
**Monthly Report of
International Centre for Political Violence and Terrorism Research**

PAKISTAN

Introduction

State and law enforcement authorities have taken several hard-line steps to curb terrorism within the country over the past several months. These policies are in accordance with the implementation of the National Action Plan (NAP), which was announced on 24 December 2014. Lifting the moratorium on the death penalty and the escalation of the military operations in the North Waziristan and Khyber Tribal Agencies are some of the kinetic measures adopted to reduce the incidences of terrorism. However, as the trends in May 2015 depict, there has been a recurring back lash of these hard power policies. The attacks on police force members and military officers have been high, but those on civilian targets have remained low. This report will delve into the reasons and consequences of the frequent attacks on law enforcement and security forces of the country.

Trends

(i) Attacks on Police Officers:

On 1 May, four militants gunned down a Deputy Superintendent of Police (DSP), Abdul Fatah Sangri and two other police officers in Karachi. No group claimed responsibility for the attack, but it is suspected that TTP militants were involved.¹ Alternately, on 9 May, militants on a motorcycle shot dead the Deputy Superintendent of Police (DSP), Zulfiqar Zaidi, and

¹ DSP among 3 policemen shot dead in Karachi. 2 May 2015. *Dawn*. Available at: <http://www.dawn.com/news/1179443/dsp-among-3-policemen-shot-dead-in-karachi>. [Accessed on: 4 May 2015].

his driver in the same provincial capital of Sindh.² Lastly on 28 May, militants opened fire at a police van, killing two police officers and injuring two others in Dera Ismail Khan, located within the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province. The injured officers included Assistant Sub Inspector Abdul Sattar and Constable Shah Jehan.³

(ii) Attacks on Security Forces:

On 29 May, militants attacked a security forces check-post near the Pak-Afghan border and seven militants along with two security force members were killed in the resulting skirmish near the Ghulam Khan check-post in North Waziristan Agency (NWA). The Ghulam Khan check-post, which was previously one of the points for bilateral trade between Pakistan and Afghanistan, has been closed since the military operation in NWA was launched in June 2014.⁴

Motivations

The motivations for these recurring attacks are two-fold in nature. Firstly, militants targeting police officers and security forces indicate a desire to take revenge for the kinetic operations being waged against them. On 5 January 2015, the Tehrik-i-Taliban Pakistan (TTP, Movement of the Pakistani Taliban) released a video with the Chief of the group, Mullah Fazlullah, addressing the government. He stated that the security establishment will be targeted by the group for killing their families and children in both of the military operations.⁵

Second, these attacks signify their opposition to the state establishment, as being an illegitimate authority that is backed by the US. On 26 February 2015, TTP Jamaat-ul-Ahrar faction released a propagandist video against the Pakistani government and army titled "Some General He is, He Who Targets Children". The video showed how the country had taken \$1.6 Billion in aid from the US and added that the defeat of the state establishment

² DSP, driver shot dead in Karachi. 10 May 2015. *Dawn*. Available at: <http://www.dawn.com/news/1181056/dsp-driver-shot-dead-in-karachi>. [Accessed on: 11 May 2015].

³ Two policemen killed in D.I. Khan attack. *Dawn*. 29 May 2015. Available at: <http://www.dawn.com/news/1184884/two-policemen-killed-in-di-khan-attack>. [Accessed on: 2 June 2015].

⁴ Pazir Gul. Seven militants, 2 troops killed in clash. *Dawn*. 30 May 2015. Available at: <http://www.dawn.com/news/1185125/seven-militants-2-troops-killed-in-clash>. [Accessed on: 2 June 2015].

⁵ Fazlullah in video message admits Peshawar school killings & vows more children will be slaughtered. 5 January 2015. *Daily Motion*. Available at: http://www.dailymotion.com/video/x2e3rmi_fazlullah-in-video-message-admits-peshawar-school-killings-vows-more-children-will-be-slaughtered_news. [Accessed on: 3 July 2015].

(enemies) is inevitable.⁶ This video suggests that the frequent attacks on the security establishment are indeed a means to denounce the legitimacy of the state based on its involvement with the US and funding from the same.

Security Implications

The renewed focus on hard targets, which include both the law enforcement and military, suggests the inability of the terrorist groups to penetrate soft targets. This inability is the result of the military operations that have degraded the functioning capabilities of the terrorist groups. It also due to the increased security after the attack on the Army Public School in Peshawar, during December 2014, that has made it difficult to reach soft targets such as markets, residential areas and educational institutes.

⁶ TTP Jamat-ul-Ahrar Responds with Video to ISPR Song Tribute for Victims of Peshawar School Attack. 27 February 2015. *SITE (Jihadist Threat Monitoring Service)*. Available at: <https://news.siteintelgroup.com/Jihadist-News/ttp-jamat-ul-ahrar-responds-with-video-to-ispr-song-tribute-for-victims-of-peshawar-school-attack.html>. [Accessed on: 3 July 2015].