

Dear Editor,

## TARGET KILLING AND BALOCH HONOUR

This is with reference to the spate of target killings in Balochistan and ejection of many non Balochi families from Baloch areas. Countless families are uprooted and have fled as they are terrorized. Many entrepreneurs have sold their business and migrated. But the recent acid attack on innocent girls in the market is unprecedented and rather peculiar. The responsibility of which, as per the newspapers was owned by some 'Baloch Ghairat'(Honour)group. It seems quite bizarre.

I feel that Baloch Leaders and Elders know that killing or disfiguring decent innocent citizens is nothing to do with 'Baloch Honour' or 'Ghairat' and done by some angry and misguided youth. These barbaric acts were duly condemned by Baloch civil society and leaders because they appreciate that these inhuman acid attacks and acts of cold blooded murders are counterproductive to their causes. It is now imperative that they find a way to convey to the militant wings or whoever is responsible that these particular kinds of brutal acts can only bring shame and disgrace to the name of Baloch people.

The targeted murders of innocent civilians are not a recent phenomenon, but thanks to the Musharraf's operation Bugti, this evil phenomenon is one of his gifts to this beleaguered nation. Despite the fact that in these contemporary times we have outgrown the child

hood tales of Baloch bravery and only after killing someone in a feud was a Baloch ready to enter manhood, these broad day light assassinations of decent, law abiding, unarmed citizens like professors, who have selflessly served the region for decades can only be termed as cowardice rather than bravery. These queer acts of savagery by misguided militants will only hurt and not help the cause of Balochistan. Therefore it is up to the Baloch elders to resolve this issue as it is hurting the Baloch National integrity. Like Sindhis, the Balochis were known for their hospitality and Bravery, it is up to the Baloch leaders to search for these so called angry militants who are bringing a bad name to Balochistan and rectify the situation.

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