PAKISTAN’S POLICE AND COUNTER TERRORISM: CHALLENGES AND POLICY OPTIONS IN THE BACKDROP OF INTERNAL SECURITY POLICY

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Abstract

Terrorism continues to challenge stability of various states across the world including Pakistan. In many modern and especially democratic states, police plays a critical role in fighting terrorism, but Pakistan’s police has not been empowered and resourced to fight against terrorists. Capacity of police in this arena is a major issue. States affected by terrorism have constructed counter terrorism policies to eliminate terrorism but Pakistan took quite a while to formulate its first National Internal Security Policy (NISP). Now, as it has been formulated, it is a remarkable achievement for Pakistan in terms of a clear roadmap to counter terrorism. However, it has strangely ignored to define role of police in this sphere. This paper discusses in detail that without an effective policing, countering terrorism may not be possible. Two variables which have been used in paper are absence of political will for countering terrorism, and lack of capacity building of police. Absence of these two ideas has prolonged war against terrorism which has resulted in huge loss in terms of property and lives of people. Political will is to be achieved by generating consensus among national political leadership. For capacity building of police, huge amount of funds are also required and political elite will have to think beyond traditional use of police.

Keywords: Terrorism, Police, Internal Security, Leadership

Introduction

Pakistan has been fighting ‘protean enemy’
 which is multifaceted and can change anytime. Nations around the globe have fought wars within their boundaries against different sorts of terrorist groups who had challenged writ of
Pakistan’s Police and Counter Terrorism: Challenges and Policy Options in the Backdrop of Internal Security Policy

state. How other states have fought against such groups and how those who have not fought but built a mechanism to fight are important countries to seek lesson from Pakistan. Pakistan is among those countries which are fighting terrorism but without any proper strategy. Pakistan’s police, a very important defence force against any attack on state are under-resourced, poorly trained, low in morale, under paid and highly politicized but still they are determined and full of resolve to fight for country. The successive years of deep politicization, improper institutional training, out-dated infrastructure and above all, lack of funds coupled with an inappropriate budget have brought humiliation to this institution. Attack on Karachi airport and Army Public School Peshawar in 2014 tell that it was the Special Services Group (SSG) of army who thwarted these assaults on airport and school. Had it just been left unto police and Airport Security Force, loss in terms of lives and assets may have increased manifold².

Since the country has put its foot in this troubled and complex war, police has not been the focus of political leadership. So the war obviously is not in right direction where capacity building of police has been ignored. Inspector General (IG) Police of Khyber Pakhtoonkhaw (KP), a province which is frontline in this fight against terrorism, told media officials that KP police had not been trained and recruited for countering terrorism, and now with the efforts of present KP government, it is trained enough to handle the situation but still it would take some time to cope with the challenging situation.

After attack on Army Public School (APS) Peshawar in December, 2014 federal government initiated a plan to establish military courts under National Action Plan with the consent of all the political parties. For this 21st Amendment in constitution was introduced where military courts were considered as parallel to civil prosecution branch and would be established for two years for swift and speedy justice³.
National Counter Terrorism Authority (NACTA) a body established by federal government for coordination among all federal and provincial agencies to fight against terrorism and extremism, was established in former Prime Minister Yousaf Raza Gillani’s tenure but could not get operationalized due to lack of will by political administration\(^4\). Despite the fact that it got hefty funds from United States\(^5\) and European Union\(^6\) it somehow remained dysfunctional.

With first ever National Internal Security Policy (NISP), drafted by Nawaz Sharif government in 2013, there was a chance that NACTA and police could get more attention. But institutional politics and favoritism created hurdles in giving a role to police in countering terrorism and allowing NACTA to operate freely\(^7\).

Intelligence sharing among security agencies is almost absent due to poor liaison among departments and because of absence of NACTA’s operationalization. The issue has been addressed in NISP with full spectrum\(^8\). A new wave of enthusiasm has penetrated into Pakistan’s political elite to end this mess after APS attack. Political government is supposed to lead this war but hesitation in the political quarters conveyed wrong signals to counter terrorism efforts, and morale of law enforcement agencies has surly been affected negatively by this phenomenon. Whereas in the recent past, right wing and center right political parties did not like to talk against any militant group but this time all have spoken with one voice to end this mess.

