The Mohajir rights campaign was launched in Washington, D.C, last year by a US-based advocacy group, Voice of Karachi, under the title of #FreeKarachi on the Martin Luther King Jr. Day.

- Mohajirs are those whose forefathers had migrated from India’s Muslim-minority provinces after the partition of Indian Subcontinent in 1947.
- Successive military and civilian governments have disenfranchised tens of millions of Mohajirs in urban areas of Sindh through gerrymandering and systematic manipulation of census figures. More than half of Karachi’s population was wiped off in the last census figures.
- Widescale human rights violations in Karachi and other urban centers of Sindh province are a daily occurrence.
- Pakistani security forces, majority of them from Pakistan’s Punjab province, have killed thousands of ethnic Mohajirs in Karachi since 1992.
- Ali Raza Abidi, a US-educated Mohajir former lawmaker and a known critic of Pakistan’s military establishment, was assassinated in Karachi on 25th December 2018.
- Mohajirs demand the United Nations to constitute a high level commission to probe extra judicial killings, enforced disappearances, arbitrary arrests and inhuman physical torture in custody of security forces.

In terms of numbers, the nearly 70 million Mohajirs are the second largest ethnic group in Pakistan. They are also the single-largest ethnic group in Karachi.

Karachi, which holds an important geo-strategic location in South Asia and whose large secular Urdu-speaking population is a natural US ally, has been turned in recent years into a safe haven for jihadist and anti-US forces by Pakistan’s military establishment.

The people of Karachi are now demanding creation of Greater Karachi. The proposed plan of Greater Karachi includes Karachi and Sindh province’s other urban areas. Once a reality, it will be home to all those Pakistanis who believe in true democracy, co-existence, freedom of religion and expression, equality and supremacy of constitution and law.

The world community, the United States of America in particular, must support the idea of Greater Karachi. They should also invest in educational, human development and civic projects besides forging a strong relationship with the people of urban Sindh. A prosperous and stable Greater Karachi will certainly be vital for peace in South Asia.
Karachi is among the five most-populous cities in the world. Situated in the south of Pakistan on the shores of the Arabian Sea, Karachi serves as a transport hub and gateway to Central Asia, and is home to Pakistan’s two largest seaports, the thriving Port of Karachi and Port Bin Qasim.

- Since 1947, at least a dozen Mohajir-majority towns have been subjected to massacres in Sindh province leaving tens of thousands of Mohajirs dead, but not a single culprit has ever been punished.
- Mohajir intellectuals, scholars, and political and human rights activists are particularly targeted by the security agencies and their proxies.
- Karachi’s local population has no representation in the city’s law enforcement agencies.

70 million ethnic Mohajir community faces gross human rights violations in Pakistan.

- On 25th December, 2018, a prominent former Mohajir lawmaker and graduate from Boston University USA, Ali Raza Abidi was assassinated in Karachi.

- Dr. Hasan Zafar Arif, a PhD from Harvard University and Deputy Convener of MQM, was extra judicially killed in January last year.

- This history of repression and denial of rights is what tells Mohajirs that like killers of Pakistan’s first Prime Minister Liaquat Ali Khan, a Mohajir, and Prof. Zafar-Hasan Arif, killers of Ali Raza Abidi and thousands of other innocent Mohajirs will never be apprehended.

- Mohajirs have high hopes that the USA, as a beacon of individual and religious freedom as well as a defender of human rights, will take up their cause and hold Pakistan’s Punjabi-dominated military establishment accountable for its crimes against humanity.

- Karachi contributes between 65-70 % of revenue to the country’s treasury, but both the federal and provincial governments have deprived this mega city of even the basic civic needs.

- Thousands of legally owned homes and shops in Mohajir dominated areas have been demolished recently under the false pretext of anti-encroachment drive.

Karachi and other urban areas of Sindh need administrative autonomy to run their affairs. Prosperity, development and subsequent stability brought by administrative autonomy will benefit all those forces who want to establish long term peace in this region.

Saving Karachi is in the interest of international community, US in particular, due to this great city’s strategic importance and its economic and industrial potential.
Karachi, once the ‘Bride of the East’, endures vicious campaign of terror

By Nadeem Nusrat

When Benjamin Franklin wrote in a 1789 letter that “in this world, nothing can be said to be certain, except death and taxes”, he had no idea how unhappily modern-day Pakistan would defy his prophecy.

Pakistan today is a country where only death seems a certainty. As for taxes, only about 1 percent of the adult population pays them, to put it more bluntly; 99 percent of the country’s adult population escapes the burden of taxation.

Taking into account the fact that there are more than 200 million people in the country, the disparity seems particularly daunting. Pakistani state-owned industries and public enterprises generate a paltry 3 percent of Pakistan’s GDP, while its 2017 census showed Karachi’s population at just 14.9 million.

The same report noted that Karachi “accounts for more than 65 percent of the country’s GDP, nearly half of Pakistan’s exports, more than 90 percent of its imports, and more than 70 percent of its revenue from sales taxes.”

Moreover, as a result of the city’s enormous size and density, Karachi suffers from a number of problems, including traffic congestion, pollution, and crime.

Population growth and urbanization have also led to a lack of housing and sanitation in the city, which is home to an estimated 70 percent of Pakistan’s poor.

Karachi is not just blessed with a strategic location, it is also home to an educated and religiously tolerant ethnic group, the Mohajirs. Descendants of those who migrated to Pakistan after the British partitioned the Indian subcontinent in 1947, these Urdu-speaking Mohajirs are the ones who transformed the city into the regional industrial powerhouse.

