

Committee: Security Council

Issue: Insurgency in Balochistan

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Position: Deputy President

PERSONAL INTRODUCTION

Dear delegates,

My name is Thomas Evans, and I will be serving as the Deputy President of the Security Council in the 3rd annual ACGMUN conference in 2019. I am currently in Year 12 at Champion School, in my first year of IB. In total, the third ACGMUN will be my eighth conference, my third time acting as a Student Officer, and my first time chairing in the Security Council. This will also be my first time participating, in any position, in the ACGMUN Conference.

Delegates remember that the study guide is an outline of the topic, and you will have to research your countries' policies, and do further research on the topic yourselves. However, if you have any questions on the study guide, or the topic, you can send me an email at tevens@champion.edu.gr. I'm willing to answer any questions related to the topic, the committee and the conference, and am looking forward to meeting all of you.

Kind Regards,

Thomas

TOPIC INTRODUCTION



Figure 1 – Map of Balochistan

Balochistan, otherwise spelled as Baluchistan or Baluchestan, is a region that extends within the borders of Pakistan, Iran, and Afghanistan. The largest portion, in area and population, of Balochistan, is in Pakistan, and it is, in land area, Pakistan's largest province. The population of the whole Balochistan region is, according to a conjuncture of various sources, around 18 to 19 million. Although it is the least developed area in Pakistan, it is rich in natural resources, such as natural gas, oil, coal, copper, sulphur, fluoride and gold. In figure 1, you can see the Balochistan region, spread throughout these three countries.

There are various drivers for Baloch separatism, which is, as an idea and movement, strongest in Pakistan, then Iran, then Afghanistan, respectively. These drivers are, in the most part, the inequalities between the other regions of Pakistan and Balochistan, where most economic resources are owned and made use of, not by Baloch groups, but by Pakistani and international investors. Additionally, there are many social inequalities and divisions between the different ethnic groups, most importantly those between the Baloch and Pashtun groups, as well as tribal differences within Balochistan, and oppression and marginalization by the Punjabi ethnic group within Pakistan. In Iran, a great driver is sectarianism, where the majority-Sunni, Salafist Baloch fight against the Shia-Islamist Iranian government. Most importantly, Balochistan used to be, until the mid-19th century, a united, sovereign state, known as the Khalat Khanate. The Khanate was dissolved, firstly with a British invasion in the 19th century, and then in the India-Pakistan split of the British Raj in 1947. Baloch separatists wish, in the most part, to reunite the Baloch people, and to fully benefit from the economic resources in the region.

After the dissolution of the British Raj in 1947, there have been various attempts by separatists to gain greater political autonomy, with both peaceful means, such as the creation of political parties, but mostly with armed struggle, which has taken, in the past, conventional means, but is now mostly restricted to unconventional, guerilla tactics. The Security Council meets not only to end armed conflict in the area, but also to address the issue of self-determination, and that of human rights matters which have arose from the conflict.

DEFINITION OF KEY TERMS

Separatism

The advocacy or practice of separation of a certain group of people from a larger body on the basis of ethnicity, religion, or gender.¹

Autonomy

The right of an organization, country, or region to be independent and govern itself.²

Insurgency

Insurgency, term historically restricted to rebellious acts that did not reach the proportions of an organized revolution. It has subsequently been applied to any such armed uprising, typically guerrilla in character, against the recognized government of a state or country.

Guerilla Warfare

The use of hit-and-run tactics by small, mobile groups of irregular forces operating in territory controlled by a hostile, regular force.³

Sectarianism

Caused by or feeling very strong support for the religious or political group that you are a member of, in a way that can cause problems with other groups⁴.

Sunni

Sunni, Arabic Sunnī, member of one of the two major branches of Islam, the branch that consists of the majority of that religion's adherents. Sunni Muslims regard their denomination as the mainstream and traditionalist branch of Islam, as distinguished from the minority denomination, the Shī'ites.

Shia

One of the two main branches of Islam, followed by about a tenth of Muslims, especially in Iran.

