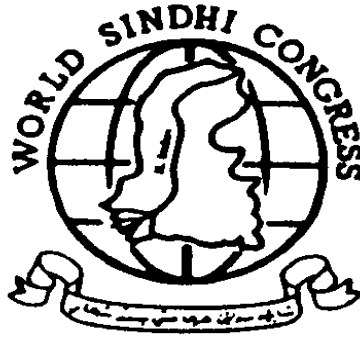


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INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND

Sindh, currently a province of Pakistan, has maintained the status of an independent state till it was conquered in 1843 and merged into British India. In the aftermath of the partition of Sub-continent in 1947, the then Sindh Assembly voted by a tiny majority and by sheer manipulation of the ruling establishment, to join the to-be-created state of Pakistan.

The British conquered Sindh as independent country, but did not restore its independent status. Therefore, Sindh joined Pakistan, but on the basis of Pakistan Resolution of 1940 [1], according to which the constituents units were supposed to be autonomous and sovereign. Due to the unfair power structure in the federation of Pakistan, the promise of autonomy and sovereignty is never achieved. This has resulted in an incredible state of economical, political and social hegemony and a terrible human rights situation.

After the partition of India in 1947, Pakistan has been under military rule for 42 years out of its 56 years of existence. Today it is under the military control. All Federal and provincial assemblies are working under the military imposed 'Legal Framework Order'. A military general is a President and Military Chief at the same time. The crisis and instability in Pakistan is mainly derived from the country's present composition, in which one province, namely Punjab, has an overwhelming domination in all spheres of power. Peoples of smaller provinces, especially Sindh and Baluchistan, are being denied their due political, economic, social, and cultural rights.

This report presents a brief overview of violation of economical, cultural, democratic, political and human rights of people of Sindh. The European Union, including the UK must influence General Musharaf and the Pakistani establishment (diplomatically as well as by including safeguards in their loan and grants agreements) to respect the universal principles of justice, liberty, and peace for the peoples of their country.



ECONOMICAL EXPLOITATION

Major portion (70 %) of the Pakistan federal budget is consumed into defense related expenses. To justify such huge defense expenses, Pakistan engages unnecessarily in regional wars. This engagement is neither morally justifiable nor economically viable. On the one hand Pakistan is spending billions in nuclear bombs and on other hand, the people of Sindh and Baluchistan are dying out of drought and famine. Despite the fact that Sindh contributes 67% of federal revenue, the province is currently unable to carry out its day-to-day operations-not to speak of any meaningful development. For thirteen years, an illegal and unconstitutional body (often consisting of a few selective non-representative individuals) called the National Finance Commission is managing taxes as well as other financial resources in Pakistan.

The unconstitutional government and its crony, mostly non-Sindhi bureaucrats, constantly manipulate population census figures and Sindh's budget requirements, and charge false federal expenses to the province to justify discrimination. Here are some figures and graphs to support these claims:

Table 1: Data for 2003 Data About Sindh Published in Daily Kawish [Data from Governmental Agencies]

	Percent Share of Sindh in Pakistan
Population	23%
Area	23.70%
Populated area	25.92%
Forest area	20.5%
Cotton produce	23%
Rice produce	31%
Sugar Cane produce	23.5%
Wheat produce	11.8%
Fish produce (1997-98)	77%
Fish Produce (2001-02)	64%
Exported Fish	74%
Revenues	65%
Gross income	50%
Raw Petroleum	62%
Coal	31%
Natural Gas	48%
Power generation	39%
Agriculture GDP	25%
Manufacturing Industries	34%
Unemployment in Sindh in 1990-99	25%
Percent population of Sindh under poverty line	50%
Percent population of Sindh earning <\$1.00 per day	60%

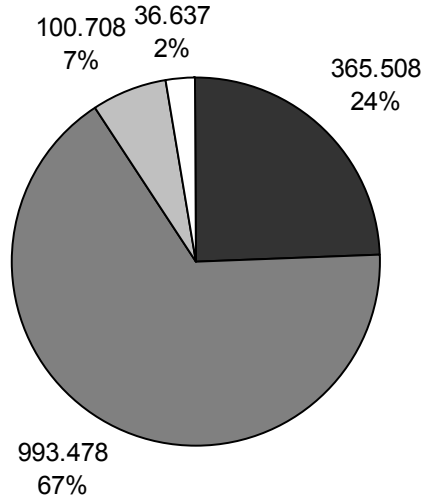
Table 2: Contributions Made and Received from Provinces to Federal Government from 1997-2002 (in Billion Rs.)

