


# The Deadly Nexus: Corruption and Fake Encounters

Fake encounters, also known as extrajudicial killings, are a grim reality in many conflict-ridden areas and regions with weak governance. Often shrouded in secrecy and fueled by impunity, these acts of violence often target individuals deemed as threats, dissenters, or simply those caught in the crossfire of power struggles. However, the devastating consequences of fake encounters extend far beyond the immediate loss of life, reaching deep into the fabric of society and undermining the very foundations of justice and human rights.

 **by Absar Syed**



# Monetary Incentives and Bribery

## 1 Financial Rewards for Killings

In a disturbing trend, security forces or their proxies are often incentivized through financial rewards for eliminating individuals, regardless of their culpability. This practice creates a perverse system where human life is reduced to a monetary value, undermining the fundamental principles of justice and accountability. Such payments can be directly linked to specific targets or even incentivize the fabrication of evidence to justify killings.

## 3 Collusion Between Officials and Criminals

The nexus between corruption and fake encounters often involves a dangerous collaboration between state actors and criminal elements. This collusion can take many forms, from officials deliberately facilitating fake encounters to receiving bribes from criminal groups to orchestrate the elimination of their rivals. This blurring of lines between law enforcement and criminal activity erodes public trust and undermines the rule of law.

## 2 Bribes to Cover Up Fake Encounters

In many cases, officials responsible for investigating alleged crimes are susceptible to bribes, allowing them to turn a blind eye to fake encounters or manipulate evidence to support a fabricated narrative. This corruption creates a vicious cycle, where perpetrators are emboldened by their immunity from prosecution and victims are denied justice.

## 4 Undermining the Rule of Law

The practice of fake encounters undermines the fundamental principles of due process, fair trial, and the presumption of innocence. When individuals are killed without trial or even the opportunity to defend themselves, it sends a chilling message that the law does not apply equally to all citizens. This creates a climate of fear and insecurity, where individuals are afraid to speak out against injustice for fear of becoming the next victim.





# Financial Rewards for Killings

## Economic Desperation and Incentives

In areas where poverty and unemployment are rampant, individuals may be driven to extreme measures to secure their economic survival. Security forces or armed groups often exploit this vulnerability, offering financial incentives for individuals to participate in fake encounters or provide cover for perpetrators. This creates a dangerous environment where individuals are forced to choose between survival and ethical conduct.

## Profit-Driven Crime

In some cases, fake encounters are orchestrated as part of a profit-driven scheme. Criminals may use the threat of violence to extort money from individuals or businesses, or they may use fake encounters to eliminate rivals and gain control of illicit markets. In these cases, the motive for violence is not solely about eliminating threats but also about generating financial gain.

## Internal Power Struggles

Internal power struggles within security forces or armed groups can also drive the practice of fake encounters. Individuals may be eliminated to silence dissent, eliminate rivals, or consolidate power. In these cases, financial rewards may be used to incentivize loyalty and ensure the cooperation of individuals involved in the killings.

# Bribes to Cover Up Fake Encounters



1

## Fabrication of Evidence

Bribes can be used to influence the fabrication of evidence, such as planting weapons on victims or altering crime scenes to create a false narrative of justification for the killing. This manipulation of evidence ensures that perpetrators can escape accountability and maintain their position of power.

2

## Suppression of Investigations

Bribes can also be used to suppress investigations into fake encounters. Officials may be incentivized to close cases prematurely, ignore witness testimony, or obstruct the collection of evidence. This systemic corruption creates a climate of impunity, where perpetrators are emboldened and victims are denied justice.

3

## Impunity for Perpetrators

The lack of accountability for fake encounters creates a cycle of violence and terror, where individuals are afraid to speak out against injustice for fear of becoming the next victim. This erosion of trust in law enforcement and the justice system weakens the