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*Elections 2013: Violence against Political
Parties, Candidates and Voters*
A Report by Pak Institute for Peace Studies



A heightened spree of terrorist attacks against political leaders and workers and election candidates, and incidents of politically-motivated violence and clashes between supporters and workers of different political parties preceded the 2013 elections.

On the whole 298 people lost their lives and 885 others were injured between January 1 and May 15 across Pakistan in 148 reported terrorist attacks on political leaders and workers, and voters, and 97 incidents of political violence.

Sindh, mainly Karachi, was most affected by both terrorist attacks on political targets and incidents of political violence, followed by Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and Balochistan.

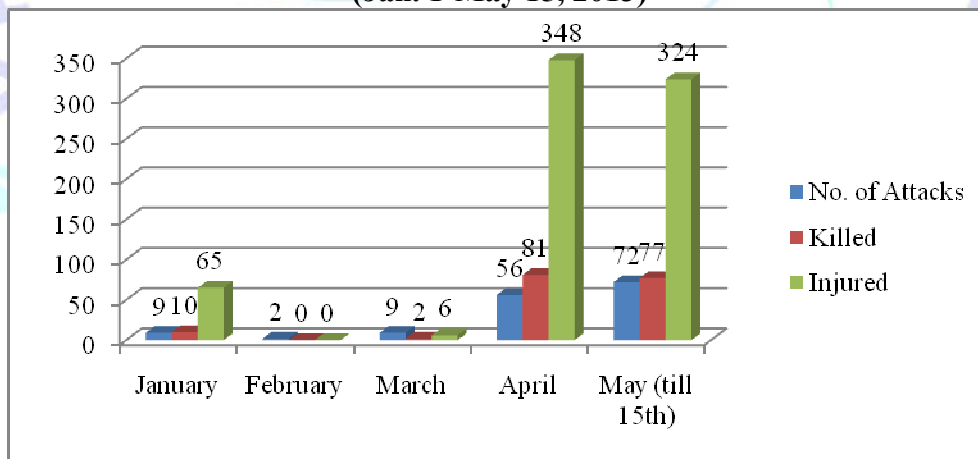
Terrorist Attacks (January 1-May 15, 2013)

Although the terrorist attacks on political leaders and workers have been a regular feature of militancy and violence in Pakistan for the last few years, the number of such attacks significantly increased about six to seven weeks before the 2013 general elections.

A total of 148 terrorist attacks were reported across Pakistan between January 1 and May 15—most of them in the months of April and May—that targeted political leaders and workers, election candidates, offices and rallies, and polling stations. As many as 170 people were killed and another 743 were injured in these attacks. (See Chart 1)

Out of total 148 attacks, 108 were perpetrated by the Tehreek-e-Taliban Pakistan (TTP) and associated local Taliban and other militant groups which claimed the lives of 156 people and injured 665 others. Baloch nationalist insurgents carried out 40 such attacks that killed 14 people and injured another 78.

Chart 1: Terrorist attacks on party leaders/workers, candidates and voters (Jan. 1-May 15, 2013)



The TTP and associates were mainly involved in carrying out such attacks in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP), the Federally Administered Tribal Areas (FATA), and Karachi. Some of the attacks reported from Bolan, Kech, Kharan and Quetta districts of Balochistan were also perpetrated by the TTP.

Nonetheless, most of such attacks reported from Balochistan were carried out by different Baloch insurgent groups mainly Balochistan Liberation Army (BLA), Baloch Liberation Front (BLF) and Baloch Republican Army (BRA).

Awami National Party (ANP) faced maximum number of terrorist attacks between January 1 and May 15 (37), followed by Pakistan People's Party (PPP) and Mutahidda Qaumi Movement (MQM) with 12 attacks each.

While militants hit hard ANP and PPP in almost every region of Pakistan, MQM was frequently targeted in Karachi.

Party leaders, workers and candidates of Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) were targeted in 10 terrorist attacks, mainly in Balochistan and Punjab.

Three factions of Jamiat Ulema-e-Islam (Fazl, Sami and Nazriati or JUI-F, JUI-S and JUI-N, respectively) and Jamaat-e-Islami (JI) were also targeted by militants in parts of Sindh, Balochistan, KP and FATA.

