



A MID-YEAR REVIEW  
(JAN-JUN 2025)

**ANALYZING PATTERNS  
OF HUMAN RIGHTS  
VIOLATIONS IN  
BALUCHISTAN, IRAN**

# **Analysing Patterns of Human Rights Violations in Balochistan, Iran: A Mid-Year Review (Jan–Jun 2025)**

**Compiled and published by: Baloch Advocacy and Studies Center  
(BASC)**

**Date of Publication: December 2025**



© 2025 Baloch Advocacy and Studies Center (BASC). All rights reserved.

Any part of this publication may be reproduced, stored, or transmitted in any form or by any means, provided that proper acknowledgement is given to the source.

Every effort has been made to verify the accuracy and integrity of the information contained in this publication. The Baloch Advocacy and Studies Center (BASC) does not accept liability for any inadvertent mistakes or omissions.

Baloch Advocacy and Studies Center (BASC)

28 Longlands, Hemel Hempstead, United Kingdom, HP2 4DG

For research-related queries and suggestions, please contact the Research Department: [khurshidbaloch@balochbasc.com](mailto:khurshidbaloch@balochbasc.com), [aref@balochbasc.com](mailto:aref@balochbasc.com), [f.rigi@balochbasc.com](mailto:f.rigi@balochbasc.com).

For queries about BASC, please contact: [contact@balochbasc.com](mailto:contact@balochbasc.com)

For interviews, media inquiries, or participation requests, please contact the General Secretary of BASC: [qambarmalik@balochbasc.com](mailto:qambarmalik@balochbasc.com)

<https://balochbasc.com/>

## Table of Contents

|  |    |
|--|----|
| 1. Abstract.....   | 1  |
| 2. Introduction .....  | 2  |
| 3. Methodology and Statistical Analysis .....  | 4  |
| 4. Findings .....  | 5  |
| 4.1 Analysis of Injured and Killed Fuel Carriers in Balochistan<br>(Jan–Jun 2025) .....                    | 5  |
| 4.2 Analysis of Executions in Iran (Jan–Jun 2025) – Focus on<br>Ethnic and Drug-Related Cases.....         | 8  |
| 4.3 Analysis of Military Operations and Civilian Casualties in<br>Balochistan (Jan–Jun 2025).....          | 12 |
| 4.4 Analysis of Repeated Attacks, Assaults, and Kidnapping<br>Attempts in Balochistan (Jan–Jun 2025) ..... | 15 |
| 5. Conclusions .....   | 18 |
| 6. References.....   | 19 |

## 1. Abstract

This report analyses various types of repeated violent assaults, such as civilian casualties, military operations, and extrajudicial killings of Baloch people in Balochistan during January to June 2025. The affected individuals were civilians, including men, women, and children, who were either injured, killed, or detained during the so-called security operations and targeted attacks by the forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran, consequently, leaving families without protection, stability, or support.

The data show that the recorded cases are mostly justified under a security or counter-insurgency framework, a rhetoric of the Iranian government to justify its long-term structural inequalities in Balochistan, which has turned the area into a chronic poverty, underdevelopment, and heavy militarisation. The data show that during peaks of military raids and retaliatory violence, there were sharp surges in killings and arrests.

The methodical patterns of violence, either carried out by the state or its non-state elements, against the Baloch people are surging regularly. The human right situations in Balochistan require crucial international monitoring, accountability mechanisms, and humanitarian support to protect affected communities in Balochistan.

## 2. Introduction

Historically, Balochistan has been facing a range of complex structural and economic challenges that include ethnic discrimination, restricted labour market alternatives, and enduring economic marginalization. Being subjected to these structural factors makes the Baloch people even more vulnerable because they engage with state power's attempts to suppress their ethnic and nationalist identity claims with forced state measures that express themselves violently (Ashari, 2011). Being simultaneously politically and ethnically marginalized makes violence more probable because ethnoreligious conflicts can increase the probability of violence because of ethnoreligious identity becoming core to these conflicts (Guelke, 2012). Historically, ethnic discrimination has been sustained at different state levels because of which persistent violence has been witnessed because of structural neglect of ethnic minorities like the Baloch inside Iran (Khan & Laoutides, 2024).

