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Tackling terrorism in Pakistan

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Terrorism has become a nuisance for all the citizens of the world especially since the terrorism has taken the form of suicide attacks; this is a phenomenon that cannot be dealt with force. Imagine that a person so motivated that he or she is not afraid to die will eventually end up causing massive destruction. Here in this paper, we discuss the possibilities that can be used to reduce this threat as much as possible; this includes from detection and prevention to reduction of loss of lives. We will also find out that in such event, what else can be done to mitigate the chaos as much as possible. The paper will also focus on ethnic rifts that are brewing in Karachi and might result in explosive situation.

Key words: Terrorism in Pakistan, suicide bombings, genocide, tackling terrorism.

INTRODUCTION

As we all know, terrorism is abhorred by any civilized society. It is a sort of pest that leads to utter destruction and ironically along with that, its prevention is also difficult. We have seen throughout the history how religious fanatics use the holy name of religion to perpetrate their devilish schemes; unlike other terrorists, people religiously motivated try to find soft targets so they can cause maximum casualties (James, 2009). We have examples of crusades that lasted for 200 years leading to mass massacres and sheer destruction of people and cities respectively. According to Laquer (1977), it is impossible to give a broad definition of terrorism as it has appeared in many forms and different circumstances. The reason Laquer gave that statement was because this is an act that has varying meaning for different individuals all over the world. For the Kashmiris, a mere freedom struggle is considered as rebellion by Indians and same is the situation in Russia and Israel and since no consensus is achieved on the actual definition of terrorism, therefore, we constantly see an increase in this activity with the loss of innocent lives. In Asia, this terrorism is taking its toll with the efforts in war against terrorism; all the hatred of extremist religious fundamentalist is on Afghanistan and Pakistan. This region has a tendency to breed extremism. There was a heavy influence of Tamil Tigers in Srilanka; Tamil Tigers

also use suicide bombings to inflict damage but they are less destructive when compared with Islamite extremists. Since 1968 till 2005, Islamists have killed more people than Tamils (Savitch, 2007). These days, India and Pakistan are under severe and constant attack by extremist religious groups. In this paper, we will discuss the impact of terrorism in Pakistan and the view of the educated class (college and university students) about terrorism. This paper also discusses some of the weapons that might prove to be useful in fighting terrorism in Pakistan and how Pakistani government should develop their infrastructure to cater for the casualties of terrorism. Further on, through game theory, we will discuss the situation of Karachi that sits at the flash point as it is a cosmopolitan city which welcomes people from different backgrounds and culture. Karachi is considered as the backbone of the whole country and chaos in Karachi means instability in Pakistan. This makes Karachi the prime target for Taliban and other extremist organizations that operate in the cover of ethnic, political and religious cover to harm this jugular vein of the country.

Possible causes

There are different opinions according to people belonging to different walks of life. Some say that it is all because of foreign intervention; according to others, suicide bombings are a result of lack of education. A

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large group of people say that it is a result of religious extremism. In order to treat this problem, we will have to first come to consensus about the actual causes behind these attacks. In our opinion, no one can do this for money because money is of no use to him after dying and he will have no surety that money will be delivered to his family after his death; therefore, those who say "people do it for money" are wrong. It is usually said that it is foreign intervention - let us make this clear that foreigners never blow themselves up. This trend is existent only in Muslim and Asian countries. We have never seen any European or American blowing himself up or even threatening to do so. The only factor behind it is religious extremism that encourages and motivates people by telling them that all their sins will be neutralized and the only way to attain God's forgiveness is to carry out such attacks. By doing so, they will be killing infidels and those who support those infidels (even if they are Muslims). They convince the simple and young mind to do so in order to get a luxurious life in the here after. We have seen that most of the suicide bombers are from 16 to 25 years of age, and we all know what attracts a young man - status, women and praise. To attract young men, terrorists praise those who have already carried out such attacks. They tell stories of heaven (as if they have been there) and mention beautiful maidens waiting for them in heaven. All this is religiously motivated - like it or not, certain individuals have taken religion in their own hands and all they want is perpetual wars with western society. We have an example of Afghanistan where this is going on for the past 25 years. To get an insight of what people think are the causes of suicide bombings, we did a random survey in the city of Karachi which is considered as one of the most educated and moderate in the whole country. We asked certain questions through the procedure of survey and questionnaires. This is further presented.

