

# PAKISTAN SECURITY REPORT

First Half 2016



**FRC**  
FATA RESEARCH CENTRE



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First Half 2016

(JANUARY – JUNE)

**To the Peace that will follow conflict in the troubled country of Pakistan**

# Map of Pakistan



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### **About FATA Research Centre**

FATA Research Centre (FRC) is a non-partisan, non-political and non-governmental research organisation based in Islamabad. It is the first ever think-tank that specifically focuses on the Federally Administered Tribal Areas (FATA) of Pakistan in its entirety. The purpose of establishing the FRC is to create a better understanding about the conflict in FATA among the concerned stake holders through undertaking independent, impartial and objective research and analysis. The FRC endeavors to create awareness among all segments of the Pakistani society and the government to jointly strive for a peaceful, tolerant and progressive FATA.

### **Pakistan Biannual Security Report**

The Pakistan Biannual Security Report reviews recent trends of conflict in Pakistan such as the number and type of militant attacks, tactics and strategies used by the militants and the resultant casualties. The objective of this security report is to outline and categorize all forms of violent extremism, role of militant groups and the scale of militant activities in the area. This report is built upon regular monitoring of militant and counter-militant activities, using primary and secondary sources of data. The Centre collects data from the field through its field researchers working in all the five provinces of Pakistan and FATA, and also consults reliable secondary sources to ensure the quality and veracity of its research. However, it also faces certain limitations since certain areas are undergoing counter-insurgency operations and impositions of curfew. Militant and counter-militant attacks sometimes restrict the mobility of our field staff. Thus, the number of actual occurrences of violent activities may be greater than those being reported here.

## **Acknowledgment**

The research team of the FRC deserves the credit for collecting the data and compiling this report.

The report was drafted by Irfan U Din (Lead Researcher) with assistance from Maida Aslam and Noshad Ali Mahsud (Research Associates). Hoor Arif (Researcher) and Naila Nadir (IT) carried out extensive media monitoring.

The Security Report was supervised by Dr. Syed Adnan Ali Shah (Director Programme) while Saifullah Mahsud (President) and Mansur Khan Mahsud (Executive Director) reviewed it.

## Acronyms

**AI:** Ansar-ul-Islam  
**APA:** Assistant Political Agent  
**BA:** Bajaur Agency  
**FATA:** Federally Administered Tribal Areas  
**FC:** Frontier Corps  
**FC:** Frontier Constabulary  
**FCR:** Frontier Crimes Regulation  
**FDA:** FATA Development Authority  
**FR:** Frontier Region  
**HBIED:** Human-Borne Improvised Explosive Device  
**IBOs:** Intelligence-based Operations (IBOs)  
**IDP:** Internally Displaced Persons  
**IED:** Improvised Explosive Device  
**KA:** Kurram Agency  
**KHA:** Khyber Agency  
**KP:** Khyber-Pakhtunkhwa  
**LI:** Lashkar-e-Islam  
**MA:** Mohmand Agency  
**NATO:** North Atlantic Treaty Organization  
**NWA:** North Waziristan Agency  
**OA:** Orakzai Agency  
**Sect:** Sectarian  
**SF:** Security Forces  
**SWA:** South Waziristan Agency  
**TI:** Tauheed-ul-Islam  
**TTP:** Tehrik-e-Taliban Pakistan  
**VBIED:** Vehicle-borne Improvised Explosive Device  
**BRA:** Balochistan Republican Army  
**BLA:** Balochistan Liberation Army  
**BLF:** Balochistan Liberation Front  
**LeJ:** Lashkar-e-Jhangvi  
**ISK:** Islamic State of Khorasan

## Glossary

**Counter-Militant Attacks:** Large-scale military operations launched by security forces and paramilitary troops against militants in FATA in order to restore law and order and establish the writ of the state. This category includes military offensives, search and destroy operations, intelligence-based operations (IBOs), air attacks employing fighter jets, helicopter gunships and drones.

**Militant Attacks:** Indiscriminate use of violence by militant outfits - both local, non-local and foreign. The local militant outfits are mainly Balochistan Liberation Army, Balochistan Republican Army, Balochistan Liberation Front, Lashker-e- Jhangvi, Al Qaida, Tehrik-e-Taliban Pakistan (TTP) and its various offshoots and splinter groups like Mahsud Taliban of Khan Said group, Jamaatul Ahrar (JI) of Omar Khalid and Majlis-e-Askari; Lashkar-e Islam (LI), Ansar-ul-Islam(AI); Taliban militant group of Bahawal Khan of Wana-South Waziristan Agency (SWA), Hafiz Gul Bahadar group of North Waziristan Agency (NWA); Jamaat al-Qaeda al-Jihad, Uzbek militants of Islamic Movement of Uzbekistan. All the above mentioned groups employ suicide attacks, beheadings, target killings, ambushes and improvised explosive devices (IEDs), destruction of public property, CD/video shops etc.

**Security Forces:** This include Pakistan Armed Forces , Frontier Corps, Frontier Constabulary , Khassadar force, Levi force and the police.

**Inter and intra-tribal clashes:** Clashes or feuds reported between tribes, clans and families in FATA.

**Amn Lashkar (Urdu for Peace Militias):** Volunteer tribal militias formed by tribes, clans and sub-clans inhabiting FATA to aid the Pakistani government and security forces in their battle against militants of all shades. Other words used for such a volunteer force are tribal lashkars, civil militias, Amn Committees (Urdu for Peace Committees).

**Bomb Blasts:** The category of bomb blasts include attacks involving explosives such as improvised explosive devices (IEDs) in the shape of landmine blasts, roadside blasts, remote controlled bomb blasts, human-borne improvised explosive device (HBIED) and vehicle-borne improvised explosive device (VBIED).

