

786 STATEMENT OF ALI DAYAN HASAN

787 Mr. HASAN. Thank you, Mr. Chairman, for allowing me
788 this opportunity.

789 I have listened with care to what my colleagues--fellow
790 witnesses have had to say. I would like to clarify at the
791 outset that my testimony is based on my experiences as
792 someone who has researched extensively on human rights abuses
793 in Baluchistan, often on the ground in the province itself.

794 Now, at the outset, because there has been this question
795 of independence that has been raised, I want to clarify that
796 Human Rights Watch, as an international human rights
797 organization, takes no position on this particular issue of
798 independence. We understand that Baluchistan is an
799 internationally recognized part of Pakistan, and we expect
800 the Pakistani government to adhere to all human rights
801 protections within the Pakistani Constitution and as mandated
802 by international law.

803 We have also found the Pakistani state, particularly the
804 military, entirely lacking in this department. Baluchistan
805 presents a hydra-headed conflict situation. There are
806 multiple actors perpetrating violence in there, but the
807 engine of human rights abuse, no doubt, is the Pakistani
808 military, paramilitaries, and intelligence agencies. They

809 | have run, particularly since 2004, a campaign of enforced
810 | disappearances where at least hundreds of Baluch nationalists
811 | have disappeared.

812 | In the last year and a half, we have seen targeted
813 | killings increase, and something between 200 and 300 Baluch
814 | opponents of the Pakistani state have been found killed, and
815 | of course torture and illegal detention by the military and
816 | paramilitaries and intelligence agencies are commonplace.
817 | This is an absolutely appalling situation, even by Pakistani
818 | standards, and certainly when you are operating in
819 | Baluchistan you do see that the military in many ways behaves
820 | like a brutal occupying military. That is its behavior.

821 | All of this is a very serious problem. I would,
822 | however, point out that in the latest spike, the issue of
823 | disappearances became commonplace in Pakistan, and in
824 | Baluchistan in particular, because of the license provided by
825 | the U.S., the U.K., and other powers in the context of the
826 | war on terror where the disappearance and legal detention of
827 | Taliban and Al Qaeda suspects was green-lighted effectively
828 | by the U.S. This gave the Pakistani military carte blanche,
829 | if you will, to extend such abusive operations to its own
830 | political opponents, which include Baluch nationalists.

831 | Having said that, there are also multiple abuses--though
832 | of course I must clarify that there is no comparison between
833 | the abuses perpetrated by the state and other actors--but

834 | there are abuses that we have documented by Baluch
835 | nationalist militants, particularly attacks against education
836 | personnel and against other non-Baluch residents of the
837 | province.

838 | Now, non-Baluch residents of the province are not a
839 | small minority. We are talking of--although there is
840 | contentious figures because of a lack of census--something
841 | about 40 percent at least of the population of Baluch.

842 | Mr. ROHRABACHER. Did you say 40 or 14?

843 | Mr. HASAN. Four-zero.

844 | Mr. ROHRABACHER. Four-zero.

845 | Mr. HASAN. Four-zero percent of the population of
846 | Baluchistan--this is an approximation--are non-Baluch at
847 | least. So this is a very, very complex situation now.
848 | Non-Baluch, particularly Punjabi settlers and Urdu-speaking
849 | settlers in Baluchistan, are living equally in fear of their
850 | lives because of fear of attack from Baluch nationalists.

851 | Finally, there is the issue of religious militant
852 | groups, particularly Sunni militant groups, that are
853 | attacking the Shia, largely Hazara, but Shia in general. And
854 | these militant groups often do act, it is alleged and widely
855 | believed, at--in conjunction with or at the behest of the
856 | Pakistani military, but they also act independently. The
857 | basic problem is that if the Pakistani state takes
858 | Baluchistan seriously, it must enforce rights respecting rule

859 | of law in the province. It has abjectly failed to do so, and
860 | this is creating a human rights crisis across Baluchistan.

861 | [The statement of Mr. Hasan follows:]

862 | ***** INSERT 1-5 *****