

## **Baloch Resistance during Zulfiqar Ali Bhutto's Era: Causes and Consequences**

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### **Abstract**

Rising insurgency in Balochistan is one of the most serious threats to the federation of Pakistan. The Baloch tribal homeland is a vast area of desert and mountains. Geographically the province of Balochistan is considered the largest province of Pakistan while demographically it is smallest. Balochistan is the most underdeveloped province of Pakistan and this under-development reveals the alarming situation. Since 1947 Baloch have been facing different forms of deprivations and this sense of deprivation amongst Baloch has become one of the major reasons to give birth a number of uprisings against the federal government. Political arrangements under long military rules added doubts in the minds of Baloch people who had a scant representation in military and civil services of Pakistan. This situation has become a major source to strengthen sense of nationalism among the people of Balochistan. This study will highlight various causes of third Baloch insurgency during Zulfiqar Ali Bhutto's era and its impacts on Pakistan.

**Key Words** Insurgency, Nationalism, Deprivation, Coercive Means, Confidence building measures.

### **Introduction**

In a federation powers are distributed among federal government and federating units according to the constitution. Bothe federal and provincial governments perform their functions within their prescribed limitations. A federal system can be more successful and stable when there is smooth functioning of federal government and federating units. In Pakistan since its inception rulers either civilian or military have been trying to accumulate maximum power in the hands of federal government. Actually these rulers have this perception that Pakistan can be more stable internally as well as externally under the centralized political structure. All constitutions of Pakistan have shown a common tendency towards a stronger federal government and the question of provincial autonomy has secured special attention in Pakistan's politics. The province of Balochistan has been posing a major threat to the federation of Pakistan through various uprisings. Baloch have transformed their

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struggle from political efforts to military means. Baloch have been resisting against various federal governments and federal government has been suppressing them through coercive means. Federal government tried to resolve grievances of the people of Balochistan through tribal chiefs but these chiefs did not serve the interests of federal government. There is a need to initiate different strategies to deescalate the issue of Balochistan for strengthening the federation of Pakistan.

### Causes of Resistance

The government of General Ayoub Khan remained unable to control agitation in both wings of Pakistan (West Pakistan and East Pakistan) and handed over authority to General Yahya Khan. General yahya abrogated the constitution of 1962 and took various initiatives for restoring the peace of the country. Under these initiatives he tried to concluded an agreement of cease fire with insurgent groups of Balochistan who were involved in resistance movement against General Ayoub Khan's government. He made an announcement to abolish One Unit Plan and declared Balochistan as a consolidated province. Indeed One Unit Plan was highly unpopular in Balochistan and stood for alien control over the resources and destinies of its people. (Ahmad,1992:154) Baloch were given an opportunity to hold their first free general elections along with other provinces of Pakistan. Yahya Khan was directly involved in political cooperation with tribal leaders. He repealed arrest and deportation sentences with respect to prominent tribal leaders. He encouraged tribal leaders to contest elections, and to have dominant position in their respective regions through democratic process.

Former East Pakistan emerged on the map of the world as an independent state with the dismemberment process of Pakistan in 1971. Zulfiqar Ali Bhutto being leader of PPP (Pakistan People's Party), which emerged as a major party in West Pakistan during first general elections in the history of Pakistan in 1971, got an opportunity to become President and Civilian Martial Law Administrator of Pakistan on 20<sup>th</sup> December 1971. Pakistan People's Party won majority of seats in Sindh and Punjab but in Balochistan and Khyber Pakhtun Khwa National Awami Party (NAP) and Jamiat-ul- Ulema-e-Islam (JUI) emerged dominant political parties during general elections. Zulfiqar Ali Bhutto wanted to build a new stable and strong federal state of Pakistan and for achieving this objective; it was felt necessary by Bhutto to take into confidence those political parties of the Khyber Pakhtun Khwa and Balochistan which won election. Zulfiqar Ali Bhutto became successful to sign an agreement with NAP and JUI representatives on 6<sup>th</sup> March, 1972. (Dawn, 7 March 1972). Different issues were settled down between Pakistan People's Party (PPP) and National Awami Party (NAP) and Jamiat- ul-Ulema-e-Islam (JUI) through this agreement for example,