Between January and June 2025, physical violence directly collided with these structural concerns to create a complex environment of violation for those living within this province. It is because of chronic poverty and lack of proper employment that fuel transporters, many of whom qualify under this dangerous line of work, were wounded or killed due to state intervention efforts. Side by side with these processes, ethno-religious patterns of executions continued; occasionally these were linked to drug trafficking or politically-based dissent—often more systematically levied at persons of Baloch origin.

Furthermore, these civilians were subjected to numerous military incursions into their homes, beatings, mass arrests, and other intimidation efforts such as persistent harassment and attempted forced abductions. These acts can themselves be said to emanate from an interplay between physical and structural violence. As conceptualised by Galtung (2014), structural violence remains embedded within institutions and policies, manifesting as systemic inequality that restricts opportunities and reinforces marginalisation without always appearing as overt

coercion. The militarisation of daily life in Balochistan reflects this dual structure: visible acts of force operate atop deeply institutionalised deprivation. The cumulative effect of these intersecting incidents reveals more hidden patterns of susceptibility and repression. It therefore becomes clear that with the utilization of quantitative evidence to plot trends for incidence patterns and types of violence throughout the first half of 2025, this research study intends to investigate more closely hidden patterns of human rights abuses inherent in state activity within Balochistan and examine more closely how susceptibility to repressive violence especially affects civilian populations of Baloch nationality via ethnically specific patterns of injury incidence, deaths, arrests, and extrajudicial killings.

### **3. Methodology and Statistical Analysis**

The data were collected and verified through cross-referencing multiple online sources from both Iranian and international human rights organisations, including Amnesty International, Rasank, the Balochistan Human Rights Group, Halvash, and the Baloch Activists Campaign. The dataset was compiled and analysed using Microsoft Excel.



## 4. Findings

### 4.1 Analysis of Injured and Killed Fuel Carriers in Balochistan (Jan–Jun 2025)

The lack of employment opportunities on both sides of the Balochistan border has forced many residents into fuel trading (locally known as “Soukhtbari”) as their only means of earning a meagre living. Due to state-imposed poverty and unemployment, individuals in this situation are compelled to engage in this highly dangerous work. Most fuel carriers face threats from military and security forces and can easily be attacked while transporting fuel on public roads or main streets in towns and villages. In addition to the carriers themselves, other civilians are at risk of injury or death due to the reckless actions of armed forces, who often disregard safety and security measures during pursuits or direct shootings at fuel carriers, despite the illegality of such military actions. Furthermore, hazardous road networks and the transport of highly flammable fuel have led to numerous accidents resulting in a high number of deaths and serious injuries, including fatalities caused by burns.

