

Socio-Political and Journalistic Services of Khan Abdus Samad Khan Achakzai: An Appraisal

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Abstract

Indeed, the turn of the 20th century is witnessed to the advent of some epoch-making sages and personages who not only enjoyed great influence on the hearts and minds of the people, but also exercised decisive command on the socio-political history. Their roles as men's leaders, freedom fighters, political organizers, social workers, and statesmen formed a paramount part of that age. In all the aforesaid capacities, they could be placed in a significant position and rightly deserve special place in history without which the story of political development in the subcontinent may be deemed incomplete. Khan Abdus Samad Khan Achakzai popularly known as Khan Shaheed was one of those personalities who played their due role for the socio-economic and political uplift of their community not only prior to the partition of subcontinent but also after the establishment of Pakistan he served his people for a considerable span of time. This study, however, explores the efforts and contribution of Khan Abdus Samad Khan Achakzai and critically evaluates his social, literary and political roles which he conducted in his lifetime.

Keywords: Khan Shaheed, political, social & journalistic contribution

Introduction

Khan Abdus Samad Khan Achakzai popularly known as Khan Shaheed was born on July 7, 1907 at Inayatullah Karez Gulistan Tehsil of District Killa Abdullah in Balochistan. Abdus Samad Khan Achakzai's father was Noor Muhammad Khan and his mother was Dilbara BiBi. Abdus Samad Khan Achakzai's grandfather was Sultan Mohammad Khan. Sultan Mohammad Khan father's name was Inayatullah Khan who was the son of Bostan Khan and Bostan Khan's father's name was Barkhrodar Khan. Barkhordar Khan Achakzai was one of the closest General of Ahmad Shah Abdali of Afghanistan. Samad Khan Achakzai father was a famous scholar. Samad Khan Achakzai had a brother, Abdul Salam Khan and two sisters. Samad Khan Achakzai's mother died in 1949 in those days when Samad Khan Achakzai was imprisoned by the rulers of the newly established state of Pakistan. Samad Khan Achakzai always appreciated the support of his mother and his wives in his political career. His family members also fought against the British in Maiwand and defeated the British. Samad Khan Achakzai was born in a religious family. He used to wear thick cloth, khaddar shalwar kamees in summer and chadar on his shoulder. In winter Samad Khan Achakzai used to add a warm plain sweater with clothes. Samad Khan Achakzai loved and cared too much his only daughter 'Waliehad'-Aka Khor Bibi. Abdus Samad Khan Achakzai never differentiated among his five children unlike conservative society which discriminates on the basis of gender. At that time there was no school for girls in his hometown Gulistan

(Achakzai, 1985, 114). Therefore, Samad Khan Achakzai enrolled his beloved daughter in boy school of Gulistan. Khor Bibi completed her matriculation from Boys School Gulistaan. As Khor Bibi school was away from her home so she would use a bicycle to go to her school every day in a society where even boys were not given modern education. Samad Khan Achakzai had given all the charge of his home to his daughter Khor Bibi to take care of the family and younger brothers. Because Samad Khan Achakzai would go for judicial trial by the British. Khor Bibi would teach the children all the school subjects and the Holy Quran along with Pashto language. She was also in-charge of financial matters of Samad Khan Achakzai's home (Ahmad, 2008, 164).

