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PAKISTAN SECURITY REPORT

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Conflict and Peace Studies

PAKISTAN SECURITY REPORT

2017

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LIST OF ACRONYMS

AJK:	Azad Jammu and Kashmir		**HG**:	Hand Grenade
AJIP:	Awami Jamhoori Ittehad Pakistan		**HRCP**:	Human Rights Commission of Pakistan
ANP:	Awami National Party		**IDP**:	Internally Displaced Persons
Arm:	Army		**IED**:	Improvised Explosive Device
AQIS:	Al-Qaeda in the IndianSubcontinent		**ISAF**:	International Security Assistance Force
ASP:	Ansar ul Sharia		**ISI**:	Inter Services Intelligence
ASWJ:	Ahl-e-Sunnat Wal Jamaat		**ISIS**:	Islamic State in Iraq and Syria
ATC:	Anti Terrorism Courts		**ISO**:	Imamia Student Organization
ATF:	Anti-Terrorism Force			
BC:	Balochistan Constabulary		**ISPR**:	Inter-Services Public Relations
BH:	Beheading		**JI**:	Jamaat-e-Islami
BLA:	Balochistan Liberation Army		**JID**:	Joint Intelligence Directorate
BLF:	Balochistan Liberation Front		**JQM**:	Jamote Qaumi Movement
BNP:	Balochistan National Party		**JM**:	Jaish-e-Muhammad
BNP-M:	Balochistan National Party-Mengal Group		**JuA**:	Jamaatul Ahrar
			JuD:	Jamaatud Dawa
BRA:	Baloch Republican Army		**JUI-F**:	Jamiat-e-Ulema-e-Islam-Fazl
BSF:	[Indian] Border Security Force		**Kid**:	Kidnapping
BT:	Bomb Blast		**KP**:	Khyber-Pakhtunkhwa
CIA:	Central Intelligence Agency		**LeJ**:	Lashkar-e-Jhangvi
CID:	Criminal Investigation Department		**LeJ-A**:	Lashkar-e-Jhangvi Al-Alami
CTDs:	Counter Terrorism Departments [of police]		**LI**:	Lashkar-e-Islam
			LM:	Landmine Blast
Civ:	Civilians		**LoC**:	Line of Control
CPEC:	China-Pakistan Economic Corridor		**Lvs**:	Levies Force
			Mil:	Militant
CVE:	Counter-Violent Extremism		**MQM**:	Muttahida Qaumi Movement
DGMOs:	Director Generals of Military Operations		**MWM**:	Majlis Wahdatul Muslimeen
			MDM:	Muttahida Deeni Mahaz
DSP:	Deputy Superintendent Police		**NACTA**:	National Counter-Terrorism Authority
ETIM:	East Turkistan Islamic Party			
FATA:	Federally Administered Tribal Areas		**NAP**:	National Action Plan
			NATO:	North Atlantic Treaty Organization
FC:	Frontier Corps			
FCR:	Frontier Crimes Regulation		**NI**:	Nationalist Insurgents' Attack
FIA:	Federal Investigative Agency		**NIC**:	National Implementation Committee [on FATA reforms]
Fr:	Firing			
FR:	Frontier Region		**NP**:	National Party

NPP:	National People's Party	**SDLF/A:**	Sindhu Desh Liberation Front/Army
NSA:	National Security Advisor	**SDRA:**	Sindhu Desh Revolution Army
PkMAP:	Pakhtunkhwa Milli Awami Party	**SM:**	Sipah-e-Muhammad
P-ml:	Paramilitary Forces	**SP:**	Superintendent of Police
PML-N:	Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz	**SSP:**	Sipah-e-Sahaba Pakistan
Pol:	Police	**ST:**	Sunni Tehreek
PPP:	Pakistan People's Party	**TA:**	Terrorist Attack
PTI:	Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaaf	**TNSM:**	Tehreek-e-Nifaz-e-Shariat-e-Muhammadi
QWP:	Qaumi Watan Party	**TTP:**	Tehreek-e-Taliban Pakistan
RA:	Rocket Attack	**UBA:**	United Baloch Army
RCB:	Remote-controlled Bomb	**UN:**	United Nations
Rng:	Rangers	**WB:**	Working Boundary
SA:	Suicide Attack		
Sab:	Sabotage		
Sect:	Sectarian		

