

# **KHYBER PAKHTUNKHWA TRIBAL DISTRICTS ANNUAL SECURITY REPORT 2018**



**Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Tribal  
Districts**

**ANNUAL SECURITY REPORT 2018**

**Authors**

**Irfan U Din**

**Dr. Syed Adnan Ali Shah Bukhari**

**Mansur Khan Mahsud**

## Map of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Tribal Districts



## **Table of Content**

<b>Map of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Tribal Districts .....</b>	<b>I</b>
<b>About FATA Research Centre.....</b>	<b>II</b>
<b>Annual Security Report.....</b>	<b>II</b>
<b>Methodology.....</b>	<b>II</b>
<b>Acronyms.....</b>	<b>III</b>
<b>Chapter 1: Introduction.....</b>	<b>1</b>
Security Overview 2018.....	1
<b>Chapter 2: District wise Comparative Analysis.....</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>Chapter 3: Trends and Analysis.....</b>	<b>15</b>
Militants Tactics in 2018.....	15
Major Actors of Instability in KPTDs .....	18
Nexus of Baloch Terrorist Groups and TTP: Security	
Implications for Pakistan.....	19
Post-Merger Challenges Facing Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Tribal Districts (KPTDs).....	20

## **About FATA Research Centre**

The FATA Research Centre (FRC) is a non-partisan, non-political and non-governmental research organization based in Islamabad. It is the first ever think-tank that specifically focuses on the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Tribal Districts (KPTDs) – previously known as the Federally Administered Tribal Areas (FATA) of Pakistan. The purpose of establishing the FRC is to create a better understanding about the conflict in former FATA (presently KPTDs) among the concerned stakeholders 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 society in the KPTDs.

## **Annual Security Report Former FATA**

The Annual Security Report reviews recent trends in conflict in the former FATA such as the number and type of terrorist attacks, tactics and strategies used by the terrorists and the resultant casualties. The objective of this security report is to outline and categorize all forms of violent extremism, role of terrorist groups and the scale of terrorist activities in the area. This report is the result of regular monitoring of terrorist and counter-terrorist activities by employing primary and secondary sources. FRC collects data from the field through its field researchers working in all the districts of the FATA, and also consults reliable secondary sources to ensure the quality and veracity of its research. However, it also faces certain limitations since the area under discussion is undergoing counter-insurgency operations and imposition of curfews. Hence, terrorist and counter-terrorist attacks sometimes restrict the mobility of our field staff. Thus, the number of actual occurrences of violent acts may be greater than those being reported here.

## **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 prepared through 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 district administration in KPTDs contributed to the compilation of this report. 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 all the seven Khyber Pakhtunkhwa tribal districts, provide information and data verification from concerned authorities and locals of the area.

## Acronyms

<b>FATA</b>	Federally Administered Tribal Areas
<b>FRC</b>	FATA Research Centre
<b>IED</b>	Improvised Explosive Devices
<b>ISPR</b>	Inter-Services Public Relations
<b>TTP-JuA</b>	Tehrik-e-Taliban Pakistan Jamaat-ul-Ahrar
<b>NAP</b>	National Action Plan
<b>NW</b>	North Waziristan
<b>SW</b>	South Waziristan
<b>TTP</b>	Tehrik-e-Taliban Pakistan
<b>CT</b>	Counter-Terrorism
<b>LeJ</b>	Lashkar-e-Jhangvi
<b>LeJA</b>	Lashkar-e-Jhangvi al-Almi
<b>VBIED</b>	Vehicle Borne Improvised Explosive Device
<b>KPTDs</b>	<b>Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Tribal Districts</b>

## Glossary

<b>Terrorist Attacks</b>	Indiscriminate use of violence by local, non-local, and foreign terrorist outfits.
<b>Counter-Terrorist Attacks</b>	Large-scale military operations launched by security forces and para-military troops against terrorist in the KPTDs in order to restore law and order and to establish the writ of state.
<b>Amn Lashkar (Urdu for Peace Militias)</b>	Volunteer tribal militias formed by tribes, clans, and sub-clans living in the KPTDs to aid the Pakistani government and security forces in their battle against terrorists of all shades.

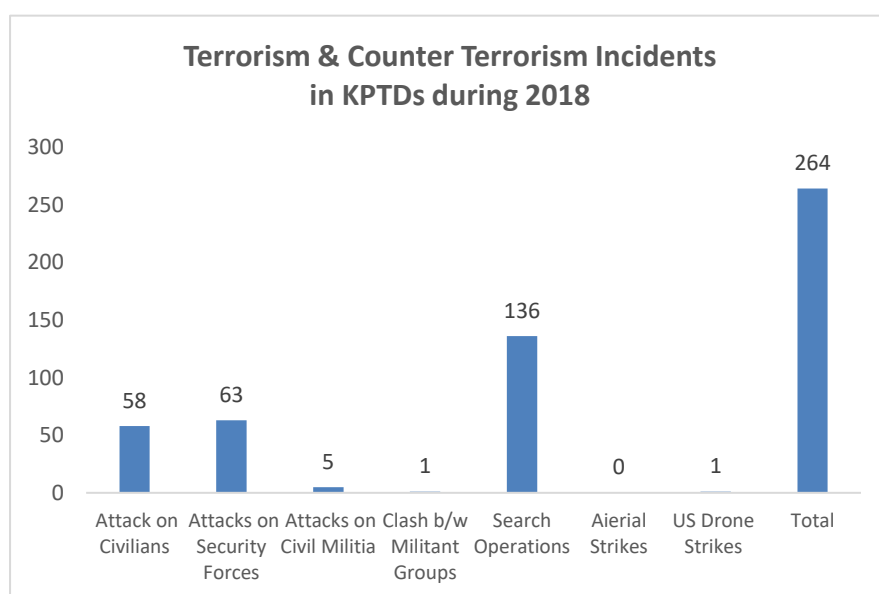
## Chapter 1

### Introduction

#### Security Overview of the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Tribal Districts (KPTDs) 2018

The security situation has slightly improved in the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Tribal Districts (KPTDs)<sup>1</sup> during the year 2018. Although terrorist belonging to Tehreek-e-Taliban (TTP), Wazir Taliban, Mahsud Taliban, Lashkar-e-Islam (LeI), Tauheed ul Islam and Islamic State of Khorasan (ISK) continued to conducted terrorist attacks against civilians, security forces and members of Amn Lashkars (Civil Militias); nevertheless the frequency of these attacks decreased significantly during the year 2018.

The following graph gives a bird's eye view of the nature of incidents in the year 2018 in all the tribal districts of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Province:



The graph to the left shows that a total of 264 violent incidents (127 terrorism and 137 counter-terrorism) incidents were recorded during the year 2018 compared to 325 (153 terrorism and 172 counter terrorism incidents in 2017. This

shows a decrease of 17 percent in terrorism incidents while 20 percent in counter terrorism incidents in 2018 as compared to the previous year.

A further breakdown of terrorism incidents shows that of the total 127 terrorist incidents in 2018, 63 terrorist attacks (50 percent) targeted the security forces while 58 attacks (45 percent) were directed against civilians. Five terrorist attacks (Four percent) targeted members of civil

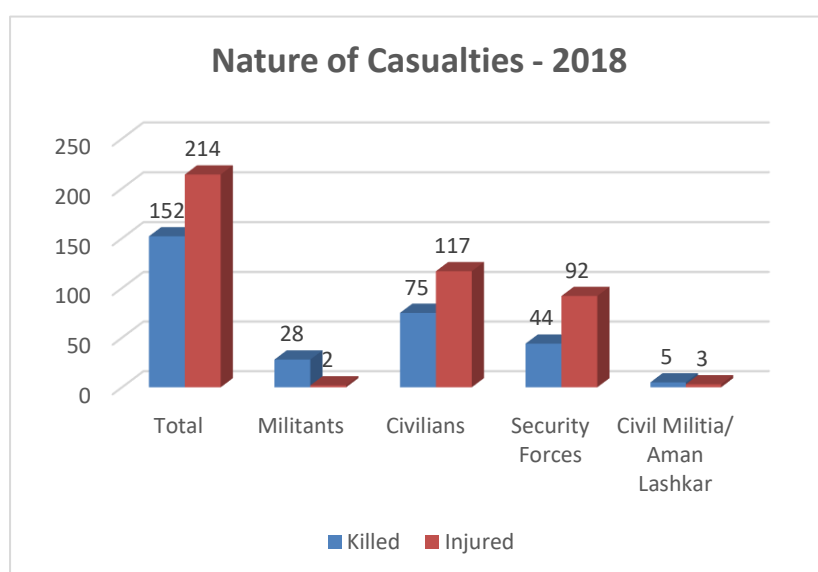
<sup>1</sup> The KPDs was previously known as the Federally Administered Tribal Areas (FATA), until it was merged with the adjoining Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Province (KP) in May 2018. Henceforth, FATA is being referred to as the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Tribal Districts (KPTDs).

militia or *Amn Lashkar*. One incident of infighting between terrorist groups was also report during the year 2018.

