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# **Balochistan Weekly Monitors**

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## **Balochistan Weekly Monitors (July-December 2011)**

### **Executive Summary**

Balochistan, geographically the largest province, is a vital natural resources hub and home to crucial deep sea port (Gwadar). In addition to this, the province is chronically beleaguered by the socio-political and security challenges and poses serious threats to the territorial integrity and solidarity of Pakistan. Since, its accession to Pakistan, the hapless province has been bleeding due to one reason or the other. The Center launched five military operations in the province to silent the dissenting voices, resulting out of decades' long social, political and economic injustices.

The issue of missing persons has been in the media for years, but in 2011 this issue took a blatantly unfortunate turn, when the mutilated bodies of once missing persons were found dumped in remote areas across the province. According to HRCP estimates 231 bodies of missing persons were recovered across the province during the current year.

The case of abductions for ransom and political motives was also the significant feature of the year. According to provincial police department figures 480 people were kidnapped for different reasons across the province. Also, the killing of large number of security forces personnel in blasts, target killings and landmine explosions marked the year.

The announcement and half hearted implementation of socio economic package "Aghaz-i-Haqooq-i-Balochistan", a part of government's "speak softly and carry a big stick" policy, along with the formulation of a number of commissions, claims and promises made no difference, as the horrific episodes of violence and terror have become even more frequent.

The second half of the year (July-December) saw a sky rocketing increase in killings and abductions in Balochistan. According to data compiled in the monitors, 145 people lost their lives due to atrocious terrorist acts, 29 went missing during this period, 46 people fell prey to sectarian attacks, while 15 FC men were killed in clashes with militants. Furthermore in acts of sabotage and subversion, 75 NATO oil tankers and containers were set ablaze and four went missing.

The disillusionment among Baloch youth and nationalist politicians

regarding the motives and policies of the federation to address Balochis long held grievances is all time high. Veteran Baloch Sardar and former chief minister Balochistan, Sardar Attaullah Mengal strenuously underlined that Balochistan has reached "near the point of no return".

Although FC which is solely at the helm of affairs in Balochistan, especially when it comes to deal with security issues, is put under provincial control, yet it is taking arbitrary decisions to deal with security issues in the province. Consequently, it (FC) has created 'security blanket' in the province.

Against the backdrop of overlapping and whipping insecurity factors, which include: sectarian and separatist militants, thugs, religious terrorists; security forces in Balochistan suffer 'capacity gap' to deal with the said security challenges.

Political representatives of Balochistan rarely take pain to attend the provincial assembly sessions to highlight and debate the issues faced by the people who are being represented by them. According to a news report by The Express Tribune of December 27, 2011, only two members were present out of 65 members in the provincial assembly's session which was scheduled on December 26, 2011. This aspect depicts the level of discontentment among the lawmakers in the hapless province.

Moreover, even there are reports in the media that few ministers of the provincial assembly are fuelling criminal activities in the province by backing the thugs and abductors. Also, they are getting share out of abductions for ransom.

On economic front it is observed that the province is overly dependent on financial backing from the federal government. And the provincial government in Balochistan is carrying out this policy despite the fact of passage of 18th Amendment. According to this amendment the constitutional restrictions do not allow for the funding of provincial projects out of the federal public sector development programme.

On social front the province is battered by the low literacy rate and higher poverty and unemployment rates during the second half of the year. Hence, the province did not show any prospects of improvement in its social indicators.

## **Background**

As part of its project (advocacy campaign) to study and raise awareness among the masses about the issues of conflict and peace in Pakistan and especially in Balochistan, the Center launched 'Balochistan Weekly Monitor' in July 2011. The initiative was meant to monitor unfolding security, political, economic and social developments in the volatile province. From July 25 to December 31, the Center produced 23 weekly monitors encompassing all major developments in the province. In the monitoring period, the Center has deduced by thoroughly analyzing the data that factors of insecurity in Balochistan are rapidly overlapping and manifesting their sheer relentlessness in and around Quetta city.

Balochistan covers nearly 44 percent (347,190 km<sup>2</sup>) of Pakistan's total landmass (803,940 km<sup>2</sup>). The province is predominantly rural with few semi-urban centers with, Quetta, the provincial capital; loosely qualify as a major urban center. Some 20 percent of Balochistan's population lives in semi-urban centers, while rest of the area is sparsely populated with nomadic and settled Baloch and Pashtun tribes. Almost 95 percent of the area in the province is guarded by a semi-government force called Levies, while rest of the area is policed by the regular provincial police force and Balochistan Constabulary (reserve police). The province is home to mega natural resources projects in Pakistan, but their exploitation is still a challenge for the state and province alike due to law and order situation and other differences over agreements.

Against this background of acute challenges and unique opportunities, the overall situation in Balochistan is taking a turn for the worse and this trend is not being curtailed despite the fact of some serious policy level efforts by the Central government. Though there are issues of rampant corruption, nepotism, youth unemployment, illiteracy, poor infrastructure and lack of health facilities across Pakistan, but Balochistan is battered by the said development challenges. The law and order situation is adversely contributing towards dimming the prospects of the province to beat the prevalent atmosphere of fear and fright in the province.

During the monitoring period, two newly emerged trends overshadowed all the other causes of violence and instability in the province. Sectarian

violence and 'kill and dump' operation in the province: the horrific images of mutilated bodies of the missing persons and the spate of sectarian violence targeting Shia sect people belonging to Hazara community marked the second half of the year. These two factors have undermined all the claims of guarded peace and calm in the province. In its report in November 2011, Crisis Management Cell (CMC) of the federal interior ministry has conceded that despite government security measures and cosmetic political and economic initiatives in the province, the level of violence in the province has surged. However, according to a new report in Pakistan Today of December 27, the Inspector General of Police in Quetta claimed that by adopting effective security measures, the level of targeted killing incidents of the Hazara people have declined. But these claims are open to question and verification against the backdrop of the happenings on ground in Balochistan.

## **1. Weekly Monitor (July 25 - 31, 2011)**

The week in focus witnessed a greater number of violent incidents and surge in target killings compared to the previous ones. A major sectarian clash erupted when a Sunni cleric of Jamia Albadar Mosque, Abdul Karim Mengal, was shot dead on 28th of July by unknown gunmen in Pishin District of Balochistan. Subsequently, banned militant outfit, Lashkar-e-Jhangwi (LeJ) gunned down at least seven people on following day, and 11 more were killed (all from Hazara Community) on 30th of July in Quetta.

An incident of political assassination on July 28 saw the nephew of Chief Minister Balochistan, Akmal Raisani, killed in a hand-grenade attack while attending a football match in Mastung district. Moreover, a tribal leader Abdul Razzaq, his brother Dur Mohammad along with three body guards were shot dead on July 31 in Turbat (in southern Balochistan).

In its report, the US based group, Human Rights Watch (HRW) blamed the law enforcement agencies in Balochistan for their role in orchestrating target killings and abductions in the province. In sum, a total of 30 people were killed this week. In addition, two bodies of missing persons were found in Liari area of Uthal city of Lasbela district. And in acts of sabotage and subversion 16 inch diameter gas pipeline was blown up near Goth Noor Khan in Dera Allah Yar, one NATO oil tanker was attacked on its way from Karachi to Kandahar on the National Highway near the Takri post area of Mach, and a passenger train, Bolan Mail came under attack near Marri Farm Tentaged village, in Dera Allah Yar town of Jaffarabad district.

The situation requires that the government take the complaints and grievances of Balochis seriously because Pakistan is already entangled in FATA and the intensified and protracted conflict in Balochistan will prove extremely detrimental to the overall security of province and the federation. The explosive circumstances in Balochistan underline the urgency for a negotiated settlement of issues that Balochi nationalists are using to perpetuate their violence campaign.

### **Week in Review**

#### **a) Acts of Terrorism/Subversion**

- The week began with good news, when Muhammad Ikhtiyar, DCO

Loralai, announced on July 25 that the Swiss couple (David Olivier, 31 and Widmar Daniela, 29) who went missing on July 1 is still alive. He said "All circumstantial evidence shows that they are very much alive. If it were not the case, we would have already received information that they been killed". [1]

- On July 24, two suspected militants were killed in a clash with security forces near Sanjavi area of Loralai district, while security forces managed to take hold of the third militant, who was injured in the shootout. Arms and ammunition was also seized during the raid.
- A little girl, identified as Bakht Bibi, was killed and one person Tareen Ahmed was injured in a landmine explosion in Killi King Area of Kohlu district. [2]
- A person, later identified as Yar Mohammad was gunned down in Dera Bugti when unknown assailants fired bullets with automatic weapon on July 27. [3]
- On July 29, armed men opened fire at Afghanistan-bound NATO oil tanker near the Takri post area of Mach, and escaped after setting the tanker ablaze. No casualty was reported and no group claimed responsibility for the incident.
- Unknown militants blew up a 16-inch diameter gas pipeline in the Goth Noor Khan area of Dera Allah Yar and resultantly the gas supply to Goth Noor Khan was suspended. [4]
- Imam of Jamia Albadar mosque, identified as Abdul Karim Mengal, was shot dead on July 28 by unidentified militants in Pishin. [5] In reprisal attacks militants LeJ, killed at least seven people, including four Shias, waiting to travel to Mashhad in Iran, at the Taftan bus terminal on Saryab Road on July 29.
- Moreover, two people, including one of the nephews of CM Balochistan, Akmal Raisani, were killed while 39 others, among them eight officials of the Anti-Terrorism Force (ATF) and four policemen, were wounded in a hand- grenade attack in a football stadium in Mastung District.
- In one of the most brazen attacks on Shias belonging to Hazara community, 11 people were killed and several others injured, when unidentified militants ambushed a public transport vehicle near a bus stop on Spini road in Quetta on July 30.
- Meanwhile, a Quetta-bound passenger train, Bolan Mail, was on its way to Quetta from Karachi, when it came under attack near Marri Farm Tentaged village area in Dera Allah Yar town of Jaffarabad district. A

bomb explosion derailed the locomotive and four carriages; however, no casualty was reported. Baloch Republican Army (BRA) claimed responsibility for the attack. [6]

- On July 31, two bullet-riddled bodies were found from Liari area of Uthal city of Lasbela District. Paper lying near the dead bodies, identified them as Sahrbat, son of Ahmed Khan Marri and Zaman, son of Bangal Marri, both residents of Vindar, a town in Lasbela. Sources at the hospital confirmed that the victims had been tortured and then shot to death. [7]
- Tribal leader Abdul Razzaq and his brother Dur Mohammad were driving through the main bazaar along with their bodyguards in Turbat on Sunday, July 31, when unknown assailants riding on motorcycles ambushed them and killed the tribal leader, his brother and three other bodyguards on the spot. [8]
- Unknown miscreants planted an explosive device under a chair in the hotel in Hub area of Balochistan on Sunday (July 31), where mostly laborers used to come for their meals. The explosion injured at least eight people including two children. [9]

#### **b) State of Provincial Finances**

On the financial front, the Balochistan government once again faces another financial crunch. Left with no money, according to media reports, the provincial government decided for an overdraft from the State Bank of Pakistan.

A senior official of the provincial finance department said on July 26, that the province had no funds to pay for its employees as the federal government had so far not released funds under the National Finance Commission (NFC) Award (formula for distribution of financial resources among the provinces of Pakistan by the federal government on annual basis) [10].

#### **c) Bugti Murder Case**

The investigation team has officially included Samad Lasi, former District Coordination Officer (DCO) Dera Bugti, in the interrogation process of the killing of Nawab Akbar Bugti (head of the Bugti Tribe of Baloch, former minister of state for interior and governor of Balochistan). Bugti was killed in a military operation on August 26, 2006, near Kohlu, about 150 miles east of Quetta. The investigation team has already issued the arrest warrant for him on July 27, and Balochistan home secretary has contacted his Sindh

counterpart for the former DCO's detention. [11]

On July 28, the provincial government demanded more time from the Balochistan High Court to contact the Centre for former president Pervez Musharraf's extradition and others accused of being involved in the murder of Nawab Akbar Bugti. [12]

#### **d) Political Front**

The Human Rights Watch said on Thursday, July 28, that soldiers, police and intelligence agencies in Pakistan torture and kill abducted activists in a campaign to quash a separatist movement in Balochistan, and hundreds of so-called "enforced disappearances" have been committed since 2005". [13] Brad Adams (Asia Director HRW) said, "Pakistan's security forces are engaging in an abusive free-for-all in Balochistan as Baloch nationalists and suspected militants 'disappear,' and in many cases are executed [14].

Human rights groups and Baloch nationalist political parties had claimed earlier in March that 13,000 people are missing in the province, while the provincial government acknowledges that fewer than 1,000 Balochis have been abducted. Intelligence and security agencies are alleged to be behind the growing disappearances in the region, where a number of strikes have taken place in recent months to protest the kidnappings.

Government and the security forces also deny any role in target killings. General Ashfaq Kayani, for instance, made it clear on August in Quetta that the army had neither any role in murders of political activists, nor was it talking to anybody. It is the job of the government to engage "angry Balochis" in dialogue, Kayani declared after the inauguration of the Army Institute of Medical Sciences in Quetta.

But much of crime, such as abductions for ransom, car-jacking, attacks on cargo trucks, particularly on the US-NATO cargo destined for Afghanistan, is largely the work of organized criminal groups, many of whom enjoy political patronage as well. As a result, this collusion of politics, bureaucracy and crime has also aggravated a politically volatile situation.

Following steps must be taken to improve law and order situation and to secure national interests in Balochistan.

a) There is a need for creating awareness in the region regarding the development work and positive measures taken for the region. Furthermore, the army and intelligence agencies, if not involved must explicitly make it clear that they have no role in escalating violence in the region.

b) There must be proper checks/accountability of the FC and related security forces such as Levies. Every incident must be thoroughly investigated.

c) The Supreme Court, though already stretched, should also initiate legal procedures and mechanisms which should work as a deterrent to all the combatants - both militants and the military forces. It should actively pursue cases of political murders and order investigation of missing person cases.

d) Moreover, the two new groups, the Baloch Musala Defai Tanzeem and Sipa-e-Shudha-e-Balochistan, that have claimed the killings of 120 Balochis must be dealt with severely and brought to justice. The government and the security forces need to clarify as to whether and what connection do these groups have with state institutions.

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[14] Pakistan accused over separatists who 'disappear', at <http://tribune.com.pk/story/219317/pakistan-accused-over-separatists-who-disappear/>

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## **2. Weekly Monitor (August 1 - 7, 2011)**

The week in focus was less violent compared to the previous one. Pakistan Army Chief of Staff, General Ashfaq Parvez Kayani's visit to Balochistan and the inauguration of the Garrison Sports Academy and Institute of Medical Sciences in Quetta on Monday, August 1 was the salient feature of the week. During the visit, Kayani underlined that the army had no role in abductions, dumping of mutilated bodies of Balochis and extra-judicial killings in the province.

US ambassador to Pakistan, Cameron Munter, also visited the provincial capital Quetta this week and met with Balochistan Assembly Speaker, Mohammad Aslam Bhotani and Chief Minister Nawab Aslam Raisani in Quetta on August 4. He highlighted the regional importance of Balochistan, announced financial assistance worth \$100,000 to the SOS village in Quetta. The village is host to 70 orphans. Munter also offered condolences for Akmal Raisani, the nephew of Chief Minister Raisani. Quetta Electricity Supply Company Chief Engineer Operations and Maintenance, Abdul Rauf Baloch, who was abducted by unknown armed men from Satellite Town about two months ago, was released on August 4. On the same day, security forces - police, anti-terrorism force and the paramilitary Frontier Corps (FC) conducted a major search operation against criminals in Killi Kamalo and Killi Qambarni areas of Saryab in Quetta and arrested more than 50 suspects. The operation was launched in the area after the sectarian clashes on July 29 and 30.

In its report, Amnesty International (AI) appealed for urgent action to save the lives of 10 detained Balochis on August 7, who face death risk, according to the rights group. Earlier the dead body of one of the detained persons was found in the Jabal-e-Noor area near Quetta on July 16. He was identified as an activist of the Baloch Student Organization-Azad.

As a whole, as many as seven people fell to acts of terrorism and violence. And in acts of sabotage and subversion, two NATO oil tankers were torched by unknown armed men on August 4.

### **Week in Review**

#### **a) Political Front**

The week began with an endeavor by the Army Chief Kayani to eschew the

spiking complaints by the Baloch nationalists, family members of the missing people and human right groups about the suspicious role of security forces in ongoing heinous killing of missing persons. He also delineated the scope of military engagement in Balochistan, saying that army cannot hold talks and negotiations with the "angry Baloch nationalists" since it is the duty of the democratic government. While speaking to journalists at the inauguration of the Garrison Sports Academy and Institute of Medical Sciences in Quetta on Monday, August 1, he defended the role of the law enforcement agencies in Balochistan and dispelled the impressions that agencies are involved in the abductions, dumping of mutilated bodies of Balochis and extra-judicial killings in Balochistan.[1]

In a meeting with Balochistan assembly speaker, Mohammad Aslam Bhotani in Quetta on August 4, US ambassador to Pakistan, Cameron Munter said that Balochistan is very important for US and resolving all issues in the province is its top priority. He also assured the provincial government for US support for the construction of new dams. Balochistan chief minister in his meeting with Munter denied the presence of Afghan Taliban leader Mullah Umar and Al-Qaeda Chief Zawahiri in Balochistan, as well as the existence of any Quetta Shura. US ambassador offered condolence for the killing of Akmal Raisani (CM's nephew), who was killed in an attack while attending a football match in Mastung district on July 28. [2]

At least six people were injured when security forces used tear gas and led a baton-charge to disperse a demonstration held by around 400 people against unscheduled electricity load shedding in front of district Turbat's grid station on Saturday, August 6. Demonstrators complained that 8 to 20 hours load shedding was being observed even in the holy month of Ramadan.[3]

#### **b) Kharotabad Killings Case**

In order to implement the recommendations made by the judicial tribunal about the Kharotabad incident, police department in Balochistan has turned to the law department to seek its advice. Earlier on four Russian citizens and 1 Tajik, (3 women and 2 men) were shot dead by security forces on May 27, 2011 near a security picket in Kharotabad area of Quetta. The judicial tribunal was set up to investigate the killings, earlier held former Capital City Police Officer (CCPO) Quetta Dawood Junejo, Lt. Col. Frontier

Corps Faisal Shehzad, former Station Head Officer (SHO) Airport Road Fazlur Rehman and Assistant Sub Inspector (ASI) Raza Khan responsible for the extrajudicial killings. [4]

**c) Acts of Terrorism/Subversion**

- On August 1, unknown militants detonated explosives in a garbage heap near Awami Petroleum Service Station on Sariab Road (in the outskirts of Quetta), injuring three garbage collectors, out of whom two succumbed to their injuries and died later on.
- Separately, the driver of a NATO oil tanker, identified as Sher Gul, was killed by unidentified militants in Dasht area of Mastung District while the tanker was on its way from Karachi to Kandahar.[5]
- On Tuesday, police, anti-terrorism force and FC personnel took part in a search operation against the criminals with air surveillance assistance in Killi Kamalo and Killi Qambarni areas of Saryab in Quetta, arresting more than 50 suspects. The operation was launched after two deadly sectarian incidents in the area on July 29 on Saryab Road, and July 30 on Sapni road, when gunmen killed 18 Shias.[6]
- Two NATO oil tankers were set ablaze by unknown armed men near Quetta on August 4. However no casualty was reported.[7]
- Zaheeruddin, an innocent citizen was killed when a roaming bullet fired from an unknown direction struck him in airport area in Quetta on August 4. Meanwhile, law enforcement personnel arrested a suspected person, identified as Ghulam Rasool, from Killi Baro of Sariab area and seized a Kalashnikov from him.[8]
- Quetta Electricity Supply Company Chief Engineer Operations and Maintenance Abdul Rauf Baloch, who was kidnapped by armed men from Satellite town around two months ago, returned home on Wednesday night [9] (reported in the press on August 5th).
- On Sunday August 7, SHO Tareen was returning home from police station in a police mobile when armed men on motorbikes ambushed him in Killi Shahnawaz area of Sayrab district, killing Tareen and two police constables on the spot while the assailants managed to escape.[10]

**d) Financial Front**

US ambassador to Pakistan Cameron Munter visited SOS children's village in Quetta, which comprises five houses and hosts up to 70 orphans, on

Wednesday, August 3, and announced \$100,000 assistance to meet the needs of the village. While addressing children at the village, he said, "The US is ready to support organizations engaged in assisting orphans and other needy people," adding that US sponsored English language courses being taught in different parts of the country will soon be introduced in Balochistan as well.[11]

#### **e) Social Front**

Afghanistan is the largest illicit opium producer of the world, and allegedly children from some madrassas in Balochistan are playing critical role in poppy fields. Being one of the world's largest opium and heroin producer, the labor demand needed to cater to this extensive poppy harvesting and cultivation. And the labor demand is met through hundreds of madrassa students from Chaman and adjoining tribal regions of Balochistan in Afghanistan's two major heroin-producing provinces of Helmand and Kandahar for the past three months, as stated in an exclusive Express Tribune report. According to report, each student earns \$15 to \$20 a day and they start working as soon as their madrassas are closed in the first week of June for the three-month summer break, says Saifur Rehman, a local social worker of Ziarat, who is well acquainted with many in the poppy harvesting workforce.[12]

#### **f) Abductions**

A US based human rights organization, Amnesty International (AI), appealed for urgent action to save the lives of 10 detained and missing Baloch persons on August 7, who face death risk according to the organization. According to AI, 29 men were taken into custody on February 18 during a Frontier Corps (FC) search operation in the town of Tutak, in Balochistan's Khuzdar district. Security forces have already released 18 persons while the dead body of Maqsood Qalandarani, who was one of the abducted persons and an activist of the Baloch Student Organization-Azad, was found near the Jabal-e-Noor area of Quetta on July 16. "And the remaining 10 will meet the fate of Maqsood," human rights group says.[13]

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[2] Balochistan very important for America: US ambassador', at <http://tribune.com.pk/>

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### **3. Weekly Monitor (August 8 - 14, 2011)**

The current week saw sharp spike in violence compared to the previous ones as a result of a spate of blasts and acts of subversion around Balochistan. The deadliest of all was orchestrated by the hitherto unknown Baloch Liberation Tiger, at a local hotel on the National Highway in Dera Allah Yar, some 400 kilometers southeast of Quetta, on Sunday, August 14, which killed at least 13 people and injured 23 others. In total as many as 41 people fell to the unabated terrorism and violence this week.

