Special Report

2019

PAKISTAN SECURITY REPORT

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Conflict and Peace Studies

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2019

A PIPS Research Journal

Conflict and Peace Studies

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LIST OF ACRONYMS

AJK:	Azad Jammu and Kashmir
ANP:	Awami National Party
AQIS:	Al-Qaeda in the Indian Subcontinent
Arm:	Army
ASWJ:	Ahl-e-Sunnat Wal Jamaat
ATC:	Anti-Terrorism Courts
ATF:	Anti-Terrorism Force
BAP:	Balochistan Awami Party
BC:	Balochistan Constabulary
BH:	Beheading
BLA:	Balochistan Liberation Army
BLF:	Balochistan Liberation Front
BNP:	Balochistan National Party
BNP-M:	Balochistan National Party-Mengal Group
BRA:	Baloch Republican Army
BSF:	[Indian] Border Security Force
BT:	Bomb Blast
CIA:	Central Intelligence Agency
CID:	Criminal Investigation Department
Civ:	Civilians
CPEC:	China-Pakistan Economic Corridor
CTDs:	Counter Terrorism Departments [of police]
CVE:	Counter Violent Extremism
DGMOs:	Director Generals of Military Operations
DSP:	Deputy Superintendent Police
FATF:	Financial Action Task Force
FC:	Frontier Corps
FCR:	Frontier Crimes Regulation
FIA:	Federal Investigative Agency
Fr:	Firing
HG:	Hand Grenade
HRCP:	Human Rights Commission of Pakistan
HuA:	Hizbul Ahrar

IDP:	Internally Displaced Persons
IED:	Improvised Explosive Device
ISI:	Inter-Services Intelligence
ISIS:	Islamic State in Iraq and Syria
IS-K:	Islamic State Khorasan
ISO:	Imamia Student Organization
ISPR:	Inter-Services Public Relations
JI:	Jamaat-e-Islami
JID:	Joint Intelligence Directorate
JM:	Jaish-e-Muhammad
JuA:	Jamaatul Ahrar
JuD:	Jamaatud Dawa
JUI-F:	Jamiat-e-Ulema-e-Islam-Fazl
Kid:	Kidnapping
KP:	Khyber-Pakhtunkhwa
LeJ:	Lashkar-e-Jhangvi
LeJ-A:	Lashkar-e-Jhangvi Al-Alami
LI:	Lashkar-e-Islam
LM:	Landmine Blast
LoC:	Line of Control
Lvs:	Levies Force
MDM:	Muttahida Deeni Mahaz
Mil:	Militant
MQM:	Muttahida Qaumi Movement
MWM:	Majlis Wahdatul Muslimeen
NACTA:	National Counter-Terrorism Authority
NADRA:	National Database and Registration Authority
NAP:	National Action Plan
NATO:	North Atlantic Treaty Organization
NEC:	National Executive Committee
NIC:	National Implementation Committee [on FATA reforms]
NP:	National Party
NPP:	National People's Party
NSA:	National Security Advisor
PkMAP:	Pakhtunkhwa Milli Awami Party
P-ml:	Paramilitary Forces

PML-N:	Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz	**Sect:**	Sectarian
Pol:	Police	**SM:**	Sipah-e-Muhammad
PPP:	Pakistan People's Party	**SP:**	Superintendent of Police
PTI:	Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaaf	**SSP:**	Sipah-e-Sahaba Pakistan
PTM:	Pakhtun Tahafuz Movement	**ST:**	Sunni Tehreek
QWP:	Qaumi Watan Party	**TA:**	Terrorist Attack
RA:	Rocket Attack	**TLP:**	Tehreek-e-Labbaik Pakistan
RCB:	Remote-controlled Bomb	**TNSM:**	Tehreek-e-Nifaz-e-Shariat-e-Muhammadi
Rng:	Rangers		
SA:	Suicide Attack	**TTP:**	Tehreek-e-Taliban Pakistan
Sab:	Sabotage	**UBA:**	United Baloch Army
SDLF/A:	Sindhu Desh Liberation Front/Army	**UN:**	United Nations
		WB:	Working Boundary
SDRA:	Sindhu Desh Revolution Army		
SECP:	Securities and Exchange Commission of Pakistan		

METHODOLOGY AND VARIABLES

The PIPS conflict/security database and archives are the basic sources relied upon for this report. The archives and the database are the outcome of a meticulous monitoring process on every relevant incident in the country on a daily basis. A regular follow up is conducted in liaison with PIPS correspondents in the regions in order to keep track of daily developments on such incidents. PIPS compiles data from sources including newspapers, magazines, journals, field sources and screening of official record. More than 30 English and Urdu dailies, magazines, and journals, and various television news channels are monitored to update the database and archives. Regional daily newspapers and weeklies from Peshawar, Quetta, Gilgit and Karachi are also monitored for details of incidents reported in the local media. Correspondents in provincial capitals are the primary source for PIPS to verify the media reports. In case of a major incident, PIPS teams consult the local administration and journalists for further details. In cases where PIPS finds it difficult to verify facts of a particular incident, it gives preference to the official statements in that regard.