METHODOLOGY AND VARIABLES

The PIPS conflict/security database and archives are the basic sources relied upon for this report. The archives and the database are the outcome of a meticulous monitoring process on every relevant incident in the country on a daily basis. A regular follow up is conducted in liaison with PIPS correspondents in the regions in order to keep track of daily developments on such incidents. PIPS compiles data from sources including newspapers, magazines, journals, field sources and screening of official record. More than 30 English and Urdu dailies, magazines, and journals, and various television news channels are monitored to update the database and archives. Regional daily newspapers and weeklies from Peshawar, Quetta, Gilgit and Karachi are also monitored for details of incidents reported in the local media. Correspondents in provincial capitals are the primary source for PIPS to verify the media reports. In case of a major incident, PIPS teams consult the local administration and journalists for further details. In cases where PIPS finds it difficult to verify facts of a particular incident, it gives preference to the official statements in that regard.

PIPS security reports utilize eight major variables with their respective set of sub-variables for analysis of the security situation in Pakistan. The security landscape is mapped through a combination of quantitative and qualitative approaches. Quantitative methods are used, based on PIPS Conflict and Security Database, to measure the scale and level of violence. Meanwhile, the qualitative approach dilates upon changes and developments on the militants' front, state responses to these developments and projections of future scenarios. The following eight major variables with their sub-sets of variable are used in the PIPS Security Reports:

1. **Attacks:** This major variable has a sub-set of five sub-variables i.e. (i) terrorist attacks including militant attacks, nationalist insurgent attacks and sectarian-related attacks; (ii) incidents of ethno-political violence; (iii) cross-border attacks; (iv) drone attacks; and (v) operational attacks by security forces against militants. Since Pakistan's security landscape is very complicated with a diverse array of insecurity indicators in different parts of the country, the type of violence in one geographical unit is often different in its nature and dynamics from security landscape in other parts of the country. For this purpose the mentioned sub-set of variables is carefully monitored and analyzed in the security report with a view to suggest specific counter-strategy for each type of attack in these areas.

2. **Clash:** Another variable used is of clashes which include four sub-variables, i.e., (i) inter-tribal; (ii) sectarian; (iii) clashes between security forces and militants; and (iv) militants' infightings. The number of such clashes and their geographic location is

taken as an indicator of parallel trends unfolding simultaneously with major trends and patterns of security in different areas of the country.

3. **State Reponses:** It has two sub-variables: (i) security measures, and (ii) political and administrative responses. The first takes into account the security forces' operational attacks and clashes with militants, search and hunt operations and terrorists' arrests, etc. The second variable entails the government's political and administrative measures to maintain law and order and reduce insecurity and violence.

4. **Casualties:** Casualties include both the number of people killed and injured. Casualties among civilians, militants and security forces are treated as another indicator to measure the levels and trends of security in the country.

5. **Attack Tactics:** This head takes a comprehensive account of various tactics used by different actors including suicide attacks, missile attacks, hand grenade attacks, kidnappings, rocket attacks, beheadings, landmine blasts, firing, sabotage, target killings, and bomb and improvised explosive devices blasts.

6. **Development on Militants' Front:** This variable analyzes statements, activities, internal divisions and other activities of militants to determine their strength and the dynamics of their strategies.

7. **Opportunities and Challenges** include political measures and military responses to different security issues along with highlighting constraints and challenges encountered by the state.

8. **Claim of Responsibility:** It provides insight into militants' targets, tactics, areas of operation, and agendas.

GLOSSARY

Military Operation: Large-scale operations launched by military and paramilitary forces against Islamist militants and separatist insurgents in KP, FATA and Balochistan to preserve law and order and the writ of the state.

Operational Attack: Pre-emptive attacks launched by military and paramilitary troops to purge an area of militants.

Clashes between Security Forces and Militants: Armed clashes between security forces and militants, triggered by militants' attack on security check posts/ convoys and confrontation during search operations.

