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**Promotion and protection of all human rights, civil,
political, economic, social and cultural rights,
including the right to development**

Written statement* submitted by International Career Support Association, 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.

[25 May 2025]

* Issued as received, in the language of submission only.



China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) in Balochistan Province of Pakistan: A tale of exploitation and repression of Indigenous people of Balochistan Province of Pakistan

Balochistan province of Pakistan is Pakistan's poorest and least populous region despite being rich in natural resources. Pakistan has long been exploiting Balochistan province of Pakistan's resources and perpetrating an unrelenting repression against the indigenous people of Balochistan province of Pakistan.

While the ongoing China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) project in Balochistan province of Pakistan remains a tool for Pakistan to assert greater control over the province, China's presence in the region has further marginalized the Baloch people and deepened the Human Rights crisis. Chinese companies and Pakistan's government are benefiting from Gwadar Port and associated projects, with contracts awarded to non-Baloch firms and the majority of labor drawn from outside the province. Balochistan province of Pakistan's natural resources are being exploited by outsiders, whether Punjabis or Chinese, while the local gets no benefits.

Under the direct supervision of the Pakistan Army, large-scale land acquisitions have displaced communities without proper compensation or consent. Reports indicate that confiscated land has been leased to Chinese enterprises, further exacerbating concerns over resource exploitation. Government officials, along with select collaborators, have taken control of vast coastal areas, including lagoons and foreshores, restricting access to vital livelihoods such as fishing. The entire 700-kilometer coastal belt of Balochistan province of Pakistan is now heavily militarized, with security checkpoints and fenced beaches infringing on the rights of local fisherfolk.

The military's land-grabbing policies, initiated two decades ago continue unabated, rapidly transforming indigenous territories into military cantonments. Alarm over these actions has even reached Pakistan's judiciary—in April 2021, Lahore High Court Chief Justice Mohammad Qassim Khan publicly condemned the situation, stating that "the Army seems to have become the biggest land grabber in the country. The uniform of the Army is for service and not to rule as a king." (*1)

As CPEC progresses, its implementation raises urgent questions about land rights, environmental degradation, and the militarization of Balochistan province of Pakistan. CPEC is worsening inequalities, stripping the Baloch people of their land, and depriving them of essential resources. Reports confirm that entire villages have been forcibly displaced to make way for infrastructure projects such as Gwadar Port, while basic necessities—including clean drinking water, electricity, and healthcare—remain out of reach. In Gwadar, local fishermen find their livelihoods threatened by the unchecked operations of Chinese trawlers. (*2)

Balochistan province of Pakistan now remains caught in a cycle of dispossession, environmental degradation, and militarized control, and severe human rights violations. CPEC continues to exploit and strip off rights of Balochistan province of Pakistan's indigenous people with impunity while the project has become emblematic of how China's global ambitions often come at the expense of vulnerable Baloch communities, reinforcing patterns of exploitation and repression.

We urgently request that the United Nations Human Rights Council and relevant Special Rapporteurs dispatch a Special Rapporteur to Balochistan province of Pakistan to assess the situation, prevent further harm, and implement measures to protect human rights and lives as urgently as possible.

Even as we discuss this now, the human rights of the people of Balochistan are being violated, and lives are being lost.

We reiterate, please take urgent action.

(*1) Dawn News. (2021, May 3). Chinese experts endorse \$6bn ML-1 project. Retrieved from <https://www.dawn.com/news/1620962>

(*2) Pakistanis to protest arrival of Chinese fishing vessels - Nikkei Asia
<https://asia.nikkei.com/Spotlight/Belt-and-Road/Pakistanis-to-protest-arrival-of-Chinese-fishing-vessels>