OPEN LETTER

Systematic Human Rights Violations Against the Baloch People in Iran

For governments, national parliaments, the Iran Freedom Congress Diplomacy Group, international human rights institutions, and United Nations mechanisms

Submitted in my capacity as a member of the Balochistan Human Rights Group (BHRG). This letter is intended as an informational and advocacy resource that the Iran Freedom Congress Diplomacy Group, parliamentarians, institutions, and civil society organisations may draw upon, alongside the linked BHRG reports and United Nations documentation.

SUBJECT Urgent call for international action to address systematic human rights violations and structural discrimination against the Baloch people in Iran

Your Excellencies,

1. Structural Discrimination and Deprivation of Fundamental Rights

The Baloch people constitute a historically rooted national and ethnic community with a distinct language, cultural identity, and predominantly Sunni religious affiliation. For decades, Baloch communities have experienced multiple and intersecting forms of discrimination based on ethnic identity, religious affiliation, geographical location, and socioeconomic status.

These conditions have contributed to systematic marginalisation, political exclusion, inadequate access to public services, economic deprivation, and serious restrictions on fundamental rights.

The human rights situation in Balochistan cannot be understood solely through individual incidents of violence or repression. It must also be examined in the context of longstanding structural discrimination and unequal access to citizenship rights.

Baloch communities face serious challenges in accessing adequate healthcare, education, employment, clean water, housing, social protection, and essential public infrastructure. The lack of identity documents and birth registration for some Baloch citizens further restricts access to education, healthcare, employment, and other basic rights, leaving many individuals at risk of social and legal exclusion.

2. Extrajudicial Killings, Arbitrary Arrests, and the Death Penalty

The use of lethal force by military and security forces, arbitrary arrests, enforced disappearances, torture, and executions remain among the most serious human rights concerns in Balochistan.

According to the Balochistan Human Rights Group (BHRG), its 2025 Annual Human Rights Report documented at least 137 executions of Baloch citizens in prisons across Iran during 2025. The report also documented 173 Baloch citizens killed or injured through direct violence attributed to military and security forces, including shootings, home raids, landmine explosions, and severe beatings.

The same report documented at least 978 arrests during the reporting period. These findings are based on the organisation's human rights documentation, field reports, eyewitness testimonies, and information collected from multiple sources.

The disproportionate application of the death penalty, particularly in drug-related cases, raises serious concerns regarding fair trial guarantees, access to independent legal representation, the use of torture and coerced confessions, and the protection of the right to life.

We call for independent investigations into all allegations of unlawful killings, torture, enforced disappearances, and arbitrary detention, as well as accountability for those responsible.

3. Women, Children, and Vulnerable Communities

Baloch women experience intersecting forms of discrimination based on gender, ethnic identity, religious affiliation, and socioeconomic marginalisation.

Women and girls face barriers to education, healthcare, economic participation, and access to justice. Gender-based violence, child marriage, inadequate maternal healthcare, and limited protection mechanisms require urgent attention.

Children are particularly affected by poverty, inadequate educational infrastructure, child labour, lack of birth registration, and restrictions on access to essential healthcare.

The international community should pay particular attention to the rights of Baloch women and children and ensure that their experiences are adequately reflected in international human rights monitoring and reporting.

4. Economic Marginalisation and the Situation of Baloch Fuel Carriers

Decades of economic marginalisation and inadequate employment opportunities have contributed to the expansion of informal and dangerous livelihoods in Balochistan.

Baloch fuel carriers, commonly known as Sukhtbaran, face serious risks to their lives and physical security. They are exposed to shootings, vehicle pursuits, road accidents, landmines, and other dangerous conditions.

In its 2025 Annual Human Rights Report, BHRG documented at least 305 Baloch fuel carriers killed or injured during the year, including 173 deaths. These figures illustrate the severe and continuing risks faced by fuel carriers and should be read as cases documented by the organisation.

These circumstances must be examined in the broader context of poverty, lack of sustainable employment, inadequate infrastructure, and the state's responsibility to protect the right to life and human dignity.

The international community should call for policies that protect civilian lives and provide safe, sustainable economic opportunities for affected communities.

5. International Human Rights Documentation and Accountability

The concerns raised in this letter are supported by documentation from independent human rights organisations and international human rights mechanisms.