Terrorist Attacks: Include militant, nationalist, insurgent and sectarian attacks. Indiscriminate use of violence by militant outfits such as Tehreek-e-Taliban Pakistan (TTP), Lashkar-e-Islam (LI) and Lashkar-e-Jhangvi (LeJ) etc., manifested through suicide attacks, beheadings and destruction of educational institutions, CD/video shops, etc.

Nationalist Insurgent Attacks: Attacks by separatists/nationalist insurgents mainly in Balochistan and interior parts of Sindh.

Sectarian Attacks: Indiscriminate use of violence rooted in differences among various Islamic schools of thought over interpretation of religious commands. Incidents involving indiscriminate use of violence perpetrated by banned sectarian outfits such as LeJ, Tehreek-e-Jafria, Imamia Student Organization (ISO), Sipah-e-Muhammad, etc., against rival schools of religious thought.

Ethno-political Violence: The threat or use of violence, often against the civilian population, to achieve political or social ends, to intimidate opponents, or to publicize grievances.

Inter-tribal Clash: Clashes or feuds reported between tribes, mainly in FATA, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Balochistan, rural areas of Punjab and parts of interior Sindh.

Search and Hunt Operation: Launched by law enforcement agencies on intelligence to capture militants or to purge a particular locality of suspected militants and their hideouts.

Sectarian Clashes: Violent clashes between armed factions of banned sectarian outfits or between followers of rival sects such as Sunni-Shia, Deobandi-Barelvi strife. Sectarian clashes also include tribal feuds between followers of Sunni and Shia schools of thought

as in Kurram Agency, where the Sunni Turi tribesmen frequently clash with members of the Shia Bangash tribe.

Overall Number of Attacks: The sum of militant and counter-militant attacks by the security forces, besides drone attacks, incidents of ethno-political violence, and attacks with sectarian motives or by nationalist insurgents.

Unsuccessful Attempts: These include attempts at terrorist attacks that were either foiled by security forces and bomb disposal squads, or explosives went off by accident before militants or suicide bombers reached their intended target.

FOREWORD

The internal security situation improved further in 2017 with a 16 percent decrease in the number of terrorist attacks in Pakistan, compared to previous year. However, the statistics and responses documented by Pak Institute for Peace Studies in the year suggest that many challenges remain to be addressed on the front of internal as well as border security. At the same time, some new challenges are rearing their heads like the emergence of self-radicalized individuals and small terrorist cells, growing incidence of religious extremism including on educational campuses, persisting cross-border attacks by Pakistani militants relocated to Afghanistan, and increasing footprints of Daesh in parts of the country and convergence of its fighters in Afghanistan near Pakistani border. These have made Pakistan's countering terrorism efforts even more challenging, which are also evolving in line with the changing regional scenario especially the pressure mounted by the US administration.

Certainly, all old and new internal and regional security challenges are orienting Pakistan towards reviewing afresh its security, strategic and geopolitical strategies. There are indications of transformation in security doctrine of the country. New regional alignment with China and Russia, and China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) have created new options for the country to diversify its geopolitical priorities. These developments also compelled the political and security leaderships to develop the National Security Policy (NSP). In December 2017, Prime Minister Shahid Khaqan Abbasi tasked the National Security Advisor Lt. Gen. (retd.) Nasser Janjua to present the NSP, which, as of now, has been documented and circulated to the relevant committees. It is expected that it may be launched in 2018. In an interview with PIPS, NSA Gen. Janjua provided the broad outline of the NSP. The multi-layered NSP, conceived in global, regional and national perspectives, will focus on safety, security and well being of Pakistani citizens. The interview is part of this issue, which also describes the importance of stable Afghanistan in Pakistan's national security doctrine.

The government has also tasked National Counter-Terrorism Authority (NACTA) to reformulate National Internal Security Policy (NISP). The first NISP was announced in 2014 but it remained a mere document and has not been implemented. The NSIP was conceived in a narrow perspective of countering terrorism and either overlooked or played down some important challenges. NACTA National Coordinator Ihsan Ghani in an interview with PIPS explained that the NISP consultation process would be inclusive and complete before June 2018.

However, there is also a need to review National Action Plan (NAP) as NSA Gen. (retd.) Nasser Janjua and NACTA's NC Ihsan Ghani supported this idea in their interviews with PIPS. The PIPS has done extensive consultations on NAP and linked challenges and suggested in 2017 to divide the NAP into two parts. First part should deal with counterterrorism challenges and the second with counter-extremism related issues. A revised NAP could also be made the part of NISP.