PIPS security reports utilize eight major variables with their respective set of sub-variables for analysis of the security situation in Pakistan. The security landscape is mapped through a combination of quantitative and qualitative approaches. Quantitative methods are used, based on PIPS Conflict and Security Database, to measure the scale and level of violence. Meanwhile, the qualitative approach dilates upon changes and developments on the militants' front, state responses to these developments and projections of future scenarios. The following eight major variables with their sub-sets of variable are used in the PIPS Security Reports:

1. **Attacks:** This major variable has a sub-set of five sub-variables i.e. (i) terrorist attacks including militant attacks, nationalist insurgent attacks and sectarian-related attacks; (ii) incidents of ethno-political violence; (iii) cross-border attacks; (iv) drone attacks; and (v) operational attacks by security forces against militants. Since Pakistan's security landscape is very complicated with a diverse array of insecurity indicators in different parts of the country, the type of violence in one geographical unit is often different in its nature and dynamics from security landscape in other parts of the country. For this purpose, the mentioned sub-set of variables is carefully monitored and analyzed in the security report with a view to suggest specific counter-strategy for each type of attack in these areas.

2. **Clash:** Another variable used is of clashes which include four sub-variables, i.e., (i) inter-tribal; (ii) sectarian; (iii) clashes between security forces and militants; and (iv) militants' infightings. The number of such clashes and their geographic location is

taken as an indicator of parallel trends unfolding simultaneously with major trends and patterns of security in different areas of the country.

3. **State Reponses:** It has two sub-variables: (i) security measures, and (ii) political and administrative responses. The first takes into account the security forces' operational attacks and clashes with militants, search and hunt operations and terrorists' arrests, etc. The second variable entails the government's political and administrative measures to maintain law and order and reduce insecurity and violence.

4. **Casualties:** Casualties include both the number of people killed and injured. Casualties among civilians, militants and security forces are treated as another indicator to measure the levels and trends of security in the country.

5. **Attack Tactics:** This head takes a comprehensive account of various tactics used by different actors including suicide attacks, missile attacks, hand grenade attacks, kidnappings, rocket attacks, beheadings, landmine blasts, firing, sabotage, target killings, and bomb and improvised explosive devices blasts.

6. **Development on Militants' Front:** This variable analyzes statements, activities, internal divisions and other activities of militants to determine their strength and the dynamics of their strategies.

7. **Opportunities and Challenges** include political measures and military responses to different security issues along with highlighting constraints and challenges encountered by the state.

8. **Claim of Responsibility:** It provides insight into militants' targets, tactics, areas of operation, and agendas.

GLOSSARY

Military Operation: Large-scale operations launched by military and paramilitary forces against Islamist militants and separatist insurgents in KP, FATA and Balochistan to preserve law and order and the writ of the state.

Operational Attack: Pre-emptive attacks launched by military and paramilitary troops to purge an area of militants.

Clashes between Security Forces and Militants: Armed clashes between security forces and militants, triggered by militants' attack on security check posts/ convoys and confrontation during search operations.

Terrorist Attacks: Include militant, nationalist, insurgent and sectarian attacks. Indiscriminate use of violence by militant outfits such as Tehreek-e-Taliban Pakistan (TTP), Lashkar-e-Islam (LI) and Lashkar-e-Jhangvi (LeJ) etc., manifested through suicide attacks, beheadings and destruction of educational institutions, CD/video shops, etc.

Nationalist Insurgent Attacks: Attacks by separatists/nationalist insurgents mainly in Balochistan and interior parts of Sindh.

Sectarian Attacks: Indiscriminate use of violence rooted in differences among various Islamic schools of thought over interpretation of religious commands. Incidents involving indiscriminate use of violence perpetrated by banned sectarian outfits such as LeJ, Tehreek-e-Jafria, Imamia Student Organization (ISO), Sipah-e-Muhammad, etc., against rival schools of religious thought.

Ethno-political Violence: The threat or use of violence, often against the civilian population, to achieve political or social ends, to intimidate opponents, or to publicize grievances.

Inter-tribal Clash: Clashes or feuds reported between tribes, mainly in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Balochistan, rural areas of Punjab and parts of interior Sindh.

Search and Hunt Operation: Launched by law enforcement agencies on intelligence to capture militants or to purge a particular locality of suspected militants and their hideouts.