In short, political parties are showing will but in the longer run, they may change their policy if they feel they may be targeted and perceive that federal government is not serious to tackle this issue. Right wing Islamic political parties like Jamaat-e-Islami and Jamiat Ulema-e-Islam (F) even abstained to vote for 21\(^{st}\) Amendment. This may jeopardize NISP if national leadership does not show maturity and responsibility on internal security issues. Therefore, it is suitable time that capacity building of police must be on top
priority and politicians must have will for bringing stability through empowering police.

National Internal Security Policy: A Brief Overview

NISP is a big milestone in the history of Pakistan. Being the first comprehensive internal security document, it draws a picture of safe and secure Pakistan. Document has been appreciated by all political quarters. It envisages freedom of rights; protection of life, property and fundamental rights. NISP also believes in promoting pluralism, democracy and culture of tolerance. It discusses the challenging internal security threats in transparent and accountable manner. In its policy framework, NISP has been divided into two sections, one is soft component which is supported by comprehensive response plan and it involves political process in bringing peace in society. Whereas, second is a hard component that would use security apparatus and intelligence sharing to be synched with all of the agencies. NISP has elements of dialogue, deterrence and isolation. NACTA would implement this doctrine by coordinating with all provincial and federal departments. Since police is actually responsible to take care of law enforcement in civilian areas, and to implement NISP as far as implementation is concerned. But unfortunately, police has been ignored in this doctrine. It has been mentioned in the initial document of NISP that capacity building of police would be carried out but nothing more beyond has been envisioned. Furthermore, neither funds have been allocated nor has the modus operandi been chalked out. So ignoring police may jeopardize the efforts for proper implementation of NISP. Therefore at this stage, what all is required, is the national effort by all concerned institutions for implementation of NISP.

Countering Terrorism: Issues and Concerns

International Practice: While analyzing the evolution of state system, one observes that marginalized groups find themselves misfit in state structure and often try to impose their agenda through violent means. In return, state tries to
eliminate such groups or bring them in fold of state. In developed states, the method to curb such elements is evolved through parliamentary procedures as their civilian governments are strong enough to handle such issues. Democratic governments carry out capacity building of civilian law enforcement agencies like police and provide funds to empower them.

This is a proven fact that countering terrorism is a job of police because armed forces are trained for defending external borders. Countries like United States, Australia, United Kingdom, Canada, Turkey and many others have strong police departments who have managed to counter threats. A content analysis of various case studies reflects something really impressive in this regard. For example, Faisal Shahzad, a Pakistani American wanted to detonate a car full of explosives in Times Square but could not do so because of active and vigilant policing and was imprisoned in New York for this act. Almost, no major attack or incident has occurred in the United States mainland since 9/11 and so is with United Kingdom after 7/7 bombings of 2005. Saudi Arabian police has also thwarted many terrorist plans and plots because of active policing after rise of Islamic State of Iraq and Levant (ISIL). But still there were two unfortunate suicide bomb incidents happened in May 2015, killing and injuring many innocent people. US, UK and many other countries are lucky that terrorism related catalyst have been removed due to effective implementing strategy based on cutting edge technology.

Above mentioned case studies clearly illustrate that, nowhere in the world, terrorism has been controlled effectively without strong police network. In this regard, a research work by Rand Corporation has been carried out, in which more than 238 organizations from across the globe have been taken as case study since 1968. Research found that more than 40% terrorist networks were eliminated by police and its intelligence agencies and just 7% cases were tackled by military, whereas in 43% cases terrorist organizations came in
main stream politics due to political engagement with outlawed groups\textsuperscript{12}.

Historically, in twentieth century, police had been involved in encountering terrorism. At present, this may be assumed that in twenty first century, nature of threat and tactics of enemy has changed so armed forces have also been trained and engaged to fight this non-conventional threat. In Pakistan, Police and Army both have been working together for elimination of terrorists networks. As police does more close to public so it has better understanding to tackle this issue.

