PAKISTAN SECURITY REPORT

2018

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Conflict and Peace Studies

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2018

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LIST OF ACRONYMS

AAT: Allah-o-Akbar Tehreek
AJK: Azad Jammu and Kashmir
ANP: Awami National Party
AQIS: Al-Qaeda in the Indian Subcontinent
Arm: Army
ASP: Ansar ul Sharia Pakistan
ASWJ: Ahl-e-Sunnat Wal Jamaat
ATC: Anti Terrorism Courts
ATF: Anti-Terrorism Force
BAP: Balochistan Awami Party
BC: Balochistan Constabulary
BH: Beheading
BLA: Balochistan Liberation Army
BLF: Balochistan Liberation Front
BNP: Balochistan National Party
BNP-M: Balochistan National Party-Mengal Group
BRA: Baloch Republican Army
BSF: [Indian] Border Security Force
BT: Bomb Blast
CIA: Central Intelligence Agency
CID: Criminal Investigation Department
Civ: Civilians
CPEC: China-Pakistan Economic Corridor
CTDs: Counter Terrorism Departments [of police]
CVE: Counter Violent Extremism
CVE: Counter-Violent Extremism
DGMOs: Director Generals of Military Operations
DSP: Deputy Superintendent Police
ETIM: East Turkistan Islamic Party
FATA: Federally Administered Tribal Areas
FATF: Financial Action Task Force
FC: Frontier Corps
FCR: Frontier Crimes Regulation

FIA: Federal Investigative Agency
Fr: Firing
FR: Frontier Region
HG: Hand Grenade
HRCP: Human Rights Commission of Pakistan
HuA: Hizbul Ahrar
IDP: Internally Displaced Persons
IED: Improvised Explosive Device
IMNW: Ittehadul Mujahideen North Waziristan
ISAF: International Security Assistance Force
ISI: Inter Services Intelligence
ISIS: Islamic State in Iraq and Syria
IS-K: Islamic State Khorasan
ISO: Imamia Student Organization
ISPR: Inter-Services Public Relations
JI: Jamaat-e-Islami
JID: Joint Intelligence Directorate
JM: Jaish-e-Muhammad
JuA: Jamaatul Ahrar
JuD: Jamaatud Dawa
JUI-F: Jamiat-e-Ulema-e-Islam-Fazl
Kid: Kidnapping
KP: Khyber-Pakhtunkhwa
LeJ: Lashkar-e-Jhangvi
LeJ-A: Lashkar-e-Jhangvi Al-Alami
LI: Lashkar-e-Islam
LM: Landmine Blast
LoC: Line of Control
Lvs: Levies Force
MDM: Muttahida Deeni Mahaz
Mil: Militant
MQM: Muttahida Qaumi Movement
MWM: Majlis Wahdatul Muslimeen
NACTA: National Counter-Terrorism Authority
NADRA: National Database and Registration Authority

NAP:	National Action Plan	**SA:**	Suicide Attack
NATO:	North Atlantic Treaty Organization	**Sab:**	Sabotage
		SDLF/A:	Sindhu Desh Liberation Front/Army
NEC:	National Executive Committee		
NI:	Nationalist Insurgents' Attack	**SDRA:**	Sindhu Desh Revolution Army
NIC:	National Implementation Committee [on FATA reforms]	**SECP:**	Securities and Exchange Commission of Pakistan
NP:	National Party	**Sect:**	Sectarian
NPP:	National People's Party	**SM:**	Sipah-e-Muhammad
NSA:	National Security Advisor	**SP:**	Superintendent of Police
PkMAP:	Pakhtunkhwa Milli Awami Party	**SSP:**	Sipah-e-Sahaba Pakistan
P-ml:	Paramilitary Forces	**ST:**	Sunni Tehreek
PML-N:	Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz	**TA:**	Terrorist Attack
Pol:	Police	**TLP:**	Tehreek-e-Labbaik Pakistan
PPP:	Pakistan People's Party	**TNSM:**	Tehreek-e-Nifaz-e-Shariat-e-Muhammadi
PTI:	Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaaf		
PTM:	Pakhtun Tahafuz Movement	**TTP:**	Tehreek-e-Taliban Pakistan
QWP:	Qaumi Watan Party	**UBA:**	United Baloch Army
RA:	Rocket Attack	**UN:**	United Nations
RCB:	Remote-controlled Bomb	**WB:**	Working Boundary
Rng:	Rangers		

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 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, 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.

