



women's action forum خواتین محاذِ عمل

Statement on the brutal execution of Hazara miners in Balochistan

5th January 2021

WAF Lahore expresses profound grief at the cold-blooded execution style brutal murder of 11 miners by terrorists in Machh, Balochistan. WAF is outraged that the Hazara community continues to be targeted by such horrific acts with impunity. The latest in such acts of terrorism and violence to which the Hazara people have been subjected is not merely an indictment of the state's failure to protect its citizens; it shows a criminal indifference towards the state's basic responsibilities. Indeed, the brazenness with which DAESH has claimed this act cannot be countered with the government's weak condemnation and draws attention not only to the inefficacy of the state's long-standing policy regarding 'good' and 'bad' Taliban, including dialogues with terrorists, but also to the lack of any human sensibility of a state that allows such acts to take place.

By its failure to ensure the safety of its citizens and its inability to contain extremist terrorism the state is fast losing its credibility. This is not the first time the Hazara of Balochistan have mourned their dead in the bitter cold of winter days and nights. The wounds of the 2015 killings are still fresh. WAF joins in the grief of those who have lost their loved ones and shares the anger of the Hazara people who are the target of a brutal and relentless form of religio-ethnic cleansing.

WAF demands immediate and meaningful action against the perpetrators of this brutal killing. It also demands a policy change towards extremist groups whose message of religious intolerance and hatred puts the lives of all Pakistani citizens at risk. WAF reminds the government and concerned authorities that the people of Pakistan are no longer fooled by the way extremists use religion to justify violence. We demand that the government recognise its own responsibilities and ensure the safety and security of the people regardless of differences of ethnicity, religion and class.