BEFORE THE HONOURABLE ELECTION COMMISSION OF PAKISTAN
Hwansh Secretary

Representation with regard to the Delimitation of Constituencies for the National Assembly of Balochistan under Sub-Section 3 of Section 21 of the Elections Act 2017, Read with Rule 12 of the Election Rules 2017.

<u>Petitioner</u>

Abdul Quadir s/o Mir Rahim Dad Khan

CNIC No:

34101-2312930-7

Resident of

Village Qadirabad, Post Office Channal,

Tehsil and District Kharan, Balochistan.

Mobile No:

0333-5750740

Email:

quadirbaloch@hotmail.com

The petitioner respectfully submits;

1. That the Election Commission of Pakistan has issued Notification dated 5th March, 2018, wherein the list of the new delimited constituencies for the National and Provincial Assemblies have been given.

2. That the Province of Balochistan, with a population of 12,344,739 individuals, has been allocated 16 National Assembly (General seats) and 51 Provincial Assembly seats.

That the petitioner is a resident cum voter of Kharan District 3. and is the sitting MNA of NA-271. This Constituency is spread over three Districts (namely Kharan, Washuk and Panjgur 64,942 SqKMs, with a total population of 316,385 as per the old Census 1998. In the new list of Constituencies it has been given a new serial number NA-270 which as per the newly suggested details is comprised of four Districts (namely Kharan Population 156,152 individuals, Washuk Population Population Panjgur individuals, 176,206 individuals 122,011, Awaran and individuals population being 770, 754 individuals as per the provisional census figures of 2017.

4. That the delimitation of the Constituency of NA-270 has been done unwittingly, thus jeopardizing the interest of the petitioner and the inhabitants of area. This constituency is spread over two civil Administrative Divisions, namely Kalat and Makran. Similarly it consists of four Districts, which goes notably against the provisions of section-20 of New Election Laws 2017, which states that all constituencies for NA general seats shall, as far as practicable, be delimited having regard to the distribution of population in geographically compact areas, physical features, existing boundaries of administrative units, facilities of communication and public convenience and other cognate factors to ensure homogeneity in creation of constituencies. Details regarding violations of section 20 of

(i) Compactness and availability of Communication facilities: Only the district headquarters are connected with one another and that too through intervening other Districts by roads. Within Districts connectivity between subdivisional headquarters is through un-metalled tracks/road and Tehsil and Sub-Tehsil headquarters are interlinked through dirt tracks. During the last two elections of 2008 and 2013, the petitioner, who contested these elections could hardly go to Tehsil headquarter. Physical, contact with voters was negligible and it was only about ten percent. Further details in this regard are as under:-

election Laws are as under:-

(ii) Population: The population of the proposed constituency NA-270 has been kept at 770,754 individuals. This is equal to the provincial population average for election 2018, but in the same very province, proposed NA-262 (Distt: Jhalmagsi & Kachi) has a population of 386,255 individuals with best possible road infrastructure being available and similarly

NA-260 (District Nasirabad) has an area of 3,387 Sq KMs and population of 492,604 souls. It is not understandable as to what is the reason for this special concession to these area-wise small constituencies, having population of little less than one third of NA-270. The petitioner feels, that if any concession in terms of meagre population are given, then it should have been to the districts comprising the old NA-271.

- (iii) Interconnectivity of Kharan and Washuk: Though these two Districts in the past were one District; but to reach Mashkail sub Division of Washuk District, one has to go to Ahmadwal (Nushki District) and then Dalbandin Nokundi (Chaghi District) and thereafter travel through Hamun Mashkel (a Notorious Marsh of over 100 KM,) to reach Mashkel the headquarters of Mashkel sub division located at a distance of over 600 KMs.
- For reaching Awaran from Kharan with Awaran & vice versa: For reaching Awaran from Kharan, there is no direct road connection, one can adopt two routes i.e. Route one: Going from Kharan via Basima to Khuzdar, onward to Lasbela and then to Awaran, while travelling a distance of over 700 kms which take 16-18 hours on car or Jeep. Second route: This route is via Punjgur to Hoshab of Kech District and then turning left towards Awaran. Again travelling to a distance of approximately 700 kms. Needless to mention that more than fifty percent of the roads and tracks are kacha (un-metalled shingle roads).
- (v) Interconnectivity of Kharan with Panjgur: Newly built CPEC road facilitates movement upto Panjgur District headquarter. From District headquarter to Tehsils, Patwar halqas and UCs, it is all through dirt tracks.

