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Written statement* submitted by Tumuku Development and Cultural Union (TACUDU), a non-governmental organization in special consultative status

The Secretary-General has received the following written statement which is circulated in accordance with Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/31.

[13 May 2022]

^{*} Issued as received, in the language of submission only. The views expressed in the present document do not necessarily reflect the views of the United Nations or its officials.

Enforced disappearances in Balochistan

Written statement

50th regular session of the Human Rights Council (13 Jun - 08 Jul 2022

Agenda Item 3

Enforced disappearances in Balochistan

The Tumuku Development and Cultural Union would like to draw the council's attention to the aspect of the human rights violation in Balochistan concerning the phenomenon of enforced disappearances and extra-judicial killings perpetrated by the security forces of Pakistan and its auxiliary para-military forces.

In the protracted conflict between Baloch and Pakistan, the state uses enforced disappearances and illegal detentions as tools against the Baloch national resistance. Security forces and 'Death Squads' abduct political activists, poets, students, journalists, intellectuals, and human rights activists (Death Squads are gangs of anti-social and extremist religious elements organized by state security agencies in Balochistan). They keep them in illegal detention, inflict inhuman torture and then dump their mutilated bodies in remote and desolate areas in Balochistan. We would like to mention the details of enforced disappearances and cases of mutilated bodies during April 2022. According to data verified by various human rights organizations, including the Baloch Human Rights Council, 33 persons went missing, seven mutilated bodies were recovered, and security forces killed 7 seven people extra-judicially.

On April 1, 2022: Two persons named Wasim Ahmad, son of Salim and Muhammad, son of Ghaffar, went missing from the Gobord area of Mand, Kech district.

Kamalan, son of Muhim Jan of Tagran, Kech district, kidnapped by the security forces and missing from August 26, 2021, is now claimed by the counter-terrorism department as being held on terrorism charges in Mach area Bolan district. In the same manner, two persons, Ahmad, son of Delwash and Hafiz, son of Delwash residents of Aapsar, Kech district, were picked up by unknown persons believed to be members of a death squad on December 24, 2021, and became missing since then were formally declared arrested by the counter-terrorism department in the Naseerabad district of Balochistan.

On April 2, 2022: Security forces kidnapped Lal Muhammad of Bagbana, Zehri area of Khuzdar. His whereabouts remain unknown to his family members.

On April 3, 2022: Security forces killed three persons in the Nag area of Washuk district of Balochistan on Saturday. The deceased were named Awaz, son of Imam Bakhsh, Ilyas, son of Bashir and Akber, son of Dosta.

Security forces killed Sekindar, son of Chairman Dost Muhammad, a Gomazi, Kech district resident, on the same day.

On April 5, 2022: An unidentified mutilated body was recovered from the Hazar Ganji area of Quetta district. Unidentified mutilated bodies are generally believed to be the missing persons abducted by the death squads.

On April 6, 2022: The death squad members picked up three persons named Nabi Bakhsh, son of Bahram; Rostum, son of Karim; Raziq, son of Barkat; and Shahdad, son of Murad Ali. Their whereabouts are unknown.

Dr Jameel Baloch, an MPhil scholar at the FPV university Malaysia, became the latest victim of enforced disappearances when he was picked up by the security forces from the Barkhan district of Balochistan.

On April 8, 2022: An unidentified dead body was recovered from the Parom area of the Panjgur district. Such bodies are believed to be missing persons.

A father was killed along with his son by the security forces during a raid on his house in the Kandari area of the Awaran district named Answer alias Haibethan.

On April 9, 2022: Iqbal and Azeem belonging to the Kilkoar area of Kech district, went missing when the security agencies picked them up during a raid. Their whereabouts remain unknown.

Gulzar, son of Abdul Gafoor, was abducted from his home in the Khuzdar district by the death squad members operating in the area.

On April 13, 2022: Lala Arshad, son of Muhammad Hussain of Lyari Karachi, became the victim of enforced disappearances. He is believed to be affiliated with the Baloch national struggle.