**Total Number of Casualties:** The sum of total killed and injured in FATA due to militant and counter-militant activities



## Chapter 1

### Introduction

#### Pakistan

Pakistan is a South Asian country, sharing its borders with Afghanistan, Iran, China and India. The country spans over an area of 796,095 sq km. It is divided into four provinces: Punjab, Sindh, Baluchistan, and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. Apart from these, Gilgit-Baltistan, FATA, and Azad Kashmir are also parts of Pakistan, governed under different sets of rules. Pakistan has been facing political unrest since its very creation in 1947. The dispute over Kashmir is one of its kind and Pakistan has fought two wars over it, one of which was in the very first year of Pakistan's establishment. The issue is still unresolved and the territory of Jammu and Kashmir is disputed. In 2001, Pakistan joined hands with America when it launched a war against terror and usurped Taliban regime in Afghanistan (Javaid, 2011). The era is marked with Talibanisation in the North western part of Pakistan and an escalation in militancy (Javaid, 2011). Several military operations, including Rah-e-rast, Rah-e-nijat, Zarb-e-Azb, Khyber-I, Khyber-II etc., were carried out in the region to counter militancy. As a result of these operations, millions of people from these lands were dislocated and the socio-political and economic fabric of the region was greatly disturbed. Moreover, this violence spread to other areas of Pakistan as well. In Baluchistan, separatist movements are on a rise while in Sindh, especially in the provincial capital, criminal activities such as extortions and kidnappings are occurring.

#### Methodology

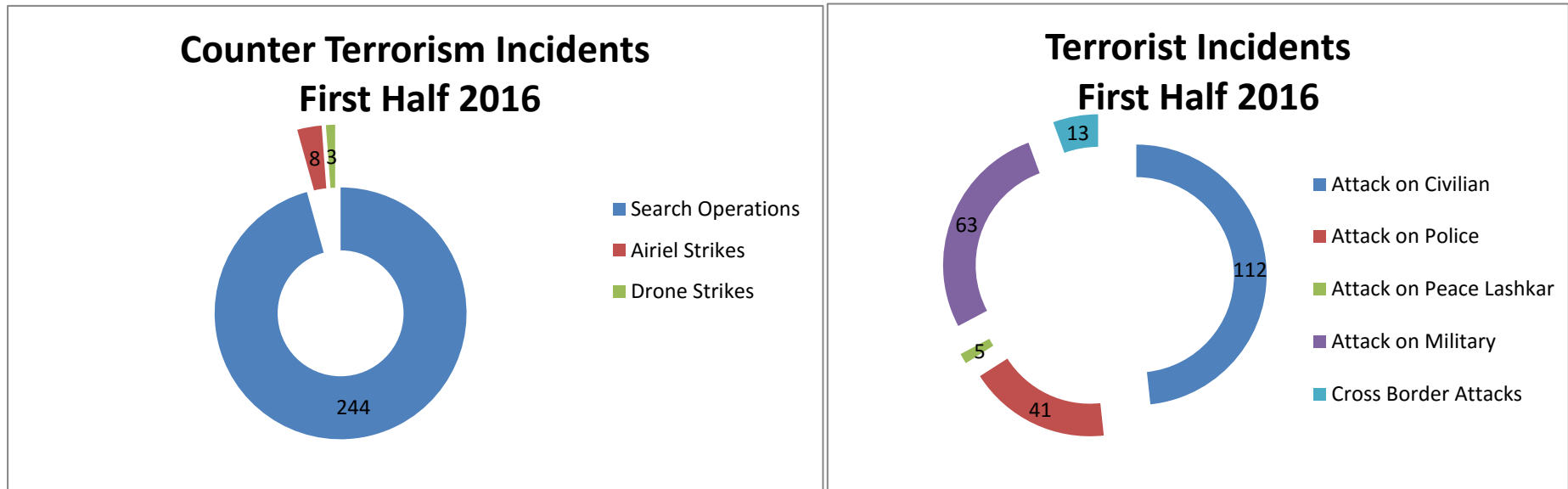
The FRC research team collects information and data from both primary and secondary sources and presents its analysis on the security issues. FRC's internal database, daily monitoring of more than a dozen English and Urdu newspapers, periodicals, magazines, monitoring and reviews of locally distributed literature in the area and data collected from government sources contributes to compilation of this work. Additionally, an up-to-date archive system at the FRC is consulted for authenticity and reference to important events and incidents. FRC correspondents based in FATA and five agencies of Pakistan provide information and data collection after verifying with concerned political administration offices and locals of the area.