As many as five terrorist attacks hit leaders and workers of Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) in KP and Punjab. Balochistan's nationalist parties were also frequently targeted. (See Chart 2)

Meanwhile 19 attacks hit independent election candidates, their offices and rallies and 17 attacks targeted polling stations in Balochistan and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa.

Militants used different attack tactics to hit their targets. Firing or direct shootout, improvised explosive devices (IEDs) and bomb blasts were the most frequently used tactic by militants with 35, 27 and 26 reported attacks, respectively. Furthermore 24 hand grenades blasts, 17 remote controlled bomb blasts, nine rocket attacks, one landmine blast and three incidents of kidnapping were among the other foremost tactics used by the militants.

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In terms of casualties in terrorist attacks on party workers and leaders, and election candidates, offices and rallies, Sindh, mainly its capital Karachi, was worst-hit among all regions of Pakistan. At least 30 such attacks were reported from Sindh, 25 in Karachi alone, which claimed the lives of 60 people and injured 291 others. MQM, ANP, PPP, Sunni Tehreek (ST), Ahle Sunnat Wal Jamaat (ASWJ), Mutahidda Deeni Mahaz (MDM), JI, Majlis-e-Wahdatul Muslimeen (MWM) and National People's Party (NPP) were targeted by militants in Sindh.

The TTP militants perpetrated 12 terrorist attacks in FATA during the reporting period that mainly targeted leaders, workers of ANP, JI, and JUI-F, and independent election candidates. As many as 33 people were killed and 113 injured in these attacks.

Seven reported attacks in Punjab killed three and injured 14 people. These attacks targeted PPP, PML-N, PTI and independent candidates. (See Table 1)

Table 1: Geographical spread of attacks on political leaders/workers and polling stations (Jan. 1-May 15)

Province /Region	District	No. of Attacks	Killed	Injured	Responsible Group	Targets
FATA	Bajaur Agency	2	2	0	TTP	ANP, JI, JUI-F, independent candidates
	Khyber Agency	1	0	0	TTP	
	North Waziristan Agency	3	4	15	TTP	
	Orakzai Agency	2	23	72	TTP	
	South Waziristan Agency	3	2	22	TTP	
	Frontier Regions (FRs)	1	2	4	TTP	
	FATA Total	12	33	113		
Punjab	Bannu	1	0	0	TTP	ANP, JUI-S, JUI-F, PPP, QWP, PTI, AJIP, JI, independent candidates
	Peshawar	12	22	71	TTP	
	Karak	2			TTP	
	Kohat	2	5	24	TTP	
	Lakki Marwat	1			TTP	
	Lower Dir	1	5	0	TTP	

Khyber Pakhtunkhwa	Mardan	6	0	21	TTP	
	Charsadda	10	3	41	Local Taliban, TTP	
	D.I Khan	2	2	3	TTP	
	Nowshera	1	1	2	TTP	
	Swabi	7	3	19	TTP	
	Swat	3	1	2	TTP	
	Upper Dir	1	1	4	TTP	
	Hangu	1	12	35	TTP	
	KP Total	50	55	222		
Balochistn	Jhal Magsi	2	3	4	BLF, nationalist insurgents	BNP-M, NP, JUI-F, JUI-N, PML-N, ANP, JI, PPP, independent candidates, polling stations
	Kalat	2	2	4	BLA	
	Barkhan	4	0	0	BLA, BLF, BRA	
	Bolan	2	0	10	BLA, TTP	
	Kech	4	2	5	BLA, BRA, TTP	
	Kharan	1	0	5	TTP	
	Khuzdar	2	3	30	BLF	
	Kohlu	1			BLF	
	Mastung	3	2	0	BLF, BRA	
	Nasirabad	6	0	3	BLF, BRA	
	Nushki	3	1	0	BLA, BLF	
	Panjgur	3			BLA, BLF, BRA	
	Pishin	2	2	1	BLA, BRA	
Quetta	12	2	38	BLA, BLF, TTP		

