

Voices From FATA

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EDITOR'S CORNER

CAMP presents its **49th** edition of 'Voices from FATA' continuing its tradition of bringing news and important views about Pakistan's tribal belt which has been in constant turmoil for over a decade since the beginning of the War on Terror.

The start of a military offensive in **FATA**, Operation **Zarb-e-Azb** (sharp and cutting) though long awaited and welcomed by most quarters, is not without serious repercussions not only for the tribal people but also for the rest of Pakistan. Thus we must not lose sight of the real issue; this operation is not an end – it is a means for 'normalising' FATA – and bears phenomenal human and infrastructural costs for the country. Mosharraf Zaidi, an analyst and commentator points out, "Whilst celebrating the initiation of **Zarb-e-Azb**, Pakistanis need to consider the level of care that is being invested in addressing the things that North Waziristan needs" which include social and economic opportunities, as well as changing the 'special' status of FATA for its mainstreaming into Pakistan. This article titled 'Zarb-e-Azb, smoking and lung cancer' is our cover story for this edition which presents a holistic and practical view of the need for addressing FATA's issues on a priority basis (Pages 2-3).

In relation to security, conditions have deteriorated with the start of the military operation resulting in close to a million displacements – including a majority of women and children – which poses major challenges for the government to fulfil immediate food and hygiene needs. This edition's '**FATA in the News**' on Pages 4-5 followed by **FATA Security Monitor** appears on Page 6 .

CAMP reiterates its commitment towards the current humanitarian crisis and will continue its efforts in contributing towards helping displaced persons in need.

Barrister Irum Ali Khan

Editor and Advocacy Coordinator
CAMP Office, Islamabad

Zarb-e-Azb, Smoking & Lung Cancer

Mosharraf Zaidi

Tuesday, June 17, 2014



Army troopers searching a vacant construction during military operation – ISPR photo

Zarb-e-Azb has begun. The stern military actions that various circles in and outside Pakistan have demanded for years is now finally taking place. Some Pakistanis have expressed their support for this military action with the due sobriety that the situation demands, but I'm afraid far too many seem to be celebrating war. This may be understandable, but it is still inexcusable.

The difference between these savage terrorists, and ordinary Pakistanis lies in the vast gulf between how we value human life and how the TTP and its various affiliates, foreign and local, debase and destroy human life. To celebrate this war is an affirmation of their way of life, not ours. It is also to dishonour the sacrifices and bravery of our soldiers. They fight for this country, its constitution and the ideas and ideals of Sir Syed, Maulana Jauhar, Allama Iqbal and our beloved Quaid-e-Azam. We should take great care and consideration in how we express support for our troops, because they stand for what we stand for. We must honour their sacrifices and bravery by standing firm in valuing human life and rule of law.

The military operation in North Waziristan has been named Zarb-e-Azb.

It is the initiation of what we all pray will be decisive action against a cancer that has long rested, unmolested in our mountains, our valleys, our villages, our cities, our living rooms, and our minds. But as the operation begins, and as we welcome decisive military action against the terrorists, it is more important than ever to ask difficult questions and contemplate the answers and their implications. Support for our soldiers should never be negotiable, nor conditional. Asking difficult questions at a time of war, however, is not akin to undermining support for our soldiers. It is akin to ensuring that the support we provide is resilient, multilayered and sustainable. If our soldiers put themselves in harm's way for us, the least we can do is have the courage to ask the questions that will help prevent them having to go to war for us, again, and again, and again. The first and most important question is whether we understand how we got here in the first place. Do we? There are two answers to this question, in my view. And both are terrifying. The first answer is that we don't really understand how we got here.

But the second, more worrying, answer is that we don't really seem to care

how we got here. Imagine a man with lung cancer, stage four. Things are bad. So bad that surgery is needed, but not so bad yet that surgery is not possible. It is possible. And so the man with lung cancer gets together with his doctor and his family and friends, and puts together enough money to pay for surgery and off they go to the hospital to perform surgery on the tumour in his lungs that is the root of the cancer. And on their way to the hospital, this man, and his family, they smoke Marlboro Lights and Dunhill Switches. All the way to the hospital and all the way into the surgical ward. Smoke, smoke, smoke. What kind of a crazy man would do such a thing? And what kind of a crazy doctor would allow such behaviour? No one. Never.

Launching a military offensive in North Waziristan without having an honest conversation about how it became the international and domestic hub for terrorism that it is very much like the lung cancer patient, walking into the surgical ward with a cigarette in his mouth. It is also more than likely that a successful surgery will not really mean much for this man's smoking habits. If he survives surgery, this crazy man will continue to smoke whatever brand of cigarette works for him. This is the definition of insanity.

