

# PIPS Security Report 2007

## Executive Summary

Dated: 07-01-2008

Security situation in Pakistan during 2007 remained highly unsatisfactory amid terrorist attacks throughout the year. Pakistan Peoples Party Chairperson, Benazir Bhutto's tragic assassination on December 27, 2007, and continued attacks on and kidnapping of Army personnel round the year puts a big question mark on the efficiency and effectiveness of the security forces against terrorism and to control law and order situation in the country.

Accumulatively 1442 terrorist attacks, incidents of political violence and border clashes took place in 2007. Among 1442, there were 1306 terrorist attacks done by the local Taliban, Pakistani Jihadist and sectarian groups and Baloch nationalist insurgents. While 113 incidents of political violence were also reported divided into political, sectarian and inter tribal clashes' categories distributed as 80 sectarian, 12 political and 21 inter-tribal clashes. On the borders with Afghanistan and Iran the security situation remained intense and 23 major clashes were reported during 2007. In response to 1306 terrorist attacks, the security forces conducted 61 counter-terrorist attacks in Federal Administrative Tribal Areas, Swat and its adjoining areas and in Balochistan. The casualties remained higher compared with last two years, as 3448 persons got killed and 5353 injured in 2007. These casualty figures are 128% and 491.7% higher as compared with 2006 and 2005 respectively.

In 2006, PIPS had recorded total 657 terrorist attacks, which left 907 persons dead and 1543 injured, while in 2005 total attacks were 254 in which 216 persons were killed and 571 were injured. The sharp increase in the terrorist attacks shows the security situation is rapidly deteriorating in the country. The security forces which are responsible for maintaining law and order and preventing terrorist attacks are facing direct threat from the terrorists and looking helpless. This is manifested in the fact during 2007, 232 army men, 163 paramilitary troops and 71 policemen were killed in terrorist attacks and they also faced 41 suicide attacks.

Balochistan, NWFP and Tribal Areas appeared as the most troubled spots for the government and security agencies where Baloch nationalist insurgents, Taliban, al-Qaeda operatives and sectarian militants kept striking the security forces.

However, the indication of success against terrorists and miscreants remained almost the same as compared with 2006. During 2007 security forces killed 1008 terrorists and miscreants, and arrested 1636 suspected terrorists including 427 Taliban, 53 al-Qaeda operatives, 740 Baloch nationalist insurgents, 315 banned Jihadist organizations' militants and 27 Lashkar-e-Jhangvi terrorists, who are operating as al-Qaeda force in Pakistan.

Comparatively, in 2006 security agencies had arrested 1552 suspected terrorists including 1094 Taliban and Afghan, 47 al-Qaeda operatives, 198 other militants and 213 Baloch nationalist insurgents.

Pakistan faced 60 suicide attacks (mostly targeted at security forces) during 2007 that killed at least 770 besides injuring another 1574 persons. The maximum number of suicide attacks was reported in North Western Frontier Province (NWFP) where 33 such attacks killed 374 persons and injured 640 others. Tribal Areas of Pakistan and Punjab (including Islamabad) faced 11 suicide attacks each whereas 4 suicide attacks hit Balochistan and one Karachi.

As many as 12 incidents of political clashes during 2007 took 64 lives besides injuring 222 others. Maximum number, 9, of such clashes was reported from Karachi whereas one incident each was reported from Rawalpindi, Hyderabad and Nasirabad (Balochistan). The most violent political clashes ignited on May 12 in Karachi which left 45 persons dead and 195 injured.

As no security operation is going on in Tribal Areas there is risk of an increased infiltration of militants into Afghanistan besides increasing country's own security risk.

The threat of enhanced 'targeted' suicide attacks on political and security forces 'remains' intact in the future as no investigations in any suicide attack case have ever been completed.

The political unrest if prevails may consolidate the militant outfits in FATA and NWFP, and encourage the nationalist insurgents in Balochistan and Sindh.

## **Introduction**

2007 left a lot of security challenges for Pakistan. The country was already struggling against the Taliban, Jihadist and nationalist insurgents, and now it faced another challenge of political violence, which caused political and administrative turmoil.

### **1. Political Unrest Prevailed**

The political sentiment in Pakistan stirred up after the presidential election and announcement for parliamentary elections; 2007 is marked with a climax of political activities as well as terrorist attacks.

President General Pervez Musharraf suspended Chief Justice of Pakistan, Justice Iftikhar Mohammad Chaudhary, on March 9. The move enraged the community of lawyers, who took to the street in protest. On May 12, a tragedy eventually occurred in the southern port city of Karachi where people who supported Chaudhary clashed with pro-government activists, leaving scores of dead and more than 100 people injured. On July 20, Chaudhary was restored on a Supreme Court verdict. After a short period of calm, the presidential election was held on October 6 and Musharraf gained a crushing victory despite the boycott of opposition parties. However, Supreme Court barred the election commission from issuing a final notification of the polling results.

On November 3 President Musharraf proclaimed a state of emergency in the country and promulgated a provisional constitutional order (PCO), suspending the constitution. Under the PCO, the then-Chief Justice Iftikhar Muhammad Chaudhary and some other judges of the Supreme Court were sacked.

The political and constitutional uncertainty was accompanied with another tragedy. As Benazir Bhutto, former prime minister and chairperson of Pakistan People's Party (PPP), returned to Pakistan on October 18 on a so-called understanding with the administration, two suicide blasts shocked the world in the wee hours of October 19 when Bhutto was leading a procession in Karachi. Around 142 people lost their lives and more than 500 others suffered injuries in the attack, the heaviest casualties Pakistan have ever suffered in recent years.

Musharraf, who drew fires from opposition parties and skeptics for holding the office of army chief, relinquished the post on November 28 and took oath as a civilian president.

As promised, the president on December 15 lifted the state of emergency, revoked the PCO and revived the constitution. For that Musharraf said that visible and positive changes had been witnessed during the emergency period and the terrorism spreading in tribal areas had been contained.

Experiencing a year of turbulence, the political activities have gained momentum with all the players on the arena for the upcoming general elections re-scheduled on February 18. Pakistanis have every reason to hope that a new ruling party can bring them peace, stability and prosperity.

