identity. According to available documentation, this sentence was executed in the first quarter of the year.

Also, on December 23rd, a Baloch citizen identified as "NaserAhmadzahi," aged 20, was sentenced by Branch 103 of Zahedan Court to one year in prison and seventy lashes for participating in street protests against the Islamic Republic.

The first criminal laws and regulations in Iran date back to 1945, including provisions for corporal punishment such as flogging, with much lower quantities than later regulations. Flogging was abolished in Iran in 1965, and in 1973, all forms of flogging were eliminated (except for incorrigible children).

After the 1978 Revolution in Iran, flogging penalties were reintroduced, and in the 1983 Law of Hudud and Retribution, flogging was considered a lawful punishment and was incorporated into the primary scope of punishment in the law.

✓ Demolition of Baloch people's houses by the state authorities in order to change the population structure of Balochistan and seizing land

In recent years, the Islamic Republic of Iran has pursued three significant plans: 'Development of Makoran Coasts,' 'Population Engineering,' and 'Territorial Engineering.' Through these plans, the Islamic Republic effectively erases the identity, culture, and language of the Baloch people, contravening international human rights laws.

Consequently, the government seizes lands that have belonged to the people for decades, possibly even centuries, passed down through generations. This includes land grabs and forced displacement of indigenous inhabitants under various pretexts, such as 'national territories.'

During the year 2023, the destruction of the homes of Baloch citizens by governmental authorities and administrations has taken place in many stages as follows:

- On 20/02/2023 in Zahedan /Manzelab by security forces
- On 28/02/2023 in Chabahar by security forces
- On 13/03/2023 in Chabahar /Mirabad/Moradabad by security forces
- On 09/04/2023 in Saravan/Ahmadabad by security forces
- On 01/05/2023 in Chabahar/Moradabad by security forces
- On 21/05/2023 in Mibab by security forces
- On 01/17/2023 in Zahedan /CheshmeZiyarat by security forces
- On 15/07/2023 in Chabahar by security forces
- On 18/07/2023 in Zahedan by security forces
- On 18/07/2023 in Chabahar by security forces
- On 21/07/2023 in Chabahar by security forces

- On 07/08/2023 in Zahedan by Bonyad E Maskan
- On 30/08/2023 in Saravan /Jalgh by Government Officials
- On 11/09/2023 in Jihadabadin Zahedan, the IRGC forces destroyed several residential units.
- On 29/09/2023, In the city of Chabahar the employees of Housing authorities (BonyadMaskan) destroyed a residential unit with the cooperation of IRGC and Basij forces.
- On 09/10/2023 , in Chabahar behind Iran Khodro Company, IRGC and Basij forces, while beating the residents, destroyed their shelters.
- On October 31, 2023, IRGC forces accompanied by the Zahedan prosecutor, launched an assault on the CheshmeZiarat area, without prior warning, they demolished the residential homes of Baloch citizens.

✓ The suspicious death of a Baloch prisoners in Iranianprisons

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 year 2023, many Baloch citizens have lost their lives on different charges suspiciously.

Reports in 2023 indicated that at least six Baloch prisoners in six different cities died inside prisons due to reasons such as lack of medical attention and suicide. Additionally, one individual was killed in Zahedan's police station after being detained and assaulted by military forces. Recorded cases of Baloch prisoners' deaths occurred in the prisons of Iranshahr, Kerman, Karaj, Zahedan, Zabol, and Mashhad throughoutthe year.

BHRG appeal to international human right organizations, democratic countries is to put pressures on the Iranian Islamic regime to stop unlawful arrests and killing.

BHRG appeal to United Nation, international communities and human rights organizations to act against the violation of Baloch People human rights.