



House of the Federation

SENATE SECRETARIAT

Report No. 9 of 2018

Report of the Senate Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs

***Regarding the subject matter of Public Importance raised
by Senator Dr. Jehanzeb Jamaldini regarding "Illegal
hunting of birds in Balochistan by Arab Princes and local
MPAs"***

PRESENTED BY

***(SENATOR NUZHAT SADIQ)
Chairperson SSC on Foreign Affairs***

**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:-

**Matter of Public Importance raised by Senator Dr. Jehanzeb Jamaldini regarding
"Illegal hunting of birds in Balochistan by Arab Princes and local MPAs"**

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 on 7th February, 2018 at 10:30 am in Committee Room No. 4, Parliament House, Islamabad. The following members of the Committee attending the meeting:-

i.	Senator Nuzhat Sadiq	Chairperson
ii.	Senator Haji Momin Khan Afridi	
iii.	Senator Karim Ahmed Khawaja	
iv.	Senator Col. (R) Syed Tahir Hussain Mashhadi	Senator

5. Opening the discussion, the Chairperson Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs clubbed together the issues of illegal hunting of endangered species of birds in Balochistan and the Sindh Province.

6. Senator Karim Ahmed Khawaja pointed out that when Arab Princes come for hunting to Pakistan, they bring a large entourage along with them. The areas where they hunt is closed due to "Security Reasons" and they hunt unhindered, also killing endangered animal species like Chinkara Deer and others, which are not covered in the permits granted to them.

7. The Hon'ble Senator demanded that this hunting be discouraged and regulated.

8. Mr. Asif, Secretary Forest & Wildlife, Govt. of Sindh identified three types of hunts that are undertaken in Sindh during a year. Hunting of migratory birds which is open to all hunters, under the supervision of Forest & Wildlife Department. Every year the hunting season is determined and pre-announced and the quantum of each bag is determined. Likewise Sub-Divisions are identified where such hunting is permitted. In the current year due to depletion in the migratory bird's population the hunting season has been reduced by 60% whereas the bags have been reduced to half. Only 30 Sub-Divisions have been approved for hunting. Around 263 violations have been reported and poachers proceeded against.

9. The second type of hunting is called Trophy Hunting whereby permits are auctioned and granted to the highest bidders. The proceeds from the auction of each permit is shared with the local community who in turn guards the population of the animals.

10. The third type of hunting is that of protected bird species like the Houbara Bustard. The issue of this type of hunting was also taken by the Supreme Court of Pakistan and under their directions a set of SOPs have been developed by the Ministry of Interior, Govt. of Pakistan, all the Provincial Governments & the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. The provinces are tasked with implementing these SOPs but it is a sad state of affairs that the same are not being implemented in letter and spirit. It has been observed that due to "Security Reasons" areas where these Arab Princes come to hunt, practically become a no go area for the Provincial authorities. These Arab Princes bring private individuals as their guests who hunt illegally. Moreover, the local influentials like Waderas and Sardars also invite foreigners and assists them in illegal hunting.

11. The Secretary, Forest & Wildlife, Govt. of Sindh pointed out that birds are used for hunting the Houbara Bustard. Foreign guests bring in ordinary birds and expensive Falcons are illegally smuggled out of Pakistan, on return which is also a major issue. He proposed a joint

working strategy between the Ministries of Foreign Affairs, Interior and the four Provincial Governments to address these issues.

12. The Additional Chief Secretary, Government of Balochistan, Dr. Omer, pointed out that the population of Houbara Bustard was declining in Balochistan. The hunting bags are limited to 100 birds but the birds were being hunted in far greater numbers. Due to draught like situation and an adverse climatic change the habitat is also changing which is adversely affecting Houbara Bastard population. The local Sardars invite foreign hunters who further bring a number of guests with them which is creating the actual issue. The Govt. of Balochistan has adopted. "Balochistan Wildlife Protection Act" according to which a hunting permit is awarded by the Govt. of Balochistan on payment of a requisite hunting fee. Despite best efforts of the Govt. of Balochistan the Royal hunters or their guests have not paid a single penny as the requisite hunting fee. They get the protection of various local Sardars etc. who create problems for the authorities. The Government of Balochistan is trying to mobilize local communities and to place a monitoring mechanism in place. He proposed that the Ministry of Foreign Affairs must refer all requests for hunting to the respective Provincial Government for grant of a license, on payment of the requisite fee and to settle terms and conditions with the intending hunters. The provinces should be the only authority to allocate hunting areas & other allied matters.

13. The Government of Balochistan has already created an Endowment Fund for preservation of the bird habitat. Efforts should be made to promote trophy hunting where community involvement would act as a bulwark against illegal poaching.

14. The Secretary, Ministry of Foreign Affairs appreciated the valid concerns of the provinces and stated that after the 18th Amendment the subject has gone to the provinces and they were facing implementation issues. The SOPs formulated by Ministry of Interior are being implemented by Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

15. The Chief of Protocol, Ministry of Foreign Affairs proposed that the SOPs which were formulated in 2016 may be revisited to plug the loop holes which practically exist on ground. The provinces may introduce hunting fees and may decline permits if such fees are not paid. He proposed that each province may conduct a census in respect of such birds and earmark specific areas for their hunting. Measures for sustainability and conservation of endangered species be adopted.

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16. Senator Dr. Karim Ahmed Khawaja proposed that the Foreign Office along with the Ministry of Interior and the four Provinces may workout modalities on how to implement these recommendations.

17. Senator Col. (R) Syed Tahir Hussain Mashhadi appreciated the efforts of Governments of Balochistan and Sindh in controlling illegal hunting and emphasized that the provinces should look at options to develop projects to protect endangered bird species. A Focal Committee to monitor such projects, comprising of the Ministries of Foreign Affairs, Interior and the four Provincial Governments and Parliamentarians may be constituted for monitoring purposes.

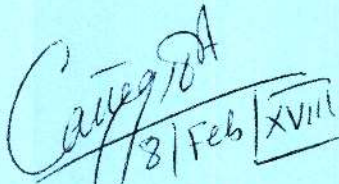
18. Senator Haji Momin Khan Afridi proposed a complete ban on hunting for the next five years.

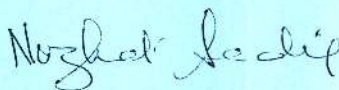
19. The Secretary, Forest and Wildlife, Govt. of Sindh supported this proposal and proposed a blanket ban on all types of hunting for the next two years. Meanwhile a birds/animals census may be conducted with the cooperation of WWF.

20. The Chairperson of the Committee while concluding the discussion was pleased to direct that:-

- i. The role of provinces in implementing the SOPs, already formulated with mutual consent of the four provinces and approved by the Prime Minister is clearly spelled out. The same be implemented in letter and spirit.
- ii. If the provinces deem appropriate Hunting may be banned for an appropriate period of time, in order to give the endangered species time to multiply.
- iii. Trophy hunting may be promoted and a fair share may be given to the local communities, who in turn would protect illegal poaching.

21. 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