



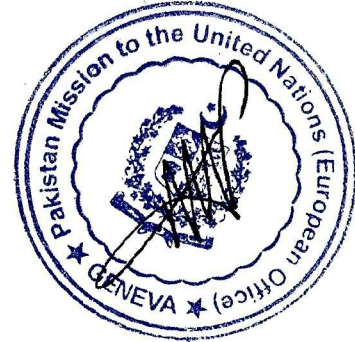
No. Sp/Proc/1/2025

The Permanent Mission of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan to the United Nations Office and other International Organizations in Geneva presents its compliments to the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) and has the honour to refer to communication AL PAK 11/2025 dated 1 December 2025.

The Permanent Mission has the further honour to attach the response of the Government of Pakistan to the communication under reference.

The Permanent Mission of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan to the United Nations Office and other International Organizations in Geneva avails itself of this opportunity to renew to the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) the assurances of its highest consideration.

Encl: as above



Geneva, 09 February 2026

Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR)
Palais Des Nations
1211 Geneva 10

Government of Pakistan's response to AL PAK 11/2025

The Government of Pakistan rejects the spurious allegations forming the basis of communication AL PAK 11/2025 dated 1 December 2025. The Government regrets the misapplication of perspectives that are not appropriate to Pakistan, the country's Balochistan province or the development of projects there.

Under Article 1 of the Constitution of Pakistan, Balochistan is a Province of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan with the same status as the provinces of the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, the Punjab and Sindh. On the basis of representation in proportion to population, the National Assembly of Pakistan includes 20 lawmakers from Balochistan. The upper house of Parliament, the Senate, has 23 Senators from Balochistan; at par with other federating units. Under Article 106 of the Constitution, the Provincial Assembly of Balochistan comprises 65 seats, of which 11 are reserved for women and 3 for minorities. The Provincial Assembly elects the Chief Minister as the leader of the provincial government to exercise executive authority in the province as laid out in Article 129 of the Constitution.

Voter turnouts in successive general elections and the large number of Baloch political parties and civil society actors demonstrate their sustained and active participation in public, political, social and economic life in Pakistan, in direct contrast to allegations of marginalisation or exclusion.

Under the 2017 National Census (the most recent census for which district-wise data of individuals identifying as Baloch/Brahvi-speaking is available), there were more Baloch residing in the Sindh Province than in Balochistan. Moreover, the provincial capital of Sindh, Karachi, is home to the largest single population of Baloch in the world.

Across centuries, all people of Pakistan have freely lived, worked and exercised their rights in all parts of the country in accordance with the Constitution and the law of the land. This is reflected in the large Balochistan-origin populations in all provinces of the country, many of whom have retained the "Baloch" surname or loose tribal associations even while adopting local dialects and other identity markers.

To therefore seek the application of such labels as "minority" or "Indigenous People" to the Baloch is inconsistent with the rich and variegated heritage of the people of Pakistan, all of whom have always been indigenous to the entire territory of Pakistan.

Oversimplifications that seek to sub-divide the population are neither compatible with the lived reality of Pakistan's large and diverse population, nor conducive to the realisation of human rights or fundamental freedoms and the maintenance of public order. Moreover, such approaches risk occluding challenges in the protection and promotion of the rights of actual minorities as recognised by the Constitution.

The Government has always accorded the highest priority to socioeconomic development challenges facing the Balochistan province with its sparse population, vast territorial expanse and imposing geography. Under the 7th National Finance Commission (NFC) award of 2009, factors such as inverse-population density, human development and poverty/underdevelopment were reflected and integrated into models for equitable sharing of the federal divisible pool alongside overall population, which had been the benchmark earlier.

Balochistan's share of the divisible pool thus increased dramatically to 9.09 percent at a minimum. This was supported by the large minimum ratio of federal grants-in-aid, with at least a third earmarked for Balochistan, as well as the *Aghaz-i-Huqooq-i-Balochistan* package adopted by Parliament in late-2009. In years since, the Government has continued to complement these institutional arrangements and reforms with targeted interventions such as,

inter alia, the South Balochistan Development Plan of 2020; preferential access to higher education across the country for students from Balochistan as well as the grant of University charters for seats of higher learning in Balochistan itself; the development of Gwadar Port under the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor alongside the development of hospitals, desalination plants, vocational training centres and other projects; and the operationalisation of border markets and cross-border power transmission projects.

The development of Balochistan's mineral resources remains the prerogative of the Provincial Government.

In 2011, the Provincial Government's decision not to proceed with granting the development license culminated in arbitration proceedings and a \$5.97 billion award in 2019 (versus the investors' \$300 million in costs). As observed by the former Special Rapporteur on the right to a clean, healthy and sustainable environment, this amount was "larger than the grants and loans Pakistan received in 2022 following the disastrous climate-related floods that covered one third of the nation and affected tens of millions of people", particularly in Balochistan. With the project reorganised following a settlement with investors, the Provincial Government has been accorded a 25 percent stake funded by the Federal Government to maximise resource mobilisation for provincial development and ensure that the benefits of developing resources in the province accrue to the local populace.

Terrorist attacks in Balochistan remain the largest threat to human rights of people in the province. Terrorist activity has consistently displayed alarming modus operandi; including targeting international engineers, selecting victims based on their place of domicile as noted on National ID Cards, targeting Hazara or Pushtoon community members, or carrying out reprisals against Baloch officials, leaders and businessmen for "collaborating".

The hijacking of the Jaffar Express in March 2025 and attempted massacre of the more than 450 passengers and crew on board was only one example of the nefarious tactics employed by terrorists in Balochistan with the aim to bring normal social, economic and political life in the province to a standstill and undermine the human rights of all people in the province. The same pattern was evident in the BLA's terrorist attacks on banks, markets, schools and police stations across Balochistan on 31 January 2026, which claimed the lives of 31 civilians and 17 law-enforcement personnel. In responding to these dire threats to the people in Balochistan and safeguarding their rights to life, liberty and security of person, among all others, the Government has acted in accordance with the law and consistent with its international human rights obligations.

The Government has also remained engaged with processes including the humanitarian procedure of the UN Working Group on Enforced or Involuntary Disappearances to clarify specific allegations.

The role of hostile foreign actors in funding and supporting terrorist activity and unrest in the province is also well documented.

The Government expects the foregoing would be sufficient to clarify the allegations contained in the letter under reference while reserving its right to respond to other aspects highlighted by the Special Procedures.