During raids on the residences of Jamil Akbar Bugti, the eldest son of Nawab Akbar Bugti, and former chief minister Humayun Marri in Bugti Boldak in Quetta suburbs on Saturday, police seized a large amount of arms and ammunition. Meanwhile, security forces arrested 150 suspects during a house to house search operation in connection with the killings of Station House Officer (SHO) Manzoor Tareen and two constables.

Armed men intercepted a passenger van heading to Chamman from Quetta near Gulistan on August 8, and abducted 15 persons of Suleman tribe. Also unidentified gunmen kidnapped Paramedical Association (PMA) finance secretary Khuda Bakhsh Lehri from Kalat (located in the center of province) on 13th of August. Moreover, a bullet-riddled body of one of the earlier detained person, Amir Khan Marri, was found dumped in the industrial town of Hub (capital city of the Hub Tehsil, located in the Lasbela District) on Tuesday, August 9.

Balochistan High Court Bar Association urged the government and the superior judiciary on Wednesday, August 10 to play an effective role for the safe recovery of missing persons and to speed up the pace of investigation to resolve murder case of former Balochistan Chief Minister Nawab Akbar Bugti. Earlier on, the Supreme Court on Tuesday also asked the government to urgently appoint the head of the commission, probing missing persons' cases in Balochistan. The post of the chairman of the commission is lying vacant after its former head left to take up a new assignment with the Election Commission of Pakistan. Moreover, the Jamiat Ulema-e-Islam Fazlur Rehman (JUI-F) warned the federal government of quitting the ruling coalition in Balochistan in case the Centre failed in taking effective measures for restoring the law and order situation in the province.

**Week in Review**

**a) Acts of Terrorism/Subversion**

- In a joint operation paramilitary forces on Monday August 8, arrested around 150 suspects in a house to house search in connection with the target-killings of SHO Manzoor Tareen and two police constables on August 7. During search operations, locals also complained about the ill-treatment of women and elders by the security force.[1]
- A roadside bomb near Star Plus Market in Turbat injured three Frontier Corps personnel on Monday, August 8, according to the officials. No group claimed responsibility for the incident so far.[2]
- Separately, four people, including two Bugti tribesmen, were killed in a gun-battle between two groups in eastern bypass area of Quetta. The victims were identified as Haji Nehal Khan Bugti and his son Sadullah Bugti, Abdul Hameed Jatoi and Abid Khan Gajani.[3]
- A bullet-riddled body of the earlier detained person was found dumped near the industrial town area of Hub on 9th of August. Police shifted the dead body in a nearby hospital, where he was identified as Amir Khan Marri. Reports suggest that Amir Khan along with two other relatives was whisked away a month ago from Lasbela (coastal district of Balochistan).[4]
- Three Balochistan Constabulary personnel were killed when unidentified gunmen on a motorbike discharged their guns on them in Quetta on Wednesday, August 10. The deceased were later identified as Murad Ali, Sher Ali and Muhammad Nadeem.[5]
- Two laborers from the southern parts of Sindh were gunned down by unidentified gunmen in Turbat (Balochistan) on Wednesday, August 10, according to a senior police official. They were later on identified as Ghulam Yasin and Abdul Razziq, and were working at a construction site in Malikabad. They belonged to Kandhkot area of Sindh.
- Another two persons, including a school teacher, were killed and two others injured in separate incidents of violence in Quetta on August 10. The school teacher, identified as Abdul Karim, was gunned down in the Kechi Baig area on the Saryab road. And another man got killed while two others sustained injuries near the western bypass area in Quetta, over a land dispute.[6]
- An army soldier was killed and three others injured when five rockets fired from nearby mountains landed in Quetta Cantonment in the Nawan Killi area of Quetta, on August 12. Mirak Baloch, the spokesman

for the Baloch Liberation Army (BLA), claimed responsibility for the attack.[7]

- In a joint raid police and FC seized a large cache of arms and ammunition from the residences of Jamil Akbar Bugti, the eldest son of Nawab Akbar Bugti, and former chief minister Humayun Marri in Bugti Boldak in Quetta suburbs on Saturday. According to security sources, 133 remote control devices, 4,000 rounds, 100 12-bore rifles, two light machineguns, three hand grenades and 3,000 rounds were seized during the search operation in Humayun Marri's home.[8]
- Meanwhile, a journalist, Munir Shakir was killed when he was on his way to home from Khuzdar Press Club on August 14. Shakir was working for the Online News Network, and was the correspondent of Balochi TV, Sabzbagh. Pakistan Federal Union of Journalists has strongly condemned the killing of Shakir.[9]
- Two FC men got severely injured when unknown assailants hurled a hand- grenade on an FC check post in Quetta's Saryab area on Sunday. No group claimed responsibility for the incident.[10]
- In an explosion at a local hotel on National Highway in Dera Allah Yar, some 400 kilometers southeast of Quetta, on Sunday, August 14 at least 13 people were killed and over 23 sustained injures. The newly emerged Baloch Liberation Tiger claimed responsibility for the blast.[11]

### **b) Abductions**

The outgoing week witnessed the abductions of 15 people belonging to the Suleman tribe, when armed men intercepted a passenger van heading towards Chamman from Quetta, near Gulistan on August 8. The motive behind the kidnapping seemed to be the tribal animosity, according to the officials.[12] Meanwhile, unknown armed men kidnapped PMA finance secretary Khuda Bakhsh Lehri, from Kalat of Balochistan on August 13.[13]

### **c) Social/Health Issues**

Recent reports suggest that Balochistan has the highest number of polio cases in Pakistan with 22 confirmed polio cases (reported during the past six months) so far, and it has witnessed a threefold increase in polio cases during current year compared to 11 confirmed cases in 2010.[14]

On its way to Shahdadkot from the shrine of Shah Noorani, a passenger bus

fell into a ravine near the industrial town of Hub on August 14, leaving 14 people dead and 16 injured.[15]

**d) Political Front**

Supreme Court of Pakistan expressed its utter displeasure over the non-appointment of the head of the commission investigating the missing persons on August 10, despite the court's repeated calls. The post of the chairman is lying vacant after its former head Fazalur Rehman from Balochistan left the post to join the Election Commission of Pakistan. A three-member bench headed by Justice Shakirullah Jan resumed the case's hearing and noted that the government is not showing its seriousness for the recovery of missing persons. The court observed that if intelligence agencies weren't involved in disappearances of innocent persons then they should submit a written statement in the court.[16] Meanwhile, Balochistan High Court Bar Association urged the government and the superior judiciary to play their part for the safe recovery of missing persons. Senior vice president of the bar association Sajid Tareen said in a press conference that situation in Balochistan will take a turn for the worst if "kill and dump" operation did not halt.[17]

Moreover, Balochistan High Court expressed dissatisfaction over the pace of the investigation into the killing of former Chief Minister Nawab Akbar Bugti during a hearing and demanded immediate action to extradite former President General Musharraf. Earlier, the Balochistan government pleaded for more time to contact the centre for the extradition of Musharraf and others accused in Bugti's murder.[18]

Balochistan National Party (BNP) staged a demonstration on August 11 against the ongoing search operation in Baloch-dominated areas of Quetta. BNP president of Quetta chapter Mir Ghulam Rasul Mengal said the government must halt the operation immediately and release all the detained persons.[19] And JUI (F) warned the federal government on August 12 that it will quit the ruling coalition in Balochistan if the former failed to take urgent and palpable steps to address the law and order situation in the province.[20]

Lawmakers belonging to different political parties in Balochistan, voiced their concerns to the idea of creating new provinces in Pakistan, and they

termed it as a threat to national security. They said the issue of creation of new provinces will not remain limited to Punjab only, but it will also disturb Sindh, Khyber-Pakhtunkhwa and Balochistan, where people will start demanding new provinces.[21]

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#### **4. Weekly Monitor (August 15 - 21, 2011)**

In his address to the nation in connection with the celebration of 65th Independence Day of Pakistan on August 14, Prime Minister Yousuf Raza Gilani announced that the government had decided to release all political prisoners in Balochistan. He added that in the light of 39 points listed in the Aghaz-i- Haqooq-i- Balochistan Package, major changes would be brought about in constitutional, political, administrative and economic matters of the province.

The prime minister expressed his readiness to visit and meet all angry Baloch leaders as part of reconciliation policy of the government, and to bring the dissident elements back into the political fold.

Provincial assembly in Balochistan on August 19 adopted the Balochistan Police Act 2011, granting more powers to district magistrates in regulating police service in the province.

As many as 10 mutilated bodies, including leaders of Balochistan National Party (BNP), Baloch National Movement (BNM), Baloch Republican Party (BRP) and activists of Baloch Student Organization-Azad, were recovered from different parts of the province.

As part of ongoing sabotage and subversion campaign in the province, a gas pipeline of 12 inch in diameter was blown up in Killi Satakzai, Mach town on August 15, and it resulted in disruption of gas supply to parts of Bolan districts and Quetta city. Moreover, two power pylons of 220 Kilowatts transmission lines were blown up in separate explosions near Dera Allah Yar on August 15.

Five NATO oil tankers passing through Balochistan were set ablaze by unknown gunmen in Dasht area of Balochistan on August 19. The gunmen managed to escape unhurt.

#### **Week in Review**

##### **a) Acts of Terrorism/Subversion**

- As Balochistan is passing through deteriorating law and order situation, and strident ethnic and sectarian violence, there are elements

capitalizing on this prevalent unrest. Recent reports suggest that property dealers are creating panic among non-Baloch residents by sending them threatening letters. It is forcing people to flee Quetta and sell their property at low rates, according to some officials.[1]

- Three dead bodies of missing persons were found in Balochistan on Monday, August 15. Two bodies were found near Zarrgau, in the suburbs of Quetta, and they were later on identified from the name slips recovered from their pockets, as Abdul Hameed, son of Noor Muhammad and Athar Gul, son of Khan Mohammad. Also, Balochistan Levies recovered a dead body in Loop area of tehsil Wadh of district Khuzdar, identified as Abdul Karim, son of Noor Ahmed, resident of Wadh. He was slaughtered on the basis of old animosity, according to sources.[2]
- The bullet-riddled bodies of four missing activists of Baloch Students Organization (BSO-Azad) were found in two separate areas of Mastung, about 50 kilometers south of Quetta, on August 18. According to a local official of Balochistan Levies, Zulfiqar Shah, some passersby spotted two bodies in Ganji Dohri and informed the Levies thana nearby, and the Levies men took bodies into custody and later on they were identified as Azad Mohammad Tariq and Mahmood Baloch. Two other bodies were also found near Kushkak. The victims were identified as Hamid Baloch and Latif Baloch. They were also reported to be affiliated with BSO-Azad.[3]
- A gas pipeline of 12 inch in diameter was blown up in Killi Satakzai, Mach town on Monday August 15, which resulted in disruption of gas supply to Bolan district and adjacent areas and parts of Quetta. A day earlier, police claimed to have defused a bomb attached to a gas pipeline a few kilometers from the blast site of a restaurant in Jaffarabad.[4]
- Two power pylons of 220 Kilowatts transmission lines were blown up in separate explosions near Dera Allah Yar during early hours of Monday, August 15, and resulted in power shortfall in the area. According to Quetta Electricity Supply Company (QESCO) officials, the blast contributed towards rise in the duration of daily load shedding all over Balochistan. However, despite QESCO claims of a 12 hour load shedding schedule, Quetta is experiencing 14 to 16 hours of daily power cuts, while remote areas suffer outages up to 23 hours every day.[5]
- In a shooting incident, unidentified gunmen shot dead the son of former Provincial Minister Hafiz Hussain Ahmed at Abdul Sattar Road in Quetta

on August 19. Also two men were killed in Hana and Turbat while three were killed after being abducted from Dasht. On the same day, six decomposed bodies have also been recovered from Hub and Mastung.[6]

- Unidentified gunmen attacked NATO oil tankers in the Dasht area of Balochistan on Friday, August 19. Five tankers were set ablaze as result of firing but no casualty was reported. The attackers managed to escape later on.[7]
- Two more bullet-riddled bodies of missing Balochis, including an activist of Baloch National Movement (BNM) were found dumped on Coastal Highway near Chakli area in Pasni on August 20. The deceased were identified as BNM activist Sajid Baloch, son of Ismail, resident of Jiwani and Khalid Baloch, son of Haji Hashim, resident of Pasni.[8]
- The cases of killed and dumped bodies of missing persons are on the rise in the province. As two more dead bodies were found dumped on Saturday, August 20 near the Sohrab area of Kech district. Later, they were identified as Asif Baloch, resident of Mand and Abubakar Baloch, nephew of slain Baloch National Front leader Ghulam Mohammad Baloch.[9]

## **b) Political Front**

In his address to the nation on Independence Day at the Convention Centre, Prime Minister Gilani said the government has decided to release all political prisoners who are not wanted in other crimes. He mentioned that in light of 39 recommendations underlined in the Aghaz-i-Haqooq-i-Balochistan Package, major changes would be initiated soon in constitutional, political, administrative and economic matters of Balochistan. Moreover, he delineated that the purpose of Balochistan package was to alleviate grievances and sense of deprivation among the people of Balochistan. The PM also expressed his readiness to go to all Baloch leaders as government wants to bring them into the national mainstream.[10]

A resolution to create new provinces was withdrawn from the Balochistan Assembly on August 17, when the proponents of the bill, the PML-Q members, could not reach consensus amongst themselves. The resolution was meant to address the issue of formation of new provinces on political basis rather than on ethnic basis. Abdul Khaliq of Pakistan Muslim League-

Nawaz and Sheikh Jaffar Khan Mandokhel of Pakistan Muslim League-Quaid had tabled a joint resolution asking the federal government for an immediate solution to the issue of new provinces. Debate on the issue is creating disharmony in the country, they added. During the normal proceedings of the assembly meeting, journalists staged walk out in protest of the killing of journalist Munir Shakir in Khuzdar on Sunday, August 14. The journalists ended their boycott when the ministers promised to set up a committee to probe the killing.[11]

Meanwhile federal government authorized the Balochistan government to begin a dialogue with all political forces in the militancy and poverty-hit province. The decision was reached during second meeting on Balochistan held at the Presidency on August 17. President Asif Ali Zardari said that the provincial government needs to engage all sections of society, including political parties, tribal elders, academics and the local population, to find out an amicable solution to Balochistan conundrum.[12]

The Balochistan Assembly on Friday, August 19 adopted the Balochistan Police Act 2011, granting more powers to administration and district magistrates in regulating police. The Balochistan Police Act 2011 is based on Police Act of 1861 which replaced the Police Order 2002. The bill allocates power of postings as well as transfer of senior police officials to the provincial government. Under the new act, powers of the provincial police officer (PPO) under the Police Order 2002 would be exercised by the home secretary. Also, the post of district police officer (DPO) will be abolished and that of superintendent of police (SP) restored, who would work directly under the supervision of district magistrate.[13]

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## **5. Weekly Monitor (August 21 - 28, 2011)**

The Balochistan High Court disqualified Senator Mohammad Ali Rind from holding any public office on August 26, in connection with corruption charges leveled against him in his nomination papers for Senate elections in 2009. Rind was elected as a senator in 2009 on the ticket of the Balochistan National Party (BNP-Awami). The court declared that Rind would no longer be a Senator under the Constitution of Pakistan. Moreover, the investigation team tasked to conduct an inquiry into the Nawab Akbar Bugti (former Chief Minister and governor of Balochistan) murder case has contacted media organizations on August 25 in order to seek help for collecting evidence and operation footage. Inspector General of Frontier Corps Balochistan Major-General Obaidullah Khan, while speaking to media on August 25 said that the government is in the process of negotiating with Baloch rebels to maintain peace in the province. The IG added: "We will not allow the creation of a state within a state, nor will anyone be permitted to challenge the writ of the government".

A US spy plane was surveying the Pak- Afghan border when it crashed near the Pishin Scouts compound in Chaman (75 kilometers northwest of provincial capital), 300 meters inside Pakistani territory in Balochistan on August 25.

At least three people were killed and 19 others injured when a group of armed men opened fire and launched rockets on a passenger train near Mach Town, some 60 kilometers southeast of Quetta on Sunday, August 28. On total, 8 people lost their lives in various acts of terrorism this week. While in acts of sabotage and subversion, 19 NATO oil tankers were set ablaze in the Dasht area, about 15 kilometers from Quetta, when a group of armed men on motorbikes opened indiscriminate fire on Monday, August 22, on containers.

While on economic front, in funds allocated for the Drought Recovery Assistance Program Project (DRAPP) in Balochistan during fiscal year 2008-09, embezzlements and irregularities worth Rs57.4 million were uncovered on August 24.