Salafi

Member of a strictly orthodox Muslim Sunni sect, which advocates a return to the early Islam of the Koran.

¹ Oxford Living Dictionaries, Definition of "Separatism"

² Cambridge English Dictionaries, "Autonomy" meaning

³ Dictionary.com, "Guerilla warfare" meaning

⁴ Cambridge English Dictionaries, "Sectarianism" meaning

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Balochistan before and during the Pakistan Movement

Balochistan, which included three Princely States of the Raj, and the Kalat Khanate, was, by all accounts, the least economically, politically, and socially, developed region of the British Raj during the early 20th Century. However, a branch of the Muslim League was founded in Balochistan in 1939 and spearheaded the movement to bring political reforms to the area. The Muslim League, supported by most of the majority-Muslim Baloch people, was greatly supportive of the Pakistan Movement, that is, the creation of a united Muslim state in the Raj.

The All-India-Congress, knowing that Balochistan was most likely to accede to Pakistan, for geographic and demographic reasons, in the dissolution of the British Raj, started planting the seeds of separatism, by encouraging Baloch groups to pursue independence rather than integration.

Three of the Princely States, as well as the Muslim Quetta Municipality, opted for integration into Pakistan in 1947. However, the Khan of Kalat opted, instead, as was an option given to all Princely States, for independence. This independence was short-sighted, however, with the Kalat Khanate acceding a year later, in 1948, after pressure from the Pakistani bureaucrats during negotiations. The accession was signed by Ahmad Yar Khan; his brothers, Princes Agha Abdul Karim Baloch and Muhammad Rahim, revolted against this decision, beginning Baloch Insurgency in the 20th Century.

Baloch Insurgency in the 20th Century

The First Conflict, as it is known, began in 1948, and was characterised by the refusal of Princes Abdul Kharim and Muhammad Rahim to lay down arms against the militaries of Pakistan and the tribal forces of their own brother. They led numerous unconventional attacks and operations from Afghan provinces on enemy forces in Pakistan from 1948 to 1950, until their surrender to the Pakistani state.

The Second Conflict lasted from 1958 to 1959, a tribal uprising, led by the Zarakzai, a Baloch people, against the One Unit policy, which decreased the political power and autonomy of tribal leaders. The leader of the Zarakzai, Nauwab Naroz Khan, waged a guerrilla war, to be subsequently caught by the Pakistani military; five of his family members were hanged, and he himself died in prison.

The First and Second Conflicts were both characterized by a lack of support from the Baloch people⁵, and a relative shortness, rather being personal, in a way, vendettas.

In contrast, the Third Conflict had larger popular support in Balochistan, as a greater reaction to the One Unit policy, and to increased military presence in the area. The insurgents started camps all over the Balochistan region of Pakistan, and engaged in guerilla warfare against the Pakistani Army, attacking infrastructure and logistical targets, and ambushing enemy forces. They demanded for revenue produced from gas fields in Balochistan to be shared with tribal leaders. This Conflict ended in 1969 with a ceasefire, and, subsequently, an abolition of the One Unit policy and the recognition of Balochistan as the fourth province of Pakistan.

However, this ceasefire did not last long, with another conflict, the Fourth Conflict, beginning in 1973 after the Pakistani government began a military operation in Balochistan after Pakistani forces found a weapons' cache in the Iraqi embassy. Assuming it was for Baloch rebels, Pakistani President Zulfikar Ali Bhutto dismissed the local, democratically elected government, and began what would be a military operation in the area, deploying army, air force, and navy units in and around Balochistan. The Navy blockaded the Balochistan region, stopping any arms from entering the area via the sea, but fighting continued, reaching a climax in September 1974, and reaching an official end in 1977-1978, with martial law imposed in Balochistan, and the separatist movement dying down due to internal infighting. The casualties have been estimated to be 3,000 on the side of the Pakistani Military, and 5,300 on the side of the insurgents⁶.

It is important to know the history of insurgency in the area as it gives an idea of the historical background encouraging insurgency and separatism in the 21st Century.

