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Issue Brief

February 13th: A Gloomy Day

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The day of February 13, 2017 ended in a bloodshed as the sun was set with three major incidents of terrorism across the country. These incidents cost the lives of police official and innocent citizens of Pakistan. Thirteen people including five police officers and civilians were killed and at least 83 others injured in an suicide attack near the Punjab Assembly in Lahore.¹

In addition to the above mentioned incident, three officials of bomb disposal squad were killed in an explosion in Quetta. A security team was trying to diffuse improvised explosive device which was planted near an overhead bridge on Sariab road.² On the other hand, three Pakistan Army soldiers were killed by Indian firing along the Line of Control (LoC).³

It is pertinent to note here that after a long pause of terrorists attacks on Pakistani soil since operation Zarb-e-Azb started, Pakistan has lost more than 50 lives in different attack in the first one and a half month of 2017. Lack of social resilience is the major cause of this fall back of the society in the stream of terror.

What should be the solution? Unfortunately, there is no one line solution to the problems of Pakistan. Intelligence agencies are working their best to serve the purpose, but the government need to empower and equip the police to face modern warfare challenges. It is very depressing to mention here that 60% of the police force is consumed in performing VIP protocol duties⁴. It is dire need of the hour that a strong vigilance system is created which does not allow loopholes on the credible information from intelligence agencies which will only happen when independent, modern and equipped police force is formed.

Much delayed, reforms in criminal justice system must be instituted immediately. Our courts are not able to track terrorism cases because of weak criminal justice system. Lack of evidence, weak prosecution and burden of cases on courts are major hurdles in timely justice.

Last but not least, the Pakistani society on the whole will need to show unity in their lines. Extremism is not the problem of any one individual or institution. Steps on the societal level are necessary. For example, formation of committees in villages, mohallas and towns to report any suspicious activity to

¹ <https://tribune.com.pk/story/1325680/explosion-heard-lahore-casualties-feared/>

² <https://tribune.com.pk/story/1325786/least-five-injured-quetta-blast>

³ <https://tribune.com.pk/story/1325818/three-army-soldiers-killed-indian-cross-border-firing/>

⁴ <http://www.dawn.com/news/684973>

the concerned authorities so that their purpose is served in a manner that such activities can be dealt with in time.