

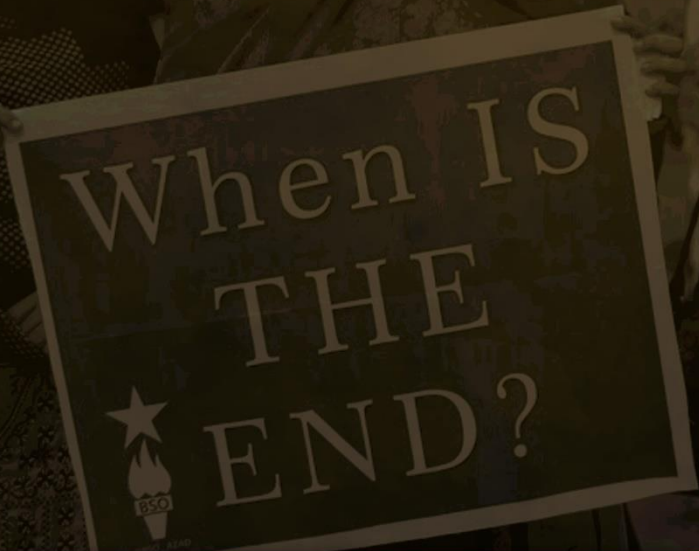


Shabir Baloch 24, A Student & Spokesperson of BSO Azad, Abducted by Pakistani Security Forces from Gwarkop, Balochistan on October 01, 2010. UN Security Council must take immediate action to release Shabir Baloch.

8 JUNE

BALOCH MISSING

Persons Day



BALOCH STUDENTS ORGANIZATION AZAD

8TH JUNE

BALUCH MISSING PERSONS DAY

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Editorial

Every colonial power has a history of barbarism to counter the national movement of freedom throughout the colonial period. Since then, the colonial powers have changed over time, but the mindsets and tactics of the colonizers remain the same today. Whether it be the European powers who burned down Africans for chanting slogans of freedom, or Japan, which killed thousands of Koreans to keep them as a colony, the history of colonization is one of barbaric acts against colonized people. This continues to this day. In many areas of the world, colonization has changed its position and area of influence, but many nations are still struggling to rid themselves of colonization. One of them is Balochistan.

The Baloch nation has been fighting for the last 76 years to regain its lost freedom after the Pakistani army occupied it a year after the Baloch gained independence on August 11, 1947, from British colonization. Pakistan has adopted multiple strategies to counter the freedom movement of the Baloch nation but failed repeatedly, leading to more brutal policies to maintain its occupation of Baloch land. After the 1973 uprising, where thousands of Baloch fighters stood to fight the violent occupation of Pakistani forces, the State has adopted the worst forms of brutality to stop people from participating in the national struggle for freedom.

Pakistan intensified its brutality by adopting the policy of enforced disappearances during the 1973 uprising when Pakistani forces abducted Dileep Daas, and later Asad Ullah

Mengal, son of the former Chief Minister of Balochistan, Atta Ullah Mengal. The whereabouts of these individuals remain unknown to their families to this day. Security agencies adopted the policy of enforced disappearances to terrorize the common people to avoid their affiliation with the national struggle. A decrease was seen after the end of the 1973 uprising, but the state has not yet disclosed the location of the persons it abducted during the insurgency.

The enforced disappearances largely increased once again when the movement for the national independence of the Baloch nation gained momentum at the start of the 2000s. To terrorize Baloch society, the state adopted enforced disappearances, taking away people and hiding their location from their families. The cases of enforced disappearances grew significantly with each passing day. During 2009, the state started a policy of "kill and dump," which involved killing the enforcedly disappeared persons during torture and throwing their dead bodies on roadsides or in jungles. This was followed by a more brutal policy of mass graves, which included killing several missing persons and burying them in mass graves. One such mass grave was found on the outskirts of Khuzdar's Totak, where almost 179 dead bodies were discovered, previously abducted by state agencies during different operations. Many others remain undiscovered in the vastness of Balochistan.

The State has adopted these policies to suppress the Baloch nation and force them to withdraw from their lawful demand for freedom. However, such policies have only made the Baloch more aware of the barbarity of the Pakistani state and

how colonial powers use brutality to maintain their occupation of Baloch land. The State's policies have failed, and the people realize that a State capable of such barbarism cannot be their State. The struggle for the movement has strengthened with each passing day.

It is not only the army and agencies but every institution, including the parliament, media, and judiciary, that is involved. All institutions have encouraged the army to continue its policies in Balochistan, showing that the occupying institutions have an understanding to continue such inhumane and insane policies in Balochistan with full force.

Here comes the responsibility of international institutions, which were built on the principles of preventing States from committing mass genocide and obeying international law during any conflict or war. Sadly, the international community has miserably failed to prevent its signatory State, Pakistan, from committing war crimes and genocide in Balochistan, including the worst policy of enforced disappearances, which is illegal in any State under all international laws.

What is enforced disappearance? What does law say about enforced disappearances?

Enforced disappearances involve the deprivation of liberty and concealment of a person's fate or whereabouts by State agents or individuals acting with State consent. This deprives individuals of legal protection and recourse. The Baloch nation has been subjected to systematic enforced disappearances, with hundreds of thousands of cases reported. The impact of enforced disappearances is profoundly devastating, both for the individual and their loved ones. Victims are torn away from legal protection, subjected to suffering, and forced to live in terror. Families are left in anguish, unsure of their loved one's fate, and trapped in a cycle of uncertainty. Enforced disappearances instill fear and intimidation in societies, leaving a trail of uncertainty and anguish. This practice ravages lives, perpetuates a culture of fear and silence, and undermines social cohesion and stability. The reverberations are felt far and wide, leading to a breakdown in social trust and erosion of faith in institutions. Key points:

1. Enforced disappearances involve deprivation of liberty and concealment of a person's fate or whereabouts.
2. This practice is used to instill fear and intimidation in societies.
3. It has a profoundly devastating impact on both the individual and their loved ones.
4. Victims are subjected to inhumane forms of torture and forced to live in terror.

5. Families are left in anguish, unsure of their loved one's fate.
6. This practice perpetuates a culture of fear and violence, undermining social cohesion and stability.

The enforced disappearances have been denounced internationally by different international institutions. The UN general assembly has constituted different committees to investigate and sort out the cases of enforced disappearances and to make the States involved accountable. The committees including International Committee of the Red Cross, the Committee on Enforced Disappearances, and Working Group on Enforced or Involuntary Disappearances. The UN Human Rights Charter's International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR) addresses enforced disappearances through various provisions. Article 6 implies a prohibition on enforced disappearances as a violation of the right to life. Article 7 protects against torture, cruel treatment, and psychological suffering caused by disappearances. Article 9 prohibits arbitrary arrest and detention, while Article 10 ensures humane treatment and notification of families. Article 16 obliges States to investigate and clarify the fate of disappeared persons. The 1992 UN Declaration on Protection from Enforced Disappearance defines and condemns the practice, obliges States to investigate, and ensures the right to a fair trial and punishment for those responsible. These provisions collectively emphasize the importance of accountability and the protection of individuals from enforced disappearances. Amnesty International and Front-Line Defenders fight enforced disappearances. Amnesty promotes the UN Convention and offers resources for activists and families. Front Line

Defenders supports at-risk human rights defenders and provides guides for families. Both organizations push for accountability and justice, highlighting and advocating the global cases of enforced disappearances. Pakistan's own constitution (the country's supreme law) addresses enforced disappearances through the terms of guarantees of life, liberty, and fair trial. Despite ratifying the ICCPR, which prohibits such acts, the issue of enforced disappearances persists. In 2018, the Supreme Court formed a commission to investigate and trace missing persons, acknowledging the ongoing problem. The international institutions have asked the Pakistan government and denounced the enforced disappearances in Balochistan specifically Amnesty International and other organizations also have spoken out against the practice including Human Rights Watch and the Asia Pacific Forum on Women, Law and Development.

What is 8th June and its significance for Baloch nation?

8 June, declared as Missing Persons Day in Balochistan, is a day to remember all those who have faced the State's brutal policy of enforced disappearances. The decision was taken during a central committee meeting of Baloch Students Organization-Azad in 2017 to raise awareness among the nation regarding the State's policy of enforced disappearances and the nation's resilient fight against it.