## **Wave of Violence and Damage**

An intensified wave of violence and agitation gripped the country after Ms Benazir Bhutto's assassination on December 27 in Liaquat Bagh, Rawalpindi. Violence began as news of her death spread, particularly in her home province of Sindh. Pakistan suffered colossal losses in rioting with damage of more than \$200 million to the railways alone. 22 locomotives and 140 coaches were completely burnt and the railway telecommunications and signaling systems damaged. The loss to life, public property and infrastructure has been colossal. Just 3 days of turbulence left more than 50 killed and about 100 injured. Manufacturing, revenue, exports all suffered badly. The government provided no estimates for losses to other public sectors or to private property but said the supply of fuel and food to all parts of the country had been hit by the trouble.

During 2007 Karachi faced the threat of political violence between MQM and Sunni Tehreek also. On January 3 office of the Sunni Tehreek (ST) in New Karachi was attacked by the MQM activists that injured 5 ST activists. One MQM activist was killed and 2 ST activists got injured on January 10 when both groups fought a gun battle in Shah Faisal Colony. Later on February 26 a sector in charge of ST was injured when MQM attacked their Korangi office. The ST activists gunned down an MQM activist on May 31. Both groups fought a fierce gun battle on December 25 that left 1 person dead and 2 injured.

Few nationalist parties in Balochistan tried to create hatred against Punjabis. This led to many attacks on Punjabis in the restive Balochistan.

## **2. War against Terrorism**

2007 witnessed a sharp rise and geographical expansion in radicalization and militancy that touched, after being consolidated in settled districts of NWFP, the heart of Pakistan, Islamabad, as the Lal Mosque aftermath continued to mutilate the face of the country for more than six months in the form of suicide bombing.

It was on July 3 that the Lal Mosque students tried to snatch arms and wireless sets from security forces deployed around the mosque and attacked them, fueling cross fires. The security forces besieged the mosque after the clashes and launched an operation against militants in the mosque later, leaving 134 people dead and more than 200 others injured.

Although the mosque was cleared of militants, but the local pro-Lal Mosque militants in North Waziristan tribal area scrapped a peace deal with the government and the attacks targeting security forces intensified since mid-July.

## **Suicide Attacks**

Lal Mosque Operation was followed by two violent suicide attacks in the capital killing at least 34 (including 8 policemen) and wounding another 125 persons.

Two suicide attacks in Rawalpindi on September 4 [one in Qasim Market and the other in RA Bazaar] killed 30 and injured another 68 persons. A convoy of security forces was bombed near Mingora, Swat district, on October 25 leaving in its wake 30 personnel of the Frontier Constabulary (FC) and four civilians dead.

A suicide bomber struck a police checkpoint in the high security zone of Rawalpindi, less than a kilometer away from President Musharraf's camp office on October 30 killing 8 people, four of them policemen, and injuring 30 others.

A suicide bomber rammed his motorcycle into a PAF bus, killing seven officers of the Pakistan Air Force and three civilians on the Faisalabad Road, Sargodha on November 1.

Two suicide bombers struck in Rawalpindi [Hamza Camp and GHQ] on November 24 during the morning rush, targeting military personnel and installations, killing at least 18 people and injuring 40 others. Almost all of the victims were either military personnel or civilians working for an intelligence agency.

### **Swat Operation**

After establishing a Shariah court, Imam Dehri cleric Maulana Fazlullah announced on October 9 the formation of a volunteer force (Shaheen Force) to "control the law & order" and traffic problems in Matta tehsil. The Shaheen Commandos instantly started patrolling in more than 15 vehicles and passed through different roads in Matta and Kabal areas. Later a convoy of security forces was bombed near Mingora, Swat district, on October 25 leaving in its wake 30 personnel of the Frontier Constabulary (FC) and four civilians dead.

This invited the ire of the government which decided to flush out the militants from Swat. The security forces' operation was later joined by the Pakistan Army which eventually regained control in the Swat and till end of December had cleared about 80% areas of Swat.

#### **Attacking and Kidnapping the Soldiers**

The security forces were randomly targeted and kidnapped in NWFP and FATA. More than 200 soldiers of Pakistan Army were kidnapped on August 30 in South Waziristan and released on November 4 in exchange with 25 terrorists' release by the government. Many soldiers were beheaded and slaughtered in tribal belt and settled districts of NWFP during 2007.

### **3. Balochistan Front**

The security situation in Balochistan remained volatile during 2007 where nationalist insurgents continued targeting security forces, state property & installations and pro-government people. After the death of Balach Mari there was an increased violence in the province. Five more nationalist insurgent groups came on the surface including Lashkar-e-Balochistan, Bugti Force, Bugti Lovers and Baloch National Army. Earlier three groups, Balochistan Liberation Army, Balochistan Liberation Front and Bugti Militia were active. One Baloch Islamist nationalist group, Jandullah headed by Abdul Malik Ragi also emerged with an ideology of the unification of Iranian, Afghan and Pakistani Balochistan for establishment of an Islamic state.

#### **4. Sectarian Front**

Besides a few Sunni-Shia and other sectarian clashes at some places, the rival groups in Khyber and Kurram Agency continued to play havoc with the lives of the people.

In Kurram Agency Shia and Sunni tribes became extremely sadistic against each other during last quarter of the year. During their clashes 346 people were killed and 545 injured. A large number of people got displaced and about 900 families from Kurram Agency had migrated to Afghanistan.

The Lashkar-e-Islam and Ansar ul-Islam groups in Khyber Agency continued to spread sectarian violence to the neighbouring areas as well. They were also trying to get political hold in the agency as well besides issuing moral codes like Taliban.

Dera Ismail Khan and Peshawar areas witnessed Shia-Sunni clashes and Sipah-e-Sahaba was seen active in these areas.

#### **5. Al-Qaeda Arrests**

The security forces continued to target the al-Qaeda and its associates in Pakistan during 2007 and during operational attacks and search operation arrested 53 al-Qaeda operatives.