## Chapter 2

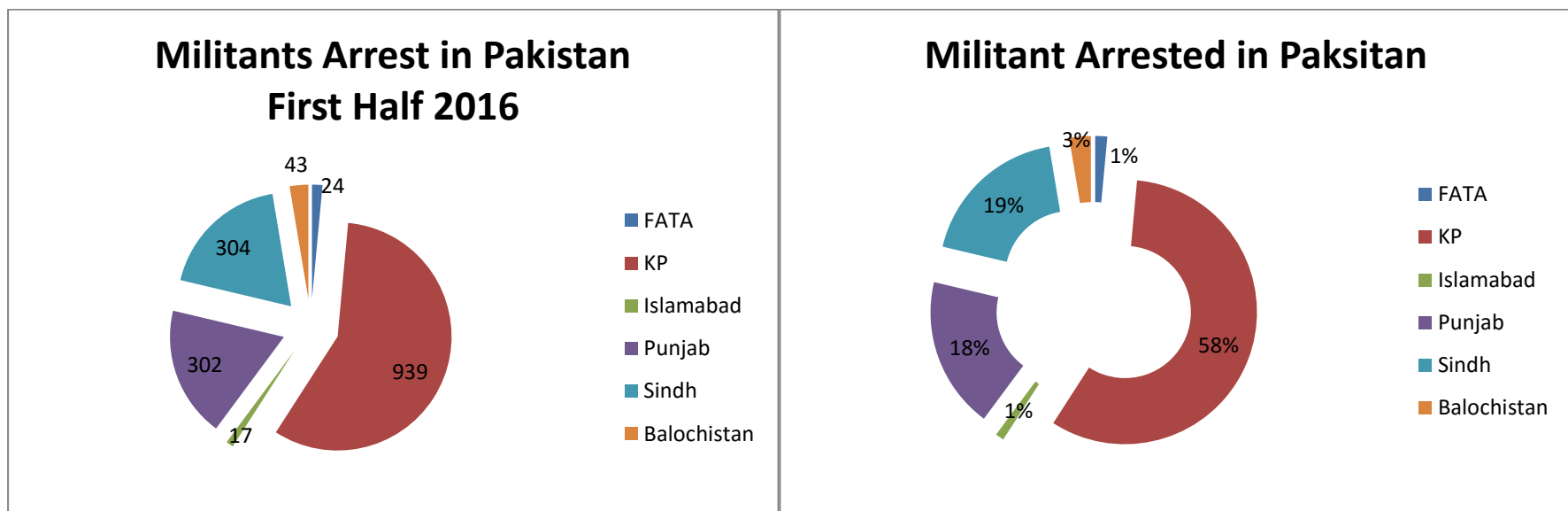
### Security Overview Pakistan First Half of 2016

The security situation in Pakistan remained turbulent during the first six months - January to June 2016. An escalation in violence as a consequence of militant and counter militant activities has left deep impact on the local population inhabiting the country. With the exception of Gilgit-Baltistan and Islamabad City, almost every Province of the country witnessed a surge in militant activities. Compared to the last six months – July to December 2015 – militant activities have increased by 36% during the first half of the year 2016.

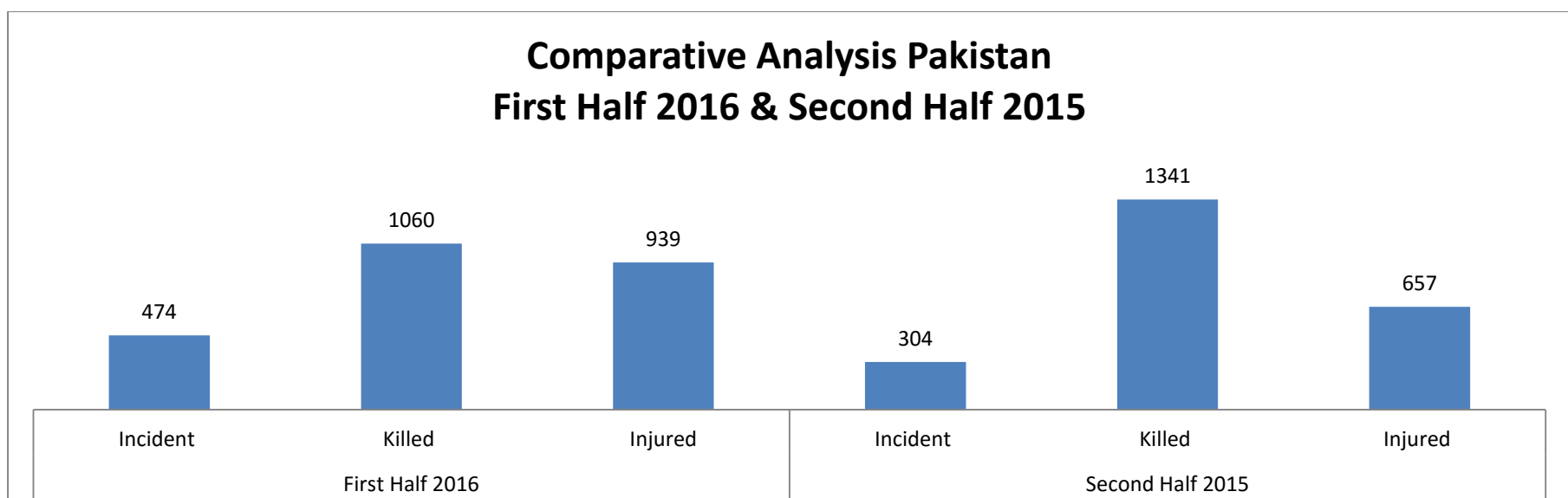
The following graphs give a comprehensive account of violent incidents to have happened in the First Half of 2016. The graphs highlight the nature of attacks, their intensity and type of casualties caused in these incidents, in different areas of Pakistan.



