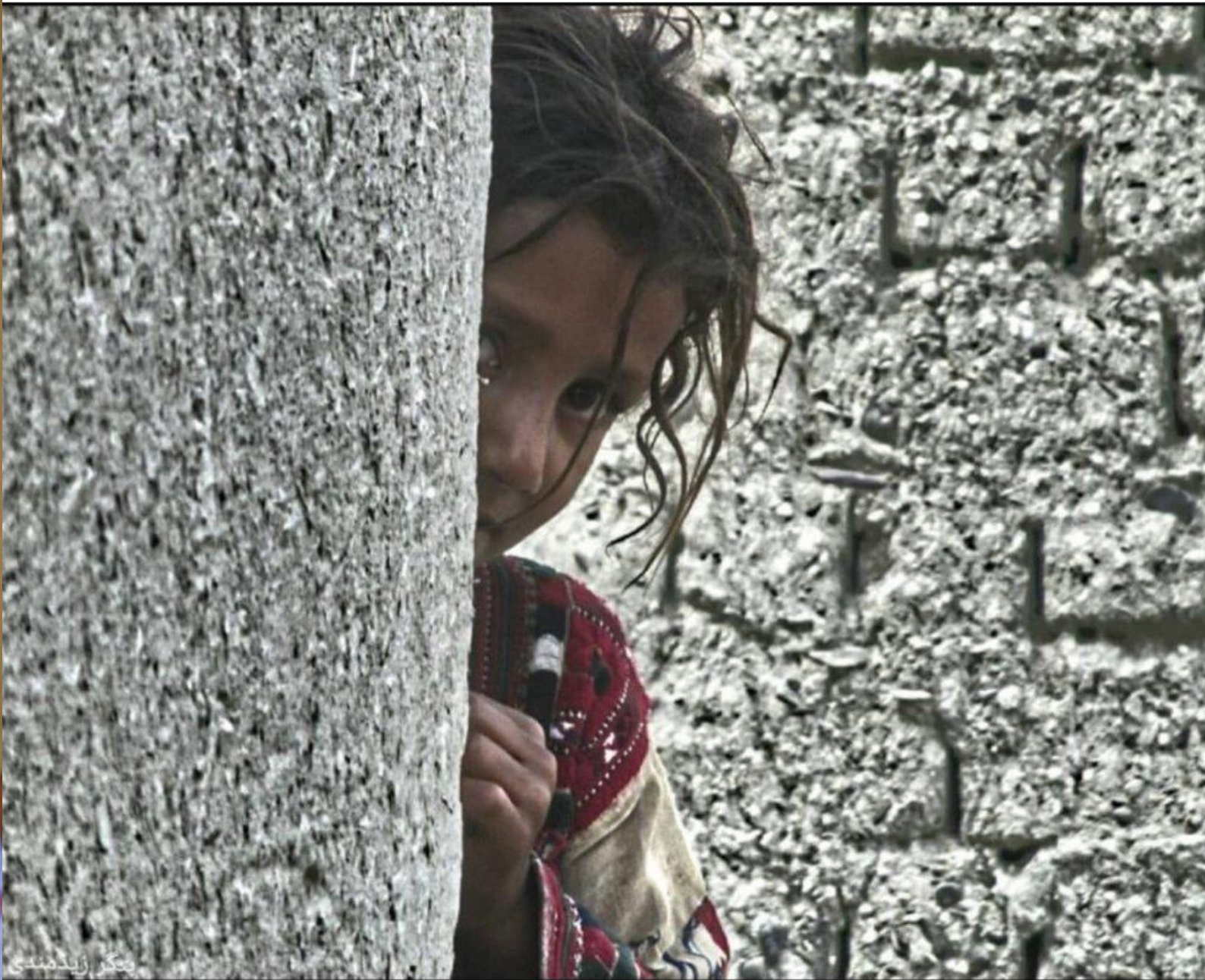


Extrajudicial Killings

Traced Cases of Balochistan



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Published: March 2020

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Summary

In 2009, Pakistan state switched pace to what is known as the notorious *Kill and Dump* policy following years of enforced disappearances across Balochistan. It is estimated that more than 7,000 people were extrajudicially executed by Pakistan's security forces since the year 2000. However, the actual number of cases is believed to be much higher than estimated given the strict blockades of communication and other means for verification.

In the majority of the cases, people have been picked up from homes during military operations or raids by personnel of security forces and secret service agents, who subsequently later denied knowledge of their whereabouts to the family members. In many cases, family members witnessed their loved ones being taken away by security forces only to be found later killed and dumped in deserted areas. Moreover, on several occasions, security forces assured family members that their loved ones would be released after due interrogation but their bullet riddled bodies were later found or handed over to local administration without any explanation.

Throughout these years, the federal and provincial governments disturbingly remained silent and most often avoided questions of culpability and have denied the existence of extrajudicial executions. Balochistan's Home Minister Zia Langove, on several occasions, defended the killings by saying that it was a matter of "national security and those who were killed were terrorists and were killed in crossfire". However, the evidence and eyewitnesses accounts show a different picture.

