

## PART 3: PROSCRIBED ORGANIZATIONS

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

**NAP POINT 7:** Defunct outfits will not be allowed to operate under any other name.

**NAP POINT 11:** Ban on glorification of terrorists and terrorist organisations.

**NAP POINT 13:** Communication networks of terrorists will be dismantled completely.

**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.

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## Part 3: Proscribed Organizations

### 3.1 Introduction

Our third theme comprises of several points in the National Action Plan, specifically #3, #7, #13, #14 and #6. This theme deals with proscribed organizations and banned outfits operating on Pakistani soil.

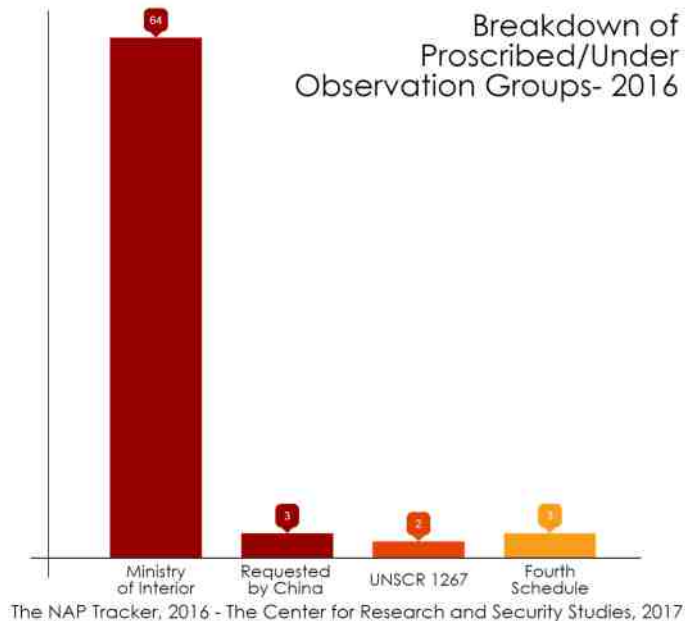
There is also significant overlap with the fourth theme, counter-terrorism, and the NAP points that constitute that theme. Specifically points #3, #11, #14 and #6 all overlap.

These organizations have engaged in terror attacks; bombings, suicide attacks, target killings, sectarian violence and propaganda that encourages hate-mongering. These banned outfits have been operating within Pakistan and have both a physical and online presence in the country.

### 3.2 List of Proscribed Organizations in Pakistan

Formally, and for the purposes of this report, we will use the tally from the Interior Ministry.

**Graph 3.1: Breakdown of Proscribed/Under Observation Organizations**

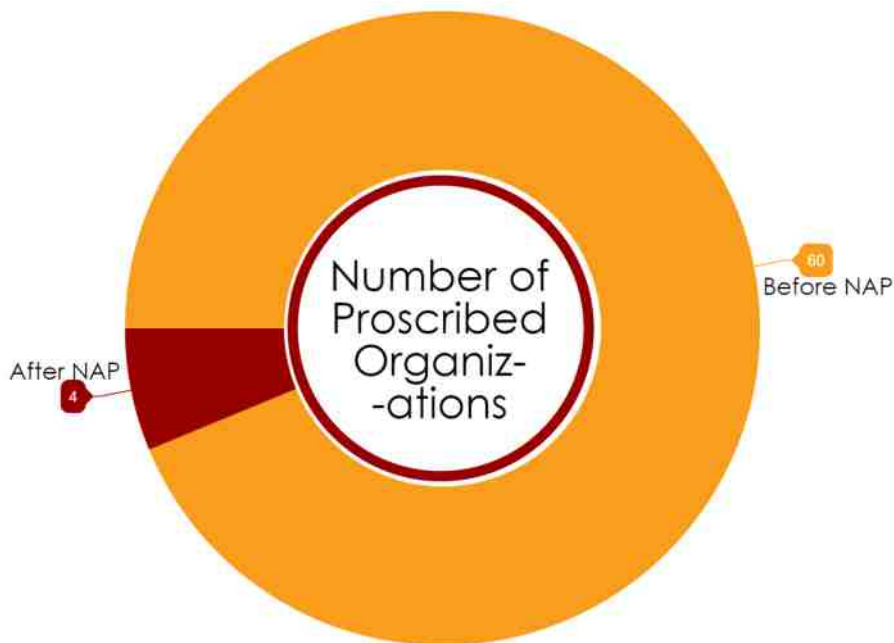


### 3.2.1 Proscribed by the Interior Ministry

A list issued by the National Counter Terrorism Authority of Pakistan (NACTA) and ascribed to the Ministry of Interior (MoI) identifies 64 groups as proscribed or banned organizations.<sup>1</sup> However, with the exception of four outfits, the rest were proscribed as such prior to the imposition of the National Action Plan.<sup>2</sup> Barring the Islamic State (IS), that was proscribed in 2015,<sup>3</sup> three new groups have been added to this category in 2016 namely, Jamat Ul Ahrar (JuA), Lashkar-e-Jhangvi Al Alim (LeJA) and Ansar Ul Hussain (AUH).

In addition, during 2016, two charities/trusts were put under observation for six months each under the 2nd Schedule: Ghulaman-e-Sahaba (GS) and Maymar Trust.<sup>4</sup> Earlier, Jamaat-ud-Dawa (JuD) was placed on the watch list by the Interior Ministry.<sup>5</sup>

**Graph 3.2 Organizations Proscribed before and after NAP Implementation**



The NAP Tracker, 2016 - The Center for Research and Security Studies, 2017

<sup>1</sup> National Counter Terrorism Authority. (2017). List of Proscribed Organizations. Retrieved March 21, 2017 from <<http://www.nacta.gov.pk/Downloads/2.List%20of%20proscribed%20organizations.pdf>>.

<sup>2</sup> A complete list can be found in Annex IV.

<sup>3</sup> National Desk. (2015, August 27). Pakistan officially bans Daesh. Retrieved March 02, 2016, from <<http://www.thenews.com.pk/latest/7624-pakistan-officially-bans-daesh>>.

<sup>4</sup> Mukhtar, I. (2016, November 20). Number of banned outfits surges to 63. Retrieved March 27, 2017, from <<http://nation.com.pk/newspaper-picks/20-Nov-2016/number-of-banned-outfits-surges-to-63>>.

<sup>5</sup> Ghiskori, Z. (2015, June 28). 212 organisations formally banned by Pakistan - The Express Tribune. Retrieved March 02, 2016, from <<http://tribune.com.pk/story/911295/212-organisations-formal-ly-banned-by-pakistan/>>.

According to research conducted by CRSS in its own Annual Security Reports from 2015 and 2016, this list does not contain names of several groups that have carried out and claimed responsibility for terror attacks in the country. These groups include splinter factions of the TTP and can be found in the CRSS Annual Security Report 2016.<sup>6,7</sup>

### 3.2.2 Proscribed by the Foreign Ministry

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs has also banned 171 organizations. Ten of these overlap with the list from the Ministry of Interior.

