

CONFLICT IN KURRAM AGENCY

Nature and Causes



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Introduction

FRC organized a special guest lecture on 'Kurram Agency: Nature and Causes of Conflict' to explore and get an insight into the persisting situation and the triggering factors of militancy in the agency. It was an open discussion led by the guest speakers followed by questions and answers session and an open-floor discussion.

FATA Research Center is committed to flourish the discourse on the issues of peace and development and initiated a series of seminars while hosting special lectures and discussions on various topics pertaining to Federally Administered Tribal Areas (FATA) of Pakistan. FRC organizes such discourse either on the whole picture of FATA or on specific issues related to a particular agency or frontier region (FR). To make the discussions critical, meaningful and exhaustively suggestive, the relevant stakeholders are invited to such seminars and lectures. Thus inviting a vast range of participants like academicians, researchers, politicians, policy makers, community representatives, members of civil society, media personnel and/or students, FRC hosts realistic as well conflicting and novel ideas to portray the real pictures of socio-politico-economic and security issues of FATA. The present discussion to explore the nature and causes of conflict in Kurram Agency was the part of such discourses organized by FRC.

Kurram Agency

Kurram is one of the seven tribal agencies; it was declared as an agency in 1892 and became the part of Pakistan in 1947. The sectarian violence remained an issue since long but the sectarian identities as well as

hostilities became worse during past few years. The population is divided into three sub-divisions, namely Upper Kurram (almost 80% Shia), Central Kurram (95% Sunni) and Lower Kurram (80% Sunni). Around 935,000 people are living in an area spreading 3,380 square kilometers in the agency which is bordered with the North Waziristan in the South, Hangu, Orakzai and Khyber Agency in the East, whilst it shares its border with Afghanistan's area of Nangarhar in the North.

Historical Background of Conflict¹

Unlike in other agencies of the FATA, sectarian tensions rather than tribal or political issues are the main drivers of militancy in Kurram. The Afghan jihad against the Soviet invasion forced thousands of Afghans over the border into Kurram, where the Pakistani government established several refugee camps. Many weapons also flowed into Pakistan, ranging from small arms to the famed Stinger missiles, and local families purchased these weapons for protection and attacks against enemies. Thus, clashes between Sunnis and Shias in Kurram looked less like two sectarian rivals squabbling than a full-scale war. Afghan refugees fought largely on the side of the Sunnis in Kurram, and conflicts continued to occur throughout the 1980s and 1990s. Periodically, the fighting witnessed respite by the intervention of tribal elders of both sects.

Sectarian tension in Kurram has been one result of Pakistan's role in the Afghan jihad. The Turis, a Shia tribe, became alarmed when Pakistan's intelligence services provided funding and arms to Sunni insurgent groups like Hezb-i-Islami, led by Gulbadin Hikmatyar. The Turis demanded that the Pakistani government supply them with weapons and ammunition as well, even though they were not participating in the anti-Soviet jihad because the Soviet Union had not attacked Pakistan. Kurram's Shia were reluctant to provide shelter to the fleeing Afghan refugees, who were mostly Sunni, fearing that the Pakistani government was attempting to diminish the Shia haven in Kurram.

Sectarian tension built across Pakistan during the 1980s, and in 1987 the first major sectarian fight broke out in Sada, in Lower Kurram, sparked by

¹ The analysis on the historical background of the conflict in Kurram Agency is based on the counterterrorism strategy initiative policy paper, "The Battle for Pakistan, Militancy and Conflict in Kurram" by Mansur Khan Mahsud published in New American Foundation research journal. The contents are published with due permission of the author.