Six persons from the Gomazi village of Kech district abducted by the death squad affiliated with security forces were named Mahboob, son of Sheran, Shoab, son of Muhammad, Wajo, son of Wahid, Farid, son of Yunus, Mubarak, son of Dilmurad and Akber.

In a gruesome act, the security forces put sands in the radiators of nearly two hundred vehicles carrying fuel from a frontier region. The drivers and passengers walked without water a long distance in the desert and desolate area before reaching the Nokundi town. As a result, many suffered from thirst, hunger, and heat strokes.

On April 14, 2022: Security forces opened fire in Chagai on demonstrators protesting against the security forces' action when they disabled nearly 200 vehicles in a desolate area of the Chagai district. As a result, one person, Hamidullah, was killed, and several others received bullet injuries.

On April 15, 2022: Three dead bodies of the drivers forced to walk in the desert on April 13 in the Chagai district were recovered. They died of thirst and heat strokes.

On April 18, 2022: Salem, son of Karim Bakhsh, a resident of Gaddagi (Balgatar) of Panjgur district, was picked up by the security forces from a Quetta bound bus. However, his family has not been informed of his whereabouts.

On April 20, 2022: After a Counter-Terrorism Department (CTD) raid on a house in Hub Chowki, the missing person was named Safi, son of Master Abdul Razzaq, resident of Vashbud, Panjgur district of Balochistan.

On April 21, 2022: Unidentified shooters gunned down a footballer, Dad Jan, son of Inayat, in Panjgur district. His relatives blame the security forces affiliated death squad for his murder.

On April 22, 2022: The mutilated and bullet-ridden dead body of Zubair s/o Ismail, resident of Sirinkan, Kech district, was recovered from the Turbat area of the community. He was believed to be abducted by the army affiliated death squad operating in the area.

Security forces raided the house of the missing person Rashid Hussain and picked up his father, brother-in-law and his teenage nephew. They have been kept incommunicado since.

On April 23, 2022: An unidentified dead body was recovered in a desolate area of Toak, Kalat district. Such bodies are believed to be of the missing persons.

A farmer, Sona Khan Bremani of Dhadar district, went missing along with his brother. He is believed to be picked up by the security forces.

On April 24, 2022: Three persons from Kech district, namely Naseem, son of Lal Bakhsh, Majid, son of Lal Bakhsh and Doulat, son of Muhammad Ali, went missing after security forces accompanied by the death squad personnel picked them up from Askani Bazar Turbat.

On April 26, 2022: Waseem, son of Baba Shoukat from the Gobord (Mand) area of Kech district, went missing after security forces picked him up at the Dokoap checkpoint.

On April 27, 2022: Karachi based security forces picked up Dr Dildar Baloch, a consultant medical doctor in the Kech district (Balochistan). However, his family members are not being informed about his whereabouts. Dr Dildar is the organizer of the Baloch Doctor's Forum. Dr Dildar was later released after strong protests from the doctor's community and political parties.

Unknown armed men in civilian clothes picked up a Baloch student named Beebagr, son of Imdad of Kech district, from the premises of Punjab University at Lahore.

On April 29, 2022: Security forces abducted Saeed, son of Muhammad Omar, a resident of Dasht, Kech district of Balochistan, from Malir (Karachi). His whereabouts are still unknown.

On April 30, 2022: Najeeb, son of Rasheed, a resident of the Buleda area of district Kech (Balochistan), became the victim of enforced disappearances when security forces picked him up in the Gulshan Iqbal area of Karachi. He is an M.Phil. scholar and a teacher at the University of Karachi.

Security forces also picked up another student belonging to the Nal area of Balochistan in a Karachi raid. The student was named Shoab, son of Azum

According to the United Nations General Assembly resolutions, such actions of Pakistani security forces and its auxiliary organizations come into war crimes. We believe that the gross violation of human rights in Balochistan needs immediate attention and intervention from the international community. Balochistan has been an undeclared no-go area for international media for the last two decades. As a result, news of human rights violations is not getting out of Balochistan. The UN should immediately send a fact-finding mission to Balochistan to ascertain the gravity of the situation.

-Union of North West Human Rights Organisation -Arrocom International -Dynamic Action Group, NGO(s) without consultative status, also share the views expressed in this statement.