#### **6. Disappearance**

The issue of enforced disappearances and unlawful detentions in Pakistan remained in limelight during 2007. Most of the disappearances happened amid war on terror and Baloch insurgency. The Supreme Court of Pakistan showed much judicial activism in this regard and many disappeared persons were presented before the court and several got freed as well. The human rights and civil society activists also played their role to highlight the issue.

#### **Methodology**

The PIPS monitors each and every terrorist, insurgent, inter-tribal, sectarian and political violence incident happening in Pakistan. It also covers the operational attacks by the security forces, clashes with militants, border clashes and the search operations by the law enforcement agencies. The PIPS focuses on the incident nature, tactic used by terrorist groups, their targets, weaponry they use and their capabilities.

The PIPS uses lot of resources for compiling data like newspapers, magazines, journals, field sources and consultation with official records. For this purpose the PIPS collects all national and regional newspapers and media publication across the country. The PIPS field workers provide the ground views and for counter check, especially in case of any major incident, the PIPS team consults with local administration and journalists.

The PIPS divided the attacks/clashes into 3 categories to avoid any ambiguity and miscalculation: 1. Terrorist attacks, 2. Political violence and 3. Border clashes. Terrorist attacks counted the attacks from al-Qaeda and its associates, Taliban, nationalist insurgents and jihadi/ sectarian outfits. The political violence was further divided into 3 classes: political clashes, sectarian clashes and inter-tribal clashes. The border clashes considered the violence across borders. The PIPS does not only record the incident but also undertakes a follow up especially about Casualties, investigation and arrests.

In some cases, PIPS found difficult to counter-check the number of casualties. There was found, in some cases, huge difference between the official records and media reports and claims, especially about the casualties in Lal Mosque and Swat operation. Although the pro-Lal Mosque clerics tried to exaggerate the casualties in the operation and claimed more than 2000, but when PIPS counter-checked with official record and with the sources within Jihadist groups nothing proved more than 134.

## Findings

### 1. Suicide Attacks

Pakistan faced 60 suicide attacks (mostly targeted at security forces) during 2007 that killed at least 770 besides injuring another 1574 persons. The maximum number of suicide attacks was reported in North Western Frontier Province (NWFP) where 33 such attacks killed 374 and injured 640 others. Tribal areas of Pakistan and Punjab (including Islamabad) faced 11 suicide attacks each whereas 4 suicide attacks hit Balochistan and one Karachi.

There was witnessed a visible increase in suicide attacks during and after July's Lal Mosque debacle. Only in July 15 suicide attacks were reported mostly in NWFP, Islamabad and Punjab that killed 191 and injured 366 people. There were 8 and 7 suicide attacks in August and September respectively. The last month of 2007 was also a month of suicide bomber when 10 suicide attacks hit the country including the Liaquat Bagh attack that assassinated the former Prime Minister Ms Benazir Bhutto.

Pakistan has faced an increasing menace of suicide attacks over the past 2-3 years. A quite parallel dilemma is lack of any sane scientific criteria and preliminary investigative findings for declaring an attack a 'suicide attack'. What makes it more painful is the fact that no suicide attack has ever been meticulously studied, investigated and unearthed. We have just reports about the suicide bombers entering different cities and exploding them violently at or near their targets. Their death obliterates also the footsteps they traversed from their exit to target point. Not even a single suicide attack has yet been proved that it was a suicide attack if seen from a real investigation point of view. The only proof has been the body parts of the bomber (especially the head) or the parts of the cycle, motorcycle or of some other vehicle used for suicide bombing.

Nonetheless, there has been often contradiction between the eye witnesses' view and the state declaration. The most confusing attack in this regard was on Pakistan Peoples Party's rally gathered to welcome the Chief Justice in Islamabad. The government stance declaring this attack a suicide one was rejected by many eye witnesses. The political workers, the advocates and other persons present in or around the welcome camp were not ready to accept it as a suicide attack. Some of them even said that the powerful blast had happened due to a bomb planted inside a heap of sand. The first assassination attempt on Ms Benazir Bhutto in October in Karachi was instantly declared a suicide attack. But Ms Bhutto at that time had clarified at that time that 16 heads were found near the place of the blast; were they all suicide bombers! Similarly an attack on Pakistan Air Force bus on November 1 in Sargodha was termed a suicide attack by the government where a suicider rammed his explosive laden motorcycle into the bus. But quite surprisingly neither the body parts of the bomber nor the parts of his motorcycle were recovered from the place. The 27-July suicide attack in Aabpara, Islamabad was also contentious.

**Table: 1 Suicide Attacks-2007**

Province	Number of attacks	Killed	Injured
NWFP	33	374	640
Tribal Areas	11	69	131
Punjab/Islamabad	11	129	351
Balochistan	4	53	102
Sindh/Karachi	One	145	350
Total	60 attacks	770 killed	1574 injured

**Table: 2 Suicide attacks (Per Month)**

Month	Number of attacks	Killed	Injured
January	5	24	92
February	2	19	42
March	One	2	7
April	One	31	35
May	2	30	33
June	-	-	-
July	15	191	366
August	8	32	86
September	7	75	125
October	4	203	447
November	5	33	72
December	10	130	269
Total	60 attacks	770 killed	1574 injured

**Table: 3 Details of each Suicide Attack**

Date	Place	Target	Casualties		Attack Tactic
			Killed	Injured	
22 Jan	Khajuri (check post) near Mir Ali North Waziristan	Army convoy moving from Bannu to Miranshah	5 including 4 soldiers	23 including 20 soldiers	Suicide car bomb attack
25 Jan	Patt Bazaar Hangu	Civilians	One	5	Suicide car bomb blast
26 Jan	Marriott Hotel Islamabad	Republic Day function of India	One guard	5	Suicide bomber blew himself
27 Jan	Kisakhawani Bazaar	Police and Muharram	15 including police chief	40	Unknown suicide