a clash during the Muharram procession², in which hundreds of Sunni and Shia were killed. As the Sunni-led Taliban rose to power in Afghanistan, sectarian conflict in Kurram reached a fever pitch, and in 1997, hundreds more were killed in Parachinar, in Upper Kurram, after schoolboys wrote anti- Shia slurs on buildings across the city. The conflict escalated and fighting eventually spread across the agency. As bloody violence spread across Kurram, a Jarga of Sunni and Shia elders from Hangu was convened and managed to broker a cease-fire between the two sects in Parachinar. The fighting stopped, but the residents of the city were forced to spend 45 days under a curfew implemented by the government as the situation settled down. However, sporadic clashes continued across the agency, forcing roads to close down, trapping many Shia and Sunni in their villages. Similar rounds of violence occurred in Parachinar in November 2007 and April 2008 and tensions continued to simmer even today. More than 2,000 people died in sectarian clashes in Kurram between 2007 and 2010.

Sectarian Militant Groups in Kurram

Shia Groups

The Shia community has two militant groups active in Kurram but they focus exclusively on defending Shia interests, not on attacking the Pakistani state or U.S. and NATO forces in Afghanistan. The Shia of Kurram attempt to keep names of the two groups' secret for security reasons but brief descriptions can be illustrated. Kurram Hizbullah fighters, ideologically close to Iran, are active in Parachinar and send their religious charitable donations or Khamas to Iran. This group is small in size. The Mahdi militia has members from all over the agency. This conservative and rigid group is ideologically close to Iraq's Moqtada al-Sadr. The Mahdi militia is much stronger than the Kurram Hizbullah.

² Muharram is the first month of the Islamic Calendar. It is an important period of mourning in Shia Islam.

Sunni Groups

Although the Sunni of Kurram are not formally organized into certain specific militant groups, they do develop tribal Lashkars as needed to fight the Shia, and they receive full support of the TTP from Waziristan and of Lashkar-e-Islam and Ansar ul-Islam from Khyber. Many Sunni Taliban fighters also fled to Central and Lower Kurram to escape the Pakistani military offensive in South Waziristan in the fall of 2009. Sipah-e-Sahaba Pakistan, a well-known anti-Shia militant group in Pakistan, is also active in Kurram though it is not as prominent as it is elsewhere in the country. The strength of the TTP was shriveled when Fazal Saeed Haqni established his own militant group named Tehreek-e-Islami Taliban Pakistan (TITP).

Grievances of the Population

Since the outbreak of the most recent spate of sectarian violence in Kurram, the Pakistani government's role in resolving tensions there has been minimal. For the most part, the Pakistani military remains uninvolved while Taliban fighters battle with tribal-lashkars and sectarian groups, to the chagrin of both the Sunni and Shia residents of Kurram. The Shia accuses the government of not doing enough to protect them from Sunnis and Taliban fighters. Economic concerns also trouble the Shia. The staple food items are sold by inflated prices compared to their original prices in settle areas of Khyber Pakhtonkhwa. Many local government employees have not been paid in years. Shia accuse the Pakistani government of deliberately not controlling violence in Kurram, citing as proof speeches made by public office bearers inciting uncertainty among Shia population.

Because of the Sunni blockade, Shia seeking to leave Kurram have three options: cross the border into Afghanistan, then cross back through the Khyber Pass to reach Peshawar, a more accessible city and the capital of the NWFP; travel with Pakistani military convoys, but this is risky as the security forces remain targets for Sunni Taliban fighters; or take an

airplane, though private pilots charge triple their regular fares to travel in and out of Parachinar. The main Kurram-Peshawar road was opened in early 2012 however occasional clashes among the sects continued on this issue.

Sunnis, for their part, complain that the Pakistani government does not give them enough support during clashes with the Shia in Kurram. The Sunni population also faces many difficulties associated with the movements of their groups in recent years. Sunnis who have been expelled from Parachinar and Upper Kurram live as refugees in Sada and Central Kurram; and Sunni Mangal tribe members are trapped in their areas of Upper Kurram, unable to travel through Shia territory to the rest of Pakistan.

Taliban militants plague Sunnis and Shia alike, though the Sunni population was initially more welcoming. However, after years of beheadings, targeted killings and kidnappings for ransom, both sects are frustrated with the TTP's ongoing presence and the Pakistani military's ineffective responses to the threat.