Early Life and Career of Khan Abdus Samad Khan Achakzai

Abdus Samad Khan Achakzai got his early education from his father at the age of five years. Abdus Samad Khan Achakzai was enrolled in 1920 in the Middle School Inayatullah Karez Gulistan. Where Samad Khan Achakzai got first position in the whole province in class four, and got two rupees scholarship monthly. Samad Khan Achakzai used to hand over the said amount to the headmaster of his school which he used to distribute among the poor and needy students. Samad Khan Achakzai passed the middle school examination from the same school in 1925. After passing the middle school in 1924-25 Samad Khan Achakzai abandoned school and started dry fruits business with his elder brother Salam Khan. Since Samad Khan Achakzai did not intend to join government job that is why he did not give priority to education (Talbot, 1999, 123). Later on, he started fruit business with his brother Salam Khan Achakzai. For the purpose of this business Samad Khan Achakzai went to Hyderabad (Sindh) in August 1925. In 1926, Samad Khan Achakzai completely took over the charge of his brother Salam Khan Achakzai's business. Samad Khan Achakzai obtained an honour's degree in Pashto, BA and passed LLB examination from Jail. Samad Khan Achakzai was able to speak the following eight languages, Pashto, Persian, Urdu, Baluchi, Sindhi, Arabic, Brahvi and English. He wrote several books and pamphlets such as Pushtu Zhaba au Likoon, Zama Zhond, Samad-ul-Lughat, Pashto Zaban aur Rasm-ul-Khat and the dictionary for Pashto language. Samad Khan Achakzai did some work of translations like the book of Imam Ghazali, Sheikh Saadi, Abul Kalam Azad and Maulana Shibli Nomani which are Azadi ki Ufaq, Gulistan-i-Saadi, Tarjuman-ul-Quran, Sirat-un-Nabi and Chema-i-Sadaat. At the age of 11 years Samad Khan Achakzai headed a procession of school students at Government Middle School Gulistan in favour of the Khilafat Movement and against the British in British Baluchistan. As a result of this protest, in 1929 Samad Khan Achakzai was imprisoned for 28 days for the first time in his life in Much Jail. Amanullah Khan of Afghanistan had to leave the throne of Kabul on January 14, 1929. Samad Khan Achakzai and some of his relatives started preparing to go to Afghanistan to help the king of Afghanistan Amanullah Khan (Khan, 1992, 12). The Political Agent of Pishin Wingate stopped Samad Khan Achakzai and his comrades from going to Afghanistan. Samad Khan Achakzai and his colleagues were detained in Quetta Police line for 28 days. This was the first imprisonment of Khan Abdus Samad Khan Achakzai in April 1929. When Samad Khan Achakzai delivered a speech after Taraweeh prayer in his village Mosque in February 1933. Sir Ronald Wingate Political Agent Pishin went to Gulistan and forbade Samad Khan Achakzai from delivering anti-British government speeches (Baloch, 1987, 145). On May 15, Samad Khan Achakzai was arrested on the orders of Wingate and sentenced to two years of rigorous imprisonment where Pashtun Jirga members were also present at Sandeman Jirga Hall Quetta. This was second imprisonment in the life of Samad Khan Achakzai political career, where Samad Khan Achakzai met Yousaf Ali Magsi for the first time. Samad Khan Achakzai while presiding

over the All India Baloch Conference Jacobabad, where Samad Khan Achakzai suggested an urgent need of a political party in other provinces of the subcontinent. Thus Abdus Samad Khan Achakzai mobilized the Pashtoon and Baloch political forces of British Baluchistan and people gained political awareness for their fundamental rights (Nadim, 2002, 147). In 1932 there was a joint session of Baloch and the Pashtuns with the name of "Baluchistan Conference" and Samad Khan Achakzai had a seat in it. When Samad Khan Achakzai returned to Quetta he was arrested for making anti-government speeches and remained in jail for three years under Frontier Crimes Regulation (FCR.). Khan Abdus Samad Khan Achakzai was released in 1935 (Saad, 1994, 74).

Khan Abdus Samad Khan Achakzai's Politics Contribution

Samad Khan Achakzai for the first time in the last week of July 1931 went to Hindustan. Khan Abdus Samad Khan Achakzai met Gandhi for the first time in his life on August 2, 1931 in Ahmedabad. Gandhi expressed great interest and asked Samad Khan Achakzai to go to Mumbai with him. Gandhi wished that Samad Khan Achakzai should present details about the political situation in Baluchistan. Gandhi also wanted Samad Khan Achakzai to meet other political leaders who were supposed to attend the Round Table Conference. Abdus Samad Khan Achakzai left Ahmedabad for Mumbai on the evening of 2nd August with Gandhi and reached Mumbai on the evening same day (Alam, 2014). Abdus Samad Khan Achakzai stayed at the same place with Gandhi till 15th August. Samad Khan Achakzai says that I have learned too much about the country and politics in these 15 days from Gandhi that I could not have learnt about country politics in 15 years of my life. Here I witnessed Gandhi's life very closely and deeply. The aspects of Gandhi's life that impressed me the most was continuous work, bravery, patience and a man of words in every word and deed. On this occasion Samad Khan Achakzai also presented a pamphlet of suggestions on the issues and problems of Baluchistan to Mr. Gandhi. On Gandhi's suggestions, his private secretary, Piarey Lal, translated the pamphlet into English and printed five hundred copies, which he presented to all the participants in the Second Round Table Conference (Baryali, 2014). On 13th August 1931, Khan Abdul Ghaffar Khan was on his way to Mumbai to meet Mahatma Gandhi. On the suggestion of Gandhi Khan Abdus Samad Khan Achakzai and Dewdas arrived at the railway station to receive Khan Abdul Gaffar Khan along with Amir Mohammad Khan and Mian Ahmed Shah. This was the first meeting of Khan Abdul Gaffar Khan (Sarhadi Gandhi) and Khan Abdus Samad Khan Achakzai (Balochi Gandhi) through Mahatma Gandhi. Khan Abdul Ghaffar Khan and Samad Khan Achakzai stayed in the same room at Mumbai. Abdus Samad Khan Achakzai writes himself that although I was much younger than Bacha Khan in age and wanted to serve him but Khan Abdul Gaffar Khan did not leave me for his service. Khan Abdul Gaffar Khan used to serve me which made me soon very close to Khan Abdul Gaffar Khan. Abdus Samad Khan Achakzai met Quaid-e-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah in Bombay in August 1931. The two leaders met for the first time. Quaid-e-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah was a resident of Mumbai Mala Bahar Hill in those days. It was a very pleasant meeting. Quaid-e-Azam Mohammed Ali Jinnah could understand Urdu but he could not speak it, and the condition of my English speaking was also the same (Tareen, 2014, 121). Therefore, the conversation took place between us in such a way that Quaid-e-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah continued to speak his part in English and I spoke in Urdu. As I was the first political man from British Baluchistan to meet Quaid-e-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah. But Quaid-e-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah was already very sympathetic with the people of British Baluchistan. Quaid-e-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah

Jinnah had already demanded for development of Baluchistan in his popular fourteen points (Tareen, 2007, 15).

Socio-Political, Literary and Journalistic Contribution of Khan Abdus Samad Khan Achakzai

In 1933 Abdus Samad Khan Achakzai applied for permission to start an Urdu Newspaper for religious, political, social and educational uplift of the people of Baluchistan by the name of "Baluchistan" but the Political Agent Quetta flatly denied that you could not publish a newspaper. Samad Khan Achakzai was arrested when he tried to permit the Press Act of 1867 in Baluchistan. Abdus Samad Khan Achakzai was released on 7th May 1936. Samad Khan Achakzai again applied for declaration of a newspaper weekly "Istiqlal" and for permission of the printing press in Quetta. In 1937 Abdus Samad Khan Achakzai again visited Mumbai and conducted several meetings with the political leadership of Indian National Congress. Abdus Samad Khan Achakzai returned back to Quetta on 16th November 1937 (Tareen, 2016, 56).

As a result of the tireless struggle and hard work of Khan Abdus Samad Khan Achakzai, the government finally passed the Press and Books Registration Act 1867 and enforced in British Baluchistan. Samad Khan Achakzai was released from jail on 9th May 1936. In the same year in the month of June Samad Khan Achakzai again applied for publishing a newspaper installing and press. And finally, on January 20, 1933, the Government approved a weekly newspaper and a Press with the name Aziz press from Quetta to Samad Khan Achakzai (Asad, 2014, 32). After that Samad Khan Achakzai started collecting donations to start the newspaper. In this regard, Achakzai met Khan of Kalat in Quetta and Khan of Kalat Mir Ahmad Yar Khan donated Rs. 2,000/= for the newspaper. In February 1938, Khan Abdus Samad Khan Achakzai was able to publish his one-time modern press in Quetta, so he announced the publishing of the press through a poster on 20th February 1938 (Asad, 2016, 65). Samad Khan Achakzai started printing press with the name Aziz Electric Press and Litho Press at Prince Road Quetta in 1938. On 20th November 1938 the first issue of Weekly "Istiqlal" was published. Samad Khan Achakzai was the first journalist and political leader in the province who launched daily "Istaqlal". It was published in Urdu but a portion of Pashto was also there in it. Abdus Samad Khan Achakzai also became the first President of the Journalist Union in British Baluchistan. Samad Khan Achakzai is also called as the father of journalism in Baluchistan (Khan, 2013, 68). The people had the opportunity to enter politics and journalism for the first time, for which Samad Khan Achakzai struggled for a long time and faced many hardships. The editorial staff of the "Istaqlal" were Muhammad Ayub Khan. Achakzai, Mir Abdul Aziz Kurd, Mir Atta Muhammad, Marghzani, Mir Shahbaz Khan Sherwani, Muhammad Hussain Anqa, Muhammad Hussain Nizami and Muhammad Naseem Talvee while Qadoos Bathai was the first Assistant Editor. Finally, Samad Khan Achakzai succeeded to start his daily newspaper "Istiqlal" which was historical newspaper at that time (Khan, 1991, 135).