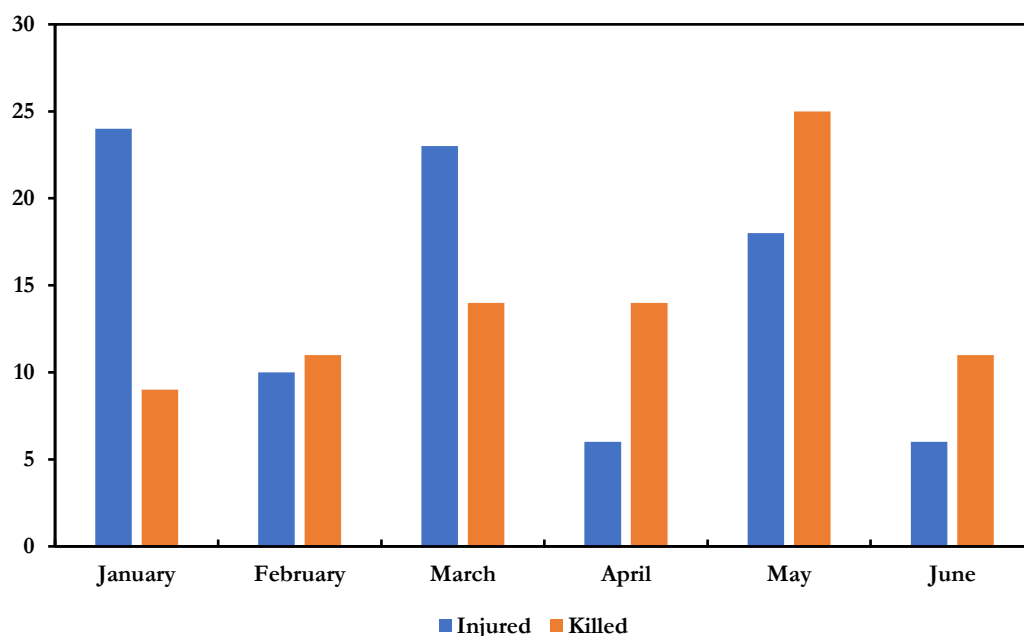
This situation reflects a broader socio-economic crisis affecting the region. The lack of access to employment, education, healthcare, and infrastructure leaves members of these families—especially younger and more desperate individuals—with no choice but to resort to such activities. While the Iranian Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC) engages in fuel trading to circumvent international sanctions, operating largely without constraints, by fuel carriers affiliated with the Basij and the IRGC also participate in these activities. In contrast, ordinary Baloch individuals involved in fuel trading face criminal charges if prosecuted. These families, therefore, find themselves with no alternative but to participate in this activity in order to meet their basic needs.

## Additional Context

- Most fuel carriers are young men, typically aged 18–35.
- Police and military forces frequently target fuel carriers, either through pursuits and attempts to flee or by direct gunfire on public highways and main streets in Balochistan’s towns and villages, with limited or delayed access to medical assistance.
- Fuel trade can peak seasonally, influenced by fuel demand and economic pressures.
- Violence from authorities contributes to a persistent environment of insecurity.

**Table 1.** Number of killed and injured individuals in Balochistan related to fuel trading

| Month (2025) | Injured | Killed |
|--------------|---------|--------|
| January      | 24      | 9      |
| February     | 10      | 11     |
| March        | 23      | 14     |
| April        | 6       | 14     |
| May          | 18      | 25     |
| June         | 6       | 11     |



**Figure 1.** Number of killed and injured individuals in Balochistan related to fuel trading.

### Observations:

- Highest number of injuries: January (24)
- Highest number of fatalities: May (25)
- Lowest number of injuries: April & June (6)
- Lowest number of fatalities: January (9)

### Visual Analysis

A bar chart comparing Injured and Killed across the months highlights key trends:

- Injuries fluctuate significantly, while fatalities remain relatively high and stable.
- Fatalities surpass injuries in February, April, and May, suggesting particularly deadly incidents.
- May 2025 stands out as the deadliest month, with 25 deaths.

### Detailed Interpretation

### Trend Analysis

- Average monthly injured:  $\approx 14.5$
- Average monthly killed:  $\approx 14$
- Overall fatality-to-injury ratio:  $\sim 0.97$  (almost 1:1)

This indicates that incidents involving fuel carriers are extremely lethal. Even months with relatively low injuries, such as April and June, still have a high number of deaths, emphasizing the dangerous nature of this occupation.

### **Socio-Economic Implications**

- Fuel trade is driven primarily by economic desperation.
- High mortality rates highlight the absence of safety measures and emergency services.
- The pattern of incidents underscores systemic neglect of border communities and the urgent need for social support, employment programs, and safer alternatives.

## **4.2 Analysis of Executions in Iran (Jan–Jun 2025) – Focus on Ethnic and Drug-Related Cases**

Over the years, the death sentence has been applied as an instrument of distraction and fear tactic against different ethnic minorities by the Islamic republic of Iran, leading to human rights abuses taking place in this region.

