

MOST IMMEDIATE



**OFFICE OF THE
ISLAMABAD CAPITAL CITY POLICE OFFICER
ISLAMABAD**

No. 56411/Sec

Dated: 28/12/2023

Subject: - **CONCERNS REGARDING TREATMENT OF BALOCH PROTESTERS**


Please refer to office letter No. 2(119)/21-Chair/NCHR, dated 21.12.2023, on the subject noted above.

2. It is relevant to point out that staging protests is the fundamental right of the religious as well as the political parties. ICP has handled scores of protests and processions in the Federal Capital in the recent past in a befitting manner. ICP has upheld the rule of law and has ensured the protection of Human Rights and civil liberties as per the law and shall continue doing so.

3. It is important to highlight that there is a great exaggeration in the contents of the letter under reference which raises concerns about the scope and mandate of NCHR vis a vis ICP. You have just given your own opinion on unverified reports and unknown sources of information without knowing the facts and intricacies of administrative issues. It is also important to mention that investigations remain a prerogative of the Police and there are multiple accountability fora to which the Police Department is responding daily please. Such kind of communication from government institutions against the Police should have been avoided before knowing the facts.

4. In future, it is also requested that a thorough probe should be done before levelling any allegations against officials of any lawful authority. As the matter is sub-judice, so further details shall be shared as and when necessary.

5. Submitted, please.


AIG/Operations
For ICCPO, Islamabad

**The Secretary
Human Rights Division**

Cc. ✓
Ms. Rabiya Javeri Agha
Chairperson, NCHR
5th Floor, Evacuee Trust Complex, Islamabad

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No. 2(119)/21-Chair/NCHR
GOVERNMENT OF PAKISTAN
NATIONAL COMMISSION FOR HUMAN RIGHTS
5th Floor Evacuee Trust Complex, F-5/1,
Agha Khan Road, Islamabad.



Islamabad, the 21st December, 2023

Subject: CONCERNS REGARDING TREATMENT OF BALOCH
PROTESTER'S

Dear *Dr. Akbar Nazeer Khan, Sabaan,*

The National Commission for Human Rights (NCHR) is a statutory body set up under the NCHR Act XVI of 2012. The NCHR Act, 2012 stipulates a broad and overarching mandate for the promotion and protection of human rights, as provided for in Pakistan's Constitution, domestic law and international treaties. Amidst others, the primary functions of the NCHR include investigating into allegations of human rights abuses and advising the Government on legislative, policy and administrative matters pertaining to the situation of human rights in the country.

2. We are writing to express deep concern over the recent events involving the forceful dispersal of the Baloch protesters on entry into Islamabad. The visit by the National Commission for Human Rights (NCHR) to the protester's camp at the Islamabad Press Club highlighted reports of excessive use of force upon the women and children who participated in the March on the night of 20th December.

3. According to civil society representatives, members of the Baloch student community, and videos circulating on social media there are distressing reports of use of disproportionate force during the arrest of approximately 300 protesters, including women and children. Allegations of the use of batons, tear gas, and water cannons, particularly in cold weather, raise serious concerns about the safety and well-being of the individuals involved. Additionally, the dismantling of tents and shelters at the Islamabad Press club is of concern.



4. Furthermore, the apprehension expressed by Baloch students regarding potential police brutality against the detained activists adds to the gravity of this situation. As citizens of this nation, it is imperative to uphold and safeguard the fundamental rights enshrined in our Constitution, particularly the rights to peaceful protest as stipulated under Article 16, 17, and 19. These rights must be respected and protected without exception.

5. We kindly request a thorough investigation into these allegations and appropriate measures to address any misconduct or excessive use of force by police. In exercise of its statutory powers, NCHR will also visit places where the Baloch protesters are detained. Transparency and accountability are vital to restore trust and ensure justice for all affected parties.

6. It is crucial to maintain a peaceful approach in handling such situations, respecting the rights and dignity of every citizen. We urge the district administration and the police department to prioritize the adherence to due process of the law, ensuring the release of women and children and fair treatment for all.

Sincerely,

(Rabiya Javeri Agha)
Chairperson, NCHR

Dr. Akbar Nasir Khan.
Inspector General of Police,
Government of Pakistan,
Islamabad.

