

Security Report

January-March, 2015



**Center for
Research &
Security
Studies**

Rule of Law - Security - Governance

CRSS Quarterly Security Report - January-March, 2015

First Quarter 2015 - Introduction

In the aftermath of the terrorist attack on the Army Public School in Peshawar, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP), a National Action Plan (NAP) was devised by the government. The NAP was later approved and passed by the parliament as the 21st Constitutional Amendment. As part of the NAP, provincial Apex Committees (ACs) were formed which included civil and military experts, to streamline a united anti-terrorism front against all forms of terrorism and violence.

Under the guidelines of the ACs , a new trend emerged, where the Law Enforcement Agencies (LEAs), both the Rangers and the Police, decided to release the names to both electronic and print media of organizations involved in terrorism and violence, irrespective of their political, religious, or religio-political affiliations. What once appeared to be the acts of unknown terrorists or target killers, suddenly got recognition of their perpetrators and the names of the Tehreek-e-Taliban, Lashkar-e-Jhangvi, Lashkar-e-Islami, and political parties such as the Muttahida Qaumi Movement (MQM) started appearing along with the reports.

Another significant development took place after the Rangers' operation at the headquarters of the MQM in Karachi on March 11, 2015, resulting in the apprehension of more several dozen unlawful individuals, including convicted absconders, mostly the MQM second and third tier leaders, activists and workers. They were arrested and produced before the Anti-Terrorism Courts (ATCs), and were sent on judicial remands either to the Rangers, or the Police. The improvement in the national security brought about by the will be reviewed in this report in detail.

Errors and omissions, a possibility in all statistical works, can occur. However, such mistakes do not grossly affect the basic objective of this report.

NOTE: All data is from January - March, 2015.

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List of Acronyms

#	Acronyms (in alphabetical order)	
1	AC	Apex Committee
2	ACT	Anti-Terrorism Courts
3	ANP	Awami National Party
4	BLF	Balochistan Liberation Front
4	BRA	Balochistan Republican Army
5	FATA	Federally Administered Tribal Areas
6	FC	Frontier Corps
7	GB	Gilgit Baltistan
8	IDP	Internally Displaced Person
9	JSQM	Jeay Sindh Qaumi Mahaz
10	KP	Khyber Pukhtunkwa
11	LEA	Law Enforcement Agencies
12	LeJ	Lashkar-e-Jhangvi
13	LI	Lashkar-e-Islami
14	MQM	Muttahida Qaumi Movement
15	NAP	National Action Plan
16	PMLF	Pakistan Muslim League - Functional Group
17	PMLN	Pakistan Muslim League - Nawaz Group
18	PPP	Pakistan People's Party
19	PTI	Pakistan Tehrik-e-Insaaf
20	TTP	Tehrik-e-Taliban Pakistan

Security Report

Fatalities from Violence

The fatalities from violence in Pakistan during the first quarter of 2015 were 18% lower than the fatalities recorded last year during the same period, 1501 and 1236 respectively, and 25% lower than the 2013 figure. However, an upsurge in the number of fatalities was noticeable in the month of March this year when the figure went up from 316 to 545 (table 01). One of the main reasons for this rise is the number of fatalities was massive crackdown by the LEAs security operations in various parts of the country that went up from 47% to 72% of the total fatalities in the month of March (table 02).

Table 01: Fatalities from violence – January-March 2015			
Month	Killed	Injured	Total Casualties
January, 2015	375	194	569
February, 2015	316	174	490
March, 2015	545	287	832
Total	1236	655	1891

Table 02: Fatalities from security operations – January-March 2015		
Month	Fatality	Percentage of total
January, 2015	138	36.8
February, 2015	149	47.2
March, 2015	394	72.3

A comparative analysis of the first quarters of the previous three years also reveals a significant change in the number of fatalities from the security operations. In the first quarter of 2015, the fatalities from security operation were three times higher than the figure of first quarter of 2013, two years prior. On the other hand, the fatalities from violence carried out by the militants or criminals like target killings, militant attacks, and terrorism went down by about 50% during this quarter compared with 2014, last year (table 03).