	Sibi	2	2	3	BLA	
	Balochistan Total	49	19	103		
Sindh	Sanghar	1	0	4	Unknown militants	MQM, ANP, PPP, ST, ASWJ, MDM, JI, MWM, NPP
	Shikarpur	2	0	10	TTP, unknown militants	
	Karachi	25	57	276	LeJ, TTP	
	Hyderabad	2	3	1	TTP	
	Sindh Total	30	60	291		
Punjab	Mianwali	2	0	3	Unknown militants	PPP, PML-N, PTI, independent candidates
	Multan	1	2	8	Unknown militants	
	Muzaffargarh	1	1	1	TTP	
	Lahore	1	0	1	Unknown militants	
	Faisalabad	1	0	1	Unknown militants	
	Gujranwala	1	0	0	Unknown militants	
	Punjab Total	7	3	14		
Pakistan Total		148	170	743		

On May 11, the polling day for the 2013 elections, the Tehreek-e-Taliban Pakistan and Baloch insurgent perpetrated 18 terrorist attacks killing 16 people and injuring 77 others. (See Table 2)

Table 2: Attacks on political workers, leaders and polling stations on May 11

District	Attacks	Killed	Injured	Responsible group	Targets
Barkhan	1	0	0	BLF	A polling station

Charsadda	1	0	0	TTP	An election office of ANP
Kalat	1	2	4	BLA	A polling station
Karachi	5	12	38	TTP	Two polling stations, election offices of ANP and JI, MWM's candidate for NA 253
Mardan	1	0	15	TTP	A polling station
Mastung	2	2	0	BLF	Two polling stations
Mianwali	1	0	0	Unknown militants	Convoy of a PTI leader
Naseerabad	1	0	0	BRA	A bus escorting voters back homes from a polling station
Nushki	1	0	0	BLF	A polling station
Peshawar	2	0	10	TTP	Two women's polling stations
Quetta	2	0	10	BLA	A polling station
Total	18	16	77		

Political Violence (January 1-May 15, 2013)

Apart from those killed in terrorist attacks between January 1 and May 15, 2013, another 128 leaders and workers of different political parties were killed and 142 injured in 97 reported incidents of political violence and clashes between supporters and workers of different political parties during the same period of time.

The highest number of such incidents for any region across Pakistan was reported from Sindh (73 including 70 in Karachi alone) which claimed the lives of 97 people largely party workers and leaders of different political parties including Mutahidda Qaumi Movement (MQM), Mohajir Qaumi Movement-Haqiqi (MQM-H), Awami National Party (ANP), Pakistan People's Party (PPP), Sunni Tehreek (ST), Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N), Jamiat Ulema-e-Islam-Fazl (JUI-F), Jamaat-e-Islami (JI), and also People's Aman Committee.

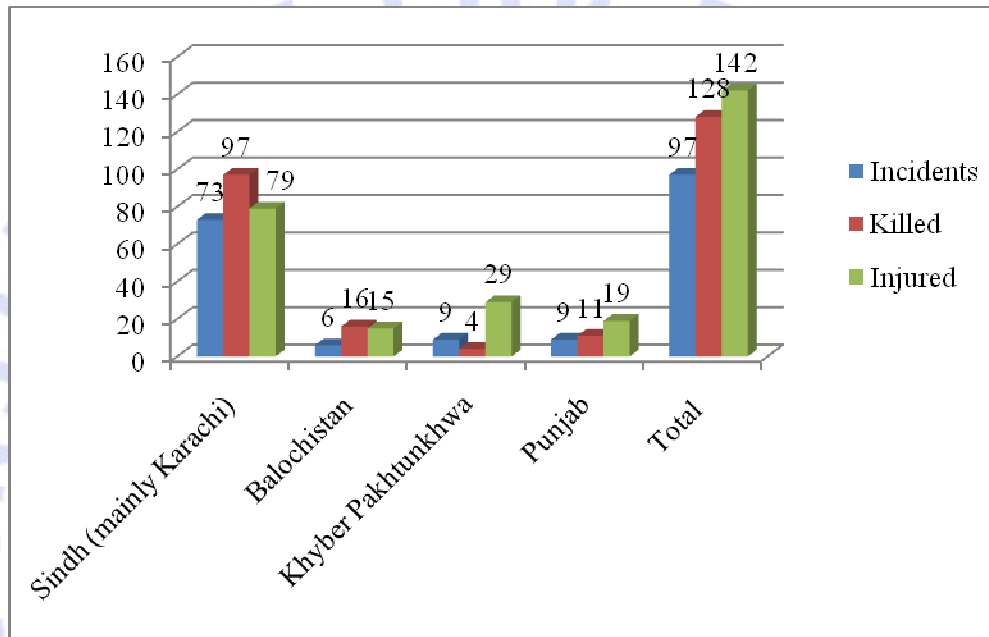
Nine incidents each of political violence were reported from Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP) and Punjab. (See Chart 3)

In KP, incidents of political violence and clashes between different political parties and supporters of election candidates killed or injured party workers or leaders of PML-N, ANP, Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI), Qaumi Watan Party (QWP), PPP and supporters of independent candidates.