If we look at the case of Great Britain, they managed insurgency in Malaya and Cyprus and both were done in different manner; one proved to be success and other was a failure. Cyprus was failure because of poor training and bad orientation to threat, whereas Malaya was success just by building strong police, giving them fine training and by recruiting on merit\textsuperscript{13}. India has been fighting with Maoist rebel groups since 2002, called as Naxalites, to whom former Prime Minister Manmohan Singh termed single biggest internal security challenge. They are fighting for their rights because they are poor, unemployed, facing industrialization without rehabilitation and bad governance. Home Minister Rajnath Singh informed that he had drafted new counter Naxal doctrine and told police and Central paramilitary force to lead anti-Nexal operations\textsuperscript{14}. Therefore India is fighting against terrorism with effective policing not just in Modi’s government but earlier as well and is following international practices.

**Pakistan’s Strategy to Counter Terrorism**

How Pakistan is fighting terrorism is of serious concern as the entire debate of this paper is about how police is playing its role in countering terrorism. Which strategy police is going to adopt after new internal security policy? Whether police role will be acknowledged or not?
Since last many years, there has been sever negligence in policy making institutes on police capacity building and engaging police in counter terrorism. Meanwhile looking at weak infrastructure and capability of police, Pakistan Army has been given the task of fighting terrorism which was not their job even. Army started operation in two areas, one in Federally Administered Tribal Agency (FATA), area adjacent to Afghanistan ruled under Frontier Crimes Regulation (FCR) 1901, and second in Swat a city in KP that comes in Malakand division where operation has been completed but army is still there. Article 245 was invoked by government for operation in these two areas; therefore with reference to this army can be called in aid of civil power whenever it is needed. Operation started mainly due to military’s strong capability, as it had been managing afghan affairs since long and the region is bordered with Afghanistan. But as army was not trained for nonconventional warfare, it had to bear huge losses in terms of life and infrastructure at earlier stages in FATA. Figure tells that in 2009 army lost lives of 350 soldiers and with the passage of time it started knowing the war pattern, so loss of lives was reduced to 198 in 2013.

Swat operation was named as operation Rah e Haq. It was the first operation launched by army against Tehreek e Nifaz e Shariat e Muhammadi (TNSM), an organization led by Sufi Muhammad which was a great success for army. Second operation launched by Pakistan Army was Rah e Haq2 to retake Shangla area. Initially, it was weakness of police to let terrorist operate but due to the sense of insecurity even police started joining ranks of local Taliban who were being led by Mullah Fazlullah, now chief of Tehreek-E-Taliban Pakistan (TTP). However, once operation was concluded it was the job of police forces to take over area, but because of poor resources police could not handle such a militarized area, for this army had to stay for an extended period.

Military operations in FATA and Swat were successful, but the approach raised some serious controversies. Army gained good reputation in public as people view army as ultimate saviour, but on the other hand few are not in favour of
Pakistan’s Police and Counter Terrorism:  
Challenges and Policy Options in the Backdrop of Internal Security Policy

military’s way of handling things and governance. In theory and practice where armed forces are involved in counter terrorism, they do not have powers of arrest and detention but in Pakistan’s case this practice has put army on back foot.

Police in Pakistan has been divided in federal and provincial levels. Since law and order is provincial subject, all the four provinces, Gilgit-Baltistan and Azad Jammu and Kashmir have their own police departments and have different police laws. Islamabad Capital Territory (ICT) has its own police. At federal level, there are civilian agencies also which have mandate to cooperate and work with provincial departments whenever it is needed, which are Federal Investigation Agency (FIA), National Highways and Motorway Police (NHMP). Apart from this, there are paramilitary forces which include Pakistan Rangers and Frontier Corps (FC) which work with police to maintain law and order. All the provinces have anti-terrorist force with different capabilities. Punjab has Counter Terrorism Department (CTD) which was established in 2010; earlier this department was working with the name of Criminal Investigation Department (CID) since 1995. A move was initiated by the Punjab Chief Minister Shahbaz Sharif, to have a separate counter terrorism force in province to work under IGP. 421 corporals including 16 women were trained by SSG and Turkish Police. Their job will be to participate only in operational activates and inquiring the cases on scientific bases. Other provinces have yet to make such police force. KP police has developed structural framework in 2014 in which they have developed Counter Terrorism Department. Baluchistan does not have Counter Terrorism Department whereas Sindh cabinet has agreed to establish Counter Terrorism Department. CTD has been given powers by provincial authorities to fight all sort of terrorism.