Table 03: Comparative data on fatality sources - first quarters			
Nature of violence	2013	2014	2015
Security operations	207	396	681
Target killings	552	648	229
Militant attacks	311	203	104
Other terrorism	296	200	116
Drone attacks	63	0	29
Robberies	0	1	23
Cross-border attacks	0	0	15
Custodial death	0	0	9
Lynching	0	0	8
Accidental explosion	0	0	7

In-fight - drug dealers	0	0	4
In-fight - unknown	3	30	2
Militants' rivalry/infighting	211	8	0
Others	5	15	9
Total	1648	1501	1236

Looking at the provinces and other regions, FATA had the highest number of fatalities from violence during this quarter, followed by Sindh, Balochistan, KP, Punjab, Islamabad, and GB. In most of the cases, the number of wounded persons was almost half of the total deceased except in the case of Punjab where wounded were well over the number of fatalities due to a terrorist attack on a church that killed 14 persons and wounded 70 (table 04).

Table 04: Fatalities from violence in provinces – January-March 2015			
Region	Dead	Injured	Casualty
FATA	512	232	744
Sindh	358	145	442
Balochistan	153	75	227
KP	121	85	206
Punjab	84	112	196
Islamabad	5	1	6
GB	2	6	8
Total	1236	656	1829

A major change is recognizable when the violence data for the first quarter of last year is compared with the current year. This quarter, Khyber Agency in FATA had the highest number of fatalities followed by Karachi, Shikarpur, North Waziristan, Peshawar, Lahore and Kurrum Agency. During the same period of last year, Karachi had the highest number of fatalities followed by North Waziristan, Peshawar, Quetta, and Khyber Agency (table 05).

Table 05: Fatalities by district – January-March		
Districts	2014	2015
Khyber Agency	102	365
Karachi	547	274
Shikarpur	0	63
Norht Waziristan	203	52
Peshawar	124	42
Lahore	21	36
Kurrum Agency	0	34
South Waziristan	15	27
Loralai	0	18
Kharan	0	18
Quetta	38	17
Dera Bugti	34	15
Bajaur	0	13
Faisalabad	0	13
Panjgur	0	12

Mohmand	23	11
D.I. Khan	26	10
Orakzai	0	10
Mansehra	0	10
Rawalpindi	19	10
Khuzdar	26	9
Nowshera	0	9
Islamabad	15	6
Others	308	162
Total	1501	1236

A significant decline in all criminal activities can be observed between 1st quarters of 2014 and 2015. The number of fatalities from armed attacks by the militants, bomb explosions, and suicide attacks went down during this quarter as compared with the last year. The counter-terror security operations, on the other hand, increased during this period (table 06).

Table 06: Comparative data on violence and counter violence – January-March				
Method of Violence	2014		2015	
	No. of Incidents	Deaths	No. of Incidents	Deaths
Air raid	10	209	16	240
Militant attacks	22	40	7	15
Arrests	124	0	191	0
Lynching	0	0	4	8
Bomb defused	26	0	17	0
Bomb explosions	133	111	58	102
Cardiac arrest	0	6	0	2
Clash	8	8	16	148
Dead body found	101	177	39	48
Demolition	0	0	5	0
Custodial deaths	0	0	0	5
Encounter with LEAs	85	182	146	260
Firing incident	0	0	8	3
Ground operation	0	0	0	10
Gun and rocket	0	19	0	3
Gun battle	0	8	0	15
Gunned down	377	471	170	192
Air operation (gunships)	0	0	0	32
Hand grenade	24	39	5	0
IED explosion	30	32	6	8
In-fighting - gangsters	0	0	0	3
Intrusion of secure space	0	0	0	15
Landmines	10	6	10	8
Drone attack	0	3	5	29
Mortar	11	16	5	5
Remanded	0	6	10	0
Rocket fires	19	10	0	4

Shot at (person survived)	16	0	6	0
Seizure of explosives	0	0	12	0
Suicide	15	96	9	54
Toy bomb explosion	0	0	0	3
Others	0	62	82	24
Total		1501		1236

Victims of Violence in Pakistan

Nearly 50% of the victims of violence in the country during this quarter of the year were militants, followed by civilians, criminals, security officials and others (table 07).

