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3. March 2012

Online at <https://mpra.ub.uni-muenchen.de/37075/>

MPRA Paper No. 37075, posted 3. March 2012 19:18 UTC

The nature, sources and the socio-economic effects of terrorism in Balochistan

Nadeem Uz Zaman¹; Gul Ghutai²; Kaneez Raza Khan³

Abstract

Terrorism has badly affected Pakistan and Balochistan is one of its worst – hit provinces. There is no research that accounts for the nature, sources and effects of terrorism on Balochistan; this study, thus, tried to explore the same. A sample size of 250 respondents was chosen to cast their opinion about the problem using a questionnaire through a stratified sample of Quetta city. The results indicated that the nature of terrorism in Balochistan is, at first, Political and is caused by the prevailing social injustice and lack of economic activity, cross-border activities and religious and ethnic extremism. Terrorism has negatively affected business optimism, foreign investment and economic life in Balochistan. As far as the social life is concerned, a sense of fear prevails in the province that has reduced social activities in the province. One of the worst – hit areas by terrorism is education and religious practices. In order to correct the current situation prevailing in Balochistan the government has to play an intelligent, planned and effective role in Balochistan.

Keywords: Socio-economic effects, Terrorism, Balochistan

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1. Introduction

The word 'terrorism' is taken from terror (fear) and the aim of terrorists is to evoke fear among masses. As a general perception, terrorism is the use of threat against the people of specific area in an organized way to attain certain political or ideological motives. Balochistan is one the worst-hit area of not only Pakistan but also the world by the waves of terrorism and has ultimately become a global issue now. There is no academic research that indicates what the nature and sources of these acts of terrorism in Balochistan are and what the social economic effects terrorism has put on Balochistan.

Pakistani as the nation is known for politically bad governance, poverty and illiteracy, corruption, violence, target killing, ethnic clashes, religious disputes and demolition of public infrastructure by the terrorists. As common observations, we see that though it is originated in rural areas but its effects and problems are faced throughout the country. Especially the areas that are high ranked in terms of education, prosperity are the worst-hit by terrorist- for example that of the capital of the province, Quetta, There is easy access to explosive weapons and lack of tight securities. As a matter of fact, there are some of the several multidimensional problems that are caused by the acts of terrorism among which key issues are the physical losses, loss of religious and cultural values. It, simultaneously, has long term effects on social aspect of the life of people too.

1.1. The Problem Statement

Keeping in view the lack of academic research and the current disposition of social economic conditions in Balochistan the following problem statement is floated for this study:

**The nature, sources and the socio-economic effects of terrorism in
Balochistan**

1.2. Objectives

2. to identify the nature of terrorism in Balochistan
3. to highlight the major sources of terrorism in Balochistan
4. to point-out the socio-economic effects of terrorism in Balochistan

3. The Review of Literature

Husain (2003, 1) defines terrorism in the modern day socio-economic context as an organized violent crime, initiated with religious or political motives with a particular emphasis on targeting specific race or geographical places. He establishes that the main purpose of terrorism is to convey a message or launch a protest. Brazegar (2005) argues that the acts of terrorism have now become globalized in their impacts. Thus an act of terrorism in a small remote place in the world has far reaching international consequences (Brazegar, 2005, 114).

3.1. Pakistan and Terrorism

Pakistan is world-famous when it comes to terrorism. Husain (2003, 2-5) claims that the foundations for the terrorism were laid in Pakistan in late 70s with the invasion of Russian on Afghanistan and America indulged into the so-called cold war. In an attempt to win over the enemy, America generously supported those who later on turned to be a nightmare for it. There are several salient features of Pakistan that promote the acts of violence in the country as per the literature. Several factor, that exist in Pakistan, are indicated by researches to cause terrorism including poverty, illiteracy, unemployment, bad governance (Ali, 2010), easy access to weapons (Crenshaw, 1981; Aziz, 1995), rocketing population, poor health facilities, prevailing corruption, socio-economic injustice, human right violation, costly access to justice, lack of access to social services and scarcity of public goods and many other political and socio-economic elements are the root

causes of terrorism in Pakistan (Berman and Laitin, 2008; Shor, 2008; Glaeser, 2005; Charney and Yakatan, 2005; Ali, 2003; Hardin 1995).