- a. Issue related to the appointment of Governors in Balochistan and Khyber Pakhtun Khwa, it was the point of view of National Awami Party (NAP) and Jamiat-ul-Ulema-e- Islam (JUI) that centre would appoint Governors in consultation with the majority parties of Khyber Pakhtun Khawa and Balochistan

- b. Martial Law will be lifted on August 14<sup>th</sup>, the day when National Assembly would be in session to consider the draft constitution,
- c. Government would be formed according to the principle of parliamentary majority at the centre and in the provinces. NAP and JUI being majorities in Balochistan and Khyber Pakhtun Khawa wanted to form their own government in these two provinces. (Breseege, 2004:305)

In April 15 1972, Zulfiqar Ali Bhutto announced to lift Martial Law on April 21, and convened the session of National Assembly. (Dawn, April 15 1972). It was stated by Zulfiqar Ali Bhutto that different issues such as; provincial autonomy and future form of government will also be discussed with all major political parties. There was different point of view regarding various issues among three major political parties such as; PPP (Pakistan People's Party) with majority of seats in Sindh and Punjab; the National NAP (National Awami Party) and JUI (Jamiat- ul - Ulama-e- Islam), both based in the Khyber Pakhtun Khwa and Balochistan. The Provincial Assemblies were constituted from those, elected in December 1971. Zulfiqar Ali Bhutto's government had to face severe criticism during the process of drafting a new constitution of Pakistan particularly from Provincial Assembly's members of Khyber Pakhtun Khwa and Balochistan. Khan Abdul Wali Khan being the leader of the National Awami Party in April 1972, warned against any attempt to deprive the Pakhtoons and Baloch to their due democratic rights and said if the government chose the path of confrontation they will find us ready in any fashion they choose. (Dawn, April 20 1972). Zulfiqar Ali Bhutto after holding numerous meetings with the representatives of NAP and JUI became successful to build a consensus regarding the constitution of 1973. Third constitution in the history of Pakistan was promulgated on August 14, 1973. The constitution of 1973 provided a federal structure and residuary powers were given to provinces. Federal government with the consultation of NAP decided to appoint Sardar Atallah Mengal as Chief Minister of Balochistan and Mir Ghaus Bakhsh Bizenjo as Governor of Balochistan. Baloch became successful to form their government in Balochistan with majority of seats and their opponent were non-baloch. (Harrison, 1981:34). Balochistan government introduced various policies which were not appreciated by the central ruling authority. Balochistan government wanted to indigenize the administration by replacing the non-Baloch by sons of the soil. First step which was taken by the Balochistan government, to establish its own press and to set up rural police known as Dehi Muhafiz. Sardar Atallah Mengal's government started throwing out Punjabi officials from the services. (Ahmad, 1992:178). Balochistan government established the National Council of Arts at Quetta for flourishing the Baloch culture in Balochistan. Baloch were expecting from NAP government to resolve the issue of mother-tongue education and a standard writing system for Balochi. Baloch intellectuals were more interested to introduce Roman script on the place of Arabic script. Baloch wanted to promote their own distinct culture. Right wing religious parties were not in the favour of Roman script on the place of Arabic script. They perceived this move as a conspiracy against Pakistan. Balochistan government tactfully handled this issue and declared Urdu as a provincial language. Balochistan government did not want to see any kind of opposition from central ruling authority through declaring Balochi as an official language of Balochistan. It was

also in the mind of Balochistan government that language was a major cause of the secession of East Pakistan and declaration of Balochi as an official language of Balochistan would have raised the scare of secession. (Breseege, 2004:309).