The Federally Administered Tribal Areas (FATA) are not on the moon, and they are not another country – yet for almost 70 years, we have treated it like Area 51 – a social, economic and political black hole. Before the CIA and the ISI ganged up to Islamise the crime in FATA, it was just a massive cesspool of criminal activity.

The strange and inhumane laws of Pakistan that afford FATA "special" status provided legal cover to the crime.

But the people of FATA are not a roll of toilet paper that visitors can use and dispose of at will. They are real people with real hopes and dreams. And we can't switch from weeping for their human rights when drones hit their villages to celebrating when munitions from our F-16s hit those same villages. Yet, we can. And we do. And the result is what we have.

And if we keep doing what we do? Well. Then we will keep having what we have.

Does this mean we should not attack terrorist hideouts and targets?

Hogwash. We should have attacked them years ago, but a certain dictator was too busy putting down Hamid Karzai in front of foreign diplomats to bother dealing with a mess he helped create. We should have attacked the terrorists the second they declared their intentions to kill Pakistani civilians.

We have waited this long because we have little national pride. We feign this national pride now because we have no choice. Mullah Fazlullah, a village idiot that we hold in contempt to our own detriment, has played Pakistan for a fool once, and twice, and maybe thrice. A proud nation would quash such cancers at the first sign of a tumour, not hand wring about whether we should be talking to the man, at this late, deep, terminal stage of the disease.

Still, the focus on the fight part of this war is worrisome, and dangerous. It distracts us from the real battles ahead.

Pakistan needs a coherent and cohesive national narrative that can serve to undermine extremists and their agendas. This is the job of elected democrats. Pakistan needs an effective deployment of this narrative.

This is the job of communications professionals. Pakistan needs police stations, courts and prisons that reduce the net number of criminals in Pakistan, instead of adding to them. This is the job of bureaucrats and judges. Pakistan needs a more equitable distribution of social and economic opportunities. This is the job of entrepreneurs and businessmen, of academics and of visionary politicians. North Waziristan is in Pakistan. North Waziristan needs all these things more than the rest of the country does.

Whilst celebrating the initiation of Zarb-e-Azb, Pakistanis need to consider the level of care that is being invested in addressing the things that North Waziristan needs. Some nations can attack places at will, ad infinitum. Pakistan isn't one of those nations. And Pakistan is not attacking a faraway 'place'. It is attacking its own territory. For the umpteenth time. If we don't ask difficult questions and start to do the hard homework, we'll be walking into the surgical ward with a lit cigarette in one hand, and a live grenade in the others. May Allah protect us and guide us all.

*The writer is an analyst and commentator.
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FATA IN THE NEWS

NGOs of KP, FATA concerned over bill to regulate funding

PESHAWAR: Expressing concern over the law proposed by the federal government to regulate foreign contributions, the non-government organisations (NGOs) of Khyber Pakhtun-khwa and Federally Administered Tribal Areas have termed it in violation of a United Nations resolution.

The Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz government has finalised the proposed law draft called Regulation of Foreign Contribution Bill-2014, which would be introduced soon to regulate foreign funds or contributions that NGOs of national and international level receive in the country.

Zar Ali Khan, coordinator for the Tribal NGOs Consortium, said the new regulation was being passed to increase bureaucratic hurdles for the NGOs. He said the government was trying to establish control over the social sector.

Currently, he said the civil society organisations complimented the work of the state organs, adding thousands of volunteers were working through these organisations and contributing towards poverty alleviation, enhancing literacy, improving health. Imran Takkar, a representative of Community Appraisal and Motivation Programme (CAMP), said the NGOs had already registered with the government and the government should have check and monitor the activities, instead of adopting a policy that could affect the foreign funding for the ongoing and future projects. He said NGOs were playing a vital role, particularly in generating employment opportunities, in various of the country.

Qamar Naseem, a representative of the Khyber Pakhtun-khwa Civil Society Network, said the government wanted to control civil society organizations through coercive measures which, he added, would have adverse effects on their working. He said recently several consultative sessions of civil society organisations were organised in Sindh, Punjab, Balochistan, Khyber Pakhtun-khwa and Islamabad by the Pakhtunkhwa Civil Society Network, Tribal NGOs Consortium and others.

The sessions were aimed at discussing the contents and implications of the proposed legislation and its policies, and resulted in the participants developing a comprehensive paper which documented their concerns and recommendations.

a violation of a resolution passed by the UN's Human Rights Council on March 21, 2013, which bars governments from putting restrictions on CSOs access to foreign funds.