Shi 03/18

- (vi). That while formulating the National Assembly Constituencies, the principles laid down in section 20 of the Elections Act 2017, have been missed out. The principle of population in geographically compact areas has not been accorded due consideration. It appears that the delimitations officials have done the exercise either without knowledge or with malafide intentions to benefit certain parties/groups as can be seen from the size (area) and population of NA-262 and NA-260.
- (vii) That principle of compactness and contiguousness has not been ensured. I will leave to the judgment of this Honourable Tribunal and request them to have view of the following facts:
 - **a.** Constituency is spread over four huge Districts, whereas the Act states about Patwar Halqas, Tehsils, North and South to be taken into account while demarcating constituencies.
 - **b.** Area of the Constituency is spread over 95,000 KMs, more than the total area of the Province of KPK; 72,000 Sq KMs.
 - **c.** Interconnectivity is indirect, where one has to pass/travel through other districts and divisions for reaching from one district to another.
 - **d.** Area is so vast that while even flying in helicopters, it will not be possible to go for campaign even upto Union Council headquarters level, let alone being able to go upto village level. Only one round trip to all the four districts would involve travelling more than 8,000 KMs with the security aspects and travelling expenses, that can never be undermined and should be considered sympathetically by the Commission.

A3/03/18

- (viii) Basing on aforesaid the petitioner submits following proposals:-
- Proposal-I. Kharan and Washuk Districts which have an area a. of 48,051 Sq KMs and a population of 332,358 should be made a separate National Assembly Constituency, keeping in the vastness of the non existence area, communication infrastructure and the past history as these two districts were one, (after inception of Pakistan till 2002). to people contacts, customs, traditions linguistically they are the same. If in the proposed delimitation Jhal Magsi and Kachi districts could be combined together and proposed as a separate National Assembly Constituency with a population of 386,255 and area of KMs with best possible communication 11,114 Sq infrastructure and facilitating factors, Kharan and Washuk because of the vastness of the area, ruggedness of the terrain and lack of communication infrastructure stand out clearly to qualify for a separate N.A seat.
- b. Proposal-II. In case, first proposal is not considered viable then the old NA-271 comprising Kharan-Washuk and Panjgur with an area of 65,000 Sq KMs and population of 648,743 individuals should be restored. Difficulties like absence of meaningful communication infrastructure, ruggedness and vastness of the area are far more apparent in this suggested proposal but since it was existing so that the people may accept it also.
- **Proposal-III.** In case of non-consideration of the forementioned proposals, than Kharan Washuk and Shaheed Sikandarabad with a population of **532,901** individuals and area of **55,847** Sq KMs be formed as the NA Constituency for NA-270 under question.

Justification:

Most viable proposal in case of my constituency is given in Proposal III which includes districts of Kharan, Washuk and Shaheed Sikandarabad, having a population of 532,901 individuals and area of 55847 Sq KMs. In case of agreeing with this proposal following re-arrangements and readjustment will be required to be done:-

- (a) Quetta City: As per the existing proposal it has been given three exclusive NA Seats based on its abnormal increase of population. Previously it had one exclusive and one shared NA Seat which it was sharing with Districts of Nushki and Chaghai. It is proposed that instead of three exclusive NA seats it should be given two exclusive NA Seats, and the third seat should be shared with Nushki and Chaghai as per the previous delimitations. Every constituency will have a population of 893,501 individuals or less which is not that abnormal. (In case of including some area of Quetta in proposed NA-268 as suggested in para (b) below the average population will further decrease).
- (b) NA-268 be given to Mastung, Kalat and parts of Quetta District bordering with Mastung District. It will have an area of 12929 Sq KMs and population of 477,941 individuals or more (in case a part of Quetta District is included).
- (c) Proposed NA-260 and NA-262 be merged into one constituency of National Assembly and renamed as NA-260. Its area is 14,501 Sq KMs and population 878,864 individuals, which population-wise will be less than proposed NA-259 (Dera Bugti-cum-Kohlu-

cum-Sibi-Cum-Lehri-Cum-Barkan) population **950,056** individuals and **NA-271** Ketch population 909,116 individuals. Proposed NA-260 has the best road infrastructure and also meets the requirement of compactness, contiguity and homogeneousness.

- (d) NA seat saved out of the arrangement as per para C above be given a new serial number and it should include Districts of Panjgur, Awaran and Gawadar which will have a population of **701,910** individuals and area **590,38 Sq KMs**.
- d. <u>Proposal-IV</u>: In case above three proposal are not favourable and feasible then Kharan-Washuk-Panjgur and Shaheed Sikandarabad with population of **849,495** individuals and area of **72,738 SqKMs**, should become the constituency under question (NA-270).

Prayer

In view of the above, it is prayed respectfully that the National Assembly constituency NA-270 (as proposed) may not be confirmed, instead out of four proposals mentioned in para viii at pages 5 to 7, preferably proposal III may be considered and in case this commission feels that any other proposal as suggested by the applicant is more appropriate then delimitation of this Constituency (NA-270) be made accordingly with any other relief which is deemed better in the interest of justice.

(Abdul Quadir)

Applicant