Table 07: Identities of victims of violence – January-March 2015		
Victims	Fatalities	Percentage
Militant	577	46.7
Civilian	281	22.7
Criminal	155	12.5
Security official	134	10.8
Religious place (church etc.)	32	2.6
Politician	21	1.7
Religious party	12	1.0
Insurgent	9	0.7
Government official	7	0.6
Religious person	5	0.4
Foreigner	3	0.2
Total	1236	100

Fatalities within militants, by group are below (table 08).

Table 08: Militant fatalities by affiliation– January-March 2015	
Group	Fatalities
Lashkar-e-Islami (LI)	156
TTP/LI	121
Tehrik-e-Taliban Pakistan (TTP)	18
Unknown militants	23
Afghan militants	15
Balochistan Liberation Front (BLF)	15
TTP/Hafiz Gul Bahadur faction	11
TTP - Punjab/Hafiz Gul Bahadur faction	9
Al-Qaida	7
Other (statistically small fractions)	202
Total	577

The province and region wise comparative changes that took place after the escalation of security operations based on the NAP will be reviewed in the following provincial breakdowns.

Casualties of Violence in Balochistan

The province of Balochistan lost 153 persons to the ongoing violence during this quarter. Compared to last year's figure of fatalities (196 dead) for the same period, the province has witnessed a decrease of 20% in the number of fatalities during this year. However, the monthly trend of violence shows an upward mode in the number of fatalities from violence in the province (tables 09 and 10).

Month	Fatalities	Injured	Total Casualties
January, 2015	52	14	66
February, 2015	42	48	90
March, 2015	59	13	72
Total	153	75	228

At the district level, Kharan and Loralai suffered more casualties than any other district of the province during this period (table 10). Out of the 18 victims of violence, 14 were security personnel, further broken into 7 Frontier Corps (FC) persons and 7 policemen) indicative of an upsurge of lawlessness in the area. Last year, there was only one incident of violence in this district. However, the overall security situation of the province does not reflect a similar trend. Over 45% of total victims of violence were militants, insurgents, and criminals while the remaining were security personnel and civilians (table 11).

District	Fatalities
Kharan	18
Loralai	18
Quetta	17
Dera Bugti	15
Panjgur	12
Khuzdar	9
Mastung	7
Awaran	6
Turbat	6
Zhob	6
Kalat	5
Gwadar	5
Nasirabad	4
Nushki	4
Swat	3
Chagai	2
Killa Abdullah	2
Kohlu	2
Lasbella	2
Pasni	2
Barkhan	1
Chaman	1
Jaffarabad	1

Killa Saifullah	1
Pishin	1
Sibi	1
Ziarat	1
Others	1
Total	153

Table 11: Fatalities in Balochistan by victims – January-March 2015	
District	Fatalities
Militants	61
Security official	39
Civilians	38
Insurgents	9
Criminals	4
Political activist	1
Others	1
Total	153

The affiliation with non state outfits of some of the victims reflects the heightened activities of the insurgents as 30% of the known victims belonged to Balochistan Republican Army (BRA), Balochistan Liberation Front (BLF), and other suspected insurgents who lost their lives during security operations. The militants, sectarian outfits, and suicide bombers were 20% of them. Among the security personnel, 9 belonged to the FC, 8 were policemen, and 6 were levies.

Casualties of Violence in FATA

The FATA region lost 512 persons in violent-related incidents during the first quarter of 2015 (table 12). It was an almost 40% rise in number of fatalities from violence as compared to the same period of last year.

Month	Fatalities	Injured	Total Casualties
January, 2015	121	51	172
February, 2015	92	38	130
March, 2015	299	143	442
Total	512	232	744

Among all tribal agencies of the region, Khyber Agency had the highest number of fatalities from violence during this period, despite the fact that the security agencies had claimed to have cleared this area from the militants and the Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) were advised to return to their homes (table 13).

Agency	Fatalities
Khyber	365
North Waziristan	52
Kurram	34
South Waziristan	27
Bajaur	13
Mohmand	11
Orakzai	10
Total	512

Majority of victims were militants 90% and the remaining 10% were from security agencies and the civilian population. Pakistan Air Force carried out 16 air raids and several sorties of gunship helicopters against the militants' hideouts in the region. Despite such an extensive military operation, the incidents of militancy continued in the area. Nearly two dozen bomb detonated in FATA leaving 32 persons dead and 54 wounded. Rockets, landmines, Improvised Explosive Devices (IEDs), mortars, and armed attacks were also reported from the region during this period. The majority of the victims of violence in FATA were affiliated with various banned outfits (table 14).

