



**WORLD BALOCH
ORGANISATION**

ACTIVITIES REPORT

March 2017 - February 2018

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A word from the WBO

During the past twelve months, the World Baloch Organisation (WBO) organised and participated in a number of campaigns and events, both in Europe and the United States. We have continued to speak out for the dignity and the human and indigenous rights of the Baloch people, working not only through political lobbying and advocacy work in Brussels, London and Washington, but also through initiatives designed to trigger the public's curiosity and to spread the word in cities such as New York, London, Geneva and Manchester.

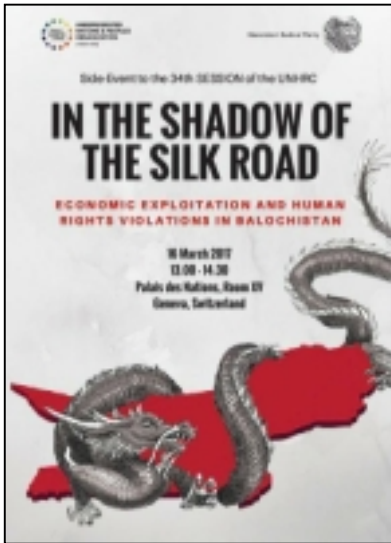
While this has been a year of achievements and of learning for the organisation, the situation in Balochistan is increasingly worrying. The Baloch continue to endure systematic economic deprivation and social and political exclusion, while Pakistan promotes the plundering of the region's many natural resources. Human rights violations are commonplace – extrajudicial killings, enforced disappearances and arbitrary detentions, used to suppress the Baloch people's peaceful calls for justice and equality, are recurrent practices.

Democracy and the Rule of Law are continuously under attack by the Pakistani authorities. What is even more concerning, these violations only seem to be increasing in light of the construction of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC). Due to an extensive crackdown on freedom of expression regarding the Baloch cause, news of these violations rarely surfaces in international media channels. The WBO works to fill this information void, raising the issue in international organisations and institutions, legislative houses in countries such as the United States and the United Kingdom, and promoting awareness of the international public opinion.

This report provides a succinct overview of the WBO's agenda of events, campaigns and initiatives from March 2017 to February 2018. All these experiences have enabled us to learn and to evolve as an organisation, which will bring more effectiveness to our endeavours from now on. In the following months, we hope to expand our horizons and work for the voices of the Baloch people to be heard across the globe, hand in hand with all of our members, activists and supporters.

The World Baloch Organisation
March 2018

Events

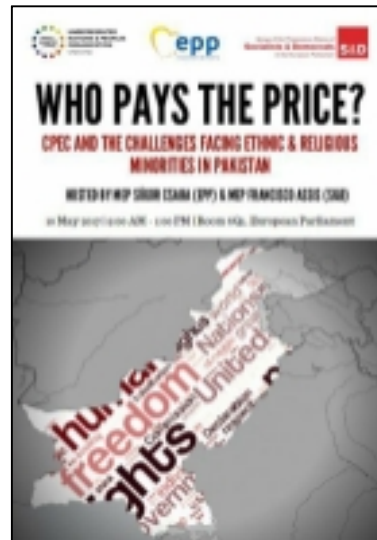


16 March 2017, Palais des Nations, Geneva: the WBO participated in the event “In the shadow of the Silk Road: economic exploitation and human rights violations in Balochistan”, side-event to the 34th Session of the UN Human Rights Council, organised by UNPO and the Nonviolent Radical Party.



21 March 2017, Palais des Nations, Geneva: WBO campaigner Bhawal Mengal addressed the 34th Session of the UN Human Rights Council

on human rights abuses committed by the Pakistani state in Balochistan.



10 May 2017, European Parliament, Brussels: the WBO participated in the conference “Who pays the price? CPEC and the challenges facing ethnic & religious minorities in Pakistan”, organised by UNPO and Mahatma Gandhi International and hosted by the MEPs Csaba Sógor (EPP) & Francisco Assis (S&D).



27 June 2017, Edinburgh: WBO member Shahjhan Baloch

addressed the XIII General Assembly of UNPO on the deprivation of the Baloch people's basic rights.



18 July 2017, Amnesty International, London: the WBO & UNPO organised the event "Hanging by a thread: CPEC, Progressive Nationalism and the Growth of Religious Extremism in Balochistan".

WBO organised the event "Wall of Silence: Human Rights in Balochistan", hosted by The Baroness Jones of Moulsecoomb.