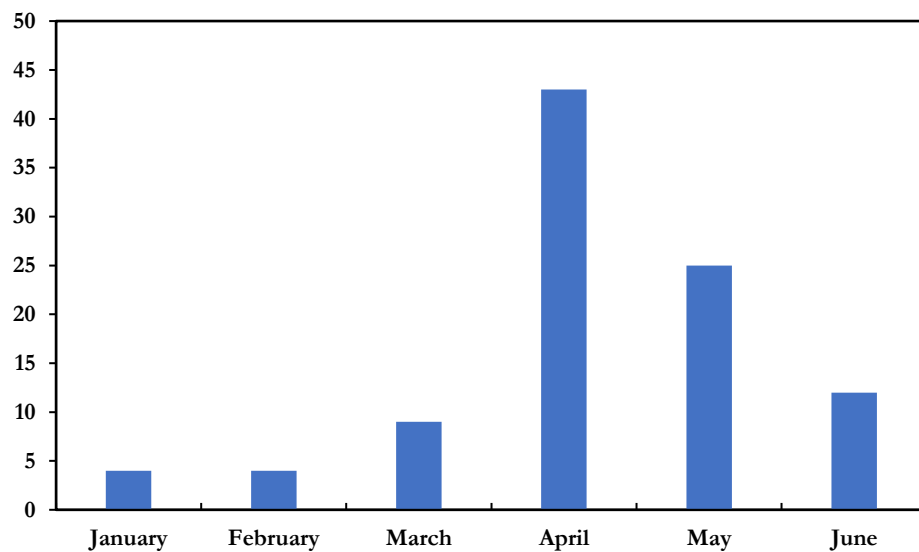
Although there has been a visible decrease in the number of executed persons throughout the world, Iran's number of executions has been steadily increasing every year. Most of these are politically driven and this level of disrespect brought on through these unacceptable executions by the Islamic state of Iran should not occur under modern international law.

It has been reported that the number of actual executions could exceed expectations because of the lack of transparency within the Iranian judicial system. Iran can now

be said to fall into a minority that relies on capital punishment because fewer countries practice it than ever before.

**Table 2.** Number of Baloch individuals' executions from Jan-Jun 2025

| Month (2025) Executions (Baloch Ethnic) |    |
|---|----|
| January                                 | 4  |
| February                                | 4  |
| March                                   | 9  |
| April                                   | 43 |
| May                                     | 25 |
| June                                    | 12 |



**Figure 2.** Number of Baloch individuals subjected to executions between January and June 2025

#### Observations:

- Highest executions: April (43)

- Lowest executions: January and February (4 each)
- Total executions over six months: 97

### **Visual Analysis**

A bar chart representing executions per month shows:

- A sharp spike in April 2025, suggesting either intensified crackdowns or large-scale judicial actions.
- Relatively low numbers in the first quarter (January–March), indicating possible seasonal or policy-related fluctuations.
- May and June also show elevated numbers, highlighting ongoing enforcement against ethnic minorities and drug-related cases.

### **Detailed Interpretation**

#### **Trend Analysis**

- Average monthly executions:  $\approx 16.2$
- Median month: May (25 executions)
- The April spike accounts for  $\approx 44\%$  of total executions during this six-month period, indicating a concentrated wave of repression.

#### **Human Rights Implications**

- The consistent targeting of ethnic minorities, including the Baloch community, illustrates systemic ethnic discrimination.
- The combination of political, drug-related, and minority-focused executions reflects the judicial system's use of capital punishment as a tool of social and political control.
- Lack of transparency prevents accurate monitoring, potentially masking higher execution rates and violations.

## **Global Context**

- Worldwide, the number of countries practicing capital punishment is decreasing.
- Iran's high execution rates, particularly against minorities and politically sensitive cases, place it among the top violators of international human rights standards.

## **Conclusions and Recommendations**

- Iran continues to rely heavily on capital punishment despite global declines, using it as a tool for social control and suppression.
- The extreme spike in April 2025 signals intensified government crackdowns targeting ethnic minorities and alleged drug offenders.
- Secrecy and lack of transparency in reporting hinder global awareness of the true scale of executions.