	Peshawar	procession	Malik Saad and DSP Raziq		attacker blew himself in a gathering
29 Jan	Liaquat Park Dera Ismail Khan	Muharram procession	2	19	Suicide bomber blew himself
3 Feb	Barakhel Tank	Army convoy	2 soldiers	7 soldiers	Suicide bomber rammed his explosive-laden jeep into a military convoy
17 Feb	District courts Quetta	Judge, Lawyers and civilians	17 including a senior civil judge and 7 lawyers	35	Suicide bomber blew himself up
29 Mar	Guliana Kharian	Army training camp	Two soldiers	7	A suicide attacker blew himself up in an army training camp
28 Apr	Charsadda	Interior minister Aftab Ahmad Khan Sherpao	31	35	Suicide bomber blew himself up
15 May	Marhaba restaurant Peshawar	Afghanis civilians	27	31	Suicide bomb blast
28 May	Boltonabad area Tank	Frontier constabulary	3 including officer	2 FC men	Suicide bomber blew himself up
4 July	Gurbaz area Bannu	Military convoy	10 including 6 troops	9	A suicide bomber rammed his explosive-laden car into a military convoy coming from Miranshah

12 July	Miranshah North Waziristan	Political agent's office	4	3	Suicide bomber blew himself
12 July	Mingora (two attacks)	Policemen and military convoy	3 policemen	-	Two suicide bombers rammed an explosive-laden car into a police vehicle and explosive device blast
14 July	Razmak town Miranshah North Waziristan	FC convoy	24	29	Suicide bomber rammed an explosive-packed car into the convoy
15 July	Dera Ismail Khan	Police recruitment centre	29	56	Suicide attack, a suicide bomber detonated explosives strapped to his body at a police centre
15 July	Matta Swat (two attacks)	Military convoy	21 including 16 soldiers	40	Two suicide attacks, the suicide attack involved two cars, one hit the convoy from the front and another from the back
17 July	Mir Ali North Waziristan	Security check point	4 including 3 troops	2	A suicide bomber blew himself
17 July	F/8 near district court Islamabad	PPP reception at Chief Justice rally venue	19	60	Suicide bomber blew himself up
19 July	Garrison town Kohat Cantt	Army mosque	19	22	A suicide bomber blew

					himself up in the mosque
19 July	Hangu	Police training centre	8	30	A suicide bomber hit an explosive-laden car to the main gate of the centre
19 July	Hub	Chinese engineer's caravan	31 including 8 security personnel	45	A suicide bomber hit an explosive-laden car to the caravan of Chinese
20 July	Miranshah North Waziristan	Security check post	4 including one soldier	5	A suicide bomber rammed his explosive-laden car into a check post
27 July	Aabpara market Islamabad	Policemen	15 including 8 policemen	65	Suicide bomber blew himself up
4 Aug	Parachinar Kurram agency	Civilians	10	42	Suicide attacker a "bearded man" crashed his car into another car
17 Aug	Tank	Security force convoy	-	5 soldiers	A Suicide attacker rammed his explosive laden car into a convoy
18 Aug	Bannu	Police and police Check post	One policeman	5	Suicide attacker blew himself when the police try to arrest suspect person

18 Aug	Mir Ali North Waziristan	Check posts	4 Soldiers	2	Suicide attacker blew himself up
20 Aug	Tall Hangu	Security forces Check post	6 including 4 soldiers	19	Suicide attacker rammed his explosive-laden jeep into the check post
24 Aug	Mir Ali North Waziristan	Security forces convoy	5 soldier	10	A Suicide attacker smashed his explosive-laden mini truck into the army convoy
24 Aug	Asadkhel village North Waziristan	Security forces convoy	2 soldiers	2	A Suicide attacker smashed his explosive-laden car into the army convoy
26 Aug	Shangla district Swat division	Police mobile	4 policemen	One	Suicide attacker rammed his explosive-laden car into the police van.
1 Sep	Mamond Bajaur agency	Bajaur scouts force	7 including 4 security personnel	9	Suicide attackers rammed explosive-laden car into the convoy of Bajaur scouts
1 Sep	Wana Jandola road South Waziristan	Security forces check post	-	4	Suicide attacker rammed his explosive-laden jeep into the check post

4 Sep	Qasim Market and RA Bazaar Rawalpindi (two suicide attacks)	Defence services and civilians	30	68	Two suicide attacks; two suicide bombers hit high security area
11 Sep	Dera Ismail Khan	Security personnel and civilians	18	18	Suicide attacker blew himself
13 Sep	Tarbela Ghazi	SSG commandos	20	25	A suicide attacker blew himself
22 Sep	Tank	Paramilitary convoy	-	One	Suicide bomber blew up his car near a convoy
1 Oct	Bannu	Policemen and civilians	16 including 4 policemen	32	A suicide bomber in Burqa blew himself up
18 Oct	Karsaz Chowk Karachi	Benazir welcome rally	145 including 20 police squad	350	Two suicide bomb blasts
25 Oct	Police lines Mingora Swat	FC personnel convoy	34 including 30 FC personnel	35	Suicide attacker rammed his explosive laden car into the truck
30 Oct	Near army house Rawalpindi	High security zone of presidency and army chief house	8 including four policemen	30	A suicide attacker struck a police checkpoint when he was trying to go ahead to the high security zone.
1 Nov	Sargodha	PAF personnel	11 including 7 PAF officers	28	A suicide bomber rammed his motorcycle into a PAF bus
9	Hayat Abad	PML (Q)	4 including	One	A suicide

Nov	Peshawar	leader Amir Muqam's house	Pir Muhammad Khan former minister and three policemen		attacker blew himself up trying to enter the Ami Muqam House
21 Nov	Saidu Sharif air port Swat	Security forces	-	3 security personnel	A suicide bomber blew up his car when he tried to pass through barricade
24 Nov	Hamza Camp and GHQ Rawalpindi (two suicide attacks)	Military personnel and installations	18	40	Two suicide blasts. one suspected bomber rammed his explosive laden van into a bus and the other bomber blew himself up when security guard stop him at a check point
4 Dec	Peshawar	Security forces checkpoint	-	-	Burqa-clad women suicide bomber blew himself up
9 Dec	Ningwalai Swat	Checkpoint	10 including 3 policemen	7	A suicide bomber exploded a vehicle near a checkpoint
10 Dec	Kamra Attock	Military Vehicle carrying children of Pakistan Air force employees	-	21 including 18 children and three PAC employees	A suicide bomber detonated an explosive-laden car near a military vehicle