This report examines the allegations of enforced disappearances and extrajudicial executions associated with Pakistan's military and

intelligence officials. It is primarily based on the incidents of extrajudicial executions in Tehsil Mand of Kech district. Mand, a small town on the border of Iran, was once the center of Baloch nationalist masses.

The Human Rights Council of Balochistan (HRCB) investigated 19 incidents of extrajudicial executions and interviewed several people including surviving victims, eye witnesses and relatives of those killed. In the cases investigated, there was a clear pattern of enforced disappearance followed by extrajudicial execution of the victims. Almost every surviving victim was seriously warned to remain silent or else be exposed to harsh consequences.

This highlights the need of independent investigations to establish the truth about what happened and, where sufficient admissible evidence exists, to ensure that those suspected of these crimes are prosecuted in fair trials. The Government of Pakistan should follow up on its commitment to fulfil its obligations under international human rights law to investigate reports of extrajudicial executions, arbitrary arrests and other serious violations at the Universal Periodic Review before the UN Human Rights Council in November 2022.

Methodology

The main purpose of this report is to investigate and document human rights violations in Balochistan. The HRCB has examined hundreds of cases of suspected extrajudicial executions carried out by Pakistan military and secret service agents during military raids and operations. Nineteen of these cases were investigated in detail by interviewing surviving victims, eye witnesses, family members and local people. All interviews were held with the consent of the interviewees and in some cases identities of the interviewees was withheld upon request.

Balochistan is considered as one of the most difficult places on the surface of the earth for researchers and investigators. The admirable

dedication and commitment of human rights activists has made it possible to bring forth this report. Although the *kill and dump* policy also resulted in reports of torture, enforced disappearances, denial of access to fair trials and other abuses, this report focuses primarily on the allegations of extrajudicial executions.

Pakistan's obligation under International Law

Pakistani authorities are bound by international and domestic obligations, which among other things, protect the right to life of all persons as well as their rights to fair trial.

Pakistan is a state party to several human rights treaties, among them the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR), which prohibits the arbitrary deprivation of life and guarantees the rights to a fair trial. It is also a party to the international Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (ICESCR). In accordance with international law, the Pakistani authorities are obliged to:

- Respect and protect the right to life at all times
- Investigate all killings which may be unlawful, including alleged extrajudicial executions and provide adequate protection from harassment and reprisals for witnesses and complainants
- Bring to justice those responsible for unlawful killings
- Provide remedy and redress to victims

Under the ICCPR, the right to life is non-derogable, that is, cannot be restricted even 'in times of public emergency which threatens the life of a nation'¹. The right to life must be protected by law and no one should be

¹ Article 4(1) of the United Nations International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (UN ICCPR)

arbitrarily deprived of his or her life². The UN Human Rights Committee speaks of the right to life as the ‘supreme right’ and has called on states parties to “take measures not only to prevent and punish deprivation of life by criminal acts, but also to prevent arbitrary killing by their own security forces. The law must strictly control and limit the circumstances in which a person may be deprived of his life³.”

For anyone charged with a criminal offence, the ICCPR also enshrines the right to a ‘fair and public hearing by a competent, independent and impartial tribunal established by law,’ with presumption of innocence⁴. In addition, state parties must ensure that any person ‘whose rights or freedoms are violated shall have an effective remedy, notwithstanding that the violation has been committed by persons acting in official capacity.’⁵

Under the ICESCR, the state must take steps, individually and through international assistance and cooperation to the maximum of its available resources, with the view to achieving progressively the full realization of the rights recognized in the present Covenant by all appropriate means, ‘including through the implementation of appropriate laws.’⁶

Whenever unlawful use of force is suspected – in particular by or with the involvement of state officials and where such force has led to injury or death – prompt, impartial and effective investigations must take place. Under Article 2(3) of the ICCPR, states parties undertake, among other things, to ensure an “effective remedy” for persons whose Covenant rights have been violated. The Human Rights Committee, in its authoritative General Comment on Article 2, has referred to a “general obligation to investigate allegations of violations promptly, thoroughly and effectively through independent and impartial bodies” and added

² Article 6 of UN ICCPR

³ UN Human Rights Committee, General Comment No.6: The right to life (Article 6), 30 April 1982, paras 1, 3

⁴ Article 14 of UN ICCPR

⁵ Article 2 of UN ICCPR

⁶ Article 2 of UN ICESCR

that “failure by a State Party to investigate allegations of violations could in and of itself give rise to a separate breach of the Covenant”.⁷

The UN Principles on the Effective Investigation of Extra-legal, Arbitrary and Summary Executions similarly state that there should be a “thorough, prompt and impartial investigation of all suspected cases of extra- legal, arbitrary and summary executions”⁸. In addition, “[c]omplainants, witnesses, those conducting the investigation and their families shall be protected from violence, threats of violence or any other form of intimidation.”⁹

Where sufficient, admissible evidence is found, individuals suspected of responsibility, including those with command responsibility, must be prosecuted in fair proceedings. Thus, the Human Rights Committee stated that where investigations “reveal violations of certain Covenant rights, States Parties must ensure that those responsible are brought to justice. As with failure to investigate, failure to bring to justice perpetrators of such violations could in and of itself give rise to a separate breach of the Covenant.”¹⁰ It added that the obligations to investigate and prosecute “arise notably in respect of those violations recognized as criminal under either domestic or international law, such as torture and summary and arbitrary killing”.¹¹

Victims and survivors must be offered reparation. All relevant officials at all times must be held accountable for their actions through a transparent system of investigatory and judicial proceedings, without the promise of protective immunity or amnesties.