METHODOLOGY

In Pakistan, people are afraid to express their ideologies in the open. Many refused while others helped. We did this survey in Karachi - the biggest and most populous city of Pakistan. We went to different universities and distributed a questionnaire in which we asked "is there any possibility of genocide in Karachi" to 238 unique individuals. Similarly, we constituted another questionnaire containing two questions; first question was "what do you think are the causes of terrorism" and the second was "do madrasas (Religious Sanctuary) need reforms to curb terrorism?" Options were 'yes' or 'no'. Those who marked both yes and no come under the category of uncertain.

Both questions (Appendix) were answered by 141 unique individuals (population), but in the first questions, people selected more than one option hence 141 people selected 287 options. In the second question, again, 141 individuals answered either 'yes' or 'no'. Without any shadow of doubt that the population survey is small given the population of Karachi, this is a beginning for a society that is so afraid to openly express their ideologies fearing any repercussions. This for sure represents the concern of youth and common educated class regarding the horrors of terror.

RESULTS

The results represented a mixed reaction. Out of the two questionnaires, we will talk about the first one in which we asked "is there any possibility of genocide in Karachi". Out of 238 unique selections, 156 said yes and 80 said no and 2 were uncertain (Figure 3). The second questionnaire had two questions, first was "what do you think are the causes of terrorism". Here, 141 unique individuals selected 287 different options. Out of 287 options selected, 64 were in favor of 'religious extremism', 47 selections were 'for money', 71 selections were marked against the option 'foreign intervention', 89 selections were done in favor of 'lack of education' and finally, 16 selections were for 'ethnical disparity' (Figure 1). The second question of this questionnaire was "do madrasas (Religious Sanctuary) need reforms to curb terrorism?" Out of a total 141 individuals, 102 (72.3%) said yes while 38 (26.9%) said no and only one was uncertain (he/she marked both yes and no) (Figure 2).

These results clearly indicate the consensus of a common educated man, people clearly think that it is lack of education that is leading the country towards terrorism; along with that, they also blame foreign interventions in form of American attacks in northern parts of Pakistan and Saudi influence as being responsible for religious extremism in the country. Polls indicate that around 72% want reforms in madrasa. This shows that people are tired of extremist doctrines that are being taught in some of the religious institutions; only 27% were against such reforms and then a most vital question that concerns every Pakistani is that, are there chances of genocide in Karachi? This is because in July 2011 alone, roughly 300 people were murdered in the name of sectarian violence the poll indicated that 65.5% fear the chances of genocide in Karachi and 33.6% thinks that no such thing is possible in this era. The results are very important as it represents the fears of educated class and shows that our country is marked by lack of education, extremism, foreign interventions and discrimination and all these factors can destroy a nation and with it the whole region.

