



## **Wall of Silence: Human Rights in Balochistan**

Organised by the Unrepresented Nations and Peoples Organization (UNPO) and the World Baloch Organisation (WBO)

**19 July 2017, 18h30 to 20h00**  
**Committee Room 2, House of Lords, London**

### **Opening remarks**

Baroness Jenny Jones of Moulsecoomb, Green Party for England and Wales

Fernando Burgés, UNPO Programme Manager

### **Moderator**

Noordin Mengal, Human Rights Campaigner, WBO

### **Pakistan at 70: Whither bound Baloch Vassaldom**

Burzine Waghmar, School of Oriental and African Studies

### **Balochistan: Pakistan's failure and China's dilemma**

Angela Stanzel, European Council on Foreign Relations

### **Control and Intimidation: A Foreign Correspondent's experience of Balochistan 2006-2017**

Carlotta Gall, New York Times

### **A Road Map for Peace and Self-Determination**

Peter Tatchell, Peter Tatchell Foundation



## Overview:

The plight of Balochistan, Pakistan's largest, most resource-rich yet least developed province, and the gross human rights violations perpetrated against its people, seldom surfaces in international media channels or decision-making fora. For decades in Balochistan economic exploitation through the plundering of natural resources and the systematic economic, social and political exclusion of indigenous Baloch people have become commonplace. In addition to this, enforced disappearances, extrajudicial killings and an escalating crackdown on freedom of expression, are used as covert tools to brutally repress the Baloch peoples' peaceful struggle for justice, rights and equality. Through notorious "blasphemy laws" and their abusive implementation, a wide-spanning censorship reigns in Pakistan, denying a voice and persecuting all those considered to be "anti-state" actors

An intensification of censorship impacts the Baloch people particularly, denied a voice regarding the implementation of the US\$46 billion dollar mega project known as the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), by being excluded from all decision-making processes and silencing any dissenting voice. Furthermore, armed forces have been raiding the houses of Baloch activists, keeping women and children captive as part of a larger campaign to silence any opposition to CPEC.

At a time when independent media and international civil society organisations are repeatedly being denied access to the region, this conference will contribute to filling the existing information black hole on human rights violations in Balochistan and to draw attention to these heinous crimes. The event will bring together academic experts and renowned human rights advocates to discuss the challenges and interests at stake, looking at how the international community can support the Baloch people to end atrocities committed against them.