

PRESS RELEASE

WSI Condemns the Assassination of Habib Jalib Baloch

July 17, 2010 -Washington, DC: The Word Sindhi Institute expressed great grief and concern over the brutal assassination of Habib Jalib Baloch on Wednesday, July 14, 2010. Habib Jalib (deceased) was the Central Secretary General of Balochistan National Party (BNP) - Mengal Group. A prominent politician, intellectual and poet of Balochistan, Jalib was extremely popular among common people. His colleagues and followers loved him truly, due to his genuine and interesting style of oratory, depth of knowledge, cordial relations with the poor and sincere leadership. In past he had served as Senator, senior lawyer of Pakistan Supreme Court and chairman of Baloch Students Organization (BSO).

“Baloch Mussallah Defai Tanzim”, a group that has surfaced recently, has claimed responsibility of this assassination, as well as murder attempt on Rasheed Baloch, vice president of BSO and killing of Baloch students in Khuzdar last month. This group is allegedly organized and supported by the Intelligence agencies of Pakistan Military. On July 11, 2010, some unknown assailants had murdered yet another Baloch politician, Maula Bakhsh Dashti in Kech, Makran. He was member of the Central Committee of National Party, former Chairman of BSO-Awami and District Nazim of Turbat. All the above-mentioned personalities, along with many more Baloch leaders, including Nawab Akbar Khan Bugti and Balach Marri were executed extra-judicially because of their common strive for basic rights of Baloch over their own resources and the autonomy to decision making for themselves on their own land. Baloch people have long been marginalized and deprived of any opportunity of having a voice in determining their situation and fate.

The previous and ongoing military operations as well as recent series of target killings of Baloch political leaders/ students is a matter of exponential concern for all humanitarian, democratic and civilized people in the world. On behalf of the people of Sindh and Sindhis in North America, WSI cordially offers condolences to the families of deceased, their co-workers and all Baloch peoples, and condemns the practice of eliminating politically aware, educated and intellectual Baloch. We extend our solidarity and demand from the international community to take positive action in support of Baloch sufferers' struggle against brutality, atrocities, oppression, injustice and tyranny, so openly inflicted upon them in Pakistan, even during democracy.