DISCUSSION

Prevention and detection

Terrorists are evolving and they have acquired new methods. Suicide bombings are a new form deployed by the terrorists to achieve political objectives (David and Anja, 2010), and to cause anarchy. We have already mentioned the use of ultra wide band (UWB) as something that can be used for detection of suicide bomber (Fauzan et al., 2008). With UWB, radio signals can penetrate nearby surfaces while reflecting through surfaces that are farther away. This capability would allow radar-type applications to detect objects, such as people or weapons, behind walls or under surfaces
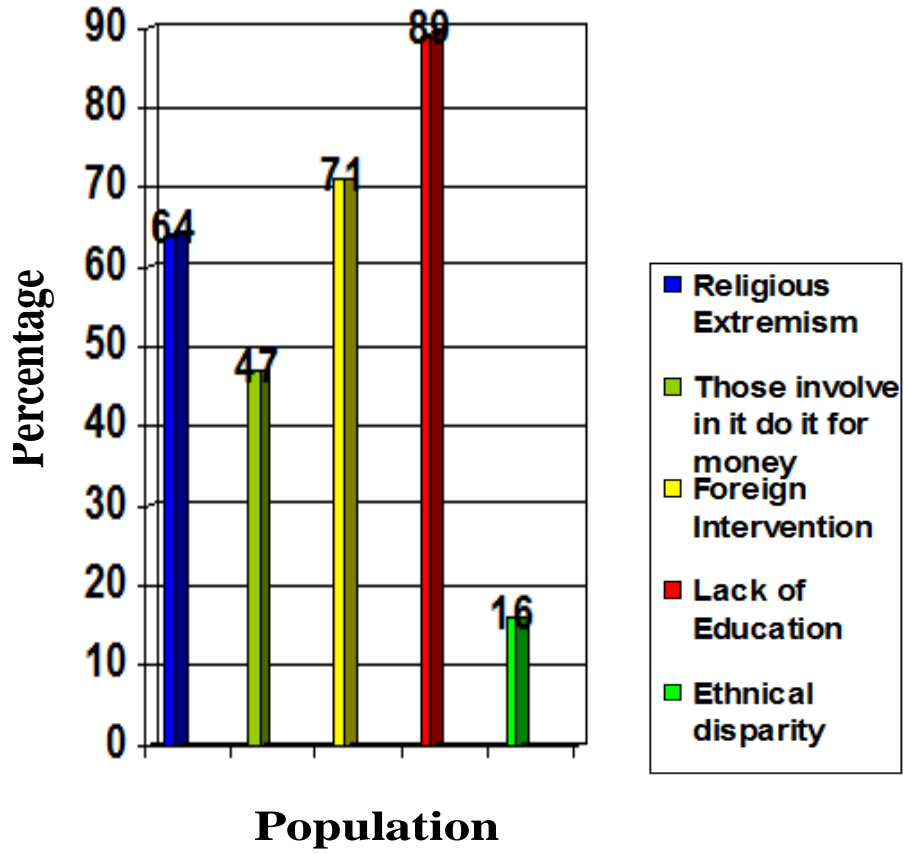
Figure 1. Depicting the choices made by university students in Karachi when asked "what do you think are the causes of terrorism".
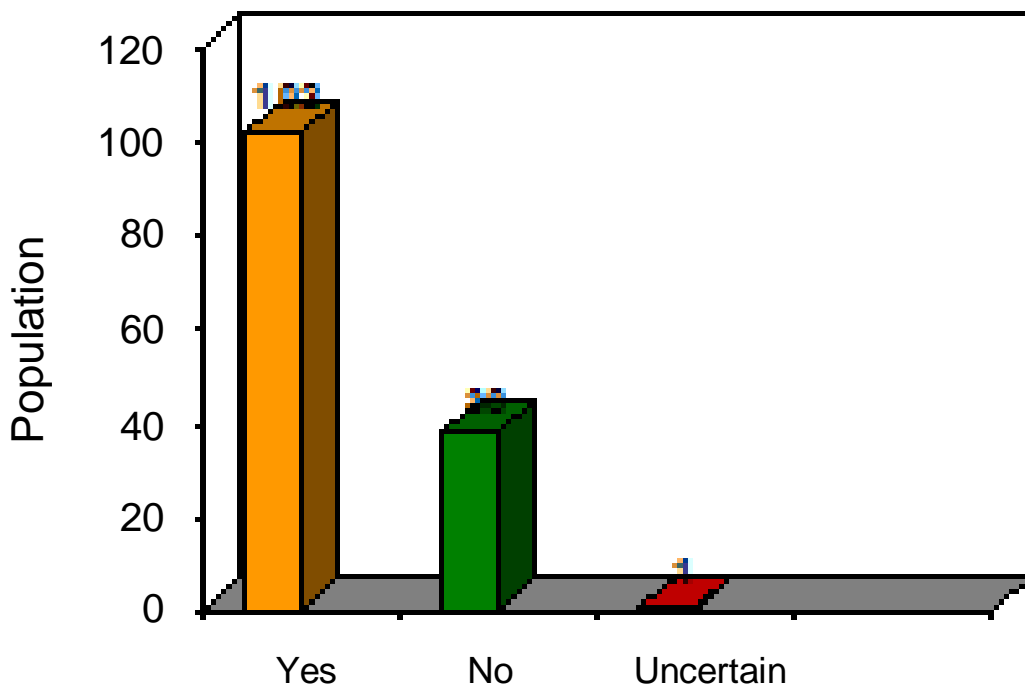

