

## Call for reconciliation in Balochistan

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**ISLAMABAD, Nov 29:** Speakers at a seminar on Tuesday said Balochistan Package had failed to bring about any visible change in the province where the security establishment continued to call the shots.

They said when the package was announced by the government in the parliament two years back, most Baloch people had dismissed it as a “joke and insufficient”.

“What precedes such packages is restoration of trust and consensus on some of the fundamental issues that constitute the core of conflict in a particular region of the country,” they said.

PML-N MNA Lt-Gen (retired) Abdul Qadir, Senator Dr Abdul Malik of National Party, former PPP senator Taj Haider and Dr Asim Sajjad were among prominent speakers at the seminar organised by the Centre for Research and Security Studies (CRSS) and Actionaid as part of their campaign to raise awareness among masses about the status of implementation of Balochistan Package, known as Aghaz-i-Huqooq-i-Balochistan Package.

Abdul Qadir Baloch said 71 out of 74 Baloch Sardars were with former military dictator Gen Pervez Musharraf, and despite that he failed to deliver and ended up creating more mess.

Rather, he stressed, it was Sardari mindset and not Sardars that has impeded progress of common people in Balochistan and this trend was wrecking havoc throughout the country.

He proposed that someone from academia, civil society or media should come forward and conduct an investigative study to ascertain the causes and factors “which kept Balochis out of national arena and forced them to take up arms against the federation”.

Highlighting the pivotal cause of Balochis` discontentment towards the federation, PPP leader and former senator Taj Haider pointed out that the PPP government was left with only option to go for reconciliation, rather than confronting the disgruntled Baloch people.

He said currently the issue between the federation and the province was of distrust. He said Balochis were always accommodative in their conduct and approach towards the federation.

Mr Haider said: “Political realisation was essential for addressing Balochistan issue.”

He noted that no economic package could be alternative to political blunders, and therefore, the state should initiate political reconciliation in Balochistan and all stakeholders should be taken on board.

Shunning politics of packages, Senator Dr Abdul Malik of National Party said: “Balochis are worried about their identity, and they don` t want economic packages.”

He said the state should re-read history before imposing its will on Balochis, who were never part of British India. He accused the state of “looting and plundering” Baloch resources. He stated former military ruler Musharraf tried to put Gwadar under federal control where 125 property schemes were launched in 25 days in the area and the land was sold out within days.

He observed that colonial model of governance would not work in the 21st century.

“Balochis resisted martial laws and bore the brunt for not subduing before the military dictators,” he narrated.

Dr Asim Sajjad Akhtar of National Institute of Pakistan Studies, Quaid-i-Azam University, said the talk of economic packages did not make sense in the absence of political rights.

He observed that even the announcement of hundreds of Balochistan rights packages would not make any difference on the ground in the ill-fated province, if the issues of provincial autonomy, control over resources and administrative freedom were not sorted out.

Anwar Sajidi, a journalist from Quetta, said the federal agencies were governing Balochistan as a sensitive security zone and there was no concept of civilian supremacy in the province.

In his concluding remarks, CRDD executive director Imtiaz Gul said no economic package, but people themselves could make the difference and change the situation on ground

# INTERNATIONAL THE NEWS

Wednesday, November 30, 2011

## **Academia, civil society urged to conduct investigative study**

*Rasheed Khalid*

Wednesday, November 30, 2011

Lieutenant General (r) Abdul Quadir Baloch, a member of the Balochistan Assembly from PML-N and former governor of Balochistan, has asked academia, civil society and media to come forward and conduct an investigative study to ascertain the causes and factors which kept Balochis out of national arena and forced them to take up arms against the federation.

He was speaking at a seminar on 'Balochistan Rights' Package-2009: Impact on Baloch Nationalism' organised by the Centre for Research and Security Studies (CRSS) in collaboration with the ActionAid Balochistan Forums here on Tuesday.