3.2. Terrorism in Balochistan

Balochistan is often termed as the economic front of Pakistan; the land is full of natural resources, a large geographical landscape and a long coastal line. The province immediately borders two countries, Afghanistan and Iran (Sabri, 2009). The land is expected to have large reserves of oil besides its current deposits of gas in different areas. In addition to this, this piece of land also has large agricultural lands to cultivate cash crops (Zeidi, 2012, Zaman, 2011; Sabri, 2009). Despite such economic potential, the people of the province lead a poor life that is mainly sustained through livestock and sustenance farming (Zaman, 2011). Within the country this province of Pakistan is the least developed and this fact has turned into a political dilemma in the country. As a result of this, a separation movement has begun in the province whereby the indigenous Baloch people are struggling to get their separate identity and freedom from the country (Sabir, 2009). This has given rise to target killing, damaging public infrastructure, civil disobedience and many other issues.

In addition to the separation movement in Balochistan, the religious sentiments in the province are at their extreme. This has given rise to sectarian violence and terrorism whereby the Shiites of the province are suffering heavily in terms of losses of lives, property and business activity (Sabir, 2009). Notwithstanding these, it is also argued that there are vested interests of foreign forces in the province that promote violence and terrorism in order to achieve their goals. The government, thus, often lays the blame of these terrorist activities on India and Afghanistan (Sabir, 2009).

The literature relevant to the situation of Balochistan emphasises some of the important areas that might be the root causes of the increased tension in Balochistan. Crenshaw (1981) and Aziz (1995) have established that one of

the reasons for terrorism is the availability of improved and modernised resources. Crenshaw (1981) has also blamed religion as an important factor in promoting terrorism in an area. One major problem of Balochistan is the lack of economic activity which according to Garfinkle (2004) and Blomberg, et al., (2004b) is yet another reason for terrorism. Lapan and Sandler, (1993) highlight another important factor relevant to terrorism in Balochistan i.e. weak political policies and strong terrorists. Moreover, relating to the interests of foreign countries in Balochistan O'Brien's (1996) argument of terrorism as an international foreign policy is also of relevance to the situation in the province. Though the area has poor and illiterate people as its inhabitants, studies have shown that terrorism is not significantly co-related with poverty or illiteracy and thus has roots in other more important variables (Krueger 2007; Krueger and Maleckova 2003; Berrebi, 2003).

3.3. Socio-economic Consequences of Terrorism

Different studies have tried to evaluate the economic impact of terrorism on several areas of the province. Berman and Laitin (2008) have claimed that the economic consequences of terrorism are far-reaching and thus are the major targets of the terrorists. Eckstein and Tsiddon (2004) and Fielding (2003) have found a correlation between terrorism and its impact on different sectors of an economy in the form of severe shock, consumption, investment and other resources in the economy. Eckstein and Tsiddon, (2004), Blomberg, et al., (2004a) and Fielding, 2003 has found a negative correlation between terrorism and investment. Moreover, Abadie and Gardeazabal, (2005), Enders and Sandler, (2006) and Nitsch and Schumacher, (2004) have also included that terrorism has an impact in the form of crowding-out effects, distressed government spending, dwindling international trade and shrinking foreign domestic investment. Similar results can be found in the studies of Blomberg, Hess and Weerapana (2004), Drakos and Gofas (2006) with an addition that they have found the terrorism affects develop geographical areas more than the developing ones.

Though at the macro-economic level it is very difficult to give a full account of the effects of terrorism, the costs, nonetheless, can be measured in terms of the loss of productive lives (Hall 2005, 8-9), infrastructure, falling GDP and standards of living. Furthermore, there are several indirect economic effects of terrorism including losses in time, efficiency, security, taxation, devaluation of currency and share prices in the stock market is and other deadweight losses (Enders and Sandler, 2006). In addition to these, Abadie and Gardeazabal (2005) suggest that terrorism also affects the allocation of investment as the expected returns decrease. Thus, the foreign domestic investment falls in areas where terrorism strikes (Enders and Sandler, 1996).

