**Militants step up attacks during first month of 2016: says PIPS’ Pakistan security report**

Islamabad (PR) – Representing a 50 percent increase from the month before, a total of 42 terrorist attacks took place in Pakistan during the first month of the year 2016, including three suicide blasts. These attacks claimed 94 lives, an increase of 30 percent from previous month, and inflicted injuries on 155 others. Those killed in terrorist attacks in Pakistan in January 2016 included 46 civilians, 31 policemen including Khassadar, seven FC troops, two Levies and eight militants. These statistics were revealed in Pak Institute for Peace Studies’ (PIP) monthly security report for January 2016.

The Taliban militants carried out 25 terrorist attacks in January 2016, killing 72, including three major attacks: the attack on Bacha Khan University, Charsadda; the attack on a Khassadar post in Jamrud; and the attack outside a health centre near Quetta. Baloch nationalist insurgents perpetrated 15 attacks killing 20 and wounding 17 people. Meanwhile two sectarian-related terrorist attacks claimed two lives.

Terrorist attacks in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP) almost doubled from the previous month’s six to 11 in January 2016. These attacks claimed a total of 30 lives and injured another 53 people. The number of terrorist attacks reported from FATA (7) was same as in previous month, however the number of people killed in these attacks fell to 22 from previous month’s 32; as many as 44 people were also injured in terrorist attacks in FATA.

Baloch insurgents, the Taliban militants, and sectarian terrorists carried out a total of 20 attacks in Balochistan in January 2016 including two suicide blasts; an increase of 122 percent from such attacks in the month before. These attacks claimed the lives of 40 people, compared to eight in the month before, and injured 48 others.

Compared to three in previous month, as many as two terrorist attacks took place in Karachi during the first month of 2016 killing one and injuring nine people. As in previous month, no attack was reported from any other part of Sindh. Two terrorist attacks took place in the twin cities of Rawalpindi-Islamabad during January 2016 which claimed one life.

Security and alw enforcement agencies conducted a total of seven operational strikes against militants in January 2016 in six regions of Pakistan killing 65 militants. Security forces also engaged in a total of 14 armed clashes and encounters with the militants which killed 33 militants; one FC man also lost his life in these clashes.