

Annual Security Report 2015



Annual Security Report - Pakistan 2015

By

ZALAN COMMUNICATIONS

About Zcomms

Zalan Communications (Zcomms) is a non-profit, non-governmental and non-political organization engaged in mass mobilization through independent research and analysis, advocacy and capacity building to bridge the existing gap between the state and society and communities itself by empowering local media and enhanced flow of informed communications to ensure social inclusion and political mainstreaming. Zcomms aims at educating the people through awareness campaigns to generate informed debates about their rights and duties and make the process of governance publicly accessible and accountable so as to move on towards a peaceful, tolerant, progressive, integrated and democratic society.



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ACRONYMS

NAP	National Action Plan
TTP	Tehrik-e-Taliban Pakistan
Z-e-A	Zarb-e-Azb
ISPR	Inter Service Public Relations
IBOs	Intelligence Based Operations
SFs	Security Forces
IDPs	Internally Displaced Persons
FR	Frontier Region
IED	Improvised Explosive Device
FC	Frontier Corps
LI	Lashkar-e- Islam
MA	Mohmand Agency
TI	Tauheed-ul-Islam
SWA	South Waziristan Agency
AI	Ansar-ul-Islam
MQM	Muttahida Qaumi Movement
ANP	Awami National Party
COAS	Chief of Army Staff
NWA	North Waziristan Agency
KA	Khyber Agency
FCR	Frontier Crimes Regulations
PPP	Pakistan People's Party
KP	Khyber Pakhtunkhwa



TABLE OF CONTENTS

Chapter 1: Introduction	01
Contextualization	01
Conflict.....	02
National Action Plan (NAP).....	03
Typology of Violence and the Targeted Population	05
Objectives.....	06
Methodology	06
Targeted Audience	06
Chapter 2: Overview	07
Major Trends	07
Chapter 3: Conflict Mapping	10
Federally Administered Tribal Areas (FATA)	10
Balochistan.....	11
Sindh	12
Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP).....	14
Punjab	15
Gilgit Baltistan	17
Azad Jammu and Kashmir.....	17
Afghanistan.....	18
Chapter 4: Conclusion	20

INTRODUCTION

Contextualization

It appears that Pakistan's decision to step in the proxy war between the United States of America and the Union of Soviet Socialist Republic (USSR) on the battleground of Afghanistan, has brought permanent violence into its own land. The international community had long associated Pakistan with the armed groups in its north-west. These armed groups had entered into the Pakistani territory after US invasion of Afghanistan. Since then, Pakistan has been facing multi-pronged conflict for the past many years. This continues to grow complex with every passing day. With the advent of new actors and stakeholders in this game, the conflict has now, spread across the country. Thematically speaking, it's now more than just militancy and counter-militancy. The conflict in question is about extremism and counter-extremism, too.

To build peace, the state has now a range of targets, but the way it does is debatable. In the early days of 2015, the government announced a comprehensive strategy known as the National Action Plan (NAP), which was announced in response to the deadly attack on Army Public School in Peshawar. The entire security scenario of the past year – 2015 – can be contextualized under the NAP.

Before going into the details of counter-militancy, it is important to map the nature of conflict and violence in various parts of the country.

Security forces have been fighting the militants, largely Pakistani Taliban, in the north-western bordering areas of the Federally Administered Tribal Areas and the adjoining province of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. Last year, operations Zarb-e-Azb and Khyber 1 and 2 were launched, to eliminate the militants completely.

The nature of violence is different in Balochistan province, where beside Taliban, other actors too include such as Baloch insurgents and sectarian violent groups. Baloch insurgents have largely taken on the state of Pakistan and non-Baloch population, particularly Punjabis, in the province. Then, there are sectarian groups, mostly against Hazara Shia community.

The people of Sindh province are suffering from target killings and sectarian violence, too. The presence of Taliban in Sindh is also evident from their violent activities there. It has been noticed that the epicentre of all kind of violence in the province is taking place in the provincial capital, Karachi.



Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (PKP) province is the second-most terror-affected area, after FATA. The province faces the same kind of violence as FATA faces.

The case of Punjab province is different. Although the presence of Taliban is noticed there too, their activities are not violent against local population. However, sectarianism still dominates violence in the province.

Sectarian violence shapes conflict in Gilgit-Baltistan, too. This conflict has started in 1980s when Shia and Sunni killed each other community's members.

As of the situation in Kashmir, the insurgent groups are focused at the Indian-administered Kashmir.

