

## PART 4: COUNTER-TERRORISM

### 4.1 Introduction

Our fourth theme comprises of several points in the NAP, specifically #4, #8, and #15. This theme deals with the issue of counterterrorism efforts in Pakistan.

There is also significant overlap with the third theme, banned outfits, and the NAP points that constitute that theme. Specifically points #3, #11, #14 and #6 all overlap. The overlapping points have been addressed in the previous chapter, and will not be reproduced for this chapter.

Counterterrorism is one of the central issues that the NAP is meant to tackle and dismantle. Several points related to counterterrorism, in its overlap with banned outfits, has been addressed by the previous chapter, specifically terror financing, cyber-crime, mobile SIMs, and print and electronic media.

The government banned display of weapons and visibility of armed militias. The Ministry of Interior and Narcotics Control presented a report in National Assembly in January, 2016. According to that report 2,159 terrorists were killed while 1,724 had been arrested.<sup>1</sup>

### COUNTERTERRORISM

**NAP POINT 3:** Militant outfits and armed gangs will not be allowed to operate in the country.

**NAP POINT 4:** NACTA, the anti-terrorism institution will be strengthened.

**NAP POINT 8:** Establishing and deploying a dedicated counter-terrorism force.

**NAP POINT 15:** No room will be left for the extremism in any part of the country.

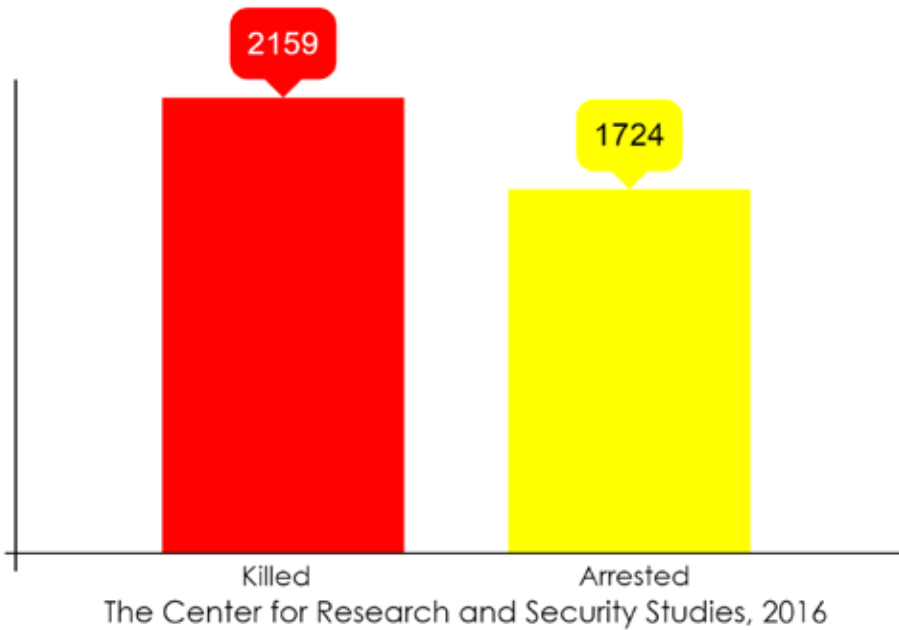
**NAP POINT 11:** Ban on glorification of terrorists and terrorist organisations through print and electronic media.

**NAP POINT 14:** Concrete measures against promotion of terrorism through internet and social media.

**NAP POINT 6:** All funding sources of terrorists and terrorist outfits will be frozen.

<sup>1</sup> Questions and Oral Answers, 28th session of the National Assembly. (2016, January 15). Retrieved March 15, 2016, from [http://www.na.gov.pk/uploads/documents/questions/1452850149\\_459.pdf](http://www.na.gov.pk/uploads/documents/questions/1452850149_459.pdf).