Scope and Limitations of the Discussion

The speakers of this session belonged to Shia sect of Islam and may not represent the population of Kurram in its entirety. However, the nature of conflict in one tribal area is different from the other. In the same context, the conflict in Kurram Agency was analyzed on the basis of facts and figures provided by speakers who belonged to Kurram Agency.

Profile of the Guest Speakers

Syed Iqbal Mian holds a master's degree in Human Resource Management and belongs to one of the most influential political families of Kurram agency. Thirty two years old Iqbal Mian and his family has great contribution for bringing peace and development in the region. He had been working with FATA Development Authority as Consultant 'Skill Development for FATA Youth' from 2007 to 2010. His contributions in education sector are regarded valuable for Kurram agency.

Shabir Sajdi holds masters degree in Education, Economics and Pakistan Studies. He is the head of the SRO (Society Reforms Organization), based in Kurram agency, working for promotion of education. He has contributed to bring peace in Kurram and arranged the first Shia-Sunni joint elders Jarga for peace. He was the pioneer in launching 120 days demonstration against the closer of Parachinar road.

Ali Afzal Afzaal is a senior journalist and has worked with a number of local and international radio and TV channels including, but not limited to, BBC Pashtu radio service, NHK broadcasting service, Al-Jazeera, FRC and GEO TV. Of special note are his exclusive interviews with Jalal-ud-din Haqqani (Chief of the Haqqani Network), Gulbadin Hikmatyar (Chief of Hizb-e-Islami Afghanistan), and Late Naik Mohammad (founder of the Taliban movement in South Waziristan). Mr. Afzaal is a resident of Parachinar, Kurram Agency. He possesses a Masters degree in Mass Communications.

Key Notes from Guest Speakers

Mr. Iqbal Mian:

- Literacy rate among the youth is very low in Kurram Agency because of poor financial status of the people. If they (the youth of Kurram) get money, their priorities are to buy a machine gun or to travel (by following their Commander or Amir) in search of their goals. Amir (Militant Commander) is the final authority for them who assures the provision of Jannat (paradise) wealth and other necessities of life. That is how they, the militants get local support.
- It would be much better if we call this conflict as the conflict between tribes instead calling it conflict between sects because the miscreants are present in both the sects, i.e. the Shia and the Sunni. The miscreants, supported by external forces, initiated the war which was joined by other members of different tribes mainly Bangash and Tori tribes from the Shia sect while Lasherzai, Musazai, Mangle and Parachamkani from the Sunni sect.
- Jarga system is dominated by the corrupt Maliks where decision making depends upon their whims and wishes. Areas where Maliks are good in rapport enjoy 'Justice' provided by Jarga but the areas where these corrupt Maliks sit in Jarga are suffering from biased judgments. So, the Jarga is not providing justice because it consists of unreliable and unfair jurists.
- There is the presence of two elements in Kurram, pro and anti American. Kurram Agency is the most suitable place for this game. The interests of these two forces (American and Anti-American agencies) lead to the conflict.
- The one, who offers more money to the militants can get their support and can use them for desired purposes.
- Tribes of Kurram, whose literacy rate is comparatively higher e.g. Tori and Bangash living in Parachinar, are mostly engaged in professional activities, i.e. doing jobs with commercial and non

commercial organizations for their livelihood. Therefore, they are less likely to be exploited easily. But the situation is different in other areas of Kurram where majority of the people are illiterate and they can easily be exploited.

- Government has actually ignored the area which is marred with non-provision of even the basic facilities. Provisions of educational and employment opportunities can be supportive for eradicating extremism and militancy. They get motivation and inspiration from Media (TV and news papers). Those who have resources, they educate their children in Peshawar and Islamabad. So, these educated people who get education in cities live and work in those major cities of Pakistan, not in Kurram.
- Government officials also do not take care of what they say in their public pronouncements. An official once said that the government would not involve militants in peace process. The present escalation in militants' activities could be a reaction of that statement.
- Unfortunately, there is no fixed formula/mechanism for encouraging conflict resolution and peace building at the grass root level. The present focus on Kurram can be considered in the larger context of unrest in FATA.