Sectarian Clashes: Violent clashes between armed factions of banned sectarian outfits or between followers of rival sects such as Sunni-Shia, Deobandi-Barelvi strife. Sectarian clashes also include tribal feuds between followers of Sunni and Shia schools of thought

as in Kurram, where once the Sunni Turi tribesmen frequently clashed with members of the Shia Bangash tribe.

Overall Number of Attacks: The sum of militant and counter-militant attacks by the security forces, besides drone attacks, incidents of ethno-political violence, and attacks with sectarian motives or by nationalist insurgents.

Plot/Unsuccessful Attempts: These include attempts at terrorist attacks that were either foiled by security forces and bomb disposal squads, or explosives went off by accident before militants or suicide bombers reached their intended target.

FOREWORD

In 2019, Pakistan witnessed a further decline in the number of terrorist incidents and consequent casualties. The statistics of Pakistan Security Report 2019 show that terrorist attacks this year decreased by around 13 percent as compared to 2018, and the number of people killed in these attacks plummeted by 40pc. Indeed, there has been a gradual decrease in terrorist attacks and casualties since 2009 (with the exception of 2013, when a surge in sectarian violence mainly contributed to a rise in attacks and casualties). Continuous anti-militant operational and surveillance campaigns by security forces and police counterterrorism departments, as well as some counter-extremism actions taken under the National Action Plan, have apparently helped sustain that declining trend 2013 onwards. However, these plummeting numbers do not suggest, in any way, that the threat of terrorism has been completely eliminated. Certainly, most terrorist groups have been weakened but they are still present in physical and virtual spaces.

Despite an overall decrease in terrorist incidents in the country, such reported incidents from Khyber Pakhtunkhwa remained unchanged from previous year. Indeed, North Waziristan remerged as a major hotspot of such violence where over 42 percent of the total 125 reported attacks from KP concentrated. The problem of a lax state response to the security challenge of KP is partly linked to continuing slow transition of implementation of erstwhile FATA's merger in KP, mainly due to multiple bureaucratic, political and legal hurdles, which need to be addressed immediately.

During the year under review, curbing terrorism financing remained the most critical policy challenge for Pakistan, which the country is still struggling to address. Apart from having security implications, it has also started negatively impacting the financial sector of the country with long-term economic consequences. The Financial Action Task Force (FATF) had put Pakistan on its grey list in June 2018 with the caution that if deficiencies in curbing terrorism financing were not removed in one year's time, Pakistan would have to face consequences of getting on the FATF blacklist. A FATF meeting in Paris in October 2019 reviewed the measures Islamabad in that regard and noted that the country will have to do more to come out of the grey list. The FATF's comments on Pakistan's last compliance report, which was submitted on December 3rd2019, were not cheery either. Instead of following a tactical approach to merely respond to the FATF queries, Pakistan instead will have to develop some institutional responses to curb the terror financing.

Pakistan's internal security landscape is complicated due to both internal and external threats. The post-Pulwama situation has complicated Pakistan's strategic challenge on its

eastern side, which was further fueled by the controversial revocation of the special status of India-held Kashmir by Prime Minister Narendra Modi's BJP government. The situation has diverted the attention of the state institutions towards its core conventional security threat. The Pakistan-Afghanistan border security situation is also very delicate, but border security issues with Iran are becoming complicated too, as Baloch insurgents are reportedly using Iranian soil to hide.

The internal security dimension not only includes threats from hardcore radical and sectarian terrorist groups but also from groups that promote religious intolerance. The latter pose a different sort of critical challenge, because such groups can mobilise their support bases to cause more damage to the economy, social cohesion of society and global image of the country. An enraged mob in Ghotki town attacked properties worth millions of rupees and looted several shops belonging to the Hindu community after the owner of a school was accused of committing blasphemy in September last year.1The episode was another indication of how blasphemy accusations could trigger a severe and extensive wave of violence, mainly against minority communities, before some legal action was taken or evidence produced.   Though, Prime Minster Imran Khan has promised that in 'naya Pakistan', terrorist and extremist groups will never be allowed to thrive, but his government should come up with some action. The first step in this direction should be to initiate an open debate in parliament on the status and future of banned groups. Parliament can constitute a high-powered national-level truth and reconciliation commission, to review the policies that produced militancy and to mainstream those willing to renounce violence and violent ideologies, but that should happen within the country's Constitutional framework.