The civil society representatives said NGOs in Pakistan were formed independently of the state but they got registered voluntarily to obtain authorisation to pursue activities intended for the public's benefit.

Also, after the passage of the 18th Amendment, provincial governments have a greater role in observing and guiding the work of local NGOs and CSOs, they said.

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One of the recommendations says the government should seek to forge a strategic partnership with NGOs and other stakeholders operating in the non-profit sector in order to achieve its own long-term development goals. Under the proposed regulation, all the NGOs as well as their office-holders in Pakistan registered with the Corporate Law Authority shall have to declare any contribution that they receive from foreign sources.

It says that every NGO/person, who is registered and granted a certificate or given prior permission under this Act and receives any foreign contribution, shall utilise such contribution to meet the needs for which the contribution has been intended, and shall not defray as far as possible such sum, not exceeding 20 percent of such contribution, received in a financial year, to meet administrative expenses.



<http://www.thenews.com.pk/Todays-News-7-249738-NGOs-of-KP,-Fata-concerned-over-bill-to-regulate-funding>

Polio count rises to 66 with 3 new FATA cases

ISLAMABAD - Three new polio cases confirmed from Federally Administered Tribal Areas (Fata) on Monday have taken the total polio case count this year to 66.

The virology laboratory at National Institute of Health

(NIH) Islamabad has confirmed the presence of P1 strain of the wild poliovirus in three children of the Fata (two from North and one from South Waziristan Agency). There are nine districts or tribal agencies in the country which have been found to be infected. Around 92.4 percent (61 out of 66) polio cases this year have been reported from Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and FATA together; of which 74.2 percent (49/66) are from North and South Waziristan agencies. To read more, go to: <http://www.nation.com.pk/national/20-May-2014/polio-count-rises-to-66-with-3-new-fata-cases>

New FATA Television Program to Air this week

The Center for Research & Security Studies (CRSS) TV shows on FATA will start airing on Express TV from Friday, June 6, 2014. Express TV will air these shows twice every week.

The series of 10 shows on ten different themes related to FATA past, present, and future is a unique and historic initiative in the sense that no other Pakistani institution has ever focused on and covered FATA in this way.

Every show begins with a report from the field on a particular theme, followed by interesting and heated discussions among sitting and former FATA MPs, intellectuals, and students as well as some former governors and political agents.

In all, 40 prominent national personalities and 60 students belonging to various FATA regions participated in the landmark television shows to promote dialogue on the future of reforms and governance in FATA, including the desires of FATA residents to be at par with other citizens of Pakistan.

According to reports, the first two program on Friday and Saturday, June 6 and 7 at 7:05pm will be hosted by CRSS director Imtiaz Gul and include prominent panelists, political leaders, journalists and other FATA experts.

http://www.fatareforms.org/new-fata-television-program-air-week/?utm_source=FATA+News+and+Analysis&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=d58d0a4e05-FATA_NEWS_ALERTS&utm_term=0_49be7273aad58d0a4e05-51769637&ct=t%28FATA_NEWS_ALERTS%29

Governor links peaceful Pakistan to peaceful FATA

LANDI KOTAL: Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Governor Sardar Mahtab Ahmad Khan on Tuesday said maintenance of law and order in Fata was the foremost requirement to ensure peaceful atmosphere in the entire country.

"The future of all of us is closely linked to the prosperity and development of our beloved country. To make this happen, we have to focus on future development instead of expressing sorrow about the past agonies," he told a tribal jirga in Tirah Maidan, a far-flung valley of Khyber Agency.

The governor said restoration of peace and normalcy in entire country, particularly in FATA, was the top most priority of the federal government.

He said the sacrifices and the role of the army, levies and other security forces, political administration and the tribal people in bringing peace and stability to Tirah Maidan were commendable.

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Mahtab Ahmad said everyone would have to work with complete unity, cohesion and fraternity to ensure that no one dare cast an evil eye on the country.

Appreciating the spirit of tribal elders, he said he was alive to the misery of the people of Tirah Maidan during the recent past and wanted to assured them that all possible efforts would be made for their complete rehabilitation.

"With the active support and cooperation of the army and the political administration, we will restore stability in real sense, reconstruct damaged infrastructure, resettle all affected people in their own homes and launch development activities here," he said.

The Governor said small dams would also be constructed besides the launch of other development projects and that the area would be made model for other parts of the country.

Read more at: <http://www.dawn.com/news/1111929/governor-links-peaceful-pakistan-to-peaceful-fata>

Govt to bear educational expenses of FATA students

ISLAMABAD: The federal government will bear the boarding and lodging expenses of bright students belonging to Federally Administered Tribal Areas (FATA) who are attaining higher education under the Prime Minister's Fee Reimbursement Scheme (PMFRS).

