

Kishwar Sultana *

Baluchistan and Pakistan Movement: Role of Qazi Mohammad Isa 1939-1947

Abstract:

Qazi Mohammad Isa was a prominent political leader from Baluchistan who played pivotal role in the Pakistan Movement. As right hand of Quaid-i-Azam Mohammad Ali Jinnah, the founder of Pakistan, he organized the Muslim League in Baluchistan as its President during 1939-1947 and did help popularize the Pakistan Movement in the Baluchistan province. As member of Central Council of the All India Muslim League, he also toured different provinces of British India especially the Sindh, Punjab and NWFP (now KPK) and strengthened cause of Pakistan. He played major role in uniting the Sardars and Chiefs of Baluchistan for the cause of Pakistan and made Baluchistan join Pakistan according to the electoral principle set by 3 June 1947 Plan. Though, certain Sardars were against him because of his anti-Sardari system in Baluchistan, yet he successfully carried forward his stance. His services and contribution are addressed and discussed in detail in this paper.

Early Life and Education

Qazi Mohammad Isa was born in a village of District Pishin on 17 July 1914. He was educated at Sandman High School and Government High School Quetta. He went to London in 1933 for higher studies. He was admitted to Middle Temple Inn wherefrom he was called to the Bar in 1936. He started his legal practice in London Bar, but after one year's practice he decided to come back to British India and started his legal practice as a lawyer at the Bombay Courts in 1938. There, he met Jinnah and became his follower.

His Role and Contribution in the Pakistan Movement

Quaid-i-Azam nominated Qazi Isa as President of Baluchistan Muslim League. He was given the task of organizing Muslim League in Baluchistan. Leaving his legal practice in Bombay he came to Balochistan and toured different cities and areas of the province. On 4 May 1939 by a letter Liaquat Ali Khan, Honorary Secretary of AIML, on the Quaid's instructions asked Qazi Isa to send his report of his tour of

* Dr. Kishwar Sultana, Associate Professor, Department of History, Allama Iqbal Open University, Islamabad

Baluchistan. On 14 May 1939, Qazi Mohammad Isa replied to Liaquat from Pishin, his home town, in which he reported:

Let me congratulate you that our call here to form Muslim League party has been responded most wonderfully. Please send me as much propaganda literature in Urdu as you can possibly spare, and just a few in English would also do.¹

He also reported that wherever he went in Balochistan he was welcomed by hundreds and thousands of people. Even Ulema in the mosques spoke in favour of formation of the Muslim League in Balochistan. He also reported that it is expected that in our forthcoming Conference meeting at Quetta on 10 June 1939 thousands of people are expected to participate.² In another letter of 22 May 1939, Qazi Isa pointed out that Congress is using MaulanaAtaullah Shah Bokhari, a leader of Ahrar Party, to spread its influence in Balochistan.³ To counter it, he suggested that MaulanaHasratMohani or other leaders of Muslim League should be sent to Balochistan to counter the Congress propaganda.⁴ For that purpose first Muslim League Conference was held at Quetta At McMohan Park on 10-11 June 1939 in which more than 3000 persons participated. Qazi Isa had invited Muslim League leaders from other provinces also. Syed Zakir Ali Shah from Agra and GhulamNabi on behalf of Sir Abdullah Harron of Sindh and Captain Muhammad Maqsood, Chief of Muslim National Guard Sindh also participated in this Conference. The most important aspect of this Conference was a number of Sardars of Baluchistan including BugtiNawab, Nawab Muhammad Khan Jomezai, SardarBahadur Muhammad Khan Shahwani, Khan BahadurArbabKaram Khan, Khan BahadurSardarGhulam Muhammad Khan Tarin, Khan Bahadur Haji Abdul Jabbar Khan Achakzai, SardarBahadur Imam Baksh Rind, Sabizada Abdul Karim Khan Kansi, SardarBahadurZardghun Khan Jomezai, and Khan Bahadur Sh. BazGul Khan Mandokhel.⁵ On the first day of the Conference Qazi Isa was elected President, Baluchistan Muslim League with thumping majority. A number of leaders spoke on this occasion. Qazi Isa also addressed as President of the session. In his address Qazi Isa deplored the lack of educational facilities in the province. He also declared that the Holy Quran was their only guide in political and social life. He asked the people of Baluchistan to rally around the flag of Muslim League. During his speech shouts of “Allah-o-Akbar” and Muslim League Zindabad” were often raised.⁶ On 2nd day of the Conference, i.e. 11 June, SardarBahadur Muhammad Khan Shahwani presided.⁷ Four resolutions were passed towards the end of this Conference. First related to expression of condolence at the recent deaths of Mustafa Kamal Atatürk, Sir Muhammad Iqbal, MaulanaShaukat Ali. Second resolution was moved by Qazi Isa regretting the denial of provincial autonomy to Baluchistan which received unanimous approval. The fourth resolution related to approving the policy of All India Muslim League and expressing confidence in the great leadership of Quaid-i-Azam Mohammad Ali Jinnah.⁸ At the start of session Qazi Muhammad Isa read messages from Sir

Abdullah Haroon of Karachi, Mr. Jinnah and Nawabzada Liyaqat Ali Khan, Secretary of the All-India Muslim League, regretting their inability to attend, expressing their pleasure at the formation of a Muslim League in Balochistan, and assuring the local branch of every possible assistance.⁹

