

## **Pakistan Counter Terrorism Policy since Zarb-i-Azab: Challenges and Prospects for Peace and Security**

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### **ABSTRACT**

Terrorism is not a new phenomenon in 21st century. It is as old as human nature has the lust to gain maximum power for maintenance of peace and security. Since 9/11 Islamabad is facing terrible and protracts acts of violence, extremism, abduction, target killing and explosions. Above mentioned factors became a reason to worsening the peace and security of the country. There are many ways to eliminate the root causes of terrorism from negotiation to military operations. Pakistan has formulated a counter terrorism doctrine from 2002-2008. Former General Ashfaq Pervez Kiyani (Retired) initiated this doctrine and developed framework to stop further terrorists activities through political solutions, agreements, deals and last resort as military operations. Military operations intensified after beheading of soldiers, Pakistan 9/11 (APS), Char Sadh University attack and still these operations are on flow. So, it is difficult to evaluate success of Zarb-i-Azab led by retired General Raheel Sharif due to the start of combing operation as a lexicon to operation Zarb-i-Azab. The short comings are remained to achieve whole objective of operation Zarb-i-Azab in term of lack of trust among Pakistan's military, civil government, in United States and Afghanistan. To the maintenance of peace and sustainability of the region there should adopt peace building measures.

**Keywords:** *Pakistan, Government, military operations, Taliban's, Afghanistan and United States of America.*

### **Introduction**

Terrorism is a form used by individual or group for several diverse reasons and it does not identify who use it or what strategies he use (Neuman, 2008). It indicates that it may be implicitly employed to gain selfish ends. According to Kraus and William, "security is a derivative concept: it is meaningless itself. Security necessarily presupposes something to be secured: as realm of study it cannot be self-referential". Realist theorists perceived, "security as the sub-derivative of power or many other theorists imitate it parallel to power, while liberalists believe that security is essential for maintenance of peace." The contemporary position of the world is far away from certainty due to intervention of multiple players to retain peace (Javaid, 2016).

From independence, Pakistan is encountering serious security threats. It is facing the challenges of peace and security from a colossal neighbour. Afghanistan complex situation since the involvement of Russia that has not only disturbed the social, political, economic and cultural of Afghanistan rather transformed it towards Pakistan. Terrorism emerged as a phenomenon in the world after the US strategic policies towards central republicans in the time of involvement of Russian forces in domestic and political affairs of Afghanistan (Javaid, 2016).

Since 9/11, Pakistan had utmost need to use an effective counter terrorism policy to maintain stability. Paul Wilkinson argues that, “there is no universally accepted counterterrorism policy because every conflict has its own unique characteristics regard terrorism.” The Oxford English Dictionary defines counterterrorism, “as political, military actions or measures intended to combat, prevent, or deter terrorism, sometimes with the implication that the methods utilized resemble those of the terrorism” (Ahmed, 2014).

Why Pakistan had supported the United States of America (USA) to launch military operations in Afghanistan? Pakistan always wanted global peace and security and lend its help USA by Shamsi air base place and etc. Pakistan’s army itself has conducted military operations against terrorists who entered Pakistan’s Northern areas as a result of planned American’s military operation by Operation Enduring Freedom in Afghanistan. The reason behind Operation Enduring Freedom from United States of America remained to target Taliban’s and other foreign militants.

On the morning of September 11, 2001 nineteen terrorists hijacked four commercial passengers jet flying from the airport on the Eastern part of the country. Two of them hit the world trade centre; third one hit Virginia upon pentagon, while fourth one could not achieve target, rather crashed in Pennsylvania. The rate of casualties and loss of lives were almost 3,000. Above mentioned towers demonstrate the American power and influence; pentagon is the head quarter of United States department of defense. It is assumed that 9/11 had disturbed the international peace and security. Why Bin Laden, Al Qaeda attacked United States of America either to disturb the national and international peace and security? ([www.bbc.co.uk/history/events/the-September-the-terrorists-attacks](http://www.bbc.co.uk/history/events/the-September-the-terrorists-attacks)).