On the other hand, to dilute the operational capacity of terrorist groups in the former FATA, Pakistani security forces as a part on ongoing military operation, code named Radd-ul-Fasad conducted intelligence based operations (IBOs) during the year 2018. In total 136 IBOs were reported during 2018, compared to 172 such incidents in 2017. Though IBOs were conducted in all the tribal districts of KP, the North Waziristan, South Waziristan, Bajaur and Khyber districts remained the prime focus of these CT operations.

Similarly, a US drone strike was also reported in January 2018 in the Orakzai tribal district, which targeted two commanders of the Haqqani Network (HN). It was the first US drone attack in the Pakistani territory after a passage of 19 months.

The violent incidents of both terrorist and counter-terrorist, resulted in a total of 366 casualties – 152 killed and 214 injured – in all the KP Tribal districts, marking a significant decrease of 70 percent in overall casualties. The following graphs provide an overview of these casualties.



According to the graph, civilians remained the main target of terrorist outfits during the year 2018. Of the total casualties, 192 (75 Killed and 117 Injured) were that of civilians, accounting for 52 percent of the overall casualties. The main reason for high number of civilian

casualties was firstly, the high profile suicide attack in Orakzai tribal district in which 34 civilians were killed while 36 others were injured. Secondly, the growing number of IED attacks and target killing incidents, particularly in North and South Waziristan districts were the main causes of the high number of civilian casualties during 2018. Although civilian casualties accounted for majority of the casualties during the year 2018, however, as compared to the previous year a significant decline of 70 percent was observed in civilian casualties in

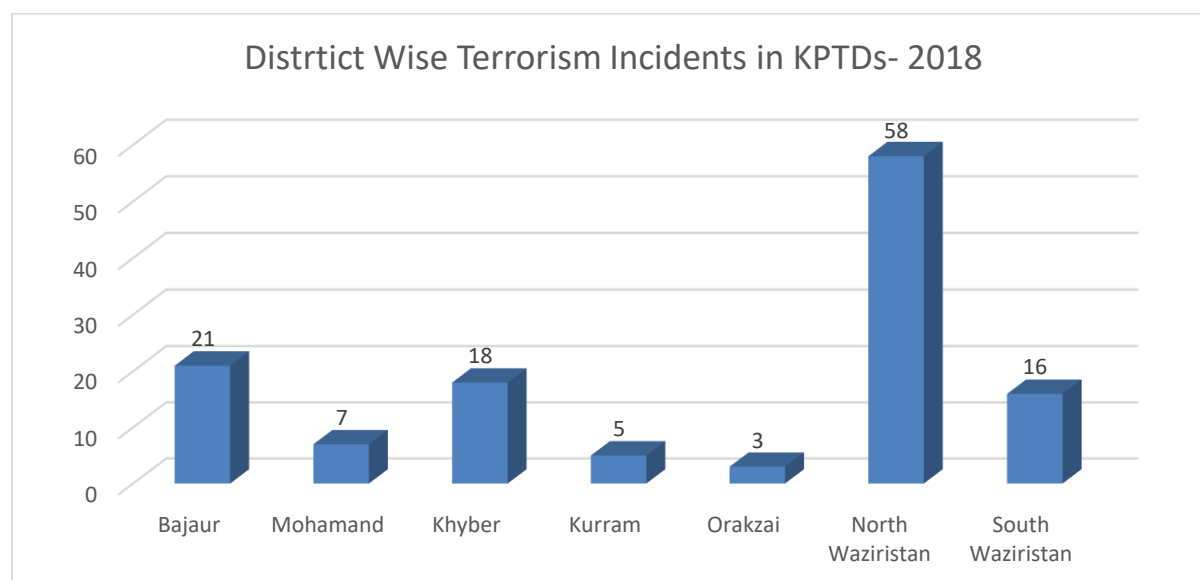


the year 2018.

Similarly, 136 casualties (75 killed and 92 injured) were borne by the security forces which make it 37 percent of the overall casualties while eight casualties of Amn Lashkar personnel (five killed and three injured) were also reported during the year 2018.

As part of Rad-ul-Fasad, security forces regularly conducted counter terrorism operations in all the KPTDs during 2018, which led to the killing of 28 terrorist and injuries to two others. This accounted for eight percent of overall casualties during the year 2018.

In terms of volatility, the North Waziristan tribal district, where repatriation of internally displaced person (IDPs) is going on after full-fledged military operation Zarb-e-Azb, remained the most turbulent one. The graph given below shows that 58 terrorism incidents were recorded in the district during the reporting year compared to 27 such incidents in the previous year.



The Bajaur tribal district stood second with 21 terrorist incidents, followed by Khyber and South Waziristan, which reported 18 and 16 terrorist incidents respectively. Although only three incidents of terrorism were reported in Orakzai tribal district, however, they remained more significant due to massive number of casualties in these attacks.

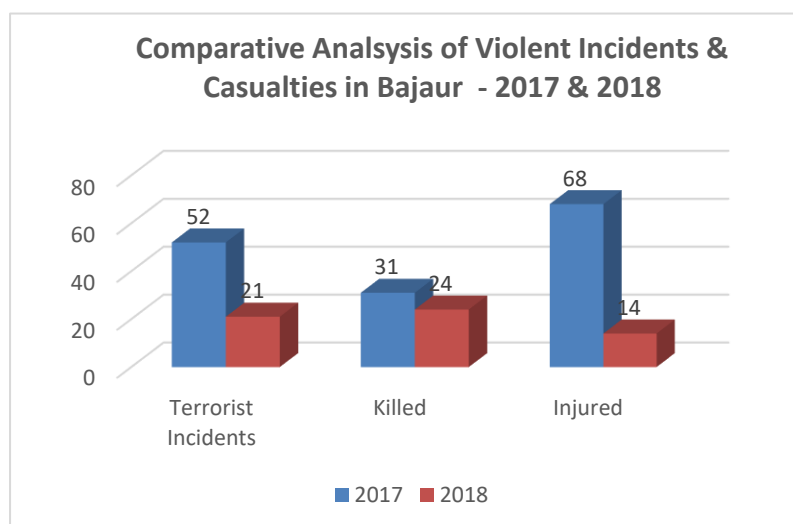
## Chapter 2

### District wise Comparative Analysis

#### District Bajaur

##### Year 2017-2018

During the year 2018, Bajaur tribal district witnessed a downward trend in terrorist incidents and resultant casualties. A total of 21 violent incidents were reported in 2018, compared to 52

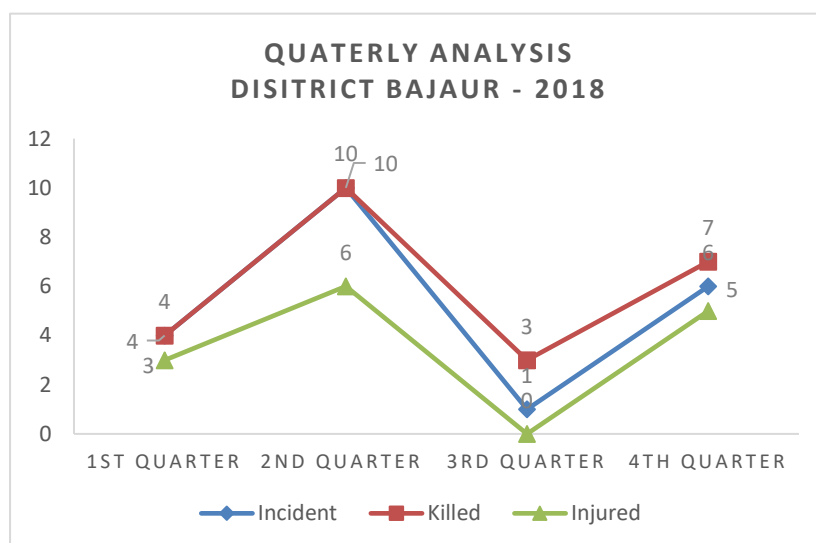


such incidents in 2017. This marks a significant decrease of 61 percent in 2018, compared to the previous year. A similar trend was also observed vis-à-vis the casualty index. Compared to 99 casualties (31 killed and 68 injured) in 2017, 38 casualties (24 killed and 14 injured) were

reported during the year 2018, accounting for a remarkable decrease of 62 percent in overall casualties.

##### Quarterly Analysis 2018

The graph given below provides a detail of violent incidents and resultant casualties against each quarter of 2018 in Bajaur Agency.



According to the graph during the first quarter (January-March) 2018, the security situation in Bajaur Agency remained relatively peaceful as only four terrorism incidents were recorded during the said period compared to 28 such incident during the same

period in the year 2017.