Mr. Shabir Sajdi:

- In 1987 war, Zia war, where almost all the Afghan fighting groups participated against the Toori and Bangash tribes (Shia tribes), was fought to vacate Kurram agency for the Afghan refugees. Sufficient evidence is available to prove that the population of Kurram was planned to shift into the camps in D.I.Khan and Bhakar. The implicit purpose of shifting the locals out of the agency was to provide space for the Afghan refugees to run their affairs in accordance with their own plan while staying at Kurram Agency.
- In 1996, war in Parachinar was fought to make an easy movement of FC (Frontier Constabulary) and other Mujahideens towards Afghanistan to support Taliban's cause in Afghanistan; as soon as

Mullah Umar declared the establishment of his government in Afghanistan, the war at Parachinar ended.

- The third war has been fought in Kurram during the last five years where almost all the militants groups such as Taliban and Al-Qaeda participated. Due to the active support of these groups (Taliban and Al-Qaeda) we have witnessed many local people who emerged from the criminal elements of the society emerged as militants in Kurram. Most of them include criminals who just came out of prisons. These militants groups are the "third force" in Kurram Agency.
- It seems that the security forces have created the "third force" in Kurram out of the people having low profile in society. The incident of the Sadda prison where many criminals were released indicated that they have been supported by our security forces. The same criminals attacked on a convoy next day and many civilian were victimized.
- Although the people of FATA are quite peaceful but the third force is disturbing the peace in the area.
- The Jarga has been misused by the third force where they intervene in the matters of great importance. Sometimes, the third force remained very effective in the process of conflict resolution through Jarga; for instance the issue of roads blocked was resolved only after the intervention of the third force through influencing Jarga.
- The local people of lower and central Kurram provided shelter to the Taliban for two reasons; for money and for anti-Shia sentiments. Even the local were promised by Taliban that they would be given Parachinar city after expelling Shia from there.
- A limited number of Sunni-population is involved in backing the Taliban for sectarian purpose.
- The militant groups namely Hizbullah and Huzbul Islam in Kurram consist of a few miscreant-groups; these groups have no links with the Hizbullah operating internationally. The miscreants are present

on both sides but the Shia community is more vulnerable to the conflict.

- Upper Kurram and Parachinar's literacy rates are almost the same but the remote areas of central and lower Kurram which consist of Sunni population, are mostly illiterate. This contributes to illiteracy of Kurram. So most of the illiterate people are living in central Kurram while it is contrary to Parachinar where the most of the people are educated and the ratio of literacy is almost the same between both the sects. The illiteracy in Kurram also contributes to extremism and militancy.
- The issue of FATA is directly linked with the American presence in Afghanistan where the present Afghan government is becoming a threat to its neighboring states including Pakistan. That is why; Pakistan wants to keep Taliban in FATA. The presence of American forces in Afghanistan is the reason for the involvement of other states in this war such as Iran, China and Pakistan. For instance, Gul Baddin has been supported by Iran.
- Peace can be achieved in Kurram only if Afghans get stable government but it is unlikely after the withdrawal of US from Afghanistan. On the other hand, the international forces such as Americans and European Union do not want to see a stable Pakistan as well.
- Our respected elders who are struggling to bring peace between the two sects have often been threatened by the Taliban which affects the peace process in Kurram.
- Strengthening the traditional setup to settle the issues through indigenous sagacity can be handy in bringing peace and development in Kurram.

Mr. Ali Afzal Afzaal:

- Resolution of Kurram issue is not an easy task. From the last 32 years, the people of Kurram remained displaced from their homes. Whenever the solution has been reached at, another issue

hampered the process. For instance, the solution for peace building was at hand when a blast occurred in the Shia populated area; the responsibility of which was claimed by Fazal Saeed (a Sunni militant). So, in this way the misperception was spread among Shia community which led to further hostilities instead and we lost the chance of conflict resolution.