**Graph 4.1 Terrorists Killed and Arrested since NAP Implementation**



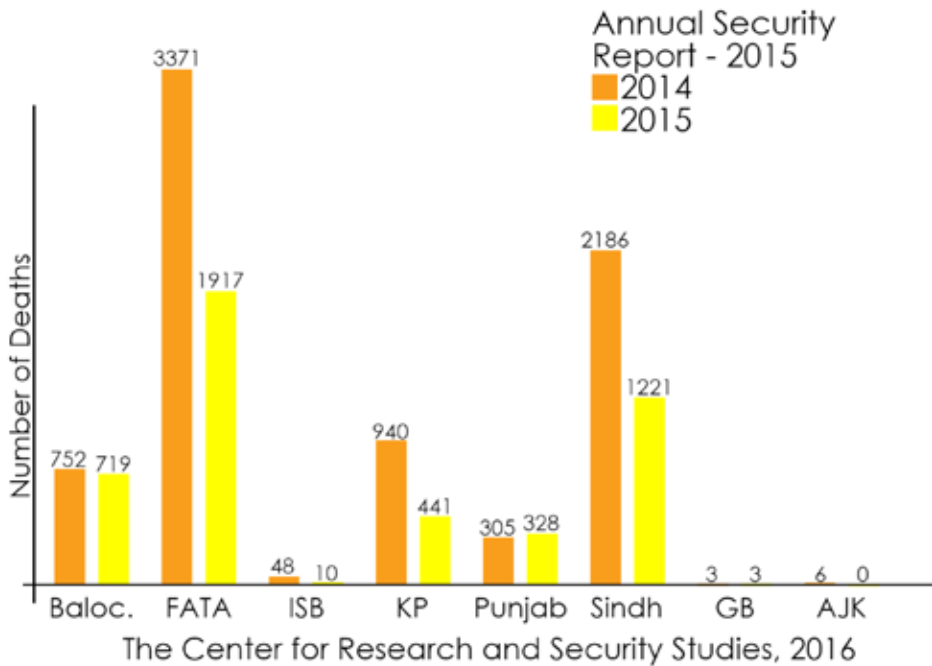
The Punjab Information of Temporary Residents Ordinance led to the arrest of 890 people in 561 separate cases. The Security of Vulnerable Establishments' Ordinance listed 58 cases and 47 people were detained under this ordinance. 500,212 weapons have been retrieved under the de-weaponization initiative.

Without a doubt, the security situation in the country has improved dramatically since the enactment of the NAP. Data collected by CRSS in its Annual Security Report 2015 reveals a marked decline in casualties from violence; from a loss of 7,611 persons in 2014, the number dropped to 4,653 persons this year, a drop of more than 40%. The Federally Administered Tribal Areas (FATA) topped the rest of the country in terms of fatalities, denoting a trend that began in June 2014 with the launch of the military operation Zarb-e-Azb in North Waziristan. The number of fatalities in the largest Punjab province, however, registered a slight increase with 328 deaths from various forms of violence.<sup>2</sup>

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<sup>2</sup> Nafees, M., Gul, I., & Salahuddin, Z. (2016, February 26). CRSS Annual Security Report - 2015. Retrieved February 26, 2016, from <http://crss.pk/wp-content/uploads/2010/07/CRSS-Annual-Security-Report-2015.pdf>.

**Graph 4.2 Comparative Regional Analysis of Violence-Related Deaths in Pakistan - 2014 vs. 2015**



## 4.2 National Counter Terrorism Authority (NACTA)

### 4.2.1 Overview of NACTA

National Counter Terrorism Authority (NACTA) was formed in 2009, aimed to help curb terrorism in the country. It was meant to be the premier intelligence agency for deployment of special weapons law enforcement forces conducting operations that fell outside the ambit, scope or jurisdiction of conventional law enforcement. The NACTA was designed to assess difficult situations, to confront armed conflicts, to go up against militant suspects and to conduct armed counterterrorism operations. It is required to formulate a counterterrorism plan to achieve short, medium and long term objectives and formulate action plans for their execution.

It is headquartered in Islamabad. The previous Coordinator of NACTA was Hamid

Ali Khan who resigned in August 2015, and the Ministry of Interior appointed Lt. Cdr. (retd) Ihsan Ghani as the new National Coordinator NACTA.<sup>3</sup>

Initially nothing more than an idea on paper from inception, NACTA's power was greatly enhanced in March 2013, under the NACTA 2013 Act.<sup>4</sup> However, the agency remains largely defunct. At the time of writing this report, the main page of the website, under the Threat Alerts section, says: "Currently no threat alerts".<sup>5</sup> The remainder of the website is mostly barebones. NACTA's complete board has yet to meet once since the enactment of NAP. Most recently in January, 2016, the Senate sought Rs.2 billion to reactivate NACTA.<sup>6</sup>

### 4.2.2 Functions of NACTA

The federal organ's functions, as available on its own website, are as follows:

- a) To receive and collate data or information or intelligence, and disseminate and coordinate between all relevant stakeholders to formulate threat assessments with periodical reviews to be presented to the Federal Government for making adequate and timely efforts to counter terrorism and extremism;
- b) To coordinate and prepare comprehensive National counter terrorism and counter extremism strategies, and review them on periodical basis;
- c) To develop action plans against terrorism and extremism and report to the Federal Government about implementation of these plans on periodical basis;
- d) To carry out research on topics relevant to terrorism and extremism and to prepare and circulate documents;
- e) To carry out liaison with International entities for facilitating cooperation in areas relating to terrorism and extremism;
- f) To review relevant laws and suggest amendments to the Federal Government; and
- g) To appoint committees of experts from Government and NGOs for deliberations in areas related to the mandate and function of the Authority.

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<sup>3</sup> Ghiskori, Z. (2015, August 20). Ihsan Ghani best pick for handling affairs of NACTA - The Express Tribune. Retrieved February 05, 2016, from <http://tribune.com.pk/story/942034/improving-nap-ihsan-ghani-best-pick-for-handling-affairs-of-nacta/>.