A further breakdown of terrorism related incidents shows that on two occasions terrorist target member of Amn Lashkar/Civil Militia while one occasion they target civil. Similarly, one such incident was also targeted at security forces during the reporting period. These terrorist attacks resulted in seven casualties (four killed and three injured) compared to 30 casualties (11 killings and 19 injuries) during the same period in the year 2018.

During the first quarter of 2018, the most affected areas included Gat Agra area in Mamond and Charmang area in Nawagai tehsils of the district. Tehrik-e-Taliban Pakistan (TTP) was mainly involved in terror attacks. Terrorists mainly used road-side improvised explosive devices (IEDs) to target security forces, civil and tribal elders in Mamond and Nawagai tehsil of the district. For instance, one child and one Levy personnel were injured in a bomb blast in Gat Agra area of Mamond tehsil.

Moreover, TTP terrorists operating out of their safe haven in adjoining Kunar province of Afghanistan, conducted cross-border attacks on one occasion to target security forces deployed along the Afghan border.

Conversely, during the second quarter (April-June) 2018 an increase in terrorism incidents and resultant casualties was observed in district Bajaur. Compared to four terrorism related incidents in the first quarter, 10 such incidents were recorded in the tribal district during the second quarter, which marked an increase of 150 percent in terrorism incidents. A similar trend was observed in casualty index. Compared to seven casualties (four killed and three injured), 16 casualties (10 killed and six injured) was reported during the second quarter of 2018, accounting for significant surge of 129 percent.

In the third quarter (July-September) 2018, a nose dive in terrorism incidents was observed in district Bajaur. Compared to 10 terrorism incident in the preceding quarter only one such incidents was recorded in the third quarter, marking a significant decline of 96 percent in terrorism incidents. A similar trend was observed in casualty index. Compared to 16 casualties (10 killed and six injured) in the second quarter, three casualties (Three killed and Zero injured) were reported from the agency during the third quarter, accounting for significant decrease of 70 percent.

An upward trend in terrorism related incidents and resultant casualties was observed during the fourth quarter (October- December) 2018 in district Bajaur. A total of seven terrorism incidents were reported from the district during the final quarter of the year which resulted in

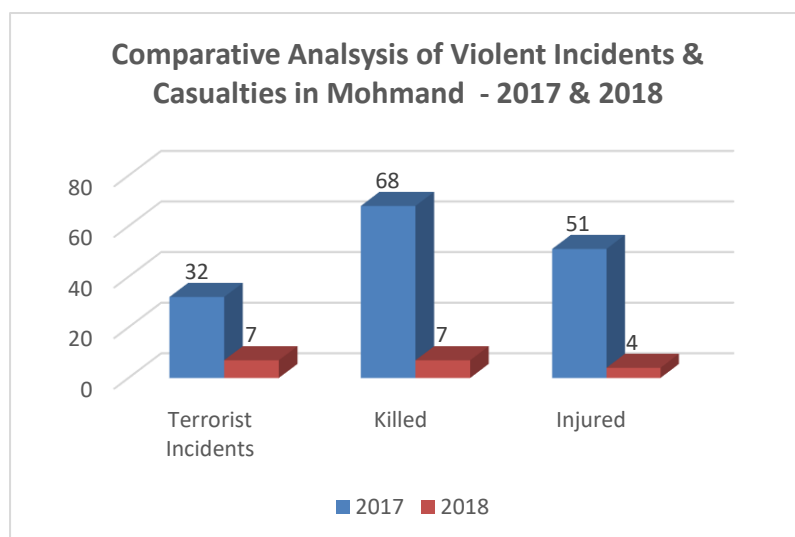
12 casualties (Seven Killed and Five Injured). Compared to the previous quarter (July-September) an incremental increase of 600 percent was observed during the fourth quarter (October-December) 2018.

The most disturbed area of the district during the fourth quarter included Kamangara, Charmang Chinar village, Hashim Babara and Darbanu area of Nawagai tehsil, Ghaki pass Mamond tehsil and Inayat Killay of Khar tehsil. On 30<sup>th</sup> October 2018, four Levies personnel were injured in a remote controlled blast which targeted a vehicle of Tehsildar (revenue officer) of Nawagai sub-division in Bajaur tribal district. However the Tehsildar remained unhurt in the explosion but his vehicle was badly damaged in the attack. Tehreek-e-Taliban Pakistan (TTP) in claimed responsibility for the attack. In another such incident on 22<sup>nd</sup> November 2018, Amanullah and Gul Badin alias Abseen, former commander of Tehirk-e-Taliban Pakistan, were killed when their vehicle came in contact with a road side planted IED in Charmang Chinar village in Nawagai tehsil of Bajaur. The TTP claimed both the incidents.

## District Mohmand

### Year 2017-18

A significant decline in violent incidents and the resultant casualties was reported in 2018, compared to the previous year. A total of seven violent incidents were reported in 2018,

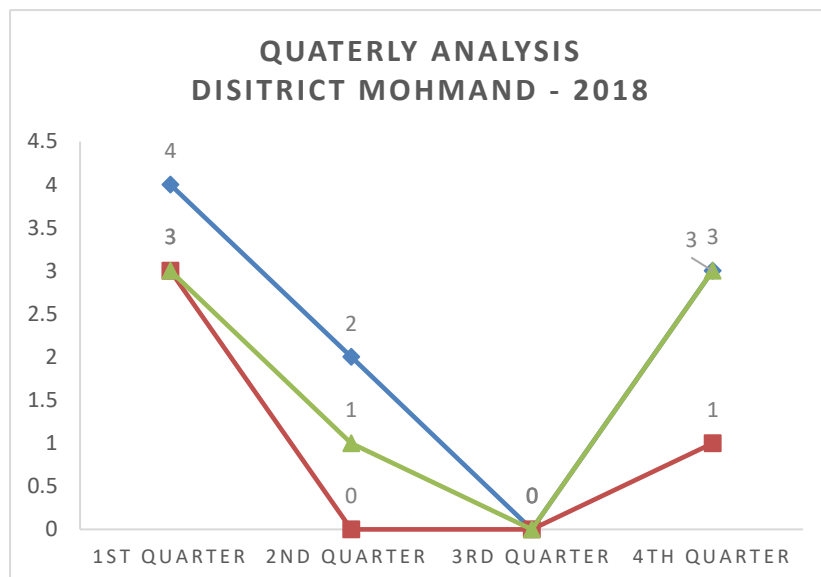


compared to 32 incidents in 2017, thereby signifying a remarkable decrease of 78 percent. A similarly trend was also observed in the number of casualties index. Compared to 119 casualties (69 Killed and 51 Injured) in 2017, 11 casualties (seven killed and four injured) were reported in

the Mohmand tribal district during the year 2018, which was ten percent of the total casualties reported during the previous year.

## Quarterly Analysis – 2018

The graph given below provides detail of terrorism incidents and resultant casualties against each quarter of 2018 in district Mohmand. In total, nine incidents of terrorism were recorded across the district during the first quarter (January-March) of 2018 as compared to 12 such



incidents same period of the year 2017. The same trend was observed in causality index. Compared to 66 casualties (48 killings and 18 injuries) during the first quarter (January-March) 2017, only six casualties (three killed and three injured) were reported during the first quarter of

the reporting year.

Toor Khwar Yakaghund area and Anbar tehsil, Alinagar area in Safi tehsil remained the most disturb area of the tribal district during the first quarter. Terrorists launched four ambushes on security check post in Olai, Safi, Maxhni and Ghallanai areas of the district. An IED attack against security forces in Daudzai area left three security personnel and eight civilian wounded.

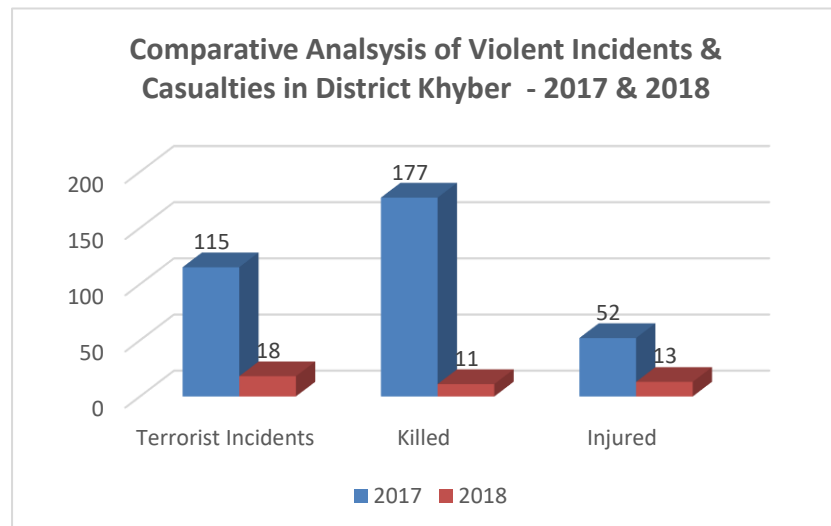
The downward trend in terrorism incidents and resultant casualties continued during the second and third quarter of 2018. Compared to four terrorism incidents during the first quarter (January-March) 2018, the second quarter (April-June) reported only two incidents. No terrorism incident was reported during the third quarter (July to September). A similar trend was observed in casualty index.

