



Voices from FATA

Monthly Newsletter

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This newsletter is an activity of the 'Communities for Change' Project funded by the British High Commission and the Embassy of the Federal Republic of Germany, Islamabad. This is an 11-month project that re-started in May 2011, with the objective to empower the people of FATA to claim and defend their social, political and economic rights.

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Editorial

October is most famously associated with Autumn-the season of regret. We here at CAMP, however, look at it from an entirely different point of view. It is the season of rebirth of renewal. That is exactly the vision we have in mind for FATA. It is time for the rebirth of the region and a reevaluation of its various public impressions.

First, some good news-two children out of those kidnapped in Bajaur escaped their captors and returned to their homes. ("Efforts to recover 27 children" pg 4, Voices from FATA issue 26.) While that is a cause for much joy one cannot help but consider that these two children accomplished something even beyond the capacity of the State, at this point in time. We fervently hope and

pray that all of the innocent children return to their village in safety.

The CAMP team conducted an interview with the Secretary of the Ministry of SAFRON (State and Frontier Regions), Habibullah Khan. We discussed his experiences of administrating FATA and issues of capacity building. What did he have to say?

Find out in subsequent pages.

The Pakistan government has expressed a desire to implement a paradigm shift in the FATA region. It aims to introduce sports as a competitive and healthy alternative to extremism in the area. It is certainly a laudable goal but will it succeed?

Read up on it in this month's newsletter.

The Communities for Change Project has had a very busy month. Several conferences and

discussions were organized in October ranging from a major Round Table Conference on governance issues in FATA to focus discussions and seminars across the length and breadth of the tribal belt.

The details await you in this edition.

With Eid just around the corner we here at the Community Appraisal and Motivation Programme wish all of you peace, long life and Eid Mubarak in advance.

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IN-FOCUS

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Will there ever be Peace?

On October 23, 2011 Khyber Rural Support Program (KRSP) a civil society organization from Khyber Agency organized a Focus group discussion on prevailing situation of peace and security in FATA at Landi Kotal Press Club. This activity was a part of CFC Project of CAMP which is aimed at laying the grassroots foundations for political reforms in FATA. Participants from different political, religious and social organizations took part in the discussion and expressed their views about the ongoing situation in FATA and put forward some useful suggestions. The participants unanimously condemned the drone attacks and Pakistani military operations and demanded to stop the aggression immediately and adopt a strategy to resolve the conflict through peaceful means. They expressed solidarity with affected families especially IDP's. They also demanded the present government to fulfill its obligations that have been pledged to the people of FATA.



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STAND UP!!!

MUTE VICTIMS

On October 23rd, 2011 a civil society organisation KRSP (Khyber Rural Support Programme) organized a village meeting with the help of CAMP on present status of women and children rights with local community women at Malik Nadir Khan Kallay, Landikotal. This activity was a part of CFC Project of CAMP which is aimed at laying the grassroots foundations for political reforms in FATA. The participants took part in the discussion and expressed their views about the status of women and children rights in presence of FCR in

FATA and put forward some useful suggestions. In the meeting FCR was concluded as the main drawback of power structure in FATA and FATA is a Human Rights free zone. At the end of the session they demanded the introduction of democracy in FATA in which Human Rights protection is guaranteed.



Communities for Change: The Evolving Constitutional and Legal Regime in FATA

Community Appraisal and Motivation Programme (CAMP) hosted a Round Table Conference on The Evolving Constitutional and Legal Regime in Pakistan's Federally Administered Tribal Areas in Islamabad on Tuesday October 4th, 2011. The discussion was organized in collaboration with Quaid-e-Azam University's Department of Defence and Strategic Studies (DSS).

The round table discussion, which took place at Quaid-e-Azam University, featured introductions to FATA's various issues by experts such as Justice Ajmal Mian, Dr. Tariq Hassan, Mr. Abdul Lateef Afridi, Mr. Daniel Loyacano and Mr. Babar Sattar. As a part of the FCR reforms committee, Justice Ajmal expressed his joy over the recent signing off on the reforms by the President.

