

Report of the Webinar
On
Balochistan's Independence Movement: Prospects and Challenges
On dated 09.09.2020

Brimming with natural resources, sparsely populated but a highly significant region from a strategic point of view, Baluchistan has been struggling for freedom and her rights for the past seventy years. Officially, Baluchistan became an independent country on August 11, 1947, but her new-found freedom was short-lived, as on March 27, 1948, Pakistan waged an attack on Baluchistan annexed her territory. In 1948, a rebellion against Pakistan was initiated by Hibaluch Awam in the form of an armed struggle against the Pakistani Army, which continues to this day. Rather, one can say that the Baluchis have been fighting their war of independence since 1948. The Pakistani army has always tried to crush the Baloch Movement (Balochistan's Independence Movement) by employing brute force. Economically and socially, Balochistan is among the most backward states of Pakistan. Even in terms of education, the Baloch community is lagging behind. Their participation in the public life of Pakistan is almost negligible. Pakistan has only exploited the people of Balochistan, and, in fact, the Pakistani army has been tormenting the Baloch frequently. It is noteworthy that since 2010, Pakistani Taliban and the hardliner Sunni groups have also intensified their attacks on the people of Balochistan, as a result of which the very existence and identity of the Balochs has become endangered. It is estimated that these attacks have killed and displaced thousands of Baloch people. In the present situation, the people of Balochistan are ready to give up their lives fighting Pakistan's torture and exploitation, but not willing to bow down to Pakistani supremacy. The Baloch leaders are leading this movement of freedom from various parts of the world under various banners. Continuing in the same vein, it was indeed a historical moment when Baloch leaders from all over the world united on the demand of a free Balochistan on September 9, 2020 and indeed intensified the Balochistan liberation movement. **Forum for National Awareness and Security (FANS)** has played an unprecedented and historical role in bringing together Baloch leaders from across the world on a common platform (**International Webinar – Balochistan's Independence Movement: Prospects and Challenges**). In the webinar, all Baloch leaders came together and raised their voices for independent Balochistan. Also, for the first time, a common consensus was developed among all the leaders on the formation of a government in exile.

Balochs are of the opinion that they will fight Pakistan army's oppressiveness tooth and nail, and will emerge with greater strength to fight against their oppressors, who use violence against the vulnerable lot of the Baloch women and children. Balochs make a loud proclamation about their demand for freedom and their course of action: if Pakistan is hell-bent on ending their existence, what else are they supposed to do? The Balochs have endeavoured to fight till their last breath, raze the Pakistani oppression to dust, and establish an Independent Balochistan.

Shri Indresh Kumar Ji (Patron and Member of All India Executive Board of Rashtriya Swayamsewak Sangh)

Holding Pakistan responsible for the numerous, continued atrocities on Baloch citizens, the Baloch leaders and the organizations, in unison, have called for strong action in taking the Balochistan liberation movement ahead. For a long time, the people of Baluchistan, in a bid to take their movement ahead, have been narrating the story of Pakistan's oppression on their country around the world, including the United Nations. In fact, time and again, India has also attempted to draw the attention of the entire world to this issue. Pakistan was formed after the partition of the country, which was further divided in 1971. Today, Pakistan is on the verge of another partition, and stands the risk of getting subdivided into five or six parts. In the present scenario, Balochistan, Pashtunistan and Sindh want to separate themselves from Pakistan. It is evident from the present situation that in the coming times, Pakistan's geography and demography will undergo decisive changes.

At the time of partition, Baluchistan had expressed their unwillingness to join Pakistan to the British government. But Mohammed Ali Jinnah and the British diplomatically overtook it through a military invasion, and since 1948, Balochistan has been fighting for an independent Balochistan. Pakistan is persecuting the people of Balochistan and even China is lending support to Pakistan in this inhuman act. So far Pakistan has killed millions of people in Balochistan. Thousands of people have been abducted and are being brutally tortured. Pakistan's army has killed millions of Baloch civilians with tankers and canons and uprooted millions of Baloch people. Many Baloch people have been exiled, and live in India and other parts of the world, and are fighting for an independent Balochistan. Baloch and Pashtun leaders do not want to join Pakistan. They have voiced their opinions and expressed their willingness to either join India or to acquire the status of independent entities. The Baloch people had clearly stated their opinion at the time of the Partition too, but unfortunately, they

were not heard. Hence, the people of Balochistan started raising their voices for their identity and dignity.