It is very important for any movement and organization to remember all those who face State brutality and sacrifice their lives, property, liberty, and everything else for the cause of a nation. While it is either the choice of the person or the brutality of the enemy that victimizes ordinary citizens of the oppressed nation, killing and disappearing those who dare to speak and challenge the illegal occupation of the enemy, it is important to pay homage to those who risk their lives for the cause or lay down their lives to protect the larger interest of the nation. Fighting the State's most dangerous policy of enforced disappearances includes dramatic, endless, painful, courageous, and resilient stories of Baloch women, children, youth, and elderly who have fought against this barbaric State policy for the last two decades but have not bowed down to the enemy nor accepted the illegal occupation of the army on Baloch land.

Recognizing this historic struggle in the national movement is so important that those who are jailed or imprisoned in the torture cells of the army must remember that their contribution to the national struggle, enduring torture for only

being a Baloch, is important. Fighting the enemy's intention is necessary for everyone who gets there. Declaring 8 June, as Baloch Missing Persons Day is the day when the occupying forces abducted Zakir Majeed, one of the prominent leaders of the current Baloch liberation movement and a brilliant speaker for the nation, is a historic decision of BSO-Azad. This declaration pays homage and raises a voice against the illegal and barbaric policies of the State forces and supports the cause and just struggle of the Baloch mothers and sisters who are campaigning for the safe recovery of their loved ones incarcerated in prison with no trace or contact with their families.

Every other home in Balochistan has been affected by the practice of enforced disappearances, and the trauma inflicted upon the families is beyond imagination. Remembering the sacrifices of the missing persons is so important that everyone who faced a similar situation must know about their national duty. It is also an important task for the nation to face the barbaric actions of the occupying enemy. On 8 June, we, as a nation, are followed by sorrowful stories of the beloved Baloch who have endured the enemy's brutality. On this day, we must speak loud and clear on every forum to expose Pakistan's brutality and speak on every front to raise awareness around the globe and in international forums. We must ensure everyone is aware of the State's inhumane and insane war crimes in Balochistan and raise our voices so the civilized world and the international community take important and essential steps to pressure the Pakistani State to cease its policy of enforced disappearances in Balochistan.

Why do States practice enforced disappearance?

The reasons for a State to engage in enforced disappearances are often used as a strategy to spread terror within societies. The uncertainty and fear generated by not knowing the fate of loved ones have a paralyzing impact on families and communities. Historically, enforced disappearances have been used by regimes during periods of conflict or political instability to silence opposition and instill fear in the population. Balochistan is an occupied region by Pakistani State since 1948. There were multiple resistance movements in the past for the sovereignty and independence of Balochistan. Pakistan has always tried to counter them with brute force and violence on people. There has been an uprising in Baloch Liberation movement in recent two decades. Along with it, Pakistani State has also increased its oppression and military violence on Baloch people. Occupier Pakistani State uses enforced disappearance to counter Baloch revolutionary movement. The prime target of the State agencies have been Baloch Political activists and leaders. Chairman Ghulam Muhammad who was a leading figure in Baloch resistance movement was abducted along with his colleagues and a week later, their tortured dead bodies were dumped in a remote area. Ghulam Muhammad played a significant role in recovery of John Soleckia representative of UNHCR. But he was himself not safe from the wrath of Pakistani Agencies. The silence of international organizations on Pakistan's war crimes, give it a free hand to illegally abduct and kill Baloch people.

Political workers, students, teachers, women and children have all become victim of enforced disappearances. It is the tactic of an Occupier State to maintain fear and insecurity in the region. Pakistan wants to counter Baloch Liberation movement with its brutal tactic of enforced disappearances and dumping bodies. Anyone who supports Baloch cause, who conducts demonstrations for rights of Baloch nation, who speaks against the exploitation of Baloch resources have become the victim of enforced disappearances. Teachers like Saba Dastiyari, Professor Zahid and many more were killed just because they did not accept Colonial Pakistani Education system and were educating Baloch people about their right and freedom according to the needs of the Baloch nation.

The tactic of enforced disappearance and later dumping the dead body was also used by other colonial regimes to instill fear in the society and accept the slavery of the regime. Violence is used to control people. Though Pakistan has failed to end Baloch Liberation movement but the military aggression and use of enforced disappearance is never justifiable even in a situation of political instability and war. International law prevents a State to use this tactic on its people. Baloch have always stood against this oppression and brutality. Now, it is the duty of international powers, who claim to be the champions of human rights, to hold Pakistani State accountable on its heinous crimes against Baloch Nation. Baloch nation has the right to national self-determination and to a sovereign State for themselves which Pakistan has occupied by force in 1948. Pakistan as an occupier State continues to use the policy of enforced disappearances to suppress Baloch movement

What happens to the ones who become victims of Enforced Disappearances?

When a person is subjected to Enforced disappearance and transferred to a torture cell, where he/she is frequently tortured, always fearing for their life because of their illegal detention or deprivation of legal action. Even if they are released after regular torture and brutal dehumanization, they will not be in a stable mental condition and will be psychologically disturbed. These victims often become marginalized within the society.

In torture cells, they face different methods of torture and if the victim is a woman, then they may become particularly vulnerable to sexual and other forms of violence. This perpetual fear and uncertainty about their fate persists even after their release. They may not know if they will be released, kept on further abuse and torture, or if they will ever meet their family & friends. This persistent situation causes long-lasting effects on the victim including post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD), anxiety, depression, and other mental health issues. The victim is being forcibly separated from their loved ones and community which leads to isolation and the person is alienated from society even if released, this isolation and stigma persists.

In cases where individuals have been forcibly disappeared and later released, they often recount their experiences. During their detention in the torture cell, they encounter three distinct types of interrogators: Firstly, The Harsh Interrogator, these

individual employs physical torture to extract information from the victim. Secondly, The Sympathetic Pretender, this person adopts a soft tone, pretends to care, and tries to convince the victim that he is a sympathizer. He promises to protect the victim from the first interrogator if the victim provides the requested information even if the victim doesn't possess that information. The third and final one, The Debater, this type engages the victim in debates, attempting to change their thoughts or beliefs. Such torture attacks the basic essence of human being. The victim is denied right to be present in a court and defend itself. The victim has no knowledge about the outside world. A fear is instilled in the victim about their family members and relatives. The victim is dealt as an object not as a human being, as he is continuously tortured, not let to sleep or not even given food to make him submit in front of the occupier forces. Recovery from such interrogation with extreme forms of torture is almost impossible.

However, the anguish doesn't end there. Victims also endure mental torture, such as imprisonment in dark black cells where they never experience sunlight or any form of light with marks of blood across the walls and floor. This extreme isolation can profoundly affect their psyche and may even lead to identity loss.

Short term Enforced disappearances?

As the Baloch nation struggles for the re-establishment of their sovereign State, they are striving for a better world where they could lead a free and happy life. They dream of a world of dignity and freedom, which is a basic human right. The Baloch have the dream of freedom, struggling for a sunrise where every human being can breathe in a free atmosphere. In a civilized world where there is freedom, people have the right to protest, the right to political activism, and the right to struggle for their national freedom. However, there are still places or States where law and freedom do not exist, where the State openly kills and breaks international laws meant to protect human beings.

Short-term enforced disappearance is a type of enforced disappearance where people are forcibly disappeared and released within short time periods, often lasting months. This practice is being used in occupied Balochistan. In Balochistan, occupied by Pakistan and Iran, every illegal and unfair force is used to crush and kill the Baloch nation. People are killed under various pretexts while hundreds of thousands are victims of enforced disappearance. Baloch students, teachers, shepherds, men and women, young and old, even children, are all subject to the practice of enforced disappearances.

People are openly taken and thrown into undisclosed torture cells. It is now become a common practice for the youth to be forcibly disappeared and released after years or months. Most people are forcibly disappeared for a while and then released,

which is termed short-term enforced disappearance. People are picked up, tortured, beaten, and harassed before being released. Upon release, they are forced to sign secret documents with unknown texts and are told never to participate in social and political activities or speak about their rights; otherwise, they will be picked up again and their bodies dumped in undisclosed locations.

Hardly anyone in Balochistan has not been a victim of enforced disappearances; one in three people in Balochistan has been a victim or lives in fear of being abducted someday. The Pakistani State uses short-term enforced disappearances to silence political workers. The victims undergo various kinds of torture, including physical and mental abuse. After being released from Pakistani torture cells, many cannot even continue a normal life as they did before. Students cannot continue their studies, and common Baloch never lead normal lives but live in a fearful and tense environment, fearing to be picked up again and never released, their bodies dumped in unknown locations.