It is hoped that NSP and NISP will help to evolve effective responses to internal and regional security challenges. One main issue which continued troubling Pakistan in 2017 was the status and future of banned organizations, especially those conceived by the world as state proxies. The JuD has announced the formation of its political party Pakistan Milli Muslim League and many in security institutions described the development as the reintegration of the militant groups. However, it was not the part of any declared state policy and parliament was not taken into confidence over the issue. There is a dire need for a comprehensive reintegration and deradicalization program in the country, but it should be debated at proper forums including in parliament. The report has suggested some measures in this regard, however, NISP should address the issue as well.

However, in any NSP or NISP, the fundamental rights should not be comprised and effective implementation of rule of law and effective measures to stop misuse of authority is also needed to be ensured. A parliamentary committee on national security shall provide input in drafting NSP. The accountability of law enforcement agencies and transparency in the practices will improve the capacities. At the same time, there is need to clearly define the areas of operations of different law enforcement agencies and civilian law-enforcement agencies shall take the lead in any drive against militancy.

Another long-awaiting policy initiative in 2017 was Counter Extremism Policy, whose draft has been submitted to the Interior Ministry. Its key features are still not known but according to National Coordinator NACTA, it includes three major strands. One is the short-term, long-hanging, initiative like youth engagement. These are the activities that do not require funding or legislation. Then, there are medium-term initiatives, which required policies and funding and long-term issues that required legislation. The government has to announce the policy soon as extremism is becoming a complex challenge for the society. Dr. Farhan Zahid, Syed Arfeen, Ziaur Rehman and Najam U Din in their articles have explored the different dimensions of extremism and its link with militancy and human rights abuses.

The growing religious activism is another expression of extremism in the society, which also requires effective administrative responses. Azam Khan and Imran Mukhtar provided a detailed account of the November sit-in by a small religious group in Islamabad and how the police and government had failed to cope with the issue.

Operation Zarb-e-Azb in North Waziristan has accomplished many things. It would have been concluded until now, but weak coordination between Afghanistan and Pakistan on the issues of border security and counterterrorism is hindering the operation to reach its logical inclusion. Both countries need to evolve certain joint counterterrorism mechanism to address the common challenges.

PIPS hopes this 12th edition of its annual security report would help the policymakers, academics, media and civil society understand the gravity of the security situation in Pakistan with a view to moving towards sustainable solutions. Apart from the comprehensive data on violent incidents, comparative analysis of various security variables, the changing targets and tactics of militants and nature of state responses, the report also contains a comprehensive review of militant landscape, security issues related to China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), assessment of NAP and CVE initiatives taken in 2017. The external contributions have helped in grasping different perspectives.

The credit for this report goes to the entire team at PIPS, especially deputy director PIPS Safdar Sial, who monitored security developments and narrated them for the report; Muhammad Ismail Khan, who consolidated the writings and reviewed them; Zarghona Alam and Raisa Mansoor, whose research support, especially in drawing annexures and timelines, greatly helped the analysis provided inside; and Shahzad Ahmed, who designed the various conflict maps.

Muhammad Amir Rana

Date January 2, 2018

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CHAPTER 1

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Overview of security in 2017: critical challenges and recommendations

Muhammad Amir Rana and Safdar Sial[*]

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1.1 Overview of security situation in 2017

Militant, nationalist/insurgent and violent sectarian groups carried out, in all, 370 terrorist attacks in 64 districts of Pakistan during the year 2017 – including 24 suicide and gun-and-suicide coordinated attacks. These attacks claimed the lives of 815 people, besides inflicting injuries on another 1,736. The reported terrorist attacks in 2017 marked a decline of 16 percent from the previous year, and the number of people killed in these attacks also fell by 10 percent; the number of those injured, however, increased by 7 percent, as compared to the year before.