On the other hand, during the fourth quarter (October - December) of 2018 a slight surge in terrorism incidents and resultant casualties was reported from the district. In total three terrorism incidents were recorded during the last three months of 2018 which caused four casualties (one killed and three injured).

## District Khyber

### Year 2017- 2018

During 2018, the Khyber tribal district witnessed a downwards trend in violent incidents and resultant casualties. The graphs given below shows that compared to 115 violent incidents in

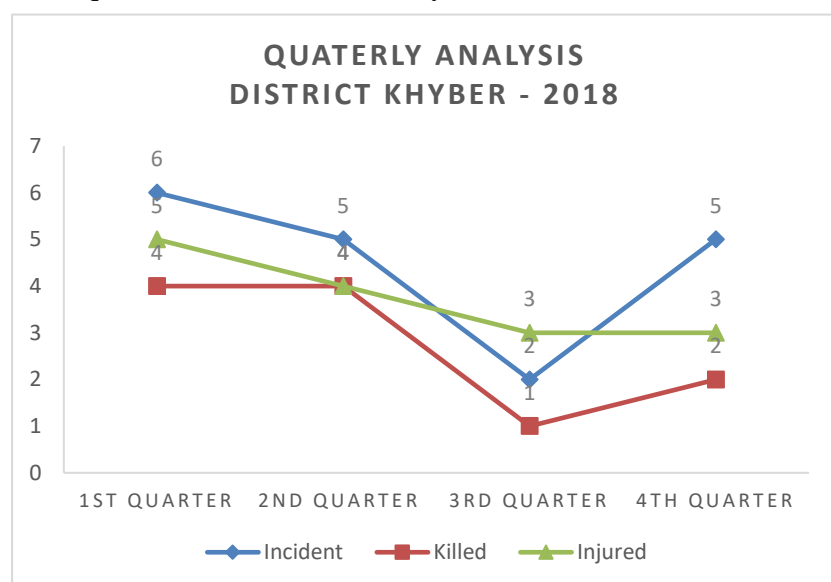


2017, 17 such incidents were reported in Khyber in 2018, which marks for a significant decrease of 85 percent. A similarly trend was also observed in the number of casualty index. Compared to 229 casualties (177 Killed and 52 Injured) in 2016, 24 casualties (11

killed and 13 injured) were reported during the year 2018, accounting for a significant decrease of 90 percent in overall casualties

### Quarterly Analysis – 2018

The graph given below provides a detail of terrorism incidents and resultant casualties against each quarter of 2018 in the Khyber tribal district. In total, six incidents of terrorism were



recorded during the first quarter of 2018 as compared to 42 such incidents recorded during the same period in the preceding year. A similar trend was observed in the casualty index. Only 9 casualties (five killed and four injured) were reported during the first quarter

(January-March) of 2018 compared to 56 casualties (42 killings and 14 injuries) in the same period during the year 2017.

The steady downward trend in terrorism incidents and resultant casualties continue during the second and third quarter of 2018 respectively. During the second quarter (April to June) 2018 only five terrorism incidents were reported compared to 34 incidents during the same period in 2017, marking a significant decline of 87 percent in violence incidents as compared to the preceding quarter of 2017.

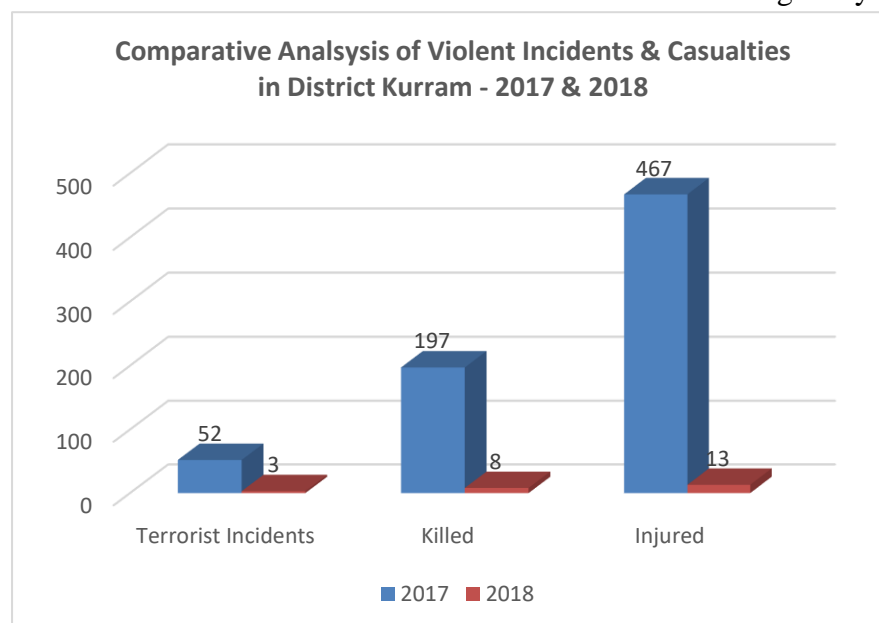
The terrorism incidents and resultant casualties further declined in the third quarter of 2018. Only two terrorism related incidents were recording in the Khyber district during the third quarter compared to 28 such incidents, during the same period in 2017, marking a decline of 92 percent.

Conversely, during the fourth quarter (October-December) 2018, a slight surge in terrorism incidents was recorded as compared to the preceding quarter. Five incidents of terrorism were recorded during the last three months of the reporting year which resulted in four casualties (one killed and three injured).

## District Kurram

### Year 2017 - 2018

The Kurram tribal district after going through a turbulent period witnessed a remarkable decrease in violent incidents and resultant casualties during the year 2018. Compared to 52

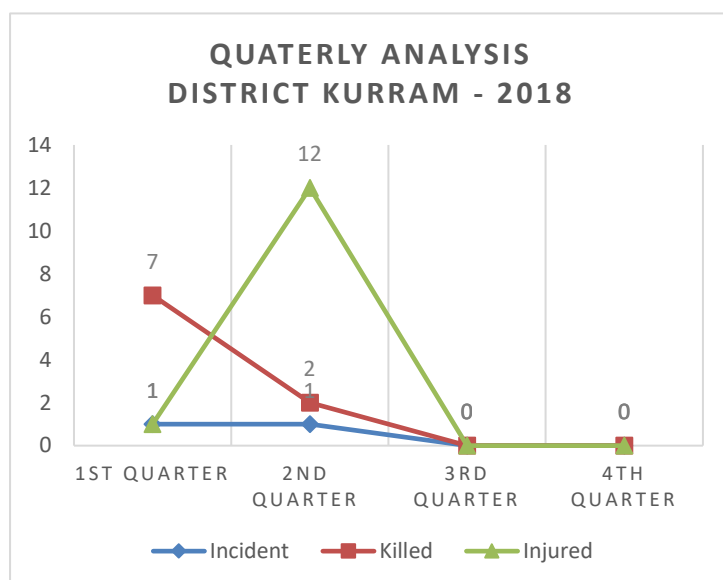


violent incidents in 2017, only three such incidents were recorded in 2018. This marks a significant decrease of 94 percent in violent incidents. A similar trend was observed in casualty index. Compared to 564 casualties (197

Killed and 467 Injured) in 2017, only 19 casualties (eight killed and 13 injured) were recorded in 2018, which accounts for a remarkable decline of 97 percent in overall casualties during the reporting year.

## Quarterly Analysis 2018

The graph given to the below illustrates a steady downward trend in terrorism incidents and resultant casualties during first, second, third and fourth two quarters of the year 2018.