Central government perceived Dehi Muhafiz as a private army of NAP (National Awami Party). Before formation of NAP (National Awami Party) government Civil Armed Force was present in Balochistan and Khyber Pakhtun Khwa and objective of that Armed Force was to maintain law and order situation in these two provinces. But with the formation of NAP (National Awami Party) government in Balochistan and Khyber Pakhtun Khwa, federal government abolished this Armed Force. Federal government saw all these developments with suspicion. Chief Minister of Punjab, Ghulam Mustafa Khar under the patronage of Zulfikar Ali Bhutto organized a police strike in Balochistan and decided to withdraw Punjabi bureaucrats from Balochistan province that were performing their functions on various posts. This withdrawal policy created severe administrative vacuum in Balochistan. Balochistan government recruited sons of soil for performing different responsibilities at various positions. They developed their own police structure for maintaining law and order situation in the province. Provincial government tried to reduce Pakistani military and Para-military intervention in local affairs. Baloch were also not happy over non-Baloch settlers who were competing for the limited arable lands in the province. Central ruling authority did not like all these actions of Balochistan government and these actions were perceived as incompatible with the national constitution. NAP (National Awami Party) leaders started to realize that federal government was not allowing them to perform different functions independently. This attitude of central ruling authority aggravated the situation and widened the already existing gulf between centre and the province of Balochistan. Armed clashes occurred between the supporters of interior minister Abdul Qayyum Khan and the NAP at Quetta in May 1972. This incident created unrest in Balochistan. Federal government accused Wali Khan and other leaders of NAP of hatching a conspiracy to disintegrate Pakistan during their stay in London. Pakistani media called this conspiracy as the 'London Conspiracy' ([grandtrunkroad.wordpress.com/2009/09/09/the-dismissal-of-the-balochistan-government-in-1973/](http://grandtrunkroad.wordpress.com/2009/09/09/the-dismissal-of-the-balochistan-government-in-1973/)). There were two major objectives which the NAP leaders wanted to achieve through London Plan. First, to convince India with the help of Shiekh Mujeeb Ur Rehman to use delay tactics regarding withdrawal of Indian troops from Pakistani territory, secondly, NAP leaders presented an idea to have a confederation of four provinces of Pakistan, including state of India. It was also decided by the NAP leaders during their stay at London that smuggling of arms and ammunition from foreign sources into state of Pakistan would be encouraged for initiating guerrilla war against Pakistani Army for securing independent Balochistan and Pakhtoonistan.(Mahmed,1983:301). Nawab Akbar Bugti on 31 January 1973, stated that while he was in London, Ataullah Mengal, Abdul Wali Khan and other NAP leaders revealed to him their plan to get independence with the help of some external forces. Baloch and Pakhtoon leaders rejected all these allegations. Mir Ghaus Bakhsh Bizenjo stated, the basic aim of the propaganda regarding the alleged plan was to create disturbance or restlessness in the country.

At this point in order to undo the provincial government of Balochistan, central ruling authority tried to create an artificial law-and- order problem in two district of Balochistan namely Pat Feeder and Lasbella. In Lasbella district, Jam Ghulam Qadir a former ruler became an important instrument in the hands of central government to create trouble for the government of Balochistan. In Pat Feeder district armed tribesmen of Marri tribe attacked Punjabi settlers and forced them to leave that place. Law and order situation disturbed in Lasbella and Pat Feeder districts. Provincial government took initiatives to control this situation but central ruling authority was not satisfied with the arrangements of Balochistan government. Central government decided to send federal forces for handling crimes situation in Lasbella and Pat Feeder and to assist Balochistan government in maintaining law and order situation. Balochistan government was not happy with this move of central government. The element of suspicion and distrust widened already existing gulf between central government and the government of Balochistan. Another incident which is considered highly important in case to dissolve Balochistan government by central government that was an announcement on 10<sup>th</sup> February 1973, by the government of Pakistan to discover a cache of 300 Soviet submachine guns and 48,000 rounds of ammunition from Iraqi embassy in Islamabad. (Mahmed,1983:302).