Terrorism also impacts the profitable economic activities that are dependent on the outsiders such as tourism, (Enders, Sandler and Parise, 1992) reduced investment and business activity which result in diminished economic growth (Eckstein and Tsiddon (2004; Abadie and Gardeazabal, 2003). Thus, Barth et al, (2006) has found out that terrorism is indirectly proportional to GDP and capital growth as the higher the number of terrorist activities, the lower will be the GDP, foreign investment and capital formation. Similarly countries suffering from terrorism like Palestine, GDP falls sharply in troubled times as compare to normal and peace periods of the country. Thus, according to World Bank from 1992 to 2004 Palestine lost 50% of their annual GDP. Notwithstanding the direct losses of terrorism, the uncertain terror – stricken society has also given rise to increased cost to handle the incidence of terrorism in the form of security, insurance and so on (Robert 2004, 2).

As terrorism is multidimensional in nature (Rodrigue et al. 2004, 1-19)), besides the economic factors, terrorism has also affected the social aspects of economies. Hence, Spencer (1987, 73) found out that terrorism has resulted in psychological issues, especially among the children. He also found out that the survivors of terrorism lead fearful lives that may turn into anxiety, feelings of intolerable danger, nightmares, fear of the loss of memory, and long term social and psychological syndromes. In addition to this, National Academy of

science, (2003, one) has established that terrorism has deep-rooted social as well as religious effects.

The mental capacity and the social status of terrorist are important determinants of the social impact of terrorism on the society. Bueno de Mesquita (2005) has found out that terrorist's mental and physical ability is usually positively correlated with the social studies. Thus the more educated persons are expected to make worse terrorists. In addition to this, improved availability of information and communication technology has made the act of terrorism the pieces of child's play for the terrorists (Gabriel 2004, 1-6). Such ease of becoming terrorists has inculcated strong fears in the hearts of the inhabitants of the world and especially the areas with increasing acts of terrorism (Spencer 2006),

3.4. Research Questions

Considering the review of the literature and general observations in the province the following research questions are floated for answers through this study:

1. Is the terrorism in Balochistan a form of organized violence?
2. Are there political motives involved in the acts of terrorism in Balochistan?
3. Are the major victims of the acts of terrorism the ethnic minorities of the province?
4. Is terrorism related with the cross-border activities in the province?
5. Is the lack of the rule of law the cause of terrorism in Balochistan?
6. Has the war going on in Afghanistan supplemented the acts of terrorism in Balochistan?
7. Has terrorism negatively affected the economic activity in Balochistan?
8. Have the political disturbances added to the occurrence of terrorism in the province?

9. Has the social life of the inhabitants of Balochistan suffered the acts of terrorism?

4. Methodology

This research is explanatory in nature with a descriptive design used for the collection of data. The data collected is in the form of opinion of the people of Balochistan and is thus qualitative in nature. The results are presented subjectively based on the opinion collected from the respondents.

The population of this study is the people of Balochistan relating to all religious and ethnic groups. However, a stratified sampling technique is used because the capital city of Balochistan, Quetta is a home for almost all ethnic and religious groups and is the worst affected part of Balochistan by terrorism. The sample size was 250 respondents and the response rate was good.

Questioning method was used to the opinion of respondents using the questionnaire with a Likert scale with five options starting from strongly agree to strongly disagree. In presenting the results, the percentages of the responses were used to discuss the findings and supported with the literature review and common observations.

5. Result of research

5.1. The nature of terrorism in Balochistan

About 78.4% of the respondents strongly agreed that terrorism in Balochistan is an organized violence with a view to evoking fear among the people. Referring to the findings of Sabir (2009), Krueger, (2007), Krueger and Maleckova (2003) and Berrebi (2003), there are organised forces involved in Balochistan in order to achieve certain goals. One of the reasons why terrorism is imposed on the people of Balochistan is to deprive Pakistan of the valuable resources available in Balochistan especially the oil and gas. Besides this, most of the respondents also claimed that the motives behind the acts of terrorism are meant to disunite the Pakistani nations into clans, religious sects

and different ethnic groups who have been living together peacefully for centuries.