<sup>4</sup> Act No. XIX of 2013: An Act to Establish A National Counter Terrorism Authority in Pakistan. (2013, March 26). Retrieved February 15, 2016, from [http://www.na.gov.pk/uploads/documents/1364795170\\_139.pdf](http://www.na.gov.pk/uploads/documents/1364795170_139.pdf).

<sup>5</sup> NACTA Website - Main Page. (n.d.). Retrieved March 02, 2016, from <http://nacta.gov.pk/>.

<sup>6</sup> Mukhtar, I. (2016, January 12). Senate seeks Rs2b more for Nacta reactivation. Retrieved January 13, 2016, from <http://nation.com.pk/islamabad/12-Jan-2016/senate-seeks-rs2b-more-for-nacta-reactivation>.

### 4.2.3 Progress on/by NACTA

Revamping of the latent NACTA was initiated by the Prime Minister on December 28, 2014. In order to achieve intended results, the PM stressed on sound coordination between the provincial and federal governments and the law enforcement agencies. However, progress on this was largely glacial and has not borne much fruit. The bulk of the direct counterterrorism operations in the country have been carried out by the military, with assorted raids by police forces in various provinces.

This angst is not without reason. Thirteen months into the implementation of NAP, the government remains largely indifferent to NACTA, and despite repeated requests to the premier, and a mandate that requires quarterly coordination meetings, not a single sit-down has occurred so far. NACTA, despite having the most powerful board of directors has not met even once since the implementation of NAP.

Even the Interior Minister's report to the National Assembly, when answering questions of progress on NACTA, stated the following: "Budget released, Joint Investigation Directorate being established, strengthening in progress, issues being looked into".<sup>1</sup> It is unfortunate that vague language such as "issues being looked into" and "strengthening in progress" is the best the government can come up with, nearly thirteen months into the implementation of the NAP. It illustrates the lack of seriousness involved in NACTA reactivation.

The only other references to NACTA in the report presented mention that NACTA worked with the Ittehad-e-Tanzeemat-e-Madaris Pakistan (ITMP) to create a Uniform Registration and Data Form for the registration of seminaries, and shared it with relevant stakeholders for input.<sup>1</sup> In a separate question, the Interior Minister continued to insist that NACTA "being the prime agency in the counterterrorism realm is coordinating and monitoring all the endeavors exercised by various concerned agencies and administrative units of the country. Through meeting of field experts, professionals and representatives, NACTA is contemplating unified policies and extending recommendations to effectively respond to the various shades of terrorism spectrum."<sup>1</sup> This is highly suspect, as NACTA has no budget or structure to speak of.

### 4.2.4 Obstacles

Insufficient financial resources and lack of government initiatives are causing delays in the activation of NACTA and execution of the NAP. Provision for NACTA was reduced to Rs. 92 million in 2014-15 budget which was Rs. 95 million in 2013-14. The Ministry of Interior was poised to receive Rs. 1 billion from the Ministry of

Finance in January 2015, but the required amount is still pending.<sup>7</sup>

In 2014, Islamabad High Court placed the charge of NACTA under the Prime Minister but the obscurity over the legal status has caused delay in the implementation of NAP.<sup>8</sup> It yet remains under the control of the Interior Minister who is unable to provide it with the sufficient resources and skilled staff. Lack of clarity over the legal status of NACTA remained a problem until November 2015.

Ministry of Interior Secretary Shahid Khan declared in June, 2015 that progress on NAP leaves a lot to be desired. In the same meeting, National Coordinator NACTA Hamid Khan said the government had been unable to collect exact data on seminars, that more needed to be done to clamp down on terror financiers, and that refugee registration was a major task. He was also quick to aggrandize over SIM registration and the ongoing operation in Karachi.<sup>9</sup>

This urgency to claim victory and responsibility has also backfired and hurt NACTA in the recent past. For example, a report was sent to the government by NACTA in April 2015. It claimed that the State Bank of Pakistan (SBP) has confiscated 120 accounts of banned outfits. The aggregate of money frozen in the end was Rs10.3 billion. However, upon further scrutiny, it was revealed that this amount was seized over the course of a decade and nearly no progress had been made since the enactment of the NAP.<sup>10</sup>

### 4.3 CPEC Security

The China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) project with the investment of \$46 billion is said to be a game changer that could stimulate the growth of both states and lead to the development of the entire region. However, there are many security intimidations linked to the CPEC project. Earlier, under the support of the East Turkestan Islamic Movement (ETIM), Uighur militants from the Xinjiang province in Western China have targeted inhabitants of China, whereas the Tehrik-e-Taliban Pakistan (TTP) and other militant organizations in Pakistan have been targeting its citizens.

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<sup>7</sup> Sher, F. (2015, January 20). Interior ministry to get Rs one billion anytime soon | Business Recorder. Retrieved March 02, 2016, from <http://www.brecorder.com/top-stories/0/1143668/>.