As many as 213 of the total 370 reported attacks, or about 58 percent, were perpetrated by the Tehreek-e-Taliban Pakistan (TTP), its splinter groups mainly Jamaatul Ahrar and other militant groups with similar objectives such as local Taliban groups in FATA and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP), Lashkar-e-Islam, and ISIS-affiliates and supporters. These attacks killed 604 people and injured 1,374 others. Representing 37 percent of the total, national insurgent groups carried out 138 attacks – mostly in Balochistan and a few in Sindh – which claimed 140 lives and wounded another 265 people. As many as 19 terrorist attacks were sectarian-related which killed 71 people and inflicted injuries on 97 others.

Those killed in terrorist attacks in Pakistan in 2017 included 563 civilians, 217 personnel of security and law enforcement agencies (46 FC men; 110 policemen

including Khassadar in FATA; 42 army troops; 16 Levies; and 3 unspecified paramilitaries) and 35 militants, who were either killed/exploded suicide bombers or those killed in retaliatory fire by security and law enforcement personnel following some attacks. Those injured in these attacks included 1,430 civilians, 305 security personnel and one militant.

Chart 1: Classification of terrorist attacks in Pakistan in 2017
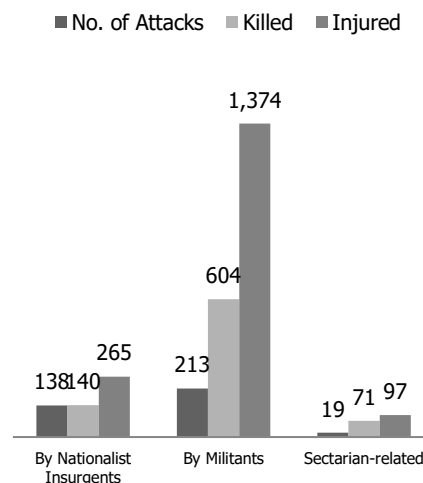
As in past several years, security and law enforcement agencies were the foremost target of the terrorists in 2017. Over 43 percent (or 160) of the total terrorist attacks reported in 2017 hit personnel, convoys and check-posts of the security forces and law-enforcement agencies across Pakistan. Civilians were the apparent targets of 86 attacks (23 percent). Sixteen attacks targeted government officials, departments and offices etc., and another 13 attacks hit political leaders/workers and offices of

political parties. Pro-government tribal elders, or members of tribal peace committees, came under 12 attacks. Non-Baloch workers, settlers in Balochistan were targeted in 10 attacks. Nine attacks targeted media and journalists. Meanwhile 16 reported attacks targeted members of Shia community and 4 attacks, also one including one non-sectarian, hit members of Sunni community. Two lethal attacks also targeted worship places and shrines in 2017. Other sporadic targets hit by the terrorist in 2017 are given at Table 1.

Table 1: Targets hit in terrorist attacks in 2017

Targets	No. of Terrorist Attacks	Killed	Injured
Personnel, check posts and convoys of Security forces/law enforcement agencies	160	283	516
Educational institutions	7	1	11
Non-Bloch settlers/workers	10	40	32
Gas pipelines, power pylons, railways tracks/trains	12	0	6
Govt. officials, departments and offices, etc.	16	29	68
Tribal elders	1	3	0
Civilians	86	170	546
CD/other shops/private property	1	0	0
Shia religious scholars/community	16	68	96
Worship places/shrines/imamba	2	113	281

Targets	No. of Terrorist Attacks	Killed	Injured
rgahs			
Sunni religious leaders/community	4	4	4
Political leaders/workers	13	38	50
Christian community/Church	2	9	56
Ahmedi community	4	4	1
Foreign interests/ diplomats/foreigners	1	2	0
Media/journalists	9	4	10
Health/polio workers	3	2	0
Pro-govt. tribesmen / peace committee members	12	23	16
Judges/lawyers/courts	3	13	41
Afghan Taliban/Others	2	2	0
CPEC projects/workers	3	3	2
Blasphemy accused	1	1	0
Former militants	2	3	0
Total	**370**	**815**	**1,736**

Besides 24 suicide blasts, militants employed improvised explosive devices (IEDs) of various types in launching 159 attacks. A considerable number of reported attacks in 2017 — 141, or about 38 percent — were incidents of targeted killing or shooting. Other attack tactics used by terrorists included grenade blasts (33), rocket attacks (8), mortar fire (2), missile attacks (one) and sabotage (2 attacks).