Senior legal advisor, Dr. Tariq Hussain, emphasized the need for an inclusive system of governance for the FATA region. He also said that non-state actors such as the civil societies and the media need to play their part in order to bolster social and economic growth in the tribal areas. Senior lawyer and member of the Awami National Party, Mr. Abdul Lateef Afridi, identified the disconnect between citizen and State in the region. Afridi said that any method of initiating strong reforms in Pakistan must include the integration of FATA in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. Mr. Babar Sattar, prominent lawyer and columnist, said that an almost apartheid-esque situation has been created in FATA where the citizens in the rest of Pakistan have full rights while those in FATA are excluded from this category.

All participants agreed that while the FCR reforms were laudable, more needed to be done in order to bring the residents of FATA at par with the citizens of the rest of the country.



A meeting of minds... Gettin' Together

CBO Bhai Chara arranged a hujra based meeting at village Baro Khail/ Hyder Khail to discuss the human rights violation at family and community level; specifically emphasizing the violation of women and children rights. The participants further highlighted the violation of children rights at the community and school level. It was decided that those present at the meeting would work towards encouraging unity towards protecting the basic women and children rights at village Hyder Khail. They recognized that without

ensuring women and children family rights victims will forever be denied any access to the same rights at the general community level too. A decision was reached to communicate this message to all CBOs working under CFC- project in Tehsil Mirali.



Naveed Ahmed Shinvari, CEO of Community Appraisal and Motivation Programme (CAMP), thanked all the participants for their invaluable insights. He said that CAMP would continue its efforts to bring this important debate to the fore. Naveed observed that the signing of the FATA Reforms into Law was only the first step and more reforms would follow soon.

Jammin' - Tribal Style

ROCK ON!!!

The Community Appraisal & Motivation Programme (CAMP) under the Communities for Change Project (CFC) (sponsored by The German Embassy and The British High Commission) organized a cultural night titled "Mushaira and Music for Peace" here at a local hotel in Peshawar. The activity was attended by a large number of youth (170) hailing from different agencies of

FATA. The event was part of Youth Forum which aimed to build the capacity of youth to reclaim their social, cultural, political and economic rights and raise their voices against HR violation, peace and security and exploring youth energies and potentials and rescuing them from being promoters of violence to the agents of social change.

The event was comprised of two sessions - the first session covered Mushaira (Poetry Competition) in which youth poets and artists from FATA region recite their poems and ghazals highlighting the dark aspects of the Frontier Crimes Regulation (1901), the state of Human rights in FATA, worsening situation of peace and

how it affects the minds of youth.

The 2nd session, Music for peace, also highlighted the potentials of tribal youth and affection for peace, harmony, art and culture. Singers through their songs and music condemned extremism and terrorism in all its forms and manifestation. They also made subtle demands for the improvement and progress of Pashto literature and culture.

Earlier in his welcoming remarks CAMP Project Coordinator Mr. Said Afzal Shinwari explained various initiatives that his organization had taken over the years to inculcate awareness among the younger generation about their indigenous cultural heritage, civil, political rights and their responsibilities.



Administrating FATA

Interview: Habibullah Khan

Secretary, Ministry of States & Frontier Regions (SAFRON), Islamabad.

CAMP: What has your experience working at the FATA Secretariat been like?