Group	Fatalities
Lashkar-e-Islam (LI)	159
Tehrik-e-Taliban Pakistan (TTP)/LI	121
Afghan Militants	15
TTP/Hafiz Gul Bahadur group	9
TTP - Punjab/Hafiz Gul Bahadur group	7
Militants (unknown affiliation)	7
TTP	3
Total	321

Casualties of Violence in KP

The province of KP had 206 casualties of violence (121 dead and 85 injured) during the first quarter of 2015, which is almost 60% lower than what was reported last year (289 dead and 294 injured) during the same period (table 15).

Month	Fatalities	Injured	Total Casualties
January, 2015	21	4	25
February, 2015	70	70	140
March, 2015	30	11	41
Total	121	85	206

More than 60% of the victims of violence were civilians, roughly 20% were security and government officials while the remaining were militants and criminals. Based on the percentage of victims of violence, the security situation in KP does not appear to be very satisfactory. The capital city of the province, Peshawar, is highly affected by violence as compared to other main cities and districts (table 16).

District	Fatalities
Peshawar	42
Dera Ismail Khan	10
Mansehra	10
Nowshera	9
Bannu	8
Swat	6
Hangu	6
Kohat	6
Swabi	5
Charsadda	4
Batkhela (Malakand)	4
Lakki Marwat	3
Tank	3
Karak	2
Mardan	2
Haripur	1
Total	121

Target killing, security operations, and militant attacks were the most common forms of violence used in the province. The following outlawed organizations claimed responsibility for the acts of violence that took place during this period.

Banned outfit	Fatalities
Tehrik-e-Taliban Pakistan (TTTP) - Jundullah group	21

TTP	5
Zamani group	1
Militants (unknown affiliations)	1
Total	28

A large majority of the victims (24) were Shia.

Casualties of Violence in Punjab

Nearly 50% increase in the casualties of violence was observed in the province of Punjab during Jan-Mar 2015 period in comparison to the same period of the last year (Table xxx).

Month	Fatalities	Injured	Total Casualties
January, 2015	22	33	55
February, 2015	21	2	23
March, 2015	41	77	118
Total	84	112	196

Most of the commercial cities in Punjab were affected by acts of violence with the capital, Lahore, suffering the highest number of fatalities (table 19). As many as 50% of the victims of violence in Punjab were criminals and militants while the remaining victims were predominantly civilians at around 45% and security personnel at approximately 5%, reflecting an improving security situation.

In total, three suicide attacks took place, one in Rawalpindi at a Shia mosque, and the other two occurred in Lahore, at the Police Lines office building and a church. The latter attack also resulted in an incident of public lynching by a violent Christian mob.

District	Fatalities
Lahore	36
Faisalabad (Jaranwala)	12
Rawalpindi	11
Okara (Renala Khurd)	9
Gujranwala	3
Sialkot	3
Daska	2
Multan	2
Bahawalnagar	1
Bahawalpur	1
Kasur	1
Wah Cantt	1
Haripur	1
Sadiqabad	1
Khanpur	1
Toba Tek Singh	0
Total	84

Casualties of Violence in Sindh

The province of Sindh witnessed a nearly 40% decline in the number of casualties of violence during this quarter of the year (table 20). Karachi district was the highest affected, with nearly 80% of all Sindh fatalities from violence were reported the provincial capital. After Karachi, Shikarpur was the second district of Sindh where a sectarian attack on a Shia mosque in the month of January left 61 persons dead and 50 injured (table 21).

Month	Fatalities	Injured	Total Casualties
January, 2015	159	92	251
February, 2015	85	16	101
March, 2015	114	37	151
Total	358	145	503

District	Fatalities
Karachi	281
Shikarpur	63
Mirpur Khas	8
Pano Aqil	4
Khairpur	1
Jacobabad	1
Total	358

Among the victims of violence in Sindh, civilians and security personnel were almost 60% of the total fatalities and the militants and criminals made up the rest. The ongoing security operations in the province killed 149 criminals and militants, while 209 fatalities of civilians, security personnel, and government officials occurred. Comparing the different forms of violence during this year with the last, a noticeable decline is visible in most crimes. From 386 fatalities from target killing last year, the figure has come down to 110 this year reflecting a 70% decline. A similar reduction in fatalities from militant attacks is clear (table 22).