13 Dec	Quetta (two suicide attacks)	Military checkpoint	5 soldiers	22 including 13 military personnel	Two suicide bombers blew themselves up
15 Dec	Nowshera Cantonment	Army Services Centre Colony	6 including two military personnel	20 among them eight troops	A suicide attacker riding a bicycle blew himself up at the check post near to the main gate of military facility
17 Dec	Kohat cantonment area	Army recruits	12 army recruits	2	A suicide bomber blew himself up into the recruits
21 Dec	Charsadda	Aftab Ahmad Khan Sherpao and others	60	120	A Suicide attacker blew himself up during Eid ul Azha prayer
23 Dec	Mingora	Army convoy	12 including four soldiers	29	A suicide bomber rammed an explosive-laden vehicle into an army convoy
27 Dec	Liaquat Bagh Rawalpindi	Benazir Bhutto	25 including Benazir Bhutto	48	Firing and suicide attacker blew himself up

### 1.Total Attacks

Accumulatively 1442 terrorist attacks, incidents of political violence and border clashes took place in 2007. Among 1442, there were 1306 terrorist attacks done by the local Taliban, Pakistani Jihadist and sectarian groups and Baloch nationalist insurgents. While 113 incidents of political violence were also reported divided into political, sectarian and inter tribal clashes' categories distributed as 80 sectarian, 12 political and 21 inter-tribal clashes. On the borders with Afghanistan and Iran the security situation remained intense and 23 major clashes were reported during 2007. In response to 1306 terrorist attacks, the security forces conducted 61 counter-terrorist attacks in Federal

Administrative Tribal Areas, Swat and its adjoining areas and in Balochistan. The casualties remained higher compared with last two years, as 3448 persons got killed and 5353 injured in 2007. These casualty figures are 128% and 491.7% higher as compared with 2006 and 2005 respectively.

Northern Areas of Pakistan faced lower number of attacks in 2007, where 2 incidents were reported which killed one person and left 9 injured. Azad Kashmir also remained peaceful comparatively with rest of the country where in 4 terrorist incidents one got killed and 7 injured. This casualty was the result of a violent clash between two Kashmiri militant group; Lashkar-e-Taiba and Hizb ul-Mujahdeen.

In Punjab 26 terrorist incidents were reported, which claimed 113 lives and 276 injuries. In Sindh 27 terrorist attacks/political clashes were reported out of whom 17 were in Pakistan's business capital Karachi. Federal capital, Islamabad remained in spotlight because of Lal Mosque operation and suicide attacks in which 140 people lost their lives and 338 got injuries.

**Table: 4.1**

No	Province/Area	Number of attacks	Killed	Injured
1	Balochistan	536	224	564
2	NWFP	460	1096	1595
3	Punjab	29	113	276
4	Interior Sindh	10	5	4
5	Tribal Areas	435	1663	2020
6	Karachi	17	205	540
7	Islamabad	10 including 8 days Lal Masjid Operation)	140	338
8	Northern Areas	2	One	9
9	Azad Kashmir	4	One	7
10	Total Attacks	1503 attacks	3448 killed	5353 injured

#### a. Balochistan

In Balochistan 5 more nationalist insurgent groups came on the surface including Lashkar-e-Balochistan, Bugti Force, Bugti Lovers and Baloch National Army. Earlier three groups, Balochistan Liberation Army, Balochistan Liberation Front and Bugti Militia were active. One Baloch Islamist nationalist group, Jandullah headed by Abdul Malik Ragi has also emerged with an ideology the unification of Iranian, Afghan and Pakistani Balochistan for establishment of an Islamic state. All these groups including al-Qaeda operative Lashkar-e-Jhangvi carried out 536 attacks that killed 224 persons and injured 564 (see table 5). Nationalists' capability to hit the target declined as compared with 2006. Gas pipelines, security check posts and camps, government offices, rail tracks and bridges were targets of the insurgents. In 2006 they had killed 277 persons in 403 attacks and damaged the government property at large scale, but in 2007 government succeeded to secure important gas pipeline routes and official installation.

**Table: 5**

Month	Number of attacks	Killed	Injured
January	37	4	19
February	37	24	53
March	53	11	58
April	35	23	44
May	46	15	56
June	30	18	35
July	32	42	68
August	71	8	21
September	27	9	21
October	40	14	47
November	69	25	76
December	59	31	66
Total	536 attacks	224 killed	564 injured

**b. NWFP**

NWFP remained the third troubled spot during 2007 where 460 terrorist attacks reported, which killed 1096 persons and injured 1593 (see table 6).

The former interior minister, Aftab Sherpao was targeted twice (on April 28 and December 21) in Charsadda by suicide bombers.

The terrorists (pro-Taliban militants, al-Qaeda associates, banned militant outfits and other groups of tribal militants) attacked military convoys, Pakistan Army, Levies, Scouts, FC force, police, security checkpoints and checkpoints, cantonment areas, police stations, pro-government tribal elders, political leaders, video/audio shops, barbers, tailors, NGOs, government and private schools, hospitals, alleged US spies and foreign interests etc. A large number of security personnel was also kidnapped and killed by the terrorists.

The rate of terrorist attacks in NWFP during 2007 was increased by 666.7% as compared with 2006 whereas death casualties increased by 688.5%. In 2006 there were reported 60 terrorist attacks/sectarian clashes which left 139 persons dead and 303 wounded.

**Table: 6**

Month	Number of attacks	Killed	Injured
January	23	33	100
February	20	6	14
March	31	15	30
April	29	41	66
May	29	57	89

June	23	8	52
July	43	122	255
August	41	35	127
September	37	53	102
October	53	167	208
November	73	398	290
December	58	161	262
Total	460 attacks	1096 killed	1595 Injured

### c. FATA

A total of 435 attacks/clashes (including terrorist attacks, counter-terrorist attacks, sectarian clashes, clashes between security forces and the militants and inter-tribal clashes) occurred in Federally Administrated Tribal Areas in 2007 that killed 1663 and injured another 2020 persons. The rate of attacks/clashes in 2007 was increased by more than 200% whereas the death casualties increased by 338.8% as compared with 2006 (see table 7).