Quadir Baloch said, "Political role of the military is a dilemma" for Pakistan. He said that most of the problems that the country and his province are facing emanate from frequent army rules. Imposition of state's authority over Khan of Kalat in 1948 through bullet sowed the seeds of disillusionment among Balochs towards the federation, he said adding that it is travesty of fairness if one blames Baloch Sardars for the backwardness of Balochistan.

Alluding to an interesting fact, he said that 71 out of 74 Baloch 'sardars' were with former president Pervez Musharraf, and despite this, he failed to deliver in and ended up creating more mess. Rather, he said that it is the 'sardari' mindset and not 'sardars' that is impeding progress of common people in Balochistan.

PPP Senator Taj Haider said that there is always a problem with a relationship except the one based on love and trust. He noted that no economic package could be alternative for political blunders, and, therefore, the state should initiate political reconciliation process in Balochistan and all stakeholders should be taken on board. He said that it could be achieved only during democratic set-up and we all should support the continuation of democratic set-up in Pakistan.

Senator Dr Abdul Malik Baloch of the National Party, Balochistan, said that Balochis worry about their identity and they do not want economic packages. He said that the state should re-read history before imposing its will as Balochis were never part of the British India.

Dr. Aasim Sajjad Akhtar from Quaid-i-Azam University said that even the announcement of hundreds of Balochistan Rights' Packages will not make any difference on the ground if the issues of provincial autonomy, control over resources and administrative freedom are not sorted out.

Anwar Sajidi, editor-in-chief of a Quetta daily, said that the federal agencies are governing Balochistan as a security zone and there is no concept of civilian supremacy in the province. He said that the wave of discontentment in Balochi youth runs very high.

Imtiaz Gul, executive director of the CRSS, in his concluding remarks, observed that the people and not the economic package can make the difference and change the situation on ground.

Answering a question, General Baloch said that despite being an MPA, he was not given even a penny for developing his constituency because he did not raise arms like Kohlu and Sui people. He said that incidence of missing people only started after the target killings of settlers.

Replying to a question, he said that the issue of disappearances did not emerge when he was Quetta corps commander or Balochistan governor.

Talha Masood of Organisation for the Development of Youth, Quetta, Sultan Ahmed from Human and Rural Development Organisation, Khuzdar, and Jamal Ahmed, country director of the ActionAid, also spoke on the occasion.

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## THE EXPRESS TRIBUNE WITH THE International Herald Tribune

### Why has Aghaz-e-Haqooq failed to extinguish Baloch discontent?

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Two years have passed since the prime minister announced the Balochistan rights' package, but its impact on alleviating people's discontent in the province is yet to be seen.

At a seminar organised by the Centre for Research and Security Studies (CRSS) and ActionAid in Islamabad, prominent politicians, analysts and academics spoke at length on the significance of the Aghaz-e-Haqooq Balochistan Package, underlining the failure of the package to change the status quo, according to a CRSS press release.

PML-N lawmaker and former governor of Balochistan, Lt Gen (ret) Abdul Qadir Baloch, Senator Dr Abdul Malik Baloch of Balochistan's National Party, former Pakistan Peoples Party senator Taj Haider and Dr Aasim Sajjad Akhtar spoke at the seminar, which coincided with the second anniversary of the announcement of the Balochistan Rights' Package.

#### **A problem with historical roots**

Qadir Baloch observed that the roots of Baloch nationalism went back to the partition of British India.

He highlighted that it was the imposition of state authority over the Khan of Kalat in 1948 that sowed the seeds of disillusionment amongst Baloch people towards the federation.

To blame the 'sardars' of Balochistan for the lack of development in the province would be a travesty of justice, he added. He explained further by saying that 71 out of 74 sardars in Balochistan had sided with former president Pervez Musharraf during his tenure and yet the government had failed to deliver in the province.