Drivers for modern Insurgency

There are many drivers for separatism and insurgency in the area of Balochistan, including economic factors. For example, although the Pakistani GDP has gone up greatly, the share of this GDP by the Balochistan region has actually fallen from 4.9% to 3.7%⁷. Additionally, Balochistan is the region of Pakistan with the greatest infant mortality, maternal mortality, and poverty rate⁸. Although Balochistan is rich in natural resources, especially gas, royalties from these

⁵ Siddiqi 2012, p. 71.

⁶ "Twentieth Century Atlas – Death Tolls". Retrieved 12 December 2014.

⁷ Rajsree Jetly (2012), Pakistan in Regional and Global Politics. p. 215.

⁸ Kupecz 2012, p. 96–7.

resources, for the most part, do not trickle down to the Baloch people, remaining, rather, in the hands of tribal chiefs, or investors outside Balochistan.

There are also social problems to be taken into account; there is a great lack of education in Balochistan, it being the least literate province of Pakistan. This leads to a very small amount of ethnic Baloch people becoming skilled workers or attending university or even secondary education, which means that skilled workers need to be imported from other areas of Pakistan, leading to economic inequality between Baloch people and people of other ethnic origin living in Balochistan. This leads to sectarian and ethnic violence and hatred, especially in the biggest cities of Balochistan, such as Quetta.

Finally, insurgency and violence is born from disdain for the military, as it is dominated by the Punjabi and Pashtun ethnic groups, with little to no Baloch representation. The harsh and violent repression of earlier uprisings has led to Baloch disaffection, which has been feeding the support for separatism and insurgency.

Insurgency in the 21st Century

The insurgency in the 21st Century begins with the rape of a female, Baloch doctor, Dr. Shazia Khalid, in 2005, allegedly by an officer of the Pakistani military in Balochistan. She escaped this man, but, instead of being treated, she was administered sedatives and put into a psychiatric hospital. After her husband was able to take her out of the psychiatric hospital, and report the crime, she was then placed in house arrest, and not allowed to speak to the media. When her case became viral, the President at the time, Pervez Musharraf, addressed the controversy, stating that the accused officer, Captain Hammad, was “not guilty”.

This led to popular outrage, and an uprising in the Marri area, caused by the Bugti tribe, which disrupted the supply of gas to the rest of Pakistan for several of the next week. This was the pretext for other tribes and Baloch people to turn to extremism and insurgency, which has been going on until today.

During the 2004-2005 uprising, around 140,000 people were displaced, with around 20-30,000 going to neighboring Afghanistan, and it is estimated that 4,500 people were arrested⁹. Additionally, between 2004-2009, it is estimated that around 1,600 civilians were killed¹⁰.

Another event which worsened the situation was the Turbat Killings, the 2009 murders of three prominent Baloch Nationalist politicians; they were

⁹ Ray Fulcher (30 November 2006). "Balochistan: Pakistan's internal war". Europe Solidaire Sans Frontières.

¹⁰ "Balochistan Assessment – 2010". Satp.org. Retrieved 21 December 2010.

handcuffed, blindfolded and hustled into a truck one night; their bodies were found three days later riddled with bullet holes. Although the Baloch people blame the Pakistani government, experts have argued that it is unlikely, as the bodies were left in a public place, something which would advertently lead to riots and insurrection, as it did, with civil disobedience, strikes and demonstrations, as well as violent rioting and terrorist actions against the Pakistani state, took place all over Balochistan in the days after the discoveries of their bodies.



Figure 2 - Rioting after the Turbat Killings, 2009

Insurgency and terrorism have run rampant in the area since around 2005, with various cells leading unconventional, guerilla-type, attacks, on Pakistani Military elements, as well as attacks on pipelines and infrastructure. The main groups taking part in this conflict are the Balochistan Liberation Army, the most infamous militant group, as well as the Baloch Republican Army, the Baloch Liberation Front, and Lashkar-e-Balochistan. These groups also orchestrate bombing attacks on government and civilian targets, especially on Pashtun civilians, who they have ethnic grievances towards.