[Data Presented in Sindh Assembly by Sindh's Finance Minister, November 2003, Daily Dawn]

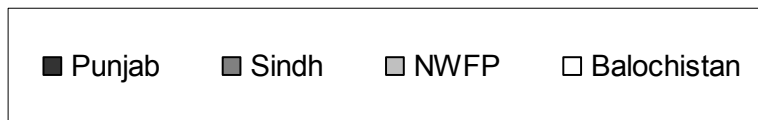
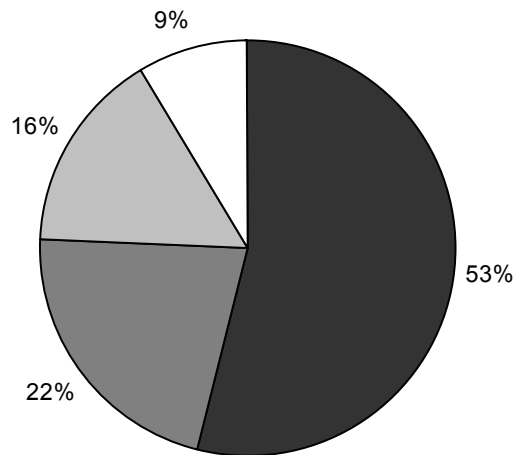
Year	Punjab		Sindh		NWFP		Balochistan	
	Contributed	Received	Contributed	Received	Contributed	Received	Contributed	Received
1997-	57.63	57.939	169.515	23.304	16.748	16.992	7.134	9.415

98								
1998-99	65.32	61.637	171.066	24.791	21.602	18.137	8.323	10.356
1999-00	77.912	70.069	189.461	28.182	22.046	20.67	7.8	10.987
2000-01	80.323	79.761	226.218	31.081	19.656	22.687	6.38	12.022
2001-02	84.323	77.173	237.218	32.309	20.656	23.139	7	12.22

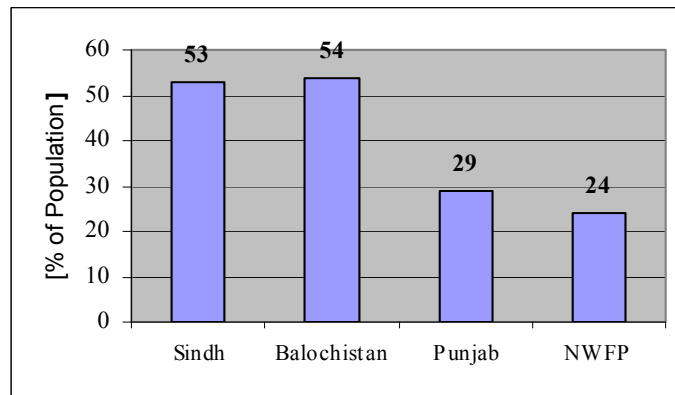
**Total contributions made by each province in the period
1997 - 2002 [in Billion Rs.]**



**Total Received by each each province in period 1997-2002
[in Billion Rs.]**



'Poverty Rate' Comparison among the Provinces of Pakistan*



*Source *The Dawn*, Sept 25th, 2002, Reference to *Asian Development Bank*

WATER THEFT AND WATER MISMANAGEMENT

Today, the pervasive, institutional racism against Sindhis has manifested into an acute, unprecedented and human-made water-shortage of water. Non-adherence to water accords, right from the 1945 Indus Treaty to the ones Pakistan created itself, water diversion and theft, inequitable water distribution and the construction of dams and canals, along the Upper riparian of River Indus have severely reduced Sindh's access to water. As well as violating the Sindhi people's most basic human right to water, this forced, politically propelled drought threatens to starve the province, destroy the fragile ecosystem and agriculture of Sindh, and push ancient species to extinction. This denial of water will cause terrible human and environmental devastation in Sindh, including:

- The death displacement of indigenous populations
- Further saltwater-intrusion, which will force Badin, Thatta and Hyderabad districts into widespread drought
- Catastrophic economic conditions in Sindh
- The annihilation of the Blind Indus Dolphin – an endangered species
- The destruction of fisheries
- The destruction of fertile farmlands
- The destruction of ancient mangrove and wetlands protected under Ramsar Agreement

In violation of the United Nations' Rio Declaration (1992) that states flood management, water supply, power, and irrigation needs must be obtained and provided through informed and

sustainable processes, the Pakistan authorities continue to deny the Sindh province an adequate amount of water. Subsequently, the ongoing construction of canals and dams, including the much-contested Greater That Canal, and Kalabagh Dam/Basha Dam continue.