Osama bin Laden had founded Al Qaeda in 1988 as a result of end of Sunni Islamist group. Al Qaeda terrorist’s activities traced back in 1993 until 9/11. Al Qaeda has targeted USA forces for instance; shooting down of two American helicopters in Somalia in October 1993, the assassination of nineteen Americans during bombardment upon military housing complex in Saudi Arabia in 1996. In 1996, Osama Bin Laden a terrorists launched a guerrilla war against American forces in Arabian Peninsula. The United States embassy of Dar ES Salaam and Nairobi has also victimized in 1998 as a result of loss of 223 lives. Moreover terrorist’s suicide attacked upon United States Cole in 2000 which damaged seventeen servicemen and thirty nine people. At least the Federal Bureau Investigation placed Bin Laden on their ten most wanted culprits, offered a reward of \$25 million ([www.bbc.co.uk/history/events/the-Sept-ember-the-terrorists-attacks](http://www.bbc.co.uk/history/events/the-Sept-ember-the-terrorists-attacks)).

There are many interests of international actors behind counter insurgency and counter terrorists operation is to secure peace in world. One is to defeat Al Qaeda’s and other foreign militants group that threatened United States’ interests. Second is to prevent militants group of acquiring nuclear weapons. Since 1945 Pakistan government had won such counter terrorists operations only three percent, twenty two percent ended in a draw, eighteen percent are ongoing. It will demonstrate that Pakistan will not be able to counter militant’s threats in long run unless it will perform a more effective job (Jones & Fair, 2010).

## Pakistan Counter Terrorism Policy since Zarb-i-Azab: Challenges and Prospects for Peace and Security

United States of America and Xinjiang praised Pakistan's efforts to suppress terrorists because Pakistan also earlier becomes a global partner to fight war against terrorism that is why USA has lifted all kinds of economic sanctions. Pakistan has been provided with civil as well as military aid earlier in term of Kerry Lugar bill was one of the manifestations for economic assistance to Pakistan further gives five billion dollar to affected people of Pakistan in the result of war on terror. United States had provided 700 million dollars for military trainings fund to end terrorists network (Report, 2015).

### **Counter Terrorism Military Operations**

#### **Post 9/11**

After 9/11, Pakistan's government decided to launch military operations against terrorists. Pakistan's former president Pervez Musharraf helped the United States - led Operation Enduring Freedom in term of extensive land, air and seaport accessibility and other logistical and security related provisions to target al Qaeda and other militants. As a result, Pakistan's started military operations mainly in Federally Administered Tribal Areas against militants, also produced challenges in rest of the country. Moreover, at that time; the huge and diversified groups of militants under the leadership of Baitullah Mehsud, leader of TTP( Tehrek e Taliban Pakistan) in South Waziristan to counter the incursion of Pakistan's military in South Waziristan. To suppress the militants during military operations, Pakistan's administration had made an attempt to conclude a peaceful agreement with them. Militants were agreed upon a conventional deal to demand compensate of the loss of lives of militants also allowed them to retain their small arms. Only at that time they would not only harbour the foreign fighters but also wanted to set up a parallel government. That is why the peaceful agreement was broken down (Jones & Fair, 2010)

Post 9/11 led towards the counter strategies of Pakistan army which conducted four large scale and eight medium-to-small-scale counterterrorism operations against militants. It has destroyed their physical strength to a greater extent (Basit, 2015). Pakistan army has concluded more than 1087 military operations, 323 major and 776 minor operations against TTP. These included Operation Enduring Freedom (2001-2002), Operation Al-Mizan , The Equilibrium ( 2002-2006), Operation Zalzala, Earthquake (2008), Tri Star operation (2008), Black Thunderstorm district (2009), Operation Sher-e-Dil, Lion's Heart (2008), Rah e Haq, The Path of Faith I,II,III ( 2007-2009),Operation Rah-e-Rast , the righteous path (2009), Brekhnal operation, Light (2009), Rah e Nijat, Path of redemption (2009-2010), koh e Sufaid, White mountain operation (2011), Khyber I,II(2014-2015), Operation zarb-e-azb; the Sword of PBUH (2014-2016), Combing Operation, 2016-uptill (Afridi, 2016).