## **Week in Review**

### **a) Political Front**

The Balochistan government has requested the Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) to quickly complete the voters' lists so that the local bodies' elections could be held in the province, according to the officials on Sunday, August 21. Interestingly, Balochistan appears to be the only province which seems comfortable with the concept of the local government system.[1]

A mere ten out of 65 legislators attended the Balochistan Assembly session on Monday, compelling the deputy speaker to adjourn the proceedings which lasted less than five minutes. The scheduled session was to approve a resolution pertaining to the 18th amendment, through which the provincial government could obtain power over ministries devolved to the provinces.[2]

The investigation team tasked to conduct an inquiry into the Nawab Akbar Bugti (former Chief Minister and governor of Balochistan) murder case reached out to various media organizations on August 25, to seek help in collecting evidence. The officer in-charge of the investigation team from the Crime Branch, Balochistan, sent letters to news channels and offices of newspapers in Quetta, seeking footages pertaining to Nawab Bugti's murder case to include them as evidence.[3]

Inspector General of Frontier Corps Balochistan Major-General Obaidullah Khan said while speaking to media, on August 25 that the government is in the process of negotiating with Baloch rebels to maintain peace in the province. The IG added: "We will not allow the creation of a state within a state, nor will anyone be permitted to challenge the writ of the government." [4]

A US spy plane was surveying the Pak- Afghan border when it crashed near the Pishin Scouts compound in Chaman (75 kilometers northwest of provincial capital), 300 meters inside Pakistani territory in Balochistan on August 25. Frontier Constabulary officials confirmed the crash and said that they had taken custody of the drone wreckage.[5]

The Balochistan High Court permanently disqualified Senator Mohammad Ali Rind from holding any public office on August 26, citing his failure to state

facts about his conviction in corruption cases in his nomination papers for Senate elections in 2009. Rind was elected as a senator in 2009 on the ticket of the Balochistan National Party (BNP-Awami). The court declared that Rind could not continue as senator under the Constitution of Pakistan.[6]

A complete shutter-down strike was observed in Dadhar on Saturday, August 27 in protest of the abduction of a Hindu trader. Gur Bakhsh Lal was kidnapped from near a police checkpoint on Friday night when he was on his way home after closing his shop in the Ali Rind area. Police officials said that it was an incident of kidnapping for ransom. All shops and markets remained closed in Dadhar in response to the strike call given by the traders' association.[7]

Two trucks laden with explosives and heading towards Harnai, Balochistan, were seized by Border Military Police on Saturday, August 27, after the drivers failed to produce a license for transporting the material. The drivers were arrested under Explosives Act. The men identified as Muhammad Sadiq, a resident of Chakwal, and Atta Rasool, a resident Khushab, said they were assigned to carry the explosives to Harnai in Balochistan. They said the explosives were to be used in mining operations of a gas exploration company.[8]

#### **b) Acts of Terrorism/Subversion**

- Around 40 NATO oil tankers were parked near a fuel station close to a police check post on the National Highway, near the Dasht area, when a group of armed men on motorbikes opened indiscriminate fire on Monday, August 22, and set 19 oil tankers ablaze. However, no casualty was reported.[9]
- Balochistan Levies said on Wednesday, August 24, that the three men came to Kangri area of Musa Khel from adjoining Dera Ghazi Khan for hunting. The gunmen opened fire on the hunting party, killing all three. 132 empty bullet casings were found from the crime scene, according to the Levies officials. Two of the deceased were identified as Syed Nadeem and Sajjad.[10]
- Unidentified armed assailants barged into a bakery on August 24, near Chaman Housing Scheme in provincial capital Quetta. They opened fire on bakers inside and then escaped on their motorbikes. Two people were killed in the bullet barrage identified as Saleem and Sajjid while

injured were identified as Mansoor Ali, Asif, Shahid and Sajjad. The deceased originally belonged to Punjab and Sindh respectively. It could be an act of target killing, according to police officials.[11]

- At least three people were killed and 19 others injured when a group of armed men opened fire and lobbed rockets on a passenger train near Mach Town, some 60 kilometers southeast of Quetta on Sunday, August 28. Qaim Ali, the assistant commissioner of Mach, told reporters that the Peshawar-bound Quetta Express had just crossed Irak Station in Kachhi district, popularly known as Bolan, when it came under heavy attack. A banned outfit, the Baloch Liberation Army, claimed the responsibility for the incident.[12]

### **c) Human Rights Report Submitted to Senate**

A report regarding kidnapping incidents in Balochistan in 2011 was submitted to the Senate Functional Committee for Human Rights, headed by Awami National Party (ANP) leader Afrasiab Khattak on Wednesday, August 24. The report revealed that 156 people were kidnapped from different areas of the province in 2011 out of which 86 were recovered. 41 people were kidnapped for ransom out of which 33 were recovered. Moreover, 433 women were killed in different parts of the country in the name of honor, out of which 227 belonged to Punjab while 142 belonged to Sindh.[13]

### **d) Economic Front**

Embezzlements and irregularities worth Rs57.4 million were uncovered in funds on August, 24 allocated for the Drought Recovery Assistance Program Project (DRAPP) in Balochistan during fiscal year 2008-09. This program was made for drought hit Balochistan in 2005, to provide sustainable sources of drinking water, water conservation and management of sustainable livelihood, agriculture and livestock support, restoration of orchards and vegetative cover. The revelation was made in the audit report of Auditor General of Pakistan which was released a few days ago. The report says that the federal government allocated and released Rs285.38 million for the project. Expenses worth Rs255.938 million were incurred, while Rs29.445 million had not been spent. The amount refuted in the audit report was stated to be Rs57.42 million.[14]

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[3] Bugti murder: Footages sought for inclusion as evidence', at <http://tribune.com.pk/story/239143/bugti-murder-footages-sought-for-inclusion-as-evidence/>

[4] Baloch insurgency: 'Supporters of the state will be welcomed', at <http://tribune.com.pk/story/239033/baloch-insurgency-supporters-of-the-state-will-be-welcomed/>

[5] US reconnaissance drone crashes in Chaman', at <http://tribune.com.pk/story/239387/us-reconnaissance-drone-crashes-in-chaman/>

[6] Corruption cases: Rind disqualified for concealing facts', at <http://tribune.com.pk/story/239540/corruption-cases-rind-disqualified-for-concealing-facts/>

[7] Kidnapping for ransom: Dadhar shutdown after Hindu trader's abduction', at <http://tribune.com.pk/story/240993/kidnapping-for-ransom-dadhar-shutdown-after-hindu-traders-abduction/>

[8] Illegal movement: Two trucks carrying explosives seized', at <http://tribune.com.pk/story/240811/illegal-movement-two-trucks-carrying-explosives-seized/>

[9] 19 NATO oil tankers torched in Balochistan', at <http://tribune.com.pk/story/236927/19-nato-oil-tankers-torched-in-balochistan/>

[10] Hunters from DG Khan killed in Balochistan', at <http://tribune.com.pk/story/238482/hunters-from-dg-khan-killed-in-balochistan/>

[11] Two killed and four injured in attack on bakery', at <http://tribune.com.pk/story/239191/slug-two-killed-and-four-injured/>

[12] Deadly ambush: Attack on Quetta Express leaves 3 dead, 19 injured', at <http://tribune.com.pk/story/241110/five-killed-in-attack-on-quetta-express-in-bolan-area/>

[13] Human rights violations: Report on Balochistan submitted to Senate', at <http://tribune.com.pk/story/238351/human-rights-violations-report-on-balochistan-submitted-to-senate/>

[14] Drought recovery funds for Balochistan embezzled', at <http://tribune.com.pk/story/238073/drought-recovery-funds-for-balochistan-embezzle/>

## **6. Weekly Monitor (August 28 - September 4, 2011)**

The current week witnessed a lower frequency of violence and militant activities compared to the previous ones, but an event of deadly sectarian violence revisited left a huge mark on security situation of the province. On 28th of August, armed men opened fire and launched rockets on a Peshawar bound Quetta Express near the town of Mach, some 60 kilometers southeast of Quetta, killing at least three people. Moreover, 12 people were killed when a suicide bomber of banned militant outfit Lashkar-e-Jhangvi (LeJ) attacked members of Shia community returning home from Eid prayers on Wednesday, August 31. Furthermore, ten cars and two houses were badly damaged as a result of the blast. In sum, 15 people lost their lives due to the ongoing spate of violence in the province.

Speaker National Assembly, Mrs. Fehmida Mirza, constituted a 17 member parliamentary committee, on August 28, to spearhead political efforts to restore peace in Karachi and Quetta. Lawmakers of seven mainstream political parties of Pakistan constitute the committee. Meanwhile, Amnesty International (AI), on August 30, appealed for an immediate end to the widespread practice of enforced disappearances in the country, especially Balochistan. The AI further reiterated to higher authorities that the detainees must be granted full access to their legal privileges.

### **Week in Review**

#### **a) Acts of Terrorism/Subversion**

- At least three people were killed and 19 others injured when armed men opened fire and launched rockets on a Peshawar bound passenger train, the Quetta Express (commonly known as Bolan), near the town of Mach, some 60 kilometers southeast of Quetta on 28th of August. The militants managed to escape, later on. Baloch Liberation Army (BLA) has claimed responsibility for the attack. The train stayed at Mach station for three hours after the incident before resuming its journey to Peshawar, according to security officials.[1]
- According to a report of Daily Times, Balochistan Levies Force, on 29th of August, recovered a bullet-riddled body from the Zehri area of Khuzdar district.[2]
- A powerful suicide car bomb blast killed at least 12 people, including two women and two children, and wounded 32 others on Wednesday,

August 31. According to reports, a militant belonging to banned LeJ, who was heading to hit the Shia community's EID prayer gathering at the Eidgah in Marriabad, detonated his explosive laden car on Gulistan Road in the Murriabad area of Quetta, failing to reach the intended target.[3]

- Two people, including a woman, were shot dead in two separate incidents of violence in Shah Nurani area of Khuzdar district on 3rd of September. The victims were said to be belonging to interior Sindh. Meanwhile, indiscriminate firing by unknown gunmen resulted in the killing of a person, later on identified as Maula Bakhsh on Saryab Road in Quetta.[4]

### **b) Political Front**

More than two weeks after the approval of a motion in the National Assembly, the Speaker National Assembly Mrs. Fehmida Mirza on August 28 constituted a 17 member committee to spearhead political efforts to restore peace in Karachi and Quetta. The committee has been mandated to look into the law and order situation in Quetta (Balochistan) and report back to the house within two months, said a statement issued by the national assembly secretariat. The special committee consists of members from seven mainstream political parties. Pakistan People's Party (PPP) having five members; the largest opposition party PML-N having four, PML-Q having three, Muttahida Qaumi Movement (MQM) having two, while Awami National Party (ANP), Jamiat Ulema-i-Islam-Fazal (JUI-F), and Pakistan Muslim League-Functional (PML-F) having one member each in the special committee.[5]

Amnesty International assailed Pakistan government for its failure to resolve hundreds of cases of alleged disappearance in the country. "The government has so far made little progress in resolving hundreds of cases of alleged disappearance, while new incidents are being reported around the country," said Sam Zarifi, Amnesty International's Asia-Pacific director. He demanded an immediate end to the widespread and suspicious cases of disappearances in Pakistan and appealed to authorities in Islamabad to ensure, those detained have full access to lawyers and the courts.[6]

### **c) Economic Front**

Heavy downpours and flash floods wreaked havoc in different parts of Balochistan on September 3, sweeping away household items and

damaging crops and infrastructure in parts of the province. The overfilled drains breached their banks in Choki Jamali and Sohbatpur in Jaffarabad after being hit by hill torrents from different directions, inundating the fields, crops and fertile lands. Local residents, political leaders and members of the parliament complained that the government has failed to repair the broken banks of the drains, despite a yearlong lapse.

The provincial government has set up emergency control rooms in Loralai, Mastung, Kalat, Khuzdar, Jaffarabad and other areas to cope with the situation that arose after heavy rains turned into flash floods. Two children were killed and three others injured as the roof of a mud house collapsed in the Nasirabad area of Loralai, while two children were also killed in Duki due to a mud house collapsing on Thursday, August 30. The low lying areas of Loralai were also submerged and power supply of many townships remained disrupted. Four houses and a seminary collapsed, while the walls of around 12 mud houses fell as a result of the heavy rains in Mullahkhail area of Kalat. People evacuated the Mullahkhail area and other small human settlements and moved towards higher ground to shield themselves against flash floods. The rainwater also entered into schools, government offices and hospitals, while the flash flood washed away roads, disrupting the road link between several townships, impinging on rescue efforts.[7]

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[1] Deadly ambush: Attack on Quetta Express leaves 3 dead, 19 injured', at <http://tribune.com.pk/story/241110/five-killed-in-attack-on-quetta-express-in-bolan-area/>

[2] Bullet-riddled body found in Balochistan', at [http://www.satp.org/satporgtp/detailed\\_news3.asp?date3=2011%2F8%2F30&image2.x=6&image2.y=6#2](http://www.satp.org/satporgtp/detailed_news3.asp?date3=2011%2F8%2F30&image2.x=6&image2.y=6#2)

[3] 11 killed in powerful blast outside Quetta mosque', at <http://tribune.com.pk/story/243191/flames-go-up-as-explosion-took-place-in-quetta/>

[4] Two civilians shot dead in Balochistan', at [http://www.satp.org/satporgtp/detailed\\_news3.asp?date3=2011%2F9%2F4&image2.x=0&image2.y=0#1](http://www.satp.org/satporgtp/detailed_news3.asp?date3=2011%2F9%2F4&image2.x=0&image2.y=0#1)

[5] Karachi, Quetta situation: Multiparty committee to spearhead peace efforts', at <http://tribune.com.pk/story/241501/karachi-quetta-situation-multiparty-committee-to-spearhead-peace-efforts/>

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[http://www.satp.org/satporgtp/detailed\\_news3.asp?date3=2011%2F8%2F31&image2.x=0&image2.y=0#19](http://www.satp.org/satporgtp/detailed_news3.asp?date3=2011%2F8%2F31&image2.x=0&image2.y=0#19)

[7] Flash floods: Rains wreak havoc in Balochistan', at <http://tribune.com.pk/story/243970/flash-floods-rains-wreak-havoc-in-balochistan/>

## **7. Weekly Monitor (September 5 - 11, 2011)**

There was an unparallel surge in violence during this week. Twin suicide blasts, targeting a senior security official in Quetta on Wednesday, September 7 was among the deadliest of terrorist attacks in Quetta in recent months, which killed at least 26 people including Frontier Corps' (FC) Colonel Khalid, spokesperson Murtaza Baig and wife of the Deputy Inspector General FC Brigadier Farrukh Shehzad. The blast caused serious injuries to Brig. Shehzad and his children. In sum, 27 people were preyed upon by terrorists during the week.

In a joint operation with Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) of USA, Pakistan Army arrested a senior Al-Qaeda leader and close confidant of Osama bin Laden, Younis al Mauritani, on September 5 near Quetta along with two other senior Al-Qaeda operatives.

Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) leader in Balochistan, Senator Haji Lashkari Raisani, accused Interior Minister Rehman Malik of sabotaging peace efforts in Balochistan on Monday, September 5. Talking to the media in Quetta, Raisani said that the interior minister resorted to violence for restoring peace in Quetta, while talked about holding dialogue with militants in case of Karachi.

Reko Diq (located in Chagai district of Balochistan) copper mining project, which is jointly run by Chilean and Canadian mining companies, is reportedly to get the nod of Balochistan government later in September. The said project has been delayed due to permit issues and licensing disputes in recent months, which led to Supreme Court of Pakistan intervention.

Heavy rains and flash floods have once again struck the already fragile recovery efforts in Balochistan against the backdrop of last year's worst floods. At least 40 mud houses collapsed in Kalat district, about 145 kilometers south of Quetta, as heavy rains continued to affect the area till early Monday morning.

### **Week in Review**

#### **a) Acts of Terrorism/Subversion**

- A Hindu trader was shot dead on September 4 allegedly by extortionists,

700 kilometers south west of Quetta. Seth Ado Mal, who was also an ex-councilor, was opening his shop in main Hub town when armed assailants, after an argument, opened fire on him, according to police officials.[1]

- Two suicide bombers, targeting a senior security official, struck near government offices in Quetta on Wednesday, September 7 killing 26 people, and injuring over 60, according to police officials. The first blast occurred near commissioner's office in the Civil Lines area, when one of the suicide bombers blew himself up in a vehicle packed with 100 Kg explosives near the car of the Deputy Inspector General FC, Brigadier Farrukh Shehzad. Consequently, Mr. Shehzad was wounded in the blast, while Colonel Khalid and FC spokesperson Murtaza Baig were killed. After five minutes, another suicide bomber entered into Brig. Shehzad's house, and blew himself up. Two Frontier Constabulary (FC) personnel, two children and the spouse of Brig. Shehzad, were killed. Tehreek-i-Taliban Pakistan (TTP) took responsibility for this deadly attack and termed it as revenge for the arrest of three Al- Qaeda operatives on September 5 by security forces.[2]
- Quetta police on Thursday, September 8, arrested more than 250 suspects in a search operation conducted in sensitive areas of the city in the backdrop of twin suicide blasts on Wednesday. According to police sources, Afghan refugees are also among those arrested.[3]
- Pakistan has completely sealed off its borders with Afghanistan, after recent reports of Afghan citizens' involvement in most of terror attacks in Pakistan in recent months, Interior Minister Rehman Malik said on Sunday, September 11. Addressing a press conference in Quetta, he blamed Afghans of involvement in other crimes as well. When asked if key operatives of Al-Qaeda and Taliban were in Quetta, he said that after the death of Osama bin Laden, Al-Qaeda has declared an all out on Pakistan.[4]
- With the technical assistance of CIA, Pakistan Army arrested a senior Al-Qaeda leader, Younis al Mauritani, on September 5 in the suburbs of Quetta. Two other senior al Qaeda operatives, Abdul Ghaffar al Shami (Bachar Chama) and Messara al Shami (Mujahid Amino) were also arrested along with Al Mauritani. According to Inter Services Public Relations (ISPR) and Western intelligence officials, Mauritani was among the top Al-Qaeda leaders in Pakistan and had close links with Osama bin Laden.[5]

**b) Political Front**

PPP leader in Balochistan, Senator Haji Lashkari Raisani on Monday, September 5, said that Interior Minister Rehman Malik had been sabotaging efforts to restore peace in Balochistan. Speaking to the media in Quetta, Raisani said that the interior minister resorted to violence for restoring peace in Quetta and at the same time entered into negotiations with militants when it came to Karachi. Meanwhile, Advocate Tariq Asad has filed an application in the Secretariat Police Station in Islamabad for the registration of a First Information Report (FIR) against Rehman Malik for sabotaging peace process.[6]

Moreover, Senator Raisani disclosed on September 6 that Baloch insurgents are willing to negotiate with the government to find a political situation to Balochistan issue. Talking to media, he said he was approached by a Baloch separatist leader - known to be involved in insurgency in the province - about entering the political mainstream. "A separatist group, waging insurgency in Balochistan, contacted me and agreed to work out a peaceful struggle within the framework of Pakistan," Lashkari told to media. Meanwhile, Balochistan Chief Minister Nawab Aslam Raisani, in a statement, welcomed the development for the future of Balochistan.[7]

Wednesday's twin suicide attacks not only shook Quetta, but appeared to have shaken the provincial government off its slumber with respect to the city's volatile internal security. At a high-level meeting, chaired by the chief minister on Thursday, September 8 the provincial government decided to drive out illegal immigrants from the city, citing them as a major security threat.[8]

**c) Natural Calamity**

At least 40 mud houses collapsed in Kalat district, about 145 kilometers south of Quetta, as heavy rains continued to lash the area early Monday morning. Flash floods, triggered by latest rains, swept through Dasht Mugalzai town in Kalat after breaching bunds onto agriculture land. Land spread over thousands of acres was destroyed and crops were badly damaged. The communication system was also damaged. More than 40 families have been rendered homeless in Kalat and are forced to live in the open without any relief supplies.[9]

**d) Economic Front**

Reko Diq (located in Chagai district, Balochistan) copper mining project, jointly run by Chilean and Canadian mining companies is likely to receive the nod of Balochistan government in September, said in a report on September 6. Reko Diq has been delayed due to permit issues and licensing disputes. The London listed Antofagasta and Barrick, each hold a 37.5% percent stake in the project, while the Pakistani government owns the remaining 25 percent, under the banner of a joint venture called Tethyan Copper Company (TCC).[10]

The latest casualty of official negligence in Balochistan is forest cover that has dwindled from 2.6 per cent in 2010 to 1.2 per cent in 2011. Officials in the Balochistan forest department said on September 8 that the rapid reduction is due to lack of planning and paucity of resources and manpower, but also criticized the government's apathetic attitude.[11]

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[1] Suspected extortionists: Hindu trader shot dead in Balochistan', at <http://tribune.com.pk/story/245104/suspected-extortionists-hindu-trader-shot-dead-in-balochistan/>

[2] Suicide bombers kill 20 in Quetta', at <http://tribune.com.pk/story/246965/twin-explosions-in-quetta-2-dead/>

[3] Quetta police detain 250 suspects in wake of attack', at <http://tribune.com.pk/story/247879/quetta-police-detain-250-suspects-in-wake-of-attack/>

[4] 'Taliban moving to Quetta from FATA', at <http://tribune.com.pk/story/249841/taliban-moving-to-quetta-from-fata/>

[5] Senior al Qaeda leader arrested from Quetta: ISPR', at <http://tribune.com.pk/story/245296/senior-al-qaeda-leader-arrested-in-pakistan-ispr/>

[6] Rehman Malik sabotaging efforts to restore peace in Balochistan', at <http://tribune.com.pk/story/245289/rehman-malik-sabotaging-efforts-to-restore-peace-in-balochistan/>

[7] 'Baloch separatists willing to talk peace', at <http://tribune.com.pk/story/246125/baloch-separatists-willing-to-talk-peace/>

[8] Securing the city: Twin blasts prompt cleanup of Quetta', at <http://tribune.com.pk/story/247879/quetta-police-detain-250-suspects-in-wake-of-attack/>

[9] Balochistan floods: 40 mud houses collapse in Kalat', at <http://tribune.com.pk/story/246059/balochistan-floods-40-mud-houses-collapse-in-kalat/>

[10] Reko Diq to get Balochistan government approval: Report', at <http://tribune.com.pk/story/246468/reko-diq-to-get-balochistan-government-approval-report/>

[11] Official negligence: Balochistan forest cover decreasing at alarming rate', at <http://tribune.com.pk/story/247484/official-negligence-balochistan-forest-cover-decreasing-at-alarming-rate/>

## **8. Weekly Monitor (September 12 - 18, 2011)**

Against the backdrop of a deadly week, a rather tense calm prevailed in Balochistan during the week. There was no major incident of violence, however one act of dramatic abduction took place when an American national of Pakistani origin and his nephew were kidnapped and then released afterwards by unidentified abductors on Qambarani Road in Quetta on Monday, September 12.

Government in Balochistan sought four weeks from Balochistan High Court to get an arrest warrant for former President Pervez Musharraf and other accused in the killing of former Chief Minister and governor Balochistan, Nawab Akbar Bugti.

At a time when parts of the country, especially Sindh province, are heavily affected by rain and flood, Balochistan is reportedly facing severe shortage of drinking and irrigation water. Hamid Latif Rana, the managing director at Water and Sanitation Agency (WASA) said, earlier on, water level below ground was at a depth of 40 to 100 feet, which is now available, much deeper as compared the previous level.