14 August 2017, Washington DC: flyers were distributed and a protest was held in front of the White House, denouncing CPEC and Pakistan's human rights abuses in Balochistan.



19 July 2017, House of Lords, London: together with UNPO, the



2 September 2017, London: together with UNPO, the WBO organised the event "The Baloch

Homecoming Festival: Cultures and Colours of Balochistan”, which celebrated the Baloch culture.

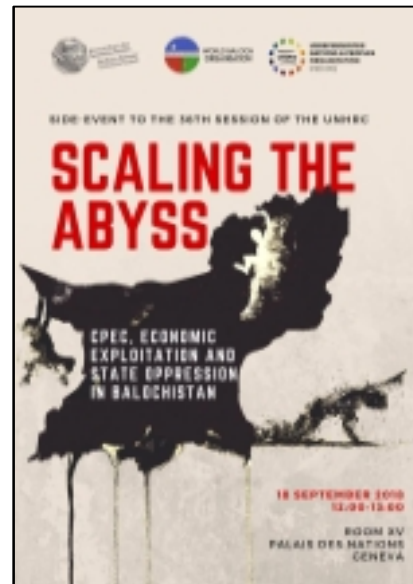


27 August 2017, London: the WBO joined Sindh leaders and progressive Pakistani activists in front of the UK PM’s residence, urging the government to stop P Musharraf from entering the country and to deny him political platform for his involvement in crimes against humanity.



17 September 2017, Geneva: the WBO & UNPO organised a rally

against genocide in Balochistan in front of the UN HQ.



18 September 2017, Palais des Nations, Geneva: the WBO, together with UNPO & the Nonviolent Radical Party, Transnational and Transparty, organised “Scaling the abyss: CPEC, economic exploitation and state oppression in Balochistan”, side-event to the 36th Session of the UN Human Rights Council.



19 September 2017, Geneva: a delegation of WBO & UNPO

representatives held a successful meetings with UN officials at the office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights.



22 September 2017: WBO campaigner Bhawal Mengal addressed the 36th Session of the UN Human Rights Council on human rights abuses committed by the Pakistani state.

conference “Scales of Injustice: The Geopolitics of Business, State-Sponsored Extremism and the Absence of Democracy in Balochistan”.



5 November 2017, London: WBO, BNM, BSO-A & WSC held a protest at 10 Downing street against the abduction of women & children in Pakistan.



5 October 2017, Washington DC: the WBO & UNPO organised the



10 December 2017, London: on the International Human Rights Day, the WBO joined Baloch and Sindhi organisations under the umbrella of Sindhi-Baloch Forum to march against enforced disappearances in Pakistan.



Campaigns

London

The WBO launched, in November 2017, a one-month campaign in London entitled “#FreeBalochistan”. Adverts were displayed on hundreds of London’s black cabs and red buses, on roadsides and underpasses, highlighting human rights abuses committed by Pakistan in Balochistan. Despite attempts by the Pakistani government to censor the campaign, #FreeBalochistan achieved great success, featuring in all major newspapers and in the British media (The Guardian and The Independent) and receiving a positive feedback from Londoners and from the Baloch diaspora UK.

New York City

The #FreeBalochistan awareness campaign in New York City took place in December 2017, kicking off with adverts that displayed the slogan “#Free Balochistan from Human rights abuses by Pakistan” on more than 100 taxis. Later, half a dozen billboards carrying the slogan “#FreeBalochistan from human rights abuses by Pakistan” went up in the heart of Times Square, where they remained as the city celebrated New Year’s Eve – an iconic event witnessed by millions of people across the United States and the world.

Manchester

After successful campaigns in London and New York, the WBO launched, in January 2018, its #FreeBalochistan human rights campaign in the British city of Manchester. UK's iconic black cabs are out once again carrying slogans "Free Balochistan from human rights abuses" in attempt to highlight the worsening human rights situation in Balochistan.

Geneva

The WBO launched, in February 2018, a new advertising campaign in Geneva, Switzerland. As the Geneva hosts the 37th session of the United Nations Human Rights Council (26 February – 23 March 2018), which brings hundreds of state and NGO representatives to the city, this new campaign kicked off with adverts on buses and trams, carrying the slogan "Raise your voice – help end human rights abuses in Balochistan".





The World Baloch Organisation (WBO) is a non-violent and democratic international membership organisation, dedicated to defending the Baloch peoples' political, social and cultural rights, to preserving their environments and to promoting their right to self-determination.