Districts	2014	2015
Target killings	386	110
Security operations	99	155
Militants' attack	40	6
Infight	28	1
Terrorism	15	68
Robbery	1	12
Lynching	0	5
Custodial death	0	1
Others	13	0
Total	582	358

Although the security operations in the province have brought the crime rate down very significantly, in retaliation, militant and criminal organizations targeted the security agencies and civilians as well. The following table which shows the affiliation of those who became victims of violence during the 1st quarters of 2014 and 2015 in Sindh, is a good example to understand the changing nature of violence in the city, and largely in the province.

Not only did the fatalities of militants go up this quarter in Sindh, but a reasonable number of militants belonging to the splinter groups of the TTP also become victims of security operations. On the other hand, a large number of criminal gangs that suffered last year had no fatalities this year, either they went into hiding or the ongoing security operation dealt such a severe blow to their networks that they are restricted and unable to operate now.

Banned Outfit	2014	2015
TTP	10	10
Al-Qaeda	0	5
TTP- Sindh	0	4
Banned outfit (unknown)	0	3
TTP-Suspect	0	3
TTP-Mohmand	0	3
TTP Swat	0	2
Total	10	30

Banned Outfit	2014	2015
Gangsters (unknown)	7	14
Baba Ladla Gang	6	10
Uzair Baloch Gang	6	15
Sheraz Comrade Gang	2	9
Ghaffar Zikri Gang	3	3
Kamo Lasi Gang	0	3
Wasiullah Lakho Gang	4	0
Faisal Pathan Gang	3	0
Shakeel Badhshah Gang	3	0
Ghafoor Bugti Gang	2	0
Zaheer Aliyas Zaheera Group	2	0
Lala Orangi	6	0
Infighting	24	0
Total	68	54

Similarly, in case of religious parties both the number of affected parties and their fatalities went down significantly this year.

Religious Communities	2014	2015
Shia community	25	68

Bohra community	1	3
Ismaili community	1	2
Imambargah Guard	0	3
Sunni community	6	2
Ahmadi community	0	1
Christian community	1	0
Sufi	8	0
Total	42	79

In case of political party activists, the fatalities declined, but, like the previous year, all mainstream political parties except the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) had at least one fatality this year if not more. This reflects that the political rivalry and sectarian hatred continued playing their respective roles in Sindh.

Table 26: Fatalities by political party members in Sindh – January-March		
Political Party Members	2014	2015
Muttahida Qaumi Movement (MQM)	9	22
Pakistan People's Party (PPP)	1	6
Awami National Party (ANP)	1	2
Pakistan Muslim League - Nawaz Group (PMLN)	1	0
Jeay Sindh Qaumi Mahaz (JSQM)	0	2
Pakistan Muslim League - Functional Group (PMLF)	0	2
Total	12	34

The fatalities of security agency personnel during this quarter were less than the last year, while civilians suffered more than the previous year. Four members of the polio team and three from a private media channel were also fatalities for this quarter.

Casualties of Sectarian Violence

At the national level, a significant upsurge in sectarian violence was recorded during this quarter as compared to last year, a 30 percent increase. All provinces except Balochistan had a sharp rise in sectarian killing during this year than the previous year. Balochistan and the federal capital, Islamabad, did not experience any sectarian violence during this quarter (table 27).

Region	2014			2015		
	Dead	Injured	Casualties	Dead	Injured	Casualties
Sindh	64	28	92	88	75	163
Balochistan	25	65	90	0	0	0
KP	16	59	75	27	50	77
Islamabad	5	0	5	0	0	0
Punjab	5	7	12	27	97	124
FATA	1	3	4	6	14	20
Total	116	162	278	148	236	384

Among all religious communities, the Shia community had the highest casualties during the first quarter of 2015 followed by the Christian, Hindu, Sunni, Bohra, and the Ismaili communities (table 28).

