

***REPORT OF THE SENATE STANDING
COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN AFFAIRS***

**Point of Order raised by Senator Saud Majeed
regarding the Display of anti-Pakistan "Free
Balochistan" banners and slogans on the Taxis and
Buses in London**

Report No. 08

(Two Hundred & Seventy One Parliamentary Session)

PRESENTED BY

**(SENATOR NUZHAT SADIQ)
CHAIRPERSON**

REPORT OF THE SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN AFFAIRS

I, Senator Nuzhat Sadiq, Chairperson of the Senate Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs, have the honour to present the report, on behalf of the Committee, on the matter which was referred to the Senate Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs for consideration and report.

2. The Agenda before the Committee was as follows:-

Point of Order raised by Senator Saud Majeed regarding the Display of anti-Pakistan "Free Balochistan" banners and slogans on the Taxis and Buses in London

3. The composition of the Committee is as under:-

1.	Senator Nuzhat Sadiq	Chairperson
2.	Senator Muhammad Daud Khan Achakzai, Advocate	Member
3.	Senator Haji Momin Khan Afridi	Member
4.	Senator Atta Ur Rehman	Member
5.	Senator Col. (R) Syed Tahir Hussain Mashhadi	Member
6.	Senator Mushahid Hussain Sayed	Member
7.	Senator Syed Muzaffar Hussain Shah	Member
8.	Senator Ms. Ayesha Raza Farooq	Member
9.	Senator Karim Ahmed Khawaja	Member
10.	Senator Ms. Sassui Palijo	Member
11.	Senator Farhatullah Babar	Member
12.	Senator Syed Shibli Faraz	Member
13.	Minister for Foreign Affairs	Ex-Officio Member

4. A meeting of the Senate Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs was held with the following members of the Committee attending the meeting:-

- i. Senator Syed Muzaffar Hussain Shah
- ii. Senator Mushahid Hussain Sayed
- iii. Senator Ata Muhammad Daud Khan Achakzai
- iv. Senator Haji Momin Khan Afridi
- v. Senator Karim Ahmed Khawaja

5. The issue of "**display of anti Pakistan free Balochistan banners and slogans on public transport**" in Switzerland and London was discussed in detail.

6. Foreign Office apprised the Committee that banned organizations have been using foreign soil, especially in Switzerland and lately in England, to malign Pakistan through use of posters and other media / propaganda material. This is an expensive campaign and Pakistan firmly believes that it is being sponsored / funded by RAW and other anti Pakistan agencies.

7. In the second week of September, 2017, our Mission in Geneva observed that posters titled "Free Balochistan" were displayed in well frequented areas of Geneva sponsored by "Balochistan House". These included paper posters, digital posters as well as banners exhibited on public transport vehicles.

8. In view of the connections which India maintains with Baloch separatist leaders, and the fact that a large amount of money had been spent, it was obvious that India was behind this campaign. This is another case of Indian involvement in terrorist financing.

9. This year's posters campaign by the Baloch dissident elements was essentially different from the previous similar campaigns as it was conducted by the front/affiliates of a declared terrorist organization.

10. Soon after the appearance of such posters, Pakistan's Permanent Representative in Geneva made a strong demarche with Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Switzerland to the United Nations. He also wrote a letter to the Swiss Permanent Representative to inform him that BLA was a listed terrorist organization under the laws of Pakistan and other countries including the U.K. The use of Swiss soil by terrorists and foreign sponsored secessionists for nefarious designs against Pakistan was totally unacceptable. The Swiss government was requested to be alert about the presence of BLA terrorists or elements linked with such terrorists in Geneva. Moreover, in his second communication to the Swiss Permanent Representative, he again impressed upon Swiss authorities to immediately remove these posters and banners from public places and transport vehicles and prevent recurrence in the future.

11. In Islamabad, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs immediately called in the Swiss Ambassador designate to express our serious concerns over the use of Swiss territory by elements linked with a terrorist organization perpetrating terrorism and violence in Pakistan. The Ambassador was told that the use of Swiss territory to

undermine the territorial integrity of a UN Member State was a violation of the international law and the UN Charter and not freedom of expression. The Swiss Government was urged that as a host country of the UN, it should take actions against the perpetrators of such a malicious campaign. Our Mission in Bern has also contacted the Swiss Foreign Office to strongly protest this incident.

12. In response to our demarches, the Swiss responded that the Government might / might not be in agreement with the contents of the display material, however, the freedom of expression was guaranteed in the Swiss Constitution. Moreover, the Cantons had their own laws and federal Swiss Government was not in a position to seek removal of the posters as long as public law and order was maintained.

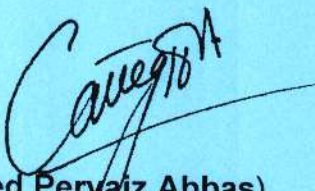
13. The Hon'ble Senators were of the opinion that a pattern of Indian propaganda is emerging which is very aggressive. Pakistani Missions abroad must take concrete measures with a proactive approach to counter the same.

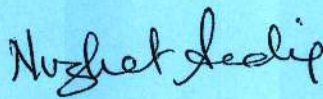
14. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs apprised the Committee that this Indian propaganda is aimed at countering our successful highlighting of the Kashmir issue and Indian atrocities being committed there.

15. After the emergence of anti Pakistan posters in London. The High Commission of Pakistan immediately got in touch with London Transport officials who promised appropriate action in accordance with their laws.

16. The Committee advised the Foreign Office to keep a close watch on such activities and take effective action to forestall such matters.

17. The Chairperson & the Senate Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs adopted this report and approved its laying before the Honourable House.


(Dr. Syed Pervaiz Abbas)
AS / Secretary Committee


(Senator Nuzhat Sadiq)
Chairperson