Plot/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

2018 was an important year for Pakistan in terms of consolidating its successes in the war against terrorism. A decrease of 29 percent in terrorist attacks from the year before was an important milestone achieved at the end of the year. The Pakistan Army also declared the North Waziristan tribal district – once a critical flashpoint of militancy and an important battlefront in the war against terrorism – fully under control.[*] The military operation Zarb-e-Azb was launched on June 15th in 2014 in the tribal district of KP. Until the beginning of last year, however, remnants of militants were still hiding in the difficult terrain of Shawal mountains taking advantage of loose border with Afghanistan. After having cleared Shawal of militants, Pakistan's armed forces can now claim that every inch of the tribal conflict zone is under their control.

The optimism built around the statistical decline in terrorist incidents has not only increased a sense of security among common people, boosted the confidence of the local investors but it has also broadened the prospects for foreign investment in the country. However, these plummeting numbers do not suggest, in any way, that the threat of terrorism has been completely eliminated. Certainly, most terrorist groups have been weakened but they are still present in physical and virtual spaces. A series of terrorist attacks before and during the election month of July had proved that militants could still trigger a terror wave, though were unable to sustain it. The Tehreek-e-Taliban Pakistan (TTP), its splinter groups, mainly Jamaatul Ahrar, Hizbul Ahrar, and ISIS-affiliates perpetrated 171 terrorist attacks, while the nationalist insurgent groups, mainly Baloch, carried out 80 attacks in the year 2018. The numbers indicate that security forces and law enforcement agencies still have to maintain their vigilance on a high level.

Pakistan Tehrik-e-Insaf (PTI) government has inherited a better security situation in the country compared with the previous government of Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz, for whom security was the major challenge to deal with. The new government has to carry forward and build upon the gradual successes of the past. However, the internal security does not appear the priority of the new government, which is apparently following a firefighting approach to deal with it. For instance, just after the attack on the Chinese consulate in Karachi, the government had announced the formation of a new National Action Plan (NAP), without looking into the loopholes in the existing NAP against terrorism. The NAP was the result of consensus of the security establishment and the parliament and it had contributed in connecting the scattered counter-terrorism responses into a holistic framework. The implementation on NAP was not as effective as expected because of various reasons – broadly mentioned in previous security reports by PIPS and also briefly touched upon in this report – and it needed a complete review and proper implementation plan. Instead of reviewing the existing NAP and other security approaches, the new

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[*] Umer Farooq, "Army declares North Waziristan fully under control," *The Express Tribune*, May 6, 2018.

government finds it easy to take a new initiative. Even it is not known who is developing the NAP-2 as the whole process is being kept in secret. The government has another document with it, the National Internal Security Policy 2018-23, which was the result of an extensive and inclusive exercise, and which also recommends the policy framework for reviewing the NAP-1. The countering terrorism challenge is manifold and it cannot be dealt with an oversimplified threat perception.

2019 is critical for Pakistan in the context of its international obligations and commitments to develop an effective mechanism for curbing the terrorism financing; NAP-1 had suggested the measures for this purpose. A section on this issue is part of the report, but the government has to take it up more seriously as the Financial Task Action Force meeting is due in early 2019, which will review the progress on Pakistan's commitments.

Apart from terrorism financing, countering extremism, securing successes against terrorism, revamping and strengthening the civilian law enforcement structures and securing borders mainly with Afghanistan and Iran are the critical challenges, which will need the attention of the government and security institutions in the years to come. The growing radicalism on the campuses and violent sectarian tendencies in madrassas are among the major challenges related to extremism. The Counter Terrorism Department (CTD) of KP province had revealed in a report last year that 72 militants arrested in the province in one year were graduates and postgraduates.[†] These findings are really crucial and need urgent attention of the government. The provincial youth policies should be developed in the light of existing thinking patterns and worldviews of the youth both in religious and non-religious educational institutions.

Balochistan appeared the most critical area in 2018 in terms of security challenges, where both religious and nationalist non-state actors are making security landscape complex. To deal with the Baloch insurgency, the government has to immediately evolve a proper plan for the reintegration and mainstreaming of insurgents; realization among the Baloch youth is increasing that through violence nothing can be achieved and the state has to reciprocate in a similar way. A fast-track mechanism on missing persons in the province can prove a major confidence-building measure.