From the western side of the border, Afghanistan is the breeding ground for militancy.

Conflict

The main themes of conflict in the year 2015 were militancy and counter-militancy in KP and FATA.

As of the counter-militant actions, the Pakistani army has undertaken operations Zarb-e-Azb, Khyber 1, and Khyber 2 in the north western part of the country.

The Inter-Services Public Relations (ISPR), the military's media wing and the main source of information on the operations, said while the Zarb-e-Azb had clear most of the areas off the militants, the Intelligence Based Operations (IBOs) are going on to remove the sleeper cells. Moreover, some of the militant groups have reportedly shifted their bases to Afghanistan.

Still, militants retaliated from time to time, targeting civilians and Security Forces (SFs). According to media reports, 431 civilians have been killed, while 185 Security Forces and 14 peace committee members died during 2015.

As discussed, in 2015, the security forces launched many IBOs. These IBOS were also criticized on the basis that they are undertaken in the IDPs settlements, resulting into widening the gap between the state and the IDPs. The IDPs, upon returning homes, are facing problems too, despite the claims that infrastructure for the displaced people will be built. On April 9, the government launched 24-months FATA Sustainable Return and Rehabilitation



Strategy, which was supposed to address five key pillars: (i) rehabilitating physical infrastructure, (ii) strengthening law and order, (iii) expanding government service delivery, (iv) reactivating and strengthening the economy, and (v) strengthening social cohesion and peace building.

The strategy was marked as part of a longer rehabilitation and reconstruction effort, which included return grants, conditional cash transfers, housing rehabilitation and infrastructure reconstruction, amounting to about \$800 million.

While the military claims to have cleared areas in FATA, the security forces personnel came under the militant attacks, in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province in particular. These attacks show the active presence of militants. Apparently, the militants who escaped the operations are creating trouble in the settled districts of KP and other provinces.

Post-NAP, another aspect of violence came forth, involving the alleged linkages of political parties with militants and miscreants. The allegation came in the limelight during the Pakistan Rangers-led operation in Karachi in the passing year. Major stories regarding terror financing were believed to have come out.

National Action Plan (NAP)

The National Action Plan constitutes twenty points, most of which resort to a hard line, except for the point about FATA reforms and about reconciliation in Balochistan.

The plan is determined to proceed with the execution of the extremists convicted in terror-related cases, for which special military courts have been established, too. NAP also vowed to ban armed militia, hate speeches and literatures, and their support. Madrassas were mentioned to keep a check on by asking to register them. Among some of the institutions the NAP vowed to work include the revival of National Counter Terrorism Authority (NACTA) and constitution of Special Terrorism Force.

As NAP points show, it has been decided not to treat Punjab separately from the rest of the country. However, as discussed above, FATA and Balochistan have been ensured to be dealt with politically, where the state will proceed with reform and reconciliation respectively. The NAP says Karachi operation is to continue till



the complete elimination of violent and armed groups.

The plan assigns top priority to the rehabilitation of IDPs.

NAP drew attention of the whole nation in early 2015. Various political parties and intelligentsia were convinced regarding its effectiveness, but the government is still far behind achieving the defined goals.

The bill passed by the National Assembly to provide constitutional protection to the special courts, one of the points of the NAP, says;

“WHEREAS the people of Pakistan have expressed their firm resolve through their chosen representatives in the all parties conferences held in aftermath of the sad and terrible terrorist attack on the Army Public School at Peshawar on 16 December 2014 to permanently wipe out and eradicate terrorists from Pakistan, it is expedient to provide constitutional protection to the necessary measures taken hereunder in the interest of security and integrity of Pakistan”.

The clear and specific objectives under National Action Plan can be considered as indicator for effective action. But even after the passage of one year, violence prevails in the country.

Regarding the execution of the terrorists, analysts argue that very few of the prominent terrorists have been executed under the military courts.

Moreover, armed militias are still active in FATA in the form of peace committees.

Hate speeches and literature still appear in different part of the country. Likewise, the issue of madrassas could not be cleared yet, resulting into controversies.

The direction of the process of reforms in FATA is not yet clear, too. Same is the case of Balochistan reconciliation, which lack specific goals.

Political actors and stakeholders are seemingly not taken in the loop in the Karachi operation, leading to verbal clash between the federal and provincial governments.

The entire phenomenon also that policy makers prefer military actions (military



operations) over political actions (reforms and reconciliations etc.)

Typology of Violence and the Targeted Population

Over the years, violence in Pakistan has grown multifaceted. Across the country, the types of organized political and extremist violence include – but not limited to – terrorism, insurgency, ideology-based extremist violence, sectarian strife, and ethnic wars. In addition to these, the strategic nexus and coordination among various violent groups often make it difficult to draw a neat distinction between the typology of violence and the motivations behind. The nexus of TTP and different Sunni armed groups against Shias in some parts of the country is a relevant case to this end.

Following are the different types of violence and their targeted population.

Sectarian violence: Shia, Sunni, Ahmadis are the main target of the sectarian violence in Pakistan. As many as 4,000 people are estimated to have been killed in Shia-Sunni sectarian fighting in Pakistan between 1987–2007. And since 2008 “thousands of Shias” have been killed by Sunni extremists, according to the international Human Rights Watch.

Militancy: Since the emergence of the TTP and the subsequent military operations in FATA, the militants are in violent conflict with both the state and society across the country. Previously the conflict in FATA and KP was between the Taliban and the State of Pakistan alone, but later on almost all the sections of society have become targets of the militants.

Cross border attacks: There are two types of cross-border attacks: one involves shelling; and two, guerrilla attacks after which the attackers cross back the border. The areas near Pakistan and Afghanistan border are mostly the target sites.

Insurgency: Baloch insurgents, declaring secessionism from Pakistan, have been attacking mostly the security forces. The insurgents have also targeted the non-Baloch, like Punjabis, in Balochistan.

Operations Activities: These operations cover a wide range of anti-terror and anti-extremism activities, including operations carried out by military, police, FC or Rangers. The target groups in these operations are Taliban and other militants,



insurgents, armed militias, violent sectarian groups, sleeper cells and all other extremists in the country.

Drone Attacks: The explicit goal of the drone attacks is to eliminate local and non-local militants who attack the U.S. forces in Afghanistan.

Target Killing: Target killings prevail in almost all parts of the country including FATA, KP, Balochistan, Sindh, Punjab, Gilgit Baltistan. The population target-killed are different in different regions: peace committee members and tribal elders in FATA and KP; political activists in Sindh, and sectarian rivals in Punjab; and sectarian and ethnic rival in Balochistan

Objectives

With the military operations Zarb-e-Azb, a considerable decline was witnessed in the violence. To give our readers an insight of the major security developments in the country, Zalan Communications (Zcomms) has compiled the security-related occurrences in a report.

Keeping in view the diverse dimensions and various dynamics of the security situations in Pakistan, Zcomms intends to map the security trends to analyse the security situation in the country.

Methodology

To serve the aforesaid purpose, Zcomms monitors all the print media to record the security trends in the country, on a regular basis. The organization monitors 12 different English and Urdu leading Pakistani newspapers to map the incidents, compare the trends, and make analysis to determine the future prospects. We also cross check our data with our field reports on the ground. The security analysis report is a compiled form of the security watch by Zcomms team. All the analysis included in this report is based on the data reported after a thorough media monitoring.

Targeted Audience

With well-defined objective of presenting clearer picture of the violence and conflict in the country, this report shares insight to anyone interested in the region. Zcomms hope this report serves as the best information for the policy makers; research foundations; think tanks; intelligentsia; students of politics, international relations and war studies; aid agencies; and other stakeholders.

OVERVIEW

Major Trends

The adage “offence is the best defence” best expresses the security pattern in Pakistan during 2015, as most parts of the country witnessed offensive defence by the security forces, who went after the militants in their places.

NAP, which was launched in 2015, came to shape the whole discourse of counter-militancy and extremism in the country in 2015. Most of the counter-militant actions were taken in the context of NAP in 2015.

This portion maps the security situation in the country in the reporting year:

i. Counter Militancy:

Military operations shape the main course of security situation in the year 2015. Two major military operations were carried out in 2015: Zarb-e-Azb and Khyber-1 followed by Khyber-2, in FATA. In total, 3400 terrorists were killed and 837 of their hideouts were destroyed up till now, as per the ISPR. Meanwhile, 488 SFs personnel were also killed and 1914 injured in the operation (ISPR, 2015). In other tribal agencies, other counter-militant activities too went on, mostly as extension of the Zarb-e-Azb in FATA. Moreover, in Karachi, Rangers cracked down on militants and other miscreants in 2015.

Intelligence-Based Operations (IBOs) have been in different part of the country to pursue and hunt those militants who escaped the operation. During last 18 months, over 13,200 IBOs were carried out across the country in which 183 hard-core terrorists were killed and 21,193 arrested (ISPR, 2015).

Drone strikes remained a counter-militant trend in FATA during the year of 2015. Thirteen (13) strikes were made in 2015, in which killed 97 militants and 15 others were injured. There has been a noticeable decline in the attacks from the previous years.

ii. Militancy:

Militants' Attacks remained one of the major security trends during 2015. Security forces personnel came under militant attacks in different incidents



including target killing. These kinds of incidents were mostly recorded in FATA and KP. Security Forces, though, faced militants' retaliation in Karachi, Balochistan and Punjab provinces, too.

Suicide Attacks were carried out by militants in different parts of the country. These attacks can be counted as one of the trends during 2015. 120 people lost their lives in the 10 incidents in different places while 284 people sustained injuries. Punjab remained at the top in these incidents, where 4 suicide attacks were carried out.

A huge number of casualties, after target killing, happened due to **Bomb Blast** in 2015. 155 people were killed and 254 others were injured in 26 such incidents.

Sectarian Violence was observed in every part of the country in 2015. On August 24th, Federal Interior Minister Chaudhry Nisar Ali Khan stated that fighting and cracking down religious and sectarian terrorist groups is now a top priority of the government. 6 major incidents of sectarian violence occurred during the outgoing year of 2015, killing 111 people and injuring 157 others in different parts of the country. It has been noticed that Shia community members were targeted in most of these incidents.

The highest figure of atrocities by militants, have been recorded in the incidents of **Target Killings**. 249 people were killed in 30 such incidents, while 56 others were injured. Such violence prevails in almost all parts of the country including FATA, KP, Balochistan, Sindh's Karachi district, Punjab, Gilgat Baltistan.

HUMAN SECURITY INDEX OF PAKISTAN 2015																						
Nature of incidents		FATA			Balochistan			Sindh			KP			Punjab			GB			Total		
		In	k	I	In	K	I	In	K	I	In	K	I	In	K	I	In	K	I	In	K	I
Militant attacks	Ambush	10	75	5	7	16	11	5	20	4	1	6								23	117	20
	Bomb Blast	15	74	89	7	46	88				3	27	52	1	8	25				26	155	254
	Suicide attack	1	7	56				2	26	44	3	35	62	4	52	122				10	120	284
	Target killing	5	28	8	12	49	22	7	62	25	6	55	1							46	194	56
	Cross border	1	7	3																1	7	3
	Killings	9	36	2	17	83	9	7	23	1	4	14	3	1	3		1	10		39	169	15
Operational Activities	Aerial Strikes	56	1074	87															56	1074	87	
	Drone Attacks	13	97	15															13	97	15	
	Search Opt	9	73	9	27	180	23	20	83	5	1	6	1	13	54	19			70	396	57	
	Operations	20	300	28	8	56	2	18	85	11	8	26	7						54	467	48	
Total		139	1771	302	78	430	155	59	299	90	26	169	126	19	117	166	1	10	0	338	2796	839



Nature of Casualties														
Area	FATA		Balochistan		Sindh		KP		Punjab		GB		Total	
Casualty Type	K	I	K	I	K	I	K	I	K	I	K	I	K	I
1 Civilians	83	145	125	109	89	68	63	111	67	160			427	593
2 Security Forces	64	37	48	27	16	21	40	14	6	6	10		184	105
3 Peace forces	9	7					5						14	7
4 Militants	1615	113	257	19	194	1	61	1	44				2171	134
5 Total	1771	302	430	155	299	90	169	126	117	166	10	0	2796	839

- During this year, the total number of terrorism related incident recorded were 338, in which 2796 people were killed. Most of the killings were recorded in FATA, with 1771 deaths and 302 injuries.
- In Balochistan, 430 people lost their lives, out of which, 257 were militants and 125 were civilians. Meanwhile, Frontier Corps carried out 27 search operations and 8 operations against the militants.
- In Sindh, the total killings stood at 299 and injuries at 90, in different incidents of violence and anti-state activities.
- Suicide attacks were mostly carried out in Punjab, which faced 4 such attacks in 2015. The total number of terrorism-related incidents in Punjab was 19 while security forces conducted 13 search operations. In total, 117 people were killed and 166 others were injured.
- In Khyber Pakhtunkhawa, 26 incidents of militants and operational activities were reported. 169 people died and 126 others were injured in these incidents.
- In Gilgit-Baltistan, 10 personnel of security forces became target of terrorists during a raid at hideout of terrorists.

CONFLICT MAPPING

Federally Administered Tribal Areas (FATA)

The Federally-Administered Tribal Areas (FATA) is a semi-autonomous tribal region in north-western Pakistan, bordering Pakistan's provinces of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and Balochistan to the east and south, and Afghanistan's provinces of Kunar, Nangarhar, Paktia, Khost and Paktika to the west and north. FATA comprises seven tribal agencies and six Frontier Regions, and are directly governed by Pakistan's federal government through a special set of laws, the Frontier Crimes Regulations (FCR).

The territory is almost exclusively inhabited by the Pashtuns, who also live in neighbouring province of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and are largely Muslims.

The people of FATA are stuck between militancy and counter-militancy. The actors include security forces (SFs), militants, as well as the civil militia or peace committees. The state has employed various means to counter militancy such as military operations, civil militia operations and through the collective responsibility (The News, 2012) (The Express Tribune, 2012).

According to the security situation this year, deaths were reported in all the seven tribal agencies and six Frontier Regions. The on-going military operations Zarb-e-Azb in North Waziristan Agency and Khyber-II in Khyber Agency have been

HUMAN SECURITY INDEX 2015				
Nature of Incidents		FATA		
		Incidents	Killed	Injured
Militant Attacks	Ambush	10	75	5
	Bomb Blast	15	74	89
	Suicide attack	1	7	56
	Target killing	5	28	8
	Cross border	1	7	3
	Killings	9	36	2
Operational Activities	Aerial Strikes	56	1074	87
	Drone Attacks	13	97	15
	Search Opt	9	73	9
	Operations	20	300	28
Total		139	1771	302

Nature of Casualties			
Area		FATA	
Casualty Type		Killed	Injured
1	Civilians	83	145
2	Security Forces	64	37
3	Peace forces	9	7
4	Militants	1615	113
5	Total	1771	302



targeting the militants. The ISPR claims the militants will not only be eliminated from NWA and KA, but will be chased in the rest parts of the FATA.

- During 2015, as many as 1771 people were killed and 302 were injured in some 139 incidents of terrorism and counter-terrorism in various areas of FATA.
- Out of these, 1615 killed people were terrorists and 113 of them were injured.
- During this period, 64 security personnel were killed and 37 others were injured while 83 civilians lost their lives and 145 others sustained injuries.
- Most of the terrorists were targeted in aerial strikes of Pakistan Air Force which carried out some 56 attacks and killed 1074 terrorists and injured 87 others.
- Similarly, at least 97 militants died and 15 others were injured in 13 drone strikes.

Balochistan

Balochistan covers nearly 44% of Pakistan's total landmass and yet is populated by only a fraction of people. Despite abundant natural resources, 88% of the region's population lives in extreme deprivation and poverty, an inequity which has fuelled an on-going Baloch nationalist security crisis. The region suffers from corruption, poor and non-representative governance, organized crime, tribal

HUMAN SECURITY INDEX 2015				
Nature of Incidents		Balochistan		
		Incidents	Killed	Injured
Militant Attacks	Ambush	7	16	11
	Bomb Blast	7	46	88
	Suicide attack			
	Target killing	12	49	22
	Cross border			
	Killings	17	83	9
Operational Activities	Aerial Strikes			
	Drone Attacks			
	Search Opt	27	180	23
	Operations	8	56	2
Total		78	430	155

Nature of Casualties			
Area		Balochistan	
Casualty Type		Killed	Injured
1	Civilians	125	109
2	Security Forces	48	27
3	Peace force		
4	Militants	257	19
5	Total	430	155



conflicts, and economic inequality. Armed violence, disappearances, kidnapping for ransom, and religio-sectarian terrorism, targeting ethnic minorities, particularly Hazaras (shiite community) are common occurrences. The large Afghan refugee population puts an additional burden on the social service infrastructure and strains social cohesion in the province.

The aforementioned situation presents a deprived and frustrated society. The frustration, most of the times, came forth in shape of aggression and ultimately violence. The following statistical data support the above trends.

- 430 people died in Balochistan and 155 were injured, in some 78 incidents.
- Out of these, 257 militants were killed and 19 of them got injuries.
- At least 48 personnel of security forces lost their lives and 27 others were injured, while 125 civilian people died and 109 others sustained injuries.
- Some 7 bomb blasts occurred, in which 46 people were killed and 88 others were injured.
- Security forces conducted some 27 search operations and targeted 180 militants and injured 23 others.

Sindh

The third largest province in size and second most populous province, Sindh, is bordered by Balochistan province to the west, Punjab province to the north, the Indian states of Gujarat and Rajasthan to the east, and Arabian Sea to the south. The provincial capital Karachi is the country's largest city.

Karachi has been facing various types of violence since long. To curb the violent armed elements, Rangers-led operation was launched in 2013. Although the Rangers' operational pattern invited much criticism, the operation continued in 2015.

Karachi accommodates diverse and multi ethno-cultured populace. In majority of cases, this phenomenon of multi ethno-lingual and multi-cultured habitants adds value in the economic growth and prosperity of a city. In Karachi's case, the affect has been negative. Analysts argue that the diverse character of the city remained a major factor in feeding violence in the city.

Sindh over all faces many different but often inter-linked types of violence including sectarian violence, Taliban militancy, politically motivated violence, ethno-linguistic violence, etc.

The most prevailing tool and pattern of violence in 2015 in Sindh was target killing, followed by suicide attacks.

Targeted political killings have also been a rising trend in the provincial capital. Activists of the Pakistan People's Party (PPP), the Muttahida Qaumi Movement (MQM) and the Awami National Party (ANP) have been the principal targets. A total of 391 activists of these parties have been killed in since 2001. These include 221 of MQM, 106 of ANP, and 64 of PPP.

The statistical data in the following tables show the evidence of violence in the province.

HUMAN SECURITY INDEX 2015				
Nature of incidents		Sindh		
		Incidents	Killed	Injured
Militant Attacks	Ambush	5	20	4
	Bomb Blast			
	Suicide attack	2	26	44
	Target killing	7	62	25
	Cross border			
	Killings	7	23	1
Operational Activities	Aerial Strikes			
	Drone Attacks			
	Search Opt	20	83	5
	Operations	18	85	11
Total		59	299	90

Nature of Casualties			
Area		Sindh	
Casualty Type		Killed	Injured
1	Civilians	89	68
2	Security Forces	16	21
3	Peace forces		
4	Militants	194	1
5	Total	299	90

- During this year, a total 299 people including 194 militants, 16 personnel of security forces and 89 civilians were killed. Similarly, 1 terrorist, 21 personnel of security forces and 68 civilians were injured.
- All in all, 59 incidents of terrorism and counter-terrorism were recorded.
- The province faced two suicide attacks, in which 26 people were killed and 44 others sustained injuries.



- Security forces conducted some 18 operations and 20 search operations, killing 85 and 83 terrorists respectively; 16 others were injured.
- Around 62 people were killed and 25 others were injured in 7 various incidents of target killing.

Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP)

The security situation of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province remained uncertain. It has been the most-affected province due to the on-going violent conflict in the north-western parts of Pakistan. One of the main reasons is the province's geographic location. It shares borders with the conflict-concentrated tribal region to the west; Gilgit–Baltistan to the northeast; Azad Kashmir, Islamabad and Punjab to the east and southeast; Balochistan lies to the southeast.

Most of the above-mentioned security trends have prevailed in the province during 2015 including all kinds of forces' operational activities and militants' attacks – target killings, bomb blasts, and sectarian violence. The suicide attack on NADRA office in Mardan in the closing days of 2015 indicates the uncertainty in the province.

HUMAN SECURITY INDEX 2015				
Nature of Incidents		KP		
		Incidents	Killed	Injured
Militant Attacks	Ambush	1	6	
	Bomb Blast	3	27	52
	Suicide attack	3	35	62
	Target killing	6	55	1
	Cross border			
	Killings	4	14	3
Operational Activities	Aerial Strikes			
	Drone Attacks			
	Search Opt	1	6	1
	Operations	8	26	7
Total		26	169	126

Nature of Casualties			
Area		KPK	
Casualty Type		Killed	Injured
1	Civilians	63	111
2	Security Forces	40	14
3	Peace forces	5	
4	Militants	61	1
5	Total	169	126

- A total of 26 incidents of terrorism and counter-terrorism were counted in the province during 2015.
- In these incidents, 169 people were killed and 126 others were injured.
- The number of killed terrorists stood at 61 and their injuries at 1, while 40 personnel of security forces and 5 members of peace force were killed and



14 others sustained injuries. Similarly, 63 civilians were killed and 111 others got injuries.

- The province faced 3 suicide attacks which killed 35 people and injured 62 others. The Mardan attack was the most terrible incident among the three suicide attacks in the province. 27 people lost their lives and 52 others sustained injuries in 3 bomb blasts.
- Some 32 terrorist were targeted in 9 operations and search operations, while 8 of them were injured during these operations.

Punjab

During 2015, it was notice that Punjab-based militants carried suicide attacks inside the province. Punjab home minister Shuja Khanzada told BBC Urdu he rejected the concept of the distinction between good and bad militants. The minister told that none of the militants will be spared and action will be taken against all. He opined that if the safe havens available to the militants were to be destroyed, the on-going action against extremism should be implemented “indiscriminately across the country instead of a specific region or group with equal intensity.”

A few days later, he was attacked and assassinated in his ancestral town in Attock. Such a brazen attack, analysts argue, underline that the [Punjabi] militants have the ability to carry out such attacks anywhere in the province any time.

As discussed in the introductory chapter, militants are present and leading many armed groups in different parts of the country (Jamal, 2015). The South Asia Terrorism Portal identified the presence of at least 57 extremist and terrorist groups in the province (SATP, 2015). It quotes Interior Minister Chaudhry Nisar Ali Khan as having disclosed during a briefing on the implementation of the National Action Plan (NAP) in January this year, that the number of proscribed organizations actively engaged in terrorism and extremism in the province had reached 95 (Jamal, 2015).

The incidents of violence in Punjab during this year – 2015, cannot be counted as the backlash of Z-e-A. If they were part of the blowback of the on-going operation, the militants would have targeted military officials or installations in



large scale, including police and other security forces in the province. And even though the assassination of Punjab home minister was considered as a backlash, the groups that carried out attacks were local ones, which were weary of action against them. More so, the attack represented local dynamic of Punjab-based militancy.

Two major incidents of sectarian violence occurred in 2015, in which 13 people were killed and 31 were injured. Both the incidents were bomb blast exploded in imambargahs.

HUMAN SECURITY INDEX 2015				
Nature of Incidents		Punjab		
		Incidents	Killed	Injured
Militant Attacks	Ambush			
	Bomb Blast	1	8	25
	Suicide attack	4	52	122
	Target killing			
	Cross border			
	Killings	1	3	
Operational Activities	Aerial Strikes			
	Drone Attacks			
	Search Opt	13	54	19
	Operations			
Total		19	117	166

Nature of Casualties			
Area		Punjab	
Casualty Type		Killed	Injured
1	Civilians	67	160
2	Security Forces	6	6
3	Peace forces		
4	Militants	44	
5	Total	117	166

- Some 19 incidents of terrorism and counter-terrorism were witnessed in Punjab during this year. In these incidents, a total 117 people lost their lives while 166 others were injured.
- Out of these, 44 were militants, 6 were personnel of security forces and 67 were civilians. Similarly, 6 personnel of security forces and 160 civilians sustained injuries.
- As many as 4 suicide attacks were carried out in which 52 people were killed and 122 others got injuries.
- In a bomb blast, 8 people were killed and 25 others were injured.
- Security forces conducted 13 search operations, killing 54 terrorists and injuring 19.

Gilgit-Baltistan

Gilgit-Baltistan, previously known as the Northern Areas, is part of a larger conflict-ridden region of Jammu and Kashmir, which has been disputed between India and Pakistan since their independence in 1947. The Kashmir dispute has remained a major catalyst of militarization, open and protracted wars, extremism, and underdevelopment in South Asia. Situated in the mountains of northern Pakistan, Gilgit-Baltistan covers 72,971 square kilometres. Its estimated population of 1.2 million includes four denominations of Islam – Shiite (39 per cent), Sunni (27 per cent), Ismaili (18 per cent), and Noorbakshi (16 per cent) – and at least twenty-four ethnic and linguistic groups (Hunzai, 2013).

HUMAN SECURITY INDEX 2015				
Nature of Incidents		GB		
		Incidents	Killed	Injured
Militant Attacks	Ambush			
	Bomb Blast			
	Suicide attack			
	Target killing			
	Cross border			
	Killings	2	10	11
Operational Activities	Aerial Strikes			
	Drone Attacks			
	Search Opt			
	Operations			
Total		2	10	11

Nature of Casualties			
Area		GB	
Casualty Type		Killing	Injured
1	Civilians		11
2	Security Forces	10	
3	Peace forces		
4	Militants		
5	Total	10	11

- During this year, only 2 incidents of terrorism were reported from Gilgit-Baltistan.
- In these incidents, 10 personnel of security forces were killed and 11 civilians were injured.

Azad Jammu and Kashmir

Azad Kashmir is part of the greater Kashmir region, which is the subject of a long-running conflict between India and Pakistan. It is referred to by the United Nations and other international organizations as "Pakistan-administered Kashmir". There are no anti-society activities by any armed groups.

The region remained calm during the period under review with no such violent activities noticed.



Afghanistan

Afghanistan is the breeding ground for militancy and Talibanization. To recall, The Taliban ruling Afghanistan were uprooted by the American invasion in late 2001. Since then, the Taliban have been in conflict with the Afghan government. 2015 was a tough year for various stakeholders in Afghanistan. On one front, Taliban were engaged in peace talks and negotiations with the government, while on another front, they continued inflicting war to capture territories. During 2015, Taliban's interventions in Kunduz, Badakhshan, and Helmand provinces speak volume for their operational capabilities.

Afghan Taliban also underwent turmoil on the issue of leadership, which resulted after divide over who would lead the group after Mullah Omar's death. More than Taliban's operational activities, the leadership crisis within them implicated the peace talks.

Some of the trends in 2015 include Taliban attacks to capture territories inside Afghanistan and the infighting among various Taliban groups after the death of Mullah Omer. The emergence of IS was also witnessed in few pockets of Afghanistan. All the typologies of violence and incidents fall in those trends.

The table below shows the atrocities caused due to conflicts in Afghanistan in 2015:

Nature of Incidents		Afghanistan		
		Incidents	Killed	Injured
Militant Activities	Attacks	3	61	35
	Bomb blast			
	Suicide attack	7	170	191
	Shelling			
Operational Activities	Aerial Strikes	2	27	12
	Drone Attacks	7	46	25
	Search Opt			
	Operations	3	210	21
Infighting		2	102	42
Total		24	616	326

- As many as 326 incidents of violence were reported in Afghanistan during this year. In these incidents, 616 people lost their lives while 24 others were injured.
- A total 170 people were killed and 191 injured in seven suicide attacks.
- 46 militants were killed and 25 others injured in seven U.S. drone attacks.
- Meanwhile, security forces killed 210 terrorists and injured 21 others in 3 major operations. 102 Taliban fighters died and 42 others were injured in two incidents of their infighting.



CONCLUSION

With military operation Zarb-e-Azb, the militants on the run, who either moved their bases to Afghanistan or got confined to their hideouts in the mountainous terrains of North Waziristan Agency – were left with little option but to change their tactics – from attacking hard targets to the soft ones hence opening new fronts for the military to fight on. During the period under review, though a considerable decline – 60 percent – was noticed in the militant attacks, however, almost every section of the society came under attack – from schools and markets to the mosques, imambargahs [religio-community center of Shia sect] and holy shrines.

The same trend was witnessed in targeting influential social figures. Some 14 influential tribal elders and maliks were targeted killed to send a message across those who remained vocal in opposition to the militant ideology.

This trend seems to be a reflection of apparent desperation and frustration on the part of militant Taliban in the wake of ongoing military operation Zarb-e-Azb. While reiterating his determination, the Chief of Army Staff clearly stated that the year 2016 would be the conclusive year for putting an end to the militancy in the country. The obvious manifestation is the implementation of the National Action Plan, framed immediately after the deadliest attack on the Army Public School in Peshawar on December 2014. In response to 140 militant activities, the security forces came up with 193 counter attacks to kill 2171 militants in the year 2015.

The widening and expanding militants' activism, however; demands the same level of counter militancy measures across the country.

Beside the above mentioned hard core counter militancy measures, there is enough room for soft core policy measures to successfully counter the threat on all fronts. More efforts are needed to have a close check on hate speeches and literature beside other propaganda materials that invite young jihadi zealots to join the ranks of the militant taliban.

Lack of service delivery by the government develop sense of frustration and deprivation amongst the masses and specially the neglected sections of the society, that most of the time, provides space to the non-state actors to capitalize on. Quick service delivery and efficient response on the part of government may



prove vital in denying space to the non state actors. An urgent heed is needed to be paid to the hundreds of thousands of IDPs displaced from their homes for years now.

Above all, to make it a success story, the ongoing military operations against the militants, insurgents, criminals and mafias, in parts of the country, need coordinated efforts on the part of all the state agencies, political parties and civil society, otherwise not only we - the Pakistanis - but the whole region will have to bear the brunt of consequences.



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