### 3.2.3 Proscribed in Sindh

An official report by the Sindh Home Ministry<sup>8</sup> found that 62 banned religious or sectarian organizations were active in the province. The report added that 35 such groups had resurfaced after a period of hibernation. The government of Sindh enlisted 602 persons belonging to these banned outfits under the Fourth Schedule.<sup>9</sup> Some of individuals and their respective affiliations were described by the report as following:

Group	IV Schedule
Sipah-i-Sahaba Pakistan (SSP)	221
Lashkar-i-Jhangvi	41
Sipah-i-Mohammad Pakistan	39
Jaish-e-Mohammad	32
Tehreek-i-Taliban Pakistan	27
Tehreek-i-Jafria Pakistan	20
Harkat-ul-Mujahideen	19
Lashkar-e-Tayyba	12
Pakistan Sunni Tehrik	10
Jamaat-ud-Dawa	10
Ahle Sunnat Wal Jamnaat	8
Jundhullah	5
Khudam-ul-Islam	4
Majlis Wahdatul Muslameen	4
Mohajir Qauimi Movement-Haqiqi	3
Jeay Sindh Muttahida Mahaz	3
Al Qaeda	3
Lyari gangs	1
Hizb ul Tahreer	1

<sup>6</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>>.

<sup>7</sup> Nafees, M., Gul, I., & Salahuddin, Z. (2017, March 26). CRSS Annual Security Report - 2015. Retrieved March 22, 2016, from <<http://crss.pk/wp-content/uploads/2010/07/CRSS-Annual-Security-Report-2016-Final.pdf>>.

<sup>8</sup> Mansoor, H. (2016, December 08). 62 banned groups active in Sindh, says official report. Retrieved January 17, 2017, from <<http://www.dawn.com/news/1301082>>.

### **3.2.4 Proscribed under UNSCR 1267**

On December 1, 2005, Pakistan enlisted two organizations, Al-Akhtar Trust, and Al-Rashid Trust under the United Nations Security Council Resolution (UNSCR) number 1267. The UNSCR 1267 was adopted unanimously on October 15, 1999 and deals primarily with Taliban activities in Afghanistan.<sup>10</sup> As a member state, Pakistan is required to comply, as this resolution was adopted under Chapter VII of the United Nations Charter which sets out the power of the United Nations Security Council to maintain international peace and security.

This however cannot be viewed as a step towards the implementation of the National Action Plan, as it occurred nearly a decade prior.

### **3.2.5 Proscribed at the Request of China**

In 2013, BBC Urdu<sup>11</sup> reported that Pakistan banned three additional organizations upon China's request:

- 1) East Turkestan Islamic Movement (ETIM)
- 2) Islamic Movement of Uzbekistan (IMU)
- 3) Islamic Jihad Union (IJU)<sup>12</sup>

Again, this step cannot be seen as one taken towards the execution of the National Action Plan because it was taken well over a year before the inception of the Plan.

### **3.2.6 Under Observation / Watch List**

In addition, during 2016, two charities/trusts were put under observation for six months each under the 2nd Schedule: Ghulaman-e-Sahaba (GS) and Maymar Trust.<sup>4</sup> Jamaat-ud-Dawa (JuD) was placed on the watch list by the Interior Ministry as early as December 2005 and this action was renewed for the fourth time in January 2016. In November 2015, the Foreign Secretary, Aizaz Chaudhary, also confirmed that in addition to the JuD, the Filah-i-Insaniat Foundation (FIF) had also been put on the watch-list.<sup>13</sup> This no longer seems to be the case. The total number of under observations organizations is thus three.

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<sup>9</sup> Schedule IV of ATA 1997 is a section of the Anti-Terrorism Act of 1997 which subjects the suspects of terrorism to close observation and regular attendance before the local police. It is a monitoring mechanism for people who are not directly involved in terrorism activities, but whose affiliation with banned outfits or their previous criminal record makes them suspicious. Implementation of the fourth schedule, however, has been lamentable at best. They are kept under surveillance by the police to remove the possibility of their involvement in any terrorism activity in future. As part of the process, the people are required to provide fresh pictures to the local police station every month and inform the law-enforcers before leaving the jurisdiction of their police stations. They are regularly check and monitored by police and intelligence officials.

<sup>10</sup> UN Security Council Resolution 1267 (1999). (1999, October 15). Retrieved March 02, 2016, from <<http://www.state.gov/j/ct/rls/other/un/5110.htm>>.

<sup>11</sup> Malik, S. (2013, October 23). Three Organizations Proscribed Upon Request from China (translated). Retrieved March 02, 2016, from <[http://www.bbc.com/urdu/pakistan/2013/10/131023\\_organisations\\_banned\\_fz.shtml](http://www.bbc.com/urdu/pakistan/2013/10/131023_organisations_banned_fz.shtml)>.

<sup>12</sup> Web Desk. (2013, October 23). Pakistan bans three extremist outfits, on orders from China - The Express Tribune. Retrieved March 02, 2016, from <<http://tribune.com.pk/story/621400/pakistan-bans-three-extremist-outfits-on-orders-from-china/>>.

<sup>13</sup> Haider, M. (2015, November 19). JUD and FIF not banned, foreign secretary tells Senate commit-tee. Retrieved March 05, 2016, from <<http://www.dawn.com/news/1220795>>.

### 3.2.7 Proscription Controversies

Pakistan had initially planned to ban 12 additional terror groups in January 2015, including Jamaat-ud-Dawa and the Haqqani Network. Had this become a reality, the number of proscribed groups in Pakistan would have been 73.<sup>14</sup> This list, however, appeared to be controversial as it was taken down days after being uploaded with JuD and FiF becoming the main source of the controversy. Foreign Secretary, Aizaz Chaudhary, confirmed to a Senate committee in November, 2015 that the two groups had, in fact, not been banned, but were being closely monitored.<sup>13</sup>

The original list of 61 was re-confirmed by the Interior Minister in December, 2015.<sup>4</sup> The NACTA website confirms the current number of 64, at the time of putting together this publication.<sup>5</sup> The Central Information Secretary of the Pakistan People's Party, Mr. Qamar Zaman Kaira, claimed on January 24, 2016 that the government of Pakistan had lost control over the activities of banned outfits. According to him, the passive attitude of the Interior Minister as regards to the lenient and slow execution of the National Action Plan depicts the inefficiency of the government of Pakistan in the face of its counter-terrorism strategies.<sup>15</sup>

Government progress on proscribed organizations seems to be a mixed bag. In February 2016, it was decided that Computerized National Identification cards (CNIC) and telephone SIMs of members of banned outfits would be blocked.<sup>16</sup> However, no further update was ever provided on this front. In May, it was reported that banned outfits are extensively recruiting,<sup>17</sup> while in June it was revealed that banned outfits continue to operate under different names.<sup>18</sup>

But perhaps the most damning evidence of the state's helplessness with some organizations came to light in October, 2016, when the Interior Minister Chaudhary Nisar Ali Khan met with the Difa-e-Pakistan Council (DPC),<sup>19</sup> a loose coalition of banned groups in the country. The DPC delegation was headed by Maulana Samiul Haq, premie of JUI-S (Jamiat Ulema-e-Islam-Sami) and known as father of the Taliban. As a result of the meeting, blocked CNICs of banned outfit members were reinstated. This move also sparked widespread criticism of the minister and the state.

Please also see [Section 3.4](#) for a brief analysis on why simply labeling an organization as proscribed is insufficient, and a brief analysis of what the term implies.

## 3.3 Measures against Proscribed Organizations

### 3.3.1 Efficacy of Proscription

<sup>14</sup>Ghiskori, Z. (2015, January 15). Revealed: Govt decides to ban Haqqani Network, JuD - The Express Tribune. Retrieved March 17, 2016, from <http://tribune.com.pk/story/822087/revealed-govt-decides-to-ban-haqqani-network-jud/>.