Since the start of war against terrorism (WOT), police had not been trained and equipped for fighting terrorists other than the new police force recruited and trained in Punjab. Absence of political will has enhanced complexity of the situation. Apart from this absence of centralized authority to
solidify the law enforcement agencies and information sharing among them has created chaos. National Crises Management Centre (NCMC), a federal department was tasked to coordinate among federal and provincial departments but Interior Ministry shifted this task to NACTA\(^{20}\). That also created trust deficit among powerful governmental institutions.

It is too late for a department like NACTA to get legitimacy from other concerned departments. NISP has been active with whom NACTA was empowered. In Swat and South Waziristan operations in 2009, it was NCMC working for liaison among civilian and military departments. But in operation Zarb i Azb, the job was given to Ministry of States and Frontier Regions. So NACTA is again away from operational activities\(^{21}\). Even Prime Minister took a step to establish Cabinet Committee on National Security (CCNS) for synching civil- military contribution to fight the war but the efforts remained fruitless because CCNS has not been engaged regularly and decisions were taken bypassing institutional architecture\(^{22}\).

At strategic level there has been no policy decision to engage police in countering terrorism as discussed above. So in critical areas military has been put on alert and remains at a call away from civilian administration. Karachi airport attack paralyzed airport, whereas airport security force and police were unable to handle the situation, therefore Pakistan Army’ was called to eliminate militants and clear the airport. More than 28 people were killed and numbers of people were injured. This tells that, Airport Security Force (ASF) and police were unable to thwart the attack.

Police is poorly equipped and untrained that it has failed to control the protestors of Pakistan Awami Tahreek (PAT) in June 2014, a party run by Dr Thair-Ul-Qadri, a cleric who has modern credentials and has given decree against suicide bombings and terrorism. In this brawl more than 12 people were killed and dozens injured because of direct firing on protestors\(^{23}\). This negligence coupled with political manipulation made police more inefficient and exposed the
Pakistan’s Police and Counter Terrorism:
Challenges and Policy Options in the Backdrop of Internal Security Policy

vulnerabilities in terms of proficient mob handling techniques.

Police is yet to be capable of fighting terrorists by adopting new strategies like Improvised Explosive Devices (IED). Since last one decade more than thirty three thousand IED explosions took place which killed more than 11000 people. Meanwhile there is no legislation regarding IED as a new threat to counter as police is not well trained to defuse IEDs\textsuperscript{24}. Even knowing that Pakistan has to fight this mess, police capacity building has been ignored.

Pakistan Police is somewhat professional, despite being under resourced and politically manipulated. Intelligence skills of police are smart enough to gather information. Such tasks cannot be handled by Army because of their absence in civilian areas. Police intelligence was used enough to trace the attack on General Headquarters (GHQ), Rawalpindi in 2010\textsuperscript{25}. Furthermore the performance of KP police in Bacha Khan University blast clearly shows that Pakistan police is capable enough to handle sensitive cases if properly funded and trained. Many other sensitive cases of information have been resolved by other departments through police intelligence. Tariq Khosa, a former officer of police service of Pakistan once stated, “we can win this war against terrorism from capabilities of existing police force, but only if politicians stop micromanaging in their affairs and higher bureaucracy does not interfere in their official duties”\textsuperscript{26}. The statement by Mr. Khosa clearly reveals that police is capable enough, if modern training is provided and they are allowed to work independently. The police is always compared to one of the strongest institutions of Pakistan: the Pakistan Army. The comparison is abjectly based on non-conformity. The army is bestowed with foreign military aid, the biggest share of the country’s annual defence budget and a firm ground on the country’s policymaking for decades. Despite all the impairments of small budgets, funds and political pressures, the police continue to struggle hard in keeping up with serving the people and fighting criminals thus has been laying their lives in the line of duty.
Now situation is so worse because of poor capacity of police to control and manage counter terrorism as Rangers had taken control of Islamabad when operation Zarb-i-Azb started in North Waziristan, and situation is still the same even when the Zarb-i-Azb is about to be over. Earlier, the presence of Rangers in Islamabad was just for joint patrolling purposes in the city. Even now Rangers has been given charge for raids in Islamabad to arrest. Since attack on Karachi and Peshawar airports in 2014, government has decided to handover major airports to Rangers and army to assist Airport Security Forces.