Considering the historical context of Pakistan Afghanistan bilateral relationship, United States of America had launched an operation, Operation Enduring Freedom to prevent terrorist's activities from Afghanistan. Since 9/11 Pakistan has played a significant role in Operation Enduring Freedom to facilitate the United States of America through given access to overflight, landing rights to United States military and intelligence units to provide intelligence and immigration

information, cut off logistical support and cut down the relations of taliban militants. Pakistan has also provided them several places to launch operations, for example; Jacobabad, Dalbandin and Shamsi. United States has also installed radar to facilitate extensive coverage of Pakistan's air space. Moreover, Pakistan army has deployed its troops, army soldier, and frontier corps first to the security of Pakistan Afghanistan border to launch military operations to prevent the terrorist's infiltration across border areas. In 2001 and 2002 to protect the border security issue, Pakistan army fixed two brigades XI corps and nine divisions to eradicate terrorist's activities.

Ambassador Wendy Chamberlin appreciated the role of idiosyncratic Pakistan's army as front line ally to counter terrorism by overthrow the taliban's regime in Afghanistan for security and sustainability. Deputy Secretary of State Richard Armitage addressed, "Musharraf did not push hard against the taliban's but it was cooperated only to targeting prominent leaders of Al Qaeda. Operation Enduring Freedom was remained successful to achieve its objectives but in the result, Pakistan's own national security and stability stumbled when Osama bin Laden and Ayemen al Zawahiri infiltrated into Pakistan (Jones, & Fair, 2010).

Between 2002 and 2008 operations were conducted by Pakistan security forces in North Waziristan against Baitullah Mehsud, Nek Mohammad Wazir and other foreign militants. (Khattak, 2011). These military operations were concluded with two peace agreements between Taliban and Pakistan government. One was Shakai agreement in March 2004 other was Sararogha in February 2005 which conceded more power and influence to militants in the region. The outcome of the peace deal remained fruition for Pakistan's but not for Durand line state. Sher-e-dil operation had conducted September 2008, in Bajaur agency against all militants. Under this operation almost in December 2008, one thousand militants and sixty three security personnel had been killed. Operation Sirat e mustaqeem conducted in June 2008, Bara, Khyber and FATA. It was launched by army's 40m infantry division. The reason behind such operation is the kidnapping of six women, sixteen Christians by Lashkar-e-Islam. During it two militants and one soldier was dead. However, later it was stopped in the result of flew of main leaders of TTP to another areas.

The operation Rah-e-Rast was conducted by military in the result of failure of peace agreement between militants and Pakistan. In May 2009, Operation Rah -e - Rast was launched in Swat to ensure peace in Mingora by Pakistan army against to regain its control over Mingora. The objective of operation rah-e-nijat is to get evacuate the region of South Waziristan from militants. During such operation military has utilized gunship, helicopters and air crafts. On July 4, 2011, operation koh-e-sufaid launched against militants in Kurram Agency to secure the reopening of Thall Parachinar road which has controlled over by Sunni militants (Adiya, 2016),(Operations.<https://www.liverostum.com/Pakistan/army-operations/1025510.html>).In 2011 four Uzbek terrorists attacked upon Pakistan National Security base in Karachi. In 2012 and 2013 Uzbek militants attacked on Bannu and Dera Ismail Khan Jail to free their one hundred and seventy militant's fellow included Adnan Rasheed of TTP and Jundullah (Akram, 2016).

Pakistan's role as a front-line state in the "war on terror" produced massive destruction in Pakistan's socio-economic sector. in the result to counter further

## Pakistan Counter Terrorism Policy since Zarb-i-Azab: Challenges and Prospects for Peace and Security

expansion of terrorist's attacks in whole country in 2013 Pakistan national assembly passed the National Counter Terrorism Authority bill. In 2010 it revitalized the policies of National Counter Terrorism Authority (NACTA) also announced its legislation through established first National Internal Security Policy on February 25, 2014. Moreover, parliament passed 21st amendment on January 7, 2015 after serious terrorist attack to provide legal cover to the National Action Plan. Former Chief of army staff Gen., Raheel in his addressed expressed that, "we shall not relent until all terrorists, their financiers, abettors, facilitators and sympathisers are brought to justice" (Ahmad, 2015).

### **Counter terrorism Policies and strategies**

#### **National Internal Security Policy**

In 2014, Pakistan cabinet has approved (NISP) National Internal Security Policy to protect and guarantee the territorial boundaries. Moreover the government of Pakistan presented the NISP in the national assembly on February 26, 2014 to form political harmony to counter terrorism and maintenance of peace and security. It is classified in to three