Habibullah Khan: It was a wonderful experience working at the FATA Secretariat. There was so much to do. I am proud that during my tenure we have managed to initiate a few fundamental changes. For example, one of the issues in FATA is the staffing of government facilities in the education and health sectors. Through a change in policy, the lower ranks were opened to local recruitment. The appointments were made Agency specific. For senior posts, permission from the government of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa was obtained for Ad hoc appointments exclusively for FATA. Another important point to be appreciated was the excellent coordination with the Pakistan Army and Scouts during my tenure. With their assistance, work on some mega-projects has already started. The cadet college in Wana, South Waziristan has become operational while the admission process for another cadet college in the Mehsud area has also commenced. Similarly, with the aid of the Pakistan Army, work on trade routes to facilitate transporters and increase trade activities between Pakistan and Afghanistan has started. These roads will link with our main highway networks, the Motorway and Indus Highway. Most donors were quite reluctant to work in areas that were not security cleared as per their own standards of security. However, through our continuous dialogue, USAID, Italian government, GTZ and World Bank initiated a number of projects. Those projects are not just on paper but funds have been released and actual work has begun. The World Bank has sponsored a Highway project to be built between Chakdara in District Lower Dir to Nawa Pass on Afghan border passing through Bajaur agency. Another provincial government project aims to connect Chakdara to the Islamabad-Peshawar motorway.

CAMP: Does the FATA Secretariat have capacity issues?

Habibullah Khan: Of course it does. The FATA Secretariat, like any expanding organization, certainly has capacity issues. However, due to excellent teamwork and leadership, FATA

Secretariat has managed to spend the released government allocations and achieve expected targets.

CAMP: What are some of the major problems in FATA in your opinion?

Habibullah Khan: FATA is plagued by two major problems i.e. its recurring security issues as well as rampant underdevelopment. We conducted a survey with the help of international donors, a couple of years ago, that showed that more than forty percent of FATA residents work outside the region. This shows that FATA simply does not have the capacity, at present, to provide livelihood opportunities to its own residents.

CAMP: What solution do you see as someone working in FATA administration for a number of years?

Habibullah Khan: The simple steps towards a lasting solution must include an emphasis on Fast-Track development. The normal working procedures of development agencies must also be modified to suit the socio-economic environment of FATA. Currently, development efforts take too long. FATA social indicators can be significantly improved by filling gaps that exist due to the neglect the region suffered in the past. Government should spend heavily in FATA for the next few years. The best example that can be quoted is one of Germany where West Germany had to spend a large portion of its development funds for a number of years in East Germany so the latter could be brought at par with its counterpart. Now that FATA is the focus of government efforts and receives progressively larger portions of development funds, it is our job to ensure that these funds are spent appropriately and in a short span of time. Development is a slow process and keeping in view the current security concerns it is difficult to give any solid timeline, however, we are treating the entire matter as a challenge.

CAMP: What is your role at the Ministry of SAFRON?

Habibullah Khan: The Ministry of SAFRON is an



umbrella Ministry for provincial and federal tribal areas, levies and Afghan refugees all over the country. My main role, as Secretary SAFRON, is to facilitate our field organizations and oversee their performance in the successful implementation of policy decisions conveyed to them from time to time.

CAMP: There are several concerns regarding a porous border in FATA. What is the Ministry of SAFRON's stance on the issue?