The allegations of human rights abuses by security forces of Pakistan violate a number of other fundamental human rights including:

- The absolute prohibition on torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment

⁷ UN Human Rights Committee, General Comment No. 31 on Article 2 of the Covenant: The nature of the general legal obligation imposed on states parties to the Covenant, UN Doc. CCPR/C//S/CRP.4/Rev.6, 21 April 2004, para.15

⁸ UN Principles on the Effective Prevention and Investigation of Extra-legal, Arbitrary and Summary Executions, Recommended by Economic and Social Council resolution 1989/65 of 24 May 1989, Principle 9

⁹ Principle 15 of UN Basic Principles

¹⁰ Human Rights Committee, General Comment No. 31, para. 18

¹¹ Human Rights Committee, General Comment No. 31, para. 18

- The right to liberty and security of persons
- The right to non-discrimination
- The right to recognition and equality before the law

Ghulam Mohammad Baloch

“Everyone talks about the rule of Law and Constitution. Where do they lie when it comes to our rights? Ghulam Mohammad chose to follow legal means. What happened to him is in front of us” - Abid Dur Mohammad, relative of Ghulam Mohammad.

Ghulam Mohammad was one of the founding members of Baloch National Movement (BNM), a political party that campaigns for the sovereignty of Balochistan. He was also known as Chairman Ghulam Mohammad named after his designation in the Baloch Student Organization (BSO). Ghulam Mohammad was one of the first victims of extrajudicial executions.

On December 3rd, 2006, Police arrested Ghulam Mohammad and Sher Mohammad from Lyari Karachi where they were to deliver speeches in a public gathering. Hundreds of his followers witnessed the arrest. For the next nine months, no one heard of him. Ghulam Mohammad and Sher Mohammad were never tried for any crime and no authority asked the police on what charges were both arrested or where they were kept.

The family of Ghulam Mohammad and Sher Mohammad kept protesting in front of Karachi Press Club for their safe release. On September 20, 2007, both leaders were released in critical condition in Sibi after they were framed in fake charges which the court acquitted later.

Several other fake cases were filed against Ghulam Mohammad Baloch in the following years including a case under Section 121 which refers to waging or attempting to wage war or abetting waging of war against Pakistan.

Abid Dur Mohammad, a close relative of Ghulam Mohammad told us that he and Ghulam Mohammad were to appear in front of a court in Turbat on April 4th, 2009 but a day earlier, on April 3, 2009, Ghulam Mohammad along with Lala Munir and Sher Mohammad had another case to appear in the court. Abid said that he went to the court to meet Ghulam Mohammad that day:

“Ghulam Mohammad was sitting in the court when we reached there. He told us to pick him an hour later from his lawyer Advocate Kachkol Ali” he said.

Abid stated that when he drove in front of Kachkol Ali’s office, he saw a vehicle of Pakistani intelligence officials loaded with armed masked men. Half an hour later, Abid received a call that Ghulam Mohammad, Sher Mohammad and Lala Munir were whisked away by intelligence officials from Kachkol Ali’s office.

The next day Abid did not appear in the court. He said he was afraid of getting abducted too. On April 8th, 2009, Abid received a call from Meerak (anonymous), a police constable saying that he was told by the Deputy Superintendent of Police of Gwadar that Ghulam Mohammad, Lala Munir and Sher Mohammad bodies were found in Murghap area of Kech district.

“It was a confusing situation. Some were denying it and others had unconfirmed information that Ghulam Mohammad, Lala Munir and Sher Mohammad were killed and a team of doctors along with police were sent to bring the bodies.” Abid added.

Abid said that they received all three coffins at 04:45 am that morning. Ghulam Mohammad and Sher Mohammad bodies were in a separate car while Lala Munir body was in an ambulance and ready to depart to Panjgur for his burial and final rituals.

The next day, Ghulam Mohammad and Sher Mohammad were buried in Mand's Soro graveyard while Lala Munir was buried in Panjgur.

A week later, Abid says he visited the site where the bodies were dumped.

“It was very clear from the site that all of them were brought there and shot with bullets. The bushes behind were riddled by the bullets and there were still some pieces of flesh hanging on the bushes,” he added.

“Everyone talks about the rule of Law and Constitution. Where do they lie when it comes to our rights? Ghulam Mohammad chose to follow legal means. What happened to him is in front of us. In this country the law is for selective people, more specifically the selective elites. But the military personnel are absolved. They can violate it, modify it and use it against political dissent whenever they want,” Abid said.