Figure 3 - Lashkar-e-Balochistan insurgents with Kalashnikov rifles

A great problem with the Balochistan insurgency has been the rising influence of sectarian elements in Baloch separatist circles. Balochistan has become, since 2001, an important hub for Jihadist elements in the area, as the US invasion of Afghanistan drove Taliban and Al-Qaeda members into Balochistan¹¹. The area of Balochistan, religiously Sunni, has been a center for Sunni extremist groups operating in Pakistan and its neighbouring country of Iran, which is majority Shia.

Possible drop in violence

Since 2012, a reported limitation of the extent of Baloch insurgency has been reported, for a variety of reasons, one of these being tribal infighting. Another reason is that, whereas traditional Baloch separatist movements have been economically motivated, and thus mostly Marxist ideologically, the rise of sectarianism has been noted, resulting in further infighting. The Inter-Services-Intelligence, the Pakistani secret service, has been known to use this to their advantage in fighting insurgency, by promoting internal conflict within the militant groups.

Additionally, the Baloch people only comprise about 54% of the population of the region, with the rest being Pashtun and Sindhi¹²; they also share various cultural similarities, such as language and religion, meaning that a majority of the population of Balochistan still believe in unification with Pakistan, and vote for Pakistani, or Baloch pro-Pakistan, political parties.

Conflict in Iran

According to a 2014 census, there are around 3 million ethnically Baloch people in Iran. In Iran, the Baloch have even fewer shared cultural traits than in Pakistan, mostly due to the Shiite revolution. The province where the vast majority of Baloch live, the Sistan and Baluchestan province, has the country's worst rates for life expectancy, adult literacy, primary school enrolment, access to improved water sources and sanitation, and infant mortality rate¹³.

The militant groups in Iran are more religious in nature, with an emphasis on their Sunni sectarianism, and they are often associated with elements of the Al-Qaeda, such as the Al-Nusra front. The main Baloch insurgent group in Iran is the Jundallah, a group responsible for killing 154 and injuring 320 Iranian citizens since 2003¹⁴

¹¹ B Raman (25 January 2003). "Iraq's shadow on Balochistan". Asia Times.

¹² "The tricky demographics of Balochistan". Dawn. 5 April 2012.

¹³ Grassi, Daniele (20 October 2014). "Iran's Baloch insurgency and the IS". Asia Times Online.

¹⁴ "Iran Executes Insurgent Leader, Accused of Ties With American Intelligence". CNS News. Archived from the original on 2014-11-19. Retrieved 15 December 2014.

Human Rights Issues

There have been numerous human rights offenses noted in Balochistan by both sides in the ongoing conflict, from both the Pakistani government and Baloch Liberation groups.

The Human Rights Watch, in 2011, declared that the Pakistani government has not done enough to stop violence, such as torture, abduction, and extrajudicial killings of those accused of being terrorists, or those opposed to the Pakistani Military¹⁵. There are different estimates to the numbers of those abducted, or killed, by paramilitary groups supported by Pakistan, or the military itself, with estimates varying, with figures such as 4,000, according to Pakistan interior minister in 2005¹⁶, 18,000 missing, with 2,000 dead, by the International Voice for Baloch Missing Persons¹⁷.

Baloch nationalist groups have also been accused of human rights offenses, especially of violence against the Punjabis, with Chief Minister of Balochistan noting that "a large number of professors, teachers, engineers, barbers and masons are leaving the province for fear of attacks"¹⁸, showing that, partly, the Baloch people themselves are to blame for the economic backwardness.

Additionally, there have been sectarian human rights issues, with Sunni fundamentalist groups using violence against ethnic Hindus, Shias, and Zikris, with 210,000 of these people migrating from Balochistan to other areas of Pakistan¹⁹.