Presently, Sindh is receiving about 80% short of its due share of Indus River water. As a consequence, it creates an acute shortage of drinking water, devastation of agricultural land, and sees intrusion of 1.2 million acres of farmland in the coastal areas of Sindh. This Pakistani establishment-made water crises costs Sindh US\$1.7 billion in terms of financial loss, in addition to the human sufferings and environmental damage. Sindh has faced a record shortage of water, while Punjab harvested a record amount of wheat crop. This imbalance indicates the total breakdown of the federation and fair play. The difference in water shortage and allotments in two provinces of Pakistan is tabulated below [2].

Table 3: Water Shortage Status

Comparative Water Shortage Status Under Water Accord 1991 (Oct. 1'00—Feb. 20, 01)*		
*By Naseer Memon on WorldSindhiNet	Punjab	Sindh
Allotted Share (MAF)	14.30	11.994
Actual Utilization	10.016	7.486
Received % of Allotted	70.00 %	62.5 %
Shortage	30 %	37.5 %

WATER: ISSUE OF KALABAGH DAM

In addition to all the above, the construction of Kalabagh Dam has been restarted under the recent dictatorial government. Despite rejection of the dam project by environmental and irrigation experts and by three out of the four provinces of Pakistan--namely, Sindh, Baluchistan and Pakhtunkwa (Northwest Frontier Province)--the Government of Pakistan is planning to start this environmentally and ecologically disastrous project.

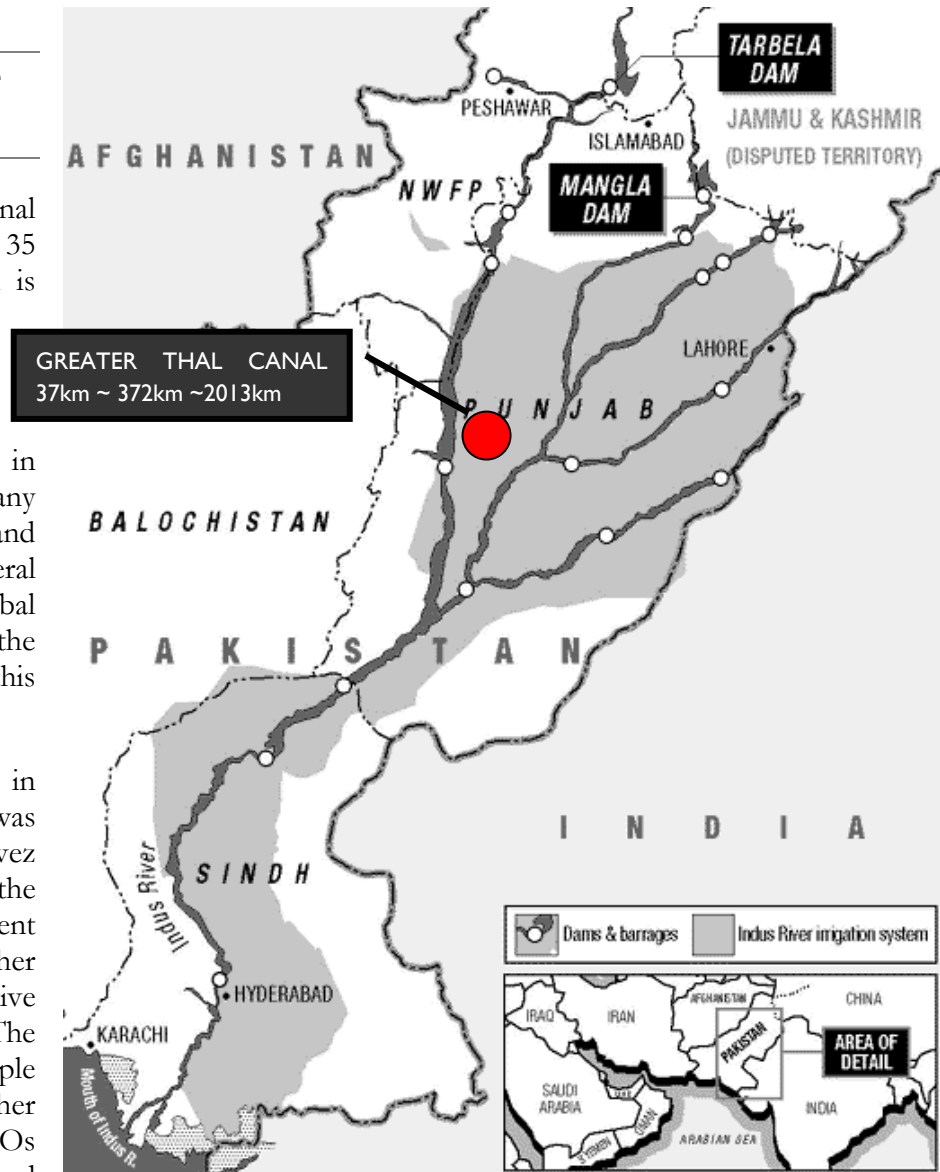
The Indus River system cannot afford to have any large-scale dam such as Kalabagh Dam. The current flow of the Indus (four out of every five years) is 123.59 Million Acre Foot (MAF)--approximately 15.59 MAF less than what is required to meet the bare minimum needs of four provinces and bare survival of Indus Delta region. Building Kalabagh Dam with the capacity of approx. 10 MAF would worsens this situation even further. There is simply not enough water to meet additional requirements of the Dam. The Kalabagh Dam will create various agro-ecological problems. It will displace thousands of people. It is an unsustainably huge project, which will increase national debt, decrease the net agriculture production and will create food insecurity in the region.