The daily "Istiqlal", consisted of four pages, was a complete daily newspaper of high standard of that time. The daily "Istiqlal" issued 2500 copies every day. Even today the editor of a very good newspaper cannot imagine that number of copies of a daily newspaper. The daily "Istiqlal" highlighted the political economy and about the basic rights of the people of the subcontinent. Furthermore, it also gave political awareness to the people of the subcontinent about independence (Tareen, 2017, 45). Although the "Istiqlal" newspaper was the representative of the Anjuman-e-Watan party but it also gave due place to the news of opponent corners, political parties and leaders. As the daily "Istiqlal" was writing about the

injustice of the British in the subcontinent therefore, on 14th March 1948 the British Government arrested Abdus Samad Khan Achakzai and also put a ban on the daily newspaper "Istiqlal". After three years of partition in 1950 the daily "Istiqlal" was completely banned because it published news against the interest of the government (Tareen, 2018, 39).

In the subcontinent the law and order was getting worse day by day then the British Government appointed their own Agents Khan, Nawab, and Sardar, with British Political Agents for smooth running of administration in British Baluchistan. Qazi Mohammed Isa was the first person to be appointed with the British Political Agent in the British Baluchistan. There was a complete ban on the procession, political freedom of political parties, and fundamental rights of the people were also banned. Samad Khan Achakzai was in prison in Much jail in those days. When the political movements were increasing day by day in the subcontinent against the British (Tareen, 2019, 67). Indian National Congress was the only political platform that strived against the British. At the same time Khudai Khidmatgar of Khan Abdul Gaffar Khan known as Bacha Khan also mobilized the Indian masses against the British. It was the time when there was a complete ban on newspaper posters, pamphlets, strikes etc. When Samad Khan was released from prison there was a public meeting in November 1937 in Mumbai under the Pashtun organization Tanzeem Anjuman-e-Afghania. Samad Khan Achakzai also delivered a speech against the British. In February 1937 there was a joint meeting of the Baloch and Pashtun leadership at Sibi. Samad Khan Achakzai presided that meeting and all of them agreed on continuation of political struggles against the British (Achakzai, 1985, 174).

Abdus Samad Khan Achakzai and his Baloch Pashtoon leaders Khuse Bukh Bezanjo, Moulana Obeidullah of Bostan, Molovi Ghulam Haider Methertzai of Kan Mehtarzai, Aslam Achakzai of Chaman, launched a political party with the name of "Anjuman-i-Watan" on 20th May 1938. It was the first organized political party in British Baluchistan and was also the first Pashtoon Baloch political party. Abdus Samad Khan Achakzai was nominated as its first President, Mir Shahbaz Khan Noshervani as vice president, Mohammed Ayub Achakzai Secretary General Ram Chand Malhotra as joint secretary Arbab Abdul Qadir Khan Kasi as finance secretary (Ahmad, 2008, 87).

The political party Anjuman-e-Watan played very important role for political struggle of the people of subcontinent. Anjuman-e-Watan conducted its annual convention every year and it also presented its annual report in the public meeting. Anjuman-e- Watan also conducted public processions and strikes on different issues of the people of the subcontinent. Anjuman-e-Watan invited different political leaders of Indian National Congress and Khudai Khidmatgar to come to their public meetings and address the people on their issues (Talbot, 1999, 99). When Samad Khan Achakzai went to Peshawar and met Khan Abdul Gaffar Khan, Dr. Khan and Amir Mohammed Khan Hoti invited all of them to come to British Baluchistan and address to the public meetings of Anjuman-e-Watan. On the invitation of Samad Khan Achakzai Khan Abdul Gaffar Khan visited British Baluchistan on 16th September 1939. Khan Abdul Gaffar Khan came to Quetta City and visited all the pashtoon areas from Quetta to Zhob and also visited Nasirabad, Ustad Muhammad.Khan Abdul Gaffar Khan also attended all the public meetings of Anjuman-e-Watan party in the British Baluchistan. Abdus-Samad Khan Achakzai and Khan Abdul Gaffar Khan went on a political tour to British Baluchistan together and motivated the pashtoons to make themselves aware about coming challenges of Second World War 1939 (Baloch, 1987, 133).

In 1939 on the guidance of Samad Khan Achakzai, Anjuman-i-Watan commenced anti-British movement along with Indian National Congress. Samad Khan Achakzai played a leading role and courageously led the masses. During the Indian Independence Movement, he was a member of the Congress in Baluchistan, and campaigned for Pashtun autonomy in a united India, along with Khan Abdul Ghaffar Khan in the North-West Frontier Province. As a follower of Mahatma Gandhi, Samad Khan Achakzai was given the title by Mahatma Gandhi "Balochi Gandhi" (Nadim, 2002, 121).

