



Refugee Documentation Centre (Ireland)
LEGAL AID BOARD

Q11130 - Pakistan - Researched and compiled by the Refugee Documentation Centre of Ireland on 28 October 2009

Pakistan: Whether supporters, members or active members of Jamhoori Watan Party, Balochistan, are at risk of ill-treatment. Past ill-treatment of supporters, members or active members of Jamhoori Watan Party, Balochistan.

A report by *Amnesty International* under the heading 'Background Information' states:

"Balochistan is one of the least-developed regions of Pakistan, although it is the site of the country's principal natural gas installation. The Jamhoori Watan Party is one of a number of Baloch parties campaigning for the region to be better developed, and for local people to be given both a bigger share of the revenue from the gas produced in the province, and more access to the gas itself for cooking and heating. Following a December 2005 attempt on President Musharraf's life a military operation was launched in Balochistan. Baloch political activists have campaigned over recent allegations of the unlawful killing of villagers by the army in Balochistan." (Amnesty International (5 May 2006) *Disappearance"/Fear of torture and ill-treatment*)

A report by *Amnesty International* under the heading 'Silencing Victims Of Enforced Disappearance' states:

"Saleem Baloch, senior vice-president of a political party in Balochistan, called the Jamhoori Watan Party, on 20 December 2006 reported at a press conference organized by the HRCP about his recent enforced disappearance. According to the affidavit that he submitted in the Sindh High Court on 29 December 2006, he had been picked up on 10 March 2006 in Lyari, Karachi, by intelligence agents and uniformed police in front of many local people. He described being held in an undeclared, underground place of detention in Karachi, along with another person picked up on the same day, Saeed Brohi. On 19 April 2006, the two men were transferred to a secret detention place in the Punjab, then frequently transferred again - one place, he stated in his affidavit, was close to an airport where planes could be heard taking off and landing. He mentioned that the transfers were carried out by an army officer driving the car and that he saw several other persons subjected to enforced disappearance in detention. On 14 December, he was taken by train back to Karachi, where he was released two days later. According to his affidavit, Saleem Baloch was frequently deprived of sleep and questioned about his own family members. The reason for Saleem Baloch's enforced disappearance is unclear. In a petition filed by Saleem Baloch's family in the Sindh High Court in May 2006, he was unlawfully detained to punish him for having attended the High Court hearings of another victim of enforced disappearance from Balochistan, Abdul Rauf Sasoli, whose name is on

the list pending before the Supreme Court and whose whereabouts have not yet been established.” (Amnesty International (July 2008) *Denying The Undeniable: Enforced Disappearance In Pakistan* pg. 28)

It also states:

“Saleem Baloch expressed his fear at the HRCP press conference on 20 December 2006 that he might be picked up again as he had been warned not to approach the media or civil society groups and sought the protection of the court. This fear proved well-founded. He was rearrested by government agencies on 31 December 2006 in front of many people and subjected to enforced disappearance again. In January 2007, the HRCP urged authorities to release him; his name was listed in the petition filed in the Supreme Court in February 2007. Nothing was known about his fate and whereabouts until he was released on 11 October 2007 and the Attorney General informed the Supreme Court about his release.” (ibid)

A report by the *International Crisis Group* under the heading ‘Pakistan: The Forgotten Conflict in Balochistan’ states:

“Instead of redressing Baloch political and economic grievances, the military is determined to impose state control through force. The killing of the Baloch leader Nawab Akbar Khan Bugti by the army in August 2006 was followed by the incarceration of another, Sardar Akhtar Jan Mengal, who has been held on terrorism-related charges without due process since December. Law enforcement agencies have detained thousands of Baloch nationalists or those believed to be sympathetic to the cause; many have simply disappeared. With the nationalist parties under siege, many young activists are losing faith in the political process and now see armed resistance as the only viable way to secure their rights.” (International Crisis Group (22 October 2007) *Pakistan: The Forgotten Conflict in Balochistan*)

A report by the *Asian Centre for Human Rights (India)* under the heading ‘Disappearances as a direct consequence of arbitrary arrest, illegal detention and torture’ states:

“On 1 August 2007, Chief Justice of Pakistan Iftikhar Muhammad Chaudhry issued suo motu notices to Chief Secretary and Provincial Police Officer of Balochistan on the rising number of disappearances of political activists in Balochistan. The next date of hearing of the case is 15 August 2007. [164] The Balochs have been targeted for raising their voices against discrimination and deprivation by the establishment in Islamabad. Arbitrary arrest, torture and disappearance of the Balochis have been reported extensively. The relatives of the nationalist leaders and political workers of Balochistan have been specifically targeted by the secret agencies” (Asian Centre for Human Rights (India) (7 August 2007) *Pakistan: The Land of Religious Apartheid and Jackboot Justice*)

It also states:

“The government also imposed severe restrictions on the freedom of movement of the Balochi leaders. On 1 May 2006, The Dawn reported that the Ministry of Interior had placed a number of Baloch nationalist leaders on the exit control list preventing them from traveling abroad. They included Balochistan National Party chief Akhtar Mengal, BNP Senator Sanaullah Baloch and MNA Abdul Rauf Mengal, Senator Agha Shahid Bugti of the Jamhoori Watan Party, JWP leader Amanullah Kanrani, Dera Bugti District Nazim Mohammad Kazim Bugti, Kohlu District Nazim Ali Gul Mari and Mir Sher Ali Mazari, nephew of Nawab Akbar Bugti.” (ibid)

References:

Amnesty International (23 July 2008) *Denying The Undeniable: Enforced Disappearance In Pakistan* pg. 28)

<http://www.amnesty.org/en/library/asset/ASA33/018/2008/en/0de43038-57dd-11dd-be62-3f7ba2157024/asa330182008eng.pdf>

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This response was prepared after researching publicly accessible information currently available to the Refugee Documentation Centre within time constraints. This response is not and does not purport to be conclusive as to the merit of any particular claim to refugee status or asylum. Please read in full all documents referred to.

Sources Consulted:

Amnesty International

Asian Centre for Human Rights (India)

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BBC News

Electronic Immigration Network

European Country of Origin Information Network
Human Rights Watch
Immigration and Refugee Board of Canada
IRIN News
International Crisis Group
Refugee Documentation Centre Query Database
United Kingdom Home Office
United States Department of State