According to government of Pakistan these were destined for secessionist forces of Balochistan. Central ruling authority alleged Balochistan government that it had been involved in a planning to dismember both Pakistan and Iran with the help of Soviet Union and Iraq. Iraqi government explained its point of view that weapons were destined for Baloch of Iran and not for Pakistan Balochistn. This incident became a major source for the removal of NAP (National Awami Party) in Balochistan. Baloch leaders conceived Iraqi Arms Conspiracy as a deliberate effort on the part of Zulfiqar Ali Bhutto to remove (National Awami Party) NAP government.

Zulfiqar Ali Bhutto dismissed ten-month old Balochistan government on 12 February 1973, charging that Bizengo and Mengal did not hesitate to exceed their constitutional authority. NAP-JUI coalition in Khyber Pakhtun Khwa resigned in protest against the illegal dismissal of the NAP government of Balochistan. National Awami Party's government in Balochistan had majority in Assembly. The dissolution of Balochistan government by the federal government came as a surprise. Federal government banned the National Awami Party (Pakistan: Conflict and Players, 2009:49). Since 1947, it was for the first time that Baloch became successful to form their government and decide their future themselves. Soon after dissolution of Balochistan government, law and order situation disturbed in the province. Akbar Bugti was installed as new Governor of Balochistan by the federal government. Nawab Akbar Bugti used coercive means for suppressing political agitation. Federal government gave an important task to Bugti to win over legislators in the Provincial Assembly by using all means. In 1974, Pakistan People's Party had its majority in the Assembly. This Majority was achieved through unconstitutional means without holding general elections. Ghulam Qadir (Jam of Lasbella) was appointed as Chief Minister of Balochistan. Ataulah Mengal the then Chief Minister of Balochistan once stated, regarding dismissal of his ministry, there were two major reasons in this context.

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Firstly, Zulfiqar Ali Bhutto's government was facing pressure from Iranian government. It was not in the interests of Iranian government to see Baloch self rule in Pakistan because stable Balochistan will assist Iranian Balochistan to strengthen its position. Iran-Iraq tension and Soviet support to Iraq and Iraq's support to Baloch of Iran all these factors were working against the integrity of Iran. Therefore, Iran did not want to see any successful move by Baloch of Pakistan, which will encourage Baloch of Iran. So Iranian factor is considered, first major reason regarding dissolution of Balochistan government by the central ruling authority.

Second reason according to Ataulah Mengal was emergence of contradiction between central government and government of Balochistan. Policies, which were formulated for strengthening the economic and political infrastructure of the province by the provincial government, were not appreciated by the central ruling authority. It was apparent when on 20<sup>th</sup> October 1974; government of Pakistan published its white paper on Balochistan. It was stated by the central ruling authority that government of Balochistan was exceeding its constitutional limits in performing different functions. The main allegation against the government of Sardar Ataulah Mengal was the policy of expulsion of Punjabi employees from different departments. Punjabi employees were compelled by Balochistan government to go back to their province of birth (Breseege, 2004:317).

Actually this was not the decision of Balochistan government rather it was decision of General Yahya Khan at the break up of One Unit that these employees would go back to their province of birth. Balochistan government just implemented this decision but this implementation was not liked by the central ruling authority.

### **Initiation of Hostility**

Dissolution of Balochistan government and arrest of its elected leaders by federal government provided an opportunity to Baloch separatist forces to unite at one place and to initiate third armed resistance against federal government. Discontent and underdevelopment in Balochistan is no doubt a result of negligence and exploitation by different governments over the years (Javaid,2010:123). According to Selig Harrison, there was a division among Baloch leaders over tactics to be followed to respond federal government. For example, Ghaus Bakhsh Bizenjo was not in favour to have confrontation with Pakistan Army instead of it he wanted to resolve issue through political means, while on the other hand Sher Mohammad Marri was in favour to initiate coercive means to deal with Islamabad (Harrison, 1981:35). Baloch nationalists in early April 1973, took to the mountains to initiate resistance against the federal government. Baloch guerrillas began to ambush army and Para-military units. Zulfiqar Ali Bhutto visited Iran in April 1973, for convincing shah of Iran to provide assistance to Pakistan for combating Baloch guerrilla resistance. Iranian government showed its willingness to provide 200 million dollars in emergency and financial aid and 30 Iranian US supplied Huey Cobra helicopter gunships. More than 80, 000 Pakistani troops and some 55, 000 Baloch guerrillas participated in this armed confrontation between central government and Baloch. 3, 00 Pakistan troops and