<sup>8</sup> APP. (2014, July 09). IHC orders placement of NACTA under PM Secretariat - The Express Tribune. Retrieved February 27, 2016, from <http://tribune.com.pk/story/733175/ihc-orders-placement-of-nacta-under-pm-secretariat/>.

<sup>9</sup> Khan, A. (2015, June 02). Fresh revelations: Anti-terror plan fails to achieve goals - The Express Tribune. Retrieved January 18, 2016, from <http://tribune.com.pk/story/895997/fresh-revelations-anti-terror-plan-fails-to-achieve-goals/>.

<sup>10</sup> Husain, K. (2015, April 10). Nacta's claim fails scrutiny. Retrieved February 21, 2016, from <http://www.dawn.com/news/1174993>.

The military claims that Pakistan's security forces have dismantled the ETIM with Operation Zarb-e-Azb since June 2014. Chinese President Xi Jinping visited Pakistan in April 2015 and acknowledged this military initiative. He praised the Pakistani military's efforts and labeled it a solid step toward the peace and stability of the region. He promised to stand by Pakistan in all its activities against terrorism.

Later in November 2015, Pakistan and China agreed on a four-layer security plan meant for the over three thousand kilometer long trade route, connecting Xinjiang province to Gwadar sea port. Since the civilian government has assigned the task of protecting the Chinese to Pakistan Army and Navy, the chief of army staff (COAS) assured to protect Chinese working in Pakistan. About 32,000 security personnel will provide security to 14,321 Chinese workers who have been working in 210 different projects across the Pakistan. Over three thousand policemen, 740 Askari security guards, 4,100 private security guards, and 900 Rangers, would safeguard different projects related to the CPEC.<sup>11</sup>

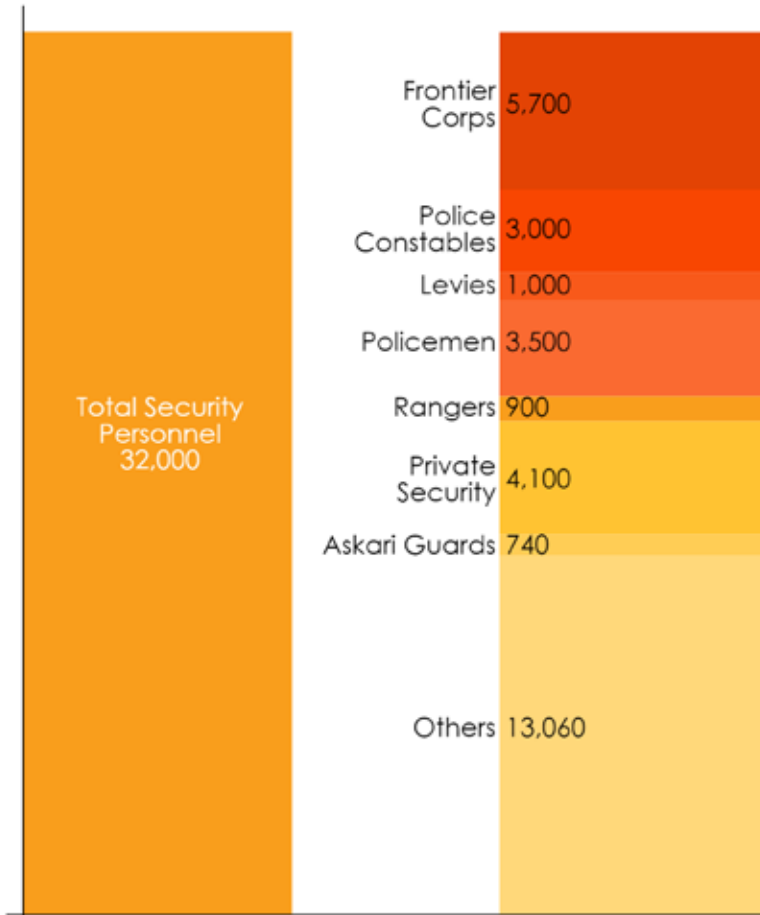
The CPEC is also a major source of concern for Baloch nationalists who claim that it infringes upon their identity and rights. Since the Baloch ethnics have been ignored by the government in last decade, the Baloch natives are now of the opinion that under the umbrella of the economic development and prosperity, CPEC will turn them into a minority within their own land. There is a trust deficit, insecurity and disappointment within the Baloch community. They are scared to be marginalized by certain demographic changes that CPEC project could lead. Therefore, the Baloch community declared that they are not against the execution of the CPEC project only if the government endorses some legislation in favour of protecting the rights of Baloch ethnics in the region. This sentiment is not universal, as some have taken up arms against the state instead.

The Baloch have felt suppressed and ignored by the federal government of Pakistan since 1948. To deal with their grievances, it is important for the government to specifically ensure their prosperity under the CPEC project.

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<sup>11</sup> Ghiskori, Z. (2015, November 01). Economic corridor: Pakistan, China agree on four-layer security - The Express Tribune. Retrieved February 22, 2016, from <http://tribune.com.pk/story/983033/economic-corridor-pakistan-china-agree-on-four-layer-security/>.