After the second world war the Indian National Congress and Anjuman-e-Watan of Samad Khan Achakzai had strong relations with each other. In the reaction of strong relation of Indian National Congress and Anjuman-e-Watan, Qazi Mohammed Isa laid the foundation of Muslim League in British Baluchistan. In order to strengthen Muslim League in British Baluchistan Quaid-e-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah stayed there for two months. Samad Khan Achakzai did not have any relation with Muslim League in British Baluchistan. Khan Abdus Samad Khan Achakzai worked shoulder to shoulder with Indian National Congress and Khudai Khidmatgar in the political struggle of the subcontinent against the colonial government (Alam, 2014).

Anti-Raj Stance of Khan Abdus Samad Khan Achakzai and Its Repercussions

Because of anti-British activities Samad Khan Achakzai was arrested in January 1940 and later on released on 27th April 1940. On the invitation of Shaukat Ansari he participated in the National Members Conference in Delhi, leaders of Khudai Khidmatgar, Jamiat Ulema-e-Hind and Majlis Ahrar also participated in that conference. In 1940 in the month of September there was the annual convention of Anjuman-e-Watan in Loralai Jawaharlal Nehru and Khan Abdul Gaffar Khan were also going to participate but there was ban on the entry of both the leaders in the British Baluchistan. Then Amir Mohammed Khan Hoti and Arbab Abdul Ghafor Kasi participated in that annual convention of Anjuman-e-Watan at Loralai (Saad, 1994, 16).

In 1942 Indian National Congress started quit India movement against British. So to impose the pressure on British Anjuman-i-Watan Party also started the same movement in British Baluchistan. Later on, efforts of both Baloch and Pashtun leaders under the great leadership of Khan Abdus Samad Khan Achakzai compelled the British to withdraw from British Baluchistan (Baryali, 2014).

Samad Khan Achakzai continued his fight for freedom on British Baluchistan soil, rendered supreme sacrifice and maintained relentless struggle for freedom of expression and freedom of press, till he was captured in Quetta in 1942 on false and fabricated charges. After release Samad Khan Achakzai in 1945 went to Peshawar to participate in the Peshawar Political Conference which was held on 21 to 23 April at Shahi Bagh. The main aim of this conference was to mobilize the workers of Khudai Khidmatgar and other political parties who were giving more sacrifices in the political struggle against the British. Apart from Khudai Khidmatgar and Anjuman-e-Watan, Khaksar, Bharat Mah Shapath, Punjab Socialist Party, Communist Party, Kisan Party, Mumbai Students Federation, and Students Union of Peshawar also participated in this conference (Tareen, 2016, 93).

In 1946 Samad Khan Achakzai participated in a session in Karachi and shed light on the relations of Indian National Congress and Anjuman-e-Watan. The Indian National Congress had promised us that after the independence the Congress would protect the fundamental

rights of Pashtuns, Baloch, Sindhi and other deprived nations of the subcontinent that they would be independent in the near future (Asad, 2016, 256).

After the failure of Simla Conference in 1946 the government announced election. After the results of the election even British Baluchistan which was a Pashtun majority province area was not given to Pashtuns. Even members of Quetta Municipality were also nominated by the Agent of the British Governor. Samad Khan Achakzai was well-aware about the situation in 1946 therefore, Samad Khan Achakzai met Gandhi, Jawaharlal Nehru, Khan Abdul Gaffar Khan and Quaid-e-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah in order to give respectable place to Pashtoons of the subcontinent. In 1946 when Khan of Kalat demanded from the British Government that after the distribution of United India the central city of British Baluchistan Quetta should be given to the state of Kalat (Khan, 1991, 18). Samad Khan Achakzai strongly opposed it and said that Quetta is the center part of Pashtoons, after that on 10th July 1946 Jawaharlal Nehru assured Samad Khan Achakzai that Quetta City would not be part of the state of Kalat. Samad Khan Achakzai also demanded that in place of English and Urdu Pashto and Balochi should be the official languages in British Baluchistan. This news was also highlighted on All India Radio on 4th April 1947 at the News Bulletin of 8 o'clock (Tareen, 2018, 198).

In 1947 Samad Khan Achakzai went to Karachi (Sindh) on a political visit and met Bacha Khan, J. M. Syed and Abdul Majid Jatoi and agreed on a new political party Pakistan People's Organization. Samad Khan Achakzai also met Khan of Kalat the same year in Karachi and supported the independent status of Kalat. Samad Khan Achakzai also demanded that all the nationals of the subcontinent should be given their due rights and protection after the independence of United India. On 17th July 1947, the Afghan government demanded the return of their territories, which British separated from Afghanistan in 1879. Samad Khan Achakzai strongly supported the demand of the Afghan Government (Tareen, 2019, 98).