<sup>15</sup>Staff Reporter. (2016, January 24). Govt blamed for ignoring banned groups' activities. The Nation. Retrieved May 02, 2016, from <http://nation.com.pk/lahore/24-jan-2016/govt-blamed-for-ignoring-banned-groups-activities>.

<sup>16</sup>Staff Report. (2016, February 26). Govt decides to block CNIC, SIMs of members of banned outfits. Pakistan Today. Retrieved March 21, 2017, from <http://www.pakistantoday.com.pk/2016/02/29/govt-decides-to-block-cnic-sims-of-members-of-banned-outfits/>.

<sup>17</sup>Ghiskori, Z. (2016, May 28). Banned outfits still recruiting Jihadis: official report. Geo.tv. Retrieved March 21, 2017, from <https://www.geo.tv/latest/106807-Banned-outfits-still-recruiting-Jihadis-official-report>.

<sup>18</sup>Tanoli, Q. (2016, June 8). Banned groups continue to resurface under new names. The Express Tribune. Retrieved March 20, 2017, from <https://tribune.com.pk/story/1118483/weak-enforcement-banned-groups-continue-resurface-new-names/>.

The National Counter Terrorism Authority (NACTA) has the mandate to monitor banned groups in the country but there have been repeated claims that the government is not releasing funds for the authority. The mechanism for monitoring groups is also unclear. Former NACTA Chief, Hamid Khan, along with the Interior Secretary Shahid Khan, while briefing a parliamentary committee in June 2015, said that the implementation of NAP as regards banned outfits was not at the pace it needed to be. They also said that the act of banning a group was largely ineffective.<sup>20</sup>

For a detailed analysis of the individuals placed on the Fourth Schedule, please see [Section 4.2.5: Formulating a Consolidated Fourth Schedule List at the National Level](#).

### 3.3.2 Proscribed and Watch Lists

The Ministry of Interior believes that most proscribed organizations do not have radical annexes and the Ministry does not intend to take action against such groups. According to the Ministry, it would be illogical to instantaneously act against all banned outfits.<sup>21</sup> As has already been mentioned, under the National Action Plan, along with the Islamic State there are three additional organizations that have been added to the proscribed list,<sup>2</sup> while three others have been added to the watch list.<sup>11</sup>

### 3.3.3 Progress against Banned Organizations

Apart from the agenda of the National Action Plan, section 11E of the Anti-Terrorism Act details the following actions to be taken against such groups<sup>22</sup> a) sealing its offices b) seizing/freezing its money and property c) not issuing passports to its members d) stopping their banking transactions e) cancellation of armed licenses that were issued to them earlier and not issue them new ones f) mandatory disclosure of all income and expenditure accounts, and g) prohibition of publication, printing or dissemination of any press statements, press conferences or public utterances.

In theory, there is a detailed framework on how to deal with the menace of terrorist organizations but at the implementation level, progress has been rather slow, uncoordinated, patchy, and at times self-contradictory.

As has been mentioned already, the Federal government decided to ban two militant organizations for their involvement in terrorist activities; Jamaat-ul-Ahrar and Lashkar-i-Jhangvi Al-Alami. While Lashkar-i-Jhangvi Al-Alami was found to be behind the sectarian terrorism in Karachi, Jamaat-ul-Ahrar perpetrated horrific attacks in Balochistan and Sindh.<sup>23</sup>

In an exclusive interview with CRSS, the National Security Advisor (NSA),<sup>24</sup> General (retd.) Naseer

<sup>19</sup> Mukhtar, I. (2016, October 23). Nisar's meeting with DPC triggers wide criticism. The Nation. Retrieved March 22, 2017, from <<http://nation.com.pk/newspaper-picks/23-Oct-2016/nisar-s-meeting-with-dpc-triggers-wide-criticism>>.

<sup>20</sup> Khan, A. (2015, June 29). No outfits banned after APS massacre, top court told - The Express Tribune. Retrieved March 02, 2016, from <<http://tribune.com.pk/story/911569/no-outfits-banned-after-aps-massacre-top-court-told/>>.

<sup>21</sup> Khan, I. A. (2015, January 11). Govt to act against 'violent banned outfits' only. Retrieved March 02, 2016, from <<http://www.dawn.com/news/1156321>>.

<sup>22</sup> The Supreme Court of Pakistan. (2016, December 15). Quetta Inquiry Commission Report. The Supreme Court of Pakistan. Retrieved January 13, 2017, from <[http://www.supremecourt.gov.pk/web/user\\_files/File/QuettaInquiryCommissionReport.pdf](http://www.supremecourt.gov.pk/web/user_files/File/QuettaInquiryCommissionReport.pdf)>.

<sup>23</sup> Staff Reporter. (2016, November 19). Two more militant outfits banned. Retrieved January 17, 2017, from <<http://www.dawn.com/news/1297314>>.

<sup>24</sup> CRSS held exclusive interviews with the NSA in December 2016, January 2017 and February 2017. The NSA leads the National Security Decision, and is responsible for the security of Pakistan. The implementation of the NAP is one of his tasks.

Janjua, said that over the last two years, 1,816 terrorists from proscribed and terrorist organizations have been killed and 5,611 have been arrested in different operations throughout the country.

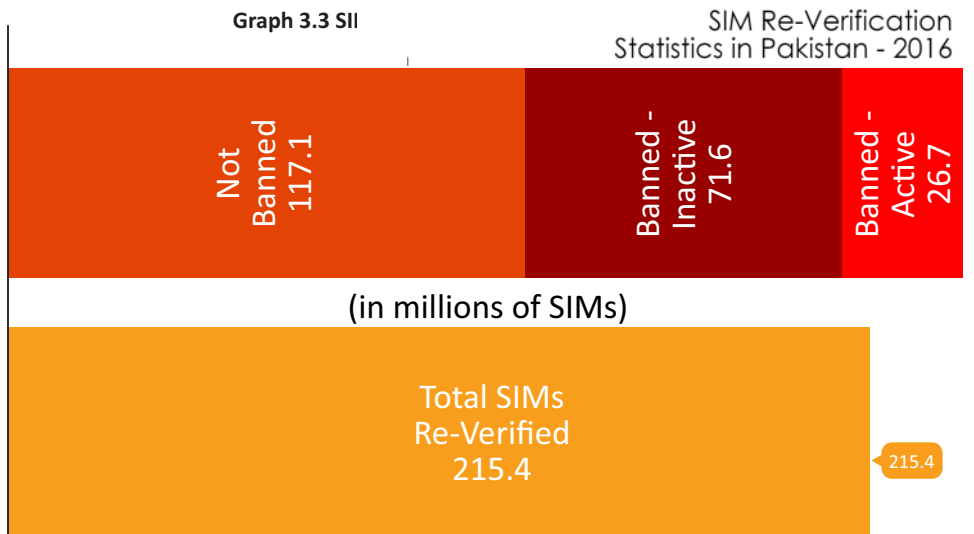
**3.3.4 Progress in the Provinces**

The Sindh government stated<sup>8</sup> that out of 602 people enlisted under the VI Schedule, 28 accused had been arrested in 48 different cases. The officials noted that 29 such cases had been registered in the Karachi division, eight in Hyderabad, six in Sukkur, four in Benazirabad and one in Mirpurkhas. In addition, the provincial government wrote to the Interior Ministry for further information as regards the banned organizations.