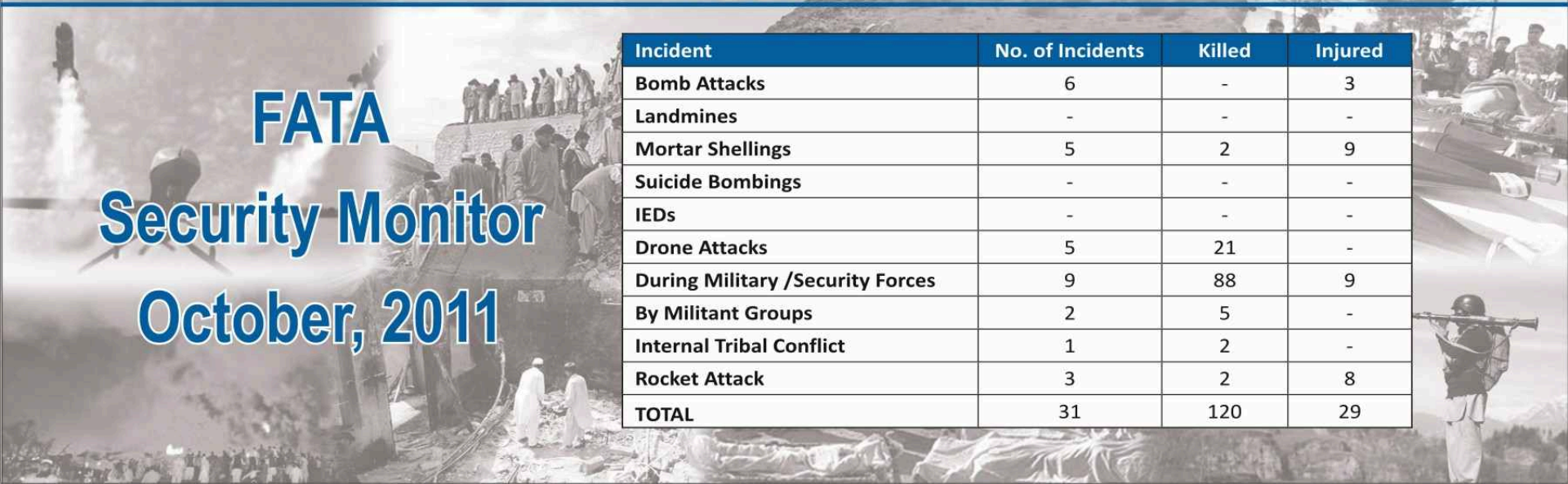
Habibullah Khan: Ministry of SAFRON is a Ministry of the government and we will follow the same policy that is decided at the higher-levels.

CAMP: Regarding the recently announced Presidential Amendments in the FCR, are you of the opinion that they are enough?

Habibullah Khan: Living societies are dynamic and so is the process of reforms that they undergo. The reforms constitute an unending agenda for any government that aspires for the betterment of the population. The recently announced presidential reforms of FATA are a big leap forward. The extension of the Political Parties Act will go a long way in mainstreaming. The case of FCR reforms is similar. It is a major step towards a transparent, accountable and effective system of judicial administration in FATA. Further reforms depend upon the demands of FATA residents and their general acceptability amongst the local populace. FATA parliamentarians have played an active role in developing consensus to initiate these reforms and I think they will play a leading role in the future to propose further reforms about a system of governance similar to the rest of the country, and at the same time compatible with tribal customs & traditions.

FATA Security Monitor October, 2011

Incident	No. of Incidents	Killed	Injured
Bomb Attacks	6	-	3
Landmines	-	-	-
Mortar Shellings	5	2	9
Suicide Bombings	-	-	-
IEDs	-	-	-
Drone Attacks	5	21	-
During Military /Security Forces	9	88	9
By Militant Groups	2	5	-
Internal Tribal Conflict	1	2	-
Rocket Attack	3	2	8
TOTAL	31	120	29



FATA Policy Updates October, 2011

Peace through sports being pursued to combat extremism: Rehman Malik

APP, October 17, 2011

ISLAMABAD: Minister for Interior, Rehman Malik on Monday said Peace through Sports plan was being pursued to bring positive change in the young mindset and combat menace of terrorism and extremism. "I believe that increased focus on Sports will surely bring more people together and greatly facilitate our national efforts to check forces of extremism", he said while addressing a function which was arranged here to sign an accord between National Database and Registration Authority and Pakistan Hockey Federation to promote hockey in the country. He said that the



Sports Minister, Engineer Shaukatullah, had floated an idea that youth must be brought towards sports, adding that the government was implementing the proposal to ensure peace.

The Minister also emphasized the need of more Sports Channels in Pakistan that, he added, would help further promote different sports activities. Announcing 5 million rupees for promotion of Sports in Federal Administered Tribal Areas (FATA), he asked NADRA to facilitate sports associations in the area.

