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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 Khiam Rehabilitation Center for Victims of Torture, 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.

[28 January 2026]

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



Urgent Request for the United Nations Intervention Against the Legalization of Enforced Disappearances in Balochistan province of Pakistan

The Balochistan Provincial Assembly has recently passed the Anti-Terrorism (Balochistan Amendment) Act, 2025, which authorizes the detention of individuals for up to three months (90 days) under the pretext of “Preventive Detention for Inquiry.” While this authority is formally vested in the provincial government, in practice it grants sweeping powers to the armed forces and intelligence agencies, who function as the actual detaining authorities.

Description of the Law

The Anti-Terrorism (Balochistan Amendment) Act, 2025 (Act No. XVII of 2025) was passed on 4 June 2025 and officially notified on 5 June 2025. Through the insertion of Section 11-EEEE (Preventive Detention for Inquiry), the law empowers the provincial government—and in certain cases the armed forces, civil armed forces, and intelligence agencies—to detain any person for a period of up to 90 days, merely by “recording reasons.”

The law also introduces the establishment of so-called “detention,” “rehabilitation,” and “de-radicalization” centres, including provisions for “counselling” and “psychological programs.” In reality, these centres provide a legal façade for arbitrary detention, where Baloch individuals may be held on the basis of suspicion alone and subjected to physical, mental, and psychological torture, without transparency or accountability.

Background

For more than twenty-five years, Baloch political activists, human rights defenders, and ordinary unarmed civilians in Balochistan province of Pakistan have been subjected to thousands of enforced disappearances by Pakistani security forces and their affiliated intelligence agencies. Victims are detained in secret facilities, denied information about their whereabouts, and subjected to torture. Many have been killed in custody, and their bodies later dumped in deserted areas. This practice continues to this day.

On the one hand, the Pakistani state has consistently denied the existence of enforced disappearances. On the other hand, senior government officials—including spokespersons of the Inter-Services Public Relations (ISPR)—have publicly acknowledged that state forces are involved in enforced disappearances in Balochistan province of Pakistan. Despite this, no meaningful international action has been taken. Pakistan has continued to exploit this silence as a shield for its ongoing abuses.

This silence is now being dangerously transformed into legal justification. Under the cover of this new law, Pakistan appears to be laying the groundwork for internment-style detention camps, reminiscent of Chinese or Nazi-era concentration camps, where entire communities may be treated as collectively “suspect.”

BNM’s Position

The Baloch National Movement views this law as an open and public admission of enforced disappearances. For decades, Pakistan carried out enforced disappearances under denial, ambiguity, and silence. Now, these crimes are being given a so-called legal form.

The centres established under the guise of 90-day detention, rehabilitation, and de-radicalisation clearly demonstrate that the state is acknowledging its long-standing practice of abducting people—the only difference being that it now seeks to do so in the name of law.

We firmly believe that under the banner of “rehabilitation” and “de-radicalization,” these centres may evolve into internment or concentration-style detention facilities, where Baloch people will be subjected to collective suspicion, torture, coercion, and inhumane treatment. There is no transparent judicial oversight, no guarantee of a fair trial, no effective access to

legal counsel, and no assurance of witness or judicial protection. This law sends a clear message to the Baloch nation: demanding basic human rights is being criminalized.

Our Urgent Requests

In light of the above, I respectfully request you and the relevant United Nations mechanisms to take the following urgent actions:

- Call upon Pakistan to immediately suspend the 90-day detention without charge or effective judicial oversight, including detention through so-called “rehabilitation” and “de-radicalization” centres, and to review the law in full compliance with international human rights standards.

Mobilize UN Special Procedures through the OHCHR, in particular:

- The Working Group on Enforced or Involuntary Disappearances (WGEID)
- The Working Group on Arbitrary Detention (WGAD)
- The Special Rapporteur on Torture

These mechanisms should be granted access to investigate detention centres, detention practices, and victims in Balochistan province of Pakistan. The WGEID’s mandate to act as a communication channel between families and governments is especially relevant.

Require Pakistan to ensure that every detained person is guaranteed:

- Written information on the place and legal basis of detention
- Prompt contact with and visitation by family members
- Independent medical examination
- Effective access to legal counsel and courts
- A complete, transparent, and accessible register of detainees

Those responsible for violations of these safeguards must be held accountable.

Urge Pakistan to end enforced disappearances as a policy and practice, establish credible investigation and prosecution mechanisms, and ensure accountability in accordance with international standards, as repeatedly called for by UN experts.