Most of the Respondents believed that Terrorism is the result of a political game to attain ideological motives. The literature suggests that the political foundation of terrorism in Pakistan was laid during the 1970s with the beginning of the Russian invasion in Afghanistan (Husain, 2003). In addition to this, the political forces of Pakistan have mainly focused on Punjab more than other provinces for almost all development projects; whereas, the political governments of Balochistan have failed to promote their province. The lack of attention towards Balochistan resulted in political discontent in the area which finally led to political terrorism in the province (Ali, 2003).

Quetta is the economic centre of Balochistan besides being the capital of the province; the current waves of terrorism, according to the respondents, have the worst impact on this area of the province. This result is in harmony with the findings of Blomberg, Hess and Weerapana (2004), Drakos and Gofas (2006) who suggested that developed areas are worse stricken by terrorism than the less developed ones. Being the capital of the province, Quetta is a house for several ethnic and religious sects. The waves of terrorism have mostly affected trade and lives of the non-local population of the province as per the respondents. At one extreme, the Hazara community of Balochistan has suffered sectarian violence and on the other hand the settlers from other areas of Balochistan have remained the target of the waves of terrorism. Notwithstanding the religious political terrorism, crimes have also added to the fear – driven environment of the province. The ransom-kidnapping has remained on the rise which has affected the upper class of the society directly and the poor classes indirectly in terms of economic variables like income, consumption and investment.

5.2. Sources of terrorism in Balochistan

As the first and the most important source of terrorism in Balochistan, most of the respondents claimed that the foundation for terrorism was laid by America in Pakistan in the late 1970s when it opted to support the Mujahedeen with weapons, military training and funds- as a dictated by Husain (2003). Even today, most of the respondents suggest, the current activities of the USA in its war on terror –peculiarly the drone attacks – have paved the path for the people of Pakistan to think in terms of terror for terror. In our opinion these sentiments are at the highest in the religious – minded people of the country. In addition to this, such circumstances have also made it possible for some groups to manipulate the youth against the country as well as the USA.

Besides political motives, most of the respondents also claimed that the acts of terrorism basically have risen from the lack of economic activity in the area. Most of the respondents agreed that the lack of economic interest in the area by the government of the country has resulted in poor living conditions, lack of access to social services, lack of public goods, socio-economic injustice and so on. These in themselves are important points as the literature provides firm support to it (Berman and Laitin, 2008; Shor, 2008; Glaeser, 2005; Charney and Yakatan, 2005; Ali, 2003; Hardin 1995). Thus, the respondents claim that the major source of the terrorism is the poor policy and activity of the government itself.

The majority of the respondents have also agreed that the nature of terrorism in Balochistan is of cross-border nature. They have also claimed that being neighbours to Afghanistan makes the availability of weapons very easy for the terrorists besides being a safe asylum for them. As already mentioned that corruption is an important feature of the economy of Pakistan and also Balochistan, it has always been easy for the rich criminals to easily pass by the security checks and avert the law against them. Such situations have made them strong enough to rise up to the country and damage its economic

interests (Sabir, 2003). Thus, the respondents claim that Balochistan has become a safe haven for the terrorists.

5.3. The Economic Effects

There is a sheer agreement among the respondents that terrorism has negatively affected the economic conditions of Balochistan. Thus, they claim that terrorism has affected the inflation, employment, and business balance of the area. They have also claimed that the waves of terrorism have only made the supply of necessities of life like food, electricity & gas supplies extremely expensive for the public.

The respondents have claimed that the waves of terrorism have also negatively affected the economic activity of the province. Thus, they have suggested that domestic investment, foreign investment, trade and commercial activity is put to halt in the province by terrorism. This indicates that the growth rate in the province is diminishing and the living standards of the people falling as suggested by Eckstein and Tsiddon (2004), Abadie and Gardeazabal (2005), Enders and Sandler (2006), Nitsch and Schumacher (2004). Among the masses – a majority of the respondents claimed– the most affected people in terms of economic activity are the lower class of the labour force, especially the manual workers who earn their livelihood on daily bases. This implies that the level of production in the province must also have fallen negatively affecting the economic growth of the province and also the living standards of the people.