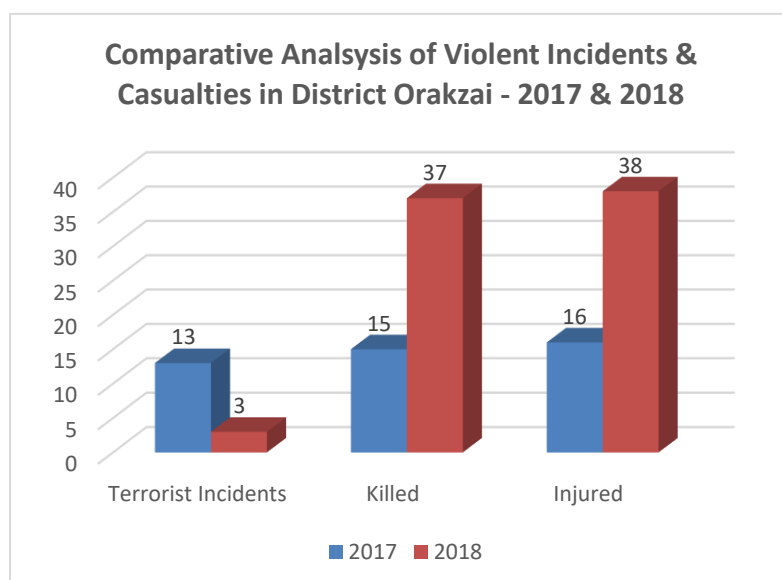
Compared to three terrorism incidents in the first quarter (January-March), only two such incidents were recorded during the second quarter (April to June) 2018, marking a decrease of 33 percent in terrorism incidents. Conversely, an upward trend was observed in casualty index during the second quarter of 2018. Compared to eight (seven killed and 1 injured), 14

casualties (two killed and 12 injured) were reported during the second quarter, accounting for a significant surge of 75 percent in overall casualties.

## District Orakzai

### Year 2017-2018

The Orakzai tribal district after remaining relatively peaceful during the past few years, witnessed slight turbulence in 2018. Compared to 13 violent incidents in 2017, only three such



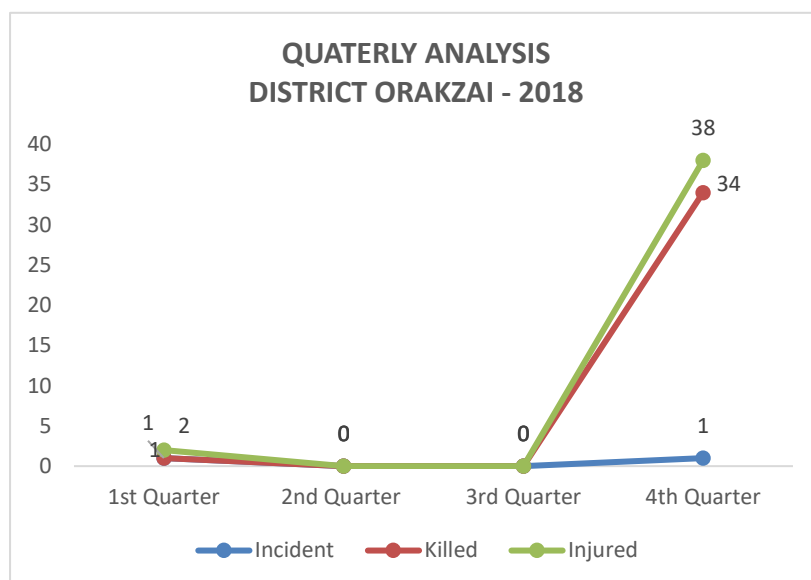
incidents were reported in Orakzai in 2018, which accounts for a decrease of 77 percent in violent incidents. However, due to a high profile suicide attack during the fourth quarter of 2018, the casualty index surged significantly in the reporting period. Compared to 31 casualties (15 killed and 16 injured) in 2017, 75



casualties (37 killed and 38 injured) were reported from Orakzai during the year 2018, marking a significant surge of 142 percent in overall casualties.

### Quarterly Analysis 2018

With exception to one high profile terrorist attack during the fourth quarter of 2018, district

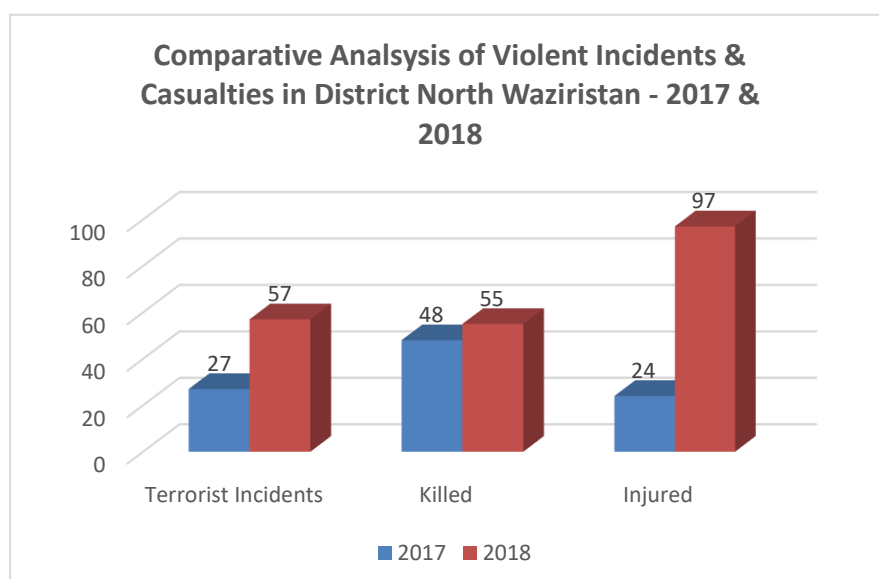


Orakzai remained relatively peaceful as compared to other tribal districts of KP. The graph given to the left provides an overview of the nature of incidents and resultant casualties that took place in District Orakzai during the year 2018.

During the first quarter (January to March) of 2017, only one terrorism incident, which resulted in three casualties (one killed and three injured). No terrorism incident was recorded in the second and third quarter of 2018. In the fourth quarter, a high profile suicide attack took place in the district which resulted in 72 casualties (36 killed and 38 Injured).

### District North Waziristan

#### Year 2017- 2018

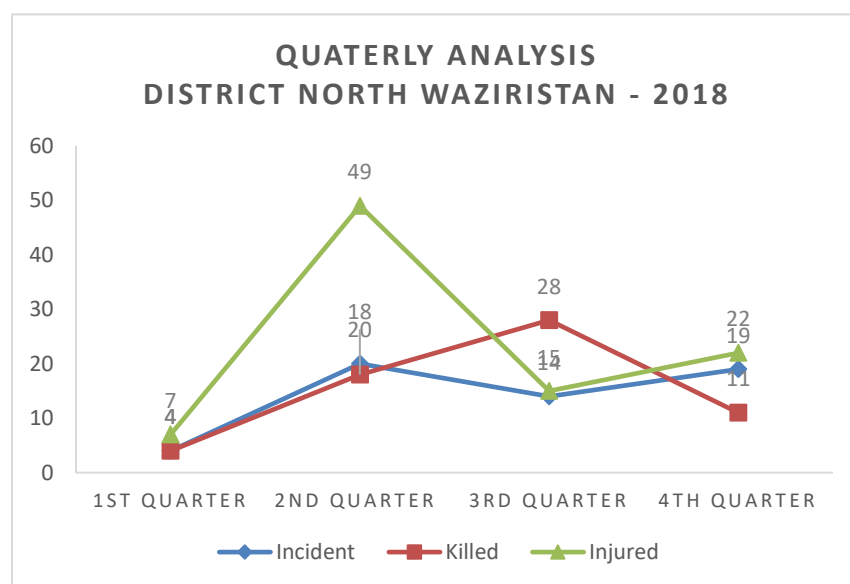


The security situation in the North Waziristan tribal district remained turbulent during the year 2018. It is the only tribal district which in 2018 witnessed an upsurge in violence compared to the preceding year. The graph below provides a

comparative analysis of violent incidents and resultant casualties in the year 2017 and 2018. According to the graph, compared to 27 violent incidents in 2017, 57 such incidents were recorded during the year 2018, marking an incremental increase of 111 percent in violent incidents. A similar trend was observed in casualty index. Compared to 72 casualties (48 killed and 24 injured) in 2017, 152 casualties (55 killed and 97 injured) were occurred in North Waziristan, accounting for a significant increase of 111 percent in overall casualties.

### Quarterly Analysis

Compared to four terrorism incidents during the first quarter (January-March) of 2018, 20 such incidents were reported during second quarter (April-June) 2018, marking a significant hike of



400% in terrorism incidents. A similar trend was observed in casualty index. Compared to 11 casualties (four killed and seven injured) in first quarter of 2018, 67 casualties were reported during the second quarter of the reporting year, marking an incremental

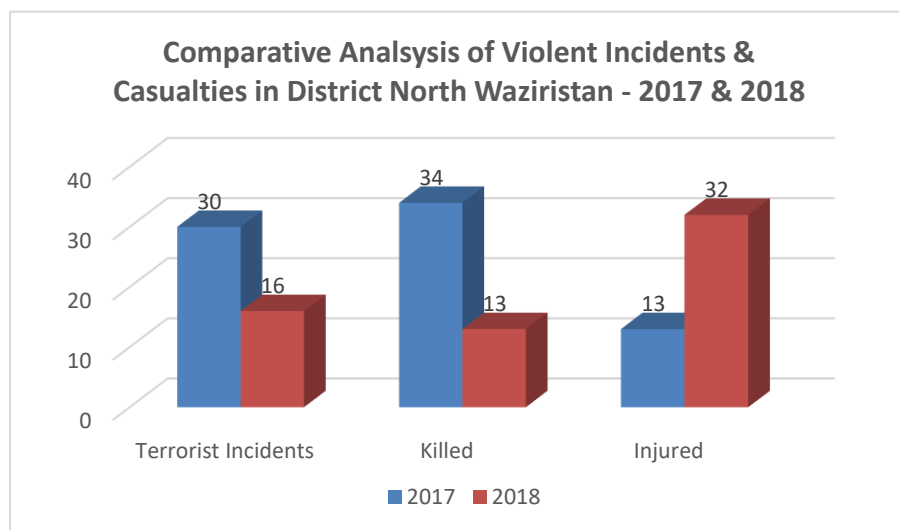
increase of 509% in overall casualties.