### 4.3 Analysis of Military Operations and Civilian Casualties in Balochistan (Jan–Jun 2025)

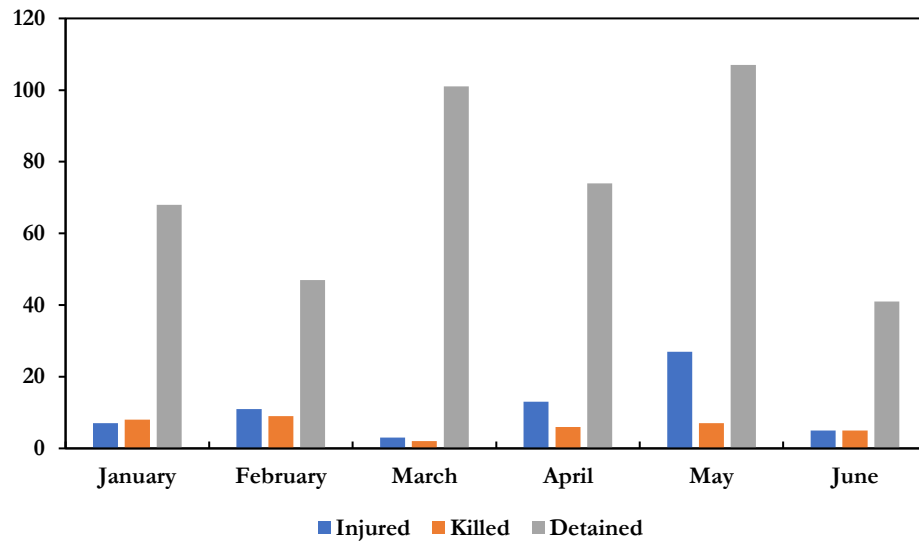
There have been several military operations in Balochistan between January and June 2025, targeting Baloch population mainly. Armed forces have reportedly raided villages, streets, and urban areas, involving violent arrests, shootings, and destruction of both public and private properties.

Civilians have been subjected to a fearful atmosphere, with the neighbourhood experiencing intimidation and systematic harassment. Many people were either killed, injured or detained during these raids. This pattern reflects not only security-focused operations, but also a wider repression of ethnic minorities and vulnerable populations in the region.

**Table 3.** Number of Baloch individuals either killed, injured or detained during military operation in Balochistan from Jan-Jun 2025

| Month (2025) | Injured | Killed | Detained |
|--------------|---------|--------|----------|
| January      | 7       | 8      | 68       |
| February     | 11      | 9      | 47       |
| March        | 3       | 2      | 101      |
| April        | 13      | 6      | 74       |
| May          | 27      | 7      | 107      |
| June         | 5       | 5      | 41       |





**Figure 3.** Number of Baloch individuals either killed, injured or detained during military operation in Balochistan from Jan-Jun 2025

#### Observations:

- Highest injuries: May (27)
- Highest fatalities: January (8)
- Highest arrests: May (107)
- Lowest injuries: March (3)
- Lowest fatalities: March & June (2 and 5)
- Lowest arrests: June (41)

#### Visual Analysis

Suggested bar chart structure:

- X-axis: Months (Jan–Jun 2025)
- Y-axis: Number of individuals
- Bars: Three groups per month – Injured, Killed, Detained

**Trends:**

- May shows the highest injuries and detentions, suggesting intensified military action.
- March saw relatively low casualties but extremely high detentions (101), indicating mass arrests without large-scale firefights.
- Casualties (injured + killed) fluctuate monthly, while detentions remain consistently high, highlighting a dual strategy of repression: targeted killings and widespread arrests.

**Detailed Interpretation****Trend Analysis**

- Average monthly injured:  $\approx 11$
- Average monthly killed:  $\approx 6.2$
- Average monthly detained:  $\approx 73$
- Total civilians affected (injured + killed + detained): 590 over six months

**Patterns of Repression**

- Military operations involve a combination of lethal force, intimidation, and mass detentions.
- Neighborhoods experience systematic harassment, including destruction of property and fear-inducing tactics.
- Peaks in injuries and detentions (May) may correspond with intensified security campaigns, possibly linked to political events or anti-insurgency measures.