WATER: ISSUE OF THAL CANAL

The Greater Thal Canal (GTC) project costs Rs. 35 billion (US \$ 600 M) and is designed to divert 2.5 million acre foot (MAF) water from the River Indus system to irrigate 1.53 million acres of land in the province of Punjab. Many military generals, current and retired, including General Musharraf and tribal landlords, who support the government own lands in this part of Punjab.

The work on GTC started in August 2001 and was inaugurated by General Parvez Musharraf, without the agreement of the Government of Sindh or any other technical and administrative bodies in Pakistan. The Government of Sindh, people of Sindh, and many other local and international NGOs rejected this project and expressed their deep concerns about its social and ecological impact in Sindh.

Recently, the Sindh Assembly unanimously—created under the aegis of the present regime--voted for the cancellation of this project. But the vote of Sindh Assembly has been criminally ignored. Since early 2001, millions of Sindhi people have peacefully protested with thousands of marches, hundreds of hunger strikes, and signature campaigns. Some of these protests encountered police aggression. In June 2001, the police fired on peaceful protesters, killing two activists in Sindh. No inquiry has been made into the said police atrocity. In the same month, the government imprisoned more than 600 environmental



activists. Some of them were imprisoned for several months before they could be released on bail. These activists still have to face the lengthy and costly court procedures.

The Indus River system cannot afford to have any more upper riparian canal project such as GTC. According to the Water Management and Distribution Committee report in the year 2000, the current flow of the Indus (four out of every five years) is 123.59 MAF--approximately 15.59 MAF less than the amount required for the bare minimum needs of the four provinces and mere survival of the Indus Delta region. Building a new canal with the capacity of 2.5 MAF would worsen the situation even further.

GTC will create various agro-ecological problems. It will wipe out the wetlands and mangrove forests in Sindh, some of which are internationally protected under the Ramsar Agreement. These wetlands provide a habitat for many plants and animals, including endangered species such as Blind Dolphin. Other species such as Shad or Pallo fish, Barramundi fish, Dangri fish, and shrimps will also face the threat of extinction if further water deficiency occurs.

GTC will also create a water shortage in the "kacho" area, depriving 100,000 people of their livelihood.

It is necessary to discharge Indus water to the sea in order to keep sea water at bay and not let it intrude into the inland water resources, surface and ground. Due to the water theft in the last few decades, salt-water intrusion has been witnessed inland up to 100 kilometers north of the sea. Thousands of people have been forced to migrate from their ancestral homes and lands.

We believe that GTC (along with other similar projects) breaches international law as well as Pakistan's own constitution (which is always under the process of amendment and is currently being modified by General Musharraf). This Project violates the ILO Convention on Indigenous and Tribal Peoples 1989 (i.e. C169), Article 15, which states, "The rights of the peoples concerned to the natural resources pertaining to their lands shall be specially safeguarded." The UN Convention on the Law of the Non-navigational Uses of International Watercourses was approved by the General Assembly in 1997. This convention delineates a basic principle for state action: the state is to have only equitable and reasonable use, inflicting no significant harm to any party. GTC certainly violates this convention too.