During early months of 2007 an increased violence was witnessed in FATA especially in Waziristan due to presence of foreign militants. During March government supported the local tribesmen to flush out the foreign elements from South Waziristan thus violent clashes erupted there. The militants then started to enter North Waziristan and other areas and eventually the security situation in North Waziristan started to deteriorate. At least 22 people were killed and 10 others wounded when 3 guided missiles hit a cluster of compounds in Datakhel area of N. Waziristan on June 19.

The fiercest suicide attack in FATA was reported on July 14 in Razmak (besides 3 other suicide attacks in the same month) that killed 24 FC men besides injuring another 29.

The militants kidnapped more than 200 Pakistan Army soldiers in South Waziristan on August 30 and released 213 soldiers on November 4 after the government freed 25 of their men under a prisoners' swap made possible by a 21-member peace Jirga.

Sectarian clashes between the rival groups continued intermittently in Khyber Agency and Kurram Agency throughout the year. During November the security situation in Kurram Agency started to deteriorate further that killed hundreds of people during just 2 months.

Local Taliban from tribal areas and some districts of the NWFP on December 14 decided to set up a centralized organization for a joint war against US and NATO forces in Afghanistan and appointed Baitullah Mehsud as their Central Amir. The militants named their movement as Tehreek-e-Taliban Pakistan (TTP) and said the aim of the movement was to enforce Shariah in their respective areas.

**Table: 7**

Month	Number of attacks	Killed	Injured
January	16	48	56
February	17	17	20
March	29	235	199
April	26	250	299

May	21	49	49
June	24	103	100
July	61	111	155
August	78	86	166
September	50	151	153
October	39	312	325
November	39	164	253
December	35	137	245
Total	435 attacks	1663 killed	2020 Injured

#### d. Sindh & Karachi

The security situation in Sindh remained relatively calm during 2007. In total 10 incidents of attacks/clashes 5 people were killed and another 4 injured (see table 8).

Nonetheless 17 attacks/clashes were reported in Karachi during 2007 that killed 205 and injured another 540 persons (see table 9).

Karachi became a security flash point after May 12 carnage claiming 46 lives and injuring 163 people till May 31. Rallies of MQM, a government ally party, and the opposition parties came in direct clash on different places in Karachi on May 12. Opposition parties came out to receive the Chief Justice of Pakistan who was to address at the Supreme Court Bar Association.

Over 145 participants of a procession led by former Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto lost their lives on October 18 after two powerful blasts rocked the slow-moving motorcade edging its way past the Karsaz Bridge on Shahrah-e-Faisal. At least 350 people were injured and a huge loss to vehicles was caused by the blasts. According to reports the explosions clearly targeted Ms Bhutto's specially built vehicle. Later it was revealed that it was a suicide blast.

**Table: 8**

Month	Number of attacks	Killed	Injured
January	3	-	-
February	One	2	-
March	One	-	-
April	One	2	-
May	-	-	-
June	-	-	-
July	-	-	-
August	-	-	-
September	2	One	4
October	-	-	-
November	One	-	-
December	One	-	-
Total	10 attacks	5 killed	4 injured

**Table: 9 Karachi**

Month	Number of attacks	Killed	Injured
January	3	One	8
February	One	-	One
March	-	-	-
April	One	-	2
May	4	46	163
June	One	One	-
July	One	One	-
August	One	-	-
September	One	8	6
October	One	145	350
November	-	-	-
December	3	3	10
Total	17 attacks	205 killed	540injured

### e. Punjab

Punjab faced 29 terrorist attacks during 2007 almost same as were reported during 2006 but the death casualties increased by more than 300% to 113. Another 276 people were also killed during these attacks (see table 10). The last half of the 2007 remained more violent.

Two suicide attacks in Rawalpindi were reported during the month of September killing 30 and injuring another 68 persons. According to official sources the banned militant groups were behind these attacks. The target of the attacks was Defence Services personnel. Security analysts linked these suicide attacks with Lal Mosque imbroglio.

A suicide bomber struck a police checkpoint in the high security zone of Rawalpindi, less than a kilometer away from President Musharraf's camp office on October 30 killing 8 people, four of them policemen, and injuring 30 others.

Two suicide bombers struck in Rawalpindi on November 24 during the morning rush, targeting military personnel and installations, killing at least 18 people and injuring 40 others. Almost all of the victims were either military personnel or civilians working for an intelligence agency. Most of the casualties occurred when a suspected bomber rammed his explosive-laden van into a bus packed with security personnel at the gate of an intelligence establishment's compound, known as Hamza Camp (old Ojhri Camp), near Faizabad.

The other bomber blew himself up when security guards stopped him at a checkpoint on the outer ring of the General Headquarters (GHQ). The manner in which militants had targeted army personnel in sensitive security zones over the past months had made investigators look for a highly organized group which had access to both explosives and information about the movement of security personnel.

The most deadly attack in 2007 was the December-27 attack on Benazir Bhutto that not only assassinated Ms Bhutto but also took another 25 lives besides injuring 48 others. Ms Bhutto was

driving out of the park after speaking to a big election rally when, according to witnesses and police officials, the attacker struck first with gunfire and then blew himself up possibly with an explosive device strapped to his body.

**Table: 10**

Month	Number of attacks	Killed	Injured
January	2	One	9
February	5	2	16
March	3	5	16
April	-	-	-
May	2	2	One
June	One	-	-
July	One	-	-
August	5	2	16
September	2	30	68
October	One	8	30
November	3	29	68
December	4	34	52
Total	29 attacks	113 killed	276injured

**f. Kashmir****Table: 11**

Month	Number of attacks	Killed	Injured
January	-	-	-
February	-	-	-
March	-	-	-
April	-	-	-
May	One	-	One
June	One	One	6
July	-	-	-
August	-	-	-
September	-	-	-
October	-	-	-
November	2	-	-
December	-	-	-
Total	4 attacks	One killed	7 injured

**g. Northern Areas**

Northern Areas of Pakistan generally remained peaceful. Only 2 incidents took place in the areas leaving 1 dead and 9 injured (see table 12).