The message of Muslim League was soon popularized in Baluchistan. In the 3rd week of June 1939 Qazi Isa was reported to have said that more than 7000 people have joined the Muslim League.¹⁰ He extensively toured various cities and districts of Baluchistan and soon made Muslim League a popular organization. On 25 June 1939 he arranged a meeting of the Muslim League in Pishin in which 400 persons including 80 Ulema participated. In his speech, Qazi Isa explained that Muslim League's policies will not be against Islam but, rather, protect the cause of Islam. Towards the end, all were entrained to tea and dinner at his house.¹¹ In the month of July 1939 he visited Hindubagh, Zhob, Mastung, Quetta and other cities.¹² The big event was holding of a public meeting at Quetta on 28-29 July 1939 in which Maulana Zafar Ali Khan from the Punjab was the principal speaker and attended by 15,000 persons. Qazi Isa presided. Maulana Zafar Ali Khan delivered his long speech in which he explained the dangers being faced by the Muslims from the coming "Hindu Raj". The cause of Muslim Nation was also explained by him extensively. He pleaded introduction of reforms in Baluchistan on the pattern of other advanced provinces of British India. He also said that the Muslim League was a party of the "Mujahids" who were always ready to sacrifice for the cause of Islam and the future of Muslims in British India.¹³ Maulana Zafar Ali was taken to other cities of Pishin, Fort Sandeman, Loralai where also he addressed a number of public meetings. Maulana Zafar Ali Khan, accompanied by Qazi Muhammad Isa, Arbab Karam Khan and Malik Jan Muhammad, arrived at Fort Sandeman on the 1st August. At a meeting held in the Juma Mosque the same evening, which was attended by about 1500 persons including K.B. Baz Gul Khan, K.B. Gulistan Khan, K.B. Murad Khan and the two sons of K.B. Sardar Zarghun Khan, the Maulana advised Muslims to unite. Referring to Congress he said that it was a Hindu body which wished to dominate Muslims. Hindus were well-known for creating troubles for Muhammadans.¹⁴ On 4 August 1939 he met Khan of Kalat. Thereafter he left for Lahore.¹⁵

Quaid-i-Azam was insisting on Qazi Isa to elect a Working Committee of the Baluchistan Muslim League and nominate five persons on the General Council of the All India Muslim League. But because of differences amongst the local leaders, it was delayed. Finally on 20 August 1939 meeting of the Baluchistan Muslim League was held in which 31 were members of the Working Committee of Baluchistan Muslim League were elected. It was also decided that this number of Working Committee will ultimately be increased to 50. For the purpose of electing five members of AIML General Council a meeting of the Working Committee of the Baluchistan Muslim League was held on 22 August 1939

presided over by Qazi Isa. In this meeting these five leaders were elected to represent Baluchistan on the General Council of the AIML: 1) ArbabKaram Khan, 2) Ghulam Muhammad Khan Tarin, 3) Khan Bahadur Abdullah Jan, 4) Yar Muhammad Khan, Municipal Commissioner, and 5) The BugtiTumandar.¹⁶ Qazi Isa then went to Delhi and attended the meeting of AIML at Delhi on 27 August 1939 in which he conveyed the decision of the Baluchistan Muslim League.¹⁷

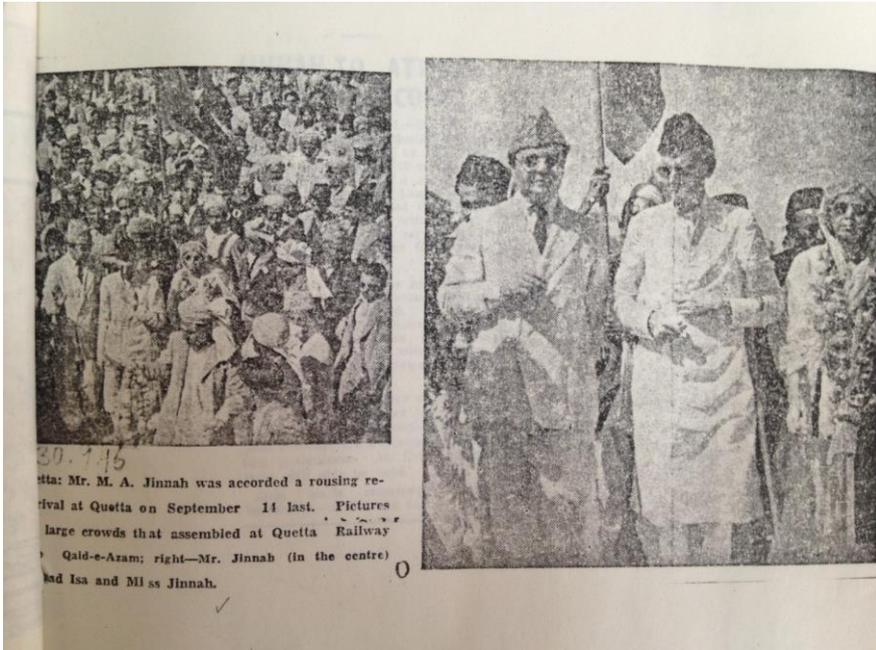
Thus the Balochistan Provincial Muslim League was affiliated with the All India Muslim League with its full composition. Conveying this decision Liaquat Ali Khan, Honorary Secretary of the AIML, wrote to Qazi Isa on 8 September 1939 that the Balochistan Muslim League has been affiliated with the main body of AIML.¹⁸ The Constitution and Rules of Baluchistan Provincial Muslim League was also framed under which the provincial party was to function by which duties and functions of different office bearers were also stipulated.¹⁹ Thus by the end of 1939 the Balochistan Provincial Muslim League became a very strong and popular party of the province.