Just as in past three years, the highest number of terrorist attacks for any one

region of Pakistan was reported from Balochistan (165 attacks, or over 44 percent of the total attacks in Pakistan). Over 35 percent of the total number of people killed (288) and 31 percent of those injured (532) in terror attacks across Pakistan in 2017 concentrated in Balochistan alone. A bulk of these casualties in Balochistan (133 dead; 282 injured) resulted from 27 terrorist attacks carried out by Islamist militants including the TTP, Jamaatul Ahrar, ISIS-affiliates as well as Lashkar-e-Jhangvi Al-Alami. Different Baloch insurgent groups perpetrated 131 attacks claiming 138 lives and wounding 239 other people. Seven sectarian-related attacks, mainly targeting Hazara Shias, caused death to 17 people and injuries to another 11 persons.

The Federally-Administrated Tribal Areas (FATA) was the second most terrorism-affected region after Balochistan, with 83 reported attacks claiming 253 lives and wounding 491 others. Though these attacks were reported from across all 7 agencies of FATA, most of the terrorism-related casualties (154 dead; 341 injured), however, resulted from some major attacks that took place in Kurram Agency; Jamaatul Ahrar, TTP, Lashkar-e-Jhangvi (LeJ), and its global arm LeJ-Al-Alami perpetrated these attacks.

In Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP), as many as 71 attacks were recorded in 2017, in which 91 people lost their lives and 211 others were wounded.

As many 31 attacks took place in Sindh – 24 in Karachi and 7 in interior of Sindh – which killed a total of 119 people and injured 293 people. Most of the terrorism-related casualties in Sindh (91 dead; 250 injured) resulted from a single suicide blast reported from Sehwan Sharif, Jamshoro, at the shrine of Lal Shahbaz Qalandar.

A total of 61 people were killed, including 54 in Lahore alone, and 194 others were injured in 14 reported terrorist attacks from Punjab. *(See Table 1)* Three terrorist attacks, each, were reported from Islamabad and Azad Jammu and Kashmir during the year. (*See Table 2*)

Table 2: Terrorist attacks in Pakistan in 2017

Region	No. of Attacks	Killed	Injured
KP	71	91	211
Balochistan	165	288	532
FATA	83	253	491
Punjab	14	61	194
Karachi	24	25	16
Sindh (excluding Karachi)	7	94	277
Islamabad	3	2	5
AJK	3	1	10
Total	**370**	**815**	**1,736**

1.1.1 Comparison

On the whole, 713 incidents of violence of different types – as given at Table 3 – were reported from across Pakistan in 2017. These incidents mainly included 370 terrorist attacks cited earlier, 171 cross-
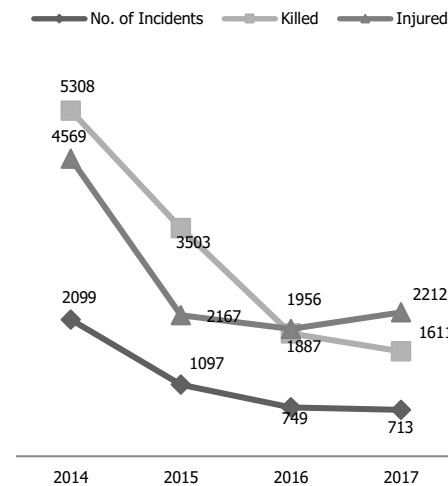
border attacks from India, Afghanistan and Iran, 75 operational strikes carried out by security forces and their 68 armed clashes/encounters with militants, and 9 drone strikes. (*See Table 3*) A total of 1,611 people were killed and 2,212 injured in these violent incidents.