**Graph 4.3 CPEC Security Personnel Deployment Breakdown**



The Center for Research and Security Studies, 2016

More than 500 Chinese security personnel were hired aimed at capacity building of the special forces and local police for safeguarding sensitive routes. Pakistan Marines and the border security forces were also tasked with securing the routes linked to CPEC projects. The CPEC Project Director Major General (retd) Zahir Shah asserted that the people of China are immensely satisfied with the security measures adopted by both countries. However, recent conversations with the Chinese reveal significant concerns related to matters of security. Ministry of Interior declared that Balochistan would be more secure after the establishment of new security policy as 1,000 Levies personnel and six wings of the Frontier



Corps comprising of 5,700 personnel, and 3,000 police constables would be employed for the security of sensitive routes. The military established a special security force of nine battalions with each special division to be commanded by a serving Major General.

#### 4.4 Special Anti-Terrorism Force / Pakistan Special Services Group

In addition to the military-run Zarb-e-Azb operation, the Special Services Group (SSG) is involved in extensive counter-terrorism operations and asymmetrical warfare in Pakistan.

##### 4.4.1 Historical Background

SSG is also known as the Black Storks, a name derived from their unique head-dress. They are specialist counterterrorism operatives, trained in non-traditional and asymmetrical warfare. The SSG was listed as the best Special Forces group in the world in May 2015, ahead of US Navy SEALs and the British Special Air Service group.<sup>12</sup> The authority of the article to stake this claim, however, is a matter of debate.

##### 4.4.2 Structural Organization

Pakistani Special Forces have 7 divisions:

- 1st Commando Yaldrum Battalion
- 2nd Commando Rahbar Battalion
- 3rd Commando Powindahs Battalion
- 4th Commando Yalghar Battalion
- 5th Commando Zilzaal Battalion
- 6th Commando Al Samsaam Battalion
- 7th Commando Babrum Battalion

Divisions are controlled by Lieutenant Colonels. Each division comprises 700 men in four companies, with each company further divided into subdivisions and then into 10-man teams.

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<sup>12</sup> Hirst, T. (2015, March 13). The 9 most elite special forces in the world. Retrieved March 19, 2016, from <http://www.businessinsider.com.au/the-most-elite-special-forces-in-the-world-2015-5#1-the-special-services-group-ssg-in-pakistan-is-better-known-in-the-country-as-the-black-storks-due-to-the-commandos-unique-headgear-training-reportedly-includes-a-36-mile-march-in-12-hours-and-a-five-mile-run-in-20-minutes-in-full-gear-13>.

It includes two autonomous commando companies:

- Musa Company - Specializes in Amphibious Operations
- Zarrar Company - Specializes in Counterterrorism

Trained by Zarrar Company, the Rangers Anti-Terrorist Company has been active since early 2004. The Paramilitary Rangers are primarily tasked with the urban pacification operation in Karachi.

In sharp contrast, NACTA has no such force at its disposal, and analysis reveals that even coordination with relevant authorities is scant at best.

### 4.5 Case Study: Punjab

Punjab is an interesting case study because it depicts a potential haven for miscreants and the criminal element. Since the implementation of NAP, extensive operations have been conducted in all parts of the country. In FATA and KP, Operation Zarb-e-Azb has been in effect since June, 2014.<sup>13</sup> In Balochistan, insurgent mollification and reconciliation efforts are underway. In Sindh, specifically Karachi, the most violent district in Pakistan, an urban pacification operation is being conducted by the paramilitary Rangers. Punjab remains largely untouched, in part fueled by the tenuous pact between the civil and military leaderships, and in part because Punjab has reported much lower levels of violence in the last several years.<sup>2</sup>

However, this pattern cannot hold for long, as militants and extremism have spread to every corner of the country. Sooner or later, an event will precipitate the extension of counterterrorism operations in Punjab.

#### 4.5.1 Punjab - Terrorism

One of the most significant and tragic developments in 2015 was the murder of the Punjab Home Minister Shuja Khanzada in a suicide attack in August, 2015. The law enforcement agencies and Inspector General of Punjab presented a report to the Chief Minister of Punjab, Mian Shahbaz Sharif, claiming that the attack was the reaction to the killing of the chief of Lashkar-e-Jhangvi (LeJ) Malik Ishaq, a month prior.<sup>14</sup>

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<sup>13</sup> Sherazi, Z. S. (2014, June 15). Zarb-e-Azb operation: 120 suspected militants killed in N Waziristan. Retrieved February 12, 2016, from <http://www.dawn.com/news/1112909/zarb-e-azb-operation-120-suspected-militants-killed-in-n-waziristan>.

<sup>14</sup> BBC. (2015, August 16). Punjab minister Shuja Khanzada killed in Pakistan blast - BBC News. Retrieved March 23, 2016, from <http://www.bbc.com/news/world-asia-33952413>.