In July 1940 the Baluchistan Muslim League arranged its first annual session under the presidentship of Nawabzada Liaquat Ali Khan, MLA(Central) and General Secretary of the All India Muslim League. In this session various resolutions for the educational uplift and other development of Baluchistan were passed.

Third annual session of the Baluchistan Muslim League was held on 3 July 1943 at Islamia High School grounds, Quetta under the Presidentship of Qazi Mohammed Isa. Quaid-i-Azam was the Chief Guest at this session. In his address, the Quaid said: “Muslim League has placed before you a clear cut goal of Pakistan. Muslim League has put before you a clear-cut programme for the uplift and betterment of our people, socially, economically, culturally and politically. This work accomplished within the last three or four years is admitted even by our opponents as remarkable and, never known in the history of Muslim India before, at least during the last two centuries. But Ladies and Gentlemen, we have to go a great way yet. We have yet a journey in front of us before we realize our goal of Pakistan but in the midst of all this that we have tried to build up I had never forgotten Baluchistan”.²⁰ Quaid-i-Azam also assured the minorities:

Now I want to say a few words about the minorities in Baluchistan. We have got Sikhs, Hindus, Christians and other non-Muslims. Mr. President, we are not in the habit of saying things which we do not mean or meaning one thing and saying another. We have made our position clear and now that I am here I think it is necessary if the assurance was needed that I should repeat what in my position as the President of the All India Muslim League, I say to the minorities in Baluchistan we will see that the minorities are dealt with fairly and justly. We

shall see that there is created amongst the minorities a sense of security and confidence that is I think the paramount duty of any civilized government but as I often say there may be an individual exception here or there subject to individual whims or individual prejudice, but those day have gone and that some form of popular government must be established. We have the highest traditions, behind us and the fact is regarded by the historians not only Muslims but non-Muslim historians too that generally wherever there has been a Muslim rule the minorities have been treated justly and fairly.²¹



Quaid's address was delivered to a huge crowd which included Tribal Sardars, Nawabs and Chiefs, attired in their ancient dresses. They listened Quaid's speech with rapt attention and praised his intellect. His speech was considered a model of modulation. The crescendo of his voice reverberated sharply whenever he touched a live point. All eyes were riveted on him. It was actually the Quaid-i-Azam's atmosphere. He pervaded it completely.²² Glowing tributes were also paid to Qazi Mohammed Isa for his services as President of Baluchistan Muslim League. Lastly he exhorted the Muslims of the province "to forget their differences, and remain united because we have one God, one Book, one Prophet and now we must have one platform, one Flag, one Voice, one Goal-Pakistan."²³

In January 1944 Qazi Mohammed Isa along with members of AIML Working Committee prepared a report on Balochistan titled "Baluchistan: Case and Demand" in which the case of Baluchistan was well pleaded for information

amongst the people of other provinces of British India. Explaining the coining of the word “Pakistan” in the introduction of this report, Qazi Isa wrote: “It is a combination of letters taken from the names of existing provinces, P from the Punjab, A from Afghans in North Western Frontier Province, K from Kashmir, S from Sind, and TAN from Baluchistan. Though poorer in many other respects yet our province has contributed more than one letter to the name of Pakistan!”.²⁴ In this report in the form of booklet consisted of Baluchistan’s area, population, six main languages, 7% literacy, and reasons of its backwardness of which chief cause of non-introduction of reforms in the province, and composition of the States in the province.²⁵ In June 1941 the Council Members of the Baluchistan Muslim League headed by Qazi Isa met the Agent to the Governor-General in Quetta and presented a set of their demands for the development and educational reforms in the province. As a follow up of this Memorandum, the Government established High School in 1942. In the report it has also explained that by October 1943, the proportion of Muslims in the education services of Baluchistan was as follows:

- i) Only 11 Muslims out of 22 Superintendents;
- ii) Only 4 Muslims out of 12 officiating superintendents;
- iii) Only 19 Muslims out of 56 senior assistants;
- iv) Only 76 Muslims out of 134 junior assistants.

Similarly trade and commerce was almost “a monopoly in the hands of non-Muslims”. In the irrigation department also Hindus occupy 53% jobs and Sikhs 32%. The contracts of the government were often awarded to the Hindu or Sikh Contractors.²⁶

Like most of the provinces and differences of opinion in a number of Muslim provinces, there was also difference of opinion and expression of jealousy against Qaziisa. For instance Mir Jaffar Khan Jamali, Vice-President of Baluchistan Muslim League, in a letter dated 31 March 1944, addressed to NawabzaalLiaquat Ali Khan, complained that most of the members of Muslim League were taken from Quetta. Similarly other matters of arbitrary decision taken by Qazi Isa were pointed out.²⁷ Liaquat called Qazi Isa’s explanation which was given by Qazi Isa on 22 April 1944.²⁸ In this way Qazi Isa promised to take all actions with full consultation with the Council of the Baluchistan Muslim League.²⁹ In this way Liaquat got the matter resolved.