On the other hand, Pakistani security forces use different propaganda mechanisms upon releasing these individuals, denying they were ever picked up. The victims are harshly told never to share their stories, otherwise, their family members would be harmed. These kinds of atrocities are common in occupied Balochistan, where the Pakistani State uses them to counter the rightful and legitimate freedom struggle of the Baloch nation. They aim to build a fearful environment, creating trauma among the Baloch nation where everybody suffers from psychological distress.

Enforced Disappearances and Baloch resistance against it. Struggle of Baloch mothers and sisters against Enforced Disappearances

Baloch mothers and sisters have stood as the vanguard of the movement against enforced disappearances in Balochistan. For 15 years, they have been protesting on the streets and organizing long marches to demand the safe return of their loved ones. Despite facing harassment, torture, arrests, and false charges by the Pakistani authorities, they have remained undeterred in their resistance. Baloch women have emerged as symbols of Resistance in the World. The struggle persists, and annually on June 8th, Baloch people commemorate #BalochMissingPersonsDay to shed light on the plight of the thousands of missing individuals and the suffering inflicted upon the Baloch nation by the Pakistani state.

Baloch nation has always resisted the State's policy of enforced disappearance. They have not surrendered against the oppression of occupier's policy. Baloch women have played a revolutionary role in this resistance. They were the ones, who stood with Mama Qadeer in Baloch Missing Persons Camp for years. Sammi Deen Baloch, daughter of enforcedly disappeared Dr Deen Muhammad, Seema Baloch, sister of Shabir Baloch, Mother of Zakir Majeed Baloch and Rashid Hussain always stood on the front in this struggle with thousands other Baloch women with them. The participation of Baloch women in this struggle have brought a revolutionary change in Baloch political movement. Baloch lives in a semi-patriarchal and

tribal society where women don't usually come out to the front for daily activities and jobs etc. But in the struggle for the recovery of their loved ones they broke all the barriers of the society and become an inspiration for all women across the world. Banuk Karima Baloch, the former Chairperson of the Baloch Students Organization Azad, was named among the BBC's 100 most influential women. She was known for her struggle against the occupation of Balochistan and the enforced disappearances. She was martyred in Canada by Pakistani Agencies for her Political activities and resistance against the occupier. Recently in June 2024 Sammi Deen won the front line defender award for the Asia and the Pacific in city of Patrick Pearce. She has led the protests and movement for not only the safe recovery of her father but thousands of enforcedly disappeared Baloch people. Today thousands of Baloch women are participating in the struggle to fight against enforced disappearance and war crimes of Pakistani Agencies and Military.

Though this journey has not been easy. Baloch have faced torture, harassment, arrest and countless bogus FIRs by the State Authorities. But they refuse to accept the oppression of State in silence. Baloch women conducted a long march recently from Turbat to Islamabad. In Islamabad they were baton charged and arrested. They were harassed and dragged to get them out of Islamabad. But they continued to resist this. In this journey they have faced all the challenges with bravery and dedication. It is now the duty of Human Rights Organizations and World International powers to come forward in support of Baloch nation for the safe recovery of thousands missing in

Balochistan and hold the culprit Pakistani State accountable for its heinous crimes against humanity.

Response of colonizer's media on Enforced Disappearances.

Media is often seemed to be the most autonomous institution in modern States to keep a check on the democracy and to maintain a degree of transparency in State matters. But unfortunately, the mainstream media in Pakistan has become a pocket institution of the mighty military establishment by using the means of intimidation, bribery, blackmail and many more. The mainstream media in Pakistan is often under a self-censorship on issues pertaining in Punjab and elsewhere, representation on the enforced disappearances in Balochistan seems quite impossible.

Apart from the censorship and intimidation, there exists a certain bias due to the nature of the colonial status of Balochistan. Apart from a general representation to voice the human rights abuses in Balochistan, the mainstream media in Pakistan has adopted the role of a spokesperson in defending the crimes of military and paramilitary institutions in Balochistan. Often false narratives are created and defended on major news channels. Critical or admirer of the military establishment, in either scenario, their stance on Balochistan remains same.

We also observe a complete media blackout on the issues in Balochistan, the color of the shoes of some showbiz actress can make a headline, but mass graves, protests, Sit-Ins, dumped mutilated bodies and mass scale enforced disappearances do not happen to be news for the media industry in Pakistan. A

recent example of this behavior could be seen during the recent [#MarchAgainstBalochGenocide](#), when a thousand kilometers long march of hundreds of victim families with the complete support of whole Balochistan could not make up space in the headlines.

When we speak of mainstream media, we mean both the print and television media channels. Be it the print media industry or the TV channels both are on the same page regarding the grave situation of human rights in Balochistan. Although voices of dissent exist, but as an institution, we understand that media in Pakistan is also involved in the Baloch Genocide as its silence on Baloch genocide makes it a collaborator in the war crimes of the State in Balochistan.

We cannot expect better from the colonial institutions of Pakistan, therefore it now becomes our duty as a nation to not only raise our voices to highlight the situation about human rights in Balochistan. But also build alternative and national institutions, which can be the true representatives of Baloch nation and help raise awareness not only about the war crimes being committed in Balochistan but work for the liberation struggle.

Response of International community and silence of Human rights organization on enforced disappearance in Occupied Balochistan

The issue of enforced disappearances in Occupied Balochistan has sparked significant concern among human rights advocates and local communities. Despite persistent reports of individuals being abducted without a trace, the international community and major human rights organizations have largely remained silent. This lack of response has raised questions about the global commitment to human rights and the political complexities that may be influencing this silence.

Enforced disappearances have persisted for two decades in Occupied Balochistan, representing not just the anguish of individuals but a collective trauma experienced by the entire nation. Individuals in Occupied Balochistan are subjected to forced disappearances due to their identity, occurring not only within Balochistan but also in various cities across Pakistan. The enforced disappearances in Occupied Balochistan have subsequently led to the discovery of mass graves, and instances of kill and dump. Families, primarily in Balochistan, often refrain from reporting these incidents due to the fear of losing their loved ones.

The lack of a robust response from the international community and human rights organizations has profound implications. It not only emboldens the perpetrators of these

crimes but also perpetuates a sense of abandonment among the Baloch people. The silence signals a tacit acceptance of the status quo, undermining global human rights norms and eroding trust in international institutions designed to protect these rights.

Balochistan, has long been a site of conflict and unrest. The region's rich natural resources, coupled with its strategic location, have made it a focal point of economic and political interest. However, the Baloch people have often felt marginalized and oppressed, leading to a long-standing insurgency seeking greater autonomy or independence. In response, the Pakistani state employed brutal tactics, including enforced disappearances, to suppress dissent and maintain control. Despite the severity of these allegations, the international community has been largely passive.

Countries with significant influence, such as the United States and China, have substantial interests in maintaining favorable relations with Pakistan, which may contribute to their reluctance to address the issue of enforced disappearances in Balochistan. This geopolitical context creates a complex environment where human rights concerns are often sidelined in favor of strategic and economic considerations.

Moreover, major international human rights organizations, which are typically vocal about such abuses, have also been relatively quiet on the issue of Balochistan. Organizations like Amnesty International and Human Rights Watch have documented cases and released reports, but these efforts have not translated into a sustained or forceful advocacy campaign for enforced disappearances in Balochistan.

The silence of the international community and human rights organizations on the issue of enforced disappearances in Occupied Balochistan is both troubling and unjustifiable. The collective suffering of the Baloch people demands a strong and principled response. It is imperative that global actors overcome geopolitical considerations and prioritize the protection of human rights, ensuring that justice is served for the victims of these heinous acts.

The Judiciary's Response to Enforced Disappearances in Balochistan

When we refer that Balochistan is an occupied territory of Pakistan, then it does not mean that it is occupied by a specific establishment or the all-powerful military of Pakistan. But, it implies that the State of Pakistan has occupied Balochistan, and all of its institutions including the media, bureaucracy, parliament and judiciary are equally involved in maintaining Balochistan as a Colony of Pakistan. As, Enforced Disappearances are a tool utilized to maintain the situation, it is imperative to note that this tactic has been supported by all of the institutions of the State. Be it the mainstream media, with a complete blackout on the Baloch movement against Genocide and Enforced Disappearances. Or the Judiciary, with imposing a complete halt on the cases of enforced disappearances. Or the Parliament, where the bill on the issue of enforced disappearances goes missing itself. Although, voices of dissent exist within the Pakistani institutions, but the major role of these institutions in supporting the war crimes in Balochistan is not hidden.