Another matter, which the Parliament should take up, is the Pashtun Tahaffuz Movement (PTM), which is, among other manifestations, a reflection of trust deficit between the security forces and a major segment of the population in tribal districts of KP. The PTM asserts it is a non-violent social movement seeking to protect the rights of the Pashtun people and address their grievances mainly in tribal districts. Experts are rightly calling for the government and parliament to take up the issue of PTM and address it instead of leaving it to security forces. It is a political issue and government's indifference may further drag the security forces into it, who will certainly act to restore peace and security whenever and wherever needed. That will further unnecessarily pitch the latter against the PTM and a section of Pashtun people, thus making it difficult for them to counter militancy and terrorism in tribal districts, which requires an overwhelming public support.

PIPS has been maintaining in it policy recommendations over last several years that the security situation in Balochistan needs special attention. In 2019, government has taken

several initiatives but Balochistan appeared the most critical area in terms of security challenges. Both religious and nationalist non-state actors are making security landscape of the province complicated. To deal with the Baloch insurgency, the government has to immediately evolve a proper plan for the reintegration and mainstreaming of insurgents. A realization among the Baloch youth is increasing that through violence nothing can be achieved and the state has to reciprocate in a similar way. A fast-track mechanism on missing persons in the province can prove a major confidence-building measure.

As in previous year, the implementation on NAP was not effective in 2019 because of various reasons. The NAP should be made into a proper plan, with clear goals, a comprehensive monitoring mechanism, and periodic reviewing. The NAP should adjust with the changing nature of the threats and it should have been a dynamic and effective policy tool.

PIPS hopes that this 14th edition of its annual security report would help the policymakers, academics, media and civil society understand the gravity of the security situation in Pakistan with a view to moving towards sustainable solutions. This year too, the report includes more in-depth analysis on critical security issues. Apart from the comprehensive data on violent incidents, comparative analysis of various security variables, the changing targets and tactics of militants and nature of state responses, the report also contains comprehensive review of militant landscape of Balochistan and an in-depth analysis of suicide attacks in Pakistan between 2007 and 2011.

The credit for this report goes to the entire team at PIPS, particularly Safdar Sial, who monitored security developments and narrated them for the report and provided analytical insights on security issues of the country; Ms. Shaqufta Hayat, whose research support, especially in drawing annexures and timelines, greatly helped the analysis provided inside; and Shahzad Ahmed, who designed the various conflict maps.

Muhammad Amir Rana

January 4, 2020

Overview of Security in 2019: Critical Challenges and Recommendations

Muhammad Amir Rana and Safdar Sial *

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1.1 Overview of Security Situation in 2019

As many as 229 terrorist attacks took place across Pakistan in 2019 – including four suicide attacks – which is a decrease of about 13 percent from the year before. Launched by different militant, nationalist/insurgent and violent sectarian groups, these attacks claimed in all 357 lives – a decline of 40 percent from those killed in such attacks in 2018 – and injured another 729 people.

So-called religiously inspired militant groups such as the Tehreek-e-Taliban Pakistan (TTP), its splinter groups Hizbul Ahrar and Jamaatul Ahrar, as well as other militant groups with similar objectives such as local Taliban groups, Lashkar-e-Islam and ISIS-affiliates remained active in parts of the country but most of their activities remained concentrated in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and Balochistan provinces. In all, these groups perpetrated 158 terrorist attacks – compared to 171 in previous year – which killed 239 people and injured 489 others. Meanwhile nationalist insurgent groups, mainly Baloch, carried out 57 attacks – as compared to 80 such attacks in 2018 – which claimed 80 lives and wounded another 162 people. Meanwhile, 14 of the reported terrorist attacks in 2019 were sectarian-related – two more from the year before – which killed 38 people and inflicted injuries on 78 others.

Those 357 killed in terrorist attacks in Pakistan in 2019 included 164 civilians, 163 personnel of security and law enforcement agencies (59 army officials; 37 FC men; 53 policemen; and 14 Levies) and 30 militants, who were either killed/exploded suicide bombers or those killed in retaliatory fire by security and law enforcement personnel following some attacks. Those injured in terrorist attacks included 519 civilians, 208 security personnel and two militants.

Chart 1: Classification of Terrorist Attacks in Pakistan in 2019
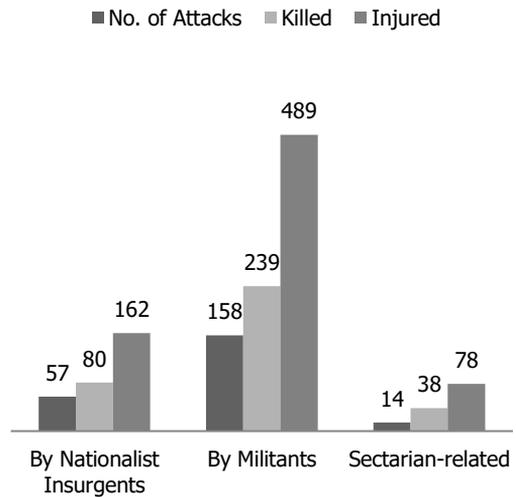
As far as the targets hit by the terrorists are concerned, a total of 118 attacks, or about 52 percent of the total terrorist attacks reported in 2019, hit personnel, vehicles/convoys and posts of security forces and law-enforcement agencies across Pakistan. These attacks targeting security and law enforcement personnel also caused the highest number of casualties (209 killed; 346 injured) for any one type of target hit in terrorist attacks in 2019. Civilians were the apparent targets of 39 attacks (over 17 percent of the total