Samad Khan Achakzai held a Jirga of the people in Bannu and in June 1947 and a public meeting in Gandhi Ashram Bhangi Colony Delhi in which for the first time Samad Khan Achakzai announced the slogan of pashtunistan for Pashtoons of the subcontinent. Partition of United India took place in 1947. Firstly, political party Anjuman-e-Watan was banned and Samad Khan Achakzai was also arrested and later on was confined to house (house arrest) for 3 months. On 10th June 1948 Samad Khan Achakzai headed the central committee meeting of Anjuman-e-Watan party in Gulistan and later on he was arrested and sent to Haripur, Quetta, Lahore and Much jail for 6 years. Even after independence of Pakistan on 14 August 1947, Abdus Samad Khan continued to suffer from imprisonment till 1954 (Khan, 2013, 255).

Samad Khan Achakzai's Role after the Establishment of Pakistan

Samad Khan Achakzai was of the view that on the patterns of the other provinces like Baluchistan, Sindh and Punjab. Pashtuns should also be able to unite all pashtoons living in the subcontinent on their own geographical location. The government declared him to be an agent of Afghanistan and was arrested in 1948. After his release, Samad Khan Achakzai participated in a meeting convened by Khan Abdul Ghaffar Khan in Karachi. G.M Syed was also present in it and they laid the foundation of the Pakistan People Party. Samad Khan Achakzai along with Abdul Ghaffar Khan and Wali Khan got arrested and after passing six years in jail, Samad Khan Achakzai was released in 1954. After the punishment of 6 years in different jail, Samad Khan Achakzai was released on 10th January 1954 (Alam, 2014). Samad

Khan Achakzai held meetings with his friends, political workers and colleagues. Samad Khan Achakzai established new political party with the name of Wror Pashtoon on 24th April 1954. Anjuman-e-Watan party of Samad Khan Achakzai was also merged in it. Samad Khan Achakzai was elected the President of the party. The party's aim was to educate the backward people of the province and give political awareness to them. Abdus Samad Khan Achakzai again started his political struggle from the platform of a new political party Wror Pashtoon. In December 1957 became part of the National Awami Party (NAP) by partnering with a faction of the Awami League (Baryali, 2014). Samad Khan Achakzai worked hard to mobilize the public and demanded for one united province for the Pashtun in Pakistan by the name Pashtunkhwa or Pashtunistan. Samad Khan Achakzai also stressed that Pashtun populated areas in Pakistan should be United with former NWFP. Samad Khan Achakzai visited all the major cities of Pashtun areas. As the government of Pakistan imposed One Unit in Pakistan for the first time and divided Pakistan into two wings that is East and West Pakistan. Samad Khan Achakzai was the first political leader to condemn it and also started a political campaign against One Unit. When One Unit scheme was introduced in 1955 the political party of Samad Khan Achakzai Wror Pashtoon led the anti-One Unit campaign in British Baluchistan. For this action Abdus Samad Khan Achakzai was arrested and sentenced for 14 years' imprisonment (Tareen, 2014, 123).

Abdus Samad Khan Achakzai was in imprisonment and hardly was set free by Lahore High Court in 1956. In the historical address of Khan Abdus Samad Khan Achakzai in the Lahore High court demanded a united and autonomous Pashtunistan province. In 1956, a Movement began in West Pakistan in order to unite all the regional and nationalist parties in a single political party to work against One Unit (Saad, 1994, 232). From 30th November to 2nd December 1956 a joint meeting of all political parties was held in Lahore. All political leaders of East and West Pakistan formed a new party with the name of "Pakistan National Party". The Pakistan National Party was formed after the merger of the following parties, Waror Pashtoon of Khan Abdus Samad Khan Achakzai, Khuda-i-Khidmatgar of Bacha Khan, Sindh Hari Party of Haider Bakhsh Jatoi, Sindh Awami Party of J.M. Syed, Azad Pakistan Party of Mian Iftikhar-ud-Din of Punjab and Awami League of Maulana Bashani was merged into Pakistan National Party (Nadim, 2002, 215). Khan Abdul Gaffar Khan was elected as its president. The main aim of the party was to work against the dissolution of One Unit and for the protection of the fundamental rights of all citizens of West and East Pakistan. When some more political parties of East and West Pakistan joined Pakistan National Party on 24-25 July 1957 in a Democratic Conference in Dhaka the party was renamed as "National Awami Party". Maulana Abdul Hamid Khan Bhashani was elected as the President (Jaffri, 2002, 234). The NAP was basically formed against the One Unit scheme. The National Awami Party's basic aim was a free, neutral political policy on the basis of the principle of equality of all nationalities, the establishment of their political power and participation in the central set up on the basis of real equality (Khan, 1992, 213). Thus Khan Abdus Samad Khan Achakzai, Bacha Abdul Ghaffar Khan, Kaka Sanobar Hussain Momand and other numerous Pashtoon leaders were the main political leaders to lead and mobilize the masses against One Unit in Pakistan. Samad Khan Achakzai visited all areas of British Baluchistan from the platform of National Awami Party and delivered speeches against One Unit scheme. On the instructions of Chief Minister of West Pakistan Dr. Khan Sahib, elder brother of Khan Abdul Gaffar Khan, arrested Samad Khan Achakzai when he was on a political visit against One Unit to Loralai (Ahmad, 2008, 245).