- The government's policy of coping with the situation in case of any protest after bomb blast in itself is a hurdle for peace building.
- It is not only the government which takes wrong direction as for as settlement of the conflict is concerned, but the Jarga is also very non-serious in settling the disputes.
- Fazal Saeed has once declared attacks on forces and innocent people as un-Islamic. But his claim of the recent blast made things confusing where one can guess the security forces support available for him. His anti-TTP sentiments also depicted that security forces enhanced support for him.
- The government seems to be ineffective where most of the time it uses appeasement policy for militants to bring peace in the area which makes the situation even worse. Although the local elders on both sides want peace in the area but 'the third force' does not allow them to settle their issues.

Nature of Conflict in Kurram Agency

According to the speakers the nature of extremism in Kurram Agency is different from that of other tribal agencies where Talibanization and Sectarian Violence accelerate each other. A dominant view in Kurram considers the sectarian tendencies in one sect invites extremism which further leads to the formation of militants groups in other sects. This sectarian conflict facilitates clash between militant groups which have been supported or backed by national and international forces.

- The war is being fought between anti and pro American elements in Kurram; the elements who want America out of Afghanistan are supported by anti US states including Pakistan. Kurram Agency is the most suitable place for this proxy game.
- The interests of these two forces (American and Anti-American agencies) lead to the enhancement of conflict.
- The one, who offers more money to the militants, can get their support and can use them for the desired purpose.
- The war in Afghanistan kept the militancy alive in Kurram where the flow of Mujahideens was easily managed through Kurram to Afghanistan.
- The issue of Kurram is directly related to the US presence in Afghanistan.
- Literacy plays an important role in triggering conflicts in Kurram. Areas with high literacy rate are less prone to militancy and vice versa.
- Lack of peace and conflict management at grass root level and less support for indigenous actors are causing escalation of conflict.

Causes of Conflict in Kurram Agency

The traditional setup including traditional institutes such as Jarga, Hujra etc, has been exploited by the miscreants who have been supported by the non-local militants groups. On the other hand, Maliks who used to sit in the jury of Jarga have been threatened many times which compelled them to leave their area. The other thing which becomes the cause for this militancy is the non-seriousness of the Political Administration in Kurram. In most cases the preemptive measures may sustain peace but the ineffective counter insurgency plan of the government could not avoid many violent incidents.

Lack of education coupled with unemployment among the youth became one of the main causes of their joining militancy where they get what they cannot in their ordinary lives. It is not only the youth who becomes the target of militancy but the financially and socially deprived and marginalized classes of the society also join militancy to get prestige and save their identity. Majority of the militant leaders have criminal record or originally belonged to poor strata of the society. Other reasons may include

- Jarga system is dominated by corrupt Maliks who dispense so called justice according to their own wishes.
- Most of the elders, who were progressive and visionary, were eliminated from militants' way, that created a vacuum in the leadership and authority in the traditional tribal setup; that further paved way for the leadership of the low profile and criminal people in the society.
- The government ignored Kurram agency for providing education and employment opportunities to the local people. In such circumstances people preferred to leave the area in search of education facilities and employment opportunities in settled districts of Pakistan.

- One of the causes of low literacy rate in most of the areas of Kurram is due to Mullah and Maliks where they create hurdles in the way of getting education. In most of the cases these Maliks and Mullahs directly threat the teachers as 'not to teach'.
- One cannot ignore the international situation where the world power (US) waged war on terrorists' organizations and against the States which supposedly accommodated these terrorists. This war became lethal for sustaining peace in Kurram. Once, in 1980s, the peace was evaporated from the land of Kurram when Pakistan wanted to stop the then USSR from heading towards "warm water".
- There is a force which does not allow the two conflicting sects (Shia and Sunni) to settle their issues. The force has been declared as a 'third force' by the local people in Kurram. The force has been supported by the outsider militants' organizations including some foreign countries.