attacks), which claimed 34 lives and injured 123 others. Eleven attacks targeted Shia community members, mainly Hazaras, claiming 32 lives; five attacks on Sunni community members also killed eight people. Meanwhile, 11 attacks targeted pro-government tribesmen and peace committee members, and another nine attacks hit political leaders and workers. Other sporadic targets hit by the terrorist in 2019 are given at Table 1.

Table 1: Targets Hit in Terrorist Attacks in 2019

Targets	No. of Attacks	Killed	Injured
Security forces/law enforcement agencies	118	209	346
Education/institutions/teachers	2	2	4
Non-Bloch settlers/workers	1	3	1
Gas pipelines	3	0	0
Tribal elders	2	3	3
Civilians	39	34	123
Shia religious scholars/community	11	32	72
Worship places/shrines/imam bargahs	2	9	53
Govt. offices/public property (hospitals, banks etc.)	1	0	10
Sunni religious leaders/community	5	8	3
Political leaders/workers	9	11	19
NGO / civil society members	1	2	0
Foreign interests/ Diplomats/Foreigners	1	0	0
Unknown	4	3	1
Media/journalists	2	0	3
Health/polio workers,	6	8	1

Targets	No. of Attacks	Killed	Injured
security escorts			
Pro-Govt. tribesmen/peace committee members	11	13	47
Bohra community	1	3	4
Judges/lawyers/courts	1	0	2
Former militants	2	3	0
Railway tracks / trains	3	4	30
Member of banned groups	1	2	0
Development, exploration projects, companies, workers	2	8	6
NATO/US supply vehicles	1	0	1
Total	**229**	**357**	**729**

In perpetrating the reported 229 attacks, terrorists mainly employed improvised explosive devices (IEDs) of various types (123 attacks) and direct firing/shootout (92 attacks). They also used other attacks tactics, though less frequently, including four (4) suicide blasts, five (5) hand grenade attacks, three (3) rocket attacks, and two (2) gun and bomb attacks.

As in the year before, the highest number of terrorist attacks for any one region of Pakistan was reported from Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, including merged districts of erstwhile FATA. A total of 125 reported attacks from the province claimed 145 lives and inflicted injuries on another 249 people. The TTP, Hizbul Ahrar, local Taliban and other groups with similar objectives perpetrated 124 of these attacks, while one attack was sectarian-related.

In 2019, North Waziristan reemerged as a major flashpoint of insecurity and militant violence where 53 terrorist attacks took place, or over 42 percent of the total reported attacks from KP, which killed 57 people and injured 93 others. Two other KP districts where more than 10 attacks happened in the year included DI Khan (14 attacks) and Bajaur (11 attacks) districts. While seven (7) terrorist attacks happened in Bannu, the provincial capital Peshawar and Tank faced six (6) attacks each. Meanwhile five (5) attacks took place in each of Mohmand and South Waziristan districts. In all, terrorist attacks were recorded in 17 districts of KP.

Though Khyber Pakhtunkhwa faced the highest number of attacks than any other region of the country, but in terms of terrorism-related casualties Balochistan was the most affected region of the country in 2019. As many as 171 people were killed – about 48 percent of the total 357 people killed in terrorist attacks across Pakistan – and 436 others were injured in 84 reported attacks from the province. Different Baloch insurgent groups, mainly the Baloch Liberation Army (BLA), Balochistan Liberation Front (BLF), BRAS – a newly established alliance of Baloch insurgent groups mainly including BLA, BLF and Baloch Republican Guard (BRG) – Lashkar-e-Balochistan and Baloch Republican Army (BRA), etc., perpetrated 51 attacks killing 71 people and wounding 162 others. Religiously inspired militant

groups such as the TTP, Hizbul Ahrar, ISIS-affiliates and some other similar unknown militants were reportedly involved in as many as 26 attacks that caused death to 69 people and injuries to another 197 people. Meanwhile, seven (7) sectarian-related attacks claimed 31 lives, mostly of Hazara Shias, and wounded 77 others.