Asif Yousuf

“Asif called home twice and assured his family that he was fine and intelligence officials were willing to release him. He was eventually released but dead.” – Babul (anonymous), relative of Asif Yousuf.

Asif was the nephew of Ghulam Mohammad and an active political activist. He fled to the United Arab Emirates a few months after Ghulam was extrajudicially murdered. Asif returned back to Pakistan on May 28, 2011 and was whisked away from his hotel room in a raid by secret service agents accompanied by Sindh Rangers.

“Asif called home twice and assured his family that he was fine and intelligence officials were willing to release him. He was eventually released but dead.” – Babul (anonymous), relative of Asif Yousuf.

Asif's body was found at the same place where Ghulam Mohammad and his companions were dumped. He was shot three times, twice in the chest and one in the head.

Asif was buried beside Ghulam Mohammad in Mand's Soro Graveyard.

Atif Yousuf

“Atif chose his life and knew the consequences of how this path would end but Khalil was innocent; he was killed for being Atif's uncle. He was killed in front of hundreds of eyewitnesses and everyone knows who backed the killers. The inaction of authorities in this case and many others has proved that no matter what you do or don't, you are always at risk of being killed brutally.” - Babul, relative of Atif Yousaf

Atif Yousuf was the younger brother of Asif Yousuf. After Ghulam Mohammad and later Asif's extrajudicial execution, Atif joined the Baloch Liberation Front (BLF), a militant organization struggling for the independence of Balochistan.

On May 2, 2018, Atif was travelling from Mand Soro to Gawak. He was attacked by Yarjan aka Yarok, a member of a death squad operating in Mand under the direct supervision of the military. Atif received 2 bullets while his companion retaliated and shot back and killed Yarjan.

An eyewitness, on the condition of anonymity, told us that when they reached at the site, Atif was still alive. Yarjan's brother shot him several bullets and killed him.

“Yarjan looked after the construction work of a 7 km road from Gawak to Soro. Basically, the military owned the contract but to accomplish it safely, it required a lot of resources because of the attacks from the militants. So, the military hired people like Yarjan who worked for them to complete the construction work,” said Babul.

“Atif chose his life and knew the consequences of how this path ends but Khalil was innocent; he was killed for being Atif’s uncle. He was killed in front of hundreds of eyewitnesses and everyone knows who backed the killers. The inaction of authorities in this case and many others has proved that no matter what you do or don’t, you are always at risk of being killed brutally.” added Babul.

On May 3, 2018, after the burial of Atif, Babu Tapari and Shahbaik opened fire and killed Atif’s uncle, Khalil. Anwar, the gravedigger and a cousin of Khalil and Muhim, was injured in the shooting.

Babu Tapari is the head of a death squad in Mand backed by the military. Most often, he can be seen along with military officials and leaders of the Balochistan Awami Party (BAP), the newly formed current ruling party in Balochistan. Babu and his men have killed more than 20 people in Mand but they roam freely in Mand, armed to the teeth, supported by the military.

Shabir Mehrab aka Shabir Masoom

“The Pakistan Army, out of frustration, killed our whole family in cold blood.” – Zaheer (anonymous), cousin of Shabir Mehrab.

Shabir was a transporter by profession. He was the manager of Al Naveed Transport in Gwadar. On August 28, 2013, Shabir, his mother Juwane Malik, sister Aseela Hakim, her 4 years old son Imran Hakim, a teenage nephew Mohammad Jan Liaquat, 6 years old cousin Abdullah Haji and a friend were travelling from Zyarati Dasht to Mand. On their way, they were attacked by the military killing his mother Juwan e Malik, two nephews, cousin and his sister’s unborn baby.

According to Shabir's cousin, Zaheer (anonymous), on the day of this tragic incident, a check post of the military was attacked in Gawak Mand area of Kech district. It had become a norm that in case of an attack on military check posts, the military, in return, fired indiscriminately towards houses of people to inflict loss to common people, so that the militants would stop targeting them in order to avoid loss of lives of common people.

“On August 28, 2013, the same thing happened. On the same day of Shabir travelling, a military check post was attacked in Gawak Mand. On their way, a man on a motorcycle stopped Shabir's car and told him that the military had taken to the mountains and there was information that a check post was hit. He advised Shabir to turn back and discontinue the journey,” Zaheer said.

“We waited for 10 minutes on the road. Shabir said that he had women and children accompanying and would not likely be harmed. After traveling few miles further, our car was hit by a mortar fired by the military, which hit the back door of the car injuring Juwan e Malik, Aseela Hakim, her 4 years old son Imran Hakim and 6 years old Mohammad Jan Liaquat” said one of the survivors on the condition of anonymity.

“Our car caught fire. Shabir got out of the car and raised both his hands and shouted that he had his family in the car and not to fire at them. As soon as Shabir noticed that his car caught fire, he rushed to take his mother and other injured out of the car. The military then shot him two bullets on his back. Shabir fell down,” he added.