Way Forward

On the basis of the local views regarding future of Kurram few things were considered extremely important for establishing peace in future. The future peace process can be carried out by the three parties including the members of the two sects and the government agencies of Pakistan. The government policies must be embraced by the locals of Kurram. The government must not rely on 'quick and fix formula' which includes masses suppression and large scale military operations.

- Restoration of pure Jarga system can help in settling the dispute between the two sects where the elders of the two sects must be involved so that they could solve and settle their issues through the indigenous way.
- For the restoration of peace through the local setup (Jarga) the elders on both sides must be protected from any unfair incident. Most of the time the elders tried to remove grievances among people but they received threats which caused their step-backing from peace process.
- It became crystal clear that all sorts of militants have been supported by the non-local militants' organizations based either inside Kurram or in other regions. Therefore to eliminate militants from the agency, there is need to pin point and curb the sources of empowerment for militants.
- Education is also a hope for the restoration of peace by making the people aware of their rights and responsibilities. This facility of education must be extended to the far-flung areas of Kurram agency to reduce militancy and sectarian differences among the people of those areas.
- It has been noticed that most of the new militant-recruits are among the unemployed youth of Kurram where they try to find

money and prestige thereby joining militant groups. So employment opportunity may also hinder them joining militancy.

- Education sector has been considered damaged by the non supportive behavior of the religious (Imams/Mullahs) and traditional (Elders and Maliks) leaders. Flourishing education in Kurram needs their moral support.
- Teachers exchange program between the two sects is helpful in enhancing tolerance and unity while this exchange is only possible through the moral support of the religious and traditional leadership in Kurram.
- American withdrawal may prove the end point of Kurram conflict (it causes the support of foreign states for the third force inside Kurram agency), it may lead towards a stable Afghanistan which is necessary for peaceful and stable Kurram.
- The sting of sectarian violence needs to be removed from the two sects by propagating the conflict as a conflict between two tribes rather than between two sects. Because it has been often exploited by external forces.
- The government must not rely on the quick and fix formulas including suppression of common people and mass scale military operation which always became the cause of depression for the masses.

Conclusion

The trigger cause of conflict in Kurram Agency, repeatedly referred by the guest speakers, was the emergence of 'the third force'. The emergence of new influential actors from the poor strata of society and the people with criminal record supported by external-militant-groups was recognized as 'the third force' that escalated the plight of people of Kurram by joining hands with the militant-groups.

The local people represented by the Shia speakers in the discussion, opine that it is the third force which always disrupted the peace process in Kurram; sometimes by threatening the tribal elders, who involve in the peace process, while at another time exploding on Jarga. It is of worth pondering as to how this third force got empowered and penetrated in tribal society in Kurram. It may have a two-fold answer, i.e. the outsider militants groups (national and international) backed this force and/or the local people joined it to settle their own old scores.

The strategic location of Kurram Agency is another important factor to provoke militancy; Tehreek-e-Taliban Pakistan (TTP) and other militant groups tried to enter into Afghanistan through Kurram which was resisted by Shia tribes of Kurram agency, on the grounds that it would disturb the balance of power among Shia and Sunni tribes as well as spur militancy in the agency. Shia tribes resisted TTP for using Kurram as transit route to Afghanistan, after blockade of South and North Waziristan routes, which prompted skirmishes in Kurram Agency.

As far as the external support is concerned, the American presence in Afghanistan caused clash in FATA in general and in Kurram in particular. The speakers suggested that the Pakistani security forces must thwart the channel of external support for the third force to curb militancy from Kurram agency. The local people of Kurram joined the extremists due to their poor financial status and criminal background. Illiteracy also

contributed in this regard. To counter the militants' recruitment, the government must come up with long-term policy where the people have adequate education facilities along with secure future by providing them employment opportunities.