MAJOR COUNTRIES AND ORGANISATIONS INVOLVED

Pakistan

Pakistan is the country in which the main conflict and insurgency in Balochistan takes place, and thus is a very important country in this topic. However, Pakistan has been known to use excessive violence in its repression of the Baloch people, and also to suppress the political and economic rights of the Baloch people.

¹⁵ World Report 2012. Human Rights Watch. 2012. p. 362. ISBN 978-1-60980-389-6.

¹⁶ Dwivedi, Manan (2009). South Asia Security. Delhi: Gyan Publishing House. pp. 103–4. Retrieved 24 June 2015.

¹⁷ Kiran Nazish, Balochistan's Missing Persons, The Diplomat, 6 January 2014.

¹⁸ Baloch, Shahzad (9 August 2010). "Raisani seeks mandate for talks with insurgents". Express Tribune. Retrieved 31 March 2012.

¹⁹ "Over 300,000 Fled Violence-Hit Balochistan: Pakistan Rights Body." The Economic Times, Economic Times, 15 Oct. 2014,

Iran

In Iran, the conflict takes a wholly religious perspective, with the Sunni Baloch fighting, allied with other Sunni fundamentalist groups, against the Shiite Iranian state, committing terrorist attacks against its people. Most of this happens on the Iran-Pakistan border.

Afghanistan

Afghanistan, being majority Sunni, and, earlier in the 20th century, Communist, had been traditionally friendly with the Baloch people, especially in the influence Marxism has had on the Baloch Nationalist movement. The Baloch insurgents, in the past, have used Afghan provinces as operating bases, due to the relatively anarchic state of the Afghan nation since the fall of the Communist regime and, especially, since the 2001 invasion by the United States.

India

Pakistan has repeatedly accused the Indian government of financing, supporting and encouraging the Baloch insurgency. This goes back to the 20th century, where the All-India-Congress encouraged Baloch separatists to achieve independence. However, there has been no concrete evidence to support collusion between the Indian state and Baloch militants.

The Indian state, however, has been seen to empathize with the plight of the Baloch people, with Indian Prime Minister N. Modi commenting on the situation in his Day of Independence speech²⁰, and raising the Baloch question in the United Nations Human Rights Council²¹

Israel

The Israeli state's involvement in Balochistan is their support for the Jundallah militant organization in Iran, with a famous incident of Mossad agents, posing as agents of the American Central Intelligence Agency, recruiting people for the organization²². However, since 2011, Israel and the US have greatly diminished joint covert attacks on the Iranian state, leading to a rupture between the Jundallah group and Israel.

²⁰ Venkataramakrishnan, Rohan (15 August 2016). "Independence Day speech: Narendra Modi brings up Balochistan in a clear signal to Pakistan". Scroll.in.

²¹ "India raises Balochistan issue at UN, says Pakistan violating human rights". India Today. 8 June 2017. Retrieved 3 August 2018.

²² Mark Perry (13 January 2012). "False Flag". Foreign Policy.

United States (US)

The US official policy on the conflict of Balochistan rejects any attempts by Baloch groups to secede from Pakistan²³, however, it has been shown, in the past, to accept and support Baloch separatist groups, and especially those, such as the Jundullah, who take action mostly against the Iranian state; although claims have been made, there is no concrete evidence to support Jundullah and US collusion in covert actions against Iran.

TIMELINE OF EVENTS

Date	Description of event
1666	Establishment of Khanate of Kalat, predecessor of modern-day Balochistan
1839	British invasion of Kalat
1948	Kalat's British Paramountcy transferred to Pakistan
1948-1950	Two Princes of Kalat, Agha Abdul Karim Baloch and Muhammad Rahim, refuse to accept the Accession of the Balochistan Region, and take up arms against the Kalat Army; this came to be known as the first conflict
1958-1959	A tribal leader, Nawab Nauroz Khan, takes up arms against the Pakistani government in resistance to a policy which gave smaller autonomy to tribes; this came to be known as the second conflict.
1963-1969	Baloch Separatists conduct guerilla warfare in demand of shared revenue of the economic output of the Balochistan region with tribal leaders; this came to be known as the third conflict.
1973-1977	The fourth conflict was the culmination of attempts by the Pakistani government to suppress Balochistan, when, in 1973, they declared martial law and conducted military operations in the region.
2004	The fifth conflict, the one this topic is focusing on, begins.

