

URGENT ACTION

BALUCH ACTIVISTS FACE SECRET TRIALS

Five Baluch activists, Mahrang Baluch, Bebarz Zehri, Beebow Baluch, Shah Jee Sibghat Ullah, and Gulzadi Baluch are repeatedly being denied bail and face a trial in prison, without access to media or independent observers, on trumped up charges. After a year in arbitrary detention, many of the activists face serious health issues and are being denied access to adequate medical care. The Pakistani authorities must immediately release all five detained activists as they are detained solely for the peaceful exercise of their human rights. While in detention, authorities must ensure that they are afforded their fair trial guarantees, and provided with access to medical facilities.

TAKE ACTION: WRITE AN APPEAL IN YOUR OWN WORDS OR USE THIS MODEL LETTER

Chief Minister Office
Zarghun Road,
Quetta, Balochistan
Pakistan
Phone: +92-81-9202061
Email: cm@balochistan.gov.pk
sarfaraz.bugti@gmail.com

Hon. Balochistan Chief Minister Sarfraz Bugti,

I am writing to express my grave concern about the ongoing detention, deprivation of adequate medical care and denial of the right to fair trial of Baluch activists, including **Mahrang Baluch, Bebarz Zehri, Beebow Baluch, Shah Jee Sibghat Ullah, and Gulzadi Baluch**, for one year. They are currently being detained in Hudda Jail, Quetta and their trial is taking place inside prison premises, without access to media or independent observers, despite raising concerns over the alleged impartiality of the judge.

It is alarming to learn that the activists continue to be detained despite the expiry of preventive detention orders under the Maintenance of Public Order Ordinance (MPO). They are now being held for trumped up charges under the Anti-Terrorism Act to prolong their detention, denying them their right to liberty, right to fair trial, freedom of expression, association and peaceful assembly as they are being detained solely for their work as human rights defenders.

I am particularly concerned for their health and safety. Bebarz faces daily challenges due to his disability and is being denied access to quality physiotherapy which has worsened his condition. Mahrang is suffering from a serious spinal condition developed during detention. She has not been given access to adequate medical care despite repeated applications to the prison authorities.

I urge you to ensure the immediate release of all Baluch activists targeted solely for peacefully exercising their human rights, and that all the charges against them are dropped. Pending their release, they must be afforded their fair trial rights; provided with immediate, adequate medical care; and ensured regular, unhindered access to family and legal counsel, as per Pakistan's international human rights obligations.

I trust your commitment to justice and human rights will guide your actions to urgently address these grave concerns.

Yours sincerely,

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Dr. Mahrang Baloch has been unable to obtain adequate medical care despite experiencing back pain for the last six months. Multiple applications to the prison administration have been made, but she was denied access to medical care and forced to self-medicate for months. Once her condition substantially deteriorated, a resident doctor in the prison was called to examine her, however their treatment was inadequate given lack of medical facilities in prison. The authorities were forced to take her to a hospital on 18 February 2026 after severe pain, her family and lawyers were not informed. Medical tests have revealed that Mahrang is suffering from a severe spinal condition and if she is not given proper treatment her mobility could be seriously compromised.

Bebarg Zehri was injured in an attack by Pakistan security forces in 2010 causing him to lose mobility in both legs. His condition has gotten worse during one year of detention during which he developed an infection that resulted in him having to get surgery. While the family was satisfied by his surgery, he has been denied access to post-operation care and follow-up visits with doctors. His condition requires regular physiotherapy, however inadequate care in prison has caused his condition to worsen and he has lost significant muscle mass. His family has stated that his accessibility needs are not being met by prison authorities and requests to the authorities are repeatedly ignored.

Denial of medical care has been a persistent issue for the detainees. In late April 2025, **Beebow Baloch** was shifted to District Jail Pishin and no reason was provided for the transfer. She was held there for several days as the only female prisoner and allegedly subjected to custodial torture. She was shifted to CMH hospital after her condition worsened significantly, and eventually she was shifted back to Hudda Jail where she has been held since.

The detention orders for the five activists – under the Maintenance of Public Order Ordinance, 1960 (MPO) – expired on 22 June 2025, requiring their release. Subsequently the activists were presented in an anti-terrorism court on 8 July, hours before a scheduled meeting of a judicial board to review the legality of their detention. Since then, the activists have been facing multiple cases under Pakistan's Anti-Terrorism Act, 1997 across Balochistan province. Their lawyers have spent the last six months obtaining bail in different parts of the province.

While the activists have obtained bail in most of the cases, they have been denied bail in anti-terrorism cases in Quetta. All five activists are being subjected to a “jail trial”, in which they are presented in front of an anti-terrorism court judge inside the prison premises. During proceedings on 7 February 2026, the activists stated that they no longer had confidence in the judge presiding over their trials due to the alleged hostile remarks by the judge.

These detentions are part of a larger crackdown in the province on peaceful protests and the right to freedom of expression. Activists, lawyers and journalists speaking up against this crackdown are also being targeted. In January 2026, human rights lawyer, Imaan Mazari and Hadi Ali Chatta, who are also Mahrang's lawyers in several cases in Islamabad, were [sentenced](#) to 10 years of imprisonment for social media posts expressing solidarity with Baloch activists, particularly Mahrang. Journalist Sohrab Barkat was also arrested in December 2025 for charges of posting on social media about Balochistan.

Anti-terrorism laws have been used to silence and penalize activists, particularly ethnic minorities such as Baloch. In June 2025, the Balochistan Assembly passed the Anti-Terrorism (Balochistan Amendment) Act 2025 which allows for detention without charge for up to three months. In October 2025, dozens of Baloch activists were [placed](#) under section 11-EE of the Anti-Terrorism Act, constituting a “terror watch list”.

PREFERRED LANGUAGE TO ADDRESS TARGET: English, Urdu.

PLEASE TAKE ACTION AS SOON AS POSSIBLE UNTIL: 16 September 2026

Please check with the Amnesty office in your country if you wish to send appeals after the deadline.

NAME AND PRONOUN: **Bebarg Zehri** (he/him); **Mahrang Baloch** (she/her); **Beebow Baloch** (she/her); **Shah Jee Sibghat Ullah** (he/him); **Gulzadi Baloch** (she/her)

LINK TO PREVIOUS UA: <https://www.amnesty.org/en/documents/asa33/0109/2025/en/>