Punjab is the only province in the country that saw an upsurge in number of fatalities from violence during last two years. However, it accounts for a mere 4% of all violence-related national fatalities, despite accounting for nearly 2/3rd of the population. Out of 17,958 persons (including militants) that were the victims of violence in the country during last three years, 755 persons were from Punjab.

#### 4.5.2 Punjab – Measures Against Terrorism

Of the 7,372 policemen deployed at police stations in Lahore, around 10% discharge their operational duties. The rest are called daily for special assignments, such as VIP detail, or foreign visits etc.<sup>15</sup> The citizen to police ratio should be around 200 to 1, and it currently hovers at 2,000 to 1. An initiative was also taken by the Punjab police team in October 2015 to scrutinize fake appointments in the police department. The team has dismissed at least 136 officers who were hired on the basis of fake appointment letters. They have also been booked under the Anti-Terrorism Act.<sup>16</sup>

In order to curtail the threat of terrorism, Punjab government has introduced Punjab Arms Ordinance and Wall Chalking Ordinance 2015.<sup>17</sup> Under the Maintenance of Public Order Ordinance, issued by the Punjab government, the declarations in favor of terrorists and criticism of the government's counter-terrorism actions would be considered crimes. The Punjab government has also propagated an ordinance, which prohibits the glorification of militants and their organizations in the media or at any other forum.

Punjab government has also issued the Arms Ordinance 2015 against illegal arms. This ordinance prohibits the open display of arms and bans the carrying of any armaments across the provincial boundaries. Some significant amendments have been made to Section 13 of the Punjab Arms Ordinance 1965 to certify safety of the citizens. Stern consequences i.e. 2-14 years imprisonment and fine have been levied upon violation of the ordinance.

The Interior Minister, in his briefing to the National Assembly in January 2016, claimed that action had been taken against 1,132 hardcore elements in Punjab, an additional 405 were booked under Schedule IV of the Anti-Terrorism Act. 78 firebrand speakers and 649 "facilitators" had been arrested for a total of 825 arrested.<sup>1</sup> These are vague indicators, difficult to distinguish from one another.

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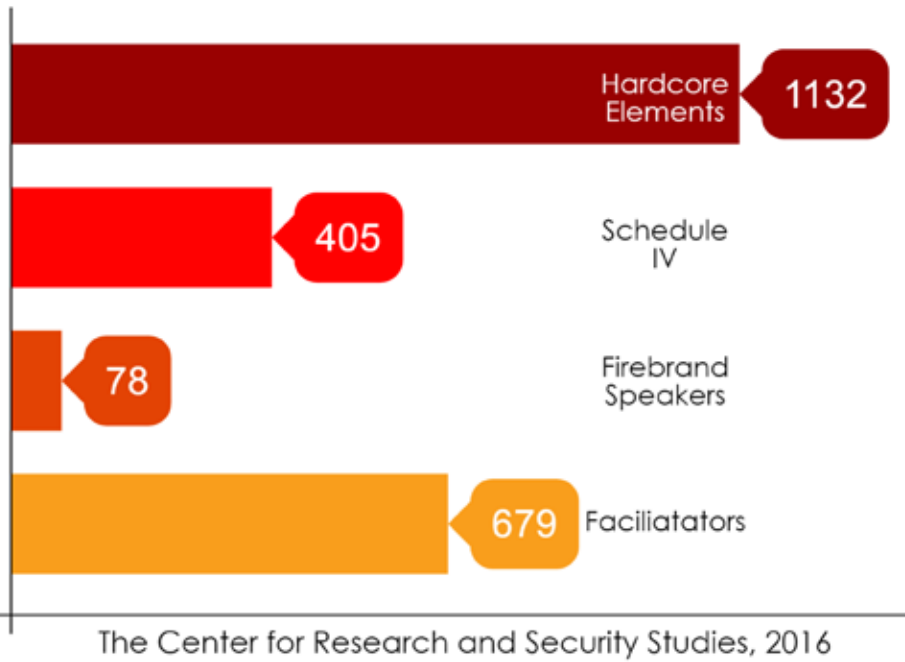
<sup>15</sup> Chaudhary, A. (2015, November 23). 'Unofficial' VIP duties create dearth of police force for Lahore. Retrieved March 02, 2016, from <http://www.dawn.com/news/1221679>.

<sup>16</sup> Manan, A. (2015, October 29). Punjab police looking into possible extremist infiltration - The Express Tribune. Retrieved March 12, 2016, from <http://tribune.com.pk/story/981139/emerging-scandal-punjab-police-looking-into-possible-extremist-infiltration/>.

<sup>17</sup> Hanif, I. (2015, January 10). Punjab promulgates two more ordinances. Retrieved March 17, 2016, from <http://www.dawn.com/news/1156072>.

Punjab government also proposed a pilot project for 200 youth-soft loans. It would aim at skill development through technical trainings.

