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COMMISSION ON HUMAN RIGHTS
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**QUESTION OF THE VIOLATION OF HUMAN RIGHTS AND FUNDAMENTAL
FREEDOMS IN ANY PART OF THE WORLD**

**Written statement* submitted by Interfaith International, a non-governmental
organisation in special consultative status**

The Secretary-General has received the following written statement which is
circulated in accordance with Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/31.

[14 February 2006]

* This written statement is issued, unedited, in the language(s) received from the
submitting non-governmental organization(s).

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Concerning the military operation in Balochistan (Pakistan), Interfaith International would like to draw the attention of the world community to the on-going military operation in Pakistani-held Balochistan where the indiscriminate bombardments by the Pakistani army has resulted in the killing of hundreds of innocent Baluchs including scores of women and children in the last three months alone. The indiscriminate aerial bombardment by Pakistani forces on Baloch settlements has also resulted in immense material losses. The current genocide acts of Pakistan army are the continuation of other inhuman acts like illegal detention, kidnappings and extra-judicial killing of Baloch and Sindhi students, political workers and leaders that has been carried out for the last five years by Pakistani police and army intelligence agencies. The recent photos of innocent victims, children, women and elderly, and the latest report by The Human Rights Commission of Pakistan in January 2006, on Baluchistan exposes the misrepresentations of the Pakistani government denying the aerial bombardment of civilian population.

Constructions of army cantonments and deployment of thousands of military and para-military forces throughout Balochistan is presenting a picture of siege and have created a sense of insecurity among the Baloch people. These acts of terror and humiliation, and a continuum of state terrorism against the Baloch people are the hallmark of the present Pakistan state. The only crime of Baloch and Sindhi people is that they are resisting the national, cultural and economic domination of the majority ethnicity ruling Pakistan since its creation in 1947.

We therefore request the International community through this Commission to help the democratic forces and nations in Pakistan to realise their human rights including the right to development, right to their own resources and, last but not the least, the right to live. We also request the community to use all necessary methods to stop Pakistan's current military regime from:

1. Grievously violating the human rights of, and continuing military operation against, and the killing of Baluch people,
2. Arresting, abducting, torturing and killing political activists in Baluchistan and Sindh
3. Building army cantonments in Baluchistan and Sindh to suppress democratic movements
4. Building mega projects to uproot indigenous people

Interfaith International further requests the Commission on Human Rights to arrange a fact-finding mission to access the situation in Baluchistan.

Concerning the arbitrary arrests and disappearances of political workers in Sindh (Pakistan), Interfaith International would like to bring to the attention to this body the arbitrary arrests, disappearances and torture of Sindhi nationalist political activists under the hands of Pakistan's military establishment. In recent months scores of Sindhi activists have been arrested and abducted covertly by the intelligence agencies and have been taken to secret prisons and dungeons where they are being tortured inhumanely. Their only crime is that they are struggling for the democratic rights of the

Sindh. In the past many victims of these atrocities have been either crippled or have died. In May 2005 Senior Vice Chairman of a Sindhi nationalist organization (Jeay Sindh Muthida Mahaz), Samiullah Kalhor, was tortured to death. The operation is going on relentlessly and on 01 Jan 2006 two leaders of Jeay Sindh Muthida Mahaz: Nawaz Zaour and Zulfiqar Kolachi, were arrested in a combined operation of military and paramilitary forces. The whereabouts of these two are hitherto unknown as is that of those hundreds previously abducted in similar operations.

The following Sindhi political activists are currently in the custody of Pakistan's military establishment and the news are emerging that they are being tortured inhumanely: Syed Asghar, Mazhar Bhatti, Mansoor Marri, Sikander Soomro, Rafiq Laghari, Ghulam Nabi, Tahir Soomro, Faiz Chandio, Umar Tewno, Sanaullah Bhatti, Shabir Mallah, Imran Laghari, Fayaz Janwri, and Aslam Soomro. The Pakistan agencies have not yet declared the arrests of Sattar Hakro, Muzaffar Bhutto, Muhram Mallah, Ahmad Teewno, and Zulfiqar Khaskheley. Interfaith International is afraid of the lives and safety of these political activists under military custody.

In Sindh there have been hundreds of protests from all political and civil quarters to release or to produce these political workers in civil courts of law but Pakistani agencies are still holding them and are not allowing anyone to meet them. Through this body we would like to demand from the Pakistan regime the immediate release of these political workers as their arrests and torture constitute gross violation of human rights.

Interfaith International is concerned over the state of religious minorities in Pakistan. The religious minorities in general and Sindhi Hindus in particular, face immense problems and persecution through written as well as unwritten laws. The constitution of the 'Islamic Republic of Pakistan' does not allow any non-Muslim to be the head of state or that of a government or a city. Hindu temples are attacked every now and then and the government offers no protection to the religious sites of the minorities.

In Year 2004 year, Krishen Sharma, a Sindhi Hindu human rights activist, who also works with the Human Rights Commission of Pakistan (HRCP), was arrested without warrant by the officials of Federal Investigation Unit, Pakistan. Due to public pressure, his case was brought to Sindh High court, but judgement withheld. He was finally released after great public and international protests, including some United States senators writing to General Musharaff about Mr Sharma's release.

Sindhi Hindus are increasingly victims of forced conversions, harassment, extortion, and kidnapping. The fundamental rights of Ahmedis (a sect of Islam) are banned and forbidden to worship and identify with their religion freely without facing prison. Christians are also a great victims of forced conversions, fake blasphemy punishments, and poverty.

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