It is the need of the hour that all the leaders of the Balochistan Liberation Movement unite to carry their campaign forward, and, in fact, all Indians are in support of their campaign. We are certain that a day will arrive when all Baloch people will surely witness their movement bearing fruits, and their dream of an independent Baluchistan becoming a reality. All Baloch leaders and organizations associated with the liberation movement should join hands like the leaders of Tibet, who united owing to the sheer barbarity and torture of China, and successfully established their government in exile. Three salient suggestions were made to ensure the success of this movement. Firstly, all Baloch leaders should choose a common leader and decide a country where they can take refuge after extensive discussions amongst themselves. Secondly, Baloch leadership should initiate a serious dialogue with other nations of the world to gain recognition for their plight and their freedom movement. Thirdly, they should agree upon a flag, a slogan, a legislation and a common program. Baloch leaders must ponder over the aforementioned issues seriously, decide on a shared goal and only then take any steps forward. Only by making concrete decisions can the Balochistan independence movement be made successful in a short span of time. In order to do so, the common agenda and the roadmap should be framed, so that all Baloch leaders can remain united and take the worldwide campaign ahead. The manner in which the Baloch people have been struggling and sacrificing for their independence is exemplary and it can successfully be carried forward only by staying united.

Shri Golok Bihari Rai (General Secretary, Forum for National Awareness)

A united voice should be raised in support of the Balochistan Liberation Movement. Present day Balochistan has been a part of an erstwhile, larger India. Balochistan has always been associated with Vedic culture. The Marathi people have had an unbreakable relationship with the Balochs. The struggle of the Balochs has been continuing ceaselessly since the time of the partition. Despite this, the Baloch people have upheld their identity and are struggling for their freedom. Pakistan has been oppressing Balochistan for many years. That the Pakistan army tortures Baloch people in their detention camps is a fact that is not hidden from anyone. Those who raise their voices for the independence of Balochistan are persecuted. It has always been Pakistan's intention to destroy the Baloch identity. The Baloch people have

always tried their best to stay away from religious bigotry. However, the martyrdom of former Baloch leaders will not go in vain. The martyrdom of a leader like Akbar Khan Bugti will add further force and strength to this movement. All Baloch leaders and activists should decide on one leader and one program with mutual consent so as to steer this movement towards a successful end.

Professor Nyla Kadri Baloch (President, Baloch People's Congress, Canada)

For the past several decades, the government and fundamentalists of Pakistan have strongly oppressed the Baloch people in Balochistan. Despite this, the Baloch have never admitted to be slaves to Pakistan or Iran. The repression of and atrocities on Balochs by Pakistan still continues. Baloch, Pashtun and Baltistan are not happy in Pakistan, and all of them want freedom from Pakistan. India is also facing the poison of Pakistan sponsored terrorism. Today, more than ever, there is an urgent need to work on a united strategy and forge an exemplary solidarity.

The Balochs are now trying to form a government in exile, which will strengthen the voice of the Baloch people and lead to the success of the Liberation Movement. The voice of the Balochs has gained strength from India and this cooperation will hopefully continue. The three enemies of the Balochs are Pakistan, Iran and China. All of them are conspiring against Balochistan. Despite the hurdles, the Balochs are strong and resolute in continuing their movement. In present times, everyday, several people are killed in Balochistan and the ones who can become the voice of the Balochs are being executed publicly. The Balochs are sacrificing relentlessly to save their country and their identity. A Baloch government in exile is needed for a complete freedom from this persecution and oppression of the Balochs by Pakistan. For this, many countries of the world, including India, have been contacted. We will form a committee and contact all the organizations and decide the outline of the government in exile. Our effort is to constitute a government in exile in India. We are hopeful that we will get continued support from India in our future plans. In this manner, we will be able to organize and fight the battle for the identity of the Balochs.