For a better understanding on the involvement of judiciary in this crime. We may look upon a few examples;

- Zakir Majeed, the former Vice Chairman of BSO-Azad and an activist, who was abducted nearly fifteen years ago by the Para-military force ruling Balochistan known as Frontier Corps. For years, his case has been pending. And apart from holding the perpetrators

accountable, the Judiciary has eliminated this case stating that there is not enough evidence to support Zakir's status as enforcedly disappeared.

- Feroz Baloch, a student at Arid Agriculture University, Rawalpindi was abducted two years ago on his way to library. His fellow students have exercised every way possible within the constitutional limits of Pakistan from holding Sit-Ins, demonstrations and filing a court case. But, till date the mighty Islamabad High Court could not make the abductors release or even produce Feroz before court.
- Asif and Rasheed both residents of Khuzdar were abducted in 2018 from Zangi Nawad, Noshki by personnel of Frontier Corps. Later, The Counter Terrorism Department of Balochistan acknowledged their detention by releasing their photographs to the media. Their case is pending under a judicial commission, but till date CTD has not been held accountable in this regard.
- Writ Petition filed by Human Rights activist filed by Imaan Zainab Mazari on the case of Baloch missing students in 2022, and later updated in 2023 and 24 respectively in Islamabad High Court could not bring before a serious result regarding the mentioned cases due to the continuous delays on behalf of the court and "No Response" on behalf of the Government.
- Every year, we witness a new commission being formed under the presidency of a Parliamentarian or some Judge from Islamabad to resolve the issue of missing persons. But apart from serving as an institute

help resolve cases, these commissions have only added to misery of already suffering families. Mocking and humiliating the families of the victims of enforced disappearance.

- Late Balach Mola Baksh, a resident of Turbat was presented in a court just two days before his fake encounter. The Judicial system could not only stop CTD from murdering him in a staged encounter, but it later supported the same killers in the inquiry of his death. No one held accountable.

Several commissions have been established to investigate enforced disappearance cases in Balochistan. However, critics argue that these bodies serve more as a means to delay resolution and provide false hope to affected families rather than to deliver justice. The Commission of Inquiry on Enforced Disappearances, formed in 2011, has been accused of underreporting the true extent of the issue. Official figures state that out of 6,500 reported cases across Balochistan, 4,300 have been resolved, 800 have been excluded, and only 1,400 remain. In contrast, local organizations working on the ground, such as the Voice for Baloch Missing Persons (VBMP), allege that the number of cases exceeds 50,000, suggesting a difference between reported figures and on-the-ground realities.

Judicial delay tactics are as a strategy that intentionally facilitates enforced disappearances. Pakistani courts often permit extended pre-trial detentions without prompt hearings,

allowing individuals to be held indefinitely without formal charges. Frequent adjournments and complex legal procedures contribute to further delays, effectively causing detainees to 'disappear' within the legal system itself, thus impeding timely justice and accountability. Critics assert that various State departments, including courts, media, journalists, and security agencies, collectively attempt to justify enforced disappearances in Balochistan under the banner of national security.

Some may say that the hands of the judiciary are tied before the mighty military establishment, others may acknowledge the courts as silent supporters of the enforced disappearances. But for us as Baloch people, the Judiciary in Pakistan is completely involved in the slow and multi-layered Genocide of Baloch Nation. We must realize the fact that enforced disappearances are a part of the wider campaign of Baloch Genocide by the Pakistani State. This judiciary is a pillar of the same State. To expect good for Baloch people from these institutions would be like living in fool's paradise.

Baloch liberation movement and enforced disappearances.

We have seen countless resistance movements and liberation struggles in the history of the World. Everywhere a state dares to brutalize a small nation, the people of that oppressed nation stand tall against the barbaric actions of the occupier. Such is the case with the Baloch national resistance against the Pakistani illegal occupation, which has continued for the last 76 years. Despite many ups and downs, the resistance movement hasn't failed to stand firm and continue the struggle for its liberation with greater strength. From Asia to Latin America, from the forests of Africa to the mountains of the Middle East, everywhere there was oppression, we have seen resistance and national struggle.

The Baloch nation is struggling for its national liberation. Everyone knows about the Pakistani occupation of Balochistan since 1948, and the Baloch nation has been resisting this occupation since day one. The Baloch nation has faced the worst oppression from the Pakistani occupation forces, from the mutilated dead bodies of Baloch freedom activists to the mass graves of Baloch people, and the enforced disappearances which have shaken Baloch society in multiple ways. Despite these tactics, the State's efforts to contain the Baloch struggle have miserably failed.

The new and most inhumane tactic has been that of enforced disappearances of Baloch political workers. Pakistan adopted this tactic in the early 2000s, where Baloch activists were

abducted and kept in unknown locations. In the middle of the first decade of this century, Pakistan started the "Kill and Dump" policy, where thousands of Baloch students, teachers, doctors, engineers, lawyers, professors, shopkeepers, drivers, human rights activists and Baloch political leaders were killed and dumped in various places in Balochistan. However, the policy of enforced disappearances continues alongside other brutalities.

With each passing day, the State speeds up its policy of enforced disappearances to create an environment of fear among the Baloch nation, hoping they will abandon their just struggle for freedom. From Baloch students to common Baloch people, this tactic is practiced throughout Balochistan, affecting people of all ages and backgrounds.

This crackdown on Baloch political workers in the form of enforced disappearances has been the main tactic to counter the Baloch national liberation movement. This oppression has created a dramatic situation in Balochistan, where every common Baloch feels insecure in their native land. They live in fear and doubt whether they will see the next day's sunrise or become victims of enforced disappearances. This oppression is more painful than death because, in death, there is the certainty of being gone, but in the case of enforced disappearances, the victim and their family feels the blow of death every moment they breathe.

Despite all these brutalities, the Baloch nation lives in a fearful environment but hasn't given up its struggle for freedom. It's evident that enforced disappearances have increased, but the resistance against Pakistani occupation and war crimes in

Balochistan has also intensified. Apart from the brutal state policies aimed at countering the Baloch liberation movement, the intensity and scale of the independence struggle has seen continuous growth during the last two decades. The torture, oppression and barbarism of this failed State won't back us down from our rightful claim of an independent Balochistan.

Crackdown against B.S.O. Azad Leadership

Since the State's brutalization started in Balochistan, BSO Azad's leadership has been one of the prime targets of this crackdown, as Pakistani authorities considered the leadership of BSO Azad a threat to their illegal occupation of Baloch land. In this regard, the State has pursued the policies of enforced disappearances and a kill-and-dump to further intensify its aggression so that people, particularly the youth, stay away from fulfilling their national duties on a larger scale. The targeting of BSO Azad was part of the larger policy of the State to counter the national liberation movement in Balochistan. The security agencies have abducted multiple leaders and cadres of the organization, including the chairman of the organization, vice chairman Zakir Majeed, Shabir Baloch, and multiple other leaders and several cadres. To intensify its brutalization against BSO Azad, State authorities commenced a policy of kill and dump, resulting in hundreds of BSO cadres being killed and their bodies being thrown in multiple places to terrify students and youth. The martyrs among the cadres include the central leadership of BSO Azad, such as Kambar Chakar, Comrade Qayyum, Sangat Sana, Shafi, and zonal leadership figures like Qazi, Kamal, Rasool Jan, and multiple others who were killed after being forcibly disappeared by the security agencies of the Pakistan army.

Furthermore, the crackdown didn't end there. BSO Azad was banned in 2013 for its role in the Baloch independence movement, which is a right given to everyone under international law. The right to self-determination is a right everyone possesses, and the Baloch nation has a right to freedom and equality like other nations on the planet. BSO

Azad exercised the right that the UN has given to all nations, but still, the occupying State banned BSO Azad only to curb the activities of the youth. Before banning BSO Azad, the State pursued a policy of aggression against the organization, banning its literature, arresting members, and forcibly disappearing them, with many being released with significant physical and mental damage.

The aggression against BSO Azad, particularly the use of enforced disappearances to counter the organizational activities, has no support under any law. A student organization that raises awareness among their people about State aggression and independence is under attack by an occupying army, so that people stop asking for their basic freedom. The international community, in this regard, has the responsibility to question Pakistani authorities and pressure Pakistan to stop its use of brutal policies against peaceful activists.