The sectarian differences among the tribes living in Kurram leveled playing ground for the penetration of the third force in Kurram. Therefore the people of Kurram need to propagate the conflict as a clash among tribes rather than clash between sects. The other way of curbing extremism in Kurram may be restoring the traditional tribal setup along with all institutions such as Jarga. In the present scenario the institution of Jarga has been dominated by militants in Kurram. Besides, the Maliks involved in dispensing justice, are also corrupted. On government part, the conflict and its resolution has been ignored in the past whereas the government can curb militancy by providing security to the tribal elders who are involved in peace process.

Annexure A

Agenda

Topic: Conflict in Kurram Agency: Nature and Causes

Date: February 17, 2012, Timings: 14:00 – 17:00 hrs

Location: FRC, 23 A, Street 28, F-10/1, Islamabad.

Contact: 051-2112853, 051-2112554, 0343-8511353

Guest Speakers: Mr. Iqbal Mian, Mr. Shabir Sajdi, Mr. Sajad

Time	Item	Owner
14:00-14:30	Arrival of Guest and Registration	Ms. Erum
14:30 - 14:35	Welcome, Purpose, and Agenda	Mr. Zaheer
14:35 - 14:45	Introduction of FRC, Projects and Seminar Series	Dr. Ashraf
14:50-15:05	Conflict in Kurram: Nature and Causes of crisis in Kurram Agency	Mr. Iqbal Mian
15:10-15:25	Conflict in Kurram: Nature and Causes of crisis in Kurram Agency	Mr. Shabir Sajdi
15:30-15:45	Conflict in Kurram: Nature and Causes of crisis in Kurram Agency	Mr. Sajad
15:45-16:15	Question & Answer Session and Discussion	Open
16:20-16:25	Conclusion, Thanks and Adjournment	Dr. Ashraf & Mr. Zaheer
16:30 - 17:00	Hi-Tea	All participants

Annexure B

List of Participants

S.N	Names	Representation
1.	Iqbal Mian	Resident of Kurram
2.	Shabir Sajdi	Resident of Kurram
3.	Sajjad	Resident of Kurram
4.	Ali Afzal Afzaal	FRC field reporter from Kurram
5.	Dr Ashraf Ali	President FRC
6.	Saif Ullah Mahsud	Executive Director FRC
7.	Sibt-e-Azam	Resident of Kurram
8.	Zaheer Khan	Program Manager
9.	Mansur Khan	Research Director FRC
10.	Erum Ayaz	Program Assistant FRC
11.	Tahir Amin	Sub Editor
12.	Umar Iqbal	IT Engineer FRC
13.	Ishfaqullah Showl	Editor
14.	Rana Muhammad Aatif	Assistant Admin & Finance FRC
15.	Mehran Ali khan	Associate Researcher
16.	Nukhbat Malik	PM Internews
17.	Asmat Ullah Khan	PC SPADO
18.	Shamila Kyani	PC UM Trust
19.	Masoora Ali	Coordinator VSO
20.	Naveed Ahmed	Student Iqra University
21.	Umair Syed	MSDS Iqra University
22.	Mahrukh Hassan	MSDS Iqra University
23.	Sharafat Ali Chaudhry	MSDS Iqra Univerisy
24.	Khudayar Khan Mohla	Reporter Business Recorder
25.	Muhammad Asad Qayum	MBA Bahria University

Annexure C

Kurram Agency at Glance

Kurram Agency is one of the seven tribal agencies which can be divided into three major portions such as Upper Kurram, Lower Kurram and Central Kurram. The history, geography and population of the agency have been discussed in the introduction of this report. Therefore a few of the things addition to that would be described here at this part of writing.