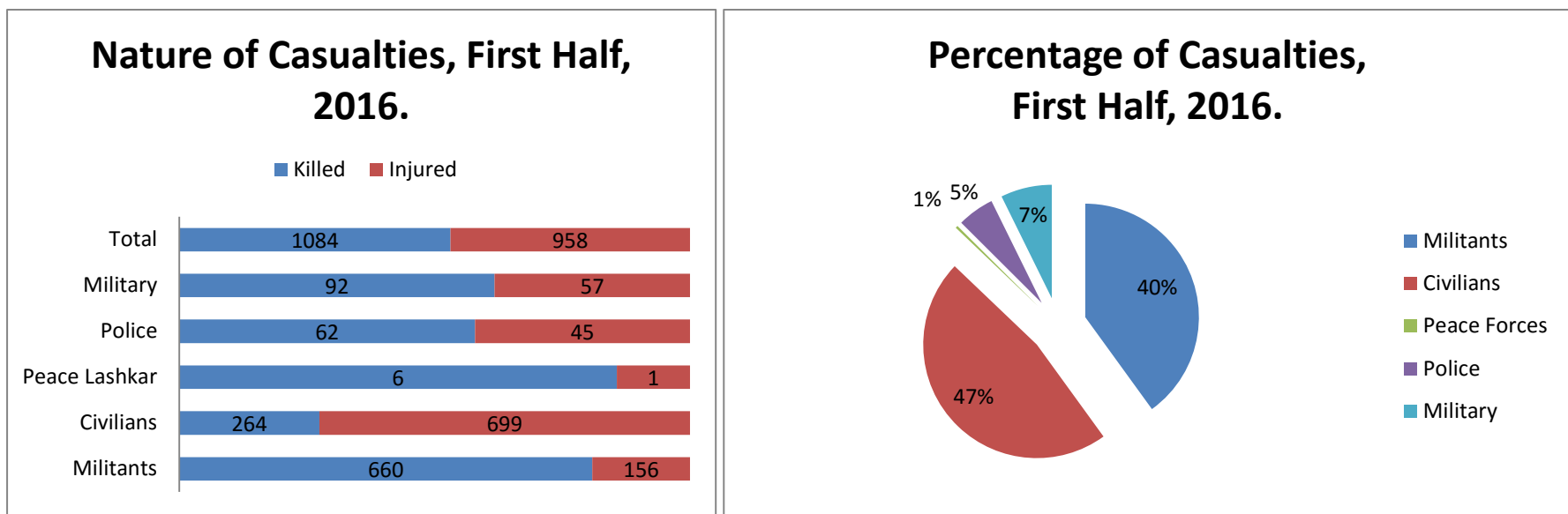
A total of 487 militancy and counter militancy incidents were reported during the First Half, compared to 304 such incidents in the previous half, July-December 2015. A breakdown of 487 incidents shows that 232 were related to militancy and 255 to counter militancy. As many as 112 (23%) of the total attacks were carried out against civilians while on 63 occasions (13%) militants exclusively targeted security forces. Police personnel were the apparent target of 41 attacks – accounting for 8% of the total incidents while on five occasions militants also targeted members of *Peace Lashkars* (Peace Committee).



A total of 1629 militants belonging to Tehreek-e- Taliban Pakistan, Al-Qaida, Islamic State of Khorasan, Jamaat-ul-Ahrar and various militant outfits of Baloch Insurgents were arrested in 244 targeted operations and Intelligence Based Operations (IBO's) during the past six months – January to June 2016 – in Pakistan.

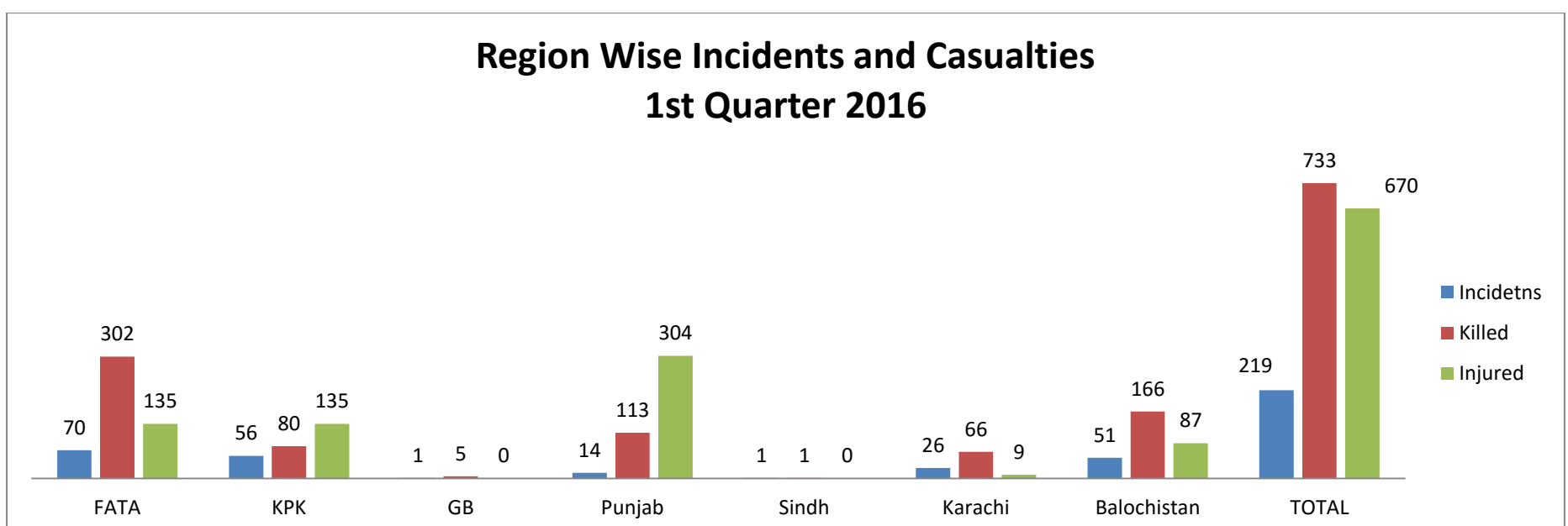


255 incidents related to counter militancy were reported during the first half of 2016, which makes up 52% of the total violent incidents to have occurred. 244 search operations were carried out all over the country. Eight aerial strikes and three drone strikes were carried out in FATA.