Conversely, a slight downward trend in violent incidents was observed in district North Waziristan, during the third quarter (July-September) 2018. Compared to 20 terrorism related incidents during the second quarter of the year 2018, 14 such incidents were recorded in the third quarter of the reporting year. Similarly, the casualty index also witnessed a slight decrease of 35 % during this quarter as compared to the previous one.

The terrorism related incidents again increased significantly during the fourth quarter (October-December) 2018 in district North Waziristan as compared to the preceding quarter of the reporting year. Compared to 14 terrorism incidents in the preceding quarter, 19 such incidents were recorded during the fourth quarter (October-December) 2018. Conversely, the casualty index drop by 23% during the last three months of the reporting year.

## District South Waziristan

Although the security situation remained disturbed in District South Waziristan, the frequency of terrorist incidents decreased significantly during the year 2018. Compared to 30 terrorist

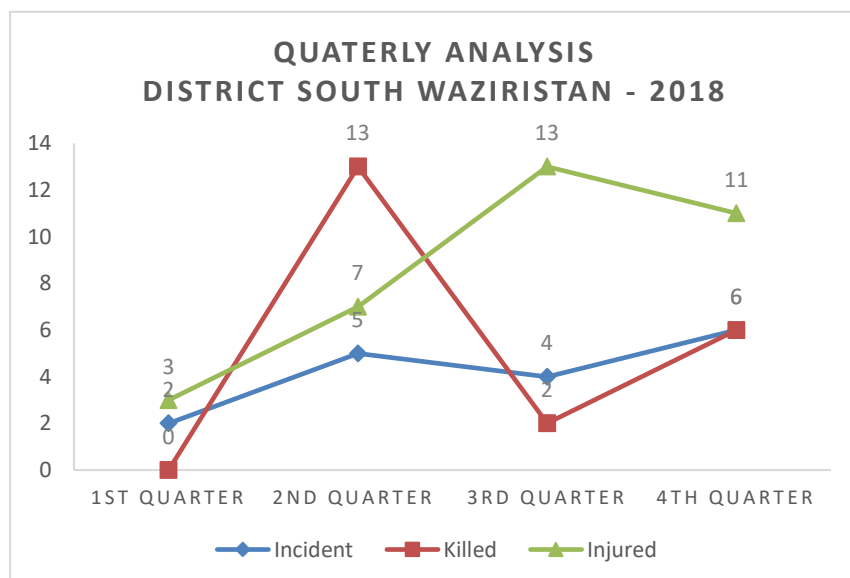


incidents in 2017, 16 such incidents were reported in South Waziristan during the year 2018. This marks a remarkable decrease of 47 percent in terrorism incidents. A similar trend was observed in casualty

index. Compared to 47 casualties (34 Killed and 13 Injured) in 2017, 45 casualties (32 Killed and 13 Injured) were reported during the year 2018, thereby marking a decline of four percent in overall casualties.

## Quarterly Analysis 2018

The security situation in South Waziristan remained disturbed as a steady hike in terrorism incidents and resultant casualties was observed during year 2018. Compared to two terrorism



incidents in the first three months of 2018, seven such incidents were recorded during the second quarter (April-June) 2018, marking a significant increase of 250% in terrorism incidents. A similar, similar trend was observed in the casualty

index. Compared to three casualties during the first three months of the reporting year, 20 casualties (13 Killed and seven injured) were reported from district South Waziristan in the second quarter (April-June) 2018. This shows an incremental increase of 566 percent in overall

casualties.

After witnessing a slight decrease during third quarter 2018, the terrorism incidents again increased during the last three months of the reporting year in district South Waziristan. The incident index increased by 33% during this quarter as compared to the previous one. A similar trend was observed in the casualty index. Compared to 15 casualties (two killed and 13 injured) during the third quarter of 2018, 17 casualties (six killed and 11 injured) were reported during the last three months of the reporting year, marking an increase of 13 percent in overall casualties.

## Chapter 3

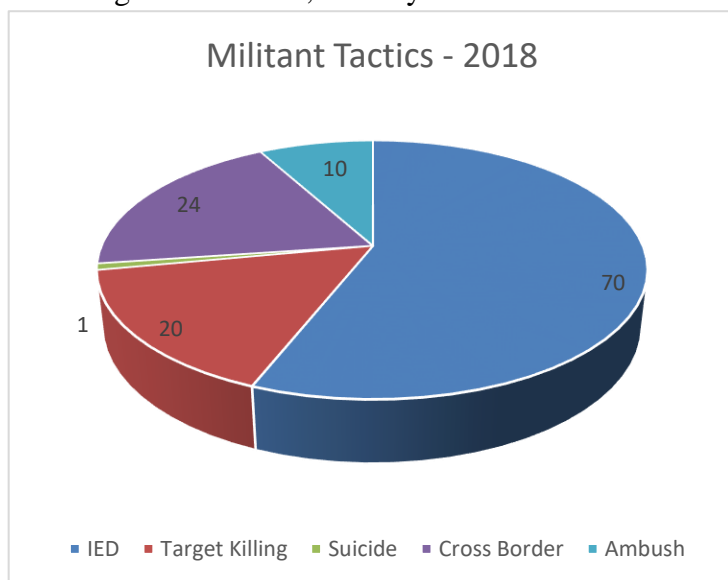
### Trends and Analysis

The security situation in the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Tribal Districts (KPTD) during 2018 has considerably improved, compared to 2017. Though terrorist and counter terrorism (CT) incidents continued to happen in all the KP tribal districts, the frequency of these incidents declined in 2018. A total of 264 violent incidents (127 terrorism and 137 counter-terrorism) incidents were recorded during the year 2018 compared to 325 (153 terrorism and 172 counter terrorism incidents in 2017. This shows a decrease of 17 percent in terrorism incidents while 20 percent in counter terrorism incidents in 2018 as compared to the previous year.

A further breakdown of terrorism incidents shows that of the total 127 terrorist incidents in 2018, 63 terrorist attacks (50 percent) targeted the security forces while 58 attacks (45 percent) were directed against civilians. Five terrorist attacks (four percent) targeted members of civil militia or *Amn Lashkar*. One incident of infighting between terrorist groups was also report during the year 2018.

#### Militants Tactics in 2018

During the year 2018, IEDs remained the most preferred tool of terrorists for carrying out attacks against civilians, security forces and member of civil militia. On 70 occasions, terrorists



employed IEDs to target civilians, member of security forces and civil militias, which accounts for 55 percent of total terror attacks during this year. The terrorists also staged cross border attacks to target security check posts. In total 24 cross border attacks were recorded in which terrorist belonging to Tehrik-e-Taliban Pakistan (TTP) targeted security forces and

civilians in North Waziristan, Kurram, Khyber, Mohmand and Bajaur tribal districts. The cross border attacks accounted for 19 percent of the terrorist attacks. On 20 occasions, terrorists conducted target killings of their opponents, particularly in North Waziristan during reporting

year which accounts for 16 percent of the terrorist attacks. Terrorist on 10 occasions ambushed security forces while on one occasion terrorist also opted for suicide attack to target civilians.