Terrorist attacks happened in 20 districts of Balochistan including 22 from provincial capital Quetta alone, nine (9) from Kech, eight (8) from Qilla Abdullah, mainly Chaman, six (6) from Loralai and five (5) attacks each from Dera Bugti, Nasirabad, and Panjgur. Two attacks in Gwadar caused 22 deaths, and three (3) reported attacks from Ziarat claimed 11 lives.

On the whole, 14 terrorist attacks happened in Sindh province – 10 in Karachi alone and 4 in interior Sindh – which killed a total of 18 people and injured two (2) others. Six of these attacks were sectarian-related targeted killings of Sunni and Shia leaders and community members, all of which were reported from Karachi. Meanwhile some unknown militants, apparently religiously inspired, carried out four (4) attacks killing eight (8) people and injuring two (2) others. Sindhi nationalist group Sindhu desh Liberation Army (SDLA), Sindhu desh Revolution Army (SDRA) and a Baloch insurgent group BLA were involved in another four (4) attacks reported from Sindh, which claimed four (4) lives.

In all, five (5) terrorist attacks took place in Punjab including two (2) in Lahore, one in Rawalpindi and two (2) in south Punjab's Rahim Yar Khan and Rajanpur districts. As many as 21 people lost their lives and 41 others were injured in these attacks. Hizbul Ahrar, a splinter group of the TTP, perpetrated three (3) of these attacks in Lahore and Rawalpindi killing eight (8) policemen and seven (7) civilians. Baloch insurgent groups BLA and BRA were reportedly involved in two attacks reported from south Punjab, which claimed five (5) lives.

One attack happened in the federal capital Islamabad that claimed the lives of two (2) policemen and injured another. (See Table 2)

Table 2: Terrorist Attacks in Pakistan in 2019

Region	No. of Attacks	Killed	Injured
Khyber Pakhtunkhwa	125	145	249
Balochistan	84	171	436
Punjab	5	21	41
Karachi	10	14	2
Sindh (excluding Karachi)	4	4	0
Islamabad	1	2	1
Total	**229**	**357**	**729**

1.1.1 Comparison

Apart from the 229 terrorist attacks cited earlier, incidents of violence of some other types were also recorded across Pakistan in 2019. These included a combined total of 128 cross-border attacks from India, Afghanistan and Iran; 28 anti-militant operational strikes carried out by security forces and their 25 armed clashes/ encounters with militants; eight (8) incidents of political/ethnic violence; 12 thwarted/failed terror plots; two (2) targeted attacks, whose motivation was not clear; and one clash between protestors and security forces. (See Table 3) Thus, when counted together, 432 incidents of violence of different types – as given at Table 3 – were reported from across Pakistan in 2019, which killed a total of 588 people and injured 1,030 others.

Table 3: Nature of Overall Incidents of Violence

Nature of Incident	No. of Incidents	Killed	Injured
Terrorist attacks	229	357	729
Political/ethnic violence	8	6	7
Clashes & encounters between security forces & militants	25	44	9
Cross-border clashes/attacks	128	91	245
Operational attacks by security forces	28	81	19
Plot/foiled terror attempts	12	3	7

Nature of Incident	No. of Incidents	Killed	Injured
Targeted attacks [not clear if by terrorists]	2	2	0
Protests/clashes with security forces	1	4	14
Total	**433**	**588**	**1,030**

As for the number of terrorist attacks, the overall incidents of violence also plummeted from 497 in 2018 to 433 in 2019. The overall number of people killed in these violent incidents also decreased by about 32 percent; from 869 in 2018 to 588 in 2019. Similarly, the number of people injured in all such incidents of violence also decreased by 32 percent from 1,516 in 2018 to 1,030 in 2019. (See Chart 2)

There has been a gradual decrease in the number of terrorist attacks and consequent fatalities in Pakistan since 2009 with the only exception of 2013 when a surge in sectarian violence mainly contributed in increased number of attacks and casualties. (See Chart 3 and Table 4) The continuous anti-militant operational and surveillance campaigns by security forces and police's counter terrorism departments (CTDs) as well as some counter-extremism actions taken under the National Action Plan (NAP) have apparently helped sustain that declining trend 2013 onward, which continued in 2019 as well.