#### **Reconciliation, not confrontation**

Highlighting the key cause of Baloch discontentment towards the federation as being a matter of distrust, Taj Haider said that the only option the PPP government had was to go for reconciliation, rather than confrontation. He added that Balochistan always had an accommodating approach towards the federation through action, such as the approval of the 1973 constitution.

The creation of a discourse on the "law and order situation" in the province and the subsequent deployment of heavy security contingents "is being done out of ulterior motives and vested interests," the former PPP senator said.

Haider also proposed that the government adopt legal measures to address the fears of the Baloch people, such as those over the mass migration of non-Baloch people towards the province.

#### **'Looting resources'**

Shunning what he referred to as the "politics of packages", Malik Baloch said, "Baloch people worry about their identity, and they don't want economic packages". He blamed the state for "looting and plundering Baloch resources", adding that Musharraf launched 125 property schemes in 25 days in Gwadar and the land was then sold-out within days. Calling this a "colonial model of governance", Malik said such methods were not going to work in the 21st century.

#### **'Political, cultural rights must be granted'**

Dr Akhtar of Quaid-e-Azam University's National Institute of Pakistan Studies said that economic packages did not make sense in the absence of political rights. The Aghaz-e-Haqooq package would not make any difference as long as issues of provincial autonomy, control over resources, and administrative freedom were not sorted out, he added. Sultan Ahmed, programme coordinator for the Human and Rural Development Organisation further criticised the effectiveness of the package, saying that it failed to address the cultural rights of the Baloch people.

#### **Civilian (lack of) supremacy**

Participants at the seminar were also highly critical of the government's failure to check what they called an ongoing "kill and dump" operation across Balochistan, referring to the several cases of missing persons and dumped bodies found in the province.

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THE EXPRESS  
**TRIBUNE**  
WITH THE *International Herald Tribune*

## Balochistan rights package: For the package to work, the govt must focus on building trust

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**ISLAMABAD:** Two years after Prime Minister Yousaf Raza Gilani announced the Balochistan rights package, the Baloch people continue to dismiss it and term it a "joke". The government must first work on building trust and the fundamental rights of the people in the province for the package to work.

The view came across in several speeches at a seminar held to review the impact of the package. Politicians and civil society members spoke in unison while criticizing the package for failing to change status quo in a province where the security establishment continues to call the shots.

The Balochistan rights package provided increased quota for the Baloch youth in the armed forces and other federal government organisations; an increased share in NFC awards and development schemes; additional royalties to locals on natural resources in provinces and the release of detained political workers.

The seminar was organised by the Centre for Research and Security Studies (CRSS) and Action Aid as part of their campaign to raise awareness among the public about the status of the package's implementation.

Balochistan PML-N lawmaker and former Governor Abdul Qadir Baloch said the roots of Baloch nationalism lie in the 1947 partition. He underscored that the imposition of the state's authority over the Khan of Kalat sowed the seeds of discontent among the Baloch.

Senator Dr Abdul Malik Baloch said the "Baloch are worried about their identity and not [just] economic packages".

He added that the state should reread history before imposing its will on Balochistan, stating that it was never meant to be a part of British India.

Dr Aasim Sajjad Akhtar of the National Institute of Pakistan Studies at Quaid-i-Azam University said that economic packages do not make sense in the absence of political rights.

He argued that no amount of stimulus packages will make a difference if issues of provincial autonomy, control over resources and administrative freedoms are not sorted out.

Addressing the primary cause of Balochi dissatisfaction and frustration towards the government, PPP provincial leader and Senator Taj Haider said, "There are always problems in relationships, except those based on love and trust."

He posited that the only option for the ruling government is to opt for reconciliation instead of confronting the disgruntled people of Balochistan.

The Nation on Web

# The Nation

November 30, 2011

## Balochistan package fails to deliver: Speakers

OUR STAFF REPORTER

ISLAMABAD – Most of Baloch people continue to dismiss Aghaz-e-Haqooq-e-Balochistan Package, which was announced two years ago by Prime Minister Yousuf Raza Gilani, as a 'joke' and 'insufficient.' Restoration of trust and consensus on some of the fundamental issues that constitute the core of conflict in a particular region of the country must precede such packages.

