**Balochistan a flashpoint of terrorist violence in October 2017**

*- Total 31 terrorist attacks reported from across Pakistan with 22 in Balochistan alone: says PIPS security report*

Islamabad (PR) – Marking a 24 percent increase from the month before, as many as 31 terrorist attacks took place in Pakistan in the month of October 2017 including 22 in Balochistan alone. A total of 59 people lost their lives in these attacks – compared to 32 in previous month – and 142 others were injured. These statistics were provided in Pak Institute for Peace Studies’ (PIPS) monthly security report of Pakistan for the month of October 2017.

Just as in the month before, Balochistan remained the worst terrorism-affected region of Pakistan in October. Indicating a surge of 83 percent from previous month, 22 terrorist attacks took place in the province, which claimed 47 lives – about 80 percent of the total terrorism-related killings reported from across Pakistan – and injured another 124 people. A bulk of these casualties resulted from a suicide blast in Jhal Magsi that targeted a shrine.

Meanwhile, compared to 9 in previous month, 5 terrorist attacks took place in FATA killing 10 people – 5 FC and 5 army troops – and injuring 16 others including 5 FC men, 8 army soldiers and 3 Levies. Three reported terrorist attacks from the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP) killed 2 people – one army official and one civilian – and injured one official of the Intelligence Bureau.

In Islamabad, unknown men attacked with knife and beat *The News'* investigative reporter Ahmed Noorani, seriously injuring him.

**F**or the second month in a row, the number of cross-border attacks posted an increase. Compared to 11 in August and 20 in September, as many as 23 cross-border attacks were reported during October 2017 – including 18 from across the Line of Control (LoC), 3 from Afghanistan and 2 from Iran. These attacks claimed a total of 11 lives and injured 35 others.

Security and law enforcement agencies carried out 5 operational strikes against militants; 4 in Balochistan and one in Sindh as given at Table 11. These actions killed 7 militants and injured another. A total of 6 encounters and clashes between security forces and militants were also reported during the month, which killed 26 people (including 25 militants and one policeman) and injured another 12 (3 militants, 3 civilians, 4 Rangers, 2 policemen).

On the whole, compared to 57 in previous month, as many as 65 incidents of violence of different types were reported from across Pakistan that claimed the lives of 103 people and injured 190 others.