This structural flaw has created problem in whole country where police has become almost irrelevant because of its incompetence to handle things. In August 2014, Army was called on to look after red zone in Islamabad, while two long marches of Imran khan and Dr Tahir-Ul-Qadri reached Capital and entered into red zone for pressurizing government for their demands. Islamabad’s police that is considered to be well equipped and well-resourced was unable to handle this situation and government had to invoke section 245 of Pakistan’s constitution to hand over security to Army. This has further reduced confidence in police and brought anxiety among armed forces as they were over burdened with work pressure.

**Police and Systemic Barriers in Countering Terrorism**

Systemic barrier means institutional discrimination through policies and practices, which may look neutral but have long term negative impressions on particular groups. This means structural hurdles that come in the way of police to perform independently and professionally. So the idea that will lead the debate of systemic barriers is absence of political will. Now the question is why there is absence of political will? Looking at the socio- political and ethno- linguistic characteristics of Pakistan, one can divide argument of systemic barriers in three spheres, social, structural and...
historical reasons which are there to bring hurdle in having political will.

Society has deep links with patronage based politics so they like to be engaged in a patron client relationship where they must get relief in police station. Under the circumstances, it gets tough for law makers to make drastic changes in police laws because by changing laws and making police more independent, it will jeopardize their political clout. They are obviously not in a mood to educate masses about institutional superiority.

Civil bureaucracy in Pakistan being important organ of state always helps and guides political elite. Formerly District Management Group (DMG) and now Pakistan Administrative Services (PAS) have close connections with political elite and hardly give any sound advice to make police independent. Attempt done in Pervez Musharraf era did not bring fine results where police were to bring under District level Political Administration.

As NACTA got powers in constitution in a tough institutional tussle but it does not have anything in hand in real terms. Since the passage of ordinance in March 2013, not a single meeting was called but after APS Peshawar attack, its first meeting took place. NACTA Board of Governors is supposed to meet once in three months but it has not met so far. Prime Minister is its head whereas all Chief Ministers from four provinces and Gilgit Baltistan are its members. Other members include Prime Minister Azad Jammu Kashmir, Interior Minister, Defense Minister, Finance Minister, Director General Inter Service Intelligence (DG, ISI) Director General Intelligence Bureau (DG IB), Director General Military Intelligence (DG, MI), Director General Federal Investigation Agency (DG FIA), Inspector General of all provinces and Secretary Interior. Implementation of NISP is dependent on decisions of NACTA. While NACTA, being ignored, is one of the main structural problems in countering terrorism through institutional framework.
In historical domain police has been drawing powers from law of 1861 that was product of British era which was orchestrated to deal with socio political situation of that time. Here in 21st century, Pakistan needs new laws according to prevailing situation. Politicians must pay full attention in bringing new laws of policing. All the provinces have different laws regarding police. Punjab and KP are enjoying amended versions of 2002 police order whereas Sindh and Baluchistan are still living under colonial era laws. Absence of modern laws of policing has reduced the proportion of transparency and accountability for police. A move by KP and Sindh police to have option of online First Information Report (FIR) is a welcome step. Nation will have to introduce modern legislation and cutting edge technology for counter terrorism.

Highest ranking police officer, Inspector General Police (IGP) is not given free hand to perform independently. Politicians station their own blue eyed police officers to discharge duties. According to a report, IGP of each province has not been on his seat for more than eight months on average. But now for some time highest police officials are discharging their duties especially in KP. Similarly lower police officials do not get enough time to implement policies. Stability of tenure is considered a yardstick for success of an officer. London Metropolitan Police Commissioner is appointed for five years under police Act 1996 of United Kingdom so that uninterrupted tenure to be given to officer; this reduces chances of political manipulation because officer will feel secure by having fixed tenure. In Pakistan long term polices regarding countering terrorism can work only when police chief will have freedom to exercise has powers

