

TERRORISM AND ITS RESPONSE BY PAKISTAN

Dr. Muhammad Shoaib Suddle

Director General

National Police Bureau Pakistan

29 Jan 2008

Scope

- ❖ Al-Qaeda in Historical Perspective
- ❖ The War on Terrorism: its impact on socio-political environment in Pakistan
- ❖ Terrorist Networks: why people turn to terrorism
- ❖ Terrorist Networks: their motives
- ❖ Terrorist Networks: how they are funded
- ❖ Strategy to Counter Terrorism

Al-Qaeda in Historical Perspective

- ❖ Al-Qaeda terrorism owes its origin to Afghan Jihad of 1980s when the West emerged victorious in defeating the Soviet Union in Afghanistan
- ❖ Thousands of youth from across the globe particularly the Arab World were gathered and trained to fight the Soviet Union

Al-Qaeda in Historical Perspective

- ❖ Mushroom growth of Madaras in Pakistan for preparing radicalised Jehadis for fighting the Afghan war
- ❖ When the war ended, the West abandoned Afghanistan which became a sanctuary of Al-Qaeda
- ❖ Due to porous borders, Al-Qaeda operatives continued to expand their influence into Pakistan's tribal areas

The War on Terrorism: its impact on socio-political environment in Pakistan

- ❖ Pakistan took measures to contain Al-Qaeda even before 9/11
- ❖ After 9/11 Pakistan became a frontline state in the 'war on terrorism'
- ❖ War on terrorism seriously impacted the socio-political environment in Pakistan
 - a politically explosive development as people were generally not ready to support the 'war'

The War on Terrorism: its impact on socio-political environment in Pakistan

- the primary 'objective' of US invasion of Afghanistan was widely perceived not winning 'war on terrorism' but to further specific economic and security interests in the region
- significant sections of public opinion perceived it as the beginning of the 'clash of civilisations'
- the invasion led to serious street protests involving loss of life and damage to property in major cities of Pakistan

The War on Terrorism: its impact on socio-political environment in Pakistan

- the economy suffered an estimated loss of over US\$10 billion in just one year – from October 2001 to October 2002
- the religio-political forces opposed to Pakistan's participation in the 'war on terrorism' soon started posing a serious challenge to the already precariously placed liberal elements in the country

The War on Terrorism: its impact on socio-political environment in Pakistan

- in this backdrop, an undue political space was created for the religious right fanning the anti-war sentiment
- the 'betrayal' of their cause further infuriated those masterminding 'terrorism'
- Dec 2003 saw two assassination attempts on President Musharraf

The War on Terrorism: its impact on socio-political environment in Pakistan

- an equally serious attempt in July 2004 on then Prime Minister, Mr. Shaukat Aziz
- the Interior Minister was targeted twice during 2007
- suicide attacks inside Pakistan increased many-fold during 2007
- former Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto was assassinated in Dec 2007

The War on Terrorism: its impact on socio-political environment in Pakistan

- Pakistan over past 5 years lost more than 1000 officers and men of security forces
- 2500 security officials suffered serious injuries, rendering most of them permanently disabled
- 120,000 troops are deployed along Pak-Afghan border to contain Al-Qaeda
- over two divisions of army operating in Wana against Al-Qaida operatives and their local supporters

The War on Terrorism: its impact on socio-political environment in Pakistan

- terrorism and extremism continue to pose a serious threat to domestic, regional and international peace
- on the positive side the 'war' has triggered a range of actions aimed at taming the dinosaur of terrorism, extremism and fanaticism
- it offers a great opportunity to steer Pakistan toward the goal of enlightened moderation

The War on Terrorism: its impact on socio-political environment in Pakistan

- it has set into motion otherwise unenforceable decisions of immense significance toward establishing the writ of law in the country
- it has provided Pakistan with an historic opportunity to emerge on the global scene as an important member of the international community

Terrorist Networks: why people turn to terrorism

- due to political, ideological or religious 'convictions'
- because of perceived oppression, economic deprivation, or social and political injustices
- due to extreme poverty and ignorance
- due to Jihadist motivations
- some are simply criminals for hire

Terrorist Networks: their motives

- to get attention for their 'cause'
- to seek specific political concessions
- to cause mass casualties of those against them or of their leaders
- to show hatred against a particular system or group
- to punish the 'enemies'

Terrorist Networks: how they are funded

- ❖ terrorist networks rely on a variety of sources for funding and logistical support:
 - donations from legitimate business and non government organisations
 - donations from wealthy individuals
 - funds received from government for charitable purposes but diverted to support and sustain terrorism

Terrorist Networks: how they are funded

- self-financing criminal activities such as
 - kidnapping for ransom
 - narcotics
 - organised crime
 - illicit weapons
- foreign sources, both state and private

Strategy to tackle terrorism

- ❖ Government of Pakistan has taken a range of measures to reverse Islamist extremism, including:
 - register all Madarassas
 - stop their use as centers for the spread of religious and political extremism
 - regulate their funding
 - end the Jehadi culture
 - control hate literature

Strategy to tackle terrorism

- deny support to banned organisations
- bring Islamist extremists to justice
- involve media in exposing the dangers of religious intolerance and fanaticism
- ❖ build both Police and Judiciary as basic institutions of Rule of Law; the more credible and effective the criminal justice system, the better the state of internal security

Strategy to tackle terrorism

- ❖ devise a comprehensive strategy for promoting integration with diversity
- ❖ target proactively all supporters of terrorists, including those providing financial and logistical support
- ❖ sensitise media not to glorify terrorists
- ❖ strengthen ban on militant and extremist organisations

Strategy to tackle terrorism

- ❖ strengthen democratic governance by de-politicising state institutions
 - promote plural and tolerant middle class values
- ❖ take effective measures to address corruption and mismanagement
- ❖ develop human and social capital

Strategy to tackle terrorism

- ❖ take steps to mainstream religious Madarassas
- ❖ close all Madarassas supported by banned extremist organisations
- ❖ keep extremist elements under effective surveillance
- ❖ provide adequate funding to build and sustain capabilities of security forces

Strategy to tackle terrorism

- ❖ seek international development assistance in addressing extreme poverty and ignorance
- ❖ promote cooperative rather than coercive national and international strategies to counter terrorism
- ❖ promote inter-faith harmony and civilisational and cultural dialogue

Strategy to tackle terrorism

- ❖ invest heavily in the education system to promote enlightened moderation
- ❖ seek support in resolving long-standing international conflicts that fester terrorism
- ❖ devise and implement an astute National Strategy that takes into account the reasons people turn to terror and, as far as practicable, attempts to address those reasons



THANK YOU