



The Role of Pakistan in the War Against Terrorism (C)

Steps Taken By Pakistan in Curbing Terrorism¹

The air bases of Dalbadin and Jacobabad were very close to Afghanistan and proved vital when the US launched its major military operations of which there were more than 57,000 attacks from these bases. Pakistan also allowed the US to install radar at three of its airfields. Pakistan banned some militant religious organisations and took measures to prevent their re-emergence under other names.

Due to US invasion of Afghanistan, al Qaeda and the Taliban entered the lawless tribal regions of Pakistan where there was no presence of forces. Afghan leaders and fighters who had fought against the Red Army returned to fight against US and coalition forces in Afghanistan. The tribal people welcomed them, allowing them to consolidate their existing network of facilitators and sympathisers. When Pakistan deployed the army to clear the region of militants, Tehreek-e-Taliban Pakistan emerged led by Baitullah Mehsud after the killing of Nek Muhammad.

TTP started to attract militants and rebellious groups in Federally Administered Tribal Areas and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa from 2006 to resist the action of the Pakistan armed forces. Thus emerged the problem of homegrown insurgency and militancy for Pakistan as a result of which there was the rise of extremism within the borders of Pakistan. An alarming manifestation of widespread extremism was the Lal Masjid saga that unfolded in the capital city of Islamabad.

Pakistan made peace agreements with the Taliban, but when they violated the agreement reached with them in Malakand, Pakistan was forced to take the strategic decision to launch military operations aimed at marginalising and eliminating terrorist outfits from tribal areas.

¹ Most of the text has been copied from www.ipripak.org

Major Military Operations to Fight Militancy

- ✓ Al-Mizan Operation
- ✓ Sheradil Operation
- ✓ Zalzala Operation
- ✓ Rah-e-Haq Operation
- ✓ Rah-e-Rast Operation

Agreements with Local Tribes

Continued conflict is not the solution and brings peace to South Waziristan, on June 27, 2002, Pakistan Army entered into an agreement with the local tribes of the area. It was mutually agreed within the agreement that any person found harbouring a foreigner would be destroyed. Pakistan also signed another agreement in Waziristan Agency called 'Nek Muhammad' at Shakai. Peace agreements were also signed with Ahmedzai Wazir militants and Ahmedzai tribes in 2004. Sargodha agreement was signed with Baitullah Mehsud in February 2005. Then in 2006, the government of Pakistan entered into another agreement called 'Miramshah agreement' with local commanders of the Taliban. A sincere attempt to bring peace in the Bajaur agency resulted in Bajaur Agreement on February 23, 2009. The government promised to compensate militants and tribesmen for the loss of life and property during military operations.