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Pakistan

Baba Jan: The most wanted political activist in Gilgit Baltistan

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"I just spoke to Baba Jan, the most wanted political activist of Gilgit Baltistan these days."

Baba Jan, a member of the federal committee Labour Party Pakistan and organiser of Progressive Youth Front Gilgit Baltistan is now the most wanted political activist of the region. The police is hunting for him everywhere, Yesterday on 25th August, the Hunza Police arrested 16 more political activists, however, Baba Jan escaped arrest once again. The total arrests made up to today for demonstrating against the killings have now reached 32. Among them, 10 are members of Labour Party Gilgit Baltistan.

We have decided that Baba Jan will not court arrest but will continue the movement against the killing of the two political activists by the local police when they protested for compensation of 25 families of Atta Abad lake effectees.

Today, on 26th August, the whole Hunza district is closed in protest. There is a shutter down strike by the traders of HUnza against the arrests, the traders are also very angry on the charges against the political activists who have held a peaceful demonstration. 16 FIR are registered against uncounted numbers of political activists, so police is arresting every one. However, Baba Jan is the main target. Several sections of anti terrorist charges are also included in these first information reports of police.

Ehsan Ali president Gilgit Baltistan High Court Bar Association and member federal committee LPP is preparing a write petition to challenge the anti-terrorist charges included in police cases.

Baba Jan calling from an unknown place in Hunza told me that there are road blocks every where and police is looking for me every where, he said that I have been told by the whole community not to court arrest because they are all false charges. He said that even under Musharaf, we were not treated like this, The government of PPP in Gilgit Baltistan is very nervous of our growing popularity and now making all efforts to stop the growing radicalisation among the youth in the region.

Labour Party Pakistan is planning to organise protest demonstrations in several cities against the arrests and police raids and demand an immediate release of all those arrested and stop raiding activists homes day and night. LPP demand an end of police state in the region and demand for the acceptance of the demands of the people for better compensation. Karachi LPP and PYF have already protested against the arrest I]early this week despite the bad situation in Karachi.

Baba Jan has become the folk hero of the region with his unending enthusiasm to build a movement for a right of self determination, for more democratic space and building of an alternative subjective factor. He is being protected by the community. Thousands have taken part in today's action by closing their shops and businesses in support of the protesters.

Baba Jan while speaking to a mass meeting of Renala Khurd peasants organised by Anjuman Mozareen Punjab told that we need such a mass movement in our region as well. He extended full support to the struggling peasants for land rights. Now, within months, he along with his comrades and friends, has built a mass movement of resistance in the region not seen earlier.

Although, the local and national media is favouring the PPP government because of their material interest, this movement does not depend on the commercial media.

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Please spread this message where ever it is possible

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