Figure 2. Depicting the number of people in favor and against the reforms in madrasa.
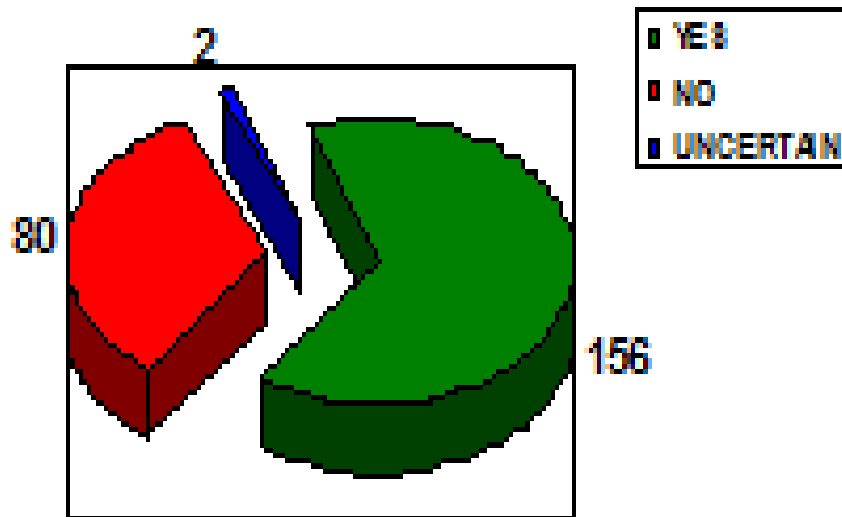
Figure 3. Poll genocide.

(Barr, 2001). This ability of UWB can be used for detection of bombs underground or behind the walls. This concept can also be used to detect bomb vests worn by suicide bombers, as UWB has the ability to reflect objects that are at a distance. Now, if we use UWB in conjunction with electro magnetic pulse (EMP), we can not only detect but can also make a suicide bomber in-effective. The basic work of electro-magnetic pulse is that it has the ability to fry electrical circuits from a simple grinder to airplane. Let us consider a scenario of public gathering where hundreds and thousands of people enter an arena to listen to their favorite politician - this is a sort of occasion where implementing flawless security is unthinkable especially when we consider Asian countries. In this crowd, a suicide bomber manages to enter, there is heightened security around the stage and no one can penetrate this security. The suicide bombers target is the politician; but despite all the efforts, he/she fails to even come close to the target. In desperation, the bomber blows himself up, resulting in scores of casualties and chaos. This is something which is considered as in-curable but the suggestion I want to give here is that this might have been averted. Now, let us see the whole scenario again - this time by including a buffer zone outside the main arena. This buffer zone can act as a passage way towards the central gathering zone. Now, as we know the ability of UWB is that it can traverse walls and metal at short distances and can reflect back at long distances, then it can be used to see suicide vest hidden beneath a bomber's clothing. Once a suicide bomber is detected, he can be apprehended but the problem is that we have seen from some previous accounts that suicide bombers never give up; they are so brain washed that instead of being captured they prefer to be blown up so it is useless to only detect a suicide bomber. There should also be a mechanism that can be used to neutralize the suicide vest. This can be achieved by using EMP that we already know can fry a circuit and make it non-functional. So, our scenario that a bomber trying to enter the main gathering point will first be detected through UWB, and EMP will neutralize his suicide belt, security can now come in and pick him up. The bomber will try his level best to detonate his device but it will be worthless and the culprit will be apprehended. We can also use UWB at toll gates. Like in developed countries, a number of toll gates exist within a city. There, the purpose is to deduct charges as the vehicle passes under the gate. Here, in our case, by using UWB, we can detect vehicles for any suspicious material. This can then be synchronized with our law enforcing mobiles which can pursue these vehicles and stop them before they can wreak havoc.

