



Hon Mr. Sarfaz Ahmed Bugti
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Dear Chief Minister,

I write on behalf of Public Services International (PSI) and our 30 million members worldwide, with grave concerns that members of affiliates of PSI in Balochistan have been arrested, assaulted and denied their trade union rights.

We have been informed that public service workers who formed a **Grand Alliance of Balochistan**, have been peacefully demanding the implementation of the Disparity Reduction Allowance (DRA) amongst other concerns.

Workers, who were peacefully exercising their right to assembly, were reportedly met with baton charges, obstruction, internet blockages and arrests. We have been informed that several of the Organisers of the Grand Alliance, including APLF Chairman Shah Ali Bugti have been arrested. According to the Human Rights Commission of Pakistan there have been reports that detainees are being subjected to inhumane conditions including denial of food, lack of medical care and exposure to extreme cold and use of isolation cells.

Pakistan has ratified ILO Convention 87 **Freedom of Association and Protection of the Right to Organise** and C98 **Right to Organise and Collective Bargaining**. The right to protest is protected under the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR), which Pakistan has also ratified.

We therefore strongly insist that the Government of Balochistan immediately release detained trade union leaders and engage in social dialogue with unions to restore their wages and conditions.

Yours sincerely,

Kate Lappin
Asia Pacific Regional Secretary

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