In consultation with the members of working committee, Qazi Mohammed Isa prepared a report on Baluchistan titled “Baluchistan: Case and Demand” in January 1944 in which the whole position of geography, development, population, Muslim representation in the services, educational position, and other matters

along with history of the Muslim League in the province since 1939 was tabulated.³⁰ Towards end of this report following demands were made from the British Government:

1. Introduction of reforms like the other advanced provinces.
2. Establishment of regular judiciary.
3. Elected Municipality for Quetta, the capital of province.
4. Opening of a Degree College.
5. Spread of education by opening more primary, middle and Girls Schools.
6. Primary Education to be free.
7. Establishment of District Board.
8. Development of Agricultural and Mineral wealth.
9. Muslims should be given their just and legitimate share in the services and government contracts.
10. If suitable candidates are not available for posts in Baluchistan, only Muslims from other provinces should be recruited because Baluchistan has 98% Muslim population.
11. Technical schools and institutions should be established.
12. People oriented welfare projects should be initiated.³¹

In less than seven years 1940-47 he traveled more than 300,000 miles distance to campaign for Pakistan. When Quaid-i-Azam visited Baluchistan in September 1945 to campaign for Pakistan and he addressed a large public meeting on 20 September in which he criticized British Foreign Secretary's recent statement that Baluchistan was politically not conscious enough to get reforms like other provinces and replied that the large attendance of the people from all walks of life in the Quetta meeting shows that Baluchistan was conscious enough to get reforms like the advanced provinces of British India.³² After the Quaid's speech, Qazi Mohammad Isa addressed the meeting. In his address Qazi Isa criticized the role of Indian National Congress in the province and appealed to the sardars and notable of Baluchistan to work for the welfare of the people. He also criticized the British Government's nomination of Nawab Raisani to represent Baluchistan in the Council of State.³³

Another public meeting in Quetta was organized by the Baluchistan Muslim League on 26 September 1945 in which about 4000 people participated. Addressing this large meeting, Qazi Isa appealed to all the tribal Sardars to join the Muslim League so that Pakistan could be established at the earliest. He also demanded from the British Government to make it sure that the Allied occupying forces should vacate Persia (Iran) within six months as promised of the end of World War II.³⁴

On 15 October 1945 another public meeting was held in Quetta which the Quaid, on his return from Kalat and Mastung, addressed. Then Qazi Isa moved two resolutions—one in sympathy with the Arabs of Palestine, and the other in sympathy with the Indonesians in their struggle against the Dutch Imperialism. Both these resolutions were passed unanimously in a public meeting attended by more than 5000 people of Quetta.³⁵ Before the Quaid's departure from Baluchistan Qazi Isa arranged Quaid's meeting with the Baluchistan Muslim Students Federation in which spirited moments were witnessed.³⁶

As the elections of 1946 were approaching, Quaid-i-Azam and Khan Liaquat Ali Khan were busy in bridging differences between local leaders from every Muslim majority province. So was the case with Baluchistan. There existed a number of differences between Qazi Mohammad Isa, President of Baluchistan Muslim League, and Mir Jafar Khan Jamali in Baluchistan. In December 1945, Liaquat Ali Khan was successful enough to bring conciliation between Qazi Isa and Mir Jafar Khan Jamali. As a result of this AIML nominated Mir Jafar Khan Jamali as united Muslim League nominee to contest for the Sindh Legislative Assembly from Jacobabad. As a result of this a party of nine students of the Baluchistan Muslim Students Federation left Quetta on 1 Jan. 1946 to proceed to Jacobabad to campaign for the election of Mir Jafar Khan Jamali.³⁷ Actually Qazi Isa organized various groups of Muslim students of Baluchistan to contest in different provinces for the Muslim League candidates. Similarly in second week of January 1946, he arranged a delegation of Baluchistan Muslim Students Federation for Peshawar to campaigning for the Muslim League candidates of NWFP (now KP).³⁸

Qazi Isa was active not only in Baluchistan but also in other provinces all over British India for the cause of Pakistan Movement. It was for these reasons that he was made member of the AIML Committee of Action. The Central leadership wanted his main role in NWFP (KP) elections. For this purpose Conference of Muslim League leaders was proposed to be held in Peshawar in December 1945. For chalking out the programme and arrangements of this Conference Qazi Isa arrived in Delhi on 1 Nov. 1945 to discuss the election arrangements in the NWFP.³⁹ In NWFP (KP), the Quaid feared, the Government's "interference" to hijack the elections, otherwise he was confident enough that

Muslim League candidates would win the elections.⁴⁰ The Conference was held in the third week of Nov. 1945 duly participated by the Quaid.

The Council meeting of the Baluchistan Provincial Muslim League was held in the office of the League in Quetta on 28 May 1946 presided over by Qazi Isa in which about 65 persons participated. The meeting expressed that in the ensuing critical situation they have full confidence in Jinnah to adopt any means to achieve Pakistan.⁴¹ On 31 May 1946 a meeting in the evening was held in the Jamia Masjid, Quetta duly addressed by Qazi Isa. In his address, Qazi Isa pleaded further the cause of Pakistan. He also moved a number of resolutions. In one of the resolutions he expressed sympathy for the suffering Muslims in Kashmir under the Dogra Government. In another resolution sympathy was expressed with the prisoners of Mach Jail and it was demanded that adequate compensation should be awarded to the prisoners wounded in the recent firing and to the families of those who were killed.⁴² Next public meeting at Quetta was held on 5 July 1946 in order to assess the situation after the Cabinet Mission Plan of 16 May 1946. In this meeting a large number of Sardars of Baluchistan belonging to both the Muslim League and Anjuman-i-Watan participated. Addressing this important gathering Qazi Isa, in a resolution, alleged the Cabinet Mission and the Viceroy for betraying the Muslim community by not going ahead for including the Muslim League Delegation in the Interim Government. Continuing further, he warned the Government that if they betrayed the cause of Pakistan all the Sardars and people of Baluchistan would rise against the British Government.⁴³ A promise in this regard was also taken from Nawab Mohammad Khan Jogezi that he would openly work for the cause of Pakistan.⁴⁴