Religion/Sect	Casualties
Shia	230
Christian	86
Unknown	30
Hindu	15
Sunni	11
Bohra	10
Ismaili	2
Total	384

Suicide attacks, IED and bomb explosions were amongst the common modes used to carry out sectarian killings in the country, as well as in some cases the targeted killings on sectarian grounds. The use of such lethal methods for sectarian killings not only killed several people at the spot but also resulted in death of the seven persons who were initially injured in the incidents. Last year, majority of the victims of sectarian violence were gunned down via target killing (table 29)

Region	2014			2015		
	Dead	Injured	Casualties	Dead	Injured	Casualties
Suicide attack	24	65	89	43	145	188
Bomb explosion	10	65	75	66	75	141
Gunned down	72	16	88	27	2	29
Hand grenade	8	11	19	0	0	0
IED explosion	1	4	5	2	7	9

Succumbed to injury	0	0	0	7	0	7
Others	2	3	5	3	7	10
Total	117	164	281	148	236	384

The banned outfits that claimed the responsibility for sectarian killings in the country during this quarter are listed below (table 30). These figures total those that were claimed, the actual number of sectarian violence related fatalities, shared above, is obviously much higher.

Table 30: Claimants of sectarian attacks in Pakistan – January-March			
Claimant Group	Fatalites	Injured	Total
Tehrik-e-Taliban Pakistan (TTP)-JA	26	95	121
TTP-Jundullah	82	100	182
TTP-Jundullah/Lashkar-e-Jhangvi (LeJ)	2	0	2
Total	110	195	305

Last year, only LeJ had accepted the responsibility for a suicide attack that was carried out in Mustang, Balochistan against Shia Hazara pilgrims on January 22, 2014, killing 22 and injuring 39 persons. This reporting period the trend has changed and most of the suicide attacks carried out on sectarian grounds were claimed by the splinter groups of TTP. The reason for this is the tightening noose of the security agencies around the neck of banned and extremist outfits, and their need to stay relevant. Since the extremist elements know that the state response for sectarian violence has been lackadaisical at best in the past, they bank on creating headlines by targeting minority religions and sects as a means to stay pertinent.

In addition to killing the people on sectarian ground, the sanctity of holy places was also desecrated because of these sectarian attacks (table 31).

Table 31: Desecration of holy places in Pakistan – January-March			
Holy Place	#	Location	Details
Mosque	1	Orakzai Agency, FATA	two rocket fired on a mosque killing the head cleric
Church	1	Lahore, Punjab	suicide attack on a local church
Imambargah	2	Peshawar, KP	suicide attack on a local imambargah
		Lakhi Dar, Shikarpur, Sindh	bomb attack on a local imambargah

Conclusion

A downward trend in fatalities from violence is witnessed in all provinces and regions except in Punjab and FATA during the first quarter of 2014 and 2015. In FATA, the military operation caused escalation in the number of fatalities while the fatalities in Punjab increased due to sectarian violence. One of the most significant events was the raiding of the MQM headquarters in Karachi, which could spell a new shift in the LEA's fight against militancy in Karachi.

Sectarian violence has escalated in all provinces except Balochistan and the largest group of victims are Shia at nearly 60% and Christians at almost 20%. To carry out sectarian violence, different forms of terrorism like suicide attacks, bomb explosion, and rockets were used. Besides the sectarian hatred, retaliation of the militants against the military operation is supposed to be one of the main reasons for this upsurge in sectarian violence.

The overall law and order situation in the country has significantly improved during this quarter of the year. The fatalities of militants and criminals were almost 60% of the total fatalities this first quarter as compared to about 30% during the same period last year. However, at a provincial level, the security situation in KP appeared to be highly unsatisfactory as the fatalities of civilians, security and government officials were well over 80%.

Despite the improved security situation, the occurrences of target killings, militant attacks, and other forms of terrorism still pose a serious threat to the people and security agencies. Civil society and media are also playing their role in building a national discourse against terrorism in all its forms and manifestations, which in turn helps build a national consensus or narrative against terrorism. However, a divide still exists on ideological lines which motivates people to take different positions on violence-related actions. This is especially true when this violence is carried out on sectarian and political basis. Besides the use of force the use of intellect and reasoning also need to be applied in handling the threat of violence in the country.