### **Week in Review**

#### **a) Acts of Terrorism/Subversions**

In a dramatic abduction episode, an American national of Pakistani origin and his nephew were first kidnapped and later on released by unidentified abductors on Qambarani Road in Quetta on Monday, September 12 afternoon. Police Superintendent Malik Arshad revealed that Zahid Hussain, a 33-year-old American national and his nephew Mubashar, a Pakistani national who is a resident of Rawalpindi, went to the Customs' House Quetta, to pay duty of an unpaid duty vehicle. A group of armed men intercepted them on Qambarani Road and after keeping them for 45 minutes in their custody, the abductors set them free.[1]

#### **b) Political Front**

Balochistan government on Wednesday, September 14 sought four weeks time from the Balochistan High Court to get an arrest warrant for former President Pervez Musharraf and other nominated accused in Nawab Akbar Bugti's murder case. Deputy attorney general said arrest warrants for the

accused have not yet been submitted, therefore the interior ministry cannot request the Interpol for issuing 'red warrants' for former President Musharraf and other accused, residing outside the country.[2]

**c) Economic Front**

As a result of the worst drought in Balochistan which badly affected the area between 1995 and 2005; there are reports of drying up of all ground wells, which were among the crucial sources of water supply for irrigation as well as domestic use. "Earlier, water was available at a depth of 40 to 100 feet, but these wells now reach 1,000 feet down," said Hamid Latif Rana, the managing director at Water and Sanitation Agency (WASA). At the present rate, level of ground water in Balochistan will continue diminishing by five to ten feet annually and this trend, fear officials, could threaten people of the land.[3]

**d) Natural Calamity**

The government has not yet established a single relief camp for flood victims in Balochistan, where hundreds of villages were washed away last month. According to reports, National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) has not sent any team to help out flood-affected people in Balochistan, said a senior official of the authority, Brig Sajjad Naeem on Friday, September 16. "We are focusing on Sindh, because we have limited resources to deal with after effects of a natural disaster," said Brig. Sajjad while briefing senators who met him on Thursday to chalk out a strategy for providing relief to flood victims across the country.[4]

**e) Health Issues**

Four patients were admitted to an isolated ward at the Fatima Jinnah Hospital (FJH) in Quetta on Friday on suspicion of contacting the Congo Virus. The patients included a six-year-old Afghan national, Izathullah, a medical technician at FJH and a man from Kuchlak. Another patient Dr Ayaz Mandokhail, a senior surgeon, was also shifted to Karachi as he was suffering from high fever. Talking to The Express Tribune, Dr Aadam Khan Nasir the head of the isolation ward at FJH said there was no confirm case of Congo Virus in Quetta as yet; however, they had sent the samples of the three patients to Islamabad to determine whether they were suffering from the virus. "The three patients tested positive for malaria and were bleeding, thus, samples were sent for carrying out more tests for the Congo Virus," said Dr Khan.[5]

[1] US citizen kidnapped, released within 1 hour', at <http://tribune.com.pk/story/250693/us-nationals-kidnapped-from-quetta/>

[2] Bugti murder case: Balochistan govt seeks arrest warrant for Musharraf', at <http://tribune.com.pk/story/251842/bugti-murder-case-balochistan-govt-seeks-arrest-warrant-for-musharraf/>

[3] Water woes - Part 1: Quetta digs deeper as water runs dry', at <http://tribune.com.pk/story/251919/water-woes-part-1-quetta-digs-deeper-as-water-runs-dry/>

[4] Provincial negligence: No relief for Balochistan's victims', at <http://tribune.com.pk/story/253433/provincial-negligence-no-relief-for-balochistans-victims/>

[5] Four suspected of contracting Congo virus in Quetta', at <http://tribune.com.pk/story/253824/four-suspected-of-contracting-congo-virus-in-quetta/>

## **9. Weekly Monitor (September 19 - 25, 2011)**

Two disgustingly atrocious episodes of sectarian violence, reportedly orchestrated by Lashkar-e-Jhangvi (LeJ) jolted Balochistan this week. On Monday, September 20, a group of armed men attacked a passenger bus carrying Shia pilgrims from Quetta to Iran; killing at least 29 people near Ganjidori area of Mastung, about 30 kilometers southeast of Quetta. Three days later, LeJ militants again attacked a passenger van and killed three people from Hazara community on Sibi Road in Saryab, on the outskirts of Quetta. In total, 36 people were shot dead during this week in different acts of terrorism.

Moreover, Chief Minister of Balochistan Nawab Aslam Raisani formulated a committee on Thursday, September 22 to probe the killing of 29 pilgrims in the Ganjidori area of Mastung in a sectarian attack. Afghan intelligence sources blamed the Taliban leadership in Pakistan for the assassination of former Afghan President Burhanuddin Rabbani. Tajik and Russian diplomatic missions in Pakistan submitted before the National Assembly Standing Committee on Human Rights on September 22 that their citizens who were killed in Kharotabad in May had no criminal record.

### **Week in Review**

#### **a) Acts of Terrorism/Subversion**

- The Shia community in Balochistan suffered a huge loss of lives on Tuesday, September 20, when 29 people were killed in two separate incidents of ostensibly sectarian violence perpetrated by LeJ. Reports suggest that at least 26 people were killed and six others injured in Ganjidori area of Mastung, about 30 kilometers southeast of Quetta, when a group of armed men attacked a passenger bus carrying Shia pilgrims from Quetta to Iran. Hours later, three more people, hailing from the Hazara community, were gunned down near Akhtarabad area of Quetta as their rescue team made its way to the site of the bus attack. The assailants managed to escape.[1]
- Frontier Corps (FC) seized huge quantity of explosive materials and arrested an accused during a search operation near the Chagai district on Tuesday, September 20. According to the FC spokesperson, the security personnel intercepted a vehicle near the Afghan border and recovered 1702 kilograms of ammonium chloride from the pickup

vehicle during the search. The driver of the vehicle, Ibrain Sherzai, was consequently arrested.[2]

- In a shooting incident, at least three people were killed, and four others injured, when unknown people opened fire in the Dasht area of Mastung district on Wednesday, September 21.[3]
- Unidentified militants shot dead a Balochistan Constabulary official in Chaman Pattak area of the provincial capital, Quetta on September 21, according to the Daily Times report. According to police sources, Constable Muzafar Hussain Shah, while on routine duty outside the anti-corruption office in Jogezai Street near Chaman Pattak, was shot dead by unidentified militants.[4]
- On Friday, September 23, the Hazara community came under attack once again. Three people from the community were killed while three others, including a child, sustained injuries when gunmen attacked a van on Sibi Road in Saryab, on the outskirts of Quetta. The attack came just three days after 29 Shias were shot dead in Mastung.[5]
- Anti-Terrorism Force (ATF) personnel arrested a 12-year-old boy on September 25 when the latter was planting an explosive device at Nechari imambargah on Alamdar Road, situated in an area inhabited by the Hazara community in Quetta. According to official sources, ATF and police personnel carried out raids in various localities of Quetta in the early hours of Saturday, during which they arrested Abdul Khaliq near Nechari Imambargah and recovered explosives from him. The suspect was identified as an Afghan national and is a resident of Killi Raisani.[6]
- Afghanistan's intelligence sources on September 23 accused the Taliban's leadership in Pakistan of orchestrating the assassination of former Afghan President Burhanuddin Rabbani. The Afghan intelligence agency said that its investigation indicates the attack was planned by Taliban officials at the highest levels. "The Quetta Shura is involved in this case," said Shafiqullah Tahiri, spokesperson for Afghanistan's National Directorate of Security. The Quetta Shura is the Taliban's highest leadership council, led by Mullah Mohammad Omar.[7]

## **b) Health Issues**

A three-day anti-polio campaign began in 13 districts of Balochistan on Monday, September 19. Districts of Quetta, Pashin and Qillahabduh were reportedly declared as high alert areas where a large number of polio cases are being registered. The health department confirmed 36 cases of polio

this year. Meanwhile, senior officials of the World Health Organization (WHO) and United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) expressed serious concerns over the detection of fresh cases of the virus in Balochistan and called for immediate steps to control it.[8]

A doctor from Quetta, Ayaz Mandokhail, succumbed to Congo virus in Karachi on Tuesday, September 20. Mandokhail had contracted the disease while operating on an Afghan citizen in Quetta, and was later shifted to a Karachi hospital in critical condition. A paramedical staff member working with the doctor is also undergoing treatment for Congo virus at the hospital. Also, four other people were admitted to an isolation ward at Quetta's Fatimah Jinnah Hospital, on suspicions of contracting Congo virus.[9]

### **c) Political Front**

The ruling Pakistan People's Party (PPP) does not want to offend the army or the establishment by addressing the issues of Balochistan, president of the National Party (NP) Senator Dr Abdul Malik said on September 19. Addressing a press conference at the Quetta Press Club, Senator Malik accused the administration of carrying out a 'kill-and-dump operation' targeting Baloch political activists.[10]

A candidate stands disqualified once he has been awarded punishment, said Justice Shakirullah Jan on Monday, September 19 during the hearing of Senator Muhammad Ali Rind's appeal against the Balochistan High Court's (BHC) decision to bar him from public office. Earlier, a divisional bench of the BHC had disqualified Senator Rind from holding public office in August, for concealing from the Election Commission that he was convicted for corruption.[11]

The government of Balochistan is believed to be reconsidering a request by the US embassy for setting up an American consulate in Quetta, an official in the Balochistan Home Department said on Wednesday, September 21. "The request has not been rejected," said an officer in the department, adding that "the matter is still under consideration." Earlier, the Balochistan government had flatly refused to allot land for the purpose due to security concerns. The ministry of foreign affairs was also opposed to the opening of the consulate due to negative reports by federal and provincial security agencies.[12]

Chief Minister of Balochistan Nawab Aslam Raisani formed a committee on Thursday, September 22 to probe the killing of 29 pilgrims in the Ganjidori area of Mastung in a sectarian attack on September 20. The committee has been asked to present its report in 15 days.[13] Meanwhile, Chief Justice Balochistan High Court has taken suo moto notice of the killing of Shia pilgrims in Ghanja Dori in Mastung District and issued notices to Federal and Provincial Governments on Thursday, September 22.[14]

Embassies of Tajikistan and Russia informed the National Assembly Standing Committee on Human Rights on September 22 that their citizens who were killed in Kharotabad in May had no criminal record. On May 17, five foreigners, including three women, initially believed to be Chechens on a suicide bombing mission, were shot dead by police and Frontier Constabulary (FC) troops in Quetta. The five victims included four Russian nationals and one Tajik.[15]

#### **d) Economic Front**

The greater scale of devastation in Sindh has managed to eclipse the miseries of flood survivors in Balochistan. Ironically, National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) mandated to provide relief to calamity-hit people sent relief items worth Rs. two million only for 80,000 flood-affected people in 17 districts of Balochistan, according to an official report on September 22. Only 50 bags of flour have been dispatched so far to people impacted by the floods, stated the report.[16]

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## **10. Weekly Monitor (Sept. 26 - Oct. 2, 2011)**

Against the backdrop of last week's whooping violence, the week in focus witnessed a fragile lull in violence. An explosion near the Frontier Corps' (FC) fort in Dera Bugti on Monday, September 26 resulted in injuring 10 FC personnel.

Balochistan National Party (BNP) leader Abdul Salam was shot dead by unknown gunmen in Khuzdar on Wednesday, September 28. Two armed men riding a motorbike sprayed bullets on Salam's vehicle, injuring him and his daughter. Later on, both the victims were rushed to the hospital, where Salam succumbed to his injuries. In sum, five people fell prey to the ongoing spate of violence across the province.

The newly appointed head of the commission on missing persons, Justice ® Javed Iqbal said on Monday, September 26 that the commission tasked to recover missing persons will also investigate cases of mutilated bodies which have been surfacing in Balochistan. Addressing the lawyers at Balochistan High Court Bar Association, he emphasized that we have to prepare an authentic list of missing persons firstly, since earlier lists also carry the names of those who are jailed or engaged in fighting in Afghanistan.

Balochistan High Court criticized on September 27, the provincial home department's report regarding last week's sectarian attack in Mastung and observed that "Balochistan government is pushing the province towards destruction and it should clarify its policy." Meanwhile, Supreme Court Bar Association (SCBA) President, Asma Jehangir said on Wednesday, September 28 that Balochistan situation has been deteriorating since the day security forces were given authority to make decisions for the province.

### **Week in Review**

#### **a) Acts of Terrorism, Subversion and Abduction**

- At least 10 FC men injured in an explosion near the FC fort in Dera Bugti on Monday, September 26. According to an FC official, acting on a tip-off, FC personnel seized an explosive device near the FC fort in Dera Bugti. "It went off, injuring 10 personnel. All injured are in stable condition and have been discharged from the hospital," said an FC spokesperson.

- According to Balochistan Levies, three NATO oil tankers were on their way to Kandahar from Karachi when unknown armed men fired upon them near Dasht area in Mastung district on Tuesday, September 27. As a result, oil tankers were totally destroyed, injuring drivers badly.
- BNP leader Abdul Salam was gunned down by unidentified men in Khuzdar on September 28. Two armed men riding a motorbike opened indiscriminate fire on Salam's vehicle, injuring him and his daughter. Both the victims were taken to the hospital, where Salam was pronounced dead, while his daughter is in critical condition. Salam was a prominent lawyer of Khuzdar.
- Three people were killed and four others injured during oil and gas exploration in Harnai district, Balochistan on Wednesday, September 28. Earlier, militants fired at the men from a mountain in Shagla area of Harnai district. The slain include two officials from BGP Oil and Gas Services Company and one security guard. Baloch Liberation Army (BLA) claimed responsibility for the attack and its spokesperson said his group will continue to target people involved in exploration of oil and gas in any part of Balochistan.
- One person was killed on Thursday when a bomb disposal unit was busy in defusing an explosive device planted near a convoy of NATO tankers in Chaman, a security official said on September 29.
- At least two people were injured when unknown assailants opened fire at the Quetta Express near Dera Murad Jamali on Sunday, October 2. According to reports, unknown men opened fire on the Quetta Express that was on its way to Quetta near Mangoli Station. As a result of the shooting, a security guard and a helper were injured. The assailants managed to escape safely, later on.

#### **b) Political Front**

Hearing in the suo motu notice of Matsung incident took place at the divisional bench of the Balochistan High Court on Monday, September 26. Advocate General of Balochistan, Mr Amanullah Kanrani appeared before the bench and submitted a report on behalf of the Balochistan government. Kanrani added that the strength of security officials has been increased in the province to address the security situation. Kanrani also told the court that in future no pilgrim will go to Iran without obtaining a No Objection Certificate (NoC) from the home department of the province. After the issuance of NoC, adequate security arrangement will be made for the

pilgrims, he said.

The commission tasked to recover missing persons will also investigate cases of mutilated bodies which have been surfacing in Balochistan, said Justice (Retd.) Javed Iqbal, the newly appointed head of the commission, on Monday, September 26. Talking to reporters after addressing the lawyers at the Balochistan High Court Bar Association, Iqbal said "We first have to prepare an authentic list of missing persons since those who were jailed or engaged in fighting in Afghanistan have also been included." Justice (Retd.) Iqbal said the commission had recovered 324 missing persons in the past four years. "Most of the cases were reported in Balochistan and the commission will do its utmost to trace missing persons," he added.

The Balochistan High Court criticized on September 27 the provincial home department's report on the sectarian attack in Mastung and said the Balochistan government is pushing the province towards destruction and should "clarify its policy" in this regard.

President of the Supreme Court Bar Association (SCBA) Asma Jehangir said on Wednesday, September 28 that security situation in Balochistan has been deteriorating since the day security forces were given control of the province. Addressing members of the Balochistan High Court Bar, Jahangir said "Divisions have been created amongst people as sectarian killings, recoveries of mutilated bodies and target killing of Punjabi speaking people" are order of the day in the province. Meanwhile, Maulana Abdul Ghafour Haideri of JUI-F said on Friday, September 30 that the recovery of mutilated bodies is fueling resentment among the people of Balochistan. He was speaking at a session of the Senate's Standing Committee on Human Rights. The meeting reviewed the issue of missing persons in Balochistan. Senator Maulana Abdul Ghafour Haideri said any person involved in criminal activities must be presented before the court.

The Balochistan Union of Journalists staged a demonstration outside the Quetta Press Club on Saturday, October 1 to protest against the threats to media persons from militants. Dozens of journalists from print and electronic media took part in the demonstration. The speakers came down hard on the government for "its failure to curtail the killing of media persons in the province."

**c) Economic Front**

Kalat is one of the coldest cities in Balochistan where temperatures drop to 10 to 17 degrees below the freezing point during winters. Most of the people affected by the floods in the district moved to their relatives in neighboring towns and villages. There are 30 to 40 families still living in tents provided by the government and some non-governmental organizations. Around 582 houses were completely damaged, while 2,168 houses were partially damaged when flash floods triggered by torrential rains hit the district earlier this month. Provincial Disaster Management Authority sent only six trucks of relief goods to Kalat. The affected families claim the government provided insufficient food and other commodities. "Every family was given five kilograms of rice, two of pulses and some medicines. These were not enough for even a week," said Mohammad Anwar, a local flood victim on September 29. Moreover, Balochistan and Sindh entered into a row over water share, with the former accusing Sindh of not providing it its due share in the recent Kharif season. The allegation was leveled at a meeting of the Indus River.

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## **11. Weekly Monitor (October 03 - 09, 2011)**

As evident by recent back to back events of sectarian killings in the province; Balochistan is rapidly emerging as a sectarian terrorism hotbed. In continuation of this latest trend, 14 Shias belonging to Hazara community were shot dead in Quetta on Tuesday, October 4. In total, 25 people were killed during the week in different acts of violence across the province.

Pakistan Tehrik-i-Insaf (PTI), chief Imran Khan and Muttahida Qaumi Movement (MQM), leader Altaf Hussain termed the murder of the Hazaras as 'sectarian terrorism' that needs to be curtailed.

Members of the National Assembly, including some from the ruling alliance, demanded the resignations of cabinet members and other senior officials for their failure to curb sectarian killings in Balochistan on Tuesday, October 4. On the other hand, Human Rights Watch (HRW) urged the government of Pakistan to provide protection to the Shia community residing in Balochistan, and hold accountable those responsible for targeted killings.

### **Week in Review**

#### **a) Acts of Terrorism/Subversion**

- In another episode of gruesome killing of Shias in the province, 14 people belonging to the Hazara community were gunned down while seven injured in a firing incident near the western Bypass in Quetta on October 4. About 20 people were on board in a bus when unknown gunmen, riding motorcycles, intercepted the bus and sprayed bullets indiscriminately after entering into the bus. No one has claimed responsibility for the incident so far.[1]
- Moreover, two policemen were among four people killed in separate incidents of violence in Quetta on Wednesday, October 5. According to official sources, unidentified gunmen riding a motorbike assaulted a police van. One officer died on the spot. The injured officers and civilians were shifted to the Bolan Medical Hospital where one officer succumbed to injuries later on.
- In another incident, gunmen killed two civilians and injured two others in the Brewery Road area. The assailants managed to escape.[2]
- Two bullet-riddled bodies of Baloch missing persons were found dumped in the Murghab area of Turbat on Thursday, October 6,

according to police officials. According to local police officials, passersby spotted the bodies and informed the police. The bodies were shifted to the District Headquarters Hospital, where they were identified as Arfaat and Abdul Karim. According to sources, Arfaat was whisked away while traveling from Turbat to Quetta one month ago and Abdul Karim went missing two weeks back.[3]

- Two unknown persons were killed and another sustained injuries in a landmine explosion at Pehlawagh area in Dera Bugti on October 6.[4]
- A government official was shot dead while his son sustained injuries on Kasi Road in Quetta on October 7, Daily Times reported. According to the police sources, section officer, Mohammad Idress was sitting along with his son in his shop, when unidentified armed assailants riding a motorcycle opened fire, killing Idress on the spot and injuring his son.[5]
- Four people were killed and six injured in separate incidents in Quetta and other areas on Sunday, October 9. Local administration recovered the mutilated bodies of two men from the Baghbana area of the Khuzdar district. Both the victims were shot in their head. In a separate incident, a child was killed and four others injured in a landmine blast in the Katal area of the Kohlu district. In another incident, two Frontier Corps personnel were injured as their vehicle hit a landmine in the Barkhan district. Meanwhile, unidentified men killed a popular trader Mujeebullah at Quetta's Abdul Sattar Road.[6]
- Eight aid workers belonging to an international NGO were released on October 4 by the Taliban in Wana. Earlier, they were kidnapped in July from Pishin while returning from an Afghan refugee camp. The workers, who worked at two dispensaries in the camps, were shifted to Taliban stronghold in Waziristan, from where they were released on Monday night.[7]

## **b) Political Front**

An investigation team on Tuesday, October 4, submitted its report to the Balochistan High Court (BHC) in connection with suo-moto hearing of the firing incident that killed 26 Shia pilgrims in Mastung last month. However, the court expressed dissatisfaction over the report, saying that no concrete progress had been made in the case so far.[8]

Politicians including PTI chairman Imran Khan and MQM chief Altaf Hussain condemned the target killing of 14 ethnic Hazaras in Quetta on October 4. They labeled the murder of the Hazaras as sectarian terrorism that needs to

be curbed. Mr. Khan, in a press release issued by his party office said that the responsibility for these deaths fell squarely on the current corrupt government who had failed in its duty to protect its citizens. He said that the government approach to deal with crisis has put integrity of the state in jeopardy. Meanwhile, MQM chief in its statement said that the state must prosecute the elements responsible for this heinous act.[9]

On October 4 members of the National Assembly, including some from the ruling alliance demanded the resignations of cabinet members and other senior officials for their failure to curb sectarian killings in Balochistan. Anger over the killings dominated proceedings of the lower house of the Parliament, even overshadowing what was expected to be another day of criticism of the government over its handling of the energy crisis and the floods in Sindh.[10]

Interior Minister Rehman Malik on Wednesday, October 5, directed the concerned authorities to regulate the visit of Shia pilgrims to Iran and ensure their protection. Malik was chairing a high-level meeting which was attended by federal interior secretary, provincial home secretaries and inspectors general of police (IGPs). The meeting reviewed the law and order situation in Balochistan.[11]

In wake of the recent incidents of sectarian violence in Balochistan, Human Rights Watch stressed upon the need to provide protection to the Shia community and hold accountable those responsible for targeted killings. The statement issued on October 5, came in response to a recent attack in which unknown gunmen riding motorbikes killed 14 Shias and wounded seven others.[12]

The arrest warrants of former provincial home minister, Shoaib Nausherwani were issued on October 8 in the Nawab Akbar Bugti murder case. The court issued orders on the request of a special crime branch team investigating the case. Advocate General Balochistan Amanullah Kanrani told the media that the government of Balochistan had directed the crime branch to obtain warrants for all the accused in the case.[13]

### **c) Economic Front**

Residents of Musa Khel in Balochistan and Muzaffargarh in Punjab believe

that their economic situation has worsened considerably in the past year. In Musa Khel alone, 90 per cent of households felt they were worse off. The Pakistan Social and Living Standards Measurement survey for 2010-2011 conducted by the Federal Bureau of Statistics (FBS) includes data on perceptions from households in four provinces. In the survey, 43 per cent of households in Pakistan believe they are worse off than last year, 40 per cent said conditions had been consistent, while 16.5 per cent felt their economic situation had improved.[14]

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## **12. Weekly Monitor (Oct. 10 - 16, 2011)**

In a week when terrorism related violence was at the lowest in the province; nature intervened to balance the equation as according to reports, nine people were killed and five others injured when a portion of a coal mine located in Dasht collapsed on October 13. In sum, the number of dead people stands at 14 during the week.