Collective punishment and enforced disappearances.

An enforced disappearance is the secret detention of a person by the state or its allies without disclosing their whereabouts, with the intention of keeping the victim outside the protection of the law. This tragedy has been prevalent in Balochistan, a region in South Asia, for decades, leaving several impacts on the victims, their families, friends, and the community at large. It began in 1976 when Asadullah Mengal was forcefully detained and disappeared by Pakistani military forces, and it continues till today. We can see there is an alarming growth in enforced disappearances over the last two decades. It serves as a strategy to spread terror in society and maintain the colonial system, causing feelings of insecurity, psychological and mental problems, and financial issues for the families and friends of the victims. This policy extends beyond individuals to collective punishment, dating back to 1948 when Pakistan occupied Balochistan; Mir Ahmed Yaar Khan and his family were punished, and the first insurgents, Prince Abdul Karim, along with his companions, were collectively arrested and punished. Similarly, Babu Noroz Khan and his companions faced punishment.

This collective punishment continues to this day in the form of physical torture, house raids, destruction of assets and commodities, and especially enforced disappearances and fake encounters. The families and friends of the disappeared ones face a collective punishment policy by state military agencies

and intelligence, who regularly harass them by asking multiple questions, preventing them from obtaining work to produce food, raiding their houses, seizing assets and commodities, and even setting fire to their homes. This policy is specifically targeted towards political workers or insurgents and their family members, as their relatives and friends are affected by this collective policy.

This policy extends beyond the families of enforcedly disappeared persons and politically/militarily active individuals to society at large. Whenever there is some activity in the Baloch Liberation movement, the Pakistani state resorts to collective punishment to instill terror within the Baloch nation. Pakistan systematically works to punish society. After any military event in an area, the state military opens fire on the homes of ordinary people, conducts operations, tortures the majority of the population, and abducts many individuals to instill fear within society and maintain the colonial system. Dr. Naseer Dashti addresses this issue in his book "The Baloch Conflict with Iran and Pakistan," stating that "The draconian policy of collective punishment adopted by Pakistani security agencies is being carried out with impunity in the 21st century. With any resistance activity against security forces, nearby villages are raided, and mass punishment is inflicted on the civilian population. Frequent raids on villages, burning of houses, and forcing inhabitants to vacate their dwellings are examples of the collective and arbitrary measures in the protracted conflict."

Every Baloch individual is prone to be illegally abducted and killed just because of his identity. As Baloch nation has resisted

Pakistani occupation from the start, so Pakistani State practices the policy of collective punishment as a whole to keep its occupation maintained.

Enforced disappearance and kill & dump policy of State

Fear is a major component for the usurpers to maintain their writ and to crush the ideas of dissent and rebellion. Since 27 March 1948, the relation of Pakistan with Balochistan has been based on sheer violence and military force. And to maintain it, the current batch in power is no different from its predecessors. To intimidate the political workers, struggling for an independent Balochistan. Initially, mutilated bodies of major political minds of Balochistan were dumped in brazen lands like Murghaap. This policy, known as kill and dump poses a grave concern in Balochistan, where a significant number of Baloch students, journalists, political activists, human rights defenders, and teachers have become victims of enforced disappearances, later extra judicially killed and dumped in different parts of Balochistan.

Some notable cases of kill and dump policy of State are following:

- On April 03 2009, Shaheed Ghulam Muhammad Baloch was abducted along with Sher Muhammad Baloch and Lala Muneer from his lawyer's office in Turbat. Six days later their mutilated bodies were found in Murghaap, Turbat.
- Abdul Ghaffar Langove was abducted for the second time on December 11, 2009 while returning from a hospital in Karachi. Two years later, his dead body was

found near an abandoned hotel in Gaddani town of Lasbela on 01 July, 2011.

- On September 23, 2010, the bullet riddled body of Ali Sher Kurd was found in Khuzdar. Ali Sher, a Baloch lawyer and political activist was abducted by LEAs three days ago.
- A Baloch Journalist, Ilyas Nizar and Kambar Chakar, Central Committee member of BSO-Azad were found dead in the outskirts of Turbat. Their bodies marked brute signs of physical torture. Both were reported to be enforcedly disappeared.
- Another Baloch Journalist Hameed Baloch was enforcedly disappeared on October 25, 2010 while on the way to his hometown. Later his body was found in a brazen location bearing gunshot wounds.
- Another terrific incident of kill and dump was reported in Tootak Khuzdar. Where hundreds of mutilated bodies of enforcedly disappeared persons were found in mass graves. Their bodies rotten to such an extent that it was not even possible to identify them.

While considering the cases of Kill and Dump, we need to consider the fact that apart from the mass graves in Tootak, many of the dumped mutilated bodies were meant to be found in order to spark a wave of fear among the Baloch Political Circles. This strategy of punishment was used to threaten the outspoken to conform with the policies of the State or bear the same fate. Thousands of Baloch political workers are still missing and we do not know whether they are alive or dead

and buried in the vastness of Balochistan, while their families suffer from an unending wait.

Recently, State has made a slight transition, in its barbaric policy of Kill and Dump, framing them as fake encounters by the notorious CTD. The motives of such fake encounters are following:

- To spark fear among Baloch masses
- To hide the failures of the State against the independence struggle for Balochistan
- Revenge tactic, after a major defeat or loss on the militant front (Such as the fake encounters in Ziarat)
- To satisfy the public opinion in Punjab regarding proceedings in the battle for Balochistan.
- To justify the killings, by identifying the deceased as armed militants

We consider that these tactics are part of the slow and multi-layered Baloch Genocide orchestrated by the State. To them, the land and its resources bear importance, not the people living on the land. Recently, as we have witnessed a surge in militant activities in Balochistan. The State Security forces, to calm their frustration, have killed hundreds of young Baloch in such staged encounters. And we fear that the other enforcedly disappeared might face the same fate.

Enforced Disappearance and Mass graves

As we have been discussing, in order to maintain and sustain colonization, the colonizer practices Necro-politics and violence. Similarly, enforced disappearance is a colonial tactic and a planned policy that decides and illuminates how and who must die. As a colonizer, Pakistan's policy to forcibly disappear Baloch political and ordinary individuals is widely known to the world. To shed light on the past and mass graves, it is essential to understand the phenomenon and the tactic of enforced disappearances.

Enforced disappearances are known to be the most powerful and dangerous tool used by Pakistan against the Baloch nation, which has been practiced for a long time now. However, Pakistan has been changing the shape of this tactic over time. A decade ago, Pakistani military forces and agencies forcibly disappeared Baloch people, later killing them and dumping their bodies in unknown locations in Balochistan. Similarly, Pakistani military personnel have sometimes thrown mutilated bodies (after Baloch individuals were forcibly disappeared by the Pakistani military and later killed, they were tortured to the extent that their families could not recognize their faces) in Baloch populations and at famous places like Murgh-Aap. Murgh-Aap is a place where hundreds of bodies of forcibly disappeared persons were discovered, such as Chairman Ghulam Muhammad, Lala Munir, Qambar Chakar, Ilyas Nazar, and many others. There are some cases of enforced

disappearances, however, where it is still unknown whether the forcibly disappeared persons are alive or not, such as Zakir Majeed, who has been missing for fifteen years without any clue of his whereabouts.

Moreover, the tactic of enforced disappearances evolved from kill-and-dump to mass graves. Hundreds of individuals were forcibly disappeared and killed. But this time, the Pakistani military did not dump or throw the mutilated bodies of forcibly disappeared persons; rather, they buried them in numbers.

The discovery of mass graves of forcibly disappeared persons in Khuzdar, Balochistan, has been one of the most tragic and alarming human rights abuses. Reportedly, the mass graves were discovered in late January 2014 in the Tutak area of Khuzdar, Balochistan. Reports indicate that multiple graves were found at the site, containing numerous mutilated bodies of forcibly disappeared persons. Initially, at least 17 bodies were recovered, but some estimates suggest that up to 169 to 300 bodies of missing persons were discovered based on further explorations and accounts from local sources. Approximately all the bodies of forcibly disappeared persons were found in an advanced state of decomposition, making identification challenging. Even today, no one knows who they were. Due to the condition of the remains, only a few bodies have been positively identified. The process has been hindered by the lack of dental records, DNA testing facilities, and the deteriorated state of the bodies because the colonizer, Pakistan, did not want the bodies of forcibly disappeared persons to be identified. Hence, various human rights groups and local

activists have accused Pakistani security forces and intelligence agencies of being responsible for these disappearances and extrajudicial killings as part of a systematic genocide of the Baloch nation.