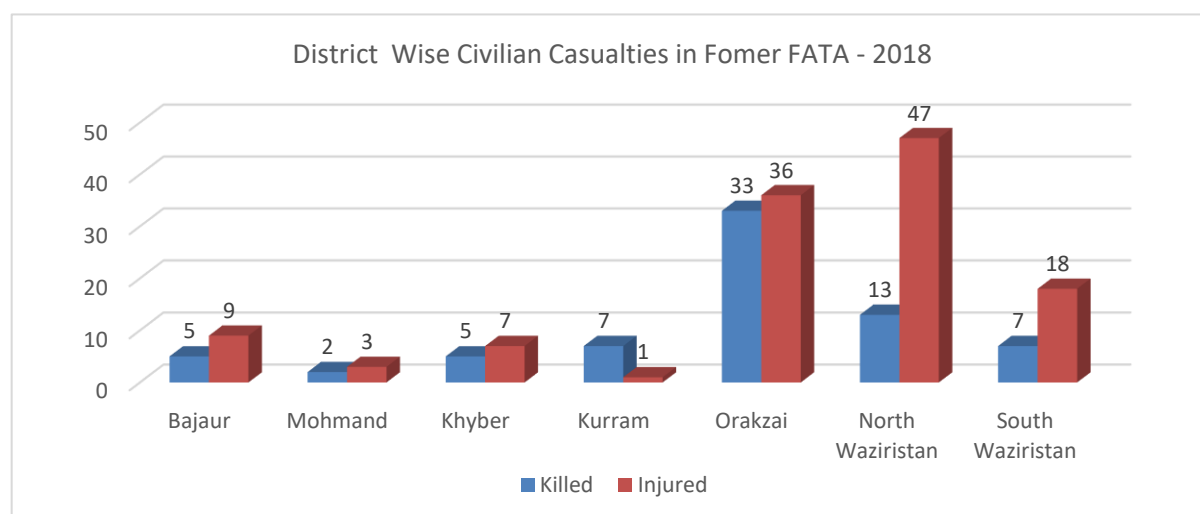
### Counter Terrorism Operations - 2018

To counter terrorist attacks in KPTDs, Pakistani security forces as a part on ongoing military operation, code named Rad-ul-Fasad continued to carry out IBOs during the year 2018. In total 136 search operations were conducted in 2018, compared to 172 such incidents in 2017. Although IBOs were conducted in all the seven tribal districts, North Waziristan, South Waziristan, Bajaur and Khyber districts remained the prime focus of these CT operations. However, majority of the search operations were reactive in nature and were conducted in the aftermath of a terrorist incident in the area.

Similarly, a US drone strike was also reported during the outgoing year in which two commanders of the Haqqani Network were killed in the Orkazai district. It was the first US drone attack in the Pakistani territory after a lull of 19 months.

### Nature of Casualties - 2018

The violent incidents both terrorist and counter-terrorist, resulted in a total of 366 casualties – 152 killed and 214 injured – in all the seven tribal districts of KP, thereby signifying a marked decrease of 70 percent in overall casualties. Civilians remained the prime target of terrorists during the year 2018. Of the total casualties, 192 (75 Killed and 117 Injured) were that of civilians, accounting for 52 percent of the overall casualties. The graph given above illustrates district wise distribution of civilian casualties in the former FATA during the year 2018.



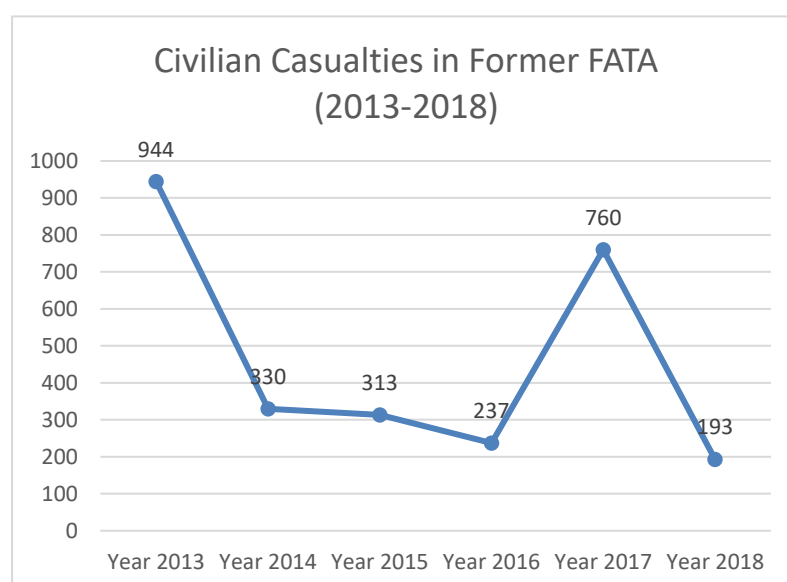
Although North Waziristan district remained the most turbulent district of the seven tribal

districts, the Orakzai district topped the list in terms of civilian casualties. A total of 69 civilian casualties - 33 deaths and 36 injuries - were recorded from district Orakzai, which accounted for 36 percent of the overall civilian casualties in the year 2018. The main reason for the high number of civilian casualty in district Orakzai was the high profile suicide attack in which 34 people were killed while 36 others were injured. A part from this incident the district remained largely peaceful during the year 2018.

The North Waziristan district remained second in terms of civilian casualties. Around 57 terrorist attacks resulted in 60 civilian casualties (13 killings and 47 injuries), which makes up 31 percent of the overall civilian casualties. The IED attacks and target killing were the main cause of a high number of civilian casualties in District North Waziristan.

Similarly, 25 casualties (seven killings and 18 injuries) were reported from South Waziristan district, while Bajaur, Khyber and Kurram districts follow the list with around seven percent, six percent and four percent respectively. The Mohmand district remained the most peaceful one, with least number of civilian casualties in 2018. Only five civilian casualties (two killings and three injuries) were reported from the district which accounts for 3 percent of the overall civilian casualties.

Although civilians continued to remain vulnerable to terrorist attacks in the seven tribal districts of KP; nevertheless as compared to the previous year a significant decline of 70 percent was



observed in civilian casualties in the year 2018. The graph given to the left gives a bird's eye view of the civilian casualties from 2013 – 2018. The graph illustrates a significant decline in civilian casualties significantly in the year 2014, 2015 and 2016. Although in the year 2017 an upward trend in civilian

casualties was observed in civilian casualties but it again declined by 70 percent in 2018.

## Major Actors of Instability in the former FATA - 2018

The Tehrik-e-Taliban Pakistan (TTP), Islamic State of Khorasan (IS-K), Wazir and Mahsud Taliban, Lashkar-e-Islam and Tauheed-ul-Islam remained the major actor of instability during the year 2018. All the above mentioned groups are currently based in Khost Paktika, Paktia, Kandahar, Helmand, Nangarhar, Nuristan and Kunar provinces of Afghanistan from where they conduct terrorist activities inside the seven tribal districts of KP, through cross border movements or with the help of local sympathizers.

Although government writ has been restored in the KPTDs after intensive military operations; nevertheless the threat of Taliban led violence remains a real concern. According to the FRC sources, various factions of Pakistani Taliban have not only re-established their networks in the Paktia, Khost, Paktika and Kandahar provinces of Afghanistan, but they are also able to conduct terrorist attacks against security forces and civilians in South and North Waziristan districts of KP. *“The operational capacity of TTP has no doubt weakened due to successful military operations against the group, but it does not mean that the group has been completely dismantled. The senior leadership is still intact and is conducting terrorist activities, particularly against security forces through IED and cross border attacks”*.<sup>2</sup>

A major setback to the terrorists was the killing of the TTP head, Mullah Fazlullah, in a drone strike in June 2018. The killing of Fazalullah was a huge blow to the group; nevertheless the appointment of Noor Wali Mahsud as a new leader has strengthened the group. According to FRC field researcher for South Waziristan, the appointment of chief and vice chief of TTP from Waziristan will not only help in bridging the rifts among the Mahsud factions of Taliban but will also help in increasing the operational capacity of the group in near future.

Moreover, it is important to mention here that certain senior commanders of the North Waziristan Taliban led by Hafiz Gul Bahadur surrendered along with dozens of fighters to the Pakistani security forces in 2018. According to FRC field researcher, the surrender of senior commanders of Gul Bahadur group no doubt illustrates the effectiveness of military operations but the threat of TTP remains very potent in the district. According to him, *“incident of target killing in the district increased significantly during the first and second half of the year 2018 but majority of those killed were former Taliban fighters or their sympathizers. They were killed because either they left the group or they do not want to join their ranks again. This shows the*

---

<sup>2</sup> FRC Field Researcher for South Waziristan. Interview by Irfan U Din. FATA Research Centre. 2018



*resolve of terrorist group to challenge the writ of state in post Zarb-e-Azb context in the district.*”<sup>3</sup>

Regarding the Khyber tribal district, there are unconfirmed reports that Mangal Bagah, head of Lashkar-e-Islam (LeI), has returned to the Tirah Valley of district Khyber. According to FRC field researcher for district Khyber, Mangal Bagh is a fugitive who took refuge in adjoining Nangarhar province of Afghanistan to avoid Pakistani military operations code named Khyber I, II, III & IV. *“The security situation has improved in the area after the military operations against militants but the rumors about return of Mangal Bagh in Tirah Valley has increased the chances for re-emergence of Lashkar-e-Islam in District Khyber and is certainly a potent threat to the already fragile state of security situation in the district in post military operation scenario.”*<sup>4</sup>

Although Islamic State of Khorasan (ISK) claimed responsibility for a high profile suicide attack in Orakzai district of the former FATA but it does not have any organized network in the area.