Sikandar Mirza proclaimed Martial law on 7th October 1958 throughout the country. All political parties were banned and the constitution was suspended. Abdus Samad Khan Achakzai was the first political leader to be victim of Ayub Khan martial law in 1958. Samad Khan Achakzai was arrested on October 20th 1958. A Special Military Court was held by the Ayub Khan Martial law in the Quetta Municipal Corporation Hall that sentenced him for 14 years' rigorous imprisonment (Talbot, 1999, 269). Abdus Samad Khan Achakzai spent the tenure of his 14-year rigorous punishment in Haripur, Much, Multan, Lahore and other prisons of the country. Samad Khan Achakzai was the only political prisoner who spent all the term of General Ayub Khan's Martial law in prison cells. In December 1968, the political crisis in Pakistan were serious and the Pakistan military government was forced to convene a Roundtable Conference to negotiate with the ruling class to give some share of political power to the deprived Bengali, Sindhi, Pashtuns and Baloch of Pakistan (Baloch, 1987, 144). Samad Khan Achakzai was the last political prisoner in the country, who was also released in those days on 24th April 1968 after completing of full term of punishment. As a result of the Round Table Conference negotiations, General Mohammad Ayub Khan's government agreed that One Unit would be abolished and the old provinces would be reinstated on their previous positions. When Abdus Samad Khan Achakzai came to Quetta, prominent political leaders and workers welcomed him at Quetta airport including Sardar Khair Bakhsh Marri, Malik Abdul Sadiq Kasi, and Malik Abdul Ali Kakar etc. (Nadim, 2002, 114). Thousands of people welcome Abdus Samad Khan Achakzai at the airport which Satisfied that people are now getting awareness. But after 3 days of release another case was registered against Samad Khan Achakzai and was again arrested on 19th May 1968. Abdus Samad Khan Achakzai was trialed by a special tribunal, and the people of British Baluchistan especially the Pashtoon masses started agitation against Ayub Khan's government. During these agitations even, the helpless students in the Zarif Shaheed Hostel Science College Quetta, were indiscriminately fired at and as a result Zarif Khan of Chaman was murdered (Baryali, 2014).

Samad Khan Achakzai spent 9 months in prison and was released on 22nd February 1969. Khan Abdus Samad Khan Achakzai on the invitation of Pashtun Tolana, reached the Afghan capital Kabul on 22nd August, 1969. The purpose of the visit was to attend and discuss various political, and educational seminars with Afghan Officials King Zahir Shah, Sardar Dawood Khan as well as prominent Afghan intellectuals. Khan Abdul Ghaffar Khan, Wali Khan, the leader of Mazdoor Kisan Party Afzal Khan Bangash and other politicians and intellectuals had already arrived in Kabul. As Samad Khan Achakzai had contacts with the Afghan leaders. Samad Khan Achakzai met Sardar Najibullah Khan (the Afghan Education Minister (Tareen, 2014, 124). Samad Khan Achakzai attended the Pashtunistan day ceremony in Kabul on 30th August 1969. Abdus Samad Khan Achakzai has been talking to Khan Abdul Ghaffar Khan and Khan Abdul Wali Khan about the abolition of One Unit in Pakistan, the formation of new provinces, and the issue of the Pashtuns of British Baluchistan (Khan, 1992, 111). On the discussion of formation of new provinces and One Unit demise in Pakistan, sharp differences began between Khan Abdus Samad Khan Achakzai, Bacha Khan Khan and Khan Abdul Wali Khan. When General Yaya Khan disbanded One Unit on 1st July, 1977 and merged British Baluchistan into Baluchistan with the decision. It became clear to Samad Khan Achakzai that the fundamental rights of Pashtun living in British Baluchistan would not be protected after the dissolution of One Unit (Tareen, 2016, 156). Later on, Samad Khan Achakzai wrote letters to Khan Abdul Wali Khan and Ajmal Khattak about it but did not get a meaningful reply. Finally, Samad Khan Achakzai also wrote a letter to President Yaya Khan in 1970, saying that the President had the right to change the boundaries of provinces under