These views came through in most of the speeches at a seminar held to review the impact of the Balochistan Rights' Package. Politicians and civil society members spoke in unison while underlining that the Rights' Package had miserably failed in changing the status quo in the province where the security establishment continued to call the shots, with little role in decision-making for the political leadership.

PML-N lawmaker and former governor of Balochistan, Lt Gen (ret.) Abdul Qadir, Senator Dr Abdul Malik Baloch of National Party, former PPP Senator Taj Haider and Dr Assem Sajjad were among prominent speakers at the seminar organized by the Center for Research and Security Studies (CRSS) and Actionaid-Pakistan, as part of their campaign to raise awareness among masses about the status of implementation of Balochistan Rights' Package. The seminar also coincided with the second anniversary of the announcement of Balochistan Rights' Package,

which is also called Aghaz-e-Haqooq-e-Balochistan Package.

Addressing the participants, Qadeer Baloch proposed that someone from academia, civil society or media should come forward and conduct an investigative study to ascertain the causes and factors, which kept Balochis out of national arena and forced them to take up arms against the federation. Balochis want to be treated on parity basis like other Pakistanis and want control over their land and resources, he accentuated. He observed that political role of military was a dilemma for Pakistan.

Highlighting the pivotal cause of Balochis discontentment towards the federation, PPP leader and Senator Taj Haider said, "There is always problem with a relationship except the one based on love and trust". He pointed out that the only option the PPP government had was to go for reconciliation, rather than confronting the disgruntled Baloch people. He underlined that currently the issue between the federation and the province was of distrust. He underscored that the creation of law and order situation in the province and subsequent deployment of heavy security contingents was being done out of ulterior motives and vested interests.

Senator Haider highlighted: "the political realization is essential for addressing Balochistan issue." He noted that no economic package can be alternative for political blunders, and therefore the

state should initiate political reconciliation process in Balochistan and all the stakeholders should be taken on board. He proposed that the government of Pakistan should adopt legal measures to address the fears of Baloch people, like mass migration of non-Balochis towards Balochistan. He said that it could be achieved only during democratic set up and they all should support the continuation of democratic set up in Pakistan.

Shunning the politics of packages, Senator Dr Abdul Malik Baloch of National Party, Balochistan said, "Balochis are worried about their identity, and they don't want economic packages". He blamed the state for looting and plundering of Baloch resources. He stated that former President Musharraf tried to put Gawadar under federal control, 125 property schemes were launched in 25 days in the area and the land was sold out within days. He observed that this colonial model of governance was not going to work in 21st century.

Dr Aasim Sajjad Akhtar of National Institute of Pakistan Studies, Quaid-i-Azam University said that the talk of economic packages did not make sense in the absence of political rights. He observed that even the announcement of hundreds of Balochistan Rights' Packages would not make any difference on the ground in the ill-fated province, if the issues of provincial autonomy, control over resources and administrative freedom were not sorted out. "One state institution is work-

ing with impunity in the province and it is regrettable that it is continuing even when there is democratic government in Pakistan", he lamented.

Talha Masood of the Organization for the Development of Youth, Quetta underlined that Baloch youth had no prospects and Balochistan Rights' Package had failed miserably to make any difference at the grass roots level.

Participants at the seminar were wary of the government motives behind the announcement and implementation of Balochistan Rights' Package, since the package has despondently failed to address the long held grievances of the people of Balochistan. At the same time, they were critical of the government's failure to check the ongoing "kill and dump" operation across Balochistan, where mutilated and torched bodies of missing persons are being recovered from roadsides on daily basis.

They underscored the need for adopting political solution to address the political issue of Baloch nationalism and the announcement of economic packages was nothing but an exercise in buying more time.