Balochistan provincial minister and chief of the Jalawan tribe, Sardar Sanaullah Zehri narrowly escaped an assassination attempt when the Baloch Liberation Front (BLF) detonated an explosive device near the minister's convoy while he was traveling from Kalat to Khuzdar on Friday night, October 15.

Prime Minister Yousuf Raza Gilani asked militants to shun violence, as the progress of the region lies in peace and amicable settlement of disputes. He assured that Baloch youth will be given appropriate quotas in jobs and relaxation in age in order to address the long held Baloch grievances.

Interior Minister Rehman Malik declared on Friday, October 14, that the government is taking all necessary security measures in Balochistan to ensure peace in the province. He blamed banned militant outfit Lashkar-e-Jhangvi (LeJ) for recent spate of sectarian killings in the province.

Human Rights Commission of Pakistan (HRCP), in its statement expressed serious concerns over ongoing human rights violations in Balochistan on Saturday, October 15, and urged judiciary and government to take solid measures to address the issue.

### **Week in Review**

#### **a) Acts of Terrorism/Subversion**

- Two more bullet-riddled dead bodies of Baloch missing persons, including that of a Baloch National Movement (BNM) member, were recovered from Arbab Complex area of Khuzdar district on October 10. The deceased were identified as BNM's Vice President of Mashkey, Rashid Ali, and Shafi Mohammad, a resident of Anjira area of Kalat district. According to the details, Shahfi Mohammad was abducted from Karachi in April, 2011, while Rashid Ali was abducted on August 17, 2011

while he was on his way to Karachi. As many as 204 bullet-riddled and mutilated bodies of missing persons have so far been found in different parts of Balochistan since the last 14 months.[1]

- Two people were killed when gunmen torched an oil tanker carrying fuel for NATO troops in Afghanistan near the Dasht area of Balochistan on Tuesday, October 11, officials said. Gunmen on a motorbike fired at the vehicle setting it on fire in the Dasht suburb of the provincial capital Quetta, local administration official Saeed Kurd told AFP. As a result, the driver and his helper were killed as they could not leave the burning vehicle on time, he said.[2]
- A sitting Balochistan provincial minister and chief of the Jalawan, Sardar Sanaullah Zehri escaped an attempt on his life near Surab in Kalat district, on Friday night, October 15. The Baloch Liberation Front has claimed responsibility for the attack. Assistant Commissioner of police Qadir Baksh said that the provincial minister for services and general administration department (SGAD) Sardar Sanaullah was on his way to Khuzdar from Kalat when an explosive device planted along with RCD highway near Anjera area went off. However, the minister remained unhurt in the attack as blast took place a few minutes before his convoy passed by.[3]
- President of the Pakistan Medical Association (PMA) Balochistan chapter Dr Mazar Baloch succumbed to his injuries on Saturday, October 15, a day after being shot by unknown gunmen in Quetta. Dr Mazar was an orthopedic surgeon and assistant professor at the Bolan Medical Complex (BMC) Teaching Hospital. He succumbed to his injuries at the Agha Khan Hospital, Karachi. Earlier, he received eight bullet wounds when armed men ambushed his vehicle on Masjid Road in Quetta.[4]

## **b) Political Front**

Prime Minister Yusuf Raza Gillani reaffirmed his government's plan on Tuesday, October 11 to implement the set strategy to provide Baloch youth with employment opportunities in order to address their pressing grievances. Prime Minister Gillani expressed these views during a meeting with a delegation PPP provincial leaders and workers led by MPA and former Provincial Minister Mir Sadiq Umrani at Balochistan Governor House. PM Gilani, who is on two-day visit to Quetta, will be addressing the Army's passing out parade, scheduled to be held in cantonment area. 5, 000 cadets are due to be inducted in to Pakistan Army. He said that unemployed youth

of Balochistan will be given relaxation in age and set educational criteria for recruitment. He also met with a delegation of Hazara Community and assured complete security in order to prevent sectarian targeted killing. He also expressed grief and sorrow over the killings that took place in recent weeks.[5]

Prime Minister Syed Yousaf Raza Gilani said on Tuesday, October 11, that the prosperity of Balochistan was linked to peace and asked militants to shun violence and work for the progress of their province along with the country. While addressing the passing-out parade of Pakistan Army recruits from Balochistan, he said, "choose the path of peace, as this is the only way for the progress of people of Balochistan and Pakistan." He also added: The agenda of these terrorists and extremists is certainly against Pakistan. PM Gilani said that the government had planned to provide jobs to 20,000 youth from Balochistan and appreciated General Ashfaq Parvez Kayani and Commander of the southern Command Lt. Gen. Javed Zia for ensuring best possible training to bring the youth to mainstream.[6]

After the prime minister's renewed offer to hold talks with disgruntled Baloch leaders, a special parliamentary committee formed to address the violence in Karachi and Balochistan has planned a visit to Quetta next week. During his two-day visit, PM Gilani had offered to speak to Baloch nationalists and address their reservations. "No more violence, it's time to hold talks with our angry (Baloch) brothers," said the head of the committee Religious Affairs Minister Syed Khursheed Shah on October 14. "We will speak to all stakeholders and prepare recommendations for a permanent solution to the issue," the minister said.[7]

President Asif Ali Zardari directed the ministry of Interior on Friday, October 14, to take stern action against elements involved in incidents of target killings and sectarian violence in Balochistan. He also stressed upon immediate measures to provide protection to pilgrims traveling from Quetta to Iran. "The heavy hand of the government will fall on all those elements behind the attacks on members of Hazara community," President Zardari said in a meeting with a delegation of the Hazara Community.[8]

Interior Minister Rehman Malik said on Friday, October 14 that the government was taking concrete measures to ensure peace in Balochistan.

Talking to media outside the parliament house, he said that on the directives of President Asif Ali Zardari, he would be visiting Quetta every week to assess law and order situation by tackling the abductors in a more vigorous manner.[9] He blamed banned militant outfit LeJ for the unrest in Balochistan, while asserting that the police and the Frontier Constabulary were acting against terrorist elements.[10]

Meanwhile, Human Rights Commission of Pakistan (HRCP), Balochistan chapter, took out a protest rally in Quetta on Saturday, October 15, to raise concerns over violation of human rights in the province. According to HRCP, discovery of mutilated bodies of Baloch missing persons, sectarian killings as well as kidnapping for ransom of the Hindus are on the rise in Balochistan. The rights group regretted that the human rights' issues receive little attention from both the government and the judiciary.[11]

### **c) Natural Calamity**

Nine people were killed and five others injured when a portion of a coal mine located in Dasht collapsed on Thursday, October 13. The mine collapse occurred as a result of an explosion in the mine, which is located about 40 kilometers from Quetta. Initial reports suggest that the explosion was caused by the accumulation of gas or air in the mine.[12]

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### **13. Weekly Monitor (October 17- 23, 2011)**

With no signs of abatement in violence, Balochistan continues to sizzle under separatist, inter-tribal and sectarian violence. A local bus full of commuters, who were working in the local factory, came under attack on October 22 in Sakran Road in Hub Industrial area of Lasbela district. The attack resulted in injuring 13 people. Moreover, on October 21, violent clashes erupted between two rival tribes in Qilla Abdullah, which killed five people and injured three others. In sum, during the week the number of people who died stood at eight in different circumstances in the province. Awami National Party (ANP) in Balochistan strongly condemned the NATO forces' aerial intrusion into Pakistani air space near Qilla Abdullah on October 17, and urged the federal government to raise the issue with NATO officials in Afghanistan.

Federal Interior Minister Rehman Malik disclosed on Wednesday, October 19, that the people involved in sectarian militancy in Balochistan are being operated from the prisons and they have strong contacts with banned militant organizations in Punjab. He underlined that the government will take robust measures to bring peace in the province and to curb illegal cross-border activities, targeted killings of Hazara community and to initiate negotiations with Baloch nationalists.

#### **Week in Review**

##### **a) Acts of Terrorism/Subversion**

- A pilot of Pakistan Air Force was killed when a jet plane crashed near the mountainous range of Uthal in Lasbela district on Wednesday, October 19. The plane was on a routine training flight when it went down.[1]
- Five people were killed and three others injured in a clash between two rival tribes in Qilla Abdullah on Friday, October 21. Old enmity was reported to be the reason behind the tribal feud that took place in the Maizai Adda area of the district. Later on to control the violence Frontier Corps (FC) personnel were called in the area.[2]
- Unknown assailants shot dead a man, identified as Aneel, in Turbat district of Balochistan on October 20.[3]
- Personnel from Levies recovered an unidentified dead body of a man from Dhadar area of Bolan District on October 21.[4]
- At least 13 workers of a local factory were injured when their bus was

fired upon by unknown armed men on Sakran Road in Hub Industrial area of Lasbela district on October 22. Separately, two law enforcement agency personnel were wounded in a hand grenade attack in the Margat coal mine in Mach area of Bolan district. According to police sources, "Unknown armed men hurled hand grenade at a vehicle carrying personnel of a LEA"

- Meanwhile, on October 22, a NATO oil tanker stationed in Afghanistan was completely destroyed when it caught fire due to two explosions at Bakhtiarabad Oil Terminal in Bakhtiarabad area of Sibi district.[5]

### **b) Political Front**

The residents of Kharotabad are living in a state of constant fear of possible US drone attacks on their area, considering that over the past six months, the Afghan and local Taliban seemed to have coveted this part of Quetta as a veritable 'vacation spot'. Every four months, Taliban fighters return from war fronts in Afghanistan and take shelter in this area, said one of the locals on October 17. Their presence is becoming a major concern for the people living in adjoining areas, especially because this is the same area where the US alleges the Quetta Shura is hiding.[6]

Doctors at several hospitals across Balochistan went on strike on Monday, October 17 against the killing of President of the Pakistan Medical Association (PMA) Balochistan chapter, Dr Mazar Baloch. Doctors have boycotted outdoor patient departments (OPD) at all public hospitals on the call of the PMA.[7]

Awami National Party (ANP) on Monday informed the Balochistan Assembly that North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) forces violated Pakistani airspace in Qilla Abdullah, a district that shares the border with Afghanistan. ANP parliamentary leader and Provincial Minister Zamurk Khan raised the issue on a point of order during a Balochistan Assembly session on Monday, October 17, and said NATO forces had violated Pakistani airspace by making a 20 minutes low flight in the area two days back. He demanded that the federal government should raise the issue with NATO officials in Afghanistan.[8]

The relatives of Baloch missing persons have been threatened to end their hunger strike camp set up outside the Quetta Press Club, confirmed Qadir

Baloch, father of missing Baloch Republican Party (BRP) leader Jaleel Raiki. Qadir accused the government functionaries and a pro-government organization on October 17 of threatening him through cell phone calls and by visiting his residence and hunger strike camps.[9]

The Crime Investigation Department (CID) team tasked to investigate the Mastung bus attack informed the Balochistan High Court (BHC) that they have seized vital clues into the recent incident that claimed the lives of 29 Hazara pilgrims. The Balochistan advocate general submitted the CID's investigation report on October 19 to the division bench comprising Chief Justice Qazi Faez Isa and Justice Abdul Qadir Mengal during the suo- motu case hearing.[10]

Federal Interior Minister Rehman Malik said the intelligence reports had revealed that terrorists, including those behind sectarian violence in Balochistan, are operating from prisons in the province and have contacts with banned militant organizations in Punjab. He revealed this while addressing a news conference at the Chief Minister Secretariat in Quetta on Wednesday, October 19, where he was accompanied by Balochistan Home Minister Zafarullah Zehri. Malik was on a two day-visit to Balochistan during which he visited the Chaman border and held meetings with the Hazara community and the Sunni leaders. He informed the media that he was assigned the task to discuss three issues that include illegal cross-border activities, targeted killing of Hazara community and negotiations with Baloch nationalists. "Pakistan will next month reactivate a biometric computerized system to screen all travelers crossing a key Afghan border terminal", Rehman Malik said on Wednesday.[11]

Provincial Minister for Quality Education Jan Ali Changezi of Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) said on October 20 that the law and order situation in Balochistan is worse than other provinces. "Malik may have been given wrong briefing about law and order situation in Balochistan," Changezi told the reporters outside Balochistan Assembly. He was referring to the statement in which Malik lauded the role of provincial government in overcoming law and order issues. Earlier on, Malik had claimed that Balochistan situation is comparatively better than other provinces.[12]

Members of the Balochistan Assembly have demanded that the provincial

government bring culprits of the Mastung sectarian attack to the book, in a resolution passed on Thursday, October 20. Earlier on, Provincial Minister for Quality Education Jan Ali Changezi, who belongs to the Hazara community, tabled a resolution soon after proceedings began. The resolution outlined the attack, and it also stated that it is condemnable that police and other law enforcement agencies remained out of the scene during the attack.[13]

### **c) Polio Cases**

Three more polio cases surfaced in Balochistan on Thursday, October 20, raising the total number of patients suffering from the disease in the province to 52, the highest number in any province in the country. The cases were reported in the districts of Loralai, Pishin and Quetta, according to an official of the UN's Children Fund (UNICEF) Jawahir Habib. He also underscored that Polio cases have increased by 100 per cent in Balochistan. "Around 1.5 million children below the age of five are at risk of being infected with polio in Balochistan," Habib added. According to World Health Organization (WHO) officials, more than 75 per cent of the cases detected in the province are from Quetta, Pishin and Qila Abdullah.[14]

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## **14. Weekly Monitor (Oct. 24 - 30, 2011)**

Unlike the persistent episodes of deadly violence in previous weeks, the week in focus witnessed relatively low level of violence. The highlight of the week was the killing of a Frontier Corps' (FC) officer, when the latter was on a mine detection mission, near the Sorange coal mines in the suburbs of Quetta on October 25. In sum, three people were killed during this week in different acts of violence.

Balochistan assembly on October 26 passed a unanimous resolution, strongly condemning the flaws in voters' lists. The legislators slated NADRA for its inefficiency in maintaining the accurate lists.

The Kharotabad tribunal recommended the removal of two low level police officers on October 26, who were involved in the killing of five foreigners at Kharotabad.

Chief Minister Nawab Aslam Raisani, on October 29, constituted a judicial commission to probe the target killing of Dr. Mazar Baloch.

Misappropriation of Rs 17.7 million was unearthed in an audit report of Balochistan education department on Monday, October 24.

### **Week in Review**

#### **a) Acts of Terrorism/Subversion**

Two people were killed in different incidents of violence in Quetta on October 24. According to the details, unknown gunmen shot and killed Asfand Yar Noshervani at Qambrani road. Police reached the spot and removed the body. In another incident, unidentified persons gunned down Maqsood Ahmad at Sirki road.[1]

An FC official was killed when a landmine exploded near the Sorange coal mine, in the suburbs of Quetta on Tuesday morning, October 25. According to Mohammad Ishaq, the spokesperson for the FC, the slain FC officer was on a mine detection and removal patrol near the Sorange area when a mine explosion killed him instantly. Separatist Baloch outfit, Baloch Liberation Army (BLA) claimed responsibility for the incident.[2]

A 22-year-old resident of the restive Kohlu district threatened to self-immolate if her brother - who was whisked away by security agencies on

September 20, 2011 - was not set free. Addressing a news conference at the hunger strike camp set up by the Voice for Baloch Missing Persons outside the Quetta Press Club on October 28, she said Sher Ali Marri went to Hyderabad along with nine other people of her family, where he was picked up by security personnel near the Hyderabad "bakra mandi" (cattle market) and has been listed missing ever since.[3]

### **b) Political Front**

With a total of 11 members present, the Balochistan Assembly, in absence of quorum, continued proceedings and unanimously adopted two resolutions, on October 26, including one on flaws in voter lists in the province. No one pointed out the lack of quorum, which requires a minimum of 17 members to run the business of the house. Provincial Minister Zahoor Buledi tabled a joint resolution about serious flaws in the voter list. They seriously criticized the NADRA for inappropriate work regarding the voter lists. The lawmakers also condemned the target killing of Dr Mazar Baloch and urged law enforcement agencies to find the killers "If this continues then we, the lawmakers, will not be able to face the people," said Dr Fauzia Nazir Marri, adviser to the chief minister.[4]

Police on October 26 dismissed two officials from the service on the recommendation of the Kharotabad tribunal. Both the policemen are low-ranking security officials involved in the Kharotabad incident. According to the incident, five foreigners were killed on May 17 earlier this year in the Kharotabad area of Balochistan when police and FC personnel opened fire at them. However, the police and FC personnel claimed that the foreigners were armed and were suspected terrorists. The Balochistan government took notice of the incident and established a tribunal for the inquiry of the incident.[5]

Balochistan Chief Minister Nawab Aslam Raisani has established a judicial commission on October 29 to investigate the target killing of Dr Mazar Baloch. While he did not say who will be heading the panel, or whether it will be a judge from the superior judiciary, Raisani assured Pakistan Medical Association (PMA) members that the culprits will not be spared.[6]

### **c) Economic Front**

The centuries-old water management system in Mastung, known as karez, is

in serious jeopardy with underground water level almost descending to dead levels, creating acute shortage of the precious commodity (reported in the press on October 24). The system, which relies on wells linked by an underground canal that collect water in a basin, is at risk of fading out altogether due to the lack of interest of the authorities. The people of the area are going through hard times meeting their domestic and agricultural water needs because of acute water shortage.[7]

An audit report of the Balochistan Education Department indicates an embezzlement of Rs 17.7 million on October 24. The scam was discovered in the 2010-2011 audits. The auditor's report said the Balochistan director of schools had bought furniture and laboratory equipment for schools costing Rs17.7 million at the end of the financial year 2009-10. However, the furniture and laboratory equipment were never delivered to the departments.[8]

With Eidul Azha just around the corner, Balochistan is witnessing unprecedented increase in illegal cattle and flock smuggling to Afghanistan and Iran. In the absence of proper checks, highways leading to the neighboring countries are packed with trucks and other vehicles carrying cattle and flocks. "I have a huge stock of cattle that is being smuggled to Afghanistan, as I know I will be given a good amount in return," said Naimatullah Khan, a cattle dealer standing at a cattle market near Eastern Bypass on Sunday, October 30.[9]

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## **15. Weekly Monitor (Oct. 31 - Nov. 6, 2011)**

The episodes of violence and atrocities continued with the same pace and frequency this week with no signs of improvements in law and order situation in Balochistan. Four people, including a commander of the pro-government Amn Force (Peace Force), were killed during a clash with the militants of Baloch Republican Army (BRA) near Sui area of Dera Bugti district, on October 31. Similarly, unidentified gunmen attacked Frontier Corps (FC) convoy with a remote control bomb near Nasirabad area of Turbat, on November 2. In sum, 10 people were killed during the week in acts of terrorism. 12 dead bodies of missing persons were also found during the week.