The military continued firing for several minutes on the car. Later, the military approached the vehicle and found some had survived.

“They again started firing to make sure no one survived. Aseela, Shabir's sister, came out of the car and begged one of the personnel to leave one man alive so that he could carry the dead and injured to the hospital.” a survivor said.

“Shabir was still breathing. A medic of the military tried to give first aid but the officer barred him doing so. I clearly heard him saying that leave this bastard to die. They all are parasites.” he added.

The injured were left bleeding for more than one hour on the spot and later carried all the dead and injured in a military vehicle and took them to Gawak check post. Later, a local transporter took them to a hospital nearby.

Juwan e Malik, Shabir's mother died in the hospital. Mohammad Jan was immediately taken to Turbat but he succumbed to his injuries on his way to hospital near Nasirabad. Four-years-old Imran was taken to Turbat hospital where doctors asked to take him to Karachi. There were no immediate flights, his family arranged a private taxi but just before they departed, the kid also died. Aseela was pregnant at the time of the incident. She lost her four-years-old son Imran and her unborn baby. All of them were buried in Mand's Soro graveyard.

Arfat Ibrahim

“I am a survivor and an eyewitness to the incident. I know how it feels to be at the mercy of these savages. When they torture, you wish for death to come sooner but it comes slowly and painfully. Arfat is no more, the only reason to speak is that there are more Arfat in the torture cells. Otherwise, we all know the impunity they have and the incompetence of national and international organizations” - Bakhtiyar (anonymous), survivor of the incident.

Arfat Ibrahim was a student, a minor. He studied up to Grade 7 in Government High School, Soro Mand and then left for further studies to Quetta, provincial capital of Balochistan. On his way to Quetta, he was whisked away by Pakistan's secret service officials and later his bullet riddled body was found in Murghap.

Bakhtiyar told us that on October 23, 2011, they were travelling from Turbat to Quetta on a passenger bus. Just before Shadi Kaur, a river in the outskirts of Turbat city, seven military and two civil vehicles blocked their way and entered the bus.

“They asked all passengers their names. I and Arfat were asked to step out of the bus and the bus driver was then asked to leave. Arfat was badly beaten up in front of me. We were blind folded and they took us back to Turbat as per my assumption.” said Bakhtiyar, survivor of the incident.

“When we reached the camp, I was taken to an interrogation room where I was asked about my family members and every contact on my phone. I was sent to a small room where my hands were tied and my eyes were blind folded. After several hours, I was taken to another interrogation room where I was laid upside down. The interrogator told me that there will be no mercy for those “who spoke against us.” You are wearing Balochi *chawats* (traditional footwear) and a chaadar that is enough proof to be qualified as a militant. He asked me about my code name. The beating started when I said that I did not have a code name. The torture continued for 3 hours and later I was sent back to the same small room. There were two bottles in the room. One to urinate in and the other for drinking water which I could fill in the morning when I was taken to toilet once a day,” he added

“The torture continued for next seven days. The same questions were asked every day followed by beatings for several hours. On November 1st, 2011, at about 2am, I was told to be ready to get killed and that they were going to dump our bodies like others. As I sat in the car, blindfolded, I realized that there were others in the car too. We were taken to D-Baloch road where we were warned not to untie our blindfolds until “we heard the sound of their vehicle” or we would be killed. When they left, we knew that we were freed,” Bakhtiyar recalled.

On November 6th, 2011, Vsh News, the only Balochi news channel ran a news bulletin that two mutilated bodies were found dumped in Murghap. Arfat and Karim Jan’s bodies were brought to Civil Hospital

Turbat where their family members identified them. Arfat's body bore several signs of torture and cigarette burns. His nose was broken, three fingers were cut off and his hand was broken. He was shot with two bullets. One in the head and one in the chest.

Two weeks later, Pakistani security forces raided Arfat's home again, harassed his family and then broke his gravestone before leaving. When his family approached police to file a complaint, police threatened them not to file complaint or else more worse consequences were to come.

"I am a survivor and an eyewitness to the incident. I know how it feels to be at the mercy of these savages. When they torture, you wish for death to come sooner but it comes slowly and painfully. Arfat is no more, the only reason to speak is that there are more Arfat in the torture cell. Otherwise, we all know the impunity they have and the incompetence of national and international organizations" - Bakhtiyar (anonymous), survivor of the incident.

Khalid Adam

"Khalid was a shopkeeper. He was innocent, even the military knew that he was innocent. Major Burair of the military demanded to bring Shakeel Adam, Khalid's elder brother in return of Khalid and Amjid's release." - Qadeer Sagar, cousin of Khalid Adam.

Khalid was a shopkeeper in Bolo Mand area of Kech district. He was the younger brother of Shakeel Adam, a schoolteacher in Bolo High School and a member of Baloch National Movement (BNM). Khalid was abducted by the military during a raid at his home and later his dead body was handed over to the local administration.