In his concluding remarks, executive director, CRSS, Imtiaz Gul observed that no economic package, but the people themselves could make the difference and change the situation on ground. He said that it was time for the people to stand up for their rights.



VOICE OVER: Qadir Baloch, a political activist, speaking at a seminar Balochistan Rights Package — 2009 Tuesday. — Online

## Baloch leaders for political rights

■ ALMAS HAIDER NAQVI

ISLAMABAD — Speakers at a seminar stressed the government to go beyond packages offering to the people of Balochistan and give them role in the decision making over their resources to end conflict in the province.

“The government has so far failed in changing the status quo of the province where the security establishment continues to be in charge.”

Politicians and members of the civil society were speaking at a seminar titled “Balochistan Rights Package-2009: Impact on Baloch Nationalism” organised by the Centre for Research and Security Studies (CRSS).

Addressing the participants, Qadir Baloch observed the roots of the Baloch nationalism lay in partition of British India. The imposition of the state's authority over Khan of Kalat in 1948 through bullet sowed the seeds of dis-

lusionment among the Baloch people against the federation, he said.

Qadir Baloch noted it was travesty of fairness if someone blamed Baloch sardars (chieftains) for the backwardness in Balochistan.

Alluding to the fact, he said 71 out of 74 Baloch Sardars were with former President Musharraf but despite all that support Musharraf failed to deliver in Balochistan and ended up creating more mess. It is sardari mindset, not sardars that is impeding progress of common people in Balochistan, he said. “The mindset is wrecking havoc throughout the country not only in Balochistan,” he said.

PPP leader Senator Taj Haider said “There is always problem with a relationship except the one based on love and trust.”

He pointed out the only option the PPP government had was to go for reconciliation, rather than confronting

the disgruntled the Baloch people.

Dr Abdul Malik Baloch of National Party said the Baloch people were worried about their identity, and did not want economic packages.

The state should reread history before imposing its will on Baloch people, he said. “We were never part of the British India.” Dr Aasim Sajjad Akhtar of National Institute of Pakistan Studies, Quaid-i-Azam University said the talk of economic packages did not make sense in the absence of political rights.

A state institution is working with impunity in the province and it is regrettable that it is continuing even when there is a democratic government in Pakistan, he lamented.

Anwar Sajidi, Editor-in-Chief, Daily Intekhab, Quetta said the federal agencies were governing Balochistan as a sensitive security zone and there was no concept of civilian supremacy in the province.

ISLAMABAD - Speakers at a seminar said here on Tuesday that two years after the prime minister had announced the Balochistan Rights' Package, most of the Balochis were still dismissing it by terming it a "joke and insufficient."

The seminar was organised by the Centre for Research and Security Studies (CRSS), Islamabad and Actionaid Pakistan, as part of their campaign to raise awareness among masses about the status of implementation of Balochistan Rights' Package.

The speakers said the roots of Balochis' nationalism went back to the partition of British India. They underscored that the imposition of state's authority over Khan of Kalat in 1948 through guns sowed the seeds of disillusionment among Balochis and they turned antagonistic towards the federation.

PPP leader and former senator Taj Haider the relationship between the federation and Balochistan had always been problematic since partition. He opined that the only option the PPP government had was to go for greater reconciliation, rather than confronting the disgruntled Balochis.

He said currently the main issue between the federation and the province was distrust.

Shunning the politics of packages, Senator Dr Abdul Malik Baloch of the National Party said, "Balochis are worried about their identity, and they don't want economic packages".

He said that the state should reread history before imposing its will on them since they had never been a part of British India.

"Balochis resisted martial laws and bore the brunt for not subduing before the military dictators", he added.

Other speakers were of the view that government needed to find political solution to address the political issues like Baloch nationalism and the announcement of economic packages was nothing but a futile exercise.

Several politicians and civil society members including former Balochistan governor Lt Gen (retd) Abdul Quadir and Dr Assem Sajjad participated in the event.