On political front, Balochistan High Court ordered the government, on November 1, to ensure the extradition of former President Pervez Musharraf, former Prime Minister Shaukat Aziz and former Home Minister of Balochistan, Shoab Ahmed Noshervani, in murder case of former CM Balochistan, Nawab Akbar Bugti.

Chief Minister Balochistan, Nawab Aslam Raisani, on November 4, said that an independent Balochistan is not a practical solution and those who see this dream are living in a fool's paradise. Such a dream would leave the province in a bloodbath and the government cannot allow such a thing to happen.

Moreover, the arrest warrant for the former Chief Minister of Balochistan, Jam Muhammad Yousaf, was issued on November 4 in Nawab Akbar Bugti case.

### **Week in Review**

#### **a) Acts of Terrorism/Subversion**

- Jama'at-Ulema-e-Islam-Fazl's (JUI-F) Panjgur General Secretary, Hafiz Ahtishamul Haq, was shot dead in Kori Koran area of Panjgur District on October 30 (reported in the press on October 31). Police sources said that unidentified armed militants opened fire at the JUI-F leader while he was standing outside his house.[1]
- At least four people, including a commander of the pro-government Amn Force (Peace Force), identified as Nabi Daid, were killed and five others injured during a clash with the militants of Baloch Republican

- Army (BRA) near Sui area of Dera Bugti District on Monday, October 31. A BRA spokesperson, Sarbaz Baloch, said his organization ambushed the vehicle of the force near Sui.[2]
- At least two personnel of the Frontier Corps (FC) were killed and six others injured when their vehicle was attacked with a remote control bomb near the Nasirabad area of Turbat on Wednesday, November 2. According to official sources, an FC convoy was on its way from Turbat to Tump, a town sharing its border with Iran, when it was hit by a remotely-controlled device planted by unidentified people along the road near the Nodez area.[3]
  - Police recovered seven bodies from various areas of Balochistan over the past two days. During the regular patrolling, police recovered three bodies on November 3 from Turbat and Khuzdar. The bodies were identified to be of Abdul Samad (from Khuzdar) and Gohram and Ayam (from Turbat). Earlier on Wednesday, four mutilated bodies were found from Windar Town of Lasbela, Dusht Town of Mastung and from Gwadar.[4]
  - Four bullet-riddled bodies were found in Turbat, Pasni and Khuzdar areas of Balochistan on November 4. Two of the men were identified as students while the other two were activists of the Baloch Student Organization (BSO-Azad). Since June 2010, 230 bodies have been found in Balochistan and nationalist parties along families of victims suspect the security agencies of their involvement in abduction and killing incidents. Advocacy groups, such as Human Rights Watch, Amnesty International and Human Rights Commission of Pakistan, have also blamed military's intelligence agencies.[5]
  - Basant Lal, a paint shop owner, was on his way to his home on Saryab Road from Liaquat Bazaar when a group of armed men intercepted him, shoved him into a vehicle and sped off, on November 5. An FIR was registered at the local police station against unidentified persons.[6]
  - Two Levies Force personnel were killed and four others injured in an armed attack on their check post in the coalmine area of Margat and Marwar in Bolan District of Balochistan, on November 5.[7]
  - A man became victim to his own terror plot on Saturday when the explosives he was planting went off prematurely near Hazara Town on Saturday, November 5. Hazara Town is a suburb in Quetta with a high density of minority Hazaras. "The man wanted to place the explosive somewhere in Hazara Town, however, it detonated near the drain line, killing the man instantly," Saddar police Superintendent Malik Arshad

said.[8]

- Javed Naseer Rind's name was added to the list of more than 10 journalists whose bodies have been found tortured and dumped in Balochistan, on November 6. Said to be in his mid-twenties, Rind's bullet-riddled body was found dumped in Khuzdar, about 300 kilometers south of Quetta. He was a senior sub editor at a local daily Tawar, a pro-nationalist newspaper.[9]

### **c) Political Front**

The Balochistan High Court (BHC), on November 1, ordered the government to extradite former President Pervez Musharraf, former Prime Minister Shaukat Aziz and former Home Minister of Balochistan Shoaib Ahmed Noshierwani in the murder case of Nawab Akbar Bugti (former CM and governor of Balochistan). The arrest warrants against them were issued earlier on October 29, 2011. Nawab Bugti was killed along with his 35 comrades in a military action, on August 26 2006, in the mountainous Bhamboor Range near District Dera Bugti.[10]

Denying any prior knowledge of Nawab Akbar Bugti's killing and absolving the federal government of blame, former Prime Minister Shaukat Aziz said, on November 3, that law and order is a provincial subject. In a letter sent from Dubai to the Provincial Police Officer on October 31, Aziz stated that he had mentioned in the FIR registered at the Dera Bugti Police Station, on October 13 2009, that the then president, Pervez Musharraf, used him as part of a conspiracy to murder Akbar Bugti. He went on to state that he came to know of the 'unfortunate and tragic incident' when it was broadcast on television.[11]

An independent Balochistan is not a practical proposition and will lead to bloodbath in the province, Chief Minister Nawab Aslam Raisani said on November 4. "We have to find a way out within the ambit of Pakistan and the 1940 Lahore resolution," he said, while talking to a delegation of journalists at the CM Secretariat in Quetta. Raisani added that the government is ready to hold talks with Baloch leaders, but they (nationalist leaders) continue to demand independence and refuse to budge. "But independence will come at the cost of bloodbath civil strife." He added.[12] The arrest warrant was issued on November 4 for the former Balochistan Chief Minister, Jam Muhammad Yousaf, who is nominated as the accused in

the Nawab Akbar Bugti murder case. On request of the crime branch, the arrest warrant was issued and accepted by the court on Friday.[13]

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## **16. Weekly Monitor (Nov. 7 - 13, 2011)**

The week saw a relatively fragile calm prevailing in Balochistan with no major incident of violence being reported. In sum, two people, one civilian and a security official, were shot dead in two different episodes of violence across the province.

Asian Human Rights Commission, in its statement, released on November 11, slated Pakistan government for its failure to curtail the ongoing unabated spree of killings in Balochistan. It highlighted that from July 2010 till date "there have been 215 extrajudicial killings of missing persons" in the province.

In different acts of sabotage and subversion, United Baloch Army (UBA) destroyed three power-supply poles in Kohlu district on November 12.

Public officials who were busy in finalizing the electoral lists in Balochistan, especially in Baloch dominated areas, complained of insecurity because of prevalent precariousness of law and order situation in those areas.

Due to lack of financial resources, expertise and infrastructure, Balochistan government appealed to the federal government on November 13 to take control of provincial projects, earlier transferred to the province as a result of devolution plan under 18th amendment, till the next National Financial Commission (NFC) Award.

### **Week in Review**

#### **a) Acts of Terrorism/Subversion**

- Two suspected militants armed with automatic weapons shot dead one person namely Nasrullah in Mastung district on November 10. However, police reached the spot on time and arrested both the armed men, who were later on, identified as Ghulam Murtaza and Abdul Khaliq.[1]
- Lal Mohammad, a constable of the Levies Force, was shot dead near Goth Bachal in Gandawah area of Jhal Magsi district on November 11. Separately, two persons sustained injuries in a landmine blast in the Loti area of Dera Bugti on November 11. Meanwhile, a student of Balochistan Residential College Khuzdar and a government contractor were abducted on November 11 from Khuzdar district.[2]

- A woman and a teenage boy were injured in a remote controlled bomb blast, which was aimed at a police patrol near the Bakra Mandi area of Dera Murad Jamali on Saturday, November 12. According to Dera Murad Jamali police sources, unknown persons fixed an explosive device in a motorbike in the Bakra Mandi area and detonated the device when the police vehicle passed by the motorbike. The blast also partially damaged the police vehicle.[3]
- The suspected terrorist who was killed while planting explosives near Hazara Town in Quetta on November 5, 2011 was identified as Pervez Ali, son of a local Shia leader Farhan Ali Haideri of the Jaffarabad District on Wednesday, November 9. In an attempt to conceal his identity, he had misquoted the name of his father on his identity card by replacing it with the name of his uncle, Noor Hassan.[4]
- Unknown militants blew up three power-supplying towers with explosive in Kohlu district on November 12. United Baloch Army (UBA) spokesman Mizar Baloch, claimed responsibility for the attack. Meanwhile, Levis Force recovered three abductees during an encounter with the armed captors in Mach area of the Bolan district on November 13. Earlier on, armed militants abducted them on gun point on November 12, 2011.[5]
- According to a statement by Asian Human Rights Commission, "the disappearances and extrajudicial killings continue [across Balochistan] and not a single day goes by without the abduction and murder of activists." The statement underlined: "Since July 2010 to date, there have been 215 extrajudicial killings of missing persons." The commission in its statement asked: "Pakistan must adhere to the pledges and promises it made to the Human Rights Council when it applied for membership. If the killings continue, and there is no sign that they will not, the responsibility will fall firmly on the shoulders of President Asif Ali Zardari and Prime Minister Syed Yousaf Raza Gillani." [6]

## **b) Political Front**

Public servants immersed in the verification drive of electoral lists in four districts of Balochistan faced security issues from the very first day, sources within the Election Commission told on November 12. "While preparing the lists, staff members, particularly those in Baloch-dominated areas, tend to feel insecure as a result of growing incidents of targeted killings, explosions and hand grenade attacks," an official said.[7]

The Balochistan government has requested the federal government to take charge of its projects till the next National Financial Commission (NFC) Award, because the province is unable to finance the projects of ministries that were devolved under the 18th Amendment. The province is already facing a host of problems in running the administrative affairs of federal projects in the province because concerned departments don't have capacity to run these projects smoothly. "There are a score of problems that need to be addressed which will help in the smooth devolution of ministries and transfer of powers," a senior official of the Balochistan government said on November 13.[8]

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[1] One person killed in Balochistan', at [http://www.satp.org/satporgtp/detailed\\_news3.asp?date3=2011%2F11%2F11&image2.x=2&image2.y=3#3](http://www.satp.org/satporgtp/detailed_news3.asp?date3=2011%2F11%2F11&image2.x=2&image2.y=3#3)

[2] Constable shot dead in Balochistan', at [http://www.satp.org/satporgtp/detailed\\_news3.asp?date3=2011%2F11%2F12&image2.x=9&image2.y=6#1](http://www.satp.org/satporgtp/detailed_news3.asp?date3=2011%2F11%2F12&image2.x=9&image2.y=6#1)

[3] Blast injures two in Dera Murad Jamali', at <http://tribune.com.pk/story/290788/blast-injures-three-in-dera-murad-jamali/>

[4] Hazara Town attack suspect identified as a Shia Muslim', at [http://www.satp.org/satporgtp/detailed\\_news3.asp?date3=2011%2F11%2F10&image2.x=5&image2.y=2#12](http://www.satp.org/satporgtp/detailed_news3.asp?date3=2011%2F11%2F10&image2.x=5&image2.y=2#12)

[5] Two persons injured in a remote controlled blast in Balochistan', at [http://www.satp.org/satporgtp/detailed\\_news3.asp?date3=2011%2F11%2F13&image2.x=0&image2.y=0#4](http://www.satp.org/satporgtp/detailed_news3.asp?date3=2011%2F11%2F13&image2.x=0&image2.y=0#4)

[6] PAKISTAN: The bullet riddled bodies of nine more missing persons including one journalist were found, at <http://www.humanrights.asia/news/ahrc-news/AHRC-STM-174-2011>

[7] Insecurity in Balochistan: Voter verification held up in four districts', at <http://tribune.com.pk/story/290629/insecurity-in-balochistan-voter-verification-held-up-in-four-districts/>

[8] Resource crunch: Plea for federal supervision of projects', at <http://tribune.com.pk/story/291081/resource-crunch-plea-for-federal-supervision-of-projects>.

## **17. Weekly Monitor (Nov. 14 - 20, 2011)**

Balochistan remained in the grip of violence again during the current week: horrific images of mutilated bodies, landmine blasts and a road accident marked the week in the province. Five people perished when a reckless driver rammed the tractor into a passenger van bound for Zhob near Muslim Bagh in Qilla Abdullah district on Tuesday night, November 15. In sum, nine people lost their lives in the volatile province during the week.

In its report, Crisis Management Cell (CMC) of the federal interior ministry has conceded that despite government measures, the level of violence in Balochistan is soaring intermittently. The report underlines that during last nine months in 161 incidents of violence at least 270 people have died in different circumstances related to insurgent, sectarian and inter-communal violence.

At a time when Balochistan government has declared Gwadar a winter capital; the government now finds it difficult to accommodate 65 lawmakers and assembly staff at the under-developed coastal resort. And it is facing serious logistics problems for holding assembly winter session which is scheduled for mid December and will continue for 15 days.

After leveling charges of contract breach against the Tethyan Copper Company (TCC), the Balochistan Mining Committee (BMC) has refused to extend the mining contract of the firm. Meanwhile, TCC has blamed the Balochistan government for violating mining rules.

### **Week in Review**

#### **a) Acts of Terrorism/Subversion**

- At least five people died and eight injured, including two children, when a tractor crashed into a passenger van bound for Zhob near Muslim Bagh in Qila Abdullah district on Tuesday night, November 15.[1]
- Armed men on Tuesday, November 15 torched a container, carrying military hardware for NATO forces stationed in Afghanistan, near Dasht area of Mastung district, about 45 kilometers south of Quetta. According to the Balochistan Levies, the NATO container was on its way from Karachi to Kandahar, Afghanistan, when assailants on a motorbike opened fire, injuring the driver. Later, armed men set the container

- ablaze and escaped. No group claimed responsibility for the attack.[2]
- Two security forces' personnel were killed and three others injured in a landmine blast in Janu Berri area of Dera Bugti District on November 19. According to the Levies sources, a vehicle of the security forces was patrolling the area when it hit the landmine. Resultantly, two security personnel were killed on the spot and three others were injured.[3]
  - Two bullet-riddled and mutilated bodies of Baloch missing persons were found dumped in the coastal town of Pasni on Sunday, November 20. The deceased were identified as Abdul Khaliq and Zahid Hussain Dashti, a local official of the Levies force revealed.[4]
  - According to a report by the interior ministry's Crisis Management Cell (CMC), submitted to the National Assembly on Friday, November 19, "- at least 270 people were killed and 388 injured in 161 incidents of violence in the last nine months alone." And thus, "- claims by the interior ministry that there has been a visible decline in target killings in the province, appear to carry little weight." The report also illustrates that the "- administration has spent approximately Rs 900 million so far by deploying 17 units and paramilitary troops to put an end to the disturbing trend that has only increased in the province over the last two years." [5]

#### **b) Economic Front**

Mohammed Hameed, a 34-year-old partially blind man, has been struggling to make ends meet ever since Iranian officials suddenly closed the informal trade route Zero Point two months ago. Zero Point, located at the Taftan crossing point, was the main trading point upon which thousands of families relied for their livelihood (reported in the press on November 14).[6]

The Balochistan Mining Committee (BMC) has refused on November 16 to grant a mining license to Tethyan Copper Company (TCC) for the Reko Diq project under Balochistan Mines Rule 2002. The BMC, headed by Director General Mines and Mineral Department Balochistan, was formed to examine the feasibility report of TCC on the Reko Diq project. A senior official told that the advocate general of Balochistan, Amanullah Kanrani, will submit a report provided by the BMC to the Supreme Court today (Wednesday). The report says that the feasibility report provided by TCC was incomplete.[7]

Meanwhile, TCC has rejected the government's stance altogether, and asserted in its press release: "The licensing authority's summary refusal to grant the mining license, to which TCC is entitled, breaches not only the Balochistan Mineral Rules (2002), but also TCC's rights under the Chagai Hills Exploration Joint Venture Agreement and Pakistani law." Furthermore, Chief Executive Officer of TCC, Tim Livesey deliberated "We firmly believe that our activities to date have been fully in line with the Balochistan Mineral Rules (2002) and we will welcome the opportunity to discuss this with the provincial regulator and the government." [8]

About half a century ago, Pakistan paid three million US dollars to the Sultanate of Oman for an enclave - a hammerhead-shaped peninsula that juts into the Arabian Sea, off the Makran Coast - called Gwadar. Five decades on, Oman has given Pakistan \$17 million to set up an international airport, and realize Gwadar's dormant potential. The Civil Aviation Authority (CAA) has acquired 4,300 acres of land for the proposed Gwadar Airport and would soon start construction on the largest airport terminal in the province, Director-General (DG) CAA Air Marshal (retd) Khalid Chaudhry said on Sunday, November 20. [9]

### **c) Political Front**

The Balochistan government is finding it hard to make arrangements for the provincial assembly's session after declaring Gwadar as the winter capital. The Provincial Assembly Secretariat sent a summary to the chief minister on November 18 inquiring about the arrangements for holding the provincial assembly's winter session, which is scheduled for mid December and it will last for 15 days. Hence, it appears difficult to arrange accommodation for 65 lawmakers and dozens of staff officers and members in Gwadar," he said. [10]

At a time when the Pakistan Peoples Party-led government is a target of the opposition's scathing criticism, its member in the National Assembly from Quetta, Syed Nasir Ali Shah, seemed to have joined the opposition chorus saying that the PPP had failed to "deliver". He said on November 20 with special reference to the Hazara community killings last month outside Quetta: "The PPP has distracted from its manifesto and has failed to deliver." [11]

[1] Five killed in Quetta road accident', at <http://tribune.com.pk/story/292406/five-killed-in-quetta-road-accident/>

[2] Set Ablaze: NATO container torched in Mastung', at <http://tribune.com.pk/story/292551/set-ablaze-nato-container-torched-in-mastung/>

[3] Two Security Force personnel killed in landmine blast in Balochistan', at [http://www.satp.org/satporgtp/detailed\\_news3.asp?date3=2011%2F11%2F20&image2.x=0&image2.y=0#2](http://www.satp.org/satporgtp/detailed_news3.asp?date3=2011%2F11%2F20&image2.x=0&image2.y=0#2)

[4] Missing Persons: Two bullet-riddled bodies found in Pasni', at <http://tribune.com.pk/story/295092/missing-persons-two-bullet-riddled-bodies-found-in-pasni/>

[5] Target killings in Balochistan: Interior ministry admits failure in curbing violence, at <http://tribune.com.pk/story/294263/target-killings-in-balochistan-interior-ministry-admits-failure-in-curbing-violence/>

[6] Closure of Zero Point border leaves Taftan residents jobless', at <http://tribune.com.pk/story/291545/closure-of-zero-point-border-leaves-taftan-residents-jobless/>

[7] Reko Diq: Balochistan government refuses to grant license to Tethyan Copper', at <http://tribune.com.pk/story/292708/reko-diq-balochistan-refuses-to-grant-license-to-tcc/>

[8] Blame game: Tethyan Copper hits out at govt for refusing licence, at <http://tribune.com.pk/story/293947/tcc-alleges-balochistan-govt-of-violating-rules-and-laws-over-reko-diq-lease/>

[9] Nine years on, work on Gwadar airport terminal to begin 'soon', at <http://tribune.com.pk/story/294781/caa-purchases-land-to-build-gwadar-international-airport/>

[10] Winter capital: Logistical issues surface for Gwadar', at <http://tribune.com.pk/story/293702/winter-capital-logistical-issues-surface-for-gwadar/>

[11] PPP MNA continues to protest govt inaction over Hazara killings', at <http://tribune.com.pk/story/295119/ppp-mna-continues-to-protest-govt-inaction-over-hazara-killings/>

## **18. Weekly Monitor (Nov. 21 - 27, 2011)**

It was the security forces in Balochistan, who bore the atrocious brunt of ongoing violence during the current week. The Baloch Liberation Army reportedly ambushed a Frontier Corps' (FC) convoy near coalfield in Musa Khel on November 21 and killed at least 14 FC personnel including an army Major.

Relatives of missing persons rebuffed recent media reports, which stated that some of the families of missing persons received compensations from the Federal Government. Instead, they demanded immediate and speedy justice in missing persons' cases. They also appealed to the international humanitarian organizations, the United Nations (UN) and Supreme Court of Pakistan to intervene to sort out this issue as soon as possible.

Deliberating upon the plight of Baloch people after two years of the announcement of Balochistan Rights' Package (Aghaz-i-Haqooq-i-Balochistan Package), the president of Nationalist Party (NP), Senator Dr Abdul Malik observed that the most pressing issues, which the rights' package was meant to address, are still unaddressed. The issues include the recovery of missing persons, return of self-exiled Baloch leaders to the country and investigation of the extra-judicial killings of Baloch leaders.

Former provincial minister Mrs. Fazila Aliani asserted that due to ongoing "insurgency, poverty, lack of funds, education policy, and schools" about 90 per cent of the girls in rural Balochistan are still out of schools.