### **Nexus of Baloch Terrorist Groups and TTP: Security Implications for Pakistan**

After re-establishing its networks inside Afghanistan, Tehrik-e-Taliban Pakistan has not only stepped up its activities inside the KPTDs, but is also forming a new alliance with Baloch terrorist groups to carry out attacks inside Baluchistan province and other parts of the country. Commander Gilamand Mahsud aka Qari Saifullah, a senior commander of TTP during an interview with FRC field researcher for district South Waziristan revealed that *“We [TTP] have very good relations with BLA and you will see our new alliance will bring havoc to Pakistan army and the infidels [China] who are trying to exploit the resources of Baloch friends. We will target them [security forces and Chines] in DI Khan, Bannu, Peshawar, Karachi and other districts of Balochistan.”*<sup>5</sup>

---

<sup>3</sup> Ibid

<sup>4</sup> FRC Field Researcher Khyber. Interview by Irfan U Din. *FATA Research Centre*. 2018

<sup>5</sup> Gilaman Mahsud. Interview by FRC Field Researcher. *FATA Research Centre*. 2018

He further noted that *“we are training our Baloch friends for suicide attacks, making and planting IEDs and how to carry out ambush attacks. In return our Baloch friends (BLA members) will provide safe havens for us [TTP] inside Balochistan.”*<sup>6</sup>

Baloch terrorist groups have been carrying out terrorist activities against Pakistani security forces and Chinese officials inside Balochistan and other parts of the country. But their cooperation with TTP has increased the threats manifold. For instance on 23 November 2018, the Chinese Consulate in Karachi came under a terrorist attack, which was successfully thwarted by the Pakistani law enforcement agencies.<sup>7</sup> The attack was also the latest in a series of assaults on Chinese nationals, including workers involved in the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC)-related multi-billion dollar infrastructure project in Pakistan. It is important to mention here that thousands of Chinese workers are employed in development of about \$60 billion worth of infrastructure projects under Beijing's 'Belt and Road' initiative (BRI). The port and road-building projects have come under frequent attacks in Balochistan. In Dec 2017 China warned its citizens in Pakistan to be on alert after receiving intelligence reports about possible attacks targeting Chinese.

When asked about the BLA attack on the Chinese Consulate, Gilamand Mahsud revealed that the attackers were trained by TTP. *“We [TTP] had trained our brave Baloch friends who sacrificed their life for the freedom of Baloch people. We will continue to train our brothers who are fighting the infidels.”*<sup>8</sup>

It is important to mention here that Pakistan in the past has blamed Afghanistan and India for sponsoring and training terrorist groups taking refuge inside Afghanistan to sabotage the CPEC.

## **Post-Merger Challenges Facing Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Tribal Districts (KPTDs)**

The previous PML-N-led government in one of its cabinet meeting in March 2017 approved the merger of erstwhile FATA with the adjoining KP Province. In May 2018, the Pakistani parliament and the provincial assembly of KP passed respective resolutions which

---

<sup>6</sup> ibid

<sup>7</sup> Dawn, (23 November 2018). Terror attack on Chinese Consulate in Karachi foiled; 3 terrorists killed. Retrieved from <https://www.dawn.com/news/1447192>

<sup>8</sup> Gilamand Mahsud, Interview by FRC Field Researcher. FATA Research Centre. 2018

finally ended the special status of FATA within the Pakistani constitution and made it part of the adjoining Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Province.<sup>9</sup> Henceforth, the seven Agencies of erstwhile FATA are now known as the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Tribal Districts (KPTDs).

The merger and mainstreaming of erstwhile FATA region with KP will open the doors for socioeconomic development of the area. Due to presence of archaic governance institutions, the former FATA region remained one of the most deprived and economically marginalized area of the country. But as a part of reform process, the government has made several plans to undertake the socio-economic uplift in the area, eradicate poverty, improve health and education facilities and ensure empowerment of youth and women. For instance as a part of the ten year' development plan for the former FATA, the government has proposed to allocate three percent of the NFC or PKR. 120 billion for the development of FATA which if implemented can improve the socioeconomic conditions of the deprived people of the area.

Secondly, the reform process, particularly in a post-conflict situation, can be sustainable only if it is according to the desires and needs of that particular society. Various independent poll surveys<sup>10</sup> and FATA Reforms committee recommendations show that majority population of the former FATA region want to repeal the ineffective system of governance under FCR and merge FATA with KP.

Thirdly the reforms process will ensure effective representation from the local to the national level. It will increase representation of locals in decision making. For instance, local government system will be introduced and member of provincial members will be elected from the area. This will give locals inhabitants of FATA a say in the decision making process but will also help in effective and transparent utilization of development funds allocated for FATA Region.

---

<sup>9</sup> The Express Tribune (24 May 2018). "NA passes 'historic' Fata, K-P merger bill", Retrieved from <https://tribune.com.pk/story/1717822/1-imran-khan-likely-attend-na-session-k-p-fata-merger/>

<sup>10</sup> FATA Research Centre. *Governance Reforms in FATA: A People's Perspective*, (Islamabad: FATA Research Centre, 2017)

## **Challenges REPARIATION AND REHABILITATION – LOCAL BODY AND PROVINCIAL ELECTIONS – TRANSFER OF GOVT DEPARTMENTS – RULE OF LAW AND SECURITY SECTOR REFORMS – NFC AND FINANCES**

Although the prospects for implementation of governance reforms in the KPTDs are bright yet there are several challenges that might hinder the implementation of FATA-KP merger:

After the repeal of the Frontier Crimes Regulation (FCR), the government enacted the FATA Interim Governance Regulation 2018 for the KPTDs as a temporary stopgap,<sup>11</sup> until justice and law enforcement institutions are put in place in the region. However, the said Regulation was declared unconstitutional by the Peshawar High Court (PHC) and the government was asked to extend the legal system working in KP to the newly merged KPTDs. At present, the KPTDs are without any legal system, which has severely impacted on the civil and criminal matters pending adjudication before the office of the deputy commissioners (formerly Political Agent).

The government is facing challenges regarding extending the judicial and law enforcement institutions to the newly merged KPTDs. Firstly, there is a strong resistance against the said reforms from tribal elites. The government is struggling to allocate land for setting up judicial and law enforcement building and offices. Secondly, there is a strong resistance against lay off of the existing Khassadar and Levy personnel and their incorporation within the KP Police department presents its own set of challenges. Similarly, KPTD tribesmen have managed their affairs under the tribal rewaj (customs and traditions) since centuries, and they are not fully acquainted with the legal system under the Pakistani law. Before implementing the legal and judicial system in the KPTDs, it is imperative to educate the tribesmen regarding the working of the would-be introduced legal system.

A major problem facing the mainstreaming of KPTDs is the availability of finances to undertake reconstruction of both physical infrastructure and institutions. Though the government has proposed allocation of three percent of the National Finance Commission

---

<sup>11</sup> Ismail Khan, "Mainstreaming FATA with Interim Governance Law", Dawn, May 31, 2018, <https://www.dawn.com/news/1411061> (accessed on January 3, 2019)

(NFC) award to KPTDs, however, political opposition from other federating units has put the entire proposal in limbo. According to the government plan, the federal government had proposed an amount of PKR 120 billion annually, spread over a time period of 10 years, for FATA's uplift. The federal government would contribute PKR 52 billion, while the remaining PKR 69 billion would be shouldered by the four provinces. As a result, Punjab was to face the largest cut (PKR 36 billion), followed by Sindh (PKR 17 billion), KP (PKR 10 billion) and Balochistan (PKR 6 billion). However, the provinces have yet to give their consent to budget cuts in their existing allocations.

Similarly, the repatriation of temporary displaced persons (TDPs) have yet to be complete. This is particularly true of the TDPs from North and South Waziristan tribal districts. Apart from repatriation, the rehabilitation of the repatriated tribesmen is another challenge. Most of these repatriated tribesmen have yet to receive monetary compensation to rebuild their houses and businesses, which is creating restlessness within the tribesmen. Similarly, a large number of educational institutions which were damaged during the war on terror have yet to be rehabilitated. Same is true of revival of agriculture which offers sustenance to the local tribal population.

In terms of political reforms, the government seems quite serious in organizing local body and provincial elections in the KPTDs. However, the spade work needed for holding such an exercise on a massive scale is missing.

While the government has taken the decision to mainstream the KPTDs, serious challenges in terms of institutional reforms and reconstruction of physical and institutional infrastructure continue to bedevil both the government and the KPTD tribesmen. The threat from the spoilers of peace, namely the Pakistani Taliban fugitives hiding on the Afghan side of the Pakistan-Afghanistan border, remain a potent threat. If reforms are not undertaken timely and accurately, it may create resentment within the local tribesmen, which could allow the necessary space to the spoilers to jeopardise the hard-won peace in the region.

Office Number 108, Tariq Heights, Street No 73,  
F 11/1, Islamabad  
[WWW.FRC.ORG.PK](http://WWW.FRC.ORG.PK)