In July 2016, the Home Department of Punjab ordered the provincial police to take strict action against activists of the proscribed militant organization Jamaat-ud-Dawa (JuD) Pakistan.<sup>25</sup> Additional Inspector General of Police Operations and divisional police chiefs across the province were asked to collect details about the illegal fundraising activities of JuD and other banned outfits. The NSA informed CRSS that apart from madaris (religious seminaries), Punjab has also geo-tagged Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs). Out of a total 8,286 NGOs in the province, 4,200 are geo-tagged and 3,427 deregistered. Special audit of 150 NGOs were carried out and the audit reports of 40 NGOs were reviewed with the Social Welfare Department taking action against 4 NGOs.<sup>24</sup>

**3.3.5 Communication Systems - Mobile SIMs**

Under the National Action Plan, the government began the process of verifying mobile SIMs in the country. According to the figures released by the Pakistan Telecommunication Authority's (PTA) Annual Report 2015, out of the 215.4 million SIMs that were verified in total 98.3 million SIMs had been blocked by the authorities under the Biometric Verification System (BVS). The blocked SIMs also contained 26.7 million active SIMs. In addition, re-verification of SIMs has reduced the number of total subscribers to 114.7 million, which comes to a 60.7% penetration.



The NAP Tracker, 2016 - The Center for Research and Security Studies, 2017



Ostensibly, the idea is that since SIMs are connected to the National Database and Registration Authority's (NADRA) unique ID numbers for each citizen, any illicit use can and should be tracked. However, in order to ensure that innocents are not prosecuted, both the registration and verification of SIMs is underway. However, there has been no update in the past year on these figures.

Between December 2014 and January 2016, mobile services were shut down on seven several days over multiple events to "prevent untoward incidents". This step treats symptoms, but not the root cause of the problem, and is proven to have little efficacy.

Mobile services were suspended on the following dates during this period:

1. March 23, 2015. Pakistan Day Parade<sup>26</sup>
3. August 14, 2015. Independence Day<sup>27</sup>
4. September 6, 2015. Defence Day (Islamabad)<sup>28</sup>
5. October 23 and 24, 2015. Youm-e-Ashura<sup>29</sup>
6. November 27, 2015. Abdul Aziz sermon, former cleric Red Mosque (G-6, G-7, Islamabad)<sup>30</sup>
7. December 18, 2015. Red Mosque administration protest (Islamabad, Rawalpindi)<sup>31</sup>
8. March 20, 2016. Pakistan Day Parade Rehearsal (Islamabad)<sup>32</sup>
9. March 23, 2016. Pakistan Day Parade (Islamabad)<sup>33</sup>
10. March 27-30, 2016. Mumtaz Qadri Protests (Islamabad, Rawalpindi)<sup>34</sup>
11. March 28, 2016. Lahore Bombing Aftermath (Various)<sup>35</sup>

<sup>25</sup> Asghar, M. (2016, July 29). Punjab police told to keep an eye on JuD fundraising activities. Retrieved January 17, 2017, from <<http://www.dawn.com/news/1273884>>.

<sup>26</sup> (2015, March 23). Mobile, internet services suspended for parade. Retrieved March 05, 2016, from <<http://nation.com.pk/islamabad/23-Mar-2015/mobile-internet-services-suspended-for-pa-rade>>.

<sup>27</sup> (2015, August 13). Cellular services suspended in Islamabad ahead of Independence Day. Retrieved March 05, 2016, from <<http://tribune.com.pk/story/937276/cellular-services-suspend-ed-in-islamabad-ahead-of-independence-day/>>.

<sup>28</sup> (2015, September 03). No cell phone service on 6th. Retrieved March 05, 2016, from <<http://nation.com.pk/islamabad/03-Sep-2015/no-cell-phone-service-on-6th>>.

<sup>29</sup> Web Desk. (2015, October 20). Mobile services to be suspended in 68 districts on Muharram 9, 10, Retrieved March 05, 2016, from <<http://nation.com.pk/national/20-Oct-2015/mobile-services-to-be-suspended-in-68-districts-on-muharram-9-10>>.

<sup>30</sup> Ali, K. (2015, November 28). Cellphone service 'suspended'. Retrieved March 05, 2016, from <<http://www.dawn.com/news/1222836>>.

<sup>31</sup> Rana, S. (2015, December 18). Cellular services restored after temporary suspension in parts of Islamabad. Retrieved March 06, 2016, from <<http://tribune.com.pk/story/1012238/cellular-ser-vices-suspended-in-parts-of-islamabad/>>.

<sup>32</sup> Web Desk. (2016, March 21, 2016). Mobile phone service suspended in Islamabad for Pakistan Day parade rehearsal. Pakistan Today. Retrieved March 20, 2017 from <<http://www.pakistantoday.com.pk/2016/03/21/mobile-phone-service-suspended-in-islamabad-for-pakistan-day-parade-rehearsal/>>.

<sup>33</sup> APP/Web Desk. (2016, March 23, 2016). Military parade to mark Pakistan Day held in Islamabad. The Express Tribune. Retrieved March 20, 2017 from <<https://tribune.com.pk/story/1071013/pakistan-day-celebrations-kick-off-with-military-parade/>>.

<sup>34</sup> News Desk. (2016, March 28). Qadri supporters continue sit-in for second day outside Parliament. The Express Tribune. Retrieved March 21, 2017, from <<https://tribune.com.pk/story/1074165/pro-qadri-supporters-continue-sit-in-for-second-day-outside-parliament/>>.

<sup>35</sup> Hassan, D. (2016, March 28). Pakistan in mourning as toll from Lahore bombing rises. The Boston Globe. Retrieved March 21, 2017, from <<https://www.bostonglobe.com/news/world/2016/03/28/pakistan-mourning-toll-from-lahore-bombing-rises/AlmcD1wKwalWe3QAEIjHM/story.html>>.

<sup>36</sup> Altaf, A. (2016, August 13). Independence Day: Cell service to be suspended in capital till noon. The Express Tribune. Retrieved March 20, 2017, from <<https://tribune.com.pk/story/1161243/independence-day-cell-service-suspended-capital-till-noon/>>.

<sup>37</sup> Raja, M. (2016, September 06). Mobile phone services suspended in Rawalpindi. The Express Tribune. Retrieved March 21, 2017, from <<https://tribune.com.pk/story/1176709/defence-day-mobile-phone-services-suspended-rawalpindi/>>.

12. August 14, 2016. Independence Day (Islamabad)<sup>36</sup>
13. September 5, 2016. Defense Day (Rawalpindi)<sup>37</sup>
14. October 19-21. Ashura Processions (Various – 42 cities)<sup>38,39</sup>
15. November 21, 2016. Imam Hussain Chehlum (Karachi, Peshawar, Lahore, GB)<sup>40</sup>

This suspension of mobile phone services, a controversial tactic that clearly addresses a small part of the symptom, and not the cause, was challenged in the Islamabad High Court (IHC). The IHC, in turn, put the Pakistan Telecommunication Authority (PTA) and three private telecom service providers in connection with petitions against frequent suspension of mobile phone service in the federal capital. The petition argued that service may only be suspended at the threshold statutory requirement of issuance of “Proclamation of Emergency” by the President.<sup>41</sup>

### 3.3.6 Communication Systems – Print and Electronic Media

Sections 11, 13 and 14 of the National Action Plan are relevant when looking at government efforts against the glorification of proscribed organizations through communication networks, i.e. print, electronic media and the internet.

In November 2015, nearly a year into the implementation of NAP, the Pakistan Electronic Media Regulatory Authority (PEMRA) ordered a blackout of all coverage pertaining to proscribed activities; a fact that in itself shows the impunity with which said organizations continued to operate and receive coverage.<sup>42</sup> Television channels claim that they strictly ban any such coverage now.

