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By Guadi Calvo
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Pakistan, a minefield for the Silk Road



Sources: Rebellion [Image: Gwadar Port, "bridgehead" of China's new Silk Road]

To joe Biden's decision, back in April 2021, not to comply with the agreement between the Trump Administration and the Taliban in the Doha agreements, which specified that the American withdrawal would be completed on the first of May of that year, which Biden unilaterally postponed to September 11 in memory of the fall of the towers of New York, the kick-off of the American invasion and the subsequent disaster that lasted no less than 20 years, the *mullahs* responded with an offensive initiated punctually that same May Day with the result that everyone already knows and has collected history as one of the

most catastrophic American defeats in its long repertoire of wars, only comparable to that of Vietnam in 1975.

Faced with the ineffectiveness of the then *Afghan National Army*, created in the image and likeness of the Americans with an investment of billions of dollars, and between letting do and not knowing what to do on the part of Washington, it was already warned that although the United States was withdrawing deeply disgraced left a minefield, or rather a chain of delayed demolition bombs that if activated would greatly complicate the border countries. of Afghanistan (See: Afghanistan, the expectant weather), coincidentally all increasingly distanced from Washington: Iran, Pakistan, China and by "interposite person" Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan, Tajikistan and Kazakhstan to assault Russian interests and if not their own territory with the many fundamentalist khatibas that operate in those countries from China to Iran and from Pakistan to Kazakhstan.

Another such demolition bomb appears to have been activated after kazakhstan's, which did not even reach the level of firework (See: Kazakhstan: Afghanistan, by other means), in Balochistan, where pro-independence groups appear to be deriving their fight against Pakistan's central government to the *China-Pakistan Economic Corridor*. (CPEC), the agreement of more than 60,000 million dollars within the great global project of Beijing in which the modernization and exploitation of the port of Gwadar on the Arabian Sea, next to the deposits in Reko Diq in the district of Chagai, the largest untapped copper and gold deposits in the world, both ventures in the *Baloch* territory are two of the key points of the CPEC.

The *Baloch Nationalist Army* (BNA), formed in the first weeks of last January between the *United Baloch Army* (UBA) and the *Army of the Baloch Republic* (BRA), made its "presentation in society" on January 20 with an attack on the traditional *Anarkali* bazaar of the city of Lahore, the second largest city in the country, killing at least three people and injuring about thirty. With this action, the separatist insurgency shows its intention to leave the Balochistan mountains in order to reach the urban centers of Punjab.

Pakistan, China's key partner in the vital undertaking for Beijing known as the *New Silk Road*, since the fall of Kabul is suffering an increase in terrorist actions in different regions of the country, including in Islamabad, the capital. Mostly recognized by

the *Tehrik-e-Taliban Pakistan* (TTP), they believe they are emboldened after the victory of their Afghan brothers.

The new merger between the groups of *fidayees* (Baloch fighters), as announced, will be intended to target China's interests in the country, which as is known are very important in investments and of a primary geostrategic weight for Beijing, so it is not difficult to infer that it is supplying funds and weapons to the *Baloch Nationalist Army*, who for their part claim that Chinese investments do not help or involve the *Baloch* people.

With the formation of the BNA, in addition to the union of the two most powerful tribes of Balochistan traditionally opposed, the *Marris* settled in the great arid region of the northeast of the rebel province and the *Bugtis*, who occupy the east of the province known as *Dera Bugti*. According to experts, this new alliance will get other *Baloch* rebel groups to join the ranks of the *Baloch Nationalist Army*.

Already in June 2020 the *Baluch Raji Ajohi Sangar* or BRSA (Baloch Nationalist Freedom Movement) formed a coalition with the separatist group of Sindh province, the *Sindudesh Revolutionary Army* (SRA), which aspires to liberate both Sindh and Balochistan from federal power, which aims to attack the CPEC.

The BNA in its attack in Lahore, a highly crowded market, has shown to have simple, easy-to-achieve objectives in urban areas, with the possibility of achieving a large number of victims and a great diffusion, both inside and outside Balochistan.

While last February two at a time when Pakistani Prime Minister Imran Khan was visiting China, the *Balochistan Liberation Army* (BLA) carried out the largest attack against the Pakistani army in years, launching *Operation Ganjal* (alias of the commander killed in combat Mazar de Lyari in Kalat on September 24). The terrorist action, highlighted by different units of the *Majid Brigade*, lasted for 72 hours in which 16 *Fidayees* and 195 regulars were killed in two separate attacks on *Frontier Corps* bases in Panjgur and Noshki districts. According to the army, it would have had eight casualties of its own and caused twenty among the attackers.

Now it remains to analyze why now the *Baloch* resistance is intensifying, which although with a lot of historical presence has had intermittencies since the formation of Pakistan after the partition with India in 1947. This resurgence cannot refer to the victory of the Afghan Taliban. Although the Pakistani insurgents have allowed Afghans to have bases and shelters during their wars, an alliance beyond that agreement has never been detected, although the Taliban could serve as an example for their unity.

A frontier of love and hate

Although the relationship between the Taliban and Islamabad is much longer than the 2,700 kilometers of the *Durand Line*, as the border shared by both countries is known, which throughout its history have had moments of many coincidences and many confrontations, as it seems to be now that the relationship has deteriorated with the arrival of the *mullahs* in Kabul, of which the *Inter-Services Intelligence (ISI)*, the very powerful Pakistani agent office that was not absent from that victory, now seems to be losing influence to get them to limit the *Baloch separatists* based in Afghanistan, present there in payment of the same and former favors.

Given U.S. pressure in 2014 and repeated attacks on Pakistan by *mujahideen* leaking across the porous border, Islamabad began a plan to encircle it and contain terrorist attacks and cross-border smuggling. Despite having covered more than 90 percent of the border at the time, the militants continued to arrive in Pakistan and continued to attack from the border which eventually lost fencing and control.

Last December two incidents were recorded on the border between Pakistani army troops and Afghan Taliban on December 19, a Taliban commander in Nangarhar threatened to open fire on the Pakistani military who were encircling a sector of the border if they continued with that task, something similar happened on the 30th in the province of Nimruz, southwest of Kabul.

On Sunday 6, five soldiers of the Pakistani army were killed at a border post northwest of the Khurram district, in Afghan territory, in an attack claimed by the *Tehrik-e-Taliban Pakistan* (TTP).

Following the breakdown of the ceasefire between the TTP and Islamabad on December 10, the Pakistani Foreign Ministry had warned Afghan *mullahs* that it would consider the TTP as a witness case for their ability to control terrorists.

"If the Taliban cannot address Pakistan's concerns, who would trust them and their promise to cut ties with al-Qaeda and other similar groups?" asked Pakistan's Foreign Minister Shah Mahmood Qureshi.

The return of the *mullas* to Kabul had been considered, both by diplomacy and Pakistani intelligence, as the great opportunity to return to dominance over Kabul and take the lead over India, which with the anti-Islamic policies of Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi would turn the *mullah* towards Islamabad, which has not been verified in the field.

Pakistani experts believe that from Kabul no action will be taken against the bases that the TTP has in the Afghan province of Nangarhar, bordering Pakistan, and that they do, emboldened by the victory of the fundamentalists in August, will try to do the same in their country, ruining the Chinese plan of the CPEC, which coincidentally would have a fundamental beneficiary, the same one that has left the entire region undermined.

Guadi Calvo is an Argentine writer and journalist. International Analyst specialized in Africa, Middle East and Central Asia. On Facebook:

<https://www.facebook.com/lineainternacionalGC>.

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