Table 3: Nature of overall incidents of violence

Nature of Incident	No. of Incidents	Killed	Injured
Terrorist attacks	370	815	1,736
Political and ethnic violence	4	10	4
Clashes & encounters between security forces & militants	68	251	31
Inter-tribal clashes/attacks	6	9	24
Border clashes/attacks	171	188	348
Operational attacks by security forces	75	296	47
Drone attacks	9	30	4
Sectarian clashes	1	3	9
Inter-militant clashes/attacks	2	2	0
Clashes between security forces & criminal gangs	1	3	0
Communal/faith-based violence	1	2	0
Mob violence	5	2	9
Total	**713**	**1,611**	**2,212**

The number of overall incidents of violence decreased from 749 in 2016 to 713 in 2017, by about 5 percent. The number of people killed in these violent incidents also decreased by about 15 percent, from

1,887 in 2016 to 1,611 in 2017. However, the number of people injured in all such incidents of violence increased by 13 percent from 1,956 in 2016 to 2,212 in 2017. (*See Chart 2*)

Chart 2: Comparison of overall incidents of violence & casualties (2014-17)

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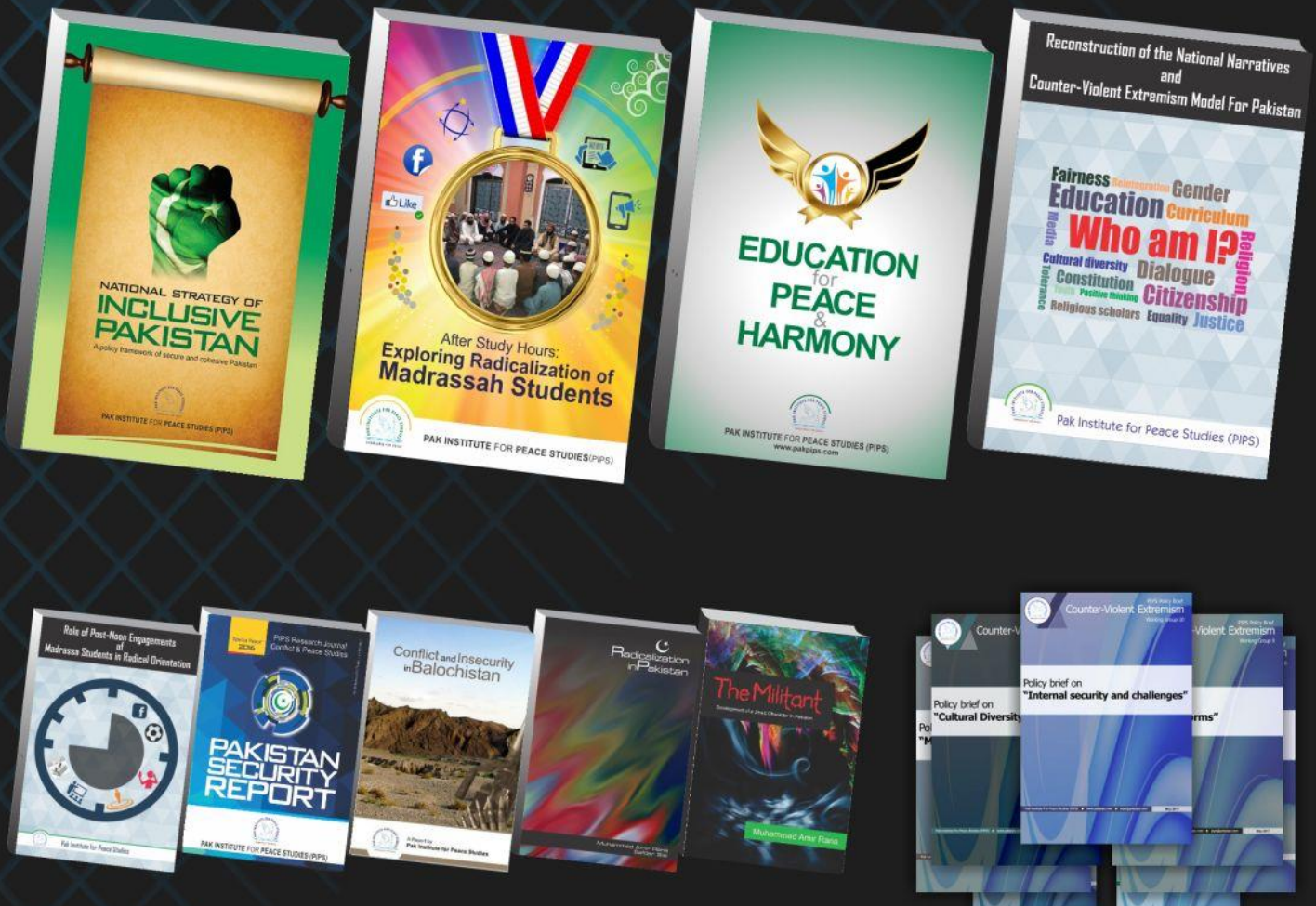To place order, call PIPS at **+92-51-8359475-6** or email at
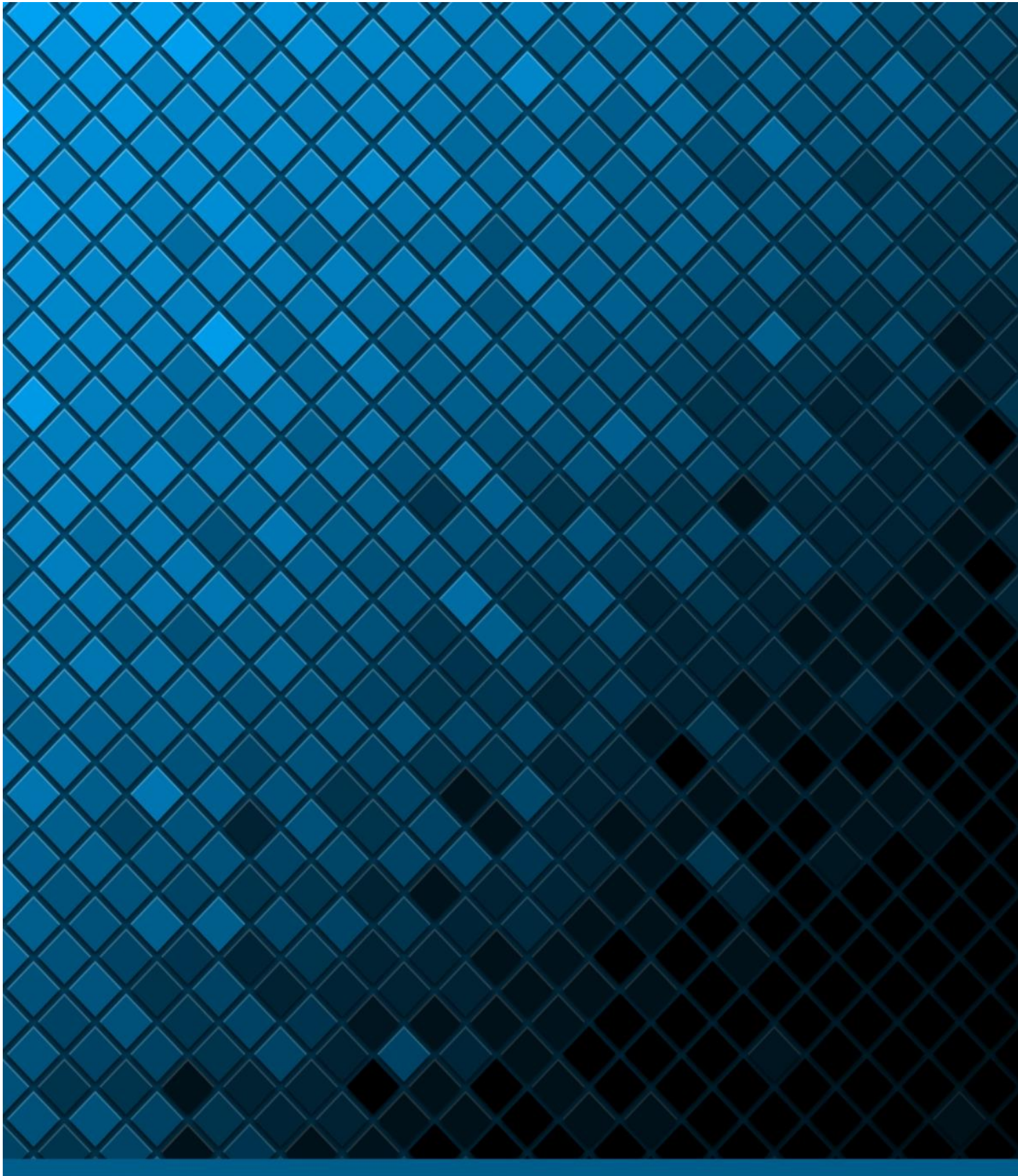
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