

# HAZARA PROGRESSIVE ALLIANCE

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**Mr. Wajid Shams-ul-Hasan,**

High Commissioner,  
Pakistan High Commission for UK,  
34-36 Lowndes Square,  
London.  
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**April 30<sup>th</sup> 2012**

Dear Mr. Shams-ul-Hasan

**Re: GENOCIDE OF HAZARAS IN QUETTA CITY, PAKISTAN**

We refer to our meeting at your office on 4<sup>th</sup> April 2012, and the memorandum that we handed over to you on that day. Many more members of the Hazara community in Quetta have fallen victim to target killing since then, so we had no option but to hold this demonstration to cry aloud for the right of our community members to life and protection.

Since 26<sup>th</sup> March 2012, in the span of just over a month, thirty two (32) Hazaras have been killed and 10 injured, in eleven separate incidents of targeted killing in Quetta City, Pakistan. (See references 1-7 at the bottom of the letter). On 9<sup>th</sup> of April, i.e. just five days after our last meeting with you, terrorists sprayed bullets on five connected shops of Hazaras on Prince Road, one of the busiest parts of Quetta, and killed at least [six ethnic Hazaras](#) [6]. This is just a glimpse of what happens to the Hazaras on almost daily basis. How these terrorists are able to roam around the city with loaded guns, and how they are able to comfortably hunt their prey and then get away without any confrontation from the places of incident most of which are located within yards of police checkpoints and/or in areas heavily attended by security forces, is the most baffling question of all. It is not a new phenomenon; the killing spree has been going on for years now; about 700 Hazaras [8] have so far been killed since 2004.

It is not that the government doesn't know about the killers. The anti-Shia religious militant extremists mainly Lashkar-e-Jangvi publicly claims responsibility for the killings of Hazaras and has vowed to turn Quetta city into the graveyard of the (around seven hundred thousand) Hazaras. Why then are the terrorists not dealt with decisively; why isn't enough work done to prosecute and punish them professionally and thoroughly? Why are the patriotic Hazara community being left on their own?

Anyone would be shocked to note that in the last ten years of violence, no single terrorist has been brought to justice. It appears to many that the law enforcement agencies seem complacent and indifferent about these killings. The situation has raised many questions both about the willingness and capability of the government to act firmly. Hazaras want State protection [9] but there doesn't seem to be any genuine readiness for such protection on the part of the law enforcement agencies.

Two high profile terrorists Usman Saifullah Kurd and Shafeeq-ur-Rehman Rind [10] belonging to anti-Shia Lashkar-i-Jhangvi organization, widely believed to be behind many of the killings, mysteriously escaped from a maximum security prison controlled by Anti-Terrorist Force in Quetta Cantonment area. Many independent analysts believe that this escape could not have happened without inside help. No other explanation seems to make sense.

The incumbent Governor of Balochistan, Nawab Zulfiqar Ali Magsi [11] quoted his Inspector General of Police (IGP) as saying that "whenever police arrests any criminal, it receives calls from high ups for his release". Further evidence comes from another relevant Minister of Balochistan government. Home Minister for Balochistan Mir Zafarullah Zehri [12] on a point of order, informed Balochistan Assembly (of elected representatives) that "he had clues about those involved in the target killings but he was helpless." He said "if the elected representatives were given powers, the situation might improve". Both the governor and the home minister publically announced that the government is helpless and doesn't have authority to tackle and deal with the terrorists and to put an end to the terrorist activities going on against the Hazara Community. Someone has to ask these responsible state representatives as to who exactly is not allowing them to do put an end to the terrorism. Has the Federal government talked to the Governor, the Home Minister and others? Do they care?