When the Viceroy Lord Wavell sided with the Congress to include Pandit Nehru and his delegation in the Interim Government by ignoring the Muslim League Delegation, the whole Muslim Nation celebrated 16 August 1946 as the Direct Action Day all over India on a call from Jinnah and the AIML in order to protest against the decision of the Viceroy on the call from the Quaid-i-Azam. The purpose of this protest was also to show the Muslim strength that the Muslim Nation would go to any extreme to achieve Pakistan.⁴⁵ In this connection Baluchistan also showed its full solidarity with the whole of Muslim Nation of the Indo-Pak subcontinent. On the Direct Action Day the shops in Quetta, Loralai and other cities of Baluchistan were kept closed; and processions were arranged by the Muslim League workers through the bazaars shouting the Muslim League and Pakistan slogans.⁴⁶ On 27 August 1946 Qazi Mohammad Isa addressed a meeting at the Jamia Masjid Quetta in which he stressed that the Muslims will sacrifice their all to achieve Pakistan rather than accept Hindu domination. He also said that there was no room in the Muslim League for the British title holders and that Muslim candidates

contesting the Municipal election will be helped by the League only after they had renounced their titles. He also announced that Seth Fida Ali who is contesting election from Ward No. 1 has also renounced his title of Khan Sahib.⁴⁷ On the Eid-ul-Fitr Day on 29 August 1946, Qazi Isa announced that the following persons have renounced their title of “Khan Bahadur”:⁴⁸

1. Arbab Karam Khan Kanshi of Quetta
2. Sardar Ghulam Muhammad Khan Tarin of Pishin
3. Maulvi Abdul Rashid Khan of Punjab
4. The retired E.A.C living at Quetta
5. Malik Muhammad Azam Kanshi of Hudda, Quetta
6. Seth Fida Ali Alibhoy of Quetta of Quetta City.

These persons were garlanded and taken out in a procession from Eidgah to the City.⁴⁹

During the Quetta Municipal Elections especially from 31 August to 6 September 1946 the situation in Quetta was very tense and there were various fights between Hindus and Sikhs on one side and the Muslims on the other side. In a clash between the Hindus and the Muslims during the night between 31 August and 1 September 1946 a number of Hindus and Muslims were wounded and killed. On call from the Quaid-i-Azam the situation became normal by the time elections were held in first week of Sept. 1946. Still, according to an intelligence report, about 8000 Hindus and Sikhs belonging to Quetta, Chaman, Zhob and Loralai left Baluchistan and travelled to other provinces.⁵⁰ Qazi Isa worked for the help of suffering Muslims and release of Muslims arrested during these riots.⁵¹

The situation in Baluchistan had also become very much alarmed, as in case of other parts of British India, when the Viceroy Lord Wavell announced on 24 August 1946 that Interim Government would be formed consisting of the Congress Delegation and ignoring the Muslim delegation. Qazi Isa and other Baluchistan Muslim League leaders were waiting for Jinnah's call.⁵² There were dialogues between Wavell and Jinnah for long hours and for a number of days. Ultimately Viceroy agreed to include the Muslim League delegation to include in the Interim Government on 13 October, 1946. In the Municipal Committee Quetta elections five Muslim Leaguers and four Congress members got elected. One Parsi also got elected who sided with the Muslim League members for the cause of Pakistan. The interesting thing was that the Sikh voters did not vote for the Congress but for

the Muslim League members. This patch-up was brought as a result of meeting at the residence of Qazi Isa. The Sikhs were even seen bearing Pakistan badges and voting for the league candidates.⁵³ When Wavell-Jinnah dialogue ended with the decision that Muslim League would join the Interim Government on its own conditions of Pakistan, it brought a wave of happiness all over Baluchistan.⁵⁴

Qazi Isa was also member of the AIML Working Committee. Whenever there was meeting the Muslim League Working Committee in Delhi or elsewhere he use to come from Baluchistan and attended the meetings. Qazi Isa came from Quetta to Delhi to attend meeting of the Muslim League Working Committee held in second week of Oct. 1946.⁵⁵ On returning from Delhi he reached Quetta on 17 Oct alongwith Nawab Hussain Yar Jang of Hyderabad. Then from 19 Oct he toured Kalat, Zhob and Loraklai for about a week and addressed a number of public meetings.⁵⁶