In Balochistan, the local death squads (a term widely used in Balochistan to refer to those indigenous people who are supported by the Pakistani army to kill and forcibly disappear Baloch people) have private jails where many missing persons are kept. These death squads and the Pakistani army forcibly disappeared and buried the mutilated bodies in undisclosed locations in Balochistan. Even today, there might be many undiscovered mass graves in Balochistan. However, due to the presence of the Pakistani army, no one dares to discover the mass graves.

Enforced disappearances and Fake encounters.

Balochistan has become a graveyard for individuals who have fallen victim to extrajudicial killings by the State. According to Article 5 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR), no person shall be subjected to torture or to cruel, inhuman, or degrading treatment or punishment. The State of Pakistan has consistently failed to practice any human rights laws for the Baloch people. The massacre of the Baloch people is not a new phenomenon; however, it was not as systematic in the past. The State's tactics of brutality have evolved over time, beginning with enforced disappearances, followed by the kill-and-dump policy, and later progressing to fake encounters.

The massacre of the Baloch has a long history: according to Asad Rehman, a resident of Punjab who is an eyewitness of the 1973 military oppression in Baluchistan by Zulfiqar Ali Bhutto, more than 2,000 people were forcefully disappeared in Baluchistan, and several others were thrown from helicopters to the ground by Brigadier Tariq Mehmood Shah during 1973-77. Additionally, according to the Asian Human Rights Commission (AHRC), 169 bodies were found in eight mass graves in Tootak, Khuzdar in 2014; more painfully, these bodies were then buried without any DNA tests or identification.

This was neither the first nor the last time. Mass graves were also found in Turbat and Panjgur, Baluchistan. Afterwards, the Baloch genocide was carried out in a systematic manner when forcibly disappeared people were killed in staged encounters in

different regions of Baluchistan. A distressing case occurred in Ziyarat, Baluchistan, where previously forcibly disappeared persons were killed, and the Inter-Services Public Relations (ISPR) labeled them as terrorists.

Shams Satazkai was among the nine people brutally killed in the fake encounters in Zairat. Shams had been forcibly disappeared five years earlier. Another victim was Shehzad Khuda Baksh, who was forcibly disappeared from Musa Colony, Quetta, on June 4, 2022. Salim on April 18, 2022, and Dr. Mukhtar Baloch, who was forcibly disappeared at the Polytechnic College on Saryab Road, Quetta, on June 11. Human rights activists, political parties, and even Baloch students across the country protested and demanded justice. They received nothing but harassment, beatings, and intimidation. Families of victims who were brutally killed in fake encounters staged protests in front of the Red Zone in Quetta for months, but no one listened to their grievances.

Balach Mola Baksh, a 24-year-old boy, was extra judicially killed by the Counter Terrorism Department (CTD) on November 22, 2023. Balach was forcibly abducted late at night from his house, and 10 days later, he was presented to the court, where a magistrate placed Balach under the judicial remand of the CTD for 10 days. Unfortunately, Balach, along with four other previously disappeared persons, was extra judicially killed on the night of the 22nd. The echoes of Balach's sister Najma's screams jolted the city of Turbat. The body of a young boy in a coffin on the streets of Turbat was demanding justice.

Moreover, earlier five young boys who had previously been forcibly disappeared were blown up in a car with their hands tied with ropes in a very cruel manner. This is what systematic genocide looks like. Pakistan now wants to hide his crimes in the shape of staged encounter where missing persons are killed and labelled as terrorist.

Pakistani State's false narrative on Baloch missing persons.

To crush political dissent and indigenous voices, Enforced Disappearance and torture have been used by various states in modern times to terrorize the masses. Following the same path, the failed State of Pakistan has used this tool continuously since the last two decades to crush the movement for an independent sovereign State of Balochistan. Continuing the colonial legacy, rule of law is non-existent in Balochistan, where Baloch people belonging to various fields of life including journalists, political activists, lawyers and students have been abducted by the security forces for the only crime of identifying as Baloch.

The Pakistani State faces a paradox: It can't admit of Balochistan as a colony as per the international political scenario of the 21st century. Neither can it treat the Baloch people as equal citizens of the republic, resulting in contradictory statements by the officials of the State in face saving attempts regarding the case of missing persons in Balochistan.

- The former interim Prime Minister of Pakistan, Anwar ul Haq Kakar demands from the public of Punjab to understand the graveness of the conflict in Balochistan, where a war for independence threatens the interests of the State. Therefore, State forces have to resort to the practice of enforced disappearances

due to the incompetence of Judiciary and Policing System in such desperate times.

- The former interim Spokesperson of the so-called Government of Balochistan, Jan Achakzai claims that these people are not missing but are in the mountains fighting against the State of Pakistan. And the case of missing persons is nothing but complete propaganda.
- The Chief Minister of Balochistan, Sarfaraz Bugti states that most cases of enforced disappearance have been solved. And now only fifty cases remain. (Which, surprisingly, have remained 50 for the last ten years). Mocking the misery of the families by adding that in Balochistan if a husband fights his wife and goes to Karachi then his wife comes forward and claims of him to be missing.

Every new DG ISPR, in his first Press Conference tries to save his image by clinging on either of the above-mentioned claims. Upon close inspection, we shall notice that the State officials are not clear within themselves about their stance on the matter. Their only attempt is to create confusion to hide the truth and brutalities committed by the State institutions in Balochistan.

In order to hide its heinous crimes from the World and its own citizens, it has resorted to a systematic campaign creating false narratives and distorting facts regarding enforced disappearances. Tons of fake accounts can be seen on social media, using abusive language and stating baseless claims regarding enforced disappearances in Balochistan. The main tools, this Propaganda Brigade uses are;

- Abusive language towards the family members of enforcedly disappeared, who dare to raise their voice for their beloveds and ask about their well-being.
- Creating fake and edited images of enforcedly disappeared individuals, trying to build up and propagate the State discourse that they have went to the mountains.
- Creating thousands of bots and fake accounts using the name of Baloch, to misguide the audience about the stance of Baloch masses on this issue.
- Spreading fake news regarding the families of enforcedly disappeared, in attempt to distort their image.
- Spreading hatred regarding Baloch.
- Threating those, who are vocal on social media against War Crimes committed by Pakistan in Balochistan.

Recently, this Propaganda Brigade has mainly targeted the #MarchAgainstBalochGenocide and its leaders to divert the support of the masses for this indigenous movement. But such fake propagation is not able to alter and change the reality about the grave situation of human rights in Balochistan. And we face an urgent responsibility to counter this propaganda brigade by exposing the truth about enforced disappearances and human rights violations in Balochistan. As the mainstream media of Pakistan already observes a media blackout on the Baloch issue, our each and every tweet, statement or post on social media exposing the brutal nature of Pakistani State matters

Psychological impacts of enforced disappearance in Baloch society

Enforced disappearance is defined as an international crime under the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance (ICPPED), the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court (ICC), and the UN Declaration on the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearances. To date, 98 countries have signed the ICPPED. On the other hand, psychology encompasses the complete mental and behavioral life, dealing with how people think and behave. The situation of missing persons has huge impacts on the lives of families whose loved ones are missing.

Psychologically, these include depression, anxiety, post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD), complicated grief, social dysfunctions, and somatic symptoms. Different studies assessing the impact of missing persons and their psychological impacts also conclude that age and gender affect how psychologically a victim suffers. Results conclude that female victims are prone to suffer from stress, more anxiety, and depression. Age also significantly affects psychological suffering, with older women being more vulnerable to traumatic experiences. Women with missing sons are the most vulnerable to depression, PTSD, and anxiety.

However, the extent of hope that the missing person is alive actually shows an association with higher levels of complicated grief. The issue of missing persons is stressful because the victims are confused about whether their loved ones are alive

or not. Recently, Heeke and Knaevelsrud (2015) presented a brief overview of seven quantitative studies focusing on psychopathology after the disappearance of a loved one due to war and State terrorism. They concluded that PTSD, depression, and complicated grief symptoms are common following the disappearance of a loved one, and these symptoms are more severe compared to symptoms observed in people confronted with the death of loved ones. **“The dead don’t haunt me as much as the missing do,”** says Sajid Hussain Baloch. Baloch families, whose loved ones are forcibly disappeared by the Pakistani army, are mentally disabled, tortured, and abnormal.