Inter Services Public Relations (ISPR), in its statement, denied recent media reports about military operations in Chamalang, Kohlu or any other part of Balochistan. It underlined that such reports are part of ongoing propaganda campaign orchestrated by the nationalist elements in the province.

### **Week in Review**

#### **a) Acts of Terrorism/Subversion**

- At least 14 soldiers, including a Major of the Frontier Corps, were killed when militants armed with sophisticated weapons attacked their convoy near a coalfield in Musa Khel, on November 21. A unit of the paramilitary FC was sent for providing security cover for the project.

Armed men opened fire on the FC convoy a few kilometers from Bahlol Basti (district Musa Khel), a FC spokesperson said in a statement. The banned Baloch Liberation Army (BLA) has taken responsibility for the incident.[1]

- Missing persons' relatives in Balochistan categorically declined, on November 22, of receiving any compensation from the federal government on Monday, saying they want "justice, not money". Addressing a news conference, Voice for Baloch Missing Persons Chairman Nasrullah Baloch also rejected the interior ministry's Crisis Management Cell report on Balochistan. He was joined by relatives of missing persons. They then torched the form provided by the government for compensation in order to record their protest. They also appealed to international humanitarian organizations, the United Nations and the Supreme Court to intervene.[2]
- Two years after the much-hyped Balochistan package was announced, the province continues to count its missing persons and the only 'recovery' made has been that of bullet-riddled bodies. Considered to be one of the major achievements of the PPP-led government, the parliament had unanimously approved the package on November 23, 2009. Although some administrative and financial issues have been addressed, the insurgency-affected province is far from normal. The president of Nationalist Party (NP) Senator Dr Abdul Malik said: the package did nothing to address long-standing grievances of the province. Issues like recovery of missing persons, return of self-exiled Baloch leadership to Pakistan, and investigation into the extra-judicial killings of political leaders are still far from implementation.[3]
- Two bodies, that had been found earlier this week in Mand, have now been identified on Thursday, November 25, as the well known Central Information Secretary of the Baloch Republican Party (BRP) Jalel Reki; whisked away on February 13 2009, and a Baloch National Movement activist Mohammad Yunus.[4]

## **b) Political Front**

A high level meeting held on Monday, November 21 under the chairmanship of commander southern command, Lt General Muhammad Alam Khattak, reviewed security and other matters pertaining to upcoming Muharramul Haram events. Home secretary, IG FC, provincial police chief, DIG, CCPO and representatives of sensitive institutions deliberated over the matter in the

meeting. The meeting decided to fully follow a code of conduct during Muharrumul Haram and directives were issued by the civil administration in this regard.[5]

A month-long protest against the government's approach towards Balochistan ended on November 24 after Prime Minister Yousuf Raza Gillani assured the disgruntled Syed Nasir Ali Shah of PPP-led government's sincerity in improving law and order in the province. The prime minister said, while convincing Shah to end his protest and attend the National Assembly session, that target killing in the province is not acceptable and soon he will convene the meeting of the heads of the security forces to assess law and order situations in the province.[6]

Rights activist, educationist and veteran politician Mrs. Fazila Aliani on November 24 while talking to media said: Around 90 per cent of girls in rural Balochistan are deprived of schooling in the province of Balochistan. A former member of the Public Service Commission, Mrs. Aliani said that the insurgency is the key reason, while a lack of necessary funds, absence of a well-defined education policy, lack of girls' schools, acute shortage of teaching staff, and poverty are other factors which contribute to the backwardness in her province.[7]

More than four years after the death of Baloch leader Nawab Akbar Bugti, the Balochistan government has issued warrants for the arrest of federal government members in charge of the operation which ended his life (reported in the press on November 26). Former president, Parvez Musharraf, former prime minister, Shaukat Aziz and former chief minister, Jam Yousuf of Balochistan are wanted by the provincial government. The matter now rests with the federal government, after the provincial government followed the Balochistan High Court's wishes.[8]

No military operations are being conducted in Kohlu, Chamalang or any other area of Balochistan, the Inter Services Public Relations (ISPR) said on November 26, terming all reports regarding the matter "baseless". The ISPR statement denied reports appearing in some sections of the newspapers by some nationalist parties, about military operations involving aircraft, helicopters and sophisticated weaponry in Chamalang and bordering areas.[9]

[1] Deadly strike: Major among 14 FC personnel killed in Balochistan', at <http://tribune.com.pk/story/295210/four-security-personnel-killed-in-loralai/>

[2] Justice, not money: relatives reject govt compensation', at <http://tribune.com.pk/story/295635/justice-not-money-relatives-reject-govt-compensation/>

[3] Two years on, Balochistan keeps counting its missing persons', at <http://tribune.com.pk/story/296074/balochistan-package-two-years-on-balochistan-keeps-counting-its-missing-persons/>

[4] Missing Persons: Body identified as Baloch nationalist Jaleel Reki', at <http://tribune.com.pk/story/297312/missing-persons-body-identified-as-baloch-nationalist-jaleel-reki/>

[5] Additional troops, security plan for Muharram activities in Quetta', at <http://tribune.com.pk/story/295320/additional-troops-security-plan-for-muharram-activities-in-quetta/>

[6] National Assembly session: PM ends Balochistan protest', at <http://tribune.com.pk/story/296682/national-assembly-session-pm-ends-balochistan-protest/>

[7] '90% of girls in rural Balochistan remain unschooled', at <http://tribune.com.pk/story/296680/provincial-deprivation-90-of-girls-in-rural-balochistan-remain-unschooled/>

[8] Akbar Bugti Death: Balochistan issues arrest warrants for Musharraf, Aziz', at <http://tribune.com.pk/story/297922/akbar-bugti-death-balochistan-issues-arrest-warrants-for-musharraf-aziz/>

[9] Army's Stance: 'No military operation in Balochistan', at <http://tribune.com.pk/story/297874/armys-stance-no-military-operation-in-balochistan/>

## **19. Weekly Monitor (Nov. 28 - Dec. 4, 2011)**

The week was no different from the recent ones as the episodes of violence continued to haunt the province. The highlight of the week was the target killing of a lecturer of Balochistan University teacher, Mohammad Danish Alam, by unknown assailants in the Zarghoonabad area of Quetta on November 29. Moreover, a 10-year-old boy, identified as Bahar Khan Bugti, was also killed in a landmine explosion in Hafat Wali area of Dera Bugti District on December 2.

In an incident of honor killing, a man killed his sister and another man, on account of having illicit relations, in the Usta Mohammad area of Jaffarabad, said the police on Saturday, December 3. In sum, seven people were killed during this week in acts of violence. Three dead bodies of missing persons were also found in Sharag area of the Harnai District on December 1.

Keeping in view the worst law and order situations in Balochistan, the vacant police posts were filled up to boost the strength of police and to improve the law and order situation but because of the ongoing spat of target and extra-judicial killings, kidnapping and dumping of mutilated bodies, twenty five senior police officers have refused to join their duties in Balochistan. When contacted, the Chief Secretary of the province, Mir Ahmad Bakhsh Lehri, declared the police refusal as unfortunate, as maintenance of law and order and security was everyone's collective responsibility. Balochistan government has decided, on December 4, to file complaint against those police officers in the Center.

On political front, an American aircraft reached Pakistan on December 4, to take back its nationals to America from the vacated Shamsi Airbase.

On economic front, the TCC (Tethyan Copper Company), which owns a gigantic copper- gold project in Balochistan, has opted for international arbitration, on November 29, to ensure or protect its rights in the project after the Balochistan government rejected its mining lease application.

### **Week in Review**

#### **a) Acts of Terrorism/Subversion**

- A suspected suicide bomber was killed near the Kuchlak area of Quetta

on Tuesday, November 29, when his explosive-filled jacket exploded. Superintendent of Police (SP), Malik Arshid told the media that the bomber hired a taxi cab and wanted to go to Chaman, a town bordering Afghanistan, with intention of targeting someone but his suicide vest went off.[1]

- A lecturer of Balochistan University was killed by unknown attackers in the Zarghoonabad area of Quetta on November 29. Mohammad Danish Alam, a lecturer of the Science Information and Technology Department, was travelling on a motorbike and when gunmen opened fire on him, near his university, and killed him on the spot and escaped.[2]
- Two Pakistanis were purportedly gunned down by NATO forces in the Bibijan area of Afghanistan, which borders the Chagai district of Balochistan on December 1. Balochistan Levies confirmed the incident and said that the two men had been shot dead in the Helmand province of Afghanistan on Thursday morning. The relatives told the local journalists that the two men went to visit their relatives living inside Afghanistan from Chagai, when NATO forces opened fire on them, killing both immediately.[3]
- Academics condemned the targeted killing of their fellow Mohammad Danish, who was shot dead by unidentified assailants near his residence in Nawa Killi on Tuesday, December 1.
- Three dead bodies of truck drivers were found in Sharag area of the Harnai District on December 1. The victims were among the four truck drivers abducted from the District on an unspecified date. Reportedly, one of them was freed who reached home in an injured condition, the sources added. The deceased were identified as Abdul Rehman, Ghulam Haider and Mohammad Hasan.[4]
- In a commemorative plaque held at Balochistan University's auditorium on Friday, December 2, senior professors and lecturers paid tribute to the slain lecturer, who rendered his services for seven years at the science and information technology department. Kaleemullah Badech, president of the Academic Staff Association Balochistan said that five lecturers and professors had been killed in incidents of targeted killing since 2008.[5]
- A 10-year-old boy, identified as Bahar Khan Bugti, was killed when a landmine exploded in Hafat Wali area of Dera Bugti District on December 2.[6]

- A man gunned down his sister and another man, on suspicion of illegitimate relations, in the Usta Mohammad area of Jaffarabad, police said on Saturday, December 3. According to the police, the accused Imtiaz Ahmed killed his sister and another man identified as Raja. The accused managed to escape from the scene. The dead bodies were handed over to the relatives for burial. Case has been registered and investigation is underway.[7]
- Balochistan government decided, on December 4, to write to the Centre against outright refusal of 25 senior officers from Khyber-Pakhtunkhwa and Punjab for not reporting to the Balochistan police despite passage of almost two months, following the issuance of their posting orders. A top official in Balochistan said: "This is unusual and unprecedented in the history of Police Services of Pakistan that posting orders of these officers were issued, they received these but declined to join the department in the province". Grim security situation is blamed for the embarrassing development, as the police officers, coming from other provinces are paid double salary and they enjoy more facilities than their local colleagues but this has also failed to attract them. Chief Secretary of the province, Mir Ahmad Bakhsh Lehri, when asked to comment on the police officers' refusal, said this was unfortunate, as maintenance of law and order and security was collectively everybody's responsibility.[8]

### **b) Political Front**

An American aircraft reached Pakistan on Sunday, December 4, for the US nationals who are vacating Shamsi Airbase in Balochistan. Shamsi airbase is located about 300 kilometers from Quetta and has been used by Americans as a key launching pad to carry out drone attacks in Afghanistan and Pakistan's tribal areas. Pakistan demanded US to vacate the base within 15 days in the backdrop of NATO air strikes inside Pakistan territory which killed 24 soldiers including two military officers on November 26. The American soldiers boarded the aircraft under strict security measures and the local residents were not allowed during that process to leave their homes.[9]

### **c) Economic Front**

Tethyan Copper, which owns the enormous Reko Diq copper-gold project in the Balochistan, said, on November 29, that it has begun international arbitration proceedings in order to protect its rights after the province

rejected its mining lease application. Tethyan, a joint-venture between Chile's Antofagasta and Canada's Barrick Gold, said it has begun arbitration proceedings, but it remains open to an "amicable, negotiated resolution to the dispute." [10]

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[1] Suspected suicide bomber killed near Kuchlak', at <http://tribune.com.pk/story/299484/suspected-suicide-bomber-killed-near-kachlak/>

[2] Balochistan University lecturer killed in Quetta', at <http://tribune.com.pk/story/299504/balochistan-university-lecturer-killed-in-quetta/>

[3] Two Pakistanis killed by NATO forces in Afghanistan: Locals', at <http://tribune.com.pk/story/300618/two-pakistanis-killed-by-nato-forces-in-afghanistan-locals/>

[4] Three dead bodies found in Balochistan', at [http://www.satp.org/satporgtp/detailed\\_news3.asp?date3=2011%2F12%2F02&image2.x=1&image2.y=0#3](http://www.satp.org/satporgtp/detailed_news3.asp?date3=2011%2F12%2F02&image2.x=1&image2.y=0#3)

[5] Professors, lecturers protest teacher's killing', at <http://tribune.com.pk/story/301495/professors-lecturers-protest-teachers-killing/>

[6] Boy killed in landmine blast in Balochistan', at [http://www.satp.org/satporgtp/detailed\\_news3.asp?date3=2011%2F12%2F03&image2.x=5](http://www.satp.org/satporgtp/detailed_news3.asp?date3=2011%2F12%2F03&image2.x=5)

[7] Honour killing: Man kills sister over suspicion', at <http://tribune.com.pk/story/301722/honour-killing-man-kills-sister-over-suspicion/>

[8] 25 police officers refuse to join duty in Balochistan', at <http://www.thenews.com.pk/TodaysPrintDetail.aspx?ID=80793&Cat=6>

[9] US begins vacating Shamsi airbase', at <http://tribune.com.pk/story/302087/us-begins-vacating-shamsi-airbase/>

[10] Tethyan begins arbitration over Reko Diq project dispute', at <http://tribune.com.pk/story/299438/tethyan-begins-arbitration-over-reko-diq-project-dispute/>

## **20. Weekly Monitor (Dec. 05 - 11, 2011)**

Balochistan unusually witnessed a relatively low level of violence during the week. With almost 42 oil tankers set ablaze on Chamman border, the week concluded with one person abducted while three others dead, in different episodes of violence.

With NATO supply lines being cut off in the backdrop of air strikes on Salala check post, the oil tankers and containers stranded at Pak Afghan border are under attack by militants. At least 42 oil tankers and containers carrying military hardware and equipments to Afghanistan were set ablaze. Similarly, four containers along with their drivers went missing near Meezai Adda.

Tahir Hussain, chairman of the HRCP Balochistan urged the government to take action against those who are responsible for deteriorating law and order in the province. Furthermore, on December 10, Chairperson of Baloch Human Rights Organization (BHRO) Nargis Baloch whilst demanding the interference of Supreme Court against the worsening state of human rights in Balochistan, severely criticized the role of army in Balochistan and termed the present civilian government a 'dummy'.

The Supreme Court has resumed the hearing of the Ricko Diq case on December 6 to avoid international arbitration in the backlash of Tethyan Copper Company's petition for international arbitration to protect its rights.

### **Week in Review**

#### **a) Acts of Terrorism/Subversion and Abduction**

- At least three Pakistani fishermen engaged in illegal fishing, were gunned down, and two others were injured by Iranian security forces on Wednesday, December 7, as they entered Iranian territorial waters near Pasaband area, about 40-kilometer off Jiwani coast in Pakistan. District Police Officer (DPO) Gwadar, Liaquat Baloch, confirmed the incident and said that the bodies had not been handed over to Pakistani officials yet. The fishermen belonged to Sindh province.[1]
- According to security officials, a Hindu trader, Dr. Ashok Kumar along with his driver was kidnapped on December 8 in the Ferozabad area, some 30 kilometers away from Khuzdar district in Balochistan. Dr Ashok Kumar, a resident of Hyderabad, was on his way to Naal from Khuzdar in

his pickup truck when a group of armed men intercepted and abducted the trader along with his driver and two laborers at gun point but the latter two were set free later on.[2]

- Unidentified armed men fired two rockets on 32 oil tankers and 10 containers carrying fuel, hardware and equipments for NATO troops fighting in Afghanistan and set them ablaze in the Kharotabad area of Quetta on December 8. No casualty was reported and the assailants managed to escape. No group has taken responsibility for the incident.[3]
- According to local levies officials four NATO oil tankers, along with their drivers, went missing near the Quetta-Chaman highway (Meezai Adda) on Sunday, December 11, when they were on their way back to Karachi from Chaman because of the blockade of supply line on the border.[4]

#### **b) Political Front**

At least seven aircraft landed at Shamsi airbase in Balochistan on Wednesday, December 7, to airlift personnel and equipment out of Pakistan as Americans vacated the airbase on Thursday in the wake of NATO air strikes on Pakistani check posts on November 26. Shamsi airbase, located about 300 kilometers south of Quetta, has been used in past as a key launching pad to carry out drone strikes in Afghanistan and tribal areas of Pakistan.[5]

Chairperson of Baloch Human Rights Organization (BHRO), Nargis Baloch, appealed to the Supreme Court, on December 10, to take suo-moto action of human rights violation by state agencies in Balochistan. She severely criticized the role of Pakistan Army in the province and said: Balochistan has been handed over to the army since former president Pervez Musharraf's regime. Moreover, she titled the present civilian government in the province as a dummy government.[6]

The Human Rights Commission of Pakistan (HRCP) observed the "International Human Rights Day" in solidarity with the people of Balochistan on December 11. According to an HRCP report, as many as 225 bullet-riddled bodies of missing persons were found between July 2010 and November 2011. The Voice for Baloch Missing Persons (VFBMP) puts the toll even higher, at 236, and says that all the victims had direct or indirect political affiliation with Baloch nationalist parties or student organizations.

Tahir Hussain, chairman of the HRCP Balochistan said: the writ of the government does not exist in Balochistan. Minority community and settlers are migrating from the province because of the fear of target killing while those who stand up to defend such minorities or human rights violations also become the target. The HRCP Balochistan urged the government to bring the accused of human rights violation to the court of justice and should be punished.[7]

### **c) Economic Front**

The Supreme Court has been moved to resume the hearing of the Reko Diq case on December 6 to "block the Tethyan Copper Company's effort to frustrate the laws of the land through international arbitration". Tethyan filed arbitration proceedings in Washington and Paris a few days ago in order to protect its legal rights, according to its CEO Tim Livesey. Tethyan, exploring gold and copper deposits in the Reko Diq area, opted for arbitration after the Balochistan government turned down its application for granting a mining lease on November 16.[8]

Director General National Accountability Bureau (NAB), Balochistan, Maj. (Retd.) Barhan Ali, said on December 8 that the provincial chapter of the accountability watchdog has initiated inquiries into corruption charges leveled against seven provincial ministers, including four sitting ministers. He did not disclose the names of the corrupt ministers and nature of the cases because of the early stage of investigation process. According to NAB, the major ongoing cases include those against officials of railway, zakat, food, and health departments. The DG added that NAB has recovered 200 million out of three billion rupees in 25 cases, and a total of 22 accused have been arrested.[9]

### **d) Social Front**

Residents of Mastung have high hopes for the education enclave being constructed in the district, but the slow pace of work has started to disappoint many (reported in the press on December 5). Mastung, one of 30 districts of Balochistan, is the electoral constituency of Chief Minister Nawab Aslam Raisani, who is also the chief of his tribe. This is why, residents say, there is no shortage of funds. The provincial government has allocated Rs280 million for the project, which is meant to be concluded by June 2012.[10]

[1] Iranian forces gun down three Pakistani fishermen', at <http://tribune.com.pk/story/303107/iranian-forces-gun-down-three-pakistani-fishermen/>

[2] Hindu trader kidnapped in Balochistan', at <http://tribune.com.pk/story/303658/hindu-trader-kidnapped-in-balochistan/>

[3] Rocket Fire: 42 NATO tankers, containers torched in Quetta', at <http://tribune.com.pk/story/303666/42-parked-nato-tankers-containers-attacked-in-quetta/>

[4] 4 NATO oil tankers go missing near Quetta-Chaman highway', at <http://tribune.com.pk/story/305026/4-nato-oil-tankers-go-missing-near-quetta-chaman-highway/>

[5] Aircraft to evacuate American personnel, drones arrive at Shamsi base', at <http://tribune.com.pk/story/303209/aircraft-to-evacuate-american-personnel-drones-arrive-at-shamsi-base/>

[6] Rights violation: Balochistan has a 'dummy civilian govt' , at <http://tribune.com.pk/story/304528/rights-violation-balochistan-has-a-dummy-civilian-govt/>

[7] Balochistan: The province where human rights are bullet-riddled ', at <http://tribune.com.pk/story/304909/balochistan-the-province-where-human-rights-are-bullet-riddled/>

[8] Copper-gold project: SC moved to resume Reko Diq case', at <http://tribune.com.pk/story/302813/copper-gold-project-sc-moved-to-resume-reko-diq-case/>

[9] Corruption charges : NAB begins inquiry against 7 ministers ', at [tribune.com.pk/story/303840/corruption-charges-nab-begins-inquiry-against-7-ministers/](http://tribune.com.pk/story/303840/corruption-charges-nab-begins-inquiry-against-7-ministers/)

[10] Education enclave: Mastung's key education project plagued by delays', at <http://tribune.com.pk/story/302372/education-enclave-mastungs-key-education-project-plagued-by-delays/>

## **21. Weekly Monitor (Dec. 12 - 18, 2011)**

Against the backdrop of relatively calm previous two weeks in Balochistan, violence and terror revisited the province during the current week. The highlight of the week was a clash between Frontier Corps (FC) and a group of armed men in the Balgater area, which left six attackers dead and two FC personnel injured. In sum, 13 people were killed as a result of different episodes of violence across Balochistan.