Judo events from 27th

The Nation, October 19, 2011

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Judo Federation (PJF) in collaboration with Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Judo Association will hold 21st Senior, Second-National Junior and Third Inter-provincial Judo championships (Men) from 27th to 30th October at Lala Rafique Sports Arena, Qayyum Stadium, Peshawar Cant. Maqsood Ahmed, Secretary of Judo Federation, announced this in an exclusive



talk with The Nation on Tuesday.

The top 12 teams, from across the country, that will participate in these championships are from

Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Sindh, Punjab, Balochistan, Fata, Islamabad, Army, Wapda, Railway, Police, PAF and HEC.

He hoped that nearly 180 judokas would show their talent, skills and techniques of judo. Teams will reach Peshawar on 27th. The referees and team managers meeting will be held at 4:00 pm.

FATA still awaits implementation of amended FCR

Pakistan Today, October 24, 2011

ISLAMABAD: The amended version of the Frontier Crimes Regulations (FCR), announced by President Asif Ali Zardari on August 12, has not been fully implemented in the Federally Administered Tribal Areas (FATA), parliamentarians and people belonging to the area told Pakistan Today on Sunday.

The president had approved amendments to the much-criticized law, which had been enforced in FATA since the British rule. Major changes were made in laws regarding the collective responsibility of a tribe, restricting the arbitrary nature of the powers of political agents or district coordination officers (DCOs), and granting citizens a right to challenge the decisions of political agents in courts. Muhammad Sajid Turi, chairman of the Standing



Committee on States and Frontier Regions, told Pakistan Today that the previous version of FCR was being followed in FATA. He said the courts, which had to be established after the amendments, had not been set up so far. When asked about possible obstacles for the new FCR implementation, Turi said the unrest in tribal areas could be a main problem.

A notable from Kurram Agency, Said Abbas, also confirmed that the old FCR was being followed.

Anti-polio drive showing failure in tribal areas Staff hid cases of parents refusing to vaccinate children

The Frontier Post, October 25, 2011

PESHAWAR: Despite regular campaigns against polio disease in the country, the Ministry of Health has failed to control it in FATA, as 31 new cases were reported this year. It is expected that the number of polio cases will increase because thousands of children were not vaccinated during July campaign. The health minister on the one hand, says that the department is using all resources to eliminate the disease but on the other hand, confesses that polio

teams are facing hurdles in FATA because of law and order situation there. Lack of awareness isn't helping matters either. Current statistics show that 31 cases have been reported throughout the tribal area with Khyber Agency on top of the list. During the last campaign, started in July, the number of



children that were not administered polio vaccines in Khyber Agency was 66288, Kurram Agency 23925, Orakzai Agency 47706, North Waziristan 7755, South Waziristan 48656, Mohmand Agency 16848 and Bajuar Agency 938. It is feared that the same number of children would be deprived of polio drops in the ongoing campaign, started from October 25, because of non-accessibility and lack of awareness about the disease.

Red tape and militancy delay health projects

Express Tribune, October 26, 2011

ISLAMABAD: More than three-quarters of all foreign-funded projects in the health sector are facing delays, and some may be shut down altogether, threatening essential programmes designed to control diseases such as tuberculosis and AIDS.

Documents at the economic affairs division of the Finance Ministry, made available to The Express Tribune, show that 13 out of the 17 health projects are facing delays. Nearly all of these projects are funded by international donors, including ten by Germany.

Yet, for a variety of reasons, including bureaucratic delays, the government has not been able to utilize the funding available for these projects, many of which are meant to serve the most vulnerable segments of the population, including the militancy-hit tribal areas.

Most of the programmes are geared towards the people living in Khyber-Pakhtunkhwa, the Federally Administered Tribal Areas, Gilgit-Baltistan and Azad Jammu and Kashmir.

Of the \$366.4 million available for the health sector, only about \$138.7 million, or 37.8%, has been disbursed. Sometimes the issue is red tape on the part of the government, particularly in awarding contracts to vendors. Other times, the militancy gets in the way of officials being able to go over to the areas they are meant to serve, particularly in the tribal areas. Not even one project was deemed to have been satisfactorily completed.