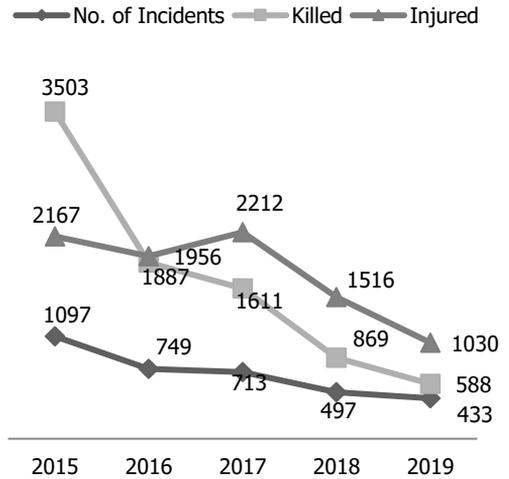**Chart 2: Comparison of Overall Incidents of Violence & Casualties (2015-19)**

Chart 3: Comparison of Terrorist Attacks and Fatalities in Pakistan (2009-2019)
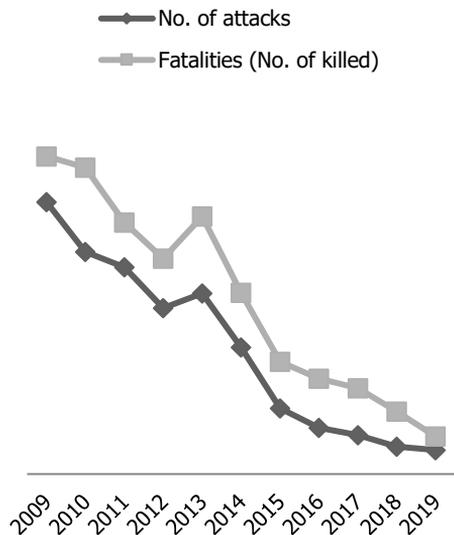
Table 4: Comparison of Terrorist Attacks and Fatalities in Pakistan (2009-19)[2]

Year	No. of Terrorist Attacks (%Change)	No. of Killed (% Change)
2009	Baseline year (2,586 attacks)	Baseline year (3,021 Fatalities)
2010	18%↓	4%↓
2011	7%↓	18%↓
2012	20%↓	14%↓
2013	**9%↑**	**19%↑**
2014	30%↓	30%↓
2015	48%↓	38%↓
2016	28%↓	12%↓
2017	16%↓	10%↓
2018	29%↓	27%↓
2019	13%↓	40%↓

For the past few years, much of the militant violence in Pakistan has visibly concentrated in Balochistan and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa while other regions have been facing less frequent attacks. In 2019, while the number of terrorist attacks declined in Balochistan by 27 percent, the number of such attacks recorded in KP remained unchanged from the year before. The number of terrorist attacks recorded in these two regions was significant; 125 attacks took place in KP and 84 in Balochistan, which combined were over 91 percent of the total attacks reported from across Pakistan. Although the number of attacks showed a relative surge from

previous year in Punjab (by 25 percent), Sindh (17 percent) and Islamabad, but that accounted for much less numbers of attacks reported from there compared to KP and Balochistan; i.e. 5 attacks, 14 attacks, and one attack were reported from Punjab, Sindh and Islamabad, respectively.

Table 5: Comparison of Terrorist Attacks & Casualties (2018 vs. 2019)[3]

Province / Region	Number of Attacks (%Change)	Killed (% Change)	Injured (% Change)
KP	No change	26%↓	34%↓
Balochistan	27%↓	52%↓	25%↓
Punjab	25%↑	5%↑	5%↑
Karachi	11%↑	22%↓	87%↓
Sindh (excluding Karachi)	33%↑	300%↑	100%↓
Islamabad	1 attack (0 baseline data in 2018)	2 killed	0 injured
Total	**13%↓**	**40%↓**	**29%↓**

The number of suicide attacks posted a 79 percent decline from previous year. Compared to 19 suicide attacks in 2018, as many as four (4) such attacks happened in 2019 – two in Balochistan and one each in Punjab and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. These attacks claimed 55 lives – compared to 317 in 2018 – and injured 122 others. The TTP was involved in two of these attacks –

one reported from Loralai (Balochistan) and another from DI Khan (KP) – which targeted security forces causing the death of a total of 21 people including 10 civilians, seven (7) policemen and four (4) suicide bombers. The Islamic State (IS) terrorist group claimed one sectarian-related suicide attack that targeted Hazara community in Quetta killing 21 people, including the bomber, and wounding 48 others. Meanwhile a suicide bomber associated with Hizbul Ahrar targeted a police van in Lahore that caused 13 fatalities – 5 policemen, 7 civilians and one bomber – and injuries to 23 others.