PIPS hopes that this 13th 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. This year too, the report includes more in-depth analysis on critical security issues. 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 comprehensive review of militant landscape, security issues related to China-Pakistan

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[†] Javed Aziz Khan, "72 militants arrested in KP were graduate, postgraduate," *The News*, January 13, 2018.

Overview of security in 2018: critical challenges and recommendations

Muhammad Amir Rana and Safdar Sial*

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1.1 Overview of security situation in 2018

Posting a decrease of about 29 percent from the year before, as many as 262 terrorist attacks took place in Pakistan in 2018, including 19 suicide and gun-and-suicide coordinated attacks. In all, 595 people lost their lives – a decline of 27 percent from those killed in such attacks in 2017 – and 1,030 others were injured in these attacks, which were launched by different militant, nationalist/insurgent and violent sectarian groups.

The Tehreek-e-Taliban Pakistan (TTP), its splinter groups, mainly Jamaatul Ahrar and Hizbul Ahrar, as well as other militant groups with similar objectives such as local Taliban groups, Lashkar-e-Islam and ISIS-affiliates perpetrated 171 terrorist attacks – compared to 213 in the year before – which killed 449 people and injured 769 others. Meanwhile nationalist insurgent groups, mainly Baloch, carried out 80 attacks – as compared to 138 such attacks in 2017 – which claimed 96 lives and wounded another 216 people. As many as 11 terrorist attacks were sectarian-related – 9 less from the year before – which killed 50 people and inflicted injuries on 45 others.

Among those killed in terrorist attacks in Pakistan in 2018 were 371 civilians, 173 personnel of security and law enforcement agencies (44 FC men; 65 policemen; 43 army officials; 17 Levies; 3 unspecified paramilitaries; and one Ranger) and 51 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 terrorist attacks included 724 civilians, 302 security personnel and 4 militants.

Chart 1: Classification of Terrorist Attacks in Pakistan in 2018
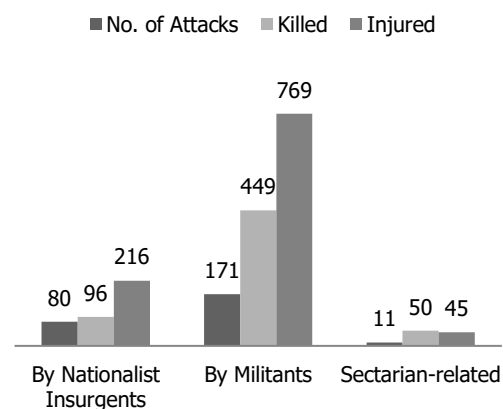
As many as 136 attacks, or 52 percent of the total terrorist attacks reported in 2018, hit security forces and law-enforcement agencies across Pakistan. However the highest number of casualties (218 killed; 394 injured) for any one type of target hit in terrorist attacks was caused in 24 attacks targeting political leaders and workers. Civilians were the apparent targets of 47 attacks (about 18 percent of the total attacks). Eight attacks targeted pro-government tribesmen and peace committee members, and another 7 attacks hit members of Shia community. Other sporadic targets hit by the terrorist in 2018 are given at Table 1.

Terrorists employed diverse weapons/tactics to hit their targets mainly including improvised explosive devices (IEDs) of various types (118 attacks), firing/shootout (99 attacks), suicide blasts (19 attacks) and hand grenades 18 attacks. Less frequently employed attack tactics included 4 rocket attacks, and 2 incidents each of mortar shelling and sabotage.

Table 1: Targets Hit in Terrorist Attacks in 2018

Targets	No. of Terrorist Attacks	Killed	Injured
Personnel, check posts and convoys of security forces/law enforcement agencies	136	217	389
Educational institutions	6	0	3
Non-Bloch settlers/workers	3	14	5
Govt. officials, departments and offices, etc.	5	4	12
Tribal elders	4	3	3
Civilians	47	51	143
Shia religious scholars/community	7	43	43
Sunni religious leaders/community	1	2	0
Political leaders/workers	24	218	394
Hindu community	1	1	0
NGO/civil society members	1	0	0
Christian community/Church	2	6	6
Sikh community	1	1	0

