

Mass graves in Balochistan reveal over 100 bodies

31st January, 2014



The Asian Human Rights Commission (AHRC) says it has found 169 bodies in mass graves in the Pakistani province of

Balochistan. The corpses are believed to be members of groups calling for greater autonomy and rights for Balochistan. The AHRC suspects they are some of the thousands of Balochs who were reportedly arrested and kidnapped by Pakistan's security agencies. The commission has called on the United Nations to send a fact-finding mission to ascertain the truth behind the killings. Pakistan's government denies the claims made by the AHRC and says the total number of bodies found is just 15. The AHRC expressed "shock and deep concern" over the latest killings.

Balochistan is one of Pakistan's poorest regions, although it has vast natural resources. Baloch separatists allege that Pakistan is systematically suppressing development in the region to keep its people weak. The people want a whole series of issues addressed. These range from human rights abuses, greater autonomy, increased royalties from the region's abundant natural resources, and full independence. In the period between 2003 and 2012, an estimated 8,000 people from Balochistan were reportedly kidnapped by Pakistani security forces. Pakistani expert Malik Siraj Akbar said: "The international community must play its role in bringing the people behind these crimes to justice."

Sources: www.dw.de / Wikipedia

Writing

If the majority of a region wants independence, they should have it. Discuss.

Chat

Talk about these words from the article.

human rights / mass graves / autonomy / arrested / kidnapped / fact-finding / shock / poorest regions / natural resources / development / independence / crimes / justice

True / False

- The Pakistan Human Rights Commission found many bodies. T / F
- The bodies are members of Pakistan's security forces. T / F
- An organization has asked the U.N. to find the truth about the killings. T / F
- The Pakistan government said here were fewer bodies than reported. T / F
- Balochistan is rich in natural resources. T / F
- Baloch people want Pakistan to give them more human rights. T / F
- 8,000 people were killed in Balochistan between 2003 and 2012. T / F
- An expert on Pakistan advised the international community to stay out. T / F

Synonym Match

- | | |
|----------------|------------------|
| 1. mass | a. plentiful |
| 2. corpses | b. has a feeling |
| 3. suspects | c. holding back |
| 4. called on | d. grave |
| 5. deep | e. part |
| 6. regions | f. dead bodies |
| 7. suppressing | g. specialist |
| 8. abundant | h. asked |
| 9. expert | i. areas |
| 10. role | j. large-scale |

Discussion – Student A

- What do you know about Balochistan?
- Why doesn't Pakistan exploit Balochistan's natural resources?
- Why might Pakistan want to keep the Baloch people weak?
- What issues in your country do you want addressed?
- Which regions of the world do you think should get independence?
- Should the map of the world be changed, with new countries created?
- When do you think people will stop killing each other over ethnicity?
- What questions would you like to ask Malik Siraj Akbar?

Phrase Match

- | | |
|-------------------------------------|------------------------------|
| 1. it has found 169 bodies | a. natural resources |
| 2. members of groups calling | b. claims made by the AHRC |
| 3. send a fact-finding | c. of issues addressed |
| 4. Pakistan's government denies the | d. in the region |
| 5. expressed shock and deep | e. mission |
| 6. it has vast | f. these crimes to justice |
| 7. suppressing development | g. in mass graves |
| 8. The people want a whole series | h. Pakistani security forces |
| 9. reportedly kidnapped by | i. for greater autonomy |
| 10. bringing the people behind | j. concern |

Discussion – Student B

- What springs to mind when you hear the word 'independence'?
- What did you think about what you read?
- Do you think the killers will ever be found or brought to justice?
- What's the best way for regions to get greater autonomy?
- Should the U.N. go to Balochistan to investigate?
- Who do you believe about the number of dead?
- Should this be a bigger news story?
- What would happen if the truth about the killings was found?

Spelling

- the Pakistani rpnvceio of Balochistan
- The cespros are believed to be members...
- greater atomouyn
- The oicimsnmos has called on the U.N.
- cetsrniaa the truth behind the killings
- ... expressed "shock and deep norecnc"
- Baloch satsaiperst allege that...
- systematically ssnsrieupgp development
- increased toriyales
- the region's nanbdtau natural resources
- an ttsemeida 8,000 people
- bringing the people behind these crimes to tsciuje

Answers – Synonym Match

1. j	2. f	3. b	4. h	5. d
6. i	7. c	8. a	9. g	10. e

Role Play

Role A – Freedom from discrimination

You think freedom from discrimination is the most important human right. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them things that are difficult with their rights. Also, tell the others which is the least important of these (and why): the right to education, freedom of belief and religion or the right to rest and leisure.

Role B – Right to education

You think the right to education is the most important human right. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them things that are wrong with their difficult. Also, tell the others which is the least important of these (and why): freedom from discrimination, freedom of belief and religion or the right to rest and leisure.

Role C – Freedom of belief and religion

You think freedom of belief and religion is the most important human right. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them things that are wrong with their difficult. Also, tell the others which is the least important of these (and why): the right to education, freedom from discrimination or the right to rest and leisure.

Role D – Right to rest and leisure

You think the right to rest and leisure is the most important human right. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them things that are wrong with their difficult. Also, tell the others which is the least important of these (and why): the right to education, freedom of belief and religion or freedom from discrimination.

Speaking – Human Rights

Rank these and share your rankings with your partner. Put the most important at the top. Change partners often and share your rankings.

Freedom of movement	Freedom from discrimination
Right to own property	Freedom of belief and religion
Right to education	Right to rest and leisure
Freedom from slavery	Right to social security

Answers – True False

a	F	b	F	c	T	d	T	e	T	f	T	g	F	h	F
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Answers to Phrase Match and Spelling are in the text.