## Human Rights Implications

The consistent use of violent raids and mass detentions violates international human rights standards.

- Civilians face threats to life, liberty, and property, creating a climate of fear and long-term trauma.
- Ethnic minorities, particularly the Baloch community, appear disproportionately targeted, indicating systemic discrimination.

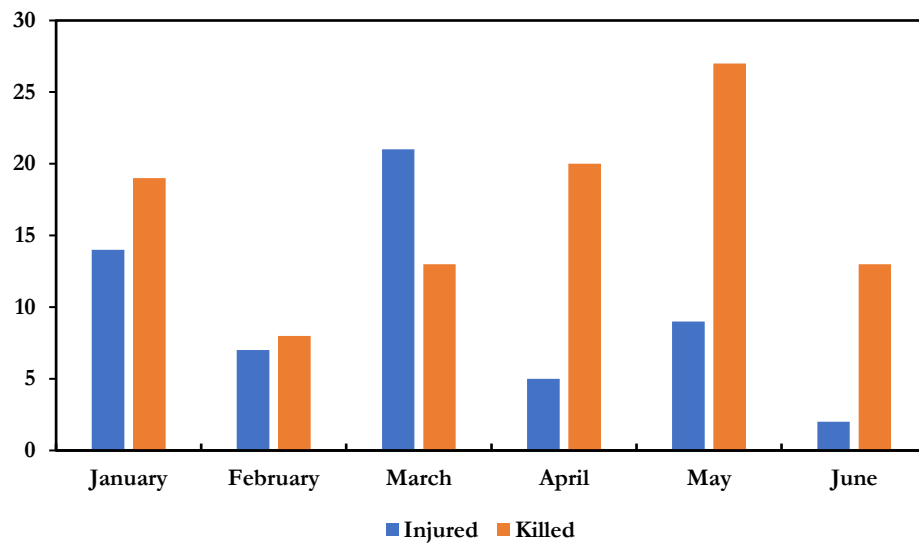
### 4.4 Analysis of Repeated Attacks, Assaults, and Kidnapping Attempts in Balochistan (Jan–Jun 2025)

The frequent assaults, beatings, and kidnappings of citizens in Balochistan indicate a serious breakdown in public safety as well as a deliberate violation of people's rights to life and personal safety. Numerous people have been killed or seriously injured due to these human rights violations.

Such violent crimes erode public confidence in government agencies and law enforcement, destabilize communities, and create a dreadful atmosphere. Both the systematic vulnerability of people in the area and the absence of accountability for those responsible are highlighted by the high mortality of these attacks.

**Table 4.** Number of attacks, assaults, and kidnappings attempts in Balochistan reported between January and June 2025.

| Month (2025) | Injured | Killed |
|--------------|---------|--------|
| January      | 14      | 19     |
| February     | 7       | 8      |
| March        | 21      | 13     |
| April        | 5       | 20     |
| May          | 9       | 27     |
| June         | 2       | 13     |



**Figure 4.** Number of attacks, assaults, and kidnappings attempts in Balochistan reported between January and June 2025

#### Observations:

- Highest number of injuries: March (21)
- Highest number of fatalities: May (27)
- Lowest injuries: June (2)
- Lowest fatalities: February (8)
- Total injuries: 58
- Total fatalities: 100

#### Visual Analysis

##### Suggested bar chart structure:

- X-axis: Months (Jan–Jun 2025)

- Y-axis: Number of individuals
- Bars: Two groups per month – Injured and Killed

### **Trends:**

- The number of fatalities exceeds the number injuries in four months, including January, April, May, and June, out of total six months.
- March shows the highest number of injuries but relatively lower fatalities, suggesting perhaps clashes or interventions that did not result in as many deaths.
- May was the deadliest month accounting for 27 civilians killings.

### **Detailed Interpretation**

#### **Trend Analysis**

- Average monthly injuries:  $\approx 9.7$
- Average monthly fatalities:  $\approx 16.7$
- Overall casualty ratio (Killed: Injured)  $\approx 1.72:1$ , indicating that attacks are more likely to be fatal than non-fatal.