In Punjab, clashes were reported between supporters and workers of PTI and PML-N, and PTI and PPP, besides incidents of political violence that occurred at polling stations.

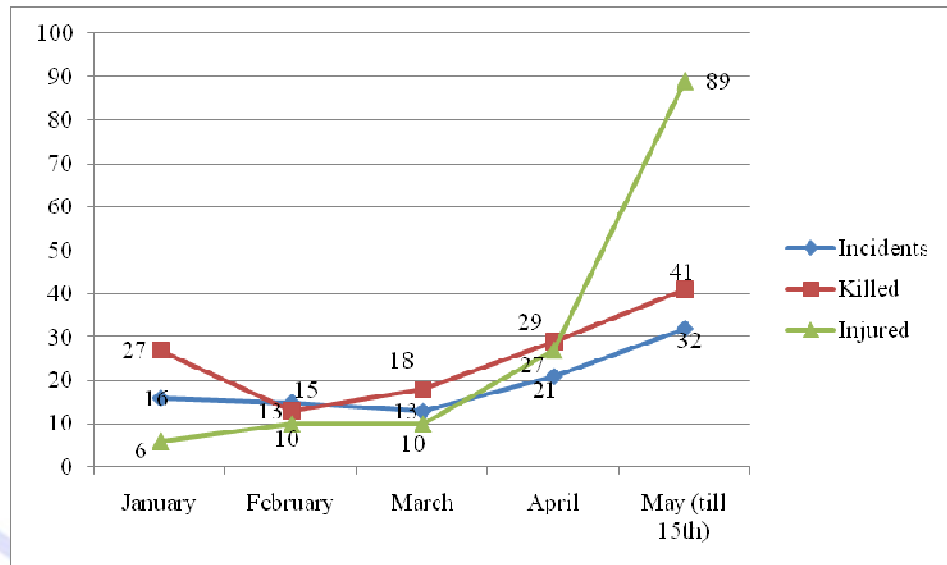
Six incidents of political violence were reported from Balochistan that killed 16 people and injured another 15. Among the killed and injured were workers and supporters of Balochistan National Party-Mengal (BNP-M), ANP, Pakhtunkhwa Milli Awami Party (PkMAP), JUI-F and independent election candidates.

Chart 3: Incidents of political violence in Pakistan (Jan. 1-May 15)



A comparison of the number of incidents of political violence over the past five months reveals a significant upward trend in the number of such incidents and consequent casualties in the months of April and May. (See Chart 4)

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Chart 4: Comparison of incidents of political violence (Jan. 1- May 15)


As the number of such incidents, geographical spread of incidents of political violence also expanded with the elections day approaching near. Incidents of political violence have long been a prominent feature of insecurity in Karachi but during the weeks preceding May 11 elections such incidents were frequently reported from parts of each province. (See Table 3)

Table 3: Geographical spread of political violence in Pakistan (Jan. 1-May 15)

Province /Region	District	Incidents	Killed	Injured
Sindh	Karachi	70	90	64
	Hyderabad	1	3	1
	Nawabshah	1	3	0
	Shikarpur	1	1	14
	Sindh Total	73	97	79
Balochistan	Jhal Magsi	1	5	0
	Qilla Abdullah	3	6	11
	Quetta	2	5	4
	Balochistan Total	6	16	15

Khyber Pakhtunkhwa	Charsadda	1	0	6
	Karak	1	1	2
	Lakki Marwat	1	0	6
	Mansehra	1	0	4
	Mardan	2	2	5
	Nowshera	2	1	3
	Upper Dir	1	0	3
	KP Total	9	4	29
Punjab	Bhakkar	1	2	2
	Gujranwala	2	0	6
	Khanewal	1	3	0
	Lahore	1	0	5
	Rawalpindi	2	3	6
	Sargodha	1	1	0
	Toba Tek Singh	1	2	0
	Punjab Total	9	11	19
Total		97	128	142

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