Targets	No. of Terrorist Attacks	Killed	Injured
Foreign interests/ diplomats/foreigners	3	11	8
Rival sectarian group	1	3	0
Health/polio workers	2	4	0
Pro-govt. tribesmen/peace committee members	8	11	16
Judges/lawyers/courts	1	0	0
CPEC projects/workers/Chinese	1	1	6
Former militants	4	4	0
Railway tracks/trains	3	0	1
Members of banned groups	1	1	1
Total	**262**	**595**	**1,030**

Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, including erstwhile FATA agencies, faced the highest number of terrorist attacks compared to all other regions of Pakistan. A total of 125 reported attacks from the province claimed 196 lives and inflicted injuries on another 376 people. The KP districts where 10 or more attacks happened in the year 2018 included North Waziristan (33 attacks), DI Khan (18), Peshawar (12), Khyber (11), Bannu (11), and Bajaur and South Waziristan (10 attacks each). Meanwhile 3 attacks reported from Orakzai claimed 36 lives including a suicide blast that alone killed 35 people. In all, terrorist attacks were recorded in 18 districts of KP.

In terms of terrorism-related casualties, Balochistan was the most affected region of the country in 2018 where 354 people were killed – over 59 percent of the total 595 people killed in terrorist attacks across Pakistan – and 589 others were injured in 115 reported attacks from there. Most of these terrorism-caused casualties in Balochistan resulted from attacks perpetrated by religiously inspired militant groups such as the TTP, Hizbul Ahrar, ISIS-affiliates and some other similar unknown militants; as many as 261 people were killed and 385 others injured in 35 attacks perpetrated by these groups, mainly in Quetta and Mastung. Different Baloch insurgents groups, mainly the Baloch Liberation Army (BLA), Balochistan Liberation Front (BLF) and Baloch Republican Army (BRA), perpetrated 74 attacks killing 85 people and wounding 201 others. Meanwhile, 6 sectarian-related attacks claimed 8 lives and wounded 3 others.

In all, 12 terrorist attacks happened in Sindh – 9 in Karachi, 2 in Hyderabad and one in Larkana districts – which killed a total of 19 people and injured another 21 people. Six of these attacks were perpetrated by the TTP, Hizbul Ahrar and similar other groups that killed 8 and injured 6 people. Sindhi nationalist group Sindhudesh Liberation Army (SDLA) and a Baloch insurgent group BLA were involved in another 6 attacks reported from Sindh, which claimed 11 lives and wounded 15 others.

In Punjab, the TTP and Hizbul Ahrar perpetrated 4 attacks including 2 suicide blasts, which in all claimed 20 lives and injured 39 others. These attacks happened in Lahore, Attock, Rahim Yar Khan and Rawalpindi districts of Punjab. While, five reported attacks from Gilgit-Baltistan's Diamir, Ghizer and Gilgit districts claimed 5 lives, one attack also happened in Azad Jammu and Kashmir killing one person. (*See Table 2*)

Table 2: Terrorist Attacks in Pakistan in 2018

Region	No. of Attacks	Killed	Injured
KP (including erstwhile FATA)	125	196	376
Balochistan	115	354	589
Punjab	4	20	39
Karachi	9	18	16
Sindh (excluding Karachi)	3	1	5
Gilgit-Baltistan	5	5	3
AJK	1	1	2
Total	**262**	**595**	**1,030**

1.1.1 Comparison

When counted together, 497 incidents of violence of different types – as given at Table 3 – were reported from across Pakistan in 2018. In addition to 262 terrorist attacks cited earlier, these overall violent incidents also included 131 cross-border attacks from India, Afghanistan and Iran; 31 operational strikes carried out by

security forces and their 22 armed clashes/encounters with militants; and 22 incidents of political/election-related violence. (*See Table 3*) A total of 869 people were killed and 1,516 others were injured in these violent incidents.