**Graph 4.4 Action Taken Against Criminal Elements**



#### 4.6 OPINION: Ensuring against re-emergence of proscribed organizations by Farhan Zahid

Agenda item number 7 of National Action Plan (NAP) aims to ensure that no proscribed organization would be allowed to operate under new names, as has been the case in the past. Perhaps the point was included keeping in view of General Pervez Musharraf's January 12, 2002 speech in which he proscribed Islamist terrorist groups allegedly involved in December 13, 2001 attack on the Indian Parliament. The groups later re-emerged with new names and identities and resumed their activities. The re-surfacing issue holds key importance as no proscribed organization should be able to resume its activities under the guise. The NAP, despite achieving success in some areas, needs to reinvigorate its overall strategy as some religio-political organizations are still freely operating in the country.

##### **ASWJ and LeJ**

Most important to mention here is the case of Ahle-e-Sunnat wal Jamaat (AWSJ) the new name of proscribed Sipah-e-Sahaba (the parent organization of violently sectarian Lashkar-e-Jhangvi (LeJ)). It is quite interesting to note that in the Punjab province, the AWSJ and its sister concerns have been taken to task by the provincial law enforcement agencies and scores of its workers are now behind the bars. However, they have been given a free hand to operate in Karachi where it was seen collecting sacrificial hides, and Zakat and Fatra on both Eids, revealing the inherent inconsistencies in NAP enforcement. LeJ's founder Malik Ishaq was killed in a police encounter in Muzaffargarh district of Punjab, clearly showcasing the Punjab government's resolve to annihilate LeJ. The provincial government suffered massively when its Law Minister Shuja Khanzada was killed in a suicide attack on August 17, 2015 at his residence in Attock district<sup>18</sup>, likely an act of retaliation for the killing of Ishaq. Another key member of LeJ, Haroon Bhatti, was killed in a police encounter on October 2015 after his arrest in Dubai and being shifted to Lahore<sup>19</sup>.

The security apparatus in Karachi, specifically the Rangers, are inundated with the militant wings of political parties such as the secular/urban Muttahida Quami Movement (MQM). Limited serious action has been reported to thwart the growth of AWSJ in the outskirts (Pashtun dominated areas) of Karachi where its presence is now felt considerably. This also reveals a dire need to reform the police and equip them with enough incentives and amended laws to be able to secure the life and property of Karachi's citizens.

<sup>18</sup> (2015, August 17). Punjab home minister Shuja Khanzada killed in terror attack. Retrieved March 06, 2016, from <http://www.dawn.com/news/1200807> (accessed on 16/12/15).

<sup>19</sup> Nizami, Y. (2015, December 12). National Action Plan. Retrieved March 06, 2016, from <http://www.pakistantoday.com.pk/2015/12/12/features/national-action-plan-2/> (accessed on 15/12/15).

AWSJ also participated in recent local bodies elections in Karachi as Pakistan Rah-e-Haq Party (PRHP) and managed to bag nine seats whereas 40 candidates backed by PRHP won in their respective constituencies<sup>20</sup>, once again highlighting the freedom it enjoys to operate in the financial capital of Pakistan.

### **JeM**

Many of the previously banned Islamist terrorist organizations continue operating with newly adopted names. Jaish-e-Mohammad (JeM) was proscribed on January 14, 2002 but later re-emerged as Khudam-ul-Islam (KuI). JeM's reincarnation was banned on November 15 2003<sup>21</sup>. Rauf Asghar the brother of JeM leader Masood Azhar took over the organization in 2007 while Azhar remained elusive and off of the radar<sup>22</sup>. He resurfaced in 2014 where he telephonically addressed a large gathering of his supporters<sup>23</sup>.

### **LeT**

Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT)'s case is peculiar as it remains largely untouched. LeT currently operates under the umbrella of Jamaat ud Dawa (JuD). Falah-e-Insaniyat Foundation (FIF) the charity wing of JuD and LeT continued to operate in all major cities of Pakistan. The ambulance services of FIF are available outside all government hospitals in the country. In a reply to Senate of Pakistan the Interior Minister has refused to ban JuD as he claimed no evidence against the charity organization has been shared by the United Nations. Nonetheless the activities of the said organization is being observed under Section 11-D of the Anti-Terrorist Act and, in case of any evidence establishing a connection with LeT, the government may apply Section 11-B of the Anti-Terrorism Act (ATA) to proscribe the organization<sup>24</sup>.

### **Presence of IS**

After refusing to accept the presence of Islamic State (IS aka ISIS/ISIL aka Da'esh) the Ministry of Interior finally included it in its official list of proscribed organizations. Initially the list was removed for some months from the official website of

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<sup>20</sup> (2015, December 7). ASWJ affiliate quietly swipes nine seats in Karachi. Retrieved March 06, 2016, from <http://www.thenews.com.pk/print/82811-l-am-facing-pressure-to-favour-Dr-Asim-special-prosecutor> (accessed on 14/12/15).

