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## **Indian involvement in Balochistan**

Maimuna Ashraf 12/8/2009

Pakistan and India are two important powers of the South Asian region and have fought three wars since their Independence in 1947 and they have always been blaming each other for militant activities and supporting militant groups in each other's country. Despite all other issues Kashmir has always been a bone of contention between the two countries, India has always been blaming Pakistan for supporting the militants who are fighting against Indian security forces and Pakistan has indicted India for supporting the Baloch militants. Indian involvement in Balochistan is not such a new issue, from decades debate was going on that the militants in Balochistan are working on some foreign agenda. There are some foreign hands that are providing latest weapons, vehicles and funds to Baloch militants for conducting terrorist activities in Balochistan. We were always using the word "non-state actors" for these terrorists and the name of India was not that prominent but in Sharm-el-Sheikh, Prime Minister Yousaf Raza Gilani has presented a dossier to Manmohan Singh about Indian cross-border terrorism in Balochistan. Although at that time Manmohan Singh had denied that Prime Minister Yousaf Raza Gilani presented any evidences to India but reference of Balochistan in the joint statement in Sharm-el-Sheikh was a positive thing for Pakistan. India has always denied its involvement in Balochistan and said that it was Pakistan's internal issue but Pakistan has said that it has stockpiles of evidences that India is funding the terrorist activities in Balochistan and giving training to terrorists for launching terrorist activities in Pakistan. Major General Salim Nawaz, Inspector General of the Frontier Corps paramilitary force in Balochistan, told Reuters recently that 'A lot of evidence of Indian involvement through Afghanistan is there, supporting the separatist movement'. Nawaz Sharif has also said that "The separatists were not very strong and they don't have enough soldiers or a proper command." About Indian involvement he added that the proofs have been given at various levels...photographs have been provided. The publication of the Jain Commission Report for the Indian Government has confirmed whatever we were suspecting in South Asia, that Indian intelligence service Research and Analysis Wing (RAW) has been conducting destabilization and violence at the domestic level of south Asian region. India is not only conducting the terrorist activities in Pakistan but it is also involved in spreading violence in Bangladesh, Sri Lanka, Nepal, Bhuttan and Maldives, there are many evidences about it. This is not the first time that India is supporting the movements in Pakistan; India is repeating the same history as they did in 1971 by supporting the separatist movement in East Pakistan which resulted in the separation of East Pakistan. But India didn't stop there and now again India is supporting the separatist movement in Balochistan. We cannot deny the fact that these opportunities have been provided to India by political plotting and RAW has always shown quickness in taking advantage of the political ups and down in South Asian region as it's a good tactic to seek the group which can be easily influenced. For decades RAW has been getting advantage from domestic issues of Pakistan, whether it was Pakhtunistan issue or the Sindhi language issue, sectarian group issues and now Balochistan issue, all these issues have always provided India a fertile ground for the seeds of violence and terrorism. It was also said by Islamabad that RAW has established its training camps in Afghanistan in collaboration with the Northern Alliance. Approximately 600 Ferraris, or Baloch tribal dissidents, are getting specialized training to handle explosives, engineer bomb blasts, and use sophisticated weapons in these camps. India has invested heavily in its old connection with the leaders of the erstwhile Northern Alliance. It has sizeable support in Afghan Parliament and India is gradually increasing the number of its paramilitary personnel in Afghanistan and their motive is to use the Afghan land for conducting terrorist activities in Pakistan and to destabilize Pakistan. "Pakistan has found concrete evidence of India's involment in militancy in South Waziristan and we have decided to take up the matter with New Delhi', this was disclosed by Information Minister Qamar Zaman Kaira and military spokesman Major-General Ather Abbas at a press briefing on the progress of operation Rah-e-Nijat. It was for the first time in recent times that Pakistan had pointed fingers at India from a forum having representation of political and military leadership. General Abbas said a huge quantity of Indian arms and ammunition, literature, medical equipment and medicines had been recovered from Sherawangi area, near Kaniguram. He said that Foreign Office had been informed and the matter would be taken up with the Indian authorities through diplomatic channels. While sources in the Foreign Office said a dossier containing proofs of India's involvement in South Waziristan would soon be handed over to officials in New Delhi. Kaira also said that although it had been decided to raise the issue with India, Pakistan would not deviate from the peace process. The question rises that why India always wanted to get involved into such activities? The answer seems to be the India's power ambition; India wanted the regional hegemony and recognition as a major global actor since independence and therefore she always wanted to destabilize Pakistan. Islamabad not only suspects Indian involvement in Balochistan but also accused India of carrying out terrorist activities in some other areas of Pakistan which can affect Pakistan's relations with other countries and can create a bad reputation in the international community. India has been using its embassy in Kabul to send its spies to Pakistan taking the benefit of porous Pak-Afghan border since independence in 1947. But for the last more than one decade Delhi, taking the benefit of the 'open' borders has been infiltrating trained terrorists into Pakistan for subversive activities which now have reached an alarming proportion. Earlier Pakistan was facing Indian challenge on its eastern borders but now we have to face this challenge on our both borders east as well as western border. It is a very crucial time for our rulers to frame policies and implement them effectively. The Indian hand in the present militancy should be taken as a challenge and be faced boldly. The present policy should be discarded and Indian designs to destabilise Pakistan should be exposed at world level.