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✓ ***An introduction of Balochistan Human Rights Group (BHRG)***

Balochistan Human Rights Group (BHRG) is independent and non-profit human rights None 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.

✓ ***Death of Baloch Youth in Zahedan Detention Center***

An 18-year-old Baloch youth was killed in the Zahedan intelligence detention center. The citizen, Sepher Shirani, detained by military forces in Zahedan, lost his life in custody, and his family was informed. Sepher, a resident of Zahedan, was detained by intelligence forces on Tuesday 30 January 2024 and reports suggest he faced torture during detention, leading to his tragic death. Authorities cited his online activities as the reason for his arrest and interrogation.

✓ ***Abduction and killing of Baloch Fishermen by Somali Pirates***

Twelve Baloch fishermen from the town of Konarak were abducted in international waters near the African continent by Somali pirates, resulting in the death of one of them, identified as Jamshid Bordi, 19 years old, son of Qasem. The identities of three other abducted sailors were also disclosed: Mokhtar Bordi, 17 years old, son of Wahid; Eslam Bordi, 24 years old, married with one child, son of Noor Mohammad; and Zakaria Bordi, 20 years old, son of Noor Mohammad, all residents of Parg village in Konarak County.

According to reports, these individuals were fishing in the open sea when they were seized by armed Somali pirates, resulting in one fatality, and the fate of the remaining eleven is unknown. It is noteworthy that due to the 25-year agreement between the Islamic Republic of Iran and China and the lack of fishing permits issued to native fishermen by the Chabahar Fisheries Company, fishermen are forced to venture into distant areas where they face numerous challenges such as severe storms and piracy. It should be mentioned that previously, forty Baloch fishermen from Konarak and Chabahar, along with the crews of two boats authorized for fishing, had gone to Somali waters for fishing, only to be detained by the Somali Coast Guard. After enduring ten months of torture and detention in dire conditions, each of them was fined twelve thousand dollars by the Somali court. So far, none of the Iranian government officials have taken any action to follow up on the situation of these Baloch sailors.

✓ **Baloch citizen Sentenced to 12 years in Prison.**

On February 7, 2024, following a trial session, a Baloch citizen named Ali Naroui, born in 2001, son of Khodanour in Zahedan, was sentenced to twelve years in prison. According to the report, the judge accused him of illegal border crossing, disturbance against the system, membership, and collaboration with anti-system groups," among other charges, all of which Ali denied. He was detained by security forces in Zahedan on April 8, 2023, and after 95 days, media affiliated with the Revolutionary Guards introduced him as a member of the Jaish al-Adl group through fabricated scenarios and forced confessions. It is worth mentioning that after the publication of the news by government-affiliated media, the armed group Jaish al-Adl issued a statement stating that the individual claimed by the Revolutionary Guards is not a member of the Jaish al-Adl organization.

✓ **More than four months without hearing from Maulvi Fazlur Rahman Kohi**

On February 27, 2024, there has been no contact or meeting between Molavi Fazlur Rahman Kohi, who was transferred to Mashhad by military forces after his release, and his family for 128 days.

In a video statement, Molavi Kohi's son, Noah Kohi, declared that it has been over four months since his father's detention, yet there is no information about his health status and whereabouts. This prominent Baloch cleric was sentenced by the Special Clerical Court in Mashhad to five years of exile in Shahr-e Kord, Chaharmahal and Bakhtiari Province. He was given twenty days to appeal this verdict.

✓ **Filmmakers Sentenced: Makki Mosque**

Abdolnaser Shahbakhsh and Osama Shahbakhsh, two filmmakers of the Makki Mosque, have been sentenced to one year in prison by the Zahedan Revolutionary Court. The verdict was also confirmed by the provincial appellate court. It is noteworthy that the one-year prison sentence was issued in early December 2023 by Branch One of the Zahedan Revolutionary Court, in absentia and presided over by Judge Abolfazl Janfaza, for these two individuals. Upon their objection to the provincial appellate court, the objection was rejected, and the one-year prison sentence for the defendants was upheld. Abdolnaser Shahbakhsh, son of Abdulrahim and grandson of Mullah Abdulhamid, is an employee of the seminary and a photographer of the Makki Mosque, while Osama Shahbakhsh (Naroui), son of Mohammad Rasoul, is a filmmaker of the Makki Mosque. Both were arrested on June 27, 2023, on Razi and Tabatabai Streets in Zahedan by security forces and were released on November 27 after four months and 21 days of detention in Zahedan Prison, Section 9.

✓ **Demolition of Baloch Homes**

On February 18, 2024, a joint operation by the Housing Foundation and military forces descended upon the village of Kalika, located in the livestock area on the outskirts of Zahedan, targeting residential homes belonging to Baloch citizens with ownership documents. Shockingly, without presenting any judicial order, these forces ruthlessly demolished the homes, leaving the residents in despair. The use of bulldozers without explanation compounded the residents' anguish, with threats looming over other homes in the vicinity. Disturbingly, these forces have ominously declared their intent to return and raze the entire area to the ground in the days to come. This harrowing incident adds to a troubling trend observed throughout 2023, where security and governmental bodies of the Islamic Republic of Iran have razed and confiscated lands in at least 21 instances across five Baloch-inhabited cities, with Chabahar bearing the brunt with eight cases and Zahedan with seven.

A day prior, on February 17, 2024, a similar scene unfolded in the Kambo Hemat Abad area of Chabahar, as the Housing Foundation, accompanied by military personnel, launched yet another demolition spree targeting residential homes of Baloch citizens. The absence of prior notice or judicial order didn't deter the military and housing foundation personnel, who arrived with a fleet of military vehicles and bulldozers, wreaking havoc on the community. This distressing event echoes a pattern witnessed just days earlier on February 14, 2024, in the Moradabad Kambo neighborhood of Chabahar, where Baloch citizens faced brutal assaults and the demolition of their homes, once again without any warning or legal authorization. The systematic

demolition and seizure of homes and lands, reported in 21 instances across Baloch areas in 2023, underscore a grave injustice, with Chabahar and Zahedan bearing the brunt of this oppressive campaign.

✓ ***Fuel Carriers (Sokhtbar)***

In the past month, the perilous plight of Baloch fuel carriers continues to escalate, with 21 reported deaths or injuries. Among the fallen are AbdalnaserShahouzehi Islam Baloch, 19, and Mehran Khosravi, 19, alongside Suleiman Kalamati, 20, and Mohammad Sadegh Yousefi, 20. Additionally, Shahrzad Shahsavar, 36, Afshin Khajeh Mahmoudi, and Aref Dehmardeh are among those identified. Tragically, this grim toll adds to a staggering 2023 statistic, where 321 fuel carriers fell victim to a myriad of perils, including direct shootings, road accidents, and natural disasters.

✓ ***Detainees***

In the past month, at least 14 Baloch citizens have been detained, among them a well-known social media blogger, Mohammad Toutazehi, and a Sunni seminary teacher, Ali Hyder Aalizahi, along with three fuel carrier "Sukhtbar" and four brothers Ismail, Elias, Yaser, and Nasser Naroui.

✓ ***The death of a Baloch citizen in prison***

A Baloch prisoner lost his life under unknown circumstances in Zabol's Taghzi prison. The deceased, identified as Hamzeh Brahui, also known as Amir Hamzeh, son of Hakim, passed away without clear reasons. Other prisoners informed their families about the incident and urged them to find out more about his death. Further details about the circumstances, charges, and conviction of the deceased are currently unavailable.