Baluchistan was affected whenever the Muslims suffered in other provinces. In October-December 1946 the Muslim heavily suffered in the provinces of Bihar and Bengal in which thousands of Muslim were killed.⁵⁷ This had far reaching effect on the Muslims living in other provinces of British India. So was the case with Baluchistan. In a number of meetings held in Quetta and other cities of Baluchistan full sympathy was expressed with the suffering Muslims in Bihar and Bengal. In a meeting held in Jamia Masjid Quetta on 22 Nov. 1946, Qazi Isa explained that about 30,000 Muslims have been killed in Bihar and appealed for funds to help the victims and wounded Muslims in Bihar. As a result of this appeal a som of Rs. 15,000/- was collected. Qazi Isa also announced that Khan of Kalat has donated Rs. 1000/-.⁵⁸ In this connection funds were also collected from Sibi, Loralai, Fort Sandeman, Chaman Nushki and other cities of Baluchistan upto 30 Nov 1946. In order to show solidarity with the Muslims of Bihar, a Bihar Day was observed on 1 Dec 1946 in Quetta.⁵⁹ On 2 Dec Qazi Isa visisted Chaman and addressed a gathering of about 1000 persons informing them of Bihar "massacres" and explained Pakistan. A Branch of Muslim League was also opened in Chaman.⁶⁰ A Relief Mission of the Muslim League National Guards of Baluchistan consisting of 29 persons was sent to Bihar in November help the suffering Muslims there which returned to Quetta on 31 Dec 1946. On their return from Patna to Baluchistan, they apprised their fellows with the tyrannies perpetrated by the Hindus on the Muslims during the Bihar riots.⁶¹ A third Muslim League relief mission consisting of 22 National Guards headed by Abdul Manan, Naib Salar, left Quetta for Patna on 11 Jan 1947.⁶²

As per guidance of the Quaid, Qazi Isa was also conscious enough to maintain unity amongst various sects of the Muslims especially the Shias and the Sunnis. In an address at the Imam Bara of Quetta on 4 Dec 1946, Qazi Isa emphasized the Shia-Sunni unity and called upon all the Muslims to resolve their difference and remain united against the Hindus.⁶³

British Prime Minister Attlee invited the Viceroy Lord Wavell, Jinnah, Nehru and some other leaders to London to settle differences over joining of Muslim League and Congress members in the meeting the Indian Constituent Assembly. Jinnah refused. He also made it clear that Muslim League members would not join the existing Indian Constituent Assembly because of their commitment to Pakistan. What they would desire, Jinnah explained, was that a separate Pakistan Constituent Assembly should be created consisting of the members elected from the Muslim majority provinces – a proposal with which Nehru disagreed. Now Jinnah was ready to face all hurdles for the purpose of creation of Pakistan. Realizing the pressure from Jinnah and the Muslim majority provinces where the AIML had emerged the most popular political party, Prime Minister Attlee made a declaration on 6 Dec 1946 in the House of Commons that “unless both the parties – Congress and League – agree His Majesty’s Government cannot force such a constitution upon any unwilling parts of the country”.⁶⁴ This was a great victory for Jinnah and the Muslim League. Jinnah, who was still in London, in an interview was granted to D. Maller of the BBC in which it was made it clear:

We want the division of India into Hindustan and Pakistan because that is the only practical solution, which will secure freedom for both Hindus and Muslims and the achievement of stable and enduring governments of Hindustan and Pakistan, which I am confident, will settle down as friends and neighbours like Canada and the United States and other sovereign States both in the north and South America.⁶⁵

Muslim League members from the Muslim majority provinces including one representative from Baluchistan boycotted the Indian Constituent Assembly. Now the fight for Pakistan has come out clearly as part of strategy of Quaid-i-Azam. As a follow of this strategy, anti-Khizr Agitation was started in January 1947 in the Punjab province to put pressure on the British Government. This Movement continued upto March 1947 when Khizr Hayat Tiwana resigned from the Punjab Chief Ministership.⁶⁶ As a follow-up of this Agitation, Muslim League Agitation also started in NWFP (now KP) in February 1947 against the Chiefministership of Dr. Khan Sahib. This Movement continued until after the settlement of Pakistan issue under Mountbatten’s 3 June Plan. As a follow up of the Partition Plan, Gandhi requested Mountbatten to force Jinnah to call off this Agitation against the Ministry of Khan Sahib in NWFP(KP). This was because Gandhi; and Nehru were fearful of Jinnah’s response. Consequently on a request

from Mountbatten, Jinnah called off this anti-Khan Sahib movement on 4 June 1947.⁶⁷

Qazi Isa very much contributed in these movements and Baluchistan showed full solidarity with Jinnah on these issues. Jinnah's decision to boycott the existing Indian Constituent Assembly was welcomed by Baluchistan Muslim League supporters. This impact of this in Baluchistan was such that a wave was created throughout Baluchistan and even the opponents of Pakistan fear and most of them decided to leave their parent organizations and joined the Muslim League. The resignation of Abdul Baqi Khan Kadezai, as Secretary of the Anjuman-i-Watan, Loralai, and his joining the Muslim League along with 25 others was also as part of this movement.⁶⁸ Nawab Muhammad Khan Jomezai, the only Baluchistan representative in the Indian Constituent Assembly, met with Jinnah in Karachi in January 1947 and announced that he would also boycott the Indian Constituent Assembly. Jomezai also declared that that Baluchistan was "hundred percent Muslim League province, it would undergo every sacrifice in the cause of Pakistan".⁶⁹ In a meeting of the Quetta Muslim League held on 2 February 1947, it was declared that Muslim League members' boycott the Indian Constituent Assembly has brought them "nearer their goal of Pakistan".⁷⁰ Along with it, *Jhartal* was observed in Quetta and other cities of Baluchistan for the purpose of expressing solidarity with the anti-Khizr movement in the Punjab and condemned the action of the Punjab Government to arrest hundreds of the Muslim League workers. The speakers also requested the High Command that they should be granted permission to send Baluch volunteers to the Punjab in order to help the Muslim League's workers of the Punjab in their movement against the government of Khizr Hyat Khan Tiwana.⁷¹ On 22 February 1947, a meeting of the Working Committee of the Baluchistan Muslim League was held in which it was decided to send a batch of 20 Muslim League National Guards to support the Punjab Muslim League in their "civil disobedience campaign against the Punjab government".⁷²