On December 12, 2016, Pakistan's military forces raided the house of Khalid Adam in Bolo Mand. All the male members of his family were lined up and the house was searched where they found books on

Balochi, Urdu literature and history. The security forces then forcibly disappeared Khalid Adam, Amjid Faiz, Master Khudadad, Akeel Khudadad and Fazal Abdul Rehman.

“When they found books, Major Burair said that this was dangerous. This home must serve as recruiting militants. Books are always dangerous,” Qadeer Sagar told us.

The next day, Khalid's family and neighbors staged a protest demonstration in front of the military camp in Soro Mand. After several hours of protest, Master Khudadad was released. Three days later, Akeel and Fazal were released.

“Major Burair told our family that they had a few questions to ask and would release all of them,” Qadeer added.

After several days of protests, Major Burair demanded the family of Khalid to bring Shakeel Adam to him and in return he would release Khalid and Amjid.

“On December 22, 2016, we received a call informing us that Khalid had died in custody, and to come and collect his body,” Qadeer recalled.

Khalid's body bore severe signs of torture, cigarette burns and electric shocks. He was hanging upside down that his feet bore signs of hanging with a rope. His nails were pulled off during torture.

“Khalid was a shopkeeper. He was innocent, even the military knew that he was innocent. Major Burair of the military demanded to bring Shakeel Adam, Khalid's elder brother in return of Khalid and Amjid's release.” - Qadeer Sagar

Next day, on December 23, 2016, Amjid was released from custody.

Khalid's family approached police to file a complaint against the military. The police denied filing a case and instructed the family to 'go ask the military' themselves and referred them to the military camp nearby.

Qadeer himself was a victim of enforced disappearance and has remained active in politics in Balochistan. Currently, he is living in exile in Greece.

Jameel Ali, Haneef Yousuf, Naeem Yousuf and Barkat Dost Mohammad

“Four family members of my family were killed. Two of them were killed by the military and other two by military sponsored death squad members. Where should we go to complain? Police? Court? Ask anyone in Mand, everyone knows who killed them. So do the authorities.” - Samad (anonymous), a family member of Jameel and Haneef.

In the early morning of May 23, 2011, Pakistan’s security forces raided the home of Yousuf in Goburd area of Mand. The security forces, brought an ‘informer’ along and lined up Jameel Ali, Haneef Yousuf, Naeem Yousuf and Dil Jan Yousuf to identify them. The ‘informer’ then pointed out Haneef Yousuf and Jameel Ali. The security forces took Haneef away but Jameel managed to slip and began to run away. He climbed the boundary wall of the house and started running. The security forces chased him and opened fire. He got hit on his leg and fell down. The security forces then ran over him twice in their vehicle and took him with them injured.

On the same night, security forces also abducted Noroz, Rahim and Masood from their homes. They were taken to military camp Mand and later shifted to military camp Turbat. Three days later, Jameel Ali's body was found in the outskirts of Turbat city. Two months later, Haneef's mutilated body was found under a bridge near Singani Sar Turbat.

Noroz, Masood and Rahim were released after three, four and six months respectively.

On July 4, 2016, Naeem Yousuf was sitting in his shop in Soro Mand when Babo Tapari and Gul Mohammad, head of the military-backed death squad came on a motorcycle and shot him dead inside his shop.

Naeem's uncle Barkat Dost Mohammad was a local transporter who ran a passenger van from Mand to Turbat and back. On August 5, 2016, Barkat went to the local bazaar of Mand to buy households. He went to a local tea shop to drink tea, a routine of most of the people of the area. According to eyewitnesses, Rauf Gul Mohammad, a member of the same death squad who killed Naeem Yousuf, accompanied by two others came and asked Barkat to step out of the tea shop. As Barkat stepped out of the restaurant, Rauf shot him dead.

“Four family members of my family were killed. Two of them were killed by the military and other two by military sponsored death squad members. Where should we go to complain? Police? Court? Ask anyone in Mand, everyone knows who killed them. So do the authorities.” - Samad (anonymous), a family member of Jameel and Haneef.

Asif Anwar

“He was sitting in front of the window. When he saw the intelligence officials accompanied by Sindh Rangers, he told me someone is going to disappear. May God have mercy on him and his family” - Shahmeer (anonymous), cousin and eyewitness of Asif’s abduction.

Asif Anwar was a tailor by profession. He moved to Karachi for better earning. There he worked in a local company. On December 16, 2016, he was forcibly disappeared by secret intelligence officials accompanied by Sindh Rangers and later his dead body was found in Gawak area of Mand.

According to his cousin Shahmeer, on December 16, 2016, they were sitting in their home in Gulshan-e- Mazdoor area of Karachi when Sindh Rangers sieged the house and after identifying Asif, whisked him away.

“He was sitting in front of the window. When he saw the intelligence officials accompanied by Sind Rangers, he told me someone is going to disappear. May God have mercy on him and his family,” said Shahmeer (anonymous), cousin and eyewitness of Asif’s abduction

Asif's father approached police and rangers for his son's whereabouts but no one affirmed his detention.

“Few months later, a victim of enforced disappearance was released from Turbat who delivered us a message from Asif for his father saying that he was in the custody of secret agencies and was kept in a torture cell in Turbat.” he added.