Major Tribes

To understand the nature of the conflict and to find out solutions for this one needs to have knowledge about the people's division into various tribes or to understand the tribal identity of the people living in Kurram agency. The following are the major tribes in Kurram:

Zeemosht Aurakzai: majority based in Central Kurram, while some are in Lower Kurram

Para Chamkani: almost the whole tribe is based in Central Kurram

Suni Bangash, Shia Bangash and Turi: based in Lower and Upper Kurram, where they live together

Mengal: majority are living in Central Kurram

Alisherzai: based in Central Kurram

Muqbal: based in Upper Kurram

Musozai: based in Central Kurram

Non Governmental Organization (NGOs)

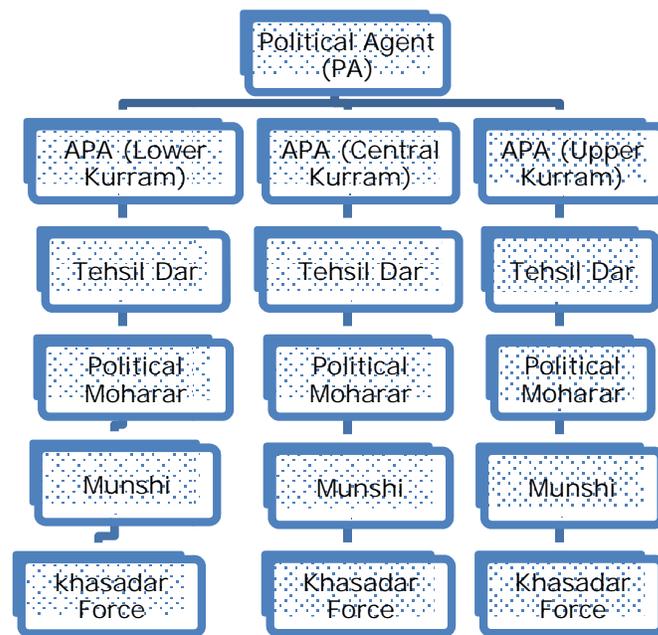
UNHCR has arranged a camp for internally displaced people (IDPs) in Sadda lower Kurram agency which has also provided edible items to them. Some NGOs have dug tube wells and some have provided material for house construction in Bagzai and Upper Manduri in Lower Kurram agency.

Political Administration

There is a Political Agent (PA), three Assistant Political Agents (APA) and three tehsil-dars. If we show the political administration in hierarchy it will place the Political Agent at the top of the hierarchy who is assisted by the

three Assistant Political Agents. Under the command of Assistant Political Agent the Agency's affairs are managed by the Tehsil Dars based in various tehsils. Tehsildars manage the Khasadar force in the agency where these Tehsildars are assisted by Political Moharar who is further assisted by the Munshi (equal to a junior clerk).

The above described structure is supported by the extensive military presence in the area. There are about 25 military check posts in various places whereas some 20 newly deployed militia units are installed. The levies mobile teams patrol all the time to avoid unfavorable incidents.



Human and Material Losses in the War in Kurram Agency

During the whole discussion, almost all kinds of destructions, including destruction of houses, schools, hospitals, and roads etc, have been mentioned. According to a rough calculation around 43 villages have been destroyed which caused the displacement and miseries of around 1400 families. The numbers of people who have been migrated to other settle districts are 15,000 while the number of those who have been displaced from their houses inside Kurram is estimated 18,000.

The same is the situation of infrastructure damage in Kurram where 10 middle and high schools have been destroyed which affected badly the education service delivery in Kurram Agency. The destruction of 5 Basic Health Units (BHU) affected the health facility in Kurram Agency. Land-

mining and bomb blasts became the cause of widespread damage to roads and electricity in the area.

It is not only the roads and schools which evaporated from the tribal life in Kurram rather the fundamental source of livelihood, i.e. agriculture, has been affected. The agricultural fatality of land of Kurram has also been affected.

As far as the Human loss is concerned, some 2000 masses, 20 Maliks and tribal elders have been killed and around 100 others kidnapped and/or shot dead. Thus the plight of people caused by militancy and extremism speaks volumes in Kurram Agency.