There is no regulatory authority for print media. The All Pakistan Newspaper Society (APNS) acts as a de-facto alliance of newspapers but there is no check and balance over the coverage or glorification of terror groups or activities in certain print outlets. The Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of Pakistan, Jawwad S. Khawaja, observed that PEMRA and APNS had yet not implemented the requisite code of conduct.<sup>43</sup>

### 3.3.7 Communication Systems – Online

According to the figures released by the Pakistan Telecommunication, teledensity is at 71.66% as of January 2017, as opposed to 70.81 in 2015.<sup>44</sup> Mobile users grew from 133,241,465 in 2015-16 to

<sup>38</sup> Mansoor, H. (2016, September 29). Govt decides to suspend cellphone, internet services on Ashura. Dawn. Retrieved March 20, 2017, from <<https://www.dawn.com/news/1287002>>.

<sup>39</sup> Correspondent. (2016, October 11). Cellular service to be blocked in 42 cities. The Express Tribune. Retrieved March 20, 2017, from <<https://tribune.com.pk/story/1196926/muharram-security-cellular-service-blocked-42-cities/>>.

<sup>40</sup> Firdous, I. (2016, November 21). Cellular services suspended in parts of Pakistan. The Express Tribune. Retrieved March 19, 2017, from <<https://tribune.com.pk/story/1238106/cellular-services-suspended-parts-pakistan/>>.

<sup>41</sup> Shehzad, R. (2016, April 26). Mobile service suspension: PTA, service providers put on notice. The Express Tribune. Retrieved March 20, 2017, from <<https://tribune.com.pk/story/1092273/mobile-service-suspension-pta-service-providers-put-on-notice/>>.

<sup>42</sup> AFP. (2015, November 03). PEMRA orders blackout of proscribed groups - The Express Tribune. Retrieved March 02, 2016, from <<http://tribune.com.pk/story/984060/media-coverage-pemra-orders-blackout-of-proscribed-groups/>>.

<sup>43</sup> (2015, August 20). SC enforces media code of conduct forthwith. Retrieved March 10, 2016, from <<http://www.thenews.com.pk/print/14175-sc-enforces-media-code-of-conduct-forthwith>>.

<sup>44</sup> Pakistan Telecommunication Authority. (2017, February). Telecom Indicators. Retrieved March 25, 2017 from <<http://www.pta.gov.pk/index.php?Itemid=599>>.

<sup>45</sup> Pakistan Telecommunication Authority. (2017, February). Annual Report, 2016. Retrieved March 26, 2017, from <[http://www.pta.gov.pk/ann\\_report\\_171116.pdf](http://www.pta.gov.pk/ann_report_171116.pdf)>

137,095,352 in January 2017. Over 38 million of these have 3G/4G services. Broadband users nearly doubled from over 16 million in 2014-15 to over 32 million in 2015-16.<sup>45</sup> Pakistan average internet speed also increase by 150% in 2016.<sup>46</sup>

Coupled with the introduction of 3G and 4G services, Pakistan is experiencing massive growth in the field of telecommunications. This is also something that comes with its own set of challenges as regards the National Action Plan.

According the military intelligence services, Twitter has become a weapon of choice for terrorists and their organizations. Hizbut Tahrir is a key banned outfit in Pakistan which has been advancing its extremist agenda via internet. The terror facilitators used words both from the Arabic and English for coded messages on their blocked accounts. The use of Twitter was specially highlighted during the attached on Badaber Air Based in September, 2015, when the Inter-Services Public Relations seemed to be in competition with the attackers for information sharing on the popular social media outlet.<sup>47</sup>

During the 28th session of the National Assembly (January 2015) the interior Minister, Chaudhary Nisar revealed that 933 URLs and 10 websites belonging to proscribed organizations has been blocked by the Ministry of Information Technology.<sup>48</sup> However, NSA told CRSS that 35 accounts on Twitter and 27 on Facebook have been suspended.<sup>44</sup>

Freedom House, an NGO that conducts research and advocacy on democracy, political freedom, and human rights, published its 2016 annual study of internet freedom around the world. The freedom on the Net report, conducted in 65 countries, examined the civil liberty, freedom and censorship trends in Pakistan over 2016. With Pakistan's internet freedom status at 'not free', 2016 the fifth consecutive year that Pakistan joins the host of nations that share the same score as a consequence of policies that curtail freedom and civil liberties.<sup>49</sup>

Several laws that have been enacted to curtail the spread of terrorism can also be exploited against internet users. The Protection of Pakistan Act (PoPA) is one such piece of legislation which, even though it has undergone some amendments, critics are still of the view that it fails to address concerns expressed by lawyers and civil society groups, who argue that the language criminalizing unspecified cybercrimes as acts of terror is vague and open to abuse.<sup>50</sup>

In August 2016, the 'Prevention of Electronic Crimes Bill 2015' (PECB) was passed by the National Assembly. This was considered a major achievement as the government was seen to have come up with an effective legal tool to tackle more comprehensively the activities of proscribed organizations

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<sup>46</sup> News Desk. (2016, July 01). Pakistan's average internet speed increased by 150% in 2016: report. The Express Tribune. Retrieved March 27, 2017 from <<https://tribune.com.pk/story/1133434/pakistans-average-internet-speed-increased-150-2016-report/>>.

<sup>47</sup> BBC. (2015, September 18). Gunmen attack Pakistan air force base in Peshawar - BBC News. Retrieved March 02, 2016, from <<http://www.bbc.com/news/world-asia-34287385>>.

<sup>48</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)>.

<sup>49</sup> (2015, October 28). Freedom on the Net 2015: Pakistan, The State of Insecurity. Retrieved May 05, 2016 from <[https://freedomhouse.org/sites/default/files/FOTN\\_2016\\_Full\\_Report.pdf](https://freedomhouse.org/sites/default/files/FOTN_2016_Full_Report.pdf)>.

<sup>50</sup> Freedom House. Retrieved May 05, 2016, from <[https://freedomhouse.org/sites/default/files/resources/FOTN%202015\\_Pakistan.pdf](https://freedomhouse.org/sites/default/files/resources/FOTN%202015_Pakistan.pdf)>.

through the electronic media. The legislation deals with all the crimes related to electronic communication mediums including the glorification of banned organizations. It prescribes up to seven years imprisonment, Rs. 100 million fine or both for the crime of glorifying the cause of terrorism, proscribed individuals and organizations.<sup>51</sup>

However this law has also come under strong criticism by human rights activists, politicians, IT specialists and civil society experts who label it a violation of Article 19 of the Constitution of Pakistan that guarantees freedom of speech and expression, as well as freedom of the press to the people of Pakistan.

The NSA told CRSS that there has been a visible improvement in the implementation of the ban on glorification of terrorist/proscribed organizations in the media, as violations are instantly reported to the concerned quarters for taking action. He noted that Punjab has enforced Section VI (a) of maintenance of public order whereby the glorification of terrorism has been made an offence punishable with imprisonment of up to 3 years.

### **3.3.8 Terror Financing - Sources**

The finances and funding of proscribed organization are covered by point number 6 of the National Action Plan. This section requires that the funding sources of terrorists and terrorist outfits be frozen.