The Balochistan Human Rights Group has published annual and thematic reports documenting violations affecting Baloch citizens in Iran. Its documentation covers executions, unlawful killings, arbitrary arrests, violence against women and children, fuel carriers, and other fundamental rights violations.

The UN Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in Iran has referred to information and documentation provided by BHRG in reporting on violations affecting Baloch communities.

The reports of the Independent International Fact-Finding Mission on the Islamic Republic of Iran and the UN Special Rapporteur also provide important international frameworks for examining discrimination, excessive use of force, violations of minority rights, and accountability.

These sources should be considered together while maintaining the distinction between independently verified UN findings and information documented by civil society organisations.

6. Our Recommendations and Calls for International Action

We respectfully urge governments, national parliaments, international institutions, and United Nations mechanisms to take the following measures:

1. **Political and diplomatic attention:** Ensure that the human rights situation of the Baloch people is regularly addressed in parliamentary discussions, foreign policy consultations, diplomatic meetings, and international human rights dialogues.
2. **Independent investigations and accountability:** Support independent investigations into unlawful killings, extrajudicial executions, torture, enforced disappearances, and arbitrary detention, and pursue accountability through competent national and international mechanisms.
3. **Protection of human rights defenders:** Strengthen protection for Baloch human rights defenders, journalists, civil society organisations, and victims' families, both inside Iran and in exile.
4. **Monitoring and documentation:** Support the work of independent human rights organisations, including the Balochistan Human Rights Group, and ensure that their verified documentation is considered by relevant international mechanisms.
5. **Attention to the death penalty:** Call for an immediate moratorium on executions in Iran, with particular attention to the disproportionate impact on Baloch citizens, and demand fair trial guarantees in all criminal proceedings.
6. **Protection of women and children:** Prioritise the protection of Baloch women and children, including access to education, healthcare, legal protection, and mechanisms to prevent gender-based violence and child marriage.
7. **Economic and social rights:** Address structural deprivation and unequal access to education, healthcare, clean water, employment, social protection, and essential public infrastructure in Baloch-populated areas.
8. **International monitoring:** Call for meaningful cooperation with United Nations human rights mechanisms and independent experts, including access to affected areas and protection for witnesses and victims.
9. **Targeted accountability measures:** Consider appropriate targeted measures against individuals credibly implicated in serious human rights violations, in accordance with international law and applicable legal standards.
10. **Community awareness, human rights empowerment, and local capacity-building:** Support locally led human rights awareness and education, practical knowledge of fundamental rights and available protection mechanisms, and the development of community-level capacity to document and communicate human rights concerns. Where feasible, support safe, voluntary, and

community-designed activities inside Iran in cooperation with trusted local civil society actors. Any such engagement should follow a strict do-no-harm approach, protect the confidentiality and security of participants, obtain informed consent, and avoid exposing individuals or families to reprisals.

7. Conclusion

The human rights situation in Balochistan deserves sustained and specific attention within the international human rights and diplomatic agenda.

The Baloch people must enjoy the same fundamental rights, dignity, equality, and protection under international law as all other people in Iran.

Human rights violations should not be overlooked because affected communities live in geographically marginalised regions or belong to ethnic and religious minorities.

We therefore call upon governments, parliamentarians, international human rights organisations, and United Nations institutions to ensure that the situation of the Baloch people is included in their discussions, reports, recommendations, and diplomatic engagements concerning Iran.

We remain committed to peaceful advocacy, independent human rights documentation, accountability, equality, and the protection of fundamental rights for all communities.

We welcome opportunities for dialogue, parliamentary briefings, expert consultations, and cooperation with relevant human rights institutions.

Respectfully,

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Stockholm, Sweden | 9 November 2026

References and Supporting Documentation

The following sources are provided to facilitate independent review and further consultation. BHRG statistics reflect the organisation's own documentation and should be read in accordance with the methodology and reporting period of each publication.

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• **Fact-Finding Mission report – A/HRC/63/61 (2026):** https://docs.un.org/en/A/HRC/63/61

• **UN Special Rapporteur report – A/HRC/61/59 (2026):** https://docs.un.org/en/A/HRC/61/59

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• **Fact-Finding Mission report – A/HRC/55/67 (2024):** https://docs.un.org/en/A/HRC/55/67

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• **UN Treaty Body documents concerning Iran:** https://tbinternet.ohchr.org/_layouts/15/TreatyBodyExternal/countries.aspx?CountryCode=IRN&Lang=EN