5.4. The Social Effects of Terrorism

The worst-affected part of the province in terms of social parameters is the youth. It has been observed that the youth of the province especially at the university level are the nurseries for terrorists. Thus, the respondents have claimed that terrorism has dangerously deprived the youth of Balochistan of education and learning. We can establish that this fear of the respondents holds absolutely true. The educational institutes are the hope for the society; if

there is a malfunction in these houses of learning, the future of the society is doomed. However at the same time, the rising interest of the University – level students in violence also forecasts the future of the province in the country in some way. Sabir (2003) has made a point of the movement for separation in the province by the indigenous Baloch people, here it becomes obvious that the youth of Balochistan is the fundamental part of it.

Besides education, terrorism has also negatively affected the social life of the inhabitants of Balochistan. The respondents claimed that the waves of terrorism in the province have deprived them of entertainment and refreshment. They further claimed that people are even afraid of enjoying lives in parks. Kidnapping and human smuggling have also added to the fears of people. This is suggestive of reduced social activity in the area which also affects the earning capacity of the people as well as the business activity. In fact, fear is the driving force that directs the way of life in Balochistan and especially in Quetta.

The respondents have also claimed that the acts of terrorism have affected their religious activities and cultural values. They claimed that the people of Balochistan are even afraid to celebrate their Religious ceremonies like Eids and Ashora. People are even afraid to observe prayers in the mosques because they have become the targets of the terrorists. These points are valid as the fear has reduced religious activities in this society. It is also important to note that the acts of terrorism have developed a sense of mistrust among different sects living in the province. Consequently, the feelings of a hatred, animosity and revenge have increased within different sects.

By comparing the result of my research as to how the people of this region are facing the problems which is created by violence in the form of terrorism. With the insight into the literature review and the results of this study on terrorism we are able to say that majority of the people believe that though terrorism here might be due to political game but still poverty and economic

problems are equally responsible for day by day increase in loss of peace here. Quetta is not hosting global terrorism but is a targeted victim of international terrorists not only in the form of attacks by terrorists but in fact the counter terrorism strategies of drone attacks as well all of which effected values, culture, prosperity and peace of this area very badly.

One of the most dangerous impacts of terrorism is on the unity of different communities living here. As a result of which survival of the people has become a curse, every things necessary for the livelihood of a common man has become very costly and fear is induced from its each and every possible aspect. Government's strategies are whether flopped or not utilized properly and efficiently for counter terrorism as security system in Quetta is totally flop, similarly resources which are allocated for the sake of such purposes are not managed well, steps necessary to take for basic education faces several hurdles and finishes before it's start.

6. Limitations and recommendations

As this research is based on sampling techniques so it is also possible that some indigenous people who are not a part of the sample in population have different opinion.

Members of the sample are not from all the areas of Balochistan as the sampling made used to stratified sampling technique.

Further research is needed to be undertaken on human psychology and its relation with terrorism and its effects, to find out the ways through which could finish or at least reduce the fear factor of terrorism. More research could be done through this research on government' plans and its strategies for effectiveness and efficiency needed against terrorism. Moreover, this research could direct need for research on poverty, illiteracy and their link with terrorism.

Government need its special authorities, special training for the purpose of anti terrorism forcefulness. Social injustice need to be lowered and equal opportunities to all ethnic groups should be ensured. The government should pay special interests to cross-border activities and control the transportation of weapons and other illegal with the real. Most modern tools and techniques should be put into practice in order to deal with the problem of terrorism effectively.

7. Conclusion

Terrorism is rooted by the correlation of bad governance, religious misperceptions, poverty and illiteracy. It results in net of problems that are not only related with physical losses and sufferings but in fact it cuts the overall economic development, religious, social and cultural representative values. The black shadow of terrorism which plays with the psyche of human with its tool called fear can be finished by combined effort of GOVT and general public through proper counter terrorism strategies with its application like tightening of security system and simultaneously providing basic health care and cure facilities on all levels pre terrorist event, post event and on the spot.