Qazi Isa in a statement to the press in March 1947 remarked that the Congress should first accept the principle of Pakistan and then talk about the division of the Punjab.⁷³ The anti-Khizr Movement in the Punjab and the anti-Khan Sahib movement in the NWFP (KP) disturbed the Hindus and Sikhs of Quetta.⁷⁴ So was the case with the Hindus and Sikhs in the provinces of the Punjab and NWFP (KP). On 8 March 1947 the situation between the Muslims of Quetta on one side and Sikhs/Hindus of Quetta on the other side was so tense that Muslims National Guards guarded the Muslim areas and the RSS (Rashtriya Swayam Sewak) Sang Guards guarded the Hindi/Sikh inhabitants of Quetta.⁷⁵ Seeing this divide all the Khaksars of Quetta disbanded their organization and joined the Muslim League National Guards.⁷⁶ It was in this background that 23 March 1947 (Pakistan Resolution Day) was celebrated as the Pakistan Day by the Baluchistan Muslim League attended by about 4000 persons. The speakers emphasized that the

Congress was a “Hindu” body and that those Muslims who worked with the Congress were the “traitors and mercenaries”.⁷⁷ However, on directions from Quaid-i-Azam handbills were distributed assuring the minorities –Hindus, Sikhs, and others-that their rights will be protected.⁷⁸ At a meeting of the Baluchistan Muslim League Council held on 27 April 1947, Qazi Isa was elected President of the Baluchistan Muslim League for another year.⁷⁹ After this election a public meeting was arranged by the Baluchistan Muslim League in Quetta in the evening of the same day which was attended by about 10,000 people. Addressing this meeting, Qazi said that “Pakistan was at hand” and the people of Baluchistan should be ready to attain this.⁸⁰ Qazi also addressed a public meeting in Pishin, his home town, on 20 May in which he said that Pakistan was soon to be created and that the Sardars’ time has passed and that the tribesmen would soon be electing their representative by vote.⁸¹ By the dawn of June 1947 the situation became normal in Baluchistan and Hindus and Sikhs of Quetta returned to their families on assurance by Qazi Isa that Government of Baluchistan as part of Pakistan would protect the rights of non-Muslims as equal citizens of the new state.⁸²

Under the Mountbatten Partition Plan of 3 June 1947, Pakistan was accepted as a new state in Indo-Pak subcontinent.⁸³ Thus the principle of Pakistan was accepted.⁸⁴ On this Qazi Isa, who was still in Delhi, as President of Baluchistan Muslim League, congratulated the people of Baluchistan for “having achieved their cherished goal of Pakistan, appeals to all Ulemas, Sardars, Maliks and Motabirs, both rich and poor, to close their ranks and sink their difference, and prepare themselves to be worthy and deserving citizens of Pakistan”.⁸⁵ On 25 June 1947 a joint statement was issued by Naweab Mohammad Khan Jogezi and Mir Jaffar Khan Jamali published on the *Tanzim*, Quetta, in which it was announced that the Sardars of Baluchistan had come to the conclusion that it was in the interest of Baluchistan to be included in Pakistan and that the Tribes of Baluchistan “had confidence in Mr. Jinnah’s leadership”.⁸⁶ On 29 June 1947 the members of the Shahi Jirga of Baluchistan and elected members of the Quetta Municipal Committee assembled in the Town Hall and unanimously; voted in favour of the province being included in Pakistan.⁸⁷ Thus Baluchistan joined Pakistan.⁸⁸