²³ Iqbal, Anwar (24 August 2016). "US says it doesn't support Balochistan's independence". Dawn.

PREVIOUS ATTEMPTS TO SOLVE THE ISSUE

Although there have been no previous United Nations attempts to solve this issue, it has been brought to the consideration of the Human Rights Council, due to the various issues arising from the conflict.

The main attempts to solve this issue have been those by governments, such as those of Pakistan and Iran, through military means, to repress armed conflict. However, it is important to note that you are not only looking for military solutions, but long-term solutions that will solve the problems of Balochistan indefinitely; additionally, it has been shown that such attempts often lead to violation of fundamental human rights, and increased, reactionary, violence on the part of the insurgents.

POSSIBLE SOLUTIONS

Economic Development

Economic development is undoubtedly necessary for the amelioration of the living conditions of the Baloch people, and could act as a deterrent to violence, as economic inequality in the Balochistan region has been shown to encourage insurgency.

Economic development, however, cannot only come from the pouring of funds in the region; the problem is deeply rooted, and will only begin to improve once the educational system and the local healthcare improve as well. Additionally, for Balochistan to thrive, it is imperative that both the separatists and the Pakistani and Iranians state cease their violations of human rights, which prevent development, as they often target those most significant economically, such as teachers and skilled workers, on the part of the separatists, and non-violent political leaders and activists and tribal leaders on the part of the government. Thus, economic development can help prevent conflict, but, ultimately, cannot come without the end of it.

Military intervention

Although military intervention might be deemed necessary by different countries, it is important to remember, due to the ambiguous, and controversial, nature of this conflict that any United Nations backed military action should remain wholly independent of the Pakistani or Iranian military authorities and should criticize any involvement deemed harmful to the indigenous and local populations. All resolutions, to a greater extent, should include some form of military, peacekeeping solution to prevent insurgency.

Full Political Autonomy

Due to various demographic and economic factors, such as the fact that only around 54% of the population of Pakistani Balochistan is ethnically Baloch, and that most economically beneficial individuals and corporations are not Baloch, it would be almost impossible for a politically autonomous, sovereign Baloch state to function and operate without external help, in this current day and age. Perhaps a politically autonomous Balochistan is a goal to pursue, but it cannot be implemented without important, previous reform.

Partial Sovereignty

A solution advocating greater political rights for the local Baloch government could, possibly, work, as could a sort of two-state solution. However, this would need a coherent, well-rounded resolution from the United Nations, and full cooperation from the Pakistani government, and involve negotiations with Iran, and a possible exchange of populations.

Self-Determination of the Baloch people

Another solution would be a referendum of sorts, something which would adhere to the United Nations charter; measures would need to be taken from the United Nations to ensure absolute impartiality and objectivity, as well as the absence of any interference from any related member states.

It is important to remember, that, due to the militant nature of the Baloch insurgents, and the violence of the Pakistani state in dealing with insurgency, measures would need to be taken to ensure that those Baloch which have been radicalised are able to reenter society without any repercussions, by offering comprehensive structures which create trust between the Baloch people and the authorities which would organise and oversee this vote. Exit programmes for those that have committed violent acts, as well as partial immunity, would ensure that Baloch separatists, to a great extent, would not feel the need to use violence.

Due to the somewhat utopic nature of this solution, a resolution including clauses which advocate a form of vote would need to include significant details describing the ways in which the impartiality of a vote would be held.

Ways to limit sectarianism and fundamentalism

Sectarianism and Islamic fundamentalism have seen a rise in the area and stand as an obstacle against the self-determination of the Baloch people, and of the economic and social development. The most important step for this aspect of a potential solution would be the education of the people against ethnic and religious prejudice, and the denouncement of any Baloch separatist groups that show signs of sectarianism.

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FIGURES

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