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Pakistan

Police crackdown in Hunza Galgit Baltistan

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Following a police crackdown in Hunza Galgit Baltistan twenty people have been arrested including 6 Labour Party Pakistan and Progressive Youth Front activists. Baba Jan is the main accused, he will not surrender. Human Rights organisations should take immediate notice of this grave situation.

On August 19 2011, Galgit Baltistan police, Ranger and Northern Squad jointly crackdown on the houses of different political activists and arrested 20 of them. The sixteen different FIR's registered under section 147,148,149,427,436,353,448 of PPC (Pakistan Penal Code) 17 Herba and section 6/7 of Anti Terrorism Act. The Police version is that on August 11, 2011 some nominated and unknown people gathered on Karakorum High Way Ali Abad to Block the Road, when police try to disperse them they attacked on them and damaged public property.

All sections deal with riot, terrorist attacks, unlawful assembly, attack on government servant and damage government property. In practice these sections mostly used against the political activists. Labour Party Pakistan Federal Committee member Baba Jan is nominated as main accused in FIR No 20/2011, Police raided his home many times but he is still underground. Labour Party Galgit Baltistan decided that Baba Jan will not surrender before the police in connection with these false FIR'S against him and many others activists.

Baba Jan is one of the most respected political activist of Gilgit Baltistan. He triggered the movement to save the people from the Atta Abad lake. He is head of Progressive Youth Front in the region. Baba Jan just called me from unknown place, he rejected the police version about the crackdown, he said , real story is that on 11 August 2011, the effectives of Hunza Lake peacefully gathered on Karakorum High Way Ali Abad to present their demands before the Chief Minister of Galgit Baltistan during his visit to the area. The 25 families of Hunza Lake effectives were demanding relief amount of Rs. 4 hundred thousand promised by the Government After the unnatural formation of Hunza Lake.

The Government is paying this amount in installment to the 457 affected families, 25 families out 457 totally were neglected and not paid even an emergency relief amount. Baba Jan said that protesters were totally peaceful and want to put their demands before the Chief Minister but DSP (Deputy Superintendent of Police) Baber Khan ordered to fire bullet and tear gas on innocent peaceful peoples, due to the brutality of police six people severally injured and two father and son died, one on spot and other in hospital. He said after listening about the brutality of police common people came out from their houses and started protest for the registration of FIR against DSP Baber and other responsible police man. Baba Jan Said that on August 12, 2011 Speaker GB Assembly Wazeer Baig, Law Minister Wazeer Shakeel and another member assembly openly admitted the mistake of police with sorry they also showed the photo copy of FIR registered against DSP Baber and promised that he will be arrest. The GB Government used this tactic only for cheat the people in-fact they after three days they started crackdown against the political activist which is still continue.

Baba Jan member Federal Committee Labour Party Pakistan said that twenty people including Labour Party members Irfan Karim, Gulam thair, Karim Baig, Tahir jan, Nazim Khan and Sultan were arrested and remanded for fourteen days. Labour Party Pakistan strongly condemns the police brutality against the innocent protester and also demanding for early release of all effectees. We also are demanding to release the compensation amount to all Lake effectives.

Nisar Shah

General Secretary

Labour Party Pakistan