We believe that water concerns not only the issues of environment, ecology, and culture, but also the question of peoples' survival and security. Without the help of the international community and neutral international monitoring organizations, competition over water in Pakistan could eventually lead to a serious, possibly violent conflict. Compared to resolving a conflict of that kind, it is more effective and less costly to reach a solution to amend water distribution policies now.

CULTURE AND LANGUAGE

The majority of people speak the Sindhi language in Sindh, and Sindhi was the official language of the region even under the British rule. After the partition, only in one year 1500 Sindhi medium primary schools were shutdown in main towns, and this process is still going on. It deprives the indigenous children of Sindh to have education in their own language. The state-controlled media only provide less than 30 minutes a day of Sindhi public television broadcast. In the current setup, the Sindhi language has been marginalized to such an extent that its survival is under threat. Sindhi

medium schools are systematically shut down throughout the province, especially from urban areas of Sindh. This is widening the gap between rural and urban people of Sindh. The gap has been a central factor of many social conflicts in the province, resulting in deaths of tens of thousands of people. Federal policies that increase the urban-rural divide are detrimental to Sindh. Furthermore, Sindhi Sufi-religious tolerance and peace--traditions and thoughts, which base the cultural rituals and traditions of Sindhi indigenous peoples, have been reduced to few people in an organized way. The suppression of Sindhi culture and the dominance of state-imposed social life create hopelessness among Sindhis.

There is no official assistance to the Sindhi press. On the contrary, laws are passed to curb Sindh press, which has maintained an honourable tradition of championing the cause of justice and fair-play. Most recently, the Governor of Sindh, who represents the central government, has promulgated an Ordinance that has decreased the advertisements quota for the 'regional' newspapers published in Sindh to 50%. This Ordinance has fatally affected Sindhi Press. Consequently, many Sindhi dailies have to cease publication.

RELIGIOUS INTOLERANCE: THREAT TO SINDHIS, DANGER TO WORLD PEACE

Sindh is the only province of Pakistan that has the amazing amalgamation of Indigenous population of different religious beliefs including, Muslims, Sufis, Hindus, Christians, and Ahmedis. We believe that current setup in Pakistan that thrives on religious dogmatism and intolerance is posing a big threat to our culture and population. Pakistan's pan-Islamic propaganda threatens the secular and religious tolerant Sufi thoughts in Sindh. There exist numerous laws (such as 1974 amendments and 15th amendment) and policies that diminish socio-political status of religious minorities and sects. Blasphemy law is still intact and practiced. Government provides its patronage to "Madarsaa" (religious) schools which act as hubs for pan-Islamicist militancy.

VIOLATIONS OF RIGHTS TO DEVELOPMENT

Unemployment rate is at its peak in Sindh. People are resorting to suicides and crime and drug addiction is at its rise. Most of the times the funds for development are merely allocated, and if allocated then not utilized properly. On the closing of fiscal year 2000, one-third of the total allocated funds of Rs.11.25 billions were utilized. The educational institutions in Sindh having majority of local Sindhi students are being discriminated in terms funds, safety, curriculum revisions, and due to bad allotted administrations. This has also lowered the professional literacy standards in Sindh. Rather than taking nation-building measures government has been using its establishment and missionaries against the development. Recent statistics in [13] shows that even though 51% of Sindh's population is rural; there are only 90 rural health centers.

VIOLATION OF WOMEN RIGHTS

Significant numbers of women are subjected to violence, abuse, rape, trafficking, and other forms of degradation by their spouses and members of society at large. The government failed to take action in high profile "honor killing" cases, and such killings continue throughout the country. Indeed

some ministers openly favour such killings. In year 2003, almost 500 women reported who were died of “honor killing”. There are considerable discriminations against women, and traditional social and legal constraints have kept women in a subordinate position in the society. Female children still lag far behind boys in education, health care, jobs and other social and economic benefits.

VIOLATION OF RIGHTS OF ASSOCIATION

A government servant cannot be associated to any political party. Many political activists are in jails without any trials. Various journalists and intellectuals are often harassed. It is virtually impossible to criticize the governmental policies. As far as Sindh is concerned, Sindhis cannot form even a non-political organization. Many a small non-political, even petty, even the organizations that work under the aegis of the establishment, have been banned; and in many cases those working in them declared 'traitors'.