Notes & References

-
- ¹Qazi M. Isa to Liaquat Ali Khan, 16 May 1939, *AIML Papers*, vol. 293, National Archives of Pakistan, Islamabad.
- ² Ibid.
- ³QaziM.Isa to Liaquat Ali Khan, 22 May 1939, *AIML Papers*, vol. 293,
- ⁴ Ibid.
- ⁵Riaz Ahmad, *Baluchistan Muslim League: Secret Police Abstracts 1939-1947*, Islamabad, National Institute of Historical and Cultural Research, Quaid-i-Azam University, 2008, pp. 1-2.
- ⁶Ibid., pp. 3-4.
- ⁷Ibid., p. 6.
- ⁸Ibid., p.7.
- ⁹Ibid., p. 3.
- ¹⁰Ibid., p. 9.
- ¹¹Ibid., p. 10.
- ¹²Ibid., pp. 10-11.
- ¹³Ibid., pp.11-14.
- ¹⁴Ibid., pp. 17-18.
- ¹⁵Ibid., p. 18.
- ¹⁶Ibid., p. 19.
- ¹⁷Ibid., p. 20.
- ¹⁸Liaquat to Qazi Isa [Letter],8 September 1939, *AIML Papers*, Vol. 293.
- ¹⁹“The Constitution & Rules of Baluchistan Provincial Muslim League”, in *AIML Papers*, vol. 293 .
- ²⁰Quaid-i-Azam Mohammad Ali Jinnah’s speech, 3 July 1943, in *AIML Papers*, vol. 293.
- ²¹ Ibid.
- ²² Report of Qazi Mohammad Isa, in *AIML Papers*, vol. 293, National Archives of Pakistan, Islamabad.
- ²³ Ibid.
- ²⁴“Baluchistan: Case and Demand”, in “”, *AIML Papers*.
- ²⁵ Ibid.
- ²⁶ Ibid.
- ²⁷ Mir Jaffar Khan Jamali to NawabzadaLiaquat Ali Khan, 31 March 1944,in *AIML Papers*, vol. 293.
- ²⁸Qazi M. Isa to NawabzadaLiaquat Ali Khan, 22 April 1944, in *AIML Papers*, vol. 293,.
- ²⁹ Ibid.
- ³⁰ Report on “Baluchistan: Case and Demand”, in *AIML Papers*, vol. 293.
- ³¹ Ibid.
- ³²Riaz Ahmad, *Baluchistan Muslim League 1939-1947: Secret Police Abstracts*, Islamabad, NIHCR, Quaid-i-Azam University, Islamabad, p. 88.
- ³³Ibid., pp. 88-89.
- ³⁴Ibid., p. 89.
- ³⁵Ibid., p. 90.
- ³⁶Ibid., p. 91.
- ³⁷Ibid., pp. 92-93.
- ³⁸Ibid., p. 93.
- ³⁹ Times of India, 2 Nov. 1945.
- ⁴⁰ Times of India, 13 Nov. 1945.
- ⁴¹RiazAlhmad, *Baluchistan Muslim League 1939-1947: Secret Police Abstracts*, p. 99.
- ⁴²Ibid., pp. 99-100.
- ⁴³Ibid., p. 103.

⁴⁴ Ibid.

⁴⁵ Riaz Ahmad, *Pakistan Movement: New Dimensions 1935-1948*, Islamabad, AlviL Publishers, 2017, pp.246-250.

⁴⁶ RiazAlhmad, *Baluchistan Muslim League 1939-1947*, p. 108.

⁴⁷ Ibid., p. 109.

⁴⁸ Ibid., pp. 109-110.

⁴⁹ Ibid.

⁵⁰ Ibid., pp. 111-112.

⁵¹ Ibid., p. 112.

⁵² Ibid.

⁵³ Ibid., p. 113.

⁵⁴ Ibid., pp. 114-115.

⁵⁵ Ibid., p. 115.

⁵⁶ Ibid., p. 116.

⁵⁷ For details see chapter “ 17- The Massacre of Muslims in Bihar, Oct-Dec 1946 and its effect in other provinces”, in Riaz Ahmad, *Pakistan Movement: New Dimensions 1935-1948*, pp. 257-265. Also see Times of India, Oct.-Dec. 1946, Z.H.Zaidi, *Jinnah Papers*, vol. XIV, Islamabad, 2004, pp. 646-647, Indian Annual Register 1946, Vol. II, pp. 209-210.

⁵⁸ Riaz Ahmad, *Baluchistan Muslim League 1939-1947*, pp. 117-118.

⁵⁹ Ibid., p. 118.

⁶⁰ Ibid., p. 119.

⁶¹ Ibid., p. 120.

⁶² Ibid.

⁶³ Ibid., p. 119.

⁶⁴ *Indian Annual Register July-December 1946*, Vol. II, p. 302.

⁶⁵ Z.H.Zaidi, *Jinnah Papers*, Vol. XIV, Islamabad,, p. 737.

⁶⁶ For details see chapter “20 – The Punjab’s Fight for Pakistan:League’sAgitatiobn Against the Coalition Ministry of Sir Khizr Hayat Khan Tiwana January-March 1947”, in Riaz Ahmad, *Pakistan Movement: New Dimensions 1935-1948*, pp. 291-298.

⁶⁷ For details see chapter “21- The Frontier’s Fight for Pakistan: Civil Disobedience Movement against the NWFP (KP) Ministry of Dr. Khan Sahib 20 Feb – 4 June 1947”, in Riaz Ahmad, *Pakistan Movement: New Dimensions 1935-1948*, pp. 299-322.

⁶⁸ RiazAlhmad, *Baluchistan Muslim League 1939-1947*, ,pp. 120-121.

⁶⁹ Ibid., p. 122.

⁷⁰ Ibid., pp. 122-123.

⁷¹ Ibid., p. 123.

⁷² Ibid., p. 124.

⁷³ Ibid., p. 125.

⁷⁴ Ibid., p. 126.

⁷⁵ Ibid.

⁷⁶ Ibid., p. 127.

⁷⁷ Ibid., p. 127.

⁷⁸ Ibid.

⁷⁹ Ibid., p. 133.

⁸⁰ Ibid.

⁸¹ Ibid., p. 136.

⁸² Ibid., p. 139.

⁸³ Sharif al Mujahid, *Quaid-i-Azam Jinnah: Studies in Interpretation*, Karachi, Quaid-i-Azam Academy, 1981, p. 180.

⁸⁴ Richard Hough, *Mountbatten – Hero of our Time*, London, Book Club Associates, 1981, pp. 256-257.

⁸⁵ RiazAlhmad, *Baluchistan Muslim League 1939-1947*,pp. 140.

⁸⁶ Ibid., p. 141.

⁸⁷ Ibid.

⁸⁸ Also see Indian Annual Register 1947, Vol. I, pp. 78 and Riaz Ahmad, *Pakistan Movement: NewDimensions 1935-1948*, pp. 356-357.