

DETAILED DOSSIER: HUMAN RIGHTS IN BALOCHISTAN & THE CASE FOR SUSPENDING PAKISTAN'S GSP+ STATUS

An in-depth analysis of systemic state violence, judicial weaponization, and the violation of core EU trade conventions.

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1. Executive Summary

This comprehensive dossier serves as supplementary evidence for a formal petition to the European Parliament, urging the immediate suspension of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan's Generalised Scheme of Preferences Plus (GSP+) status. Over the past several years, the human rights situation in Balochistan has deteriorated from a regional crisis into an institutionalized, state-sponsored campaign of repression against the Baloch people. This campaign is fundamentally incompatible with the 27 international conventions that form the legal prerequisite for GSP+ trade privileges.

This report documents a clear, chronological escalation of state violence. What began decades ago as a covert "kill-and-dump" policy has evolved into the overt criminalization of peaceful civil society. The state apparatus has weaponized counter-terrorism legislation to arbitrarily detain, torture, and silence human rights defenders. The June 2026 life imprisonment of Baloch Yakjehti Committee (BYC) leaders Dr. Mahrang Baloch and Sibghatullah Shah, following closed-door trials stripped of due process, represents a critical turning point. Similarly, the relentless harassment, travel bans, and violent home raids directed at free activists like Sammi Deen Baloch demonstrate a systematic effort to eradicate all forms of peaceful dissent.

By continuing to grant Pakistan duty-free access to its markets, the European Union is inadvertently subsidizing a state that operates with complete impunity. This document outlines the factual background, the specific legal violations of international treaties, and the urgent actions required by the European Commission.

2. The GSP+ Legal Framework and Pakistan's Obligations

The GSP+ is an EU trade policy instrument designed to promote sustainable development and good governance. It provides zero-tariff access to the EU market for over 66% of tariff lines. For Pakistan, this arrangement is economically vital; over 85% of Pakistan's exports to the EU (primarily textiles and garments) enter duty-free, generating billions of euros in revenue annually.

However, Article 9 of the GSP Regulation mandates that this status is strictly conditional upon the ratification and effective implementation of 27 core international conventions. Pakistan is systematically violating several of these core treaties, most notably:

Key Violated Conventions:

- **The International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR):** Specifically Article 6 (Right to Life), Article 7 (Freedom from Torture), Article 9 (Freedom from Arbitrary Arrest and Detention), and Article 14 (Right to a Fair Trial).
- **The Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (CAT):** Systematically breached in secret detention centers operated by military and intelligence agencies.
- **The International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination (CERD):** Violated through the targeted, ethno-national profiling of the Baloch population.

The European Commission has the legal mechanism, under Article 19 of the GSP Regulation, to temporarily withdraw these preferences if a beneficiary country fails to respect these fundamental human rights. The evidence presented in this dossier fulfills the criteria for such a withdrawal.

3. The Epidemic of Enforced Disappearances

The contemporary human rights crisis in Balochistan is rooted in the systemic practice of enforced disappearances, utilized by Pakistani state security forces (including the Frontier Corps, intelligence agencies, and the Counter-Terrorism Department) to crush political, social, and economic grievances.

For over two decades, thousands of Baloch students, political activists, journalists, poets, and civilians have been abducted. The modus operandi is disturbingly consistent: individuals are taken from their homes, university dormitories, or public streets by armed personnel, often arriving in un-marked vehicles. The state subsequently denies any knowledge of their whereabouts.

Victims are transported to unacknowledged "black sites" where they are held incommunicado for months or years. Testimonies from the few who have survived recount horrific torture methods. Tragically, this practice is frequently coupled with extrajudicial executions, known locally and internationally as the "kill-and-dump" policy. Mutilated bodies of the disappeared are frequently discovered in desolate mountainous areas, bearing undeniable signs of severe physical abuse, drill holes, and acid burns. Domestic remedies, including the national Commission of Inquiry on Enforced Disappearances (COIOED), have proven entirely ineffective, serving largely as a smokescreen to deflect international criticism rather than holding perpetrators accountable.

4. The Crackdown on the Baloch Long March (2023-2024)

In response to the unabated killings, civil society mobilized. In late 2023, the Baloch Yakjehti Committee (BYC) organized a peaceful "Long March" from Turbat (Balochistan) to the federal capital, Islamabad. The march was triggered by the extrajudicial killing of a young Baloch man, Balach Mola Bakhsh, who was murdered in a staged encounter by the Counter-Terrorism Department (CTD) while already in their custody.

The march, largely led by women who were family members of missing persons, aimed to peacefully demand an end to enforced disappearances. Instead of dialogue, the Pakistani state responded with severe brutality. Upon reaching Islamabad, the peaceful marchers were met with water cannons, baton charges, and tear gas in freezing temperatures. Hundreds of peaceful protesters were subjected to arbitrary mass detentions. State media launched a coordinated defamation campaign, labeling the peaceful activists as "terrorist sympathizers," further exposing the state's structural hostility toward basic democratic rights (a direct violation of ICCPR Article 21, the Right to Peaceful Assembly).