5,300 Baloch guerrillas lost their lives as a result of this armed confrontation (<http://www.globalsecurity.org/military/world/war/balochistan-1973.htm>).

Young Baloch leaders began to lead various hostile activities against Pakistani troops in different areas such as Sarawan, Jhalawan, Marri and Bugti. Mir Hazar Khan, Mir Lawang Khan, Ali Mohammad Mengal, Safar Khan Zarrak Zai, and Khan Bizenjo. Sulaiman Khan Ahmadzai started to lead activities in Kalat and Mastung areas and Mir Aslam Gichki became active in Mohammad Hasni Area. These Baloch guerrillas had better knowledge of their local mountains and support of locals. They adopted hit and run tactics against Pakistan army while on the other hand Pakistani forces had the expertise, and many resources including helicopters and fighter bombers ([http://www.crisisgroup.org/~media/Files/asia/south-asia/pakistan/119\\_pakistan\\_the\\_worsening\\_conflict\\_in\\_balochistan.pdf](http://www.crisisgroup.org/~media/Files/asia/south-asia/pakistan/119_pakistan_the_worsening_conflict_in_balochistan.pdf)).

In month of August 1973, Pakistani forces planned to come close to the villages but it had to face stiff resistance at Mali where seventy-two years old Mir Lung Khan, brother of Baloch political leader Gul Khan Nasir opened fire at the soldiers. Mir Lung Khan along with other men of this village gave tough time to Pakistan Army. As a result of this fight, fourteen Pakistani soldiers lost their lives while 35 villagers including Mir Lung Khan were killed by Pakistan Army. Pakistan Army was reinforced with fresh troops; spread out in almost all areas of Balochistan. In spite of all these arrangements, Baloch guerrillas had been operating in different areas. They became successful to cut off most of the main roads linking Balochistan with two main provinces namely Sindh and Punjab. Baloch guerrillas periodically disrupted the key Sibi-Harnai rail link, by doing this, guerrillas successfully blockaded coal shipment to Punjab. Companies which were working under the protection of Pakistan Army for exploiting gas and oil in Marri areas were stymied by guerrilla attacks. Baloch guerrillas increased their hostile activities because their policy of ambushes and raids on military encampments was proving very much effective. Baloch guerrillas wanted to stop oil exploration by using all means at their disposal. Once stated by former army commander in Balochistan Lt.Gen. Arbab Jahanseb, they thought they have reached the stage of confrontation with the armed forces in which they would actually be able to derive us out of Balochistan ( Harrison, 1981:37).

It became clear for Pakistan Army to respond very forcefully for bringing situation under their control. Federal government decided to call in Pakistan Air Force to bomb guerrilla- infested areas. Pakistan Air Force conducted combat operations in mountainous areas. At the initial stage Pakistan Air Force employed clumsy Chinko helicopters for getting control over Baloch guerrillas. Huey Cobra helicopters were employed by Pakistan in the mid 1974. Iranian pilots also played a significant role through operating Cobra helicopters during this insurgency. Theses Cobra helicopters had devastating fire power. Iranian government sent 30 Huey Cobra helicopters to assist government of Pakistan to suppress Baloch insurgency. Brute force was used by Pakistani Army to get control over the situation. Brutal six-day battle at Chamalang in Marri-tribal area in the winter of 1974-75, brought a turning point in the war. In every summer nomads of Marri-tribe with their flocks settled down in grazing area of Chamalang valley. In 1974, women, children and older men with their flocks came down from the hills and set up their tents in Chamalang valley.