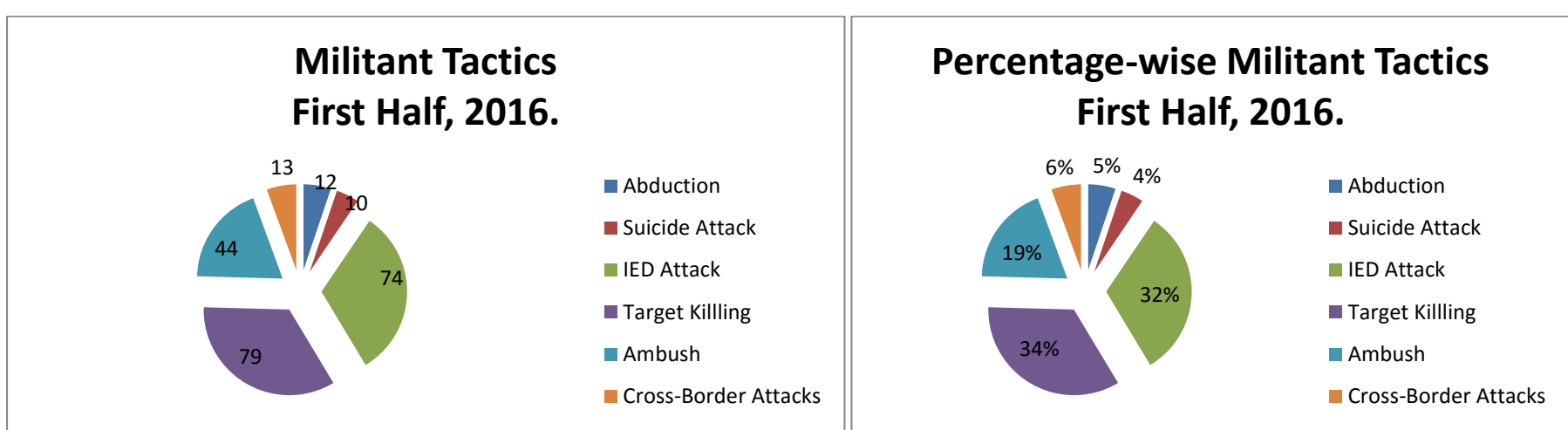


The graph above illustrates that a total of 2,042 casualties were recorded during the First Half of 2016, out of which 1,084 were killings and 958 injuries. The civilians suffered the greatest number of casualties: 264 were killed and 699 were injured. The number accounts for 47% of the total casualties to have occurred. 40% of the casualties were inflicted upon militants; they suffered 816 casualties: 660 killings and 156 injuries. 149 casualties (7% of the total) were inflicted upon security forces (military, frontier corps and frontier constabulary): 92 security personnel were killed and 57 were injured. The police force suffered only 5% of the total casualties including 62 killings and 45 injuries. However, only 7 casualties (six killings and one injury) were inflicted upon the members of *Aman Lashkar* (Civil Militia) accounting for only 1% of the total.

The graph below displays the region wise trend of violence in Pakistan. Federally Administered Tribal Areas [FATA] – where according to military sources, the military operation, Zarb-e-Azb is about to reach culmination – remained the most disturbed region of Pakistan from January to June, 2016. During this period, 70 militancy and counter militancy incidents, amounting for 32 percent of the total incidents to have occurred in Pakistan, were recorded in FATA. These incidents resulted in 437 casualties (302 killings and 135 injuries).



With 56 incidents, accounting for 26% of the total, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa ranks second according to the gradient of violence. 215 casualties (80 killings and 135 injuries) occurred in the province during the first half of the year. Balochistan also stands among the most vulnerable provinces in Pakistan for having experienced a sum of 51 violent incidents (23% of the total) including the most significant incident in Pakistan during the first half of 2016: a Drone strike which killed the Afghan Taliban's supreme leader, Mullah Akhtar Mansoor. Overall, 253 casualties (166 killings and 87 injuries) occurred in these incidents. Karachi follows the list with 26 incidents – making up almost 12% of the total incidents. 66 fatalities and nine injuries were reported. Punjab province where targeted and Intelligence Based Operations (IBO) against militants are going on, presented a bleak picture. Although only 14 incidents (6% of the total) were recorded in Punjab, it suffered the highest number of casualties which is 417. One high profile militant attack on civilians occurred during the outgoing quarter which alone accounted for 72 deaths and 301 injuries. The total casualties to have occurred in Punjab were 417, constituting 113 deaths and 304 injuries. Gilgit-Baltistan and Sindh remained peaceful with one incident in each province.



The above pie-charts show that IED attacks, suicide attacks, ambushes, target killings and cross-border attacks remained the main modes of militancy during the outgoing quarter. Target killings remained the most widely employed tactics of militancy in Pakistan. In total 79 target killings were recorded, which accounts for 34 % of the total militancy incidents. 74 IED attacks [34% of the total incidents], 44 ambushes [19 %

of the total incidents], 13 cross border attacks [6% of the total incidents, 12 abductions [5% of the total incidents], and 10 suicide attacks [4% of the total incidents] were also recorded.

## Chapter 3

### Analysis and Future Predictions

#### Actors Mapping: Violent and Armed Non-State Actors in Pakistan

The intensive militancy in Federally Administered Tribal Areas [FATA] and targeted and Intelligence Based Operations (IBO) in Balochistan, Karachi, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and Punjab have robbed militants of operational space in Pakistan. According to FRC sources, militant groups like Tehreek-e-Taliban Pakistan (TTP), Mahsud Taliban, Lashkar e Islam, Jamaat-ul-Ahrar, Al Qaeda, Turkistan Islamic Party (TIP), and Islamic Movement of Uzbekistan, previously active in the country, shifted to safe havens in Khost, Paktika, Paktiya, and Nangarhar provinces of Afghanistan. However, militant groups like Balochistan Liberation Front, Balochistan Liberation Army, Balochistan Republican Army, Tehrik-e-Taliban Balochistan Chapter, Jamaat-ul-Ahrar, Khan Said Group (Mahsud Taliban), Majlis-e-Askari, and Hakeemullah Group of TTP remained partially active in few pockets along the Pak-Afghan border.