New Internal Security Policy and Counter Terrorism

Pakistan’s first internal security policy was drafted in 2014 by the present government of Prime Minister Muhammad Nawaz Sharif. Although one can debate why we could not have internal security policy earlier, that is a complex question to answer. Looking at the internal security environment, it is important to have such a comprehensive doctrine that would
be bible for internal security problems. Police has only been promised for capacity building but nothing concrete has been started for this. About 32 billion rupees have been allocated for implementation of this doctrine but government has not released any amount in this context so far. How can a police station operate on 10 litres of daily fuel that it is allotted to them, especially when it has multiple villages under its watch, some are many kilometers apart? Furthermore, how will the police produce criminals in court and collect evidence against them within such limited means?

How can a police officer with a moderate salary pursue any investigation diligently when he/she has to pay money from his/her own pocket for FIR copies, criminal’s medical certificates and other proceedings because they are inadequately funded by the government?

The NISP has a serious flaw and that is of missing role of police in counter terrorism. Although the role of police has not been defined directly but entire counter terrorism efforts are needed to be through synchronization of security agencies. It is not possible for any single agency to look after security affairs. There is likely possibility that armed forces will lead counter terrorism operational activities. A surgical operation to weed out terrorist from urban centers was initiated after attack on APS Peshawar. Police is working in liaison with Army and Rangers but its activities are not independent. A recent incident that embodies the woes and shortcomings of the police is the Chotu gang operation. The small contingent of police that was sent into the operation was not even wearing bullet proof jackets. To make matters worse, their arms were out dated. But still, they resorted towards their undoubtedly suicide mission.

The recent campaigns of revamping the police by provincial governments are laudable steps to rejuvenate the system and abolishing the loathed thanna (prison) culture. But all this will be of no use if governments do not allocate required budgets and the police do not conform to the latest revamping campaigns. If this continues, the woes of this
department will persist because the police has no access to foreign aid, nor does it have a public relations department for image building⁴⁰.

**NISP and Daunting Challenges**

NISP being the first document of internal security has increased the expectations of Pakistanis. People find it a ray of hope for bringing peace back in the country. A great achievement of ruling party for making this document, but real problem is implementation of NISP. There are many challenges to be faced during implementation of this security policy. Terrorists operate at three major levels, physical, psychological and ideological levels⁴¹. For this, response strategy should be comprehensive. Since the counter terrorism efforts are to be done under umbrella of NACTA, so all law enforcement agencies are required to work with collaboration. Before APS incident, NACTA disseminated threat alert three days ago about the incident⁴². But poor liaison for operational activities has been source of many casualties otherwise such big incident could have been avoided.

NACTA met first time after APS Peshawar attack since it has been given space in constitution although it was supposed to meet after every three months. It happens that institutions get established but scheduled meetings are not held regularly and powerful officials within government institutions bypass such institution. This has generated a gap among stakeholders where weak institutions share grievances for not having role in decision making. In 2014-15, budget of NACTA was reduced to Rs 92 million from Rs 95 million where Rs 63 million are for salaries and related expenses and just Rs 21 million for operational expenses⁴³. This shows non seriousness and lack of political will in government circles.

NISP has two components soft and hard to respond to terrorist’s modus operandi. Soft component is Comprehensive Response Plan (CRP) which talks about winning trust of public and engaging them as well in countering terrorism. Its
main ingredients are building infrastructure, rehabilitating victims of terrorists, constructing national narrative for countering terrorism, reconciliation within state actors, reintegration and legal reforms. All these issues are grave challenges and since last one decade these problems have not been addressed in a right manner. For their implementation, massive funds are needed and state is not prepared in any sense so far.

Absence of national narrative has brought unbearable loss to the country and its fabric. State has not used its capability to build and propagate its narrative. As a consequence, war has prolonged and counter measures have been tough and lengthy. Meanwhile terrorist’s narrative has been encouraged to penetrate. State actors have been at arm’s length from each other on policy perspectives and national leadership has failed to congeal this difference. Legal reforms are single most conflicting issue between executive and judiciary. Judiciary is blamed for releasing terrorist and judicial backlog. Moeed Yousaf, an America based Pakistani scholar stated in an interview that judiciary has its concerns where it feels vulnerable from non-state actors in case of verdicts against their men. It also talks of absence of proper laws to convict terrorists. Military courts are given space for providing speedy justice that has its own structural problems. Parallel justice system can further weaken the civil justice system because there is a fear among masses that already weak justice system can be further ignored for two years. So instead of introducing another system, already existing justice system must be strengthened.