Casualties of terrorism

By 11 September 2001, world trade towers became a target of terrorism in which thousands of innocent people lost their lives; from then on, the universal search for terrorists was started. America was joined by its allies to fight this disease, among the allies was Pakistan. 10 years on, this fight is still on and Pakistan is at the frontline of fighting terrorism with maximum casualties that no other ally equals. Overall, Asia has suffered a lot to terrorism especially Pakistan, India, Srilanka and Afghanistan. As far as Srilanka is concerned, most of the attacks there were orchestrated by Tamil Tigers which is an internal problem of the country and not related to the global war against terrorism (Taliban and Al Qaida). On other hand, Afghanistan capitulated to Taliban in the first place and their lack of resistance gave the terrorist a platform country of their own in form of Afghanistan. Table 1 is a detail of country wise casualties due to

Table 1. Platform of country casualties due to terroism.

Country	Deaths	Monthly average	Daily average (people)
Pakistan	34738	526	17-18
India	12843	194	6-7
Srilanka	35309	534	17-18

terrorism. In Table 1, the biggest casualty rate due to terrorism is in Srilanka but the positive aspect in case of Srilanka is that there has been peace there since 2010 and no casualty happened in 2010 and 2011 till end of July, but in Pakistan and India, this terrorism is persistent and Pakistan is still suffering more than India having an average of 17 to 18 casualty rate daily. All aforementioned countries do have inequalities in their country especially when it comes to economics and hence, it is in accordance to research by Brain (2007). With majority of casualties actually happening in 3rd world countries, the reality is clearly against the theory Bloomberg and Hess (2010) gave that developed nations have a greater chance of experiencing terrorist attacks than less developed countries (Bloomberg and Hess, 2010). This is the time when Pakistan requires most help from international community to curb and eradicate terrorism once and for all.

Conclusion

We have to take due steps to tackle this menace of terrorism, because otherwise, this nuisance that was once limited to a certain portion of our world will engulf us all in a cataclysmic war. We should learn lessons from the past two world wars that extremism should be nipped in the bud before they could gather any support. Today, most of the Asian countries are going through the same period that Western societies have already seen. It is our collective duty to support the powers of peace and progressive states of the world should be united not only in their statements but also in their actions to root out this evil. Presently, Asia has become an active mount Vesuvius of this world (with Israel-Arab rift and crises in Iraq and Afghanistan differences between Pakistan and India, internal crises in Pakistan between different factions and rivalry between North and South Koreas has given birth to terrorism in the region), which if exploded, will take both Pompeii and Herculaneum (referring to some of the most advance and prosperous countries) with them. Along with religious extremism, steps should be taken to root out ethnic divide in Karachi which if inflamed, would result in wide spread genocide.

Pakistan as a whole is marked by economic deprivation; majority starves while a portion of the society thrives. This reality is in alignment with the theme and conclusion of research of James (2001). Hence, it is necessary that all these issues from religious extremism to deprivation and disparity should be addressed; this is the only way peace will prevail. The only way these problems can be resolved is through public awareness and encouraging them to speak their mind as we mentioned in our study - majority of the moderates fear to speak out, they do not even want to participate in surveys. Our future aim is to enable this on the basis of our present research by encouraging people that their voice has importance and it can be heard all around the world. Finally I would like to end by quoting the last phrase from the golden statement of Sir Winston Churchill, **"**It is better to perish than to live as slaves" Houghton (1948). These are the thoughts that will brew in the minds of the people if the present situation is not properly resolved in Pakistan.

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