In FATA, Khan Said group (Mahsud Taliban) and TTP factions like Jamaat-ul-Ahrar, Majlis-e-Askari, and Hakeemullah group remained active during these six months. These groups claimed 31 terrorist attacks against civilians, security forces, and members of peace forces in different areas of Bajaur, Mohmand, Khyber, Kurram, North Waziristan, and South Waziristan Agencies.

Tehrik-e-Taliban Pakistan, Balochistan Liberation Army, Balochistan Republican Army, and Balochistan Liberation Front remained active in Quetta, Kech, Qilla Abdulla, Hub, Nasirabad, Dera Bugti, Gawadar, Zhob, Nushki, Pajgur, Sibi, Kohlu, Mastung, Lasbela, Awaran, and Barkan districts of the province. According to FRC database, nine out of the 19 militancy incidents, to have occurred in Balochistan during the First Half of 2016, were carried out by militants of TTP in areas of Satellite Town, Margat, MunirMangal Road, and Chaman and Abdullah Rehman area in Qilla Abdullah, and Cantt area of Zhob District. The increasing activities of TTP in Balochistan manifest their growing operational capacity in the province.

The targeted and intelligence based operations have greatly reduced the operational capacity of Baloch militant groups in the area. 82 Baloch militants who were killed in Nasau area of Kohlu, Sangan area of Sibi, Dera Bugti, Nasirabad, Mastung, Kech, and Kalat Districts during the said period, included five operational commanders of BLA, one high level commander of BLF, and two important commanders of BRA. Loss of these commanders shook the hierarchies of these groups; however, they remained active in Dasht tehsil of Kech District, Nasau and Buled areas of Kohlu district, Sangan area of Sibi, Gramachan area of Pajgur District, Bakar and PirKoh areas of DeraBhugti District, Maskeyarea of Awaran District, Winder area of Lasbela District, Chaper area of Barkan District, KaldanJawani area of Gawadar District, Johan area of Kalat, and Hub district in the province.

Similarly one high profile attack in Lahore and few ambushes on police forces in Faisalabad and Lahore manifest the presence of Jamaat-ul-Ahrar and Lashkar-e-Jhangvi with limited operational capacity in Punjab Province.

#### Emergence of New Militant Groups in Pakistan

Although majority of the militant groups have been dismantled in the western border of Pakistan, one new group “South Tiger” reportedly emerged in South Waziristan Agency of FATA. South Tiger is small militant group with limited operational capacity. The group is headed by Qari Asad whereas Zafaran Eagle is its spokesperson. Zafaran Eagle claimed the responsibility for abducting nine employees of FATA Development Authority (FDA), in an incident during the first week of March from Toi Kuli tehsil of Wana Subdivision in South Waziristan Agency. However, FRC’s sources say that the South Tigers is neither a new group nor a splinter of an existing group but part of the infamous Khan Said group of the Mahsud Taliban.

#### Regrouping of Pakistani Taliban in Afghanistan: Impact on Militancy in Pakistan

In the wake of intensive military operation in the Federally Administered Tribal Areas and intelligence based operations (IBO) in rest of the country, militants have been forced to leave their safe havens in FATA and take refuge in bordering areas of Paktika, Nangarhar and Khost provinces of Afghanistan. The reluctance and inability of Afghan government to take action against these militants has allowed them to regroup and re-establish their networks in these areas. After consolidating their networks in Afghanistan, these militant groups i.e. Lashkar-e-Islam, TTP, Jamaat-ul-Ahrar of TTP, Hakeemullah group of TTP, and Lashker-e-Islam of TTP have intensified their activities inside Pakistan.

For instance Gilman Mahsud, as senior commander of Hakeemullah group for Khost, Kurram, and Tal areas is said to have established his network in Bobrak area along the border in Kurram Agency in Pakistan where he is operating. During the second week of February, Hakeemullah Group claimed to have kidnapped two members of peace committee from Bobrak Thana in Kurram Agency. In a telephonic call to Sailab Mehsud, FRC field researcher for South Waziristan, Gilman Mahsud, said that their fighters have kidnapped Malik Jananan, and Malik Mazagaihailing from North Waziristan Agency, on charges of spying.

Similarly, TTP, Jamat-ul-Ahrar of TTP and Lashkar-e-Islam currently based in Afghanistan, also claimed responsibility for four high profile attacks: one suicide attack in Karkhana Market, Peshawar, one on District courts, Charsada, one in Lahore and one in Bacha Khan University, Charsada district. TTP also claimed responsibility for two suicide attacks in Quetta, the provincial capital of Balochistan.

Pakistani Taliban in Afghanistan also carried out four cross-border attacks in Kurram, South Waziristan and Mohmand Agencies of FATA.

The increasing operational capacity of Pakistani Taliban based in Afghanistan, poses great threat to the security situation of Pakistan, particularly areas close to Pak-Afghan border. In this context, a massive wave of militancy incidents inside Pakistan might also be triggered.