The hard component is Composite Deterrence Plan (CDP), tells how the present security apparatus will deal with issue of terrorism and sectarianism. Where all law enforcement agencies are required to cooperate with each other. Police has not been singled out for any plan of action in response to terrorism but synchronization of actions by security agencies has been stressed. About 26 intelligence agencies are in the country but there is absence of coordination among those organizations. Since NACTA has been given a responsibility to
gather information and disseminate to concerned department for action, CDP will integrate all hard components of state power to combat national security threats. Police could have been at forefront but scope of activity of police or any other force has not been discussed. This leaves room for chaos among institutions and makes NISP a weak document that needs to be amended.

**NISP and Options for Durable Security**

NACTA has emerged as leading organization in NISP due to its role of liaison among state agencies and other civil departments as well. Counter terrorism policies and strategies must be led by civil departments of state along with strong institutional support from armed forces. Following options will make counter terrorism efforts more active and result oriented:

- NISP should be revised in which police must be given concrete role in counter terrorism. Police must be given main role in leading counter terrorism operations along with support of Civil Armed Forces and Army.
- Funds must be immediately released for capacity building of police of all provinces, including Kashmir and Gilgit Baltistan. Gilgit police is exposed to sectarian attacks and Taliban so their capacity building is needed. Police has been ignored altogether in this policy. It’s been a year that funds were allocated in NISP formula of capacity building of police but yet not released.
- A revised NISP must focus on special counter terrorism academies for police. Training must not be in already established training centers of police because a new infrastructure will enhance confidence of police involved in counter terrorism operations and will inject a sense of responsibility in them. Training Staff in special police academies must be catered from those countries where police has led counter terrorism operations and defeated terrorists so that they can share their practical experiences with our police force.
Political elites will have to show responsibility and maturity by generating consensus to fight against terrorism. Politicians should make police independent so that they can perform efficiently and for this purpose, legislation is needed so that police can feel protected while taking decisions.

NISP must stress on new police force for countering terrorism because it is believed that existing police is politicized and unprofessional. Old police force which has professional young officers must be attached with new force so that they can make joint efforts for curbing and eliminating terrorism.

There is a dire need for changing national narrative on counter terrorism. NISP has discussed new narrative building but nothing in reality has been chalked out in this regard. Police must be made aware of this new narrative because they are the ones who have to adopt it.

Media must be effectively used and NISP should be discussed in talk shows, news channels, so that government must be pushed to implement the chalked formula.

Morale of police must also be enhanced by encouraging them and enhancing their role in formulating counter terrorism policies.

Conclusion

Throughout the entire debate above, it has been observed that police is facing grave challenges. Since 9/11, police in other countries as an institution has been made capable enough to fight with terrorists but in Pakistan, state has yet to achieve this goal. Police is fighting with terrorists without being trained and equipped properly. With rising terrorist infrastructure in country, ignoring police could be disastrous. Police need patronization of politicians in terms of political will to fight against terrorism and capacity building so that they can make themselves capable enough to fight against terrorism. Only these two variables, if properly utilized, can
bring end to this war. After huge losses, now time has come that nation must see a ray of hope to end this war.

Notes


7Asad, “ Legal Wrangles hit Nacta,s revival”


9ibid


Pakistan’s Police and Counter Terrorism:
Challenges and Policy Options in the Backdrop of Internal Security Policy


21 Asad, "Indecision on NACTA Affects Operation"

22 Ibid


Cheema, "punjab Police resent counter-terrorism force.”

26 Khosa, Tariq. QamarCheema. Personal interview. Islamabad. 15 November 2014


36 Pervez, “Brief Tenures of Police Leadership”

Pakistan's Police and Counter Terrorism: Challenges and Policy Options in the Backdrop of Internal Security Policy


39ibid

40ibid