Asif was seen several times by the victims who were released from Turbat. On April 27th, 2017, Asif’s bullet riddled body was found dumped near a water supply tank in Gawak Mand. Four more bodies were also dumped along with Asif’s. Others were identified as Master Baitullah, a teacher who was abducted by security forces on June 17, 2015, Jasim Rahim, a resident of Gomazi, district Kech who was abducted on January 4, 2017, Majid, who was abducted on February 2nd, 2017 and Sabir Ghulam Mohammad, a mason by profession, chose out of poverty to feed his extended family, was abducted on November 16, 2016, when security forces carried out a military operation in Goburd and surrounding areas. As the news of the operation spread, Sabir ran and jumped over the wall of his house and found the security forces standing on the other side.

All of them remained disappeared until their dead bodies were found. Geo News, one of Pakistan's most viewed news channels ran the same one-sided state narrative that all killed were responsible for a bomb blast on security forces’ convoy that occurred a day earlier in Gawak Mand area which left four army personnel dead. This narrative has been

repeatedly propagated against victims of enforced disappearance and extrajudicial killings from day one.

Gohram Khalid and Khayam Mohammad Umer

“He told me that they were saying that they will kill me. I replied that God is greater than them. That was the last time I spoke with Khayam.” - Nazeer (anonymous), surviving victim of the incident.

Nazeer told us that on August 24th, 2011, security forces raided Mulla Haneef and Asghar’s hotel (local food place) in Gayab Mand. 19 people were taken into custody that day.

“I was taken into custody from Mulla Haneef’s Hotel. The security forces took off our shirts and blind folded us,” Nazeer recalled.

According to Nazeer, after blind folding them, one of the personnel told them that they belonged from Baloch Musallah Difa, a notorious death squad responsible for abduction and killing of Baloch political activists.

“We were taken to Mand military camp where we were asked to chant slogans in favour of Pakistan and Pakistan Zindabad (long live Pakistan). Next morning, we were taken to Turbat military camp. We were again lined up and asked to step ahead one by one and introduce ourselves which we did. When Khayam introduced himself, a soldier kicked him from the back and he fell unconscious. An elderly man protested against the treatment of a 15-year-old boy. Two soldiers started beating the old man too,” Nazeer told us.

According to Nazeer, they were divided into several groups. Each group consisted of 5 abductees.

“We were sent to a small room. One guard gave us a bottle to urinate in. As it was the month of Ramzan, most of us were fasting. We were

provided one glass of water for the whole day. One night, I asked to use the toilet and the guard agreed which was unusual. He blindfolded me and took me to the toilet. It was not far but on our way to the toilet, he kept slapping me on the back of my head. I was in the toilet when a commercial plane flew above us. I heard the guard asking another guard that if he shot a bullet at the plane, would the bullet hit the plane? I wondered what kind of mentality was this? And what would he achieve by taking down a commercial plane full of regular citizens,” he added.

All the abductees were released in a week except Gohram Khalid and Khayam Mohammad Umer.

On November 3, 2011, Gohram and Khayam’s bodies were found in two flour sacks dumped in the city of Turbat. Khayam was inhumanly tortured during detention. His hand, 3 fingers and back bone was broken when his family received his body.

Adnan Akram and Ali Akram

“Haji Akram, father of Adnan and Ali served more than thirty years as a gatekeeper in the school of Zubaida Jalal, ex-Education Minister and current Minister of the ruling party in Balochistan, Balochistan Awami Party (BAP). Haji Akram's elder son Adnan was killed by the military, and younger son Ali was killed by a state sponsored death squad. The same death squad member provides security to Zubaida Jalal when she visits Mand. It's heart wrenching.” - Izzat (anonymous), close relative of Adnan and Ali

Adnan was an active member of Baloch Republican Student Organization (BRSO). On June 30, 2012, Pakistan’s security forces whisked him away from Huzai near the mobile tower. He was never tried nor did his whereabouts were revealed. On January 26, 2013, a mutilated body was found in a sack in Malir area of Karachi. Later, the

body was identified as Adnan Akram. His vital organs were missing from his body. He was buried in Karachi.

On October 3, 2019, Ali Akram along with two other friends went out for a walk. A Toyota Corolla blocked their way near Huzai Middle School Mand and whisked Ali Akram away. The car belonged to Babu Yaqoob aka Babu Tapari, head of state sponsored death squad in Mand. Two day later, his bullet-riddled body was found in Mandeeg river in Mand. Ali Akram was severely tortured and later shot multiple bullets.