Some common psychological disorders are mentioned below:

Depression

Research supports the association of missing persons with the depression of family members or significant others. In depression, people lose their hope for life and the future, leading to suicide. Depression extended over a longer period causes insomnia, loss of appetite, and suicidal ideation. Missing a son, brother, or husband—such close relationships that complete one's life—causes an unending hopelessness about loved ones.

Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder

PTSD is the most common disorder in such situations. For instance, a son being dragged and beaten in front of his mother creates an unbearable scene in her mind, causing trauma. PTSD manifests in trauma attacks, lack of sleep, and muteness.

Some people, after the trauma of a missing person, cannot even talk.

Anxiety

Anxiety and increased stress are inevitable, as families anxiously wait to know the whereabouts of their loved ones. They stress by thinking about their beloved ones every day and keep asking the released families about their loved ones. This restlessness causes a rush in the overall physiological body, leading to stomach diseases.

Social Dysfunction

Social dysfunction refers to how a person socially behaves in a human environment. Missing persons' grief and detachment are abnormal. A son growing up in front of his mother and then being miserably abducted and tortured causes a complete disconnection of the victim from society. Conversely, the victim may become more irritable and intolerant over small issues, unable to concentrate on household activities as their mind is preoccupied with the missing loved one.

When we talk about the plight and sufferings of the families of forcibly disappeared persons, we find that these psychological conundrums are desperately common. However, sometimes we cannot even imagine how a family is suffering from psychological trauma or stress, sometimes resulting in death.

The role of Baloch music and poetry in highlighting the plight of the victims of enforced disappearances.

Art is said to be the reflection of a society, representing its diverse culture, ups and downs, nature and daily life of its beings; containing both the moments of happiness, misery and the grey area in between. Revolutionary movements have seen a great role of art and literature in representing the true essence of revolution and motivating the masses for sacrifice and rendering their services for the cause. Some hardcore revolutionaries even suggest weaponizing art and literature for the greater cause of autonomy and revolution.

In the same way, forms of art like poetry and music have been inseparable components of Baloch society from ages. Baloch history has transferred from generation to generation through the means of ballads and epics containing the stories of Baloch heroes and their endeavors. From the historic guerrilla struggle of Baloch Gorgeej to the love and Sufism of Mast Tawkli, poetry and music have been used as a mean to educate the younger generation about their rich history and culture.

In modern times, Shahir-e-Aashob Baba Mubarak Qazi, Manzoor Bismil and various Baloch poets have helped reach the dilemma of enforced disappearance to the width and length of Balochistan. Not only making them aware about the grave issue, but motivating the masses towards action and resistance against the tyrant. Such as Baloch poet, Manzoor Bismil

representing the agony of the families of victims of enforced disappearance pens a poem by the title;

"گار ءِ بیگواہ کُتگیں وهد ءِ نام ءِ"

The poem starts as follows;

من گار ءِ بیگواہیں بچے ءِ
دل شِزردیں ماتاں کہ نالگاہاں
من آجزیں پت
تِلاہیں چُکے ءِ انتزاریگ، تلوسوکیں
گہارکاں بے میاریں ورنائیں براتکے ءِ
کہ وانگ ءِ رُوت، پدا نثیت اِنْت

Modern Baloch poetry is filled with tales of enforced disappearances and the oppressive policies of Pakistani State. Qasum Faraz, a Balochi poet resembles life with a poster of an enforcedly disappeared person attached on the walls of the city in his poem, "زندگی شہر ءِ دیوالاں لچینتگیں پوسٹری". For years, Baloch have been spending their Eid on the roads resisting the tyranny of the State. A Brahvi poet beautifully states the condition as;

ہرا دے نی جشن ءِ خوشی کیسہ
ہمودے ای ہر سال ماتم کرینٹ

To motivate and strengthen the resistance against enforced disappearance, another poet tells;

جيڃا نا حوصله ۽ بندي ڪريس تينا
 تيس چغل سڙڪ آ اميت ۽ ايڙ اسينا
 ونڌي ڪريس پرغاس ني ٿيڪ ۽، باوه سينا
 اُست آن دپرونڪ اُست آ تخس ني تينا

Modern Balochi literature has bravely represented the soul and dynamics of Baloch struggle. Recently, during the #MarchAgainstBalochGenocide, Baloch musicians played a huge role in mobilizing the masses by composing music and songs propagating the struggle of Baloch women, who led this brave struggle. Similarly, we witness that singers like Minhaj Mukhtar, Mir Ahmed, Meeral have become the voice of the Baloch Liberation Struggle. Sending its message to every corner of Balochistan.

In these crucial times, Baloch artists face a huge responsibility in educating, mobilizing and motivating the masses. As their role has helped Baloch nation gain the strength to fight for its liberation and independence, we hope that they shall continue with their efforts in coming future. As the struggle for liberation intensifies, the duties upon artists of our nation shall also increase.

Why Baloch Should Resist the Pakistan's Policy of Enforced Disappearances?

For the Baloch nation, it is desperately essential to resist the colonial tactic of enforced disappearances, as it is the only path to secure their identity. Beyond this, the Baloch, as a nation, will cease to exist. Enforced disappearances have abundant consequences, be they psychological, physical, or mental. It must be reminded that enforced disappearances are not a matter of individual riddles but collective punishment. Pakistan is consciously forcibly disappearing Baloch individuals, especially literate people, in order to paralyze the Baloch nation. One thing is certain: whoever identifies as a Baloch is threatened until the Baloch nation is suffocated or suppressed under the colonial rule of Pakistan. In this situation, it is significantly important for the Baloch nation to resist and face this issue collectively.

However, when we glance over Baloch history, we see that the Baloch have always resisted colonial occupation, whether it be the Portuguese, British colonizers, or others, including the modern colonizer, Pakistan. The Baloch nation has used all possible paths to resist the colonizers who tried to control or occupy their land. Mehrab Khan's army was few in number compared to the British army, which was far more advanced in weaponry. Yet, he chose resistance and embraced martyrdom. Even today, we remember his bravery and love for Gulzameen (Balochistan). Similarly, Agha Abdul Kareem, Babu Noroz, Fida Ahmed, Chairman Ghulam Muhammad, Khair Baksh

Marri, and thousands of others are among those who resisted the colonial rule of Pakistan. Though they resisted Pakistani occupation, enforced disappearances remain a colonial tactic of Pakistan. Resisting enforced disappearances means resisting Pakistani occupation in Balochistan.

Currently, Pakistan is abducting and killing the bold voices and intellectuals of Balochistan. On one hand, Pakistan is making the indigenous Baloch population fearful and dreadful by forcibly disappearing people so they do not resist against Pakistan. On the other, Pakistani military is extra-judicially killing forcibly disappeared persons in fake encounters to paralyze the Baloch nation. But they are unaware that the Baloch nation has a history of resistance. Until the colonial rule of Pakistan ends, the Baloch nation will, by every means, choose the path of resistance.

It has been two decades since the Pakistani military began perpetually and forcibly disappearing Baloch people. To date, thousands of Baloch individuals have been abducted and tortured in dungeons. Hundreds have been killed and buried. As discussed before, extrajudicial killings and fake encounters are vulgar practices occurring on a daily basis by the Pakistani military and death squads. In this situation, there is no other option left for us but to resist.

In colonialism, the neutral (the one who says neither I am on the side of the colonizer nor the colonized) does not exist. In a colony, there exist only two kinds of people: the colonizer or settler and the colonized or the slave. The indigenous person who labels himself or herself as neutral means they have taken the side of the colonizer, since they are encouraging the

colonial power to kill and suppress the colonized. Therefore, for a colonized nation that wants to live freely beyond any oppression, resistance is a must.

In conclusion, the Baloch people must not only resist the policy of enforced disappearances by Pakistan but also all colonialist policies such as the fencing of Balochistan, military barbarism, extrajudicial executions, fake encounters, and exploitation of Balochistan's resources by utilizing every possible means. Resistance alone can save our fate and our Gulzameen.

Motives of BSO-AZAD's decision of 8 June as Baloch Missing Persons Day.