#### Militant Tactics

The militants’ tactics have also undergone a tremendous shift since the launch of multiple and simultaneous military operations across Pakistan. Since majority of Pakistani Taliban have shifted to Afghanistan, a consequent change in their strategies and tactics, modes and targets of their activities was also observed in the First Half of 2016. For instance, the inability to induct new recruits has mainly impacted on militants’ suicide squads. Subsequently, the ratio of suicide bombing has gone down significantly. Only five incident of suicide bombing was reported from Lahore, Quetta and Khyber Agency and Charsada district. According to FRC data base, Target Killings remained the most preferred tactics of militancy in Pakistan. In total 79 Target Killings were recorded across the country, which accounted for 34 percent of the total militancy incidents to have occurred during the first half. 74 IED Attacks [32 percent of the total incidents], 44 militant ambushes on security forces [19



percent of the total incidents], 10 suicide attacks [4% of the total incidents], and 13 cross border attacks [6% of the total incidents] were recorded. The high percentage of IED attacks manifests gradual degeneration of militant networks and their declining operational capacity.

To make their presence felt and to rebut the Government claims of clearing of the country of militant hold, these violent non-state actors carried out high profile attacks in Peshawar, Charsada and Lahore choosing the soft targets [children, women or minority groups]. These militants have been largely successful in making their presence felt on local and international levels. These incidents on one hand are question marks on the effectiveness of intensive military operations against militants while on the other, have triggered a panic among masses as threat perception of militants has significantly inflated among general masses across the country.

## Progress in National Action Plan

Since the inception of National Action Plan in 2014, Pakistani authorities are pursuing a broad strategy to counter Islamic terrorism which builds on intensive hardcore and soft-core policies i.e. detaining thousands of people, seizing hate speech material, freezing bank accounts, and closing religious seminaries across the country etc. The intensive military operation in FATA and intelligence based operations (IBO) in rest of the country have been highly significant in dismantling militant networks in the country.

However, the challenges in way of rooting this menace out are huge and manifold. For instance, it is incumbent upon the government to dry up public support for militant outfits by implementing soft-core policies i.e. ensuring better governance, regulating the madrassa sector, curbing hate speech and similar literature, developing a strong counter rhetoric, and blocking terrorist financing. These policies, however, have been largely haphazard. Similarly civilian government has been very passive and at times reluctant in taking tangible steps to improve the public institutions i.e. de-politicizing the provincial police forces and strengthening their capacity, intelligence sharing between civil and military institutions.

### Rehabilitation of IDPs and FATA Reforms in FATA

The repatriation of Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) in FATA and mainstreaming FATA via legal, political, and administrative reforms is one of the points of NAP. Progress on this point is moving at snail's pace. For instance, since 2009 only 19% of the IDPs have been repatriated to their respective native areas in South Waziristan Agency. According to FDMA, the IDPs return was scheduled for four phases i.e. Phase 1 (March 2015-July 2015), Phase 2(August 2015-November 2015), Phase 3 (December 2015-March 2016), and Phase 4 (JUNE 2016-November 2016). So far 151,833 families have been rehabilitated to the aboriginal lands in Khyber, South Waziristan, North Waziristan, Orakzai, and Kurram Agencies.

On Nov 8, 2015, the Prime Minister announced the formation of a FATA Reforms Committee headed by his adviser on foreign affairs, Sartaj Aziz. The principal objective of this committee is to determine whether FATA should be merged into Khyber-Pakhtunkhwa as provincially administered tribal areas (PATA); or should it be made a separate province of the country; or should it be given a status of separate council like that of Gilgit-Baltistan. The formation of FATA Reforms Committee is a positive step as it aims to bridge the long standing gap between the marginalized masses of FATA and state institutions. It may play a vital role in drying up public support for militants by promoting sense of citizenship among the masses and by fostering economic and social development in the area.

### Choking Terror Financing

Apart from the hardcore policies, the law enforcement agencies have also gone after extremist groups' money. For instance, the State Bank of Pakistan (SBP) has so far frozen Rs 1 billion (US\$ 5 million) in 126 accounts linked to banned militant groups. Law enforcement agencies have also recovered around Rs 251 million (US\$ 2.4 million) in cash in search operations carried out in Karachi. Pertaining to this, a decline in activities like extortion and kidnapping for ransom was observed across the country; however, a rise in the same was witnessed in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province. Traders, industrialists and land owners in different parts of KP, especially the Peshawar Valley districts (Peshawar, Charsadda, Nowshera, Mardan and Swabi), remained victims of extortions by Taliban. Those who refused to conform to the demands made by Taliban were brutally targeted by the militants. According to FRC database, 180 cases of extortion were registered with police, while 216 were filed with the Counter Terrorism Department (CTD) during this quarter<sup>1</sup>. The number exceeds overall cases of extortion – 178 – recorded during the year 2015. During this quarter, eight people who refused to pay the extortion money were killed in targeted operations by Taliban in Peshawar alone, the provincial capital of KP. It is pertinent to say that most of the extortion cases go unreported since the victims do not register them with the local police and prefer to resolve such threats by negotiating with Taliban. These negotiations are mainly held in Taliban offices situated in Afghanistan. A high profile case of extortion during this quarter concerns Haji Haleem Jan, former President of the Traders' Union in Peshawar. He was killed by the Taliban on 8 February 2016 in Peshawar. In this context it is important to mention here that majority of the phone calls (98 percent<sup>2</sup>) were made from Afghanistan by Taliban using Afghan cell phone SIMs.

### The Balochistan Reconciliation

The targeted and intelligence based operations have diminished the scope of Baloch militant groups in Balochistan. According to FRC data base only during the outgoing Quarter 82 militants including five operational commanders of BLA, one high level commander of BLF, and two important commanders of BRA were killed in 27 targeted and intelligence based operations (IBO) carried out in Nasau area of Khohlu, Sangan area of Sibi, Dera Bhugti, Nasirabad, Mastung, Kech, Kohlu, and Kalat Districts of the province. This manifests the effectiveness of hardcore policies for dismantling active insurgent groups in Balochistan, being employed across the province.