VIOLATION OF RIGHT TO SELF-DETERMINATION

Although there are so elected Assemblies in the Centre, and the provinces, the ‘President’ of the country is officially the Chief of Army Staff (COAS) and Chairman Joint Chiefs of Staff Committee (JCSC) as well. So that is the democracy Pakistani style! Due to the unfair distribution of “National Assembly” representations, province of Sindh has never achieved democratic government after entering in to the federation of Pakistan. The “biggest” province according to population is Punjab, and it has most representation in “National Assembly”, even more than combined by all three provinces. Furthermore, as mentioned above, the resolutions of the Sindh Assembly are never honoured when they ask for justice and fair-play.

VIOLATION OF RIGHTS OF FREE SPEECH

Local broadcast media are not permitted to produce independent news and public affairs programming. TV and Radio are state controlled. Even a few private channels are often subjected to confirm the governments. Visual and audio media is strictly censored according to Islamic traditions and also according to political policy of the government. The official website of Pakistan Television (PTV, Inc.) shows that only 40 minutes of air time is broadcasted in regional language.

The case of Sindhi publications is still worse: many books/publications in Sindhi language have been banned continuously ever since the creation of Pakistan. Almost all the books written by great Sindhi leader G.M. Sayed and poet and intellectual Shaikh Ayaz were banned and still remain so.

Political activists are often assaulted and arrested during the peaceful protest. On various occasions of peaceful rallies for water scarcity, unemployment, and Kalabagh Dam, many political activists and innocent people are arrested and assaulted. Such news can be referred in any newspaper published in Sindhi and sometimes in the English press. Last April activists of Jeay Sindhi Quomi Mahaz (Nationalist political party in Sindh) were assaulted and arrested during a peaceful protest against the increased unemployment. Similarly, few months ago, leaders of Pakistan Oppressed Nations' Movement were assaulted during the peaceful protest against the construction of Kalabagh Dam. Recently, Government of Sindh filed a ‘Sedition Cases’ to several Sindhi leaders belonging to Jeay

Sindh Mahaz (another nationalist political party in Sindh). Great Sindhi leader, G.M. Sayed spent almost all his life after the creation of Pakistan in either jails or under house arrest. He even died under house arrest in 1995. His only 'crime' was to campaign for an independent Sindh. He was never tried for his alleged treason.

SOCIAL PROBLEMS AND LAWLESSNESS

State violence as mentioned above has created a serious dilemma for the people of Sindh, who seek equal rights and prosperity for their region by peaceful means only. The situation is very troubling! Everyday, people of Sindh are getting distraught. We see the stress changing into hopelessness. Self-defeating behaviors are increasing among our people, manifest in the rising rates of suicides, intertribal clashes, violent crimes, drug addictions, and violence against women. Needless to say, hopelessness and self-defeating behaviors are dangerous and end up in violence! So, it is imperative that international activists and intellectuals give considerations to the case of Sindh.

HOW CAN INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY HELP?

We ask to you to impress on the government of Pakistan (diplomatically as well as by including safeguards in their loan and grants agreements) to respect the universal principles of justice, liberty, and peace for the peoples of their country by:

- changing its policy of building large dams and canals and to create instead a comprehensive water plan for Pakistan based on the following principles:
 1. Fair Indus River water policies should be developed and implemented based on the Sindh-Punjab agreement of 1945. These policies should ban the construction of any large structure, including the Kalabagh Dam, Greater Thal Canal, and similar projects.
 2. An independent study should be conducted to investigate all environmental and ecological consequences downstream from Kotri Barrage due to reduced water releases. The study must establish water needs downstream (Kotri) for human consumption, protection of mangroves, prevention of sea-water intrusion, sustenance of fisheries, and maintenance of groundwater quality.
- Eliminating the so-called Legal Framework Order which gives unprecedented power to Military and reduces the civilian government to barely a rubber-stamping authority
- Allocating fair share to Sindh and stop stealing the natural resources and revenue generated by Sindh.
- Reducing military spending
- Signing the CBT (Nuclear Ban Treaty)
- Stopping the violence against its own people as well as other peoples across its border.

- Returning to true democracy and granting all the Oppressed nations the right of self-determination.
- Abolishing laws discriminating women and religious minorities (Hudood Ordinance, blasphemy Law).
- Stopping discriminatory policies against Sindhi language and cultural institution by restoring funding and support to Sindhi media.

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