

Failure of Investigation Management of Terrorist Incidents in Pakistan

Since Pakistan joined the war on terror in 2001 and earned a name for herself as the frontline state against terrorism and extremism, she couldn't develop a meaningful and effective counter-terrorism policy at the national level. Pakistan's policy-makers terribly failed to create a consensus on a national strategy, and the national response oscillated amongst the ambiguous choices of *development*, *deterrence* and *dialogue* (3Ds), with a varying degree of emphasis and divided amongst a complex set-up of civil and military decision-makers. Considerations of the international community, especially of the US policy of 'Do More', and the geographical dictates further limit the responsiveness of the policy-makers. Ideological differences within Pakistani government and local communities further argument the haziness of an answer to the growing radicalism and enhanced terrorist incidents. This situation at the top has many implications for the law-enforcement agencies, especially the local police. Police have become the worst of targets as far as the militant activities are concerned. Cities have become un-safe, markets insecure, police job now no more a lucrative option, and posting in districts near tribal areas has become virtually the least attractive one for the senior career-officers of the highly qualified group of the Police Service of Pakistan (PSP). Repair, reconstruction, rehabilitation, rewards, incentives, though already very meagre, couldn't attract any good officer to the real fields of countering militancy. Resources are either usurped and misappropriated by senior corrupt police officers or are inadequate for the said war on terror. This situation has left police with abysmally poor performance in preventing and investigating the terrorist incidents. Extremely depressing results are seen for poor investigation management with low arrest rate, mis-managed prosecution and dubious incarceration and conviction. Police inability to trace the financing of terrorism is a major flaw in doing investigation against the organized militant groups. Even the Federal Investigation Agency (FIA) has not shown any good results for tracing the suspicion transactions, reported by the State Bank of Pakistan.

(This is an Abstract of a presentation by Fasihuddin (PSP), President PSC, for an international conference).