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Young men of Marri-tribe stayed at hills to fight against Pakistan Army. They thought their families would be more secure in that valley. Pakistan Army decided to initiate attacks against Marri families for drawing out guerrillas in defence of their families. This strategy of Pakistan Army was successful because Baloch fighters abandoned their guerrilla activities against Pakistan Army. Pakistan Army launched Operation Chamalang on 3 September 1974, by using ground and air forces. Guerrilla units fought bravely for three days and nights with Pakistan Army (<http://www.globalsecurity.org/military/world/war/balochistan-1973.htm> ). When they thought they would not be able to continue fighting due to non-availability of military equipment. At this point they decided to escape and most of the Parrari units and their commanders became successful to escape.

### Consequences

In Chamalang valley there were near about 15,000 Marries, 900 were captured by Pakistan Army with their flocks. According to Pakistan Army 120 guerrillas were killed. Baloch received severe damage due to this military operation. This military action broke the back of the Baloch guerrillas and they started withdrawing to the hills ([http://www.academia.edu/475149/Balochistan through Military Actions and Constitutional Evolution](http://www.academia.edu/475149/Balochistan_through_Military_Actions_and_Constitutional_Evolution) ).

According to government statistics high intensity conflicting situation in Balochistan took place at the initial stage of insurgency in 1973. There were 178 major army encounters with the guerrillas during this period. There were 84 incidents which took place in Marri area, while rest of the incidents happened in other areas of Balochistan, especially in Khuzdar and Jhalawan. Mir Hazir Khan in late 1975, decided to move out to Afghanistan. Afghan government granted permission to Mir Hazir Khan to set up encampments close to the Afghan-Pakistan border. These camps were declared by Afghan government as refugee camps for avoiding any objection by the government of Pakistan. These refugee camps functioned as guerrilla base camps. Guerrilla units used to get assistance through these camps. Mir Hazir Khan was followed by Safar Khan Zarrakzai and Dad Mohammad. Guerrilla units were operating against Pakistan Army. Federal government successfully launched operations against Baloch guerrillas in different areas of Balochistan. But Marri area was an exception in this regard where from Balochistan People's Liberation Front (BPLF) was operating against Pakistan Army. Marri tribesmen sent their women and children as refugees to the neighbouring Afghanistan. Kabul government provided minimal help to the Baloch. In 1975, federal government imposed ban on the activities of NAP (National Awami Party) through Supreme Court. In 1976, federal government initiated Hyderabad Conspiracy case against 55 persons from Khyber Pakhtun Khawa and Balochistan. They were charged of resorting war against Pakistan. Conflicting situation continued in Balochistan until General Zia- Ul- Haque overthrew Zulfikar Ali Bhutto in July 1977. General Zia-Ul-Haque decided to tackle problem through political means. For achieving this objective General Zia took certain initiatives. General Zia decided to withdraw the Hyderabad Conspiracy case so the confidence of Baloch people can be



restored. He made an announcement to grant general amnesty to various Baloch leaders. General Zia also decided to release the imprisoned Baloch leaders. Baloch leadership showed its willingness to have negotiation process with General Zia's government ([http://www.academia.edu/475149/Balochistan through Military Actions and Constitutional Evolution](http://www.academia.edu/475149/Balochistan_through_Military_Actions_and_Constitutional_Evolution)).

Baloch leaders presented few demands for entering into dialogue with federal government. The demands were such as,

- Withdrawal of Pakistan Army from Balochistan
- Baloch prisoners should be released
- Federal government should give Compensation for those who have suffered during this resistance.