<sup>21</sup> Ibid

<sup>22</sup> South Asia Terrorism Portal. Jaish-e-Mohammad. Retrieved March 06, 2016, from [http://www.webcitation.org/query?url=http%3A%2F%2Fwww.satp.org%2Fsatporgtp%2Fcountries%2FIndia%2Fstates%2Fjandk%2Fterrorist\\_outfits%2Fjaish\\_e\\_mohammad\\_mujahideen\\_e\\_tanzeem.htm&date=2010-12-04](http://www.webcitation.org/query?url=http%3A%2F%2Fwww.satp.org%2Fsatporgtp%2Fcountries%2FIndia%2Fstates%2Fjandk%2Fterrorist_outfits%2Fjaish_e_mohammad_mujahideen_e_tanzeem.htm&date=2010-12-04) (accessed on 15/12/15).

<sup>23</sup> Hussain, Z. (2014, February 2). The return of Masood Azhar. Retrieved March 06, 2016, from <http://www.dawn.com/news/1084328> (accessed on 14/12/15).

<sup>24</sup> (2015, July 8). JuD unlikely to be banned, Nisar tells Senate. Retrieved March 06, 2016, from <http://nation.com.pk/editors-picks/08-Jul-2015/jud-unlikely-to-be-banned-nisar-tells-senate>.

National Counter Terrorism Authority (NACTA) but finally presented before the Senate by the State Minister of Interior after enlisting Da'esh in mid-December 2015<sup>25</sup>.

### **Proscribed organizations' list**

As mentioned earlier, a controversy regarding the ban on JuD/FIF remained in international media the list of proscribed organization was removed for some period of time. The controversy was related to the status and activities of these organizations as Pakistan, under the United Nations Security Council Resolution (UNSCR) 1267, has to abide by the procedures adopted in the resolution demanding complete ban on activities and freezing of financial assets. JuD and FIF along with Taliban, Harkat-ul-Mujahideen (HuM), Umma Tameer-e-Nau, Jamaat-ud-Dawa (JuD), Al Akhtar Trust, Al Rashid Trust, Harkat-ul-Jihad Islami, Falah-i-Insaniyat Foundation (FIF), Haji Khairullah Haji Israr Money Exchange, Roshan Money Exchange and Rahat Ltd are listed in UNSCR 1267.<sup>26</sup>

### **Red Mosque**

Another thorny matter regarding the re-emergence of banned organizations is the unchecked activities of Red Mosque (Lal Masjid) chief cleric Abdul Aziz in the heart of Islamabad. Aziz has openly announced plans for restarting the campaign to enforce Sharia in Pakistan. Despite not being the state-approved prayer leader of the mosque<sup>27</sup>, the firebrand cleric is hell-bent on resuming his activities. In spite of registration of cases against him, including non-bailable offenses, no serious action has been taken against the cleric and he continues to operate unhindered in the nation's capital from the relative safety of the mosque.

Red Mosque cleric's links with IS are no secret as female students of Red Mosque affiliated Jamia Hafsa seminary have pledged allegiance to IS and its self-proclaimed Caliph Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi earlier this year. The cleric is also suspected to have links with Tashfeen Malik<sup>28</sup>, the female involved in the recent shootings in

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<sup>25</sup> Khan, I. (2015, December 19). IS among 61 banned outfits, minister tells Senate. Retrieved March 06, 2016, from <http://www.dawn.com/news/1227402/is-among-61-banned-outfits-minister-tells-senate> (accessed on 19/12/15)

<sup>26</sup> Hussain, K. (2015, March 9). Wrangling persists in listing terror groups. Retrieved March 06, 2016, from <http://www.dawn.com/news/1168347> (accessed on 18/12/15).

<sup>27</sup> Abbasi, O. and Gishkori, Z. (2015, November 13). Security beefed up in Islamabad as Lal Masjid cleric vows to restart 'Sharia Law' campaign. Retrieved March 06, 2016, from <http://tribune.com.pk/story/990764/security-deployed-as-lal-masjid-cleric-vows-to-restart-campaign-in-islamabad/> (accessed on 19/12/15).

<sup>28</sup> Hussain, I. (2015, December 4). ISIS loyalist woman in San Bernardino massacre is linked to Pakistan's most notorious radical cleric and mosque known as center for fundamentalists. Retrieved March 06, 2016, from <http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-3346618/ISIS-loyalist-woman-San-Bernardino-massacre-linked-Pakistan-s-notorious-radical-cleric-mosque-known-center-fun>

San Bernardino, California. The level of their relations with the mosque remains uncertain as Tashfeen Malik also studied at Al-Huda seminary for women, another possible source of her radicalization.

### **Conclusion**

The NAP appears to have yielded mixed results. It seems that select jihadi organizations have been targeted whereas some others have either resurfaced under new names or continue to operate freely in the country. The NAP agenda item number 7 has been ostensibly implemented in Punjab as far as some organizations are concerned. In Sindh, especially in Karachi, limited serious action has been reported against the same organizations. It is pertinent that provincial units go after all terror groups and organizations. The implementation of NAP must be uniform and consistent and non-selective.

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