Table 3: Nature of Overall Incidents of Violence

Nature of Incident	No. of Incidents	Killed	Injured
Terrorist attacks	262	595	1,030
Political/election-related violence	22	11	55
Clashes & encounters between security forces & militants	22	43	16
Inter-tribal clashes/attacks	3	10	40
Border clashes/attacks	131	111	290
Operational attacks by security forces	31	77	36
Drone attacks	3	5	1
Sectarian clashes	1	1	0
Inter-militant clashes/attacks	1	3	12
Clashes between security forces & criminal gangs	2	4	2
Communal/faith-based violence	4	2	19
Militant-tribesmen clashes	1	0	0
Plot/foiled terror attempts	10	3	4

Nature of Incident	No. of Incidents	Killed	Injured
Mob violence/protests	2	2	10
Targeted attacks [not by terrorists]	2	2	1
Total	**497**	**869**	**1,516**

In 2018, the number of incidents of violence declined to 497 from previous year's 713, by about 30 percent. The overall number of people killed in these violent incidents also decreased by about 46 percent; from 1,611 in 2017 to 869 in 2018. Similarly, the number of people injured in all such incidents of violence decreased by 31 percent from 2,212 in 2017 to 1,516 in 2018. *(See Chart 2)*

A gradual decrease in the number of terrorist attacks and consequent fatalities in Pakistan can be visibly seen since 2009, or post-Swat military operation – with the only exception of 2013 when a surge in sectarian violence mainly contributed in increased number of attacks and casualties. (*See Chart 3 and Table 4*) As noted in previous year's report too, the Rangers-led operation in Karachi (started 2013), military operations in North Waziristan and Khyber agencies, and counter terrorism departments' (CTDs) 's anti-militant actions across Pakistan including as part of the National Action Plan (NAP) and *Raddul Fasaad,* apparently helped sustain that declining trend 2013-onward, which continued in 2018 as well.

Chart 2: Comparison of Overall Incidents of Violence & Casualties (2015-18)
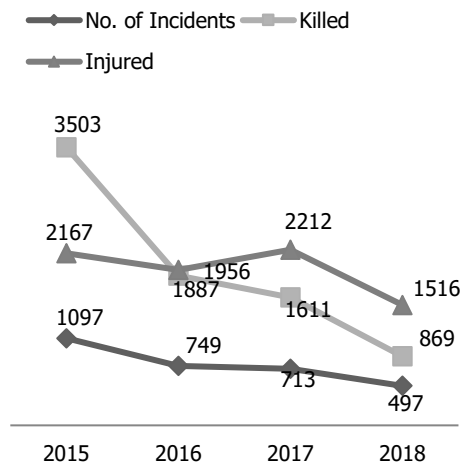

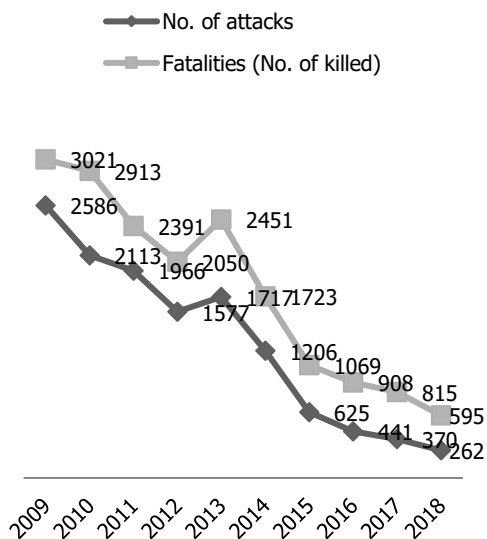## Chart 3: Comparison of Terrorist Attacks and Fatalities in Pakistan (2009-2018)

Table 4: Comparison of Terrorist Attacks and Fatalities in Pakistan (2009-18)[1]

Year	No. of Terrorist Attacks (%Change)	No. of Killed (% Change)
2009	Baseline year (2,586 attacks)	Baseline year (3,021 Fatalities)
2010	18%↓	4% ↓
2011	7%↓	18%↓
2012	20%↓	14%↓
2013	**9%↑**	**19%↑**
2014	30%↓	30%↓
2015	48%↓	38%↓
2016	28%↓	12%↓
2017	16%↓	10%↓
2018	29%↓	27%↓

The reported 29 percent decrease in the number of terrorist attacks in Pakistan in 2018 was marked by a decreased incidence of such attacks in all regions of Pakistan, but with varying degrees, with the only exception of Gilgit Baltistan (GB). Compared to 2017, the highest decrease in the number of attacks was reported from Punjab (by 71 percent), followed by AJK (67 percent), Karachi (62 percent), Sindh, excluding Karachi (57 percent), Balochistan (30 percent), and KP (by 19 percent).

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[1] ↑and↓ represent increase and decrease, respectively, from previous year.

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