**Table: 12**

Month	Number of attacks	Killed	Injured
January	-	-	-
February	-	-	-
March	-	-	-
April	-	-	-
May	-	-	-
June	One	-	One
July	One	One	8
August	-	-	-
September	-	-	-
October	-	-	-
November	-	-	-
December	-	-	-
Total	2 attacks	One killed	9 injured

#### **h. Islamabad**

July was the month of violence for Islamabad. A six-month long stand off between Lal Mosque clerics and the government authorities exploded into a major clash on Tuesday, July 3. An indefinite curfew was imposed in G-6 sector where Lal Mosque and Jamia Hafsa are located and troops from Pakistan army's 111 Brigade and units of Special Services Group (SSG) commandoes took control of the complex. The trouble started around 11.30am when some madrasa militants tried to occupy a nearby government building and, during the scuffle, snatched a number of assault rifles from the police men posted there. Within no time a fierce clash broke out between the armed seminary students and security troops.

Sporadic clashes between Lal Mosque students and the security forces continued for 8 days and finally after death of Abdul Rashid Ghazi, the mosque was rescued. These 8 days of operation killed 106 persons and injured another 213.

Lal Mosque operation was followed by two violent suicide attacks in the capital killing another 34 (including 8 policemen) and wounding at least 125 persons. First suicide attack took place in F/8 area on July 17 in a reception gathering of Pakistan Peoples Party for Chief Justice of Pakistan. It took 19 lives besides critically injuring another 60 persons. The second suicide attack was reported on July 27 inside a hotel in Aabpara market. The suicide bomber targeted policemen there and killed 15 people including 8 policemen and injured about another 65 persons.

**Table13: Islamabad**

Month	Number of attacks	Killed	Injured
January	-	-	-
February	-	-	-
March	-	-	-
April	-	-	-

May	-	-	-
June	-	-	-
July	10	140	338
August	-	-	-
September	-	-	-
October	-	-	-
November	-	-	-
December	-	-	-
Total	10 attacks	140 killed	338 injured

## 2. Political Unrest

As many as 12 incidents of political clashes took 64 lives besides injuring 222 others during 2007. Maximum number, 9, of such clashes was reported from Karachi whereas one incident each was reported from Rawalpindi, Hyderabad and Naseerabad (Balochistan). The most violent political clashes ignited on May 12 in Karachi which left 45 persons dead and 195 injured (see table 14).

**Table: 14 Political Clashes**

Date	Place	Target	Casualties		Attack Tactic
			Killed	Injured	
3 Jan	New Karachi Sector-5	Sunni Tehreek's office	-	5	Firing
10 Jan	Shah Faisal colony Karachi	Activist of both groups	One MQM activist	3, one MQM and 2 Sunni Tehreek	Firing
26 Feb	Korangi	Sunni Tehreek's worker	-	One (Sector in charge of ST)	Firing
8 Apr	Hyderabad	MQM Members	2	-	Motorcycle riders opened Fire
12 May	Sharea Faisal Karachi	Rival political groups	34	140	Firing
13 May	Karachi	Rival political groups	11	55	Firing
31 May	Rizvia Karachi	MQM unit Incharge	One MQM activist	-	Firing
13 Sep	Jamia Karachi	Islami Jamiat Talba activists	8	6	Firing

8 Dec	Nasirabad	PPP Election office	4	One	Firing
17 Dec	Abu-al-Hasan Isphahani road	Clashes between MQM and ANP workers	One	5	Firing
25 Dec	New Karachi	Clashes between MQM and Sunni Tehreek	One	2	Firing
27 Dec	Karal Chowk Rawalpindi	PML (N) rally	5	4	Firing
Total	12		64 killed	222 injured	

### 3. Sectarian Front

As many as 80 incidents of sectarian clashes killed 521 persons and injured another 757 during 2007. Kurram Agency and Khyber Agency remained in the grip of sectarian violence which observed 26 and 24 days of violent sectarian clashes respectively during 2007 (see table 16).

In Kurram Agency Shia and Sunni tribes became extremely sadistic against each other during last quarter of the year. The death toll in these clashes in Kurram Agency was much higher as compared with other areas; 346 people were killed and 545 injured. A large number of people got displaced from the agency and there were reports that terrorist and tribal militants from the neighbouring areas had entered the Kurram Agency to add terrorism threat to the existing sectarian violence there.

In Khyber Agency where two rival groups, Lashkar-e-Islam and Ansar ul-Islam, have been playing havoc with the lives people also witnessed the 'Taliban' emerging from the sectarian layers of violence and issuing the same moral codes as in other areas. The sectarian clashes in Khyber took 140 lives besides injuring 151 others.

Dera Ismail Khan and Peshawar areas also witnessed Shia-Sunni clashes and Sipah-e-Sahaba was seen active in these areas. As many as 14 and 9 people were killed in DI Khan and Peshawar respectively in such clashes.

**Table: 16 Sectarian Clashes**

No.	Area	Number of clashes	Target	Killed	Injured
1.	Khyber Agency	24 days of clashes	Clashes b/w Lashkar-e-Islam and Ansar ul-Islam	140	151
2.	Kurram Agency	26 days of clashes	Clashes b/w Sunni and Shia tribes	346	545
3.	Dera Ismail	13	Shia, Sipah-e-	14	22

	Khan		Sahaba, Urs of Kalo Qalander, Jaish-e-Muhammad activists		
4.	Peshawar	5	Shia, Sipah-e-Sahaba, Lashkar-e-Islam and Ansar ul-Islam	9	6
5.	Hangu	4	Imambargah, Shia madrasa	4	14
6.	Tank	One	Owner of Imambargah	One	-
7.	Darra Adamkhel	One	Clashes b/w Sunni and Shia groups	4	7
8.	Karachi	4	Imambargah, mosque of Ahl-e-Hadith, Imam Masjid	One	5
9.	Multan	One	Shia scholar	2	One
10.	Sheikhupura	One	Clashes b/w Deobandi and Brailvi sects	-	6
	Total	80		521 killed	757 injured

#### 4. Casualties

In total 3448 people were killed during various attacks and clashes. The highest number of casualties was reported from Tribal Areas that was 1663. NWFP followed the suit with 1096 killings. As many as 224 casualties were reported in Balochistan whereas 205 persons were killed in Karachi (see table 17).