FC Balochistan Inspector General, Major General, Ubaidullah Khattak denied any involvement of FC in the ongoing "kill and dump operation" in the province. He claimed that 99 percent of the people who were bullet-riddled were criminals and had been killed by their affiliates.

In a seminar, titled "Attacks on journalists and media freedom", at the Quetta Press Club, Mr. Imtiaz Alam, General Secretary of South Asian Free Media Association (SAFMA) stressed that the government institutions and armed forces should not impede the work of media in the volatile province. He urged the government to constitute a committee to investigate the killing of journalists in Balochistan.

Because of the fear of target killing and the deteriorating law and order situation in the province, more and more teachers are quitting their jobs in Balochistan, where education sector is already suffering due to state apathy and mismanagement of resources.

### **Week in Review**

#### **a) Acts of Terrorism/Subversion**

- Three more bullet-riddled bodies of Balochistan National Party activists identified as Allah Baksh and his two nephews Sanaullah and Bashir Ahmed were found dumped in Khuzdar district on December 13, some 300 kilometers from the provincial capital. All of them belonged to Ferozabad area in Khuzdar and they were missing from two months.[1]
- On December 14, a vehicle of the paramilitary troops during its routine patrolling hit a landmine near the Mand Balo area of Balochistan, killing at least two security personnel while five others were injured. No group has taken the responsibility for the incident so far.[2]
- According to official sources, a Frontier Corps (FC) convoy was on its way

to Panjgur from Turbat on December 15 when a group of armed men ambushed it near the Balgater area, situated between Turbat and Panjgur and injured two personnel. In retaliatory attack, FC killed at least six militants and also seized a huge reserve of arms and ammunition from the militants. No group has taken responsibility for the incident so far.[3]

- In a target killing incident on Friday, December 16, unknown armed men shot dead the Chief Medical Officer of Gwadar District Headquarters Hospital Dr. Naseem Baloch in Pasni, Balochistan. He was at his clinic in Sibi when armed men entered and killed him on the spot.[4]
- In another incident, unidentified armed men opened fire on a former female councilor of Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N), Fahmida Qadir Bakhsh, in Sengani Sar area of Turbat on Saturday, December 17 and killing her on spot. The assailants managed to escape from the scene.[5]

#### **b) Political Front**

While defending the Frontier Corps (FC) presence in Balochistan for maintaining law and order, FC Inspector-General Major General Ubaidullah Khattak during a news briefing at FC Headquarter in Quetta, on December 14, strongly rejected the FC involvement in the killing and dumping of missing persons. He said that about 99 percent of the people whose bullet-riddled bodies were found dumped in different places of Balochistan were criminals and had been killed by their own affiliates. He added that criminal organizations first use these people for subversive attacks and later on kill them.[6]

The South Asian Free Media Association (SAFMA) has called on the government of Pakistan to form a committee to probe the killings of journalists in Balochistan. Mr. Imtiaz Alam, SAFMA's general secretary, said on Friday, December 16: Government institutions and armed groups need to recognize the role of media and must not pressurize reporters. SAFMA organized a conference, titled: "Attacks on journalists and media freedom", at the Quetta Press Club, and adopted resolutions demanding proper training for journalists in Balochistan, a specific fund in Balochistan's annual budget to enhance the capacity of journalists, and establishment of press clubs in each district.[7]

Three ministers belonging to Balochistan National Party-Awami (BNP-A) walked out of the Balochistan Assembly proceedings on December 17, in protest against the target killing of Doctor Naseem Baloch on December 16 and the police's failure to protect the life and property of people in the province.[8]

**c) Social Front**

A growing number of teachers are reported to be quitting their posts at Balochistan's institutions of higher learning because of fear factor, dealing a blow to the already grim educational situation of the province. In order to stop this trend and unlock the educational potential in the province, a distinguished academician, Prof Muhammad Masoom Yasinzai, Vice-Chancellor of Quaid-e-Azam University (Ex V.C. of Balochistan University) stressed, on December 15, that show of power through barrel will lead educational institutions in Balochistan to further deterioration.[9]

**d) Economic Front**

In post-devolution scenario, the centre is inflexible, and will not heed the provinces' pleas for financial backing. As in response to Balochistan's request that the province is worse-off financially after the National Finance Commission Award and the 18th Amendment, the federal government has refused on December 16 to take financial liability, worth Rs1.15 billion, to run a project that aims to develop the mining industry in Balochistan. The center is of the view that after the 18th Amendment, the constitutional restrictions do not allow for the funding of provincial projects out of the federal Public Sector Development Programme (PSDP).[10]

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[1] BNP activists killed: Three more people found dead in Balochistan', at <http://tribune.com.pk/story/305815/bnp-activists-killed-three-more-people-found-dead-in-balochistan/>

[2] Landmine blast kills two FC personnel in Balochistan', at <http://tribune.com.pk/story/306459/landmine-blast-kills-two-fc-personnel-in-balochistan/>

[3] 6 attackers killed, 2 FC personnel injured in Balgater ambush', at <http://tribune.com.pk/story/307062/6-attackers-killed-2-fc-personnel-injured-in-balgater-ambush/>

[4] Gwadar's chief medical officer shot dead by assailants', at <http://tribune.com.pk/story/307666/gwadars-chief-medical-officer-shot-dead-by-assailants/>

[5] Former PML-N councilor shot dead in Turbat', at <http://tribune.com.pk/story/308058/former-pml-n-councilor-shot-dead-in-turbat/>

[6] FC sees criminals behind dumping of bodies', at <http://tribune.com.pk/story/306031/fc-sees-criminals-behind-dumping-of-bodies/>

[7] Balochistan Unrest: SAFMA demands probe into killing of journalists ', at <http://tribune.com.pk/story/307883/balochistan-unrest-safma-demands-probe-into-killing-of-journalists/>

[8] Target killings: BNP-A ministers walk out from Balochistan Assembly', at <http://tribune.com.pk/story/308008/target-killings-bnp-a-ministers-walk-out-from-balochistan-assembly/>

[9] Upshot of unrest: Teachers take flight from Balochistan', at <http://tribune.com.pk/story/306898/upshot-of-unrest-teachers-take-flight-from-balochistan/>

[10] Cash-strapped: Balochistan claims it's worse-off after devolution', at <http://tribune.com.pk/story/307301/cash-strapped-balochistan-claims-its-worse-off-after-devolution/>

## **22. Weekly Monitor (Dec. 19 - 25, 2011)**

An unusual respite in violence prevailed in Balochistan during this week, as there was not a single violent incident reported across the province. But, Balochistan saw number of political activities and social demonstrations during the week.

Chief Minister Nawab Aslam Raisani stressed the need for political unity and harmony among all political parties to quell the prevalent environment of conspiracies.

Veteran Baloch sardar and former chief minister, Sardar Attaullah Mengal severely criticized the Aghaz-i-Haqooq-i-Balochistan package, and termed it as a mere joke with the Balochis.

Provincial Minister for Labor and Manpower Maulvi Ghulam Sarwar Musakhail slated Frontier Corps (FC) for its failure to check deteriorating law and order situation in Balochistan.

The enraged residents of Quetta over gas load shedding took out the streets against the Sui Southern Gas Company (SSGC) and blocked the road that connects Quetta with the rest of Pakistan. They demanded that the government should ensure adequate and smooth supply of gas during chilly winter season.

People belonging to the Hindu community in Balochistan held a protest against the government for its failure to protect the lives of those belonging to minorities.

### **Week in Review**

#### **a) Political Front**

Chief Minister Raisani while welcoming the return of President Asif Ali Zardari to Pakistan on December 19 urged political forces to join their hands and maintain unity and harmony among their ranks in order to thwart conspiracies hatched against democracy. He warned: "All political parties should learn from mistakes they have committed in past and how democracy was derailed. It would create difficulties for Pakistan if democracy is again derailed." He also underlined that the issue of the memo

has been settled following a statement issued by the former US national security advisor, General (Retd.) James Jones. [1]

Sardar Attaullah Mengal, who was in Karachi while talking to media before his meeting with PML (N) Chief Mian Nawaz Sharif, scorned the Aghaz-i-Haqooq-i-Balochistan package on December 20 and added that it was launched just to make fun of the Balochis. He said "Balochistan is near the point of no return" and it is the military which at the helm of affairs in Balochistan today. Venting his anger over treatment meted out to the Balochis, he said that Balochis suffered since the very day they joined Pakistan back in 1947. When asked if the first step could be scaling back the role of the military and security agencies, Mengal posed a question: "Should I call this country a military colony or a colonial game?"[2]

Jamiat Ulema-i-Islam's (JUI-F) member and Provincial Minister for Labor and Manpower Maulvi Ghulam Sarwar Musakhail on December 20 accused FC for fuelling differences between Musakhail and Marri tribesmen for political reasons. Talking on a point of order in the Balochistan Assembly, he noted that the FC had set up several check posts inside residential areas in Musakhail after a deadly attack that left 14 FC personnel dead on November 21. The construction of these check posts gives the impression that Marri tribe backs FC and thus enhances the chances of inter-tribal clashes. He added: "Establishment of check posts inside residential areas is creating problems for the women as well, as they cannot move freely because of the heavy presence of FC personnel."[3]

Recovery of bullet-riddled bodies of Baloch youth and a rapidly deteriorating law and order situation in the province reverberated in the Balochistan Assembly on December 20. At least three provincial ministers staged a walk out to protest over the Speaker's remarks that the ministers should only take up pressing issues during cabinet meetings and not in assembly. Meanwhile, Awami National Party (ANP) member and Provincial Minister for Revenue Mir Zamruk Khan took the floor on a point of order and urged members of Balochistan Assembly to stand united for strengthening democracy in the face of threats to the democratic system. Members of the provincial assembly urged the government to resolve the issues of Balochistan. [4]

With gas shortages and load shedding hitting most parts of the country, the areas close to gas fields also faced low gas pressures. On December 21, the constant low pressure of gas forced hundreds of residents of Quetta city to come out and protest against the Sui Southern Gas Company (SSGC) for frequent gas outages during chilly cold weather. Saryab Road residents blocked the road that connects Quetta with the rest of Pakistan. They raised slogans against SSGC for its failure to ensure the ample supply of natural gas for domestic consumers. [5]

Members of the Hindu community staged a protest demonstration in front of the Balochistan Assembly on December 23 against soaring incidents of kidnappings for ransom in the province. The protestors took out a procession from Arya Samaj temple on Masjid Road and after marching through different parts of the city, staged a protest demonstration in front of the assembly building. The members of the Hindu community raised slogans against the government for its failure to protect the lives of those belonging to minorities. [6]

Representatives of the Hazara community on Saturday, December 24 appealed to the federal government to make arrangements for bringing back the bodies of the victims of the Indonesian boat tragedy. They also appealed to the United Nations (UN) to help the asylum seekers against the background of deteriorating law and order situation in Balochistan and threat to the lives and property. Addressing a press conference, former provincial minister, Sardar Saadat Ali Hazara said a delegation was constituted which will leave for Indonesia to identify the victims belonging to the community. [7]

Earlier, Interior Minister Rehman Malik, taking notice of the Indonesian boat tragedy which claimed lives of over 37 Pakistanis from Quetta, asked the Indonesian ambassador on December 24 to help in bringing back the dead bodies of the deceased persons to Pakistan. Thirty-seven, out of a total of 55 Pakistanis, were killed after an overloaded boat sank off Indonesian coast en route to Australia last Saturday. [8]

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[1] Raisani urges political parties to unite, preserve democracy', at <http://tribune.com.pk/story/308902/raisani-urges-political-parties-to-unite-preserve-democracy/>

[2] Ataulah Mengal interview: 'Aghaz-e-Haqooq package a joke' ', at <http://tribune.com.pk/story/309073/ataullah-mengal-interview-aghaz-e-haqooq-package-a-joke/>

[3] JUI-F minister accuses FC of conspiring to spark tribal conflict', at <http://tribune.com.pk/story/309422/jui-f-minister-accuses-fc-of-conspiring-to-spark-tribal-conflict/>

[4] Balochistan Assembly: Abduction & murder of Baloch more important than democracy', <http://tribune.com.pk/story/309408/balochistan-assembly-abduction-murder-of-baloch-more-important-than-democracy/>

[5] Quetta protest: As the mercury plummets, so does the gas supply', at <http://tribune.com.pk/story/309883/quetta-protest-as-the-mercury-plummets-so-does-the-gas-supply/>

[6] Quetta's Hindus demand govt to protect them from kidnappers, killers', at <http://tribune.com.pk/story/310988/quettas-hindus-demand-govt-to-protect-them-from-kidnappers-killers/>

[7] Boat tragedy: Hazara community wants bodies back, asylum for survivors', at <http://tribune.com.pk/story/311409/boat-tragedy-hazara-community-wants-bodies-back-survivors-shipped-to-australia/>

[8] A week on, govt 'takes notice' of boat tragedy', at <http://tribune.com.pk/story/311257/a-week-on-govt-takes-notice-of-boat-tragedy/>

## **23. Weekly Monitor (Dec. 26, 2011 - Jan. 1, 2012)**

After a fragile lull in violence during past weeks, acute violence revisited the province during the week in focus. A car explosion outside the residence of a Baloch politician reportedly carried out by Balochistan Liberation Army (BLA) and killed 13 people was the hallmark of the week. In sum 15 people were killed in different episodes of violence across the conflict stricken province.

According to Balochistan Police Department estimates during 2011, 59 people were killed in target killings, 91 people of Shia community in sectarian violence, 480 people were abducted, 231 mutilated bodies were found of missing persons, and 218 security personnel were killed in exchange of fires and bomb blasts across Balochistan.

Lawmakers in Balochistan Assembly on December 28 severely slated Interior Minister Rehman Malik for sabotaging peace and reconciliation process in Balochistan with his superfluous statements.

Senator Hasil Bizenjo alleged that repression at the hands of the security agencies and the denial of even the most basic human rights are among the major issues in Balochistan. He termed the state "as a major violator of human rights in the province".

### **Week in Review**

#### **a) Acts of Terrorism/Subversion**

- A bullet riddled body of Gulam Qader, son of Doshamby, a resident of Nasirabad, Turbat was discovered by Balochistan Levies on December 27 in Murgap area of Turbat city, about 900-kilometer south of the provincial capital.[1]
- Inspector General of Balochistan Police Rao Amin Hashim underscored on December 28 that target killings of settlers in Balochistan, especially people belonging to Punjab has significantly declined during the current year. He noted that on the contrary there is a sharp increase in the discovery of bullet-riddled bodies of missing persons, sectarian violence and kidnappings for ransom in the chronically volatile province. He mentioned that as many as 59 settlers were gunned down this year and the number is much lower than a triple-digit figure for 2010. During

2011, 480 people were abducted, while 91 people of Shia community were killed in sectarian clashes in Balochistan. In kill and dump operation, 231 mutilated bodies were found across Balochistan in 2011. Also, during different incidences of violence as many as 218 personnel of law enforcement agencies were also killed during 2011. [2]

- The key witness in the Kharotabad incident, police surgeon Dr Syed Baqir Shah, was shot dead on Thursday, December 29 afternoon while on his way to home. Dr Shah carried out autopsies of five foreigners, including two women, one of whom was seven-months pregnant, who were shot dead by security forces in Kharotabad on the pretext of being 'terrorists' on May 17. Shah's testimony to a committee set up to probe the incident provided incriminating evidence against police and other law-enforcement agencies' negligence. He declared that all victims had died of gunshot wounds fired by the security forces, instead of their own (victims) hand grenade, as claimed by the police. [3]
- Balochistan Levies personnel recovered four employees of the health department after an encounter with kidnappers in Pishin on Friday, December 30. The encounter left five kidnappers dead while one caught alive and two levies personnel were injured. Earlier, a group of armed men kidnapped three employees of the Balochistan Health Department, and they were identified as technician Mohammad Asad and workers Noor Shah and Mohabbat Khan from the Hailkalzai Basic Health Unit and a lady health worker from the nearby Malayzai Basic Health Unit. [4]
- The Frontier Corps (FC) recovered a kidnaped worker Gulzar on December 30, kidnaped few days ago who was engaged in anti-polio campaign when went missing. A wireless set, four chargers and 10 kilograms explosives were recovered from the site while the kidnappers managed to escape. [5]
- Public sector hospitals in major parts of Balochistan remained closed on Friday, December 30 to protest the killing of police surgeon Dr Syed Baqar Shah, a key witness in the Kharotabad incident. Dr Shah was shot dead by two unidentified armed men near Golimar Chowk while on his way to home from the Bolan Medical College Hospital (BMC) on Thursday afternoon. [6]
- According to security officials, a car packed with around 50 kilograms of explosives was rammed into the house of Shafiq Mengal in Quetta on December 31, which resulted in the killing of at least 13 people including

women and children while 35 others were injured. Shafiq is the son of a former federal minister Naseer Mengal. However, the Mengal family remained safe. The banned militant group Baloch Liberation Army claimed responsibility for the attack. [7]

- According to police officials on January 1, 2012, rocket attacks created panic in the provincial capital, a day after a blast claimed the lives of 13 in Quetta. However, all the rockets landed and exploded in desolate places, causing no casualties. An official added that rockets were fired from an unspecified location, presumably the surrounding mountain area of Quetta. No group has claimed responsibility for the incident. [8]
- Unidentified armed men hurled a hand grenade at police mobile on January 1, 2012 near Sirat Chowk, Hub district in Balochistan, and injured at least five people including three policemen and two civilians. The attackers managed to escape. [9]

#### **b) Political Front**

Interior Minister Rehman Malik came under heavy criticism during the session of Balochistan Assembly on December 28 over his statements regarding unregistered religious seminaries in the province. The lawmakers expressed their reservations that despite 2012 being labeled as the year of Balochistan, it may prove to be the worst one. Senior Provincial Minister Maulana Abdul Wasey of the Jamiat-i-Ulema Islam (JUI-F) lashed out at Malik and noted that whenever there is a process underway for religious harmony and unity, Mr Malik is there to sabotage the process. [10]

Senior Vice President, National Party, Balochistan Senator Hasil Bizenjo said that repression at the hands of the security agencies and the denial of even the most basic human rights are among the major issues in Balochistan. He termed the state as a major violator of human rights in the province. He was speaking at a seminar on "Human rights situation in Balochistan: issues and challenges" at Sustainable Development Policy Institute (SDPI) on Monday. He added that the Balochis have genuine grievances for being disenchanting in relation with the state. He underlined: "- the security establishment and the government does not have the vision or will to address these happenings," -they are not even ready to accept such human rights violations are taking place in the province. Only common people are worried about the Balochistan crisis, not the powerful ruling elite". [11]

[1] Bullet riddled body of Turbat native found near Murgap', at <http://tribune.com.pk/story/312733/bullet-riddled-body-of-turbat-native-found-near-murgap/>

[2] Balochistan security review: Sharp fall in target killing of settlers', at <http://tribune.com.pk/story/312911/balochistan-security-review-sharp-fall-in-target-killing-of-settlers/>

[3] Kharotabad killings: 'Tattling' police surgeon silenced ', at <http://tribune.com.pk/story/313657/kharotabad-inquiry-police-surgeon-killed-in-quetta/>

[4] Balochistan Health Department employees recovered, 5 kidnappers killed ', at <http://tribune.com.pk/story/314151/four-balochistan-health-department-employees-recovered/>

[5] Kidnapped health worker recovered from Nasirabad', at <http://tribune.com.pk/story/314156/kidnapped-health-worker-recovered-from-nasirabad/>

[6] Kharotabad incident: Doctors protest witness' killing ', at <http://tribune.com.pk/story/314127/doctors-protest-against-murder-of-dr-baqir-shah/>

[7] Balochistan insurgency: Blast near Baloch politician's home kills 13 ', at <http://tribune.com.pk/story/314168/8-killed-12-injured-in-quetta-blast/>

[8] Unrest in Balochistan: Rocket blitz sparks panic in Quetta ', at <http://tribune.com.pk/story/314582/three-rockets-detonate-harmlessly-but-spread-fear-in-quetta/>

[9] Five people, including 3 policemen, injured in hand grenade attack', at <http://tribune.com.pk/story/314934/five-people-including-3-policemen-injured-in-hand-grenade-attack/>

[10] Balochistan Assembly: Minister accuses Malik of sabotaging peace process', at <http://tribune.com.pk/story/313241/ba-session-rehman-malik-sabotaging-peace-process-in-balochistan-wasay/>

[11] Call for help: Balochistan deemed 'human rights free zone', available at <http://tribune.com.pk/story/312472/call-for-help-balochistan-deemed-human-rights-free-zone/>

### ***Acknowledgments***

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