The exiled government will work peacefully and independence will definitely be achieved for Balochistan. We beseech India to support the Baloch movement as well as the exiled government. We also appeal to India to strengthen their voice in the United Nations so that the Baloch people can be liberated from the barbarity of Pakistan.

Hakim Baloch (Baloch National Movement, UK)

Pakistan has already committed enormous brutality on Balochistan. The Balochistan Liberation Movement gained momentum in the last decade of the twentieth century. The motive behind this movement has been the liberation from the invasion and oppression of Pakistan. If the Baloch movement had received support from the entire world, the situation would have been very different today. The Baloch youth have struggled hard and fought a long battle by persistently raising their voice against Pakistan. I would like to highlight that Pakistan has prohibited this movement, but the youth are still struggling to raise their voice strongly. This movement now needs to be more vocal at the international level to highlight the barbarity, the atrocities and the brutality of Pakistan. This movement is for an independent Balochistan and it needs cooperation and strong support from other countries including India.

Fahim Baloch (Baloch Human Rights Activist, UK)

Fahim Baloch laid special emphasis on the protection of the human rights of the Baloch people. In recent times, Pakistani rulers have instituted a new policy whereby they are encouraging the settlement of people from outside Pakistan so as to forcefully change the demography of Balochistan. The reason cited for this, however, was the low literacy rate and the dearth of skilled people in Balochistan. Under the garb of this project, Pakistan has made the Baloch a minority in many regions. At the beginning, the Britishers divided Balochistan into several regions, after which Pakistan started its persecution and oppression on the Baloch people. Every other day, the army of Pakistan kidnaps innocent Baloch people and executes them. The rate of vandalism is so high that the houses of thousands of Baloch people have been destroyed and their property damaged. Pakistan continuously violates basic human rights in Balochistan. Every Baloch citizen is guilty in the eyes of Pakistan and the Pakistani Army and ought to be punished!

Pakistan has created such a miserable condition in Balochistan that the illiteracy rate is at its peak. Even basic education is not available to the Baloch children. The Pakistani army has completely destroyed the educational system in Balochistan. People living around the CPEC Corridor are forcibly being displaced and even abducted. Some other countries are also involved in these conspiracies. The Baloch movement intensified when Pakistan handed over a large part of their land to China. China wants to establish a critical Economic Corridor in

Pakistan connecting its southern provinces, the construction of which began in 2002. However, the federal government of Pakistan has complete control over it. Only Chinese engineers and labourers have been employed in the construction project. The Baloch people are almost kept out of it. The surrounding lands of the Baloch people have also been taken over by the government officials and offered to China for huge profits.

The economic condition of the people in this area, which is abundant in natural resources, is very poor. Even today, people are devoid of basic facilities. In the name of Gwadar Port Development, China has established its control over this region which abounds in rich natural resources. The world should interfere in the matter of the people being abducted on an everyday basis in Baluchistan. In this case, Pakistan should be held responsible and exposed to the world community. Pressure from the international community should be put on Pakistan so that the truth of the missing Baloch people can be revealed to the world.

It must be noted that the entire area of Balochistan extends to south-west Pakistan, south-eastern province of Iran and Baluchistan and Balochistan province of Afghanistan, but most of its territory is under the occupation of Pakistan, which is almost 44 percent of the total area of Pakistan. A large section of the Baloch population lives in this area. It is also the poorest and the most neglected area. In simple language, Iran has occupied the south-eastern part of Balochistan, Afghanistan the south-western part and Pakistan has occupied the western part. The largest part is almost in the possession of Pakistan. Pakistan's accusation against India for instigating a rebellion in Balochistan is completely baseless and a new tactic related to the anti-India campaign started by Pakistan to divert the attention of the world. However, the Baloch liberation movement has also had some shortcomings. Up until now, the Baloch leaders have not yet come up with an alternative blue print of the government. Secondly, the leadership associated with the Baloch movement has been divided. However, many of these have found political refuge in other countries; some are in the UK, some in Europe, some are in the US and some in other countries. These people are not unanimous on important issues and they also lack any concrete political or economic programs. But after this **international webinar**, all Baloch leaders have joined in a positive initiative and have resolved to unite and lay emphasis on taking the Balochistan Liberation Movement ahead.