

## Security Landscape in 2013

Representing a nine percent increase from the year before, a total of 1,717 terrorist attacks took place across Pakistan in 2013, claiming the lives of 2,451 people, 19 percent more than previous year, and causing injuries to another 5,438. Over 61 percent (1,059) of the total 1,717 terrorist attacks were carried out by the Pakistani Taliban mainly the Tehreek-e-Taliban Pakistan (TTP) and affiliated outfits or other groups with similar objectives. The Baloch and Sindhi nationalist insurgents carried out 450 attacks. Meanwhile, 208 sectarian-related terrorist attacks were perpetrated by banned sectarian groups, and also the TTP and groups affiliated with it.

With the exception of two regions of FATA and Gilgit Baltistan, the incidence of terrorist attacks increased in all regions of Pakistan in 2013, compared to the previous year. The number of casualties in terrorist attacks posted an increase in all regions except FATA, Gilgit Baltistan and Punjab in 2013. The highest number of terrorist attacks (499) for any one region in 2013 was reported from Pakhtunkhwa. In terms of terrorism-related casualties, Balochistan was the most affected region of Pakistan. Sindh, mainly Karachi, and the Federally Administered Tribal Areas (FATA) were the third and fourth most volatile regions of the country in 2013.

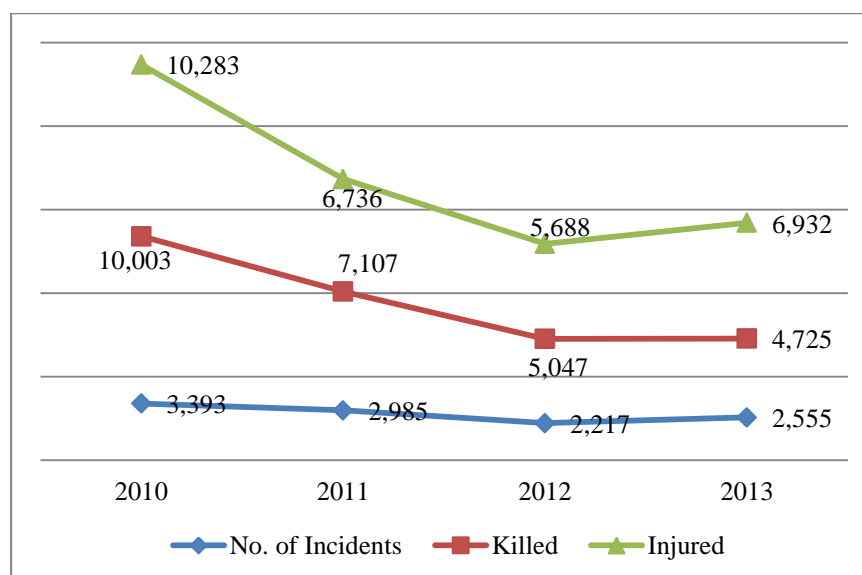
### Terrorist Attacks in Pakistan - 2013

Region	No. of Attacks	Killed	Injured
KP	499	706	1,745
Balochistan	487	727	1,577
FATA	293	425	932
Punjab	38	47	142
Karachi	356	492	908
Sindh (excluding Karachi)	34	31	123
Gilgit Baltistan	5	16	5
Azad Kashmir	1	2	1
Islamabad	4	5	5
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,717</b>	<b>2,451</b>	<b>5,438</b>

A downward trend in the number of overall incidents of violence, which had started in 2010 and continued in the two subsequent years, could not persist in 2013. It took a slight upward curve during the campaign for the 2013 general election and sustained until the year's end. On the whole, 2,555 incidents of violence of different types were reported from across Pakistan in 2013, including terrorist attacks cited earlier, operations by the security forces and their clashes/encounters with militants, incidents of ethno-political violence, drone attacks, inter-tribal, inter-militant and tribesmen-militants clashes, sectarian clashes, religious / communal

violence, cross-border attacks and clashes, criminal gangs clashing with one another and with the security forces, etc.

### Overall Incidents of Violence & Casualties (2010-13)



It was expected that the government emerging out of the elections would take concrete measures to curb terrorism and other forms of violence, but 2,113 people were killed between June 4—when Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif took the oath of office—and December 31, in 1,345 incidents of violence, including 827 terrorist attacks. Though the interior minister spoke in December of a draft being finalized, a national security policy could not be announced until the end of the year. The new government’s prime focus nevertheless remained on talks with the Pakistani Taliban, a process that saw only a slight progress.

It is vital for Pakistan to come up with an effective long-term strategy and blend positive responses into comprehensive counter-terrorism and counter-extremism policies. The establishment of the Cabinet Committee on National Security (CCNS) was an important step by the government, as the committee includes all relevant centers of power. This is a critical juncture, where the situation is getting fluid on both internal and external fronts and the state cannot afford to slip up in strategizing its security approach with clarity and accurate threat perception.

### Recommendations

- The establishment of the Cabinet Committee on National Security (CCNS) was an important step by the government, as the committee includes all relevant centers of power. To remove ambiguities in operational and political strategies, CCNS should be made responsible as a coordinating and implementing body of political interventions, including peace talks with militants, reintegration of the militants and counter extremism

measures. This is the area where CCNS can engage other segments of society including civil society and media.

- For better policing, oversight of the criminal justice system by parliament and provincial assemblies should be increased. Greater emphasis should be placed on law and order and on the increased outlay of resources during annual budget allocations, and smart utilization of allocated resources. Closer networking is also needed among the subsystems of the criminal justice system.
- Legislation alone can never be an effective tool to deal with terrorism until the capacity of the legal system, including the Anti-terrorism Court (ATC), judges, lawyers and the prosecution department, is enhanced. Apart from transparency and appointment of capable judges to the ATCs, the Supreme Court and the high courts should monitor the functioning of ATCs in accordance with the Supreme Court's judgment in the 1999 Sheikh Liaquat Hussain case.
- The state must first assess the implications of any potential reconciliation with the militants otherwise its moves could have a negative impact on the security forces' operational strategies. Historical evidence suggests that state's compromising stance has always proved beneficial for terrorists.