The scheme will sponsor entire educational expense of such students. It was announced by chairperson Prime Minister Youth Programme (PMYP) Ms Maryam Nawaz while launching PMFRS for the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province and FATA in Peshawar on Monday.

The launching ceremony was also attended by large number of the notables of the area and former chief minister of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Pir Sabir Shah and chairman Higher Education Commission (HEC) Professor Dr Mukhtar Ahmad.

Maryam Nawaz Sharif in her address reminded that the scheme is exclusively devoted for the less developed areas of the country. The ceremony was arranged in the lush green lawn of the Governor House of the province.

The chairperson of the PMYP said education is top most priority of Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif who has initiated fee reimbursement scheme for deserving students of less developed areas covering whole educational expense in a bid to facilitate them to continue their higher studies. She maintained that under the scheme, the federal government would pay hundred percent educational expenses including admission fee and library charges of deserving students up to Rs 40,000 along-with boarding and lodging charges of the Fata students who merits for the scheme.

Maryam Nawaz made it clear that she has not come to Khyber Pakhtunkhwa to criticise the provincial government rather she had come to offer the youth of the province and FATA what they really deserve. Without naming the provincial ruler Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) she said that those who are staging protests in other provinces skipping their own province should have to deliver to their voters and show performance instead of indulging in negative activities like protests and agitation.

She said it is her wish to see Metro Buss like project for the comfort of the people in Peshawar.

The chairperson of PMYP paid glowing tributes to male and female students of FATA and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa for continuing their higher studies uninterrupted despite challenging law and order situation and terrorism threats. Maryam Nawaz said she has accepted the responsibility of Youth Programme as a chairperson for the brighter future of youth, especially of backward areas and maintained that "I have no desire to get a ministry or lucrative post; rather I have assumed the responsibility of Youth Programme as a chairperson so that I could work for the brighter future of youth".

To read the full news article go to: <http://www.thenews.com.pk/Todays-News-7-253744-Govt-to-bear-educational-expenses-of-Fa>

FATA SECURITY MONITOR

TYPE OF INCIDENT	May			June		
	No	Killed	Injured	No	Killed	Injured
Bomb Attacks	3	3	1	2	2	-
Landmine explosions	3	2	5	2	1	4
Suicide bombings	-	-	-	2	7	12
IEDs	6	15	13	2	1	4
Drone strikes	-	-	-	3	22	4
Military/SF operations	4	96	2	13	394	21
By unidentified/militant groups	7	34	5	5	26	9
Inter-tribal/factional clashes	7	28	10	3	17	2
Total	30	178	36	35	486	64

Source: <http://www.satp.org/satporgtp/countries/pakistan/Waziristan/timeline/index.html>

With the arrival of summer, violence in FATA heated up as security conditions deteriorated further due to a rapid increase in bombings, IEDs explosions and suicide attacks. Incidents of violence have been steadily increasing since April and the following two months were no exception; in May incidents involving explosives – bomb attacks, landmines, and IEDs – numbered 12 resulting in 20 casualties and injuring 19 people, while in June the number remained more or less the same at 11 – including two suicide bombings – causing 27 deaths and injuring 28 people in total.

After a long gap, drone strikes resumed in June, targeting suspected militant hideouts in North Waziristan Agency; a total of three strikes were conducted from across the border killing 22 suspected terrorists whilst injuring 12 persons. The Foreign Office, however, neither confirmed nor denied these strikes.

With the start of Operation **Zarb-e-Azb** in FATA has once again become the centre of a renewed war against terrorist groups; the military offensive commenced on 15 June which according to the Defence Minister Khawaja Muhammad Asif will continue till the complete

elimination of terrorists from North Waziristan.

However, this military operation bears huge collateral costs in terms of damage to infrastructure and has forced more than a quarter of a million locals to flee their homes for safety elsewhere; so far the Government of Pakistan (GoP) has registered 7,97,985 IDPs affected due to the ongoing operation in NWA with the help of NADRA. According to the latest official data available on 5 July, the GoP registered 52,978 families including 216,165 men, 243,062 women and 338,758 children. The Ministry of States and Frontier Regions (**SAFRON**), Federally Administrative Tribal Areas Disaster Management Authority (FDMA), Provincial Disaster Management Authority of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (PDMA), Pakistan Army, Civil Administration and other GoP partners continue to coordinate and implement a plan for the efficient management of all IDPs' issues.

While providing aid and assistance, the GoP must also chalk out a long term development plan for the region and eventual repatriation of IDPs to their homes to normalise conditions after the end of the military operation, not only for Waziristan but also for the rest of FATA.