Posting an increase of about 17 percent from previous year, 14 sectarian-related terrorist attacks happened in 2019. The number of people killed in such incidents however decreased by over 25 percent, from 51 in 2018 to 38 in 2019. Rival Sunni and Shia violent sectarian groups as well as ISIS-affiliates were involved in perpetrating these attacks. A combined total of 11 sectarian-related attacks, or over 78 percent of the total 14 such attacks, happened in Karachi (6 attacks) and Quetta (5 attacks) alone. A major sectarian-related suicide attack targeted Hazara community members in Quetta causing significant casualties (21 deaths; 48 injured). Two sectarian-related attacks were reported from Ziarat in Balochistan that claimed five (5) lives, and one such attack happened in DI Khan district of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. Out of the 14

reported sectarian attacks, as many as 10 targeted Shia religious community and scholars, another three (3) Sunni community members and leaders while one attack targeted Bohra community in Ziarat.

With a slight decline of over 2 percent from the year before, 128 cross-border attacks were reported from Pakistan's borders with Afghanistan (4 attacks), India (123) and Iran (one attack). Similarly, down by about 18 percent from 2018, a total of 91 people were killed in these attacks; another 245 were also injured. Those 91 Pakistani citizens killed in cross-border attacks included 61 civilians, 29 army officials, and one Rangers personnel. The situation at Pakistan's border with India – mainly along the Line of Control (LoC) in Azad Kashmir – remained relatively more volatile, particularly after February 26th when Indian military planes violated the LoC, intruding from the Muzaffarabad sector and reaching Balakot, where they dropped their payload in an open space after a response from Pakistan Air Force, and escaped. Next day, Indian Air Force aircraft reportedly entered Pakistani airspace following Pakistani Air Force strikes across the LoC. According to ISPR statement, PAF shot down two Indian aircraft inside Pakistani airspace and arrested one Indian pilot who was later released as a gesture of peace. Out of 123 cross-border attacks perpetrated by Indian BSF, 117 concentrated along the LoC in 11

districts of AJK and one district of KP (Mansehra). As many as six (6) of these attacks happened in Sialkot along the Working Boundary with India. Kotli (33 attacks), Bhimber (22), Poonch (16), Haveli (10) and Neelum (10 attacks) were the AJK districts most affected by Indian cross-border attacks. Meanwhile while a single cross-border attack from Iran did not cause any casualty, four (4) reported attacks from Afghanistan killed six (6) army soldiers and injured 19 others in North Waziristan, Upper Dir and Chitral; one such attack also happened in Khyber but did not cause any casualty.

Compared to 31 in the year before, security forces and law enforcement agencies conducted 28 anti-militant operational strikes in 2019 in 21 districts and regions of Pakistan. These actions killed a total of 81 people, as compared to 77 in 2018 and injured 19 others; those 81 killed included 75 militants and six (6) personnel of security and law enforcement agencies. Out of the total 28 operational strikes reported in 2019, as many as 15 were conducted in KP, 11 in Balochistan, and one each in Punjab and Sindh. There were only three (3) districts where more than one anti-militant operation happened including DI Khan (5) and North Waziristan (3) in KP, and Kech (2) in Balochistan.

Security and law enforcement agencies also entered into in a total of 25 armed clashes and encounters with militants – one more than such incidents in previous year – across 15 districts/regions of the country. These armed clashes and encounters claimed 44 lives (38 militants; 6 security personnel); as many as nine (9) security personnel were also injured in these incidents. About half of these clashes, i.e. 12, took place in various districts of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, another six (6) happened in Balochistan, while four (4) such incidents took place in Sindh and three (3) in Punjab.

The number of incidents of political/ethnic violence took a significant downward turn, from 22 in 2018 to eight (8) in the year under review. The number of people killed in these incidents also decreased, from 11 in 2018 to six (6) in 2019. Incidents of political and ethnic violence were reported from six (6) districts of the country including three (3) from Karachi, and one incident each from Bajaur, Bannu, Mansehra, South Waziristan and Swat districts of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa.

The number of people killed in overall violent incidents in 2019 (588) represented a decrease of about 32 percent from those killed in such incidents in the year before (869); the number of those injured in such incidents all decreased by over 32 percent. The reported decrease in fatalities was marked by the death of 235 civilians, compared to 456 in 2018, thus representing a decrease of over 48 percent. Fatalities among security forces personnel in 2019 (209) were about six (6) percent less from the previous year's

fatalities among them (222). The number of militants killed (144), in these violent incidents, also posted a decline of about 25 percent as compared to 2018. (See Table 6)

Table 6: Casualties in Overall Violent Incidents in 2019

Category	Killed	Injured
FC	39	66
Militants	144	4
Civilian	235	764
Police	60	92
Army	95	97
Levies	14	7
Rangers	1	0
Total	**588**	**1,030**

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Notes

[1] Waseem Shamsi, "Unrest in Ghotki as teacher accused of blasphemy," *Dawn*, September 16, 2019.

[2] ↑and↓ represent increase and decrease, respectively, from previous year.

[3] ↑and↓ represent increase and decrease, respectively, from 2018 to 2019.