One Unit Breaking Act, but he did not get positive response from him. (Tareen, 2018, 99). On the basis of these differences Abdus Samad Khan Achakzai was forced to abandon his 40-year-old friendship and relationship with Khan Abdul Gaffar Khan and Khan Abdul Wali Khan and separated himself from the NAP Wali Khan. Khan Abdus Samad Khan Achakzai called a Jirga of Pashtun leaders in Hana Orak near Quetta on 19th July 1970 where they talked about political crisis and issues of Pashtoons living in Baluchistan. Samad Khan Achakzai quit the National Awami Party in protest over merger of British Baluchistan Pashtun areas into Baloch areas and naming them Baluchistan. Samad Khan Achakzai formed National Awami Party Pakhtunkhwa on 19th July 1970 and Samad Khan Achakzai became the chairman of the party (Asad, 2016, 231). After the dissolution of One Unit the demand of Samad Khan Achakzai for United Province Pashtunistan in Pakistan was not assured, therefore, Samad Khan Achakzai was of the view that with the dissolution of One Unit the condition of Pashtuns living in Pakistan would not change. Abdus Samad Khan Achakzai spent the last four years of his political life 1969–1973, the longest spell out of prison, struggling for universal franchise, one-man one-vote in Baluchistan and tribal areas where only members of official Jirga were entitled to vote Abdus Samad Khan Achakzai believed in equity, was a staunch advocate of women rights, and challenged taboos for women voter registration for the general election in 1970 (Khan, 2013, 74).

In the general elections of 1970 Abdus Samad Khan Achakzai, President of Pashtoonkhwa National Awami Party contested for both National and provincial Assembly seats in Baluchistan. Samad Khan Achakzai contested National Assembly seat from Zhob and Loralai districts-cum-Chaman and Gulistan Tehsil and Provincial Assembly seat from Chaman sub division and Gulistan sub Tehsil Constituency (Tareen, 2018, 112). Abdus Samad Khan Achakzai was successful to be elected from PP-4 Quetta as Member of the Provincial Assembly in 1970 general election. However, the daughter of Khan Abdus Samad Khan Achakzai Khor Bibi could not be elected as a member of the Provincial Assembly by a margin of few votes. If Khor Bibi daughter of Khan Abdus Samad Khan Achakzai could have been selected as Member of the Provincial Assembly in 1970 elections (Khan, 1991, 14). Then in the history of the parliamentary struggle, many changes would have taken place in favor of the people of South Pashtunkhwa. Samad Khan Achakzai also presided the first session of the Baluchistan provincial Assembly. Furthermore, Samad Khan Achakzai also presided the session for election of the speaker and leader of the house in Baluchistan provincial assembly. In the Provincial Assembly Samad Khan Achakzai did not join the NAP and set in opposition benches and became the first opposition leader in the Baluchistan provincial assembly in 1970. He demanded that either the Chief Minister or Governor of Baluchistan should be a Pashtun. Samad Khan Achakzai as member of the Baluchistan provincial assembly from 1970 to 1973 worked day and night to mobilize Pashtuns living in Baluchistan for a united province Pashtunistan (Saad, 1994, 215).

Conclusion

To sum up, it may be asserted that eminent personalities like Khan Abdus Samad Khan Achakzai are basically the facilitators, guides, social workers and literary torch bearers on the one hand and political leaders to serve their people and surroundings on the other. Abdus-Samad Khan Achakzai worked day and night to protect the political rights of Pashtoons living in Pakistan. But early in the morning on the 2nd of December 1973, when Khan Abdus Samad Khan Achakzai was sleeping in his room on Jamaluddin Afghani road Quetta where two hand bombs were dropped on him and as a result of these bombs Samad Khan Achakzai

was killed. On the third of December, 1973 the great champion of freedom and Democracy was buried in the graveyard of his native village Inayatullah Karez Gulistan where more than sixty thousand people were present at his Namaz-e-Janaza. On 4th December 1973 in New Delhi Lok Sabha, the lower house of Indian Parliament paid homage to Mr Abdus Samad Khan Achakzai asking the house to observe two minutes silence for Balochi Gandhi Khan Abdus Samad Khan Achakzai. The speaker G.S Dhillon said that like Mr Gandhi the Balochi Gandhi Abdus Samad Khan Achakzai was also taken away by the crud hand of his own countrymen. Indeed, he had his own distinct political stance and never tried to see his people dispersed around him as he believed in the unification, integrity and advancement of his countrymen in general and pashtoon population in particular as they were considered politically marginalized community at that time.

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