Terror financing remains a significant hurdle to overcome for Pakistan. Former NACTA Chief, Hamid Khan, along with Interior Secretary Shahid Khan, while briefing a parliamentary committee in June 2015, stated that labeling an organization as proscribed alone was ineffective as this did nothing to impede the financial supply lines of these groups.<sup>16</sup>

A leaked missive that was jointly released with thousands of others by Wiki Leaks in 2008 claimed that in Pakistan the Deobandi and Ahl-e-Hadith clerics annually receive 100 million in foreign funding.<sup>52</sup>

The Federal Minister for Inter-Provincial Coordination (IPC), Riaz Hussain Pirzada, let it slip in January, 2015, that the Saudi government was destabilizing the Muslim world, including Pakistan, by extensively funding groups to propagate its religious ideology.<sup>53</sup> Even the Interior Minister accepted that seminars in Pakistan, several run by these proscribed organizations, were receiving foreign funding.<sup>54</sup>

Additionally, the premier Indian intelligence agency RAW (Research and Analysis Wing), and its associates in Afghanistan are also suspected of terror financing in Pakistan. The Foreign Secretary,

<sup>51</sup> Khan, Raza. (2016, August 11). Cyber crime bill passed by NA: 13 reasons Pakistanis should be worried. Retrieved January 19, 2017, from <<http://www.dawn.com/news/1276662>>.

<sup>52</sup> Cable 08LAHORE302\_a: Extremist Recruitment on the Rise in Southern Punjab. (n.d.). Retrieved March 02, 2016, from <[https://wikileaks.org/plusd/cables/08LAHORE302\\_a.html](https://wikileaks.org/plusd/cables/08LAHORE302_a.html)>.

<sup>53</sup> Haider, M. (2015, January 20). Federal minister accuses Saudi govt of destabilising Muslim world. Retrieved March 02, 2016, from <<http://www.dawn.com/news/1158244>>. <http://www.dawn.com/news/1158244>.

<sup>54</sup> Khan, I. (2015, January 13). Only 23 seminars receiving foreign funding: minister. Retrieved May 02, 2016, from <<http://www.dawn.com/news/1160627>>.

<sup>55</sup> Haider, M. (2015, May 14). RAW involved in terrorist activities across Pakistan: Foreign secretary. Retrieved March 02, 2016, from <<http://www.dawn.com/news/1181908>> <http://www.dawn.com/news/1181908>.

<sup>56</sup> Bennett-Jones, O. (2015, June 24). Pakistan's MQM 'received Indian funding' - BBC News. Retrieved March 02, 2016, from.

Aizaz Ahmad Chaudhry, claimed in May 2015 that RAW is involved in various terror activities in Pakistan.<sup>55</sup> The BBC released a documentary in June, 2015, claiming that the clandestine Indian agency had funded hundreds of militants in Pakistan.<sup>56</sup> In October, 2015, Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif shared dossiers containing proof of Indian involvement in terror activities in Pakistan with both the United Nations Secretary General, Ban Ki Moon, and United States Secretary of State, John Kerry.<sup>57</sup>

Some other sources of terror financing include abduction, charities, drugs and arms trafficking, smuggling, robbery, and kidnapping for payment.<sup>58</sup> Animal hides are also a source of terror financing in Punjab and Sindh and Balochistan with billions of rupees being earned through the sale of these hides every year.<sup>59</sup>

### 3.3.9 Terror Financing - Steps

To trace and halt terror funding in Pakistan, a sub-committee was instituted under the NAP implementation committees. Provincial authorities have been directed to observe the activities of radical outfits which are forbidden from collecting animal hides and to take legitimate action against proscribed organizations working under new identities. At least 40 radical organizations were barred from collecting animal hides and donations on Eid-ul-Azha by the Ministry of Interior. The Ministry had enforced a national proscription on Zakat and Fitrana collection by radical groups in Ramzan.<sup>33</sup>

The following organizations have been booked by the government of Punjab for illicit terror financing, emboldened by the Anti-Money Laundering Bill (Amendment) 2014.

- Al-Rasheed Trust (Maymar Trust)
- Al-Rehmat Trust in Multan
- Ansarul Ummah
- Sipa-i-Sahaba
- Tehreek-i-Ghulbai-i-Islam in Bahawalpur
- Jaish-e-Muhammad in Gujranwala<sup>60</sup>

The Federal government also decided to adopt strict measures against the supporters of activists of Al-Rasheed Trust and rest of the declared banned outfits.<sup>61</sup>

On the recommendation of NACTA, a task force has been working in coordination with federal and

<sup>57</sup> APP. (2015, October 22). Evidence of India's terror sponsorship shared with US - The Express Tribune. Retrieved March 02, 2016, from <<http://www.bbc.com/news/world-asia-33148880>>.

<sup>58</sup> Javed, A. (2013, September 27). Strict check on terror-financing key to end terrorism. Retrieved February 24, 2016, from <<http://nation.com.pk/laure/27-Sep-2013/strict-check-on-terror-financing-key-to-end-terrorism>>.

<sup>59</sup> Hussain, A. (2015, September 24). MQM among 293 parties permitted to collect animal hides on Eid. Retrieved March 05, 2016, from <<http://www.pakistantoday.com.pk/2015/09/24/city/karachi/mqm-among-293-parties-permitted-to-collect-animal-hides-on-eid/>>.

<sup>60</sup> Iqbal, N. (2015, July 30). Banned outfits collecting funds booked, Punjab tells SC. Retrieved May 05, 2016, from <<http://www.dawn.com/news/1197226>>.

<sup>61</sup> Khan, I. (2015, December 19). IS among 61 banned outfits, minister tells Senate. Retrieved May 05, 2016, from <<http://www.dawn.com/news/1227402>>.

provincial stakeholders to frame a comprehensive model law to regulate NGOs and charities working in Pakistan.<sup>62</sup> There also has been a move towards regulating the activities of NGOs, although progress on this front has been a mixed bag of seemingly confused actions.

Since the commencement of the National Action Plan and Operation Zarb-e-Azb<sup>63</sup> law enforcement agencies have been challenged by the coalescing of various banned outfits like Lashkar-e-Jhangvi (LeJ) and Jaish-e-Muhammad (JeM). The banned outfits have been found active under the cover of new names like Ahl-e-Sunnat-Wal-Jamaat (ASWJ) which is a new form of the SSP, LeJ and Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT).<sup>64</sup> This, in turn, makes tracking their finances more difficult.

The military management asked the federal and provincial administrations to activate special courts set up under the Protection of Pakistan Act (PPA), 2014, and adopt proper measures to halt terrorists funding.<sup>65</sup> This is yet to be implemented.

The financial crimes circle of the FIA targeted radical groups entangled in what is known as the hundi/hawala business.<sup>66</sup> It was revealed by the Interior Minister Chaudhary Nisar during the 28th session of the National Assembly (January 2016), that 214 cases have been registered, 322 arrests made and 356.56 million rupees been recovered in the hundi/hawala investigation. Further, it was shared 137 arrests had been made in money laundering cases, and that 67 Suspicious Transaction Reports (STR) had been received by the Financial Monitoring Unit (FMU), of which 15 had been processed and 52 remained under investigation. This activity occurred in the first year of the implementation of NAP.

In January, 2017, the NSA General (retd.), Naseer Janjua shared in an exclusive interview with CRSS that 498 hundi/hawala cases have been registered and 692 people have been arrested consequently, since the beginning of NAP. He added that Rs. 804.839 million which was illegally transacted and received by proscribed organizations has been recovered by the Federal Investigation Agency (FIA).

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<sup>62</sup> CRSS conducted exclusive interviews with the National Counter Terrorism Authority (NACTA) Chief in February 2017. NACTA is the premier counter-terrorism institution in the country, tasked with a large number of objectives, including portion of the NAP. Practically, this is far from the truth, as NACTA has been historically neglected and underfunded. At the time of putting together this report, they did not even have a dedicated office premises.