“Haji Akram, father of Adnan and Ali served more than thirty years as a gatekeeper in the school of Zubaida Jalal, ex-education minister and current minister of ruling party in Balochistan, Balochistan Awami Party. Haji Akram's elder son Adnan was killed by the military, and younger son Ali was killed by a state sponsored death squad. The same death squad member provides security to Zubaida Jalal when she comes to Mand. It's heart wrenching.” - Izzat (anonymous), close relative of Adnan and Ali

Ghulam, Shayhaq, Ijaz and Muslim

“We came to know that an unknown body was found in the Jusak area of Kech district near Turbat city and police buried it after no one could identify him. We went and met one of the police constables who took a photo of the body. From the picture we identified that he was Ghulam. We couldn't even bury him ourselves,” - Gulzar (anonymous), cousin of Ghulam

Pakistan's general elections of 2013 were boycotted by Baloch nationalist parties and militants. The government had deployed a large number of military personnel for the security of elections. In April 2013, a month before the general elections, security forces forcibly disappeared a large number of people. Some were later released on the condition

that they would cast votes in the favor of the candidates supported by the military.

Bebagar (anonymous) told us that on May 10, a day before the elections, he received a call saying that Muslim and Ijaz were abducted by security forces in a raid on Ijaz's home in Custom Bazar Mand.

On the day of the election, May 11, 2013, the security forces conducted several raids including a raid at Shayhaq's home in Lebnan, Mand where Shay Haq, Ghulam and Nazeer were whisked away and taken to Turbat city.

Few miles from Mand in Dokopp, a convoy of security forces was attacked by Baloch militants, resulting in several casualties of military personnel. In retaliation, a militant was killed.

"We were in the back of a military truck when we heard the sound of firing. Half an hour later, an officer came and stormed us with bullets. I saw Shay Haq, Muslim and Ijaz died on the spot. Ghulam was critically injured. There was blood all over my face. I pretended to be dead as I was already soaked in blood," recalled one of the survivors.

Later, the forces handed over the dead bodies of Ijaz, Muslim and Shay Haq to the local authorities who took the bodies to Mand and handed them to their families without any explanation while the military took others, including Ghulam who was critically injured with them to Turbat.

Next day, on May 12, 2013, Ghulam's dead body was thrown in Jusak near Turbat city. The police went and brought the body to Civil Hospital Turbat where the body was kept for two more days for identification. After two days, the body was buried in a graveyard in Turbat as an unidentified person.

"We came to know that an unknown body was found in the Jusak area of Kech district near Turbat city and police buried it after no one could identify him. We went and met one of the police constables who took a photo of the body. From the picture we identified that he is Ghulam. We

couldn't even bury him ourselves," Gulzar (anonymous), cousin of Ghulam.

Ijaz, Muslim and Shay Haq's dead bodies were brought to Mand by Levies personnel and were handed to their families without any explanation.

Patterns of extrajudicial executions

In almost all cases, the victims were abducted by Pakistan's military or secret service agents and remained in the custody of the security forces before they were extrajudicially executed. The victims' bodies showed signs of severe torture further evident of inhuman treatment during their detention. In the case of Asif Anwar, Master Baitullah, Sabir Ghulam Mohammad, Jasim Rahim and Majid, the security forces claimed that they were killed in an encounter and were responsible for an attack that happened a day earlier. However, all five victims were abducted in front of eye witnesses, months before this incident took place.

In some cases, the victims were killed by state sponsored death squad teams who remain largely active in Mand.

This research also found that most of the victims were affiliated to either political parties or were family members of political activists except for a few cases where the victims were common citizens abducted by security forces during military operations and raids and were later killed in reaction to attack on them.

We also learned from some families of the victims that they were discouraged or prevented by police to file complaints seeking a formal investigation on the death of their loved ones and were advised against even talking about the incidents.

This has undermined the family members' rights to access justice and seek effective remedies, including full and effective reparation.

The government has also consistently denied involvement of military forces in enforced disappearances and extrajudicial executions. Moreover, in some cases, the government backed forces and justified their actions as measures of national security. Such approach and unwillingness to investigate forces involvement in enforced disappearances and extrajudicial execution entrenches impunity and violates victims' right to fair trial and victim families' right to truth.

Recommendations

Since 2009, thousands of people have been extrajudicially killed in Balochistan by Pakistani security forces. Majority of the victims were forcibly disappeared and were killed in the custody of forces. At a minimum, such killings require prompt, thorough, effective, impartial and independent investigation.

Federal Minister for Human Rights Shireen Mazari and Home Minister of Balochistan Zia Langove's rejection of these serious allegations of enforced disappearances and extrajudicial executions against secret service agents and military forces, and arguments in favor of these crimes as measure of national security and retaliation, has guaranteed impunity for the perpetrators.

The unwillingness of independent, prompt and impartial investigation into these incidents undermines rule of law and raises concerns that security forces apply lethal force with impunity.

Baloch Human Rights Organization recommends the Government of Pakistan the following recommendations:

- Ensure that a full, independent, prompt and impartial investigation of all alleged extrajudicial killings is carried out and, where sufficient admissible evidence exists, ensure that those suspected of responsibility are prosecuted in fair trials
- Ensure that the family members of the victims are provided with effective remedies, including the truth about what happened to their loved ones and full reparation to address the harm that they have suffered.

- Ensure that investigations are conducted independently and impartially. They must not be assigned to the authorities alleged to have committed the violation of human rights.
- Ratify the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance.