

# **Rising Trends of Terrorism: Causes, Dynamics and Remedies (A case study of Pakistan)**

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## **Abstract:**

*Terrorism is an act of violence that stands for creating havoc through loss of human lives and property. Usually it has twin objectives, such as, i). To destabilize the existing order & frustrate the invading armies from consolidating their position; ii). To gain public attention with a view to realizing certain political ends and objectives. The current decade has witnessed severe waves of terrorism all over the world. However, the continent of Asia has suffered more than any other part of the world. There seems to be no end to the devastating activities carried out by the miscreants. If these activities are not managed, I am afraid, they will take the entire world in to its wake wherefrom there will be no point of return. War on terrorism, fought with full vigor, is resulting only in loss of lives of innocents instead of mitigating the miseries of the suffering humanity. Rather killing of innocents have added to the hatred of those who for long has been sustaining losses of lives as well as of living. It is therefore, of utmost importance to explore the causes, dynamics of terrorism and finally suggest practicable solution to the problem so that the world may return to peace and tranquility.*

**Keywords:** Terrorism, Poverty alleviation, Pakistan

## **Research Methodology**

The proposed paper will focus on the affected areas of Pakistan. Fresh Data will be collected through structured questionnaire and face to face interviews of the population with the help of sampling. The data so gathered will be analyzed to find out the driving factors behind terrorism and efforts will be made to suggest solutions.

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## **Terrorism**

The word terror has been derived from the Latin word “*Terrere*” which means “To frighten”. This word took the form of concept when in 501 BC the warriors of Cimbri tribe created a panic in Rome and a state of emergency had to be announced.

Terrorism is a concept which denotes the horror created to spread fear among the people and thereby disturb the peace of life. It connotes a willful act of violence resulting in critical incident which creates havoc and threaten peace of the area. This phenomenon results in retardation of economic activities and causes deprivation of the comforts of life. The objective behind such sabotage activities is to compel and force an individual, a group of people or authority in power, to knee down.

Under the existing scenario the acts which endanger the life and property of the people carry behind them a strength which will eventually allow the supporting factors achieve their goals, may it be through inflicting fatal injuries upon the innocent people. Although there might be many more implications because each scholar may interpret this concept in his/her own way, nevertheless the fulfillment of nefarious designs via heinous crimes by using the local population as instrument of such change is considered acts of terrorism. Hiring of the local brutal miscreants has been a common phenomena hitherto observed. Involvement of local population either induced or instigated further aggravates the situation. Under such circumstances dealing with and tackling the issue takes serious turn and becomes more difficult. This is because of the fact that the hands behind these activities are always at a safe distance from the place of such fatal accidents. Therefore, if

terrorism is not checked in time it will definitely paralyze the whole of socio-economic life of the state & the society.

Viewed in this perspective Terrorism is a phenomenon fraught with intense fear of loss of life and property. This fear may either be a direct consequence of loss inflicted upon the people or threat of dire consequences contingent upon refusal of demand(s).

Notwithstanding the causes, terrorism have brought ruthless miseries in the life of the people of the third world especially in Pakistan. In recent past almost all the sabotage activities have been carried out in the Muslim dominated parts of the world. Initially it appears that these areas are occupied by foreign invaders & the local population is anxious to ensure its liberation from foreign occupants. In most of the cases issues are mostly political & the UN bodies fail to resolve these issues in an amicable manner. When resistance starts it manifests itself in many forms including terrorism. The point to be underlined is that liberation movements are distinct and different & should not be confused with terrorism. Freedom is a birth-right & every nation is morally & legally justified to fight for it. In any case more than three million people have lost their lives during the last three decades and this death & destruction still continues either in the name of maintenance of world peace or resisting the foreign occupation to regain the liberty and sovereignty.

No doubt the terrorist activities have very long and old history, yet its present momentum originated from September 11, 2001 when World Trade Center was hit by America's own aircrafts in the air. Although the real culprits of the attack are still shrouded in mystery but devastating ripples of this tragedy are still felt around the world.

## History of Terrorism

Tracing the history of terrorist's activities we find that the first terrorist attack was carried out in Gunpowder plot in 1605- an attempt to destroy the English Parliament. Historians also associate the attack on British property by the Sons of Liberty in 1773. This incident happened three years before the American Revolution. It is also said that the term "Terrorism was used during the "Reign of Terror" in France for the actions of the Jacobin Club during the French revolution. Jacobin Leader Maximilien said that terror is nothing but other than justice, prompt, severe and inflexible. People of France saw the worst of the event when Edmund Burke denounced the Jacobin who let loose, thousands of the terrorists, to play with the lives of the people of France in 1795.

Assassination attempt by an Italian patriot on the life of French Emperor Napoleon III in January, 1858 played an inspiring role in the development of Russian Terrorist group People's Retribution in 1869.

To overthrow the Tsarist Regime of Russia a revolutionary group was founded in 1878 which was named as Narodnaya Volya (in English it was called the will of people).

It was the anarchists group who assassinated the Russian Tsar Alexander II on March 13, 1881. The incident could not excite the revolution and was ultimately wiped off. But the Narodnaya was the first terrorist group which used dynamites in their bombing.

The murder of Archduke Ferdinand of Austria and his wife Sophia on June 28, 1914 in Sarajevo of Bosnia sent a severe shock through out the Europe.

Burning down Liverpool docks and warehouses and publicly killing of scores of police officers by the Irish Republican Army on November 21, 1920, a day which was later on named as Bloody Sunday

caused inspiration of other groups in Israel and to British special operation in the 11 World War.

1930's era saw a different Scene. The weapons of terror were enormously used by the state authorities of Soviet Union and Germany to those who oppose the dictatorships. R.J .Overy, a renowned historian states that this ruthless terror was viewed by Hitler and Stalin as state protection .This idea is even now put before the world to justify the massacre of the weaker nations. World might have listened to the speech of Ex President G.W.Bush soon after 9/11 incident announcing the Crusade and a pre-emptive action against the presumed terrorists or those who are found guilty of harboring them.

The Jewish Defense League founded in 1969 by Rabbi Meir Kahane in New York city had a declared purpose of protecting Jews from harassment and anti-Semitism .However Federal Bureau of Investigation have reportedly classified 15 terrorists attacks were attempted by the Jewish Defense League during 1980 to 1985. Consequently the National Commission for study of Terror and response to Terrorism declared it an active Terrorist Organization. The World needs to think over.

The 1968 revolt in France had its own repercussions. Then the Maoist movement inspired the students to rise up, create awareness among the people for strengthening their anti capitalist campaign and to compel the state to abandon the war in Vietnam. This group of students later on in 1969 formed their own society i.e. the American Weather Underground (Weatherman) which was an extremist faction of the students for Democratic Society Organization.

Renato Curcio founded a new Leftists group in Italy in 1979 branded as Italian Red Brigade which kidnapped former Prime Minister Aldo Moro on March 16, 1978 who was later on murdered.

### **Terrorism in Pakistan**

The aftermath of 9/11 brought worst of the disaster to the Muslim dominated state of Afghanistan and subsequently to Iraq (as a result of direct war) but Pakistan had to sustain much more death & destruction for being frontline ally.

Both in Afghanistan and Iraq more than 889795 persons have so far lost their lives and as much as 1685937 have been paralyzed due to injuries in the various attacks of the Allied forces and also those of the Afghan extremists fighting against the Allied forces.

War in Iraq obviously had no reasons except America's whimsical decision. American suspicion against Iraq's holding of nuclear arsenal did not realize but millions of innocent Iraqis have been bathed in blood. Is it, to fight against aggression, terrorism? Is to regain national sovereignty and liberty a sin a crime to pay in the form of innocent lives? Let the world conscience, the people claiming Human Rights Activists answer.

The war on terrorism waged in Afghanistan is the direct outcome of World Trade Center Tragedy for which Osama Bin Laden was charged and America demanded from the Mullah Omer Establishment to hand him over to America. The Taliban Government in Afghanistan refused. It instead agreed to produce Bin Laden in any neutral country for trial on the charges leveled against him if the US produces evidence against Bin Laden. But American President with the collaboration of NATO members invaded Afghanistan. The local resistant groups have

since been fighting Guerilla war. Pakistan being a frontline ally has even put its sovereignty at stake.

During the period since 2001 Pakistan has suffered both financially and physically so much so that its economy will take decade to revive because of heavy loan liabilities incurred on account of war against terrorism. During the period 2001-2010 terrorism cost Pakistan as much as US \$34 billions. Its foreign debt portfolio has inflated to more than US \$ 50 billion. Due to security problems the economic growth rate has come down to 4% p.a. Export deficit also raised to more than US \$20.00 billions.

Not to speak of foreign investment local industrialists have also been hesitating in initiating any new venture. In spite of all this Pakistan unfortunately could not get itself recognized as M. K. Chaudry says Human psyche is worse affected by life risk. The following table reveals the tragic pictures of human fatalities in Pakistan.

Annual Fatalities in Terrorist Violence in Pakistan, 2003-2010

Year	Civilians	Security Force Personnel	Terrorists/ Insurgents	Total
2003	140	24	25	189
2004	435	184	244	863
2005	430	81	137	648
2006	608	325	538	1471
2007	1522	597	1479	3598
2008	2155	654	3906	6715
2009	2324	991	8389	11704
2010*	912	280	3307	4499
Total	8526	3136	18025	29687

\* Data till July 5, 2010

Source: Figures are compiled from news reports and are provisional.

Year 2010

	Civilians	Security Force Personnel	Terrorists/ Insurgents	Total

January	182	33	387	602
February	92	68	340	500
March	168	36	502	706
April	182	50	558	790
May	156	38	833	1027
June	71	44	598	713
July*	61	11	89	161
Total	912	280	3307	4499

\* Data till July 5, 2010

Source: Figures are compiled from news reports and are provisional.

Year 2009

	Civilians	Security Force Personnel	Terrorists/ Insurgents	Total
January	250	69	245	564
February	216	31	430	677
March	168	67	171	406
April	132	89	297	518
May	279	155	1590	2024
June	200	157	1397	1754
July	156	58	768	982
August	155	34	531	720
September	111	77	662	850
October	255	118	1001	1374
November	175	93	792	1060
December	227	43	505	775
Total	2324	991	8389	11704

Year 2008

	Civilians	Security Force Personnel	Terrorists/ Insurgents	Total
January	88	111	455	654
February	182	33	30	245
March	137	26	41	204
April	80	25	16	121
May	61	30	37	128
June	149	31	38	218
July	82	71	250	403
August	339	124	784	1247
September	272	67	876	1215



October	262	60	735	1057
November	225	50	482	757
December	278	26	162	466
Total	2155	654	3906	6715

Year 2007

	Civilians	Security Force Personnel	Terrorists/ Insurgents	Total
January	26	16	29	71
February	35	4	8	47
March	28	21	261	310
April	176	18	83	277
May	57	10	14	81
June	31	12	40	83
July	144	143	191	478
August	56	63	117	236
September	101	67	144	312
October	282	101	154	537
November	293	94	341	728
December	293	48	97	438
Total	1522	597	1479	3598

Year 2006

	Civilians	Security Force Personnel	Terrorists	Total
January	114	29	22	165
February	88	16	2	106
March	91	19	221	331
April	96	44	53	193
May	43	39	5	87
June	26	29	47	102
July	12	52	49	113
August	22	43	44	109
September	22	0	2	24
October	42	7	83	132
November	42	45	9	91
December	10	2	1	13
Total	608	325	538	1471

Year 2005

	Civilians	Security Force Personnel	Terrorists	Total
January	30	7	2	39
February	11	0	6	17
March	77	15	3	95
April	6	2	2	10
May	63	5	2	70
June	8	1	0	9
July	29	2	43	74
August	14	10	1	25
September	32	17	40	89
October	27	15	16	58
November	13	0	12	25
December	120	7	10	137
Total	430	81	137	648

Year 2004

	Civilians	Security Force Personnel	Terrorists	Total
January	0	4	0	4
February	2	0	1	3
March	47	45	25	117
April	6	5	1	12
May	45	0	0	45
June	60	37	24	121
July	28	6	19	53
August	42	17	4	63
September	70	36	70	176
October	114	11	28	153
November	5	19	72	96
December	16	4	0	20
Total	435	184	244	863

Year 2003

	Civilians	Security Force Personnel	Terrorists	Total
January	7	0	0	7
February	18	3	1	22
March	0	0	1	1

April	1	0	0	1
May	6	0	1	7
June	5	13	0	18
July	61	2	0	63
August	4	0	0	4
September	10	0	0	10
October	8	5	18	31
November	0	0	2	2
December	20	1	2	23
Total	140	24	25	189

Fatalities in Suicide Attacks: 2007- 2009

	Total Number of Suicide Attacks	Civilians	SFs	Militants	Total
2007	58	552	177	58	787
2008	59	712	140	65	917
2009	80	735	196	87	1018
2010					

By categorizing the classes of people directly hit / affected we are misconceiving the loss. In number we may say that 8526 civilian killed, 3136 security personnel have lost their lives while 18025 terrorist have been obliterated. Yet when besides, head count, we look at the real loss then 29687 families have been destroyed during the period from 2003to June, 2010 for the cause yet misunderstood and misinterpreted.

Due to insecurity and mass destruction most of the industrial units have either been closed or sustaining heavy losses for which reasons the employment opportunities are decreasing, further adding to the miseries of the people of Pakistan. The entire infrastructure of schools of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa has been shattered which has resulted in poor attendance and deteriorating quality of education. Military operation in Federally Administered Tribal Area and northern districts of

Swat, Bunir, Bajuar and Dir has very adversely affected the socio-economic life of the people. Sabotage activities and particularly the suicide bombing has endangered the life of the common people in Pakistan, a phenomenon causing acute depression in the nation as a whole, both psychic & economic (depression).

### **Causes of Terrorism in Pakistan**

#### *Political*

More violent incidents in Pakistan started in late sixties when agitation started against the regime of then president Field Marshal Muhammad Ayub Khan. People rose up against his long dictatorial rule and demanded a change of the top hierarchy. As a protest mobs committed sabotage activities which caused loss to the people and property. The next regime of Gen. Muhammad Yahya Khan was also rejected by the people of then East Pakistan, who being fed with inequalities of the center, campaigned for a separate independent state. Ever increasing incidents of violence resulted in massacre in East Pakistan. Tranquility returned when the army was stopped from operation in the territory.

The early seventy's again saw worst type of destruction when Late Prime Minister Zulfikar Ali Bhutto dismissed the ANP led Govt. in Balochistan. Since ANP was in Coalition govt. in Khyber Pakhtun Khwa also, the Chief Minister Khyber Pakhtun Khwa resigned in protest against the action of Federal Govt. in Balochistan. As a consequence some political elements, instigated by a neighboring country, succeeded in using a class of the population against the govt; and with a view to pressurizing the state authorities resorted to extreme violence which took away scores of people as a result of bomb blasting in public places. During this period insurgency in Balochistan and ethnic rift in Sindh also had political instinct behind them.

*Perceived Injustice*

An angry person can commit any act of violence for taking revenge but that may not affect the peace of the nation because of its limited impact on the society. Such acts, no doubt, also originate from the sense of deprivation or victimization but are often of shorter duration and limited implications.

However, when a group or class of people feel sense of insecurity with regards to its property or person it comes out first with a protest against usurper and ultimately wages a war to take revenge and set things right. It starts with sabotage activities but eventually takes the form of guerilla war causing indiscriminate destruction. The people of Balochistan have, of late, been raising voice against their due right in the distribution of the natural resources of the area and also remedy for the deprivation of economic development hitherto dreamed for only.

*Religious Fervor*

Religious leaders have a charisma of persuading the followers and spiritually motivating them to be ready for any sacrifice. Whenever state or any agency negatively stirs the spiritual nerve of a class of people it results in a threat to the peace of the area. Tracing history of the recent turmoil in Pakistan we are convinced that tragic terrorist activities surged after first attack on a school Madrassa in Chenagai Bajaur agency on 30<sup>th</sup> Oct. 2006 where more than 80 students were killed in an air attack. On 8<sup>th</sup> Nov. same year a severe suicide attack was made on parading regiment of the forces in Dargai, Malakand in retaliation of the incident of Bajaur which took away the lives of more than 42 soldiers and also inflicted severe injuries on 20 other. Then worst of the incident of Jamia Hafsa on July 11, 2007, where reportedly 95 theology students mostly female lost their lives and 44 were injured for no sin of their own, added

fuel to the fire. Under such circumstances the elements with vested interest within the country supported by foreign agencies found pretext to damage the socio-economic edifice of the peaceful country. Local clerics of Swat and Malakand took the opportunity and exploited the situation.

With the help of a questionnaire following information were collected on a series of tragic incidents occurred as a result of guerilla war in Khyber Agency, Swat, Buner, Dir and Malakand during 2008-2009. The situation in Peshawar is totally different because here the whole destruction resulted out of suicide attacks where the terrorists also lost their lives. The people are still in suspense but are mostly of the opinion that these activities have been carried out with the help of foreign hands.

Hiring of local people for fulfilling their heinous designs is due to extreme poverty because in such cases head of the family has either at the cost of his own life or sacrifice of another member of the family saves rest of the members of the family from dying of starvation.

The answers reported here are summed up for the purpose of making them meaningful. These responses have been consolidated on the basis of majority opinion.

S.No.	No.of IDP's family heads interviewed From Dir=90 Swat=150 Bunir=80 Malakand=30 Total =350	Questions frequently asked from each person interviewed	Common Answers/ Responses received
1.		When this violence started in your area?	Rumors spread in 2007 that local Taliban at the call of F.M radio are planning for protest action against the killing of students in Bajaur. In early 2008 initially girls schools were damaged and then police stations were targeted. Initially Taliban began preaching Islamic tenets and exhorting to abstain from

			<p>sins, abide by the law of Sharia and cooperate in the establishment of true Islamic State. So those who, some how, failed in following them were punished. These punishments then became more severe and ultimately took the form of death sentence. However, the way the punishment awarded was inhuman and highly frightening.</p> <p>In FATA area one Mufti Shakir came from Karak and began delivering sermon on Oneness of ALLAH. Later on an organization in the name of Lashkar e Islam was formed in Khyber Agency. Mangal Bagh came out with full support to the Mufti for enforcing Islamic Law in the area. The movement eventually got strength and began using force against those who in any way opposed the Tehreek. As a result hundreds of opponents were brutally killed.</p> <p>In Waziristan Area one Baitullah Mehsood self installed commander of the Taliban accepted the responsibility of suicide attacks conducted in these lands.</p>
2.		Who in your opinion were leading these sabotage activities?	<p>We do not identify the exact Persons because the armed people used to go around the streets in the night. However it is understood that in Malakand Division the Taliban Tehreek is being led by Maulana Fazal Ullah who was running the FM radio.</p>
3.		Who in your opinion were carrying out the killing of innocent people?	<p>Brutal killing of innocent people had frightened the local population and they could neither resist nor disclose the names of the terrorists. Notorious from amongst the local population had also joined, on payment, to strengthen the terrorists. Young boys used in the suicide attacks were either abducted or solicited on payment. The local affluent were threatened to either contribute funds or be ready to lose lives. Majority of the houses destroyed and men slaughtered belonged to the wealthy class of the area.</p>
4.		Who in your opinion were supporting these terrorists	<p>In view of the type and quantity of arms used by the militants, they were definitely supported by strong hands from abroad. Most of the people were seemed to be of non Pakistan</p>

			origin. Definitely they have been sent from some other country.
5.		What was the modus operandi used by the terrorists?	Initially they were targeting the girls' school premises and subsequently began attacking the Police Stations and other govt. buildings. Then they began killing of police officials but later on anyone who in their eye was either informer or supporter of police was killed. In some cases they massacred the people in gatherings and mosques. But the most dangerous weapons of the terrorists, ever used, were the human lives as suicide bombard. This has in fact sent a severe shock through out the nation. The innocent young boys were brainwashed and prepared for this heinous act. Surprisingly 200 young boys of below 13 years of age as reported by Provincial Minister, Bashir Ahmad Bilour, have been recovered from Malakand who were being prepared for suicide attacks.
6.		Could you recognize the terrorists involved in such heinous crimes?	Most of the people knew the criminals but we could not open the mouth for fear of lives.
7.		Did people accept the Tehreek Nifaz e Shriaat e Muhammadi	General public in Swat, Dir, Bunir and Malakand, no doubt, accepted the Tehreek (Movement) accorded full support but later on when the Tehreek sponsors resorted to sabotage activities common people began receding and ultimately abandoned the Tehreek (Movement).
8.		What was the role of Law Enforcing Agencies in this whole era of fear and harassment?	In the beginning the Law Enforcing Agencies were hesitating in taking any action but worsened situation rendered them helpless which eventually resulted in heavy physical losses.
9.		Do you think military action /operation was inevitable? Are you and your family now feel safe?	Had military not taken the action the life of the people of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and Fata Area might have been paralyzed due to ever killings and devastation. Well we, now, feel a bit fear free. But the incidents of suicide bombing are still occurring throughout the land and risk still exists. Moreover, the injuries inflicted will also continue percolating blood. Fata is still under operation. We can not say any thing until clouds are over.
10.		How in your opinion the peace and	Go and search the root cause. Muslims always preach peace. Peace



		tranquility can be restored permanently. What is the appropriate solution of this malady?	for all without any discrimination of color and creed. Not to speak of killing, Islam does not allow even calling bad name. What is happening in the country is the result of injustice to the innocent students of Bajaur and Jamia Hafsa. Do not forget foreign aggression in Afghanistan, our neighboring country is generating germs of human destruction resistance to which is natural. Ask the NATO forces to leave Afghanistan and there will be no terrorism. Yes another important point--foreign interference in our internal affairs has kept us at dagger's drawn with our neighbors since our independence. Can we escape American interference? This has been a common question through out the process of investigation.
11		Who are the people being used in suicide bombing?	We do not know any thing. It is really difficult to commit suicide. From news papers people come to know that young boys are carrying the activities.

From the above responses one can conclude that the existing terrorism in Pakistan was initiated for the enforcement of Islamic Law. The presence of foreign forces on Muslim lands is considered as an attempt to cause failure to Islamic movement. May it be one of the reasons. As it also transpired that brutal killing of innocent people agitated the masses, consequently the saboteurs have lost public confidence and support by the local people.

Dr. Lutfullah, recently released from eight month long hostage of Taliban, has stated that majority of the Taliban fighting against the Pak Army and other law enforcing agencies hold the view that they are fighting a holy war. Thus those supporting the forces are renegades and liable to be punished with death. As such their main target is law enforcing agencies. He however, affirmed that there is misconception of the ideology of Islam and a misunderstanding because of lack of, rather

non existence of, education. The learned Professor asserted that situation can be normalized through dialogues and negotiations.

### Remedies Suggested

- Solution of any problem lies in the identification of its root cause. The most precious thing for every human being is his/her own life. When some one lets life be sacrificed no power on earth has ever succeeded in preventing him/her from the accomplishment of the mission. Use of force has, therefore, never worked. National sovereignty and religious freedom has never been compromised upon. Nearly a decade long war in Iraq or devastation of Tora Bora in Afghanistan did not prove beneficial to either America itself or its Allies in the campaign except loss of millions of innocent human beings. Sovereign states be allowed to maintain their freedom. Occupation by foreign forces will invite continuous resistance resulting in further casualties, fatalities and wastage of financial resources which can, otherwise, be utilized for mitigating the sufferings of starving humanity of Africa and many other Third World countries around the world.

Both in Afghanistan and Iraq it is a war of resistance. Is regaining of freedom an act of terrorism? Has world not yet identified the aggressors? Pull out foreign forces and ensure non interference in the internal affairs of these developing nations who have been labeled terrorists. Stephen R. Shelam has rightly suggested that;

*“If we want to dry up the reservoir of support that sustains terrorism and provides it with a constant supply of recruits, the United States has to change its foreign policy. Christopher Hitchens has argued*

*that the case for changing U.S. policy is no stronger after September 11 than it was before. That's true. It was a moral imperative then; it's a moral imperative now. It's wrong to oppress Palestinians, whether or not Americans die as a result. But, when people ask us what can be done to stop terrorism – as they have been asking – we need to tell them the truth: terrorism feeds off anger and frustration, and a lot of that anger is directed at the United States for its unjust policies. Reducing the anger by addressing legitimate grievances is the most effective and appropriate way to reduce the incidence of terrorism”*

- Grinding poverty has been one of the serious causes of the existing situation in Pakistan. Arguing for the eradication of poverty for reasons of basic justice has its own significance. Poverty ridden people mostly become anti-social criminals. Under the existing socio-economic culture none of the members of a family can tolerate another member dying of starvation. He or she will, instead, prefer to take any risk, may it be, at the cost of life. Let world's Human Rights Champions come up to contribute substantially towards poverty alleviation of Pakistan through employment generation and thus ensure peace to the world.
- To raise the living standard of the people of Pakistan, besides others, enhance the allocation for education and convert the existing schools and colleges into meaningful institutions so that the end product may be loyal citizens with vast understanding, scientific thinking and generating new ideas.
- Aggressive campaign be launched to positively change the human psyche because the people's confidence in Govt; has been shattered due to support of US policies in Afghanistan and Iraq.

- It is a strange irony that in spite of being a front line ally having made massive sacrifices Pakistan has not yet been recognized as a part of the solution. Instead, we are reprimanded for protecting Osama bin Laden & Mullah Omar. Their allegations are made on international forums without offering any solid evidence. It is imperative that an aggressive diplomatic campaign be launched to tell the world that Pakistan has always been sincere in the restoration of world peace for which it has been sacrificing more than any other nation. The present wave of terrorism is not particular to this part of the world but many other countries are also suffering from the same menace. Pakistan's efforts in this critical juncture must be appreciated instead of repeated orders of 'Do More'.
- The present wave of terrorism is, in a way, the result of discriminatory treatment of Muslims worldwide – the double standard policy of America and others supporting aggressive countries in the matter of Palestine, Kashmir etc. How long these downtrodden nations can be kept oppressed and victim of state terrorism.

To make matters worse, Interior Minister Malik has declared that we will fight till we have rid the country of the last Taliban. Such ridiculous declarations make little sense since when will we know there are no more Taliban in Pakistan? Can we devise a way to read people's minds or see what is in their hearts? The only way we can ensure the end of extremist militancy and terrorism is to bring the marginalized people into the mainstream, to ensure security for the ordinary people and to give them access to speedy justice. Otherwise we will continue to see the backlash

of a singularly punitive approach in the form of acts of terror across the country.

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At least 889,795 people have been killed in Afghanistan and Iraq since the U.S. and coalition attacks, based on lowest credible estimates. Sources and methodology are explained in the sidebar. Some questions about lower or higher casualty counts cited elsewhere are addressed in these footnotes. This page is updated about once monthly. Most recent update: April 9, 2010.

Casualties in Afghanistan:

Afghan troops killed	8,587
Afghan troops seriously injured	25,761
Afghan civilians killed	8,669
Afghan civilians seriously injured	15,604
U.S. troops killed	951
U.S. troops seriously injured	2,853
Other coalition troops killed	666
Other coalition troops seriously injured	1,998
Contractors killed	298
Contractors seriously injured	2,428
Journalists killed	9
Journalists seriously injured	unknown
Total killed in Afghanistan	19,180
Total injured in Afghanistan	48,644

Iraqi troops killed	30,000
Iraqi troops seriously injured	90,000
Iraqi civilians killed	854,706
Iraqi civilians seriously injured	1,538,471
U.S. troops killed	4,402
U.S. troops seriously injured	31,808
Other coalition troops killed	318
Other coalition troops seriously injured	2,290
Contractors killed	933
Contractors seriously injured	10,569
Journalists killed	142
Journalists seriously injured	unknown
Total killed in Iraq	890,501
Total injured in Iraq	1,673,138