<sup>63</sup> Imran, K. A. (2016, January 6). Banks punished for violating anti-terror financing rules. Retrieved March 02, 2016, from <<http://nation.com.pk/national/2016-01-07/banks-punished-for-violating-an-ti-terror-financing-rules>>.

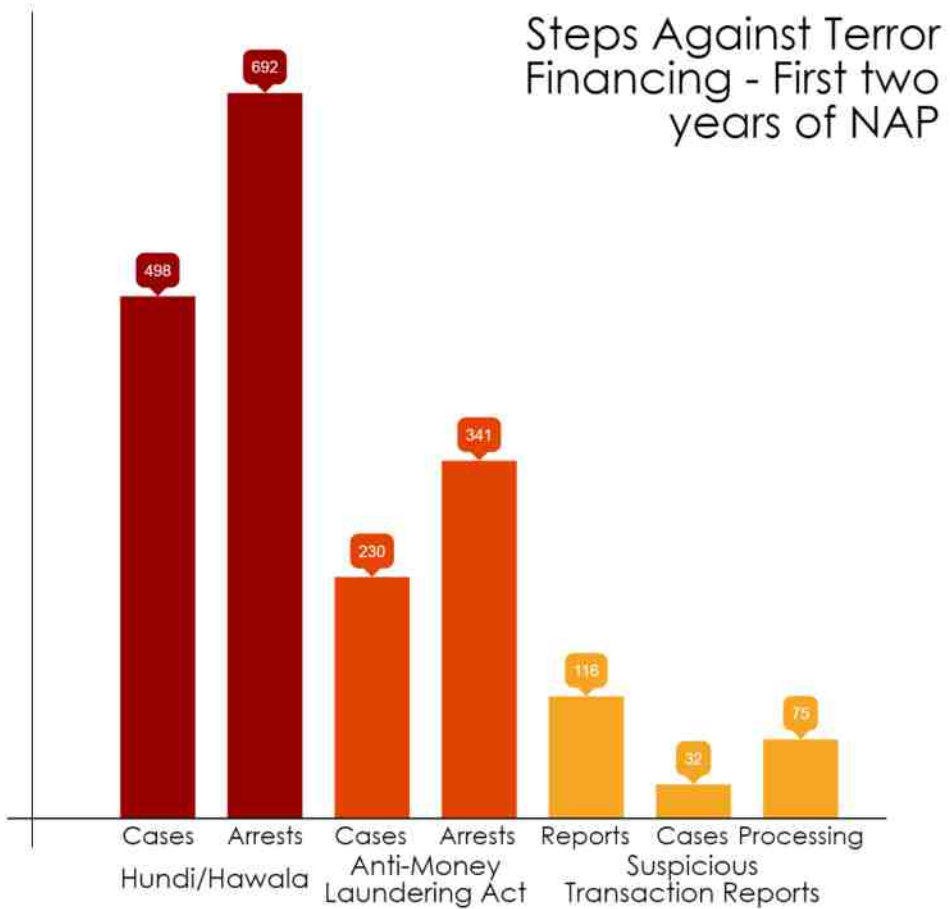
<sup>64</sup> Syed, B. S. (2016, September 25). SBP tells banks to freeze terror financing accounts. Dawn. Retrieved March 21, 2017 from <<https://www.dawn.com/news/1285955>>.

<sup>65</sup> Ghuman, K. (2015, September 11). Military asks govt to choke terror financing. Retrieved Feb-ruary/March, 2016, from <<http://www.dawn.com/news/1206209>>.

<sup>66</sup> Hawala, also known as Hundi, is an alternative remittance channel that exists outside of traditional banking systems. One definition from Interpol is that Hawala is “money transfer without money movement.” Transactions between Hawala brokers are done without promissory notes because the system is heavily based on trust. The system is used by radical outfits and money launderers to bypass a paper trail.

Similarly, 230 cases have been registered under the Anti-Money-laundering Act and 341 people have About 116 Suspicious Transaction Reports (STR) – a report automatically generated for the transaction of PKR 2 million in cash – have been created. As a result, 32 STRs have been converted into registered cases while 75 STRs are under the process of inquiry.<sup>20</sup>

**Graph 3.4 Steps Against Terror Financing – First Two Years of NAP**



The NAP Tracker, 2016 - The Center for Research and Security Studies, 2017

The State Bank of Pakistan (SBP) announced a fine of Rs. 1.2 billion if any bank violates the prescribed regulations contained in the Anti-Money Laundering and Combating the Financing of Terrorism Act (AML/CFT).<sup>67</sup>

<sup>67</sup> Imran, K. A. (2016, January 6). Banks punished for violating anti-terror financing rules. Retrieved March 02, 2016, from <<http://nation.com.pk/national/2016-01-07/banks-punished-for-violating-an-ti-terror-financing-rules>>.

On the recommendation of NACTA the State Bank of Pakistan (SBP) directed banks to freeze the accounts of 4,000 people (worth approximately Rs. 350 million) from the Fourth Schedule. These also included the accounts of the heads of proscribed organizations such as Masood Azhar of JeM and Ahmed Ludhianvi of ASWJ.<sup>68</sup> A spokesperson of the ASWJ said that a sum of Rs. 600,000 was frozen in its account.

The chief of National Counter Terrorism Authority (NACTA), Ihsan Ghani, however, tells a slightly different story.<sup>69</sup> NACTA shared the data of 6,577 individuals on the Fourth Schedule with SBP to freeze their accounts. In the process, SBP froze 5,023 accounts with total amount of over Rs. 300 million. To thwart the finances of terrorists, Counter-Terrorism Financing Units (CTFU) have been established in the Counter-Terrorism Departments (CTDs) of all the provinces.<sup>20</sup>

### 3.3.10 Individuals placed under the Fourth Schedule

The Interior Minister, Chaudry Nisar Ali Khan, declared in March 2016 that the government was mulling the idea of cancelling the travel documents, computerized national identity cards (CNIC) and driving licenses of the suspects placed under the Fourth Schedule.<sup>69</sup>

Although it could not be verified officially, but in October 2016 reports surfaced that the CNICs of over 2,000 people included on the Fourth Schedule (including members of some proscribed organizations) had been blocked.<sup>70</sup> In the aftermath of the victory of Maulana Masroor Nawaz Jhangvi in the elections for the Punjab Assembly in December 2016,<sup>71</sup> the issue of individuals under the Fourth Schedule attained a new urgency. Masroor is not only the son of the founder of the proscribed (but defunct) Sipah-i-Shaba Pakistan (SSP) but he was supported in the elections by the banned group Ahle-Sunnat-Wal-Jamaat (ASWJ).<sup>72</sup> In the face of mounting criticism, the government said that it had “proposed amendments to two acts – [The ATA-1997] & [The People's Representations Act-1976] to bar the individuals placed on the Fourth Schedule from contesting elections”.<sup>73</sup> Despite these claims, no noticeable progress has so far been made on this issue.

According to the NSA,<sup>24</sup> around 8,309 people have been put under the Fourth Schedule list under ATA and the (internal as well international) movement of 2,052 people has been restricted.

NACTA says that in a coordinated effort, the lists of individuals on the Fourth Schedule were revisited and revised by the provincial governments and shared with other stake-holders such as National Database & Registration Authority (NADRA), State Bank of Pakistan (SBP), Federal Investigation

<sup>68</sup> Syed, B. S. (2016, September 25). SBP tells banks to freeze terror financing accounts. Dawn. Retrieved March 21, 2017 from <<https://www.dawn.com/news/1285955>>.