5. The Weaponization of the Judiciary: The June 2026 Sentencings

Failing to suppress the movement through street-level brutality, the state apparatus pivoted to judicial weaponization. By utilizing the Anti-Terrorism Act (ATA) of 1997—a deeply flawed legal framework widely condemned by international jurists—authorities began criminalizing human rights advocacy.

CASE STUDY 1: THE LIFE IMPRISONMENT OF DR. MAHRANG BALOCH AND SIBGHATULLAH SHAH

Arrest Context: Following violent police crackdowns on peaceful solidarity protests in Quetta in March 2025 (which resulted in the deaths of unarmed demonstrators, including a child), Dr. Mahrang Baloch, the prominent leader of the BYC, and activist Sibghatullah Shah were arbitrarily detained. They were charged under fabricated terrorism, sedition, and incitement statutes.

Judicial Malpractice: The subsequent judicial process was a gross violation of ICCPR Article 14. Between late 2025 and mid-2026, their trials were systematically conducted inside prison walls, entirely hidden from public scrutiny, independent media, and international observers. Defense lawyers were repeatedly harassed and denied proper access to their clients.

Sentencing and Conditions: On June 22, 2026, an anti-terrorism court in Quetta sentenced both Dr. Mahrang Baloch and Sibghatullah Shah to life imprisonment. Since her detention, Dr. Baloch has been subjected to solitary confinement. Authorities have actively denied her adequate medical care for severe spinal injuries sustained during police abuse, a clear violation of the Nelson Mandela Rules and the CAT.

6. State Persecution of Free Human Rights Defenders

The state's objective is to completely paralyze civil society. Activists who avoid imprisonment are subjected to a sophisticated, relentless campaign of intimidation designed to psychologically break them and restrict their advocacy.

CASE STUDY 2: THE ONGOING HARASSMENT OF SAMMI DEEN BALOCH

Sammi Deen Baloch has been a prominent voice for the missing persons movement since her father, Dr. Deen Zan Baloch, was forcibly disappeared in 2009. The state has targeted her relentlessly:

- **Travel Bans and Financial Restrictions:** To prevent her from engaging with international human rights bodies (including the UN), state authorities have placed her on the Exit Control List (ECL). Furthermore, she has been designated under the Fourth Schedule of the Anti-Terrorism Act, subjecting her to extreme surveillance and effectively freezing her civil liberties.
- **Violent Home Incursions:** Intimidation tactics rely heavily on physical terror. On **June 28, 2026**—a date maliciously chosen to coincide with the 17th anniversary of her father's abduction—heavily armed security forces violently raided and ransacked her residence in Karachi. Laptops, documents, and personal belongings were seized without warrants. This raid serves as a chilling warning that no Baloch activist, regardless of their peaceful methods, is safe from state terror.

7. Recommendations to the European Union

The evidence is incontrovertible. The Islamic Republic of Pakistan is operating in flagrant, continuous violation of the core human rights conventions required by the GSP+ framework. The European Union's

continued conferral of these trade benefits effectively subsidizes the military and state apparatus responsible for the ongoing atrocities in Balochistan. Inaction not only damages the credibility of the EU's human rights policy but makes European markets complicit in the oppression of the Baloch people.

On behalf of Paank and the victims of state violence in Balochistan, we urge the European Parliament (PETI), the European External Action Service (EEAS), and the Directorate-General for Trade (DG TRADE) to urgently undertake the following actions:

1. **Trigger Article 19 - Temporary Withdrawal of GSP+:** The European Commission must immediately launch an official investigation and initiate the procedure for the temporary withdrawal of Pakistan's GSP+ trade preferences due to systematic violations of the ICCPR and CAT, as stipulated under the GSP Regulation.
2. **Demand the Release of Political Prisoners:** Utilize all diplomatic leverage, including bilateral dialogues, to demand the immediate, unconditional release of Dr. Mahrang Baloch, Sibghatullah Shah, and all other arbitrarily detained human rights defenders. Demand the immediate annulment of their politically motivated life sentences.
3. **Protect Human Rights Defenders:** Demand that Pakistani authorities immediately cease all forms of intimidation, surveillance, and violent home raids targeting activists, including Sammi Deen Baloch. Insist on their immediate removal from the Exit Control List (ECL) and the Fourth Schedule of the Anti-Terrorism Act.
4. **Establish an Independent Fact-Finding Mission:** The European Parliament must formally request the United Nations Human Rights Council to establish an independent fact-finding mission to investigate extrajudicial killings, enforced disappearances, and the operation of secret detention centers in Balochistan.
5. **Condition Future Assistance:** Ensure that any future financial, logistical, or trade assistance to Pakistan is strictly conditioned upon verifiable, tangible improvements in the human rights situation in Balochistan, including the dismantling of the "kill-and-dump" policy.

"Economic privileges must never be maintained at the expense of human lives. The European Union must stand by its foundational values and hold the perpetrators of systemic violence accountable."