Furthermore, 90 militants were apprehended in five IBOs in Quetta, Nasirabad and Chaman area of Qila Abdullah District. An important development in this regard was the arrest of Kulbhushan Yadav, an Indian intelligence agency, Research and Analysis Wing (RAW), agent from the Quetta District of the province in the fourth Week of the March 2016<sup>3</sup>. For the past several years, Pakistani authorities have been blaming India for sponsoring militant outfits in Balochistan and Federally Administered Tribal Areas of Pakistan to destabilize Pakistan internally but it never brought in public any evidence to substantiate its claims. This is the first time that Pakistani authorities have concrete evidence to justify their claims and highlight the issue both at bilateral and international forums. In this context it is vital to mention here that for the first, Gilaman Mehsud, a militant commander of Hakimullah group of TTP in December 2016, blamed Jamaat-ul-Ahrar of TTP for receiving funds from India.

<sup>1</sup>Khyber News. (2016, February). *Extortion cases on the rise in Peshawar*. Retrieved from khybernews.tv:

<http://www.khybernews.tv/newsDetails.php?cat=3&key=MTAyMTA0>

<sup>2</sup>The Express Tribune. (2016, March). *Extortion Cases in KPK: Khattak asked Nisar to block Afghan SIMs*. Retrieved from tribune.com.pk:

<http://tribune.com.pk/story/1061334/extortion-calls-k-p-chief-minister-asks-nisar-to-block-afghan-sims/>

<sup>3</sup>The Nation. (2016, March). *Yadav Confesses to RAW terror role in Balochistan*. Retrieved from nation.com.pk:

<http://nation.com.pk/national/30-Mar-2016/yadav-confesses-to-raw-terror-role-in-balochistan>

These events signify the involvement of regional actors like India in promoting insurgencies inside Pakistan particularly in Balochistan province via proxies.

Apart from the targeted and intelligence based operations in the province, a comprehensive reconciliation process is also going on with Baloch insurgents who are willing to give up violence. Negotiations are currently underway with 125 Baloch insurgents of all tribes, including Bugtis, Mengals, and Marris over their possible surrender. According to FRC data base, some 625 militants have already surrendered before the state in past six months. Likewise, Balochistan government is also offering each pardoned militant an awarded of Rs500, 000 in installments besides compensation for guns and so far many such men have already been paid Rs100, 000 as the first installment<sup>4</sup>.

Although the reconciliation process with Baloch insurgents and the targeted and intelligence based operations in the province have ensured state writ in the province to a great extent, the expanding operational capacity of Tehrik-e-Taliban Pakistan during the outgoing quarter – January to March 2016, has greatly increased the challenges in way of ensuring peace and stability. For instance 47 % of the total militancy incidents were carried out by militants belonging to TTP in Zhob, Quetta, and Qillah Abdullah districts of the province. The high number of militant attacks including two suicide attacks six ambushes and two IED attacks (improvised explosive devices) manifest that TTP has penetrated deep into the Pashtun inhabited areas of Balochistan along the borders of Afghanistan and South Waziristan Agency.

Another important security development during the preceding half of 2016 was the killing of Mullah Akhtar Mansur, the former head of Afghan Taliban in a US drone strike in Nushki district of the province. Although US has carried out 391 drone strikes in the Federally Administered Tribal Areas of Pakistan, but this was the first ever US drone attack in Balochistan and has prompted fear among civil and military leadership in Pakistan that US might expand the drone campaigning of targeting high profile terrorist to the province of Balochistan. In a high level meeting Sartaj Aziz, advisor to Prime Minister on foreign affairs has denounced the US drone strike in Balochistan calling it a breach of the principles of the United Nation's charter and said that any such attacks in future will be detrimental to common desire of strengthening relations between US and Pakistan<sup>5</sup>.

#### Karachi Operation

The 'operation' against criminal elements in Pakistan's commercial hub was initiated back in September 2013. The Federal Cabinet empowered the Rangers to lead a targeted advance with the support of police, after the Federal Military and Civilian Agencies identified criminals for their alleged involvement in targeted killings, kidnappings for ransom, extortions, and terrorism in Karachi City. According ISPR, over 12,000 suspected militants were arrested in more than 7,000 raids conducted by Rangers. 6,000 out of the arrested suspects were handed over to police.

Only during the last quarter, January to March 2016, 45 militants belonging to TTP were killed, which accounts for 88% of the total casualties reported in Karachi during this period. The high number of militant casualties signifies the effectiveness of hardcore policies against militants in Karachi City. Similarly crime rate in the city has also declined. Politically motivated terror has been checked with Uzair Baloch getting netted. While all these developments are no doubt significant for lasting and sustainable peace in the city, however, without a political resolve on part of MQM and PPP, an operation led solely by the Rangers is unlikely to achieve retentive peace in Karachi. On this count, the Karachi Operation has been struggling.

<sup>4</sup>The Express Tribune (Feb 2016), Balochistan Reconciliation: 625 militatants surrendered, Retrieved from <http://tribune.com.pk/story/1042338/balochistan-reconciliation-625-insurgents-surrendered-in-six-months/>

<sup>5</sup>The Express Tribune. (June 2016). US drone strike in Balochistan vitiates bilateral ties: Sartaj Aziz. Retrieved from tribune.com.p: <http://tribune.com.pk/story/1119962/high-level-us-delegation-arrives-islamabad-discuss-naushki-drone-strike/>