<sup>69</sup> Our Correspondent. (2016, February 29). Govt to tighten noose around members of banned outfits. Retrieved January 18, 2017, from <<http://tribune.com.pk/story/1056813/noose-tightens-serial-offenders-face-radical-restrictions/>>.

<sup>70</sup> Ali, K. (2016, October 18). No order to block CNICs of fourth schedulers, officials claim. Retrieved January 18, 2017, from <<http://www.dawn.com/news/1290640>>.

<sup>71</sup> Zahid, N. (2016, December 03). Pakistan Opposition Politicians Slam Hard-line Cleric's Provincial Win. VOA News. Retrieved March 19, 2017, from <<http://www.voanews.com/a/pakistan-opposition-politicians-slam-hard-line-cleric-provincial-victory/3622240.html>>.

<sup>72</sup> Bukhari, Q. (2016, December 02). Candidate backed by banned party wins by-poll. Retrieved January 18, 2017, from <<http://www.dawn.com/news/1299959>>.

<sup>73</sup> Gishkori, Zahid. (2016, December 26). Govt to bar Fourth Schedulers from contesting polls. Retrieved January 18, 2017, from <<https://www.thenews.com.pk/print/174537-Govt-to-bar-Fourth-Schedulers-from-contesting-polls>>.



Agency (FIA), Provincial Counter-Terrorism Departments (CTDs), Arms License Issuing Authorities and Directorate General of Immigration & Passports, Ministry of Interior (IMPASS).<sup>49</sup>

### 3.4 Pitfalls in the Government's Approach

The government has devised legal as well as practical tools to tackle the menace of terrorism and terrorist organizations. Still, the overall results are far from encouraging. Loopholes in the government's actions/performance against the banned organizations can be gauged from the following major incidents and reports.

#### 3.4.1 Quetta Commission Inquiry Report

The Quetta Inquiry Commission Report revealed serious pitfalls in the government's dealing with proscribed organizations. The Commission was established by the Supreme Court of Pakistan to conduct a detailed inquiry of the suicide attack on Quetta's Civil Hospital in August 2016 which killed 74 people.

Among other findings of the report, two revelations were strikingly alarming in this respect.<sup>74</sup> First, the report regretted the fact that some of the organizations enjoyed unfathomable freedom in carrying out their activities even if they had been proscribed. The case at hand is that of ASWJ that held public meetings while the government displayed outright indifference. The Commission noted that making the matter worse, Interior Minister, Chaudry Nisar Ali Khan, held a meeting with Ahmed Ludhianvi “the head of three banned organizations (SSP, Millat-e-Islamia and ASWJ) heard his demands and conceded to them as per media reports.”<sup>75</sup>

Second, despite the fact that there was ample evidence to declare Jamatul Ahrar, Lashkar-i-Jhangvi Al-Almi and Jundhullah as banned terrorist organizations, the government dithered on the decision. It not only illustrates the discrepancies in government policies but also shows the inefficiency of state institutions.

#### 3.4.2 Reemergence of Banned Outfits

The challenge of dealing with terrorist organizations is two-fold. Point 7 of the NAP states that banned outfits will not be allowed to resurface under any other name. The government seems to be struggling on this count. Many banned outfits have resurfaced “under pseudonyms and new aliases all the while challenging the state's authority.”<sup>75</sup> Sipah-e-Sahaba Pakistan (SSP) that was banned in 2002 and then in 2003 has been active under the new name of Millat-e-Islami.

Similarly, Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT), Jaish-e-Muhammad (JeM) and Tehreek-e-Jaafria Pakistan (TJP) are banned organizations but have been carrying out their activities without any effective checks and control of the state.

<sup>74</sup> Iqbal, N. (2016, December 16). Damning indictment of govt inaction against militant bodies. Retrieved January 20, 2017, from <<http://www.dawn.com/news/1302637/damning-indictment-of-govt-inaction-against-militant-bodies>>.

<sup>75</sup> Tanoli, Qadeer. (2016, June 8). Banned groups continue to resurface under new name”. Retrieved January 18, 2017, from <<http://tribune.com.pk/story/1118483/weak-enforcement-banned-groups-continue-resurface-new-names/>>.

The very election of Maulana Masroor Nawaz Jhangvi for membership of the Punjab Assembly illustrates this dilemma. Though, he contested the elections as an independent candidate, there was little reason to allow him to run for the seat. He is the son of slain Haq Nawaz Jhangvi who founded the defunct but banned SSP. Moreover, he got elected with the backing of ASWJ, another proscribed militant outfit.

### 3.5 OPINION: What does the term “proscribed” solve? by Zeeshan Salahuddin

The word proscribed has become a part of the national vocabulary of Pakistan. Despite its extended usage, few understand what the term actually means. Common sense dictates that certain actions should follow the proscription decision; freezing assets, monitoring communication networks, closely observing members, disallowing public gatherings or rallies, and discontinuing all operations. There exists no specific, agreed-upon mechanism after banning any organization, and actions taken are at the behest of the Interior Ministry with no sense of consistency. Former NACTA Chief Hamid Khan, along with Interior Secretary Shahid Khan, while briefing a parliamentary committee in June 2015, said that the implementation of NAP along banned outfits was not at the pace it needed to be. They also said that the act of banning a group was largely ineffective.<sup>16</sup>

In fact, of the 60 banned organizations, all proscribed before the APS tragedy, nearly all were operating in the country unimpeded. The assets of these pro-scribed organizations, some on the list for 13 years, were finally frozen in January, 2015.<sup>76</sup> “The assets of all the banned outfits have been frozen,” Foreign Office spokesperson, Tasneem Aslam, said in her weekly press briefing. Nearly a year into the implementation of NAP, in November 2015, the Pakistan Electronic Media Regulatory Authority (PEMRA) ordered a blackout of all coverage pertaining to proscribed activities, a fact that in of itself shows the impunity with which said organizations continued to operate.<sup>77</sup>

Three additional factors, among many others, impede the necessary steps to be taken to deal with proscribed groups.

First, there is significant opposition from within the government. As an example, despite JuD being added to the watch-list, Minister for Defence Production Rana Tanveer Hussain raised objections, stating that it was a charity organization, and not engaged in any terror activities.

Second, there are massive communication gaps within the system, as exemplified by the refusal of Inspector General of Islamabad Police to disallow rallies of pro-scribed organizations, stating that he had not been communicated any formal list of banned organizations.

Third, several organizations, post-proscription, simply reform under a near umbrella and continue operating. In January, 2015, it was reported that up to 23 banned organizations were operating in the

<sup>76</sup> Web Desk. (2015, January 22). Assets of all banned outfits, including Jamaatud Dawa, frozen: FO - The Express Tribune. Retrieved February 27, 2016, from <<http://tribune.com.pk/story/825732/assets-of-all-banned-outfits-including-jamaatud-dawa-frozen-fo/>>.

<sup>77</sup> AFP. (2015, November 03). PEMRA orders blackout of proscribed groups - The Express Tribune. Retrieved February 27, 2016, from <<http://tribune.com.pk/story/984060/media-coverage-pem-ra-orders-blackout-of-proscribed-groups/>>.

country under different names. The government, historically, has had some difficulty tracking reformed groups.

The government needs to seriously re-evaluate its strategy on dealing with proscribed outfits. An agreed upon set of steps need to be implemented without prejudice or bias. The sympathizers need to be brought to task, within the government and without, and political point scoring or pressure tactics need to take a back seat to stability and security.

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