**Table: 17 Casualties (killed):**

Province	Civilians	Security Forces			Militants	Total
		Paramilitary Forces*	Police	Army soldiers		
Balochistan	157	25	11	27	4	224
NWFP	557	55	40	75	369	1096
Tribal Areas	929	82	2	91	559	1663
Punjab	95	-	9	9	-	113

Karachi	185	-	-	20	-	205
Sindh	5	-	-	-	-	5
Islamabad	45	One	8	10	76	140
Northern Areas	-	-	One	-	-	One
Azad Kashmir	One	-	-	-	-	One
Total	1974	163	71	232	1008	3448

**\* Paramilitary forces includes FC and Rangers**

**a. Civilian**

The civilians continued to suffer the most from terrorism, political violence, operational attacks from the security forces and the sectarian clashes across the country round the year. The 1974 civilians killed make the 57.25% of the total casualties in Pakistan. The maximum number of civilians (929) was killed in Tribal Areas followed by NWFP, Karachi and Balochistan with 557, 185 and 157 civilian casualties respectively.

**b. Security Forces**

Security forces were increasingly targeted during 2007 throughout Pakistan besides the casualties during clashes with militants and insurgents. In total 466 security personnel were killed including 163 paramilitary forces (FC and Rangers), 71 police men and 232 Pakistan Army personnel. As many as 175 security personnel were killed in Tribal Areas and 170 in NWFP followed by 63, 20, 19 and 18 in Balochistan, Karachi, Islamabad and Punjab respectively.

**c. Terrorists/ Miscreants**

After civilians the maximum casualties have been reported of terrorists and miscreants that comprise 29.2% of total casualties. In total 1008 terrorists and miscreants were killed; 559 from Tribal areas, 369 from NWFP, 76 from Islamabad and 4 from Balochistan.

**5. Operation against Terrorists**

The security forces and law enforcement agencies continued operations against the terrorists across the country. In total 1636 terrorist were arrested during 2007 whereas 2729 Afghan nationals were also held by the security forces living or entering illegally in Pakistan. The maximum arrests were made in Balochistan where nationalist insurgents are challenging the writ of the state. As many as 53 al-Qaeda operatives, 427 Taliban, 315 banned militants groups' activists and 27 Lashkar-e-Jhangvi activists were among those arrested (see table 18).

**Table: 18**

Month	Al-Qaeda	Taliban*	Lashkar-e-Jhangvi	Banned militant group*	National Insurgents	Others*	Total
January	5	100	One	3	231	-	340
February	3	One	14	32	46	3	99
March	2	12	5	36	46	6	107
April	2	12	-	24	51	One	90
May	4	7	-	6	22	11	50
June	16	40	One	14	92	4	167
July	3	9	One	23	23	6	65
August	9	20	-	13	52	4	98
September	3	16	-	-	37	3	59
October	-	5	3	34	40	7	89
November	One	60	-	68	45	6	180
December	5	145	2	62	55	23	292
Total	53	427	27	315	740	74	1636

\*Taliban includes local and foreigner Taliban militants.

\*Banned militant groups include Jihadi and sectarian outfits.

\*Others include foreigners as well.

**Table: 19 Afghans Arrests**

Month	Arrests
January	648
February	505
March	278
April	100
May	21
June	77
July	166
August	36
September	116
October	565
November	33
December	184
Total	2729

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## **6. Border Situation**

### **a. Afghanistan**

There were 22 incidents of clashes and firing at Pak-Afghan border during 2007 that killed 76 and injured another 91 persons. The border situation remained tense throughout the year. After Pak-Afghan Grand Jirga in Kabul the situation started to improve and there was also less exchange of hot words between the two countries.

The major (NATO) air strikes incidents occurred on June 23 when US-led allied planes made an aerial raid in South and North Waziristan killing at least 33 and wounding another 54 people. The coalition fighter planes pounded forest area of Shawwal valley in North Waziristan and the jet fighters also targeted Angore Adda region of the S. Waziristan.

### **b. India**

The only incident of clash at Indo-Pak border was reported on July 19 at Serkreek, Karachi when Indian Naval forces opened fire at the fishermen's boats and killed one.

### **c. Iran**

The situation at Pak-Iran border also remained peaceful. To avoid the infiltrations from Balochistan side Iran also built a wall along its border. Only one incident of firing from Iranian border security forces was reported on February 16 at Bampusht, Panjgure place that killed 2 civilians.

### **d. LoC**

There was not any cross development reported on LoC during 2007. There were reported 2 incidents of firing at Poonch sectors (November 26 and 28) - one at Pak Checkpost and the other at civilians - but no casualty was reported.

## **7. Projections**

The security situation in FATA and NWFP does not seem to be addressed in the near future. The formation of United Taliban Front headed by Baitullah Mehsud can have very serious security repercussions not only for tribal belt but also for Pakistan and Afghanistan. As no security operation is going on in Tribal Areas there is risk of an increased infiltration of militants into Afghanistan besides increasing country's own security risk.

The country has witnessed an increased number of suicide attacks during 2007 but there have not been any sane security measures to check this menace. Not even a single suicide attack has been investigated properly. This may lead the country to a worst security scenario where the terrorists remain unhindered and encouraged to carry out more suicide attacks. The threat of enhanced 'targeted' suicide attacks on political and security forces thus 'remains' intact in the future.

The political unrest if prevails may consolidate the militant outfits in FATA and NWFP, and encourage the nationalist insurgents in Balochistan and Sindh. After the assassination of Ms Benazir Bhutto the political unrest can increase in Sindh and as well as in Balochistan.

[1] The 61 counter-terrorist attacks by the security forces are also included in the table to record the exact number of casualties.