But that is also the Great Khan’s legacy. Under the watchful eye of the powerful Pakistani military establishment, the city has endured a vicious campaign of terror that has been ongoing for decades.

Karachi’s most well-known campaign of terror is the so-called “Taliban Khan” because of Mr. Khan’s relentless drive to impose a puritanical interpretation of Islam. His followers, including the infamous Lashkar-e-Taiba and the Jamaat-ud-Dawa, are behind countless acts of terror, including suicide bombings, targeted killings, and military operations.

The impact of these terror campaigns is palpable. According to a recent report, “Karachi suffers from the highest rates of violence in Pakistan, with an estimated 10,000 people killed in terrorist attacks since 2004.”

The city’s development has been seriously hampered by the ongoing violence, with a recent report suggesting that “Karachi’s economic growth has been consistently below that of other major cities in Pakistan.”

In the context of Pakistan’s economy, “Karachi appears to be a bit of a runaway outlier. The city’s economic performance is significantly better than that of other large cities in the country,” according to a recent study.

The city’s infrastructure is also under strain, with traffic congestion and pollution being major issues. According to a recent report, “Karachi’s Traffic is one of the world’s worst, with an estimated 100,000 vehicles added to the city’s streets each year.”

The city’s education system is also in dire need of improvement, with a recent report suggesting that “Karachi’s education system is the worst in the country, with a literacy rate of only 43 percent.”

The city’s healthcare system is also in dire need of improvement, with a recent report suggesting that “Karachi’s healthcare system is one of the worst in the country, with an estimated 70 percent of its population living without access to basic healthcare services.”

The city’s environment is also in dire need of improvement, with a recent report suggesting that “Karachi is one of the most polluted cities in the world, with an estimated 14,000 premature deaths each year due to air pollution.”

In conclusion, Karachi’s problems are multifaceted and require a comprehensive approach to address. The city’s development, economic growth, and overall quality of life are all inextricably linked, and addressing one issue will likely have a positive impact on the others.

Karachi’s future is uncertain, but one thing is clear: the city’s residents are determined to build a better future for themselves and their children. As one resident put it, “Karachi is a city of hope, and we will not be defeated.”
have been targeted efforts in support for Ye- niz Christians and the Rohingya Muslims in Myanmar and Uyghur Muslims, Buddhists and Christians in China. Throughout the world, we are seeing a surge in deadly attacks on religious minorities. Oppression, systematic repression and atrocities are spreading. They are doing this by censorship and the gagging of the press. They unleash the government ma- chinery in maintaining tighter control on social media and other news outlets. This should be wary. We will not sit silently in the face of bad laws and infrastructure and develop- ment projects. We promote free will and stand up against oppressive choking arrangements, which stifles nations’ economies and the lo- cal population. Having a strong stable part- ner like the United States ensures prosperity and stability of the economy and overcomes threats of fragility from all sides. On January 16, 2019, we celebrated our na- tions long standing commitment to freedom of conscience and the freedom to profess one’s own faith. I strongly and proudly believe that our nation will always remain a beacon of hope and freedom for all. We will champion basic human

The challenge of ‘Azadi’

By Puneet Ahluwalia

“Azadi” is the new license plate of my friend Tom Garrett, a former congressman from Virginia who has steadily become the voice of the voiceless.

I first learned the word ‘azadi’ from mem- bers of the voiceless. These people live in areas that reach from the Arabic linguistic families. Like the Kurds, Persian, Paki- stanis and the South Asian Minority Foundation. These people and individuals work to be a voice to in long term direct improvement and impact in the daily lives of the people. The self- reliance and pride is felt by the future genera- tion and other places in the world.

Azadi inspires us all. It empowers all Americans as far as thinkers to seek our funda- mental rights such as Life, Liberty and Pur- suit of Happiness.

The Bill of Rights that are enshrined in the US Constitution has also perfected and secured the freedom we all cherish today and often take for granted.

Regardless of faith or which country we hail from, we all strongly support minority rights and religious freedom worldwide. The right to religious freedom is America’s First Amend- ment. It may surprise few, Presidents Trump’s forefathers to seek their funda- mental rights and values around the world, as it is USA’s historical mission to help people develop strong, peaceful, and successful societies around the world. It is a movement which has taken center stage in his administration.

In July 2018, United States Ambassador-at-Large for International Religious Freedom Sam Brownback hosted the Ministerial to Ad- vance Religious Freedom at the State Depart- ment.

We have, so I will not try.

This could be done without spending a dime of security relations with the United States. These groups and individuals work to be a voice to the oppressed. The irony is that these diverse people know a word, but they have almost never been able to experience it. That is precisely why I started Azadi Con- sulting, LLC.

Influence in D.C. is wielded too often by monied elite. These monied elite include state nations. China and Russia come imme- diately to mind, but who would think that Er- dogan’s Turkey spends ten million a month to influence US opinion and policy? Who looks out for the oppressed? Who works to expose a policy that focuses on basic rights and free-

dom? This is what Azadi Consulting will do. This is what I will do.

For these reasons, I am delighted to an- nounce my relationship with ‘Voice of Karachi’ and the South Asian Minority Foundation. Joining Puneet Ahluwalia of New World Strat- egists and Pakistani American civil rights activ- ists Jumana Namir and Irit Ezrati. These groups and individuals work to be a voice to the oppressed. The irony is that these diverse people know a word, but they have almost never been able to experience it. That is precisely why I started Azadi Con- sulting, LLC.

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