Federal government suppressed Baloch movement through use of forcible means and through discouraging political forces. Federal government also adopted penetration policy through its intelligence agencies in Balochistan society. Baloch movement failed due to division within the movement. Another important reason of the failure of Baloch movement was lack of external support. Baloch nationalists remained unable to get any support from either Soviet Union or Afghanistan, though Afghan government provided asylum to Baloch nationalists as refugees. Pakistan Army suppressed Baloch movement because it was well equipped while Baloch nationalists were armed only with bolt action rifles, and homemade grenades. The Baloch insurgency of 1973-1977 widened already existing gulf between federal government and the people of Balochistan. Federal government used coercive means for crushing armed rebellion of Baloch guerrillas. But this use of force gave birth a desire for revenge among the Baloch nationalists. Mir Hazar Khan once stated, "Next time we will choose the time and place, and we will take help where we can get it" (Breseege, 2004:337).

General amnesty was given to all Baloch guerrillas who were ready to surrender and lay down their arms. But majority of the belligerents instead to accept amnesty preferred to cross border and went to Afghanistan. The 1973 insurgency was initiated by three major forces such as BPLF (Baloch People's Liberation Front), Tribal guerrillas and BSO (Baloch Student Organization). BPLF was strongest one during that insurgency. BPLF remained active at the Marri territory. In 1977 with the imposition of Martial Law major fighting had broken down. But Baloch guerrillas were calling for secession and were not happy with the central ruling authority. General Rahimuddin Khan was appointed by the military regime as Martial Law Administrator and Governor of the province of Balochistan. General Rahimuddin Khan managed the affairs of Balochistan in an organized way. During his rule Balochistan started to move towards stability. He tried to decrease the role of feudal lords (Nawab and Jams) in the politics of the province. General Rahimuddin Khan's rule in Balochistan was longest in the history of Balochistan. (1977-84) After the death of General Zia-UL-Haque, General elections were held in 1988. Political parties were free to initiate political activities and to contest elections. In the province of Balochistan, Baloch leaders decided to form an alliance for contesting elections. The BNA (Balochistan National Alliance) became successful to win majority in Balochistan. After 1988 elections, Nawab Akbar Bugti became Chief Minister of the province of Balochistan. PPP (Pakistan People's

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Party) formed its government at the centre under the leadership of Ms Benazir Bhutto. Government of Pakistan People's Party was dismissed by president Ghulam Ishaq Khan in August 1990. During 1997 general elections BNP (Balochistan National Party) emerged as a majority party in the province of Balochistan. BNP formed a coalition with JWP (Jamhuri Watan Party) and JUI (F) (Jamiat- Ul-Ulama-e-Islam Fazal ur Rehman group). JWP formed government in Balochistan. Akhtar Mengal son of Ataullah Mengal became Chief Minister of Balochistan. On 12<sup>th</sup> October 1999 fourth military intervention took place in the history of Pakistan. General Pervaiz Musharraf decided to resolve the issue of Balochistan through the use of force. The government of General Pervaiz Musharraf launched an military operation against Nawab Akbar Bugti and killed him. This action of federal government created crisis situation in Balochistan. As a result of 2008 elections Pakistan People's Party became successful to form its government. The government of Pakistan People's Party decided to address the grievances of Baloch people and to take them into confidence through initiating different measures. Existing gulf between central authority and people of Balochistan can be bridged up by resolving their problems through political means. Baloch felt they have been alienated intentionally by the central ruling authority and they have marginal role in the process to formulate various policies.

## Conclusion

The necessary step to lesson nationalistic tendencies among Baloch is to restore their trust by confidence building measures. It should be the top priority of the federal government to initiate negotiation process to resolve crisis situation in Balochistan. Government must try to formulate policies to facilitate the local people in different walks of life. Government must try to resolve the issues related to education, health, unemployment and poverty. The government of Pakistan People's Party introduced Aghaz-e-Huqooq-e-Balochistan package for the betterment of the people of Balochistan. Such packages should be implemented in the true spirit. Local people should be given a chance to involve in different development projects. Baloch people should also be taken into confidence regarding various development projects. There is need to formulate durable and long term policy to maintain law and order situation in Balochistan.

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