The motives behind the decision of BSO Azad to adopt 8 June, the day on which Zakir Majeed, former vice chairman of Baloch Students Organization Azad, was abducted, as the day of Baloch Missing Persons are due to the severity of the cases of Baloch missing persons and particularly the abduction of a well-known leader like Zakir Majeed. He was one of the important contributors to the cause of the Baloch nation, a strong voice for the national consciousness of the Baloch nation, and a vocal opponent of the injustice of the Pakistani state, which has adopted a policy of abducting everyone who raises their voice for the families of the Baloch missing persons. Zakir Majeed held circles and gatherings to raise awareness among the nation about the brutal policies of the Pakistani state, which has been involved in serious crimes against the Baloch nation.

BSO-AZAD has been one of the vocal voices for the liberation of the Balochistan, and for the last twenty years, after more than two decades, the organization has stood firm against the occupation of Baloch land by the Pakistani barbaric state. To weaken BSO and the cause of the Baloch liberation movement, the state has adopted multiple tactics, which involve both soft and hard targets, to stop people from dreaming of freedom from the occupation by the Pakistani state. In this regard, the state initiated the policy of enforced disappearances around 2005, targeting primarily the leadership of BSO-AZAD due to their ideological clarity regarding the Baloch cause. Similarly, other Baloch who dared to speak against the injustices inflicted

on them, speak out for their basic rights, or participate in political actions for the restoration of their freedom were daily abducted by the hands of agencies and forces.

Later on, this became an active policy of the agency and army, when the state started a policy of kill and dump after enforced disappearances. The first victims of the state's kill-and-dump policy in enforced disappearances were the chairman of BNM, Martyr Ghulam Mohammad, Lala Munir, and Sher Mohammad, who were well-known politicians of the Baloch liberation movement and were abducted during a raid in Turbat. The state's policy of enforced disappearances widened with each passing day. For example, the state began to kill missing persons and dispose of their mutilated bodies to frighten the Baloch nation so they would avoid demanding their rightful freedom. After that, the state commenced another policy of killing and placing the missing persons in mass graves, which were discovered in multiple areas of Balochistan. In addition, the state started another policy within enforced disappearances: killing forcibly disappeared persons in fake encounters. Multiple such staged fake encounters were conducted by the military to suppress the voice of the Baloch nation, one of which later became the reason for the historic long march from Turbat to Islamabad.

In response to this drastic application of the policy of enforced disappearances, the leadership of BSO decided to establish a remembrance day to honor all those who have endured the state's policy of enforced disappearances. Every other day, some Baloch goes missing, and if they are later released, their psychological and mental conditions do not remain the same as

before. Therefore, it is important to remember their struggle for the bright future of the Baloch nation.

What Human Rights groups can do to prevent Enforced Disappearances in Balochistan?

With the established hegemony of the liberal World Order, we have seen numerous NGOs and agencies working in war-torn and conflict-ridden areas scattered across the vastness of Asia and Africa in an attempt to defend the so-called basic human rights. The doctrine of human rights seems quite attractive and elegant in press briefings and publicity stunts. But, unfortunately, in the so-called 21st century of equality and freedom, human rights are non-existent in the underdeveloped world. Balochistan faces the same fate. As a colony of Pakistan, Baloch people are considered lesser beings by the state machinery and forces, causing an acute violation of the “human rights” of Baloch people.

By human rights, we refer to the basic understanding of the United Nations on the matter:

“Human rights are rights we have simply because we exist as human beings - they are not granted by any state. These universal rights are inherent to us all, regardless of nationality, sex, national or ethnic origin, color, religion, language, or any other status. They range from the most fundamental - the right to life - to those that make life worth living, such as the rights to food, education, work, health, and liberty. The Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR), adopted by the UN General Assembly in 1948, was the first legal document to set out the fundamental human rights to be universally protected. The UDHR, together with the two covenants - the

International Covenant for Civil and Political Rights, and the International Covenant for Economic, Social and Cultural Rights - make up the International Bill of Rights.”

Pakistan has been committing serious war crimes to maintain Balochistan as a colony since March 27, 1948. Apart from fundamentals like the right to education, health, etc., Baloch people are deprived of their basic right to life while confronting a genocide, of which enforced disappearance is the most used tactic. Baloch people have bravely resisted the denial of their basic right to life by organizing protests, demonstrations, sit-ins, a long march on foot led by Mama Qadeer in 2014, and a long march by the Baloch Yakjehti Committee led by Dr. Mahrang Baloch recently. But due to its colonial psychological makeup and the nature of its violent relation with Balochistan, these protesting voices have been dealt with sheer force and violence. The inhumane policies and human rights violations of security forces continue in Balochistan while the world witnesses a genocide silently.

Balochistan has long been marked as an untouchable land for journalists and other working groups on human rights by Pakistan to hide its war crimes committed in the region. Those indigenous voices who dare to break these shackles of silence bear the same fate of being killed in a targeted encounter or forcibly disappeared. In some cases, a mere tweet or status on social media can arouse trouble for you. We believe that the situation has worsened to this extent because of the negligence of human rights organizations. To date, none of the perpetrators and murderers of Baloch people have been held accountable. The silence of the world on this matter has strengthened the security forces to continue the escalation.

Be it international human rights organizations or the human rights groups and NGOs working in Pakistan. We have only witnessed a token support from these groups. It seems that either they are in fear about themselves, or silent supporters of the acts committed in Balochistan or Baloch lives simply do not matter for them. We urge to all human rights organizations to take active action in support of the indigenous Baloch movement against the human rights violations in Balochistan to hold the culprits accountable. Because, this rogue state has no limits, and if let loose, it aims to erase Baloch identity from the Face of the Earth.

Conclusion

In the above-provided content, the issue of enforced disappearances has been highlighted with multiple facts and areas, showing the extent to which, the issue exists in our society and the scale at which the security agencies of the Pakistani state are involved in the mass genocide of the Baloch nation through the policy of enforced disappearances. It is no longer a secret that the security agencies are largely involved in cases of enforced disappearances and that the state is doing this with impunity. Multiple human rights organizations, parliamentarians, different parties of the so-called Pakistani federation, and multiple journalists have recorded the high level of Pakistani brutality in Balochistan, particularly the policy of enforced disappearances to counter the ongoing Baloch national movement. The state is using the Baloch movement as an excuse to target the national identity of the Baloch. Hundreds of people in Balochistan have been killed for the sole crime of being Baloch, and the state continues to widen its range of brutalization in Balochistan until it is stopped by international institutions.

A matter of concern is that now China, one of the emerging economies of the world and an expansionist state on the global stage, is supporting the Pakistani state with multiple funding sources to use brute force against the Baloch nation. In this regard, the role of human rights organizations, particularly the United Nations and other civilized world bodies, becomes more important to stop China and Pakistan from engaging in the ethnic cleansing of the Baloch nation. Alongside enforced disappearances, the Pakistani state is using multiple other tactics to suppress the Baloch nation. With Chinese investment

coming into Balochistan, the Pakistani state has expanded the scale of aggression and brutalization of the Baloch nation, as the interests of both states are to clear the Baloch people from their motherland. In this situation, it is very important for the international community to take a firm stand against the Pakistani state, which is involved in gross human rights violations in Balochistan. This booklet is an example of how the state policy of enforced disappearances, along with multiple other policies, poses a danger to the Baloch nation.

With that, 8 June is an important day, as the Baloch nation will remember their people on this day and vow to continue their struggle for the safe return of their loved ones from the hands of the security agencies. 8 June will always be a part of Baloch history, containing an important chapter. On this day, every Baloch person who was targeted based on their national identity will be remembered in the chapters of the history of the Baloch nation.

8 JUNE BALOCH MISSING PERSONS DAY

8 June is a significant day in the modern history of the Baloch nation. On this day, the Baloch nation, with pride and sorrow, remembers the youth, women, children, and elders who endure the brutality of Pakistani occupation in the torture cells of the occupying army. 8 June is also the day when the most beloved Baloch leader, Zakir Majeed, was abducted and never brought before any court of law. His fate remain untraceable .

BSO-AZAD announced this day to remember all forcibly disappeared Baloch individuals who have been abducted and tortured. Some of them were released after severe torture, some returned as dead bodies, some were killed in fake encounters, and thousands remain in prison with no trace. Meanwhile, every day, many more get abducted in Balochistan. On this day, we remember all those who faced the state's barbaric policy of enforced disappearances.