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APPENDIX: the questions and the responses

Key:

1. strongly agree
2. somewhat agree
3. no idea
4. somewhat disagree
5. strongly disagree

No	STATEMENTS	1	2	3	4	5
1	Terrorism is an organized violence with an aim to evoking fear.	78.4%	16.2%	4.1%	0%	1.4%
2	Economic problems like poverty are the main causes of terrorism.	40.5%	47.3%	1.4%	2.7%	8.1%
3	Terrorism is result of political game.	50%	41.9%	5.4%	1.4%	1.4%
4	Global international terrorism was originated in Pakistan by America.	66.2%	21.6%	6.8%	2.7%	2.7%
5	Quetta has suffered more than any other area due to terrorism.	35.1%	32.4%	6.8%	21.6%	4.1%
6	Lack of GOVT's attention towards development of Quetta is the reason of extreme violence here.	47.3%	32.4%	9.5%	5.4%	5.4%
7	Imbalance allocation of resources for counter terrorism is the biggest fault of GOVT.	45.9%	41.9%	6.8%	4.1%	1.4%
8	Few communities like Hazara and Punjabi became victim of terrorism more as compare to others.	62.2%	23%	2.7%	4.1%	8%
9	Rate of immoral acts like corruption, smuggling, and bribery is increased due to terrorism.	47.3%	32.4%	6.8%	9.5%	4.1%
10	All the economic activities; like domestic investment, foreign investment in starting businesses & trading is decreased.	71.6%	13.5%	9.5%	2.7%	2.7%
11	Parks and refreshment point has become secluded, and people are afraid to enjoy life.	83.8%	14.9%	1.4%	0%	0%
12	Rate of human smuggling is increased & people are going to other countries illegally to secure their lives.	59.5%	25.7%	5.4%	8.1%	1.4%

The nature, sources and the socio-economic effects of terrorism in Balochistan
 Nadeem Uz Zaman; Gul Ghutai; Kaneez Raza Khan

13	Peace has become a dream for the people here & fears is the real cost that we are paying.	83.8%	12.2%	2.7%	0%	1.4%
14	All the necessities of life; like food, electricity & gas supplies has become very expensive for the public.	85.1%	14.9%	0%	0%	0%
15	Attraction and passion of getting education is dangerously reduced from our youngsters.	45.9%	35.1%	13.5%	5.4%	0%
16	Religious acts like offering prayers in Mosques, Imambaragah are mainly targeted by terrorists.	70.3%	20.3%	6.8%	2.7%	0%
17	Labor force of us is the specific victim of terrorism.	27%	43.2%	14.9%	8.1%	6.8%
18	In special and holly days like Ashora, Eid days the rate of terrorist acts reaches to its peak in order to stop religious ceremonies.	62.2%	33.8%	4.1%	0%	0%
19	Quetta has become save heaven for the terrorists and hell for the citizens.	52.7%	28.4%	4.1%	9.5%	5.4%
20	Drone attacks created problems for the general public rather than terrorists.	54.1%	31.1%	4.1%	8.1%	2.7%
21	Easy availability of explosive weapons and lack of tight securities are the things that back the violence.	67.6%	20.3%	8.1%	2.7%	1.4%
22	Illiterate people are easily brain washed by terrorist agencies.	66.2%	23%	5.4%	4.1%	1.4%
23	Present situation of our country is due to cross border terrorism which entered and settled here.	62.2%	25.7%	8.1%	2.7%	1.4%
24	People of Quetta faced the after effects of 9/11 more as compare to the people of any other region.	32.4%	32.4%	8.1%	20.3%	6.8%
25	Breaking the unity among different communities in Pakistan is the first step of terrorism towards the abolishment of our country.	62.2%	29.7%	4.1%	2.7%	1.4%
26	Terrorism has a multidimensional negative effects on our Culture, believes, thoughts, religion and economy.	77%	13.5%	6.8%	2.8%	0%