The fact that people's throats have been slit, has been a source of amusement for the Chief Minister of the Province, and he expressed it openly in front of the media, such is the way the government works in the province. In September [13] and October [14] 2011, 48 Hazaras were taken off the bus/wagon in different incidents, were lined up and killed execution style. It was a heart-rending incident that shocked everyone that learned about it. The terrorists later released a video of the incident on youtube, in an apparent attempt to further terrorize the community mentally. What the Chief Minister did in response to the incident is hard to believe. But his response was recorded, both in print and electronic form and videos. In response to a question about this heinous crime against humanity, the Chief Minister [15] of Balochistan Aslam Raisani, made fun of the tragedy visited upon the Hazaras by offering to send a truckload of tissue papers to the bereaved families to wipe their tears with. "Balochistan has a population of Millions of people; what difference does it make if forty people are killed", was his jocular statement. Imagine for a second that your blood relative has been slain, and then see the video in which the funny CM made or rather cracked this statement. For others it might be a matter of imagination, but for the widows who lost their husbands, children who lost their parents, families that lost their sole or main breadwinners, it was not a matter of imagination. This was what actually happened to them in broad daylight and before the eyes of the whole world, and it was their CM who ridiculed their lives. What would or should it lead people to think?

Another Pakistan People's Party parliamentarian [15] from the area — Ayatullah Durrani — pathetically distorted the whole situation by saying on a television talk-show that the killings were beneficial for the community as it made for good Asylum cases in Australia! It is hard to believe that the government in a human society in the 21<sup>st</sup> century can behave so callously, irresponsibly and shamelessly, but the above statements are recorded and publicly available.

No wonder then that many of the incidents took place just 50 meters away from the security check posts [16].

Hazaras of Pakistan have sacrificed their lives and properties for the dignity of Pakistan, whenever needed—be it in the Wars of 1965, 1971, Kargil or on any other occasion. In response, the government has apparently allowed extremist outfits to quench their thirst with the lives of the Hazaras. It has been widely stated in the media that these outfits have some links at high places. General public have not seen any credible evidence of establishment's willingness to take these extremist outfits, the merchants of death, head on. Cosmetic measures do not convince people any longer. Perhaps there is some deeper reason behind this, but the end result in sight seems to be the total disillusionment of a peace-loving and patriotic community.

### **DEMANDS TO THE GOVERNMENT OF PAKISTAN**

The urgency of the matter is easy to appreciate for anyone unless they have an Aslam-Raisani mindset viz they see humour in human beings turning into disfigured dead bodies, and their survivors into widows and orphans. We only hope that Aslam-Raisani mentality is not shared by all in the government. We come to you once again to ask you to ask the government to do its most fundamental duty i.e. to provide protection to the Hazara citizens of Pakistan, especially Quetta.

We are not here just to give a vent to our anger. Our protest must not be considered a yearly ritual; if the government of Pakistan does not take our demands into consideration, we will have no option but to utilize all available resources to raise unified international voice against these atrocities. We cannot sleep in peace until the government puts an end to this unholy game being played at the cost of a peaceful community.

Our demands in this behalf are as follows:

1. We demand that the genocide of Hazaras be immediately stopped.
2. It is widely believed, not without reasons, that the government and law enforcement agencies are not giving serious and due attention to decisively deal with the terrorists. We demand that they take practical and tangible measures to bring the killers to justice all the way through, and not just give us verbal assurances.
3. We demand that reports of the judicial enquiries established in 2004 and 2011 be made public.

4. We demand that the Government of Pakistan (GOP) work out a viable plan to initiate a comprehensive and rigorous targeted operation against the LeJ terrorists and all other religious militants in and around Quetta city immediately. We are confident that this is doable as long as there is will to do it.
5. That the GOP must erect new check posts in and around Quetta city to protect the lives of innocent people.
6. That route for the Hazaras travelling from Alamdar Road to Hazara Town must be secured by deployment of more security personnel.
7. That the victims and the affected families must be financially supported in order that they can overcome financial constraints.

We request you through this letter to address the government of Pakistan on behalf of the Hazara Diaspora and ask them in the most explicit and in strongest terms that they immediately take measures to check Hazara genocide once and for all. The government can do this if they are willing to. If they continue to take it lightly, we will have to take our protests to the next legal but stronger level. But we hope the government doesn't compel us to do that and instead helps us by curbing the target killings in Quetta immediately and completely.

We look forward to actually seeing the lives of people of Quetta being really protected; verbal assurances have lost their meaning.

Yours sincerely,

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**Hazara Progressive Alliance**

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