#### **Patterns of Violence**

- April and May saw a rapid increase of death cases. This surge was due to the military operations taking place in the region.
- The results revealed that the Baloch people's lives and security are continuously under threat.

#### **Human Rights Implications**

- Repeated attacks, assaults, and abduction attempts constitute violations of basic human rights, including the right to life and personal security.

- The pattern of deadly incidents points to systemic failure of protection and law enforcement accountability.
- Local communities are exposed to prolonged trauma, fear, and destabilization.

## 5. Conclusions

Balochistan is experiencing a number of serious abuses of fundamental human rights. The significant number of fatalities and injuries is evidence that the fuel trade has put human life at grave risk and violated safety regulations due to weak economic prospects. However, for the past four decades, the government has failed to improve the living and economic conditions of the indigenous Baloch population to ensure them a dignified life and prevent further loss of life. It has also failed to regulate this profession or establish strict laws to hold reckless security personnel accountable, whose actions have resulted in the deaths of dozens of Baloch civilians. The fuel trade on the Iran-Pakistan border is not only carried out with the consent of both governments, but it also generates millions of dollars for both governments, while the Baloch people on both sides only make ends meet. Following the recent conflict between Israel and Iran, there has been an increase in military activity in the area, which has increased civilian vulnerability and state-led violence, resulting in more casualties, detention, and property destruction as well as creating a fearful atmosphere among the Baloch people.

Balochistan's systematic violations of human rights, lack of economic empowerment, inadequate legal and social support systems, and deteriorating safety mechanisms all call for immediate international attention. When taken as a whole, these trends depict a vicious cycle of poverty, oppression, and systematic violations of human rights.

## 6. References

1. Afshari, R. (2011). *Human rights in Iran: The abuse of cultural relativism*. University of Pennsylvania Press.
2. Alblooshi, S. A. (2018). *Assimilation of Baloch in Iran and Pakistan and Connections to Political Violence of the Baloch* (Doctoral dissertation, Khalifa University of Science).
3. Amnesty International. (2025, April 29). *Iran: Human rights in Iran: Review of 2024/2025* (Index No. MDE 13/9275/2025) [Annual report]. Amnesty International.  
<https://www.amnesty.org/en/documents/mde13/9275/2025/en/>  
amnesty.org
4. Dashti, N. (2017). *The Baloch Conflict with Iran and Pakistan: Aspects of a National Liberation Struggle*. Trafford Publishing.
5. Guelke, A. (2012). *Politics in deeply divided societies*. Polity Press.
6. Iran Human Rights & ECPM. (2025, February 20). *Annual report on the death penalty in Iran 2024* [NGO report]. Iran Human Rights.  
<https://iranhr.net/en/reports/42/>
7. Jain, S. (2018). Balochistan: on the international drugs superhighway. *Strategic Analysis*, 42(5), 545-553.
8. Khan, S., & Laoutides, C. (2024). Trapped between religion and ethnicity: identity politics against the Baloch in Iran and Pakistan. *Dynamics of Asymmetric Conflict*, 17(2), 164-184.
9. Paust, J. J. (2004). Executive plans and authorisations to violate international law concerning the treatment and interrogation of detainees. *Colum. J. Transnat'l L.*, 43, 811.
10. Rehman, Z. U. (2014). *The Baluch insurgency: Linking Iran to Pakistan*. Norwegian Peace Building Resource Centre (NOREF).
11. Schabas, W. (2024). The death penalty in Iran. In *The Elgar Companion to Capital Punishment and Society* (pp. 372-383). Edward Elgar Publishing.

12. The Death Penalty Project. (2022, November). International law and the death penalty [Policy position paper]. The Death Penalty Project.  
[https://deathpenaltyproject.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/11/The-Death-Penalty-Project\\_Policy-International-Law.pdf](https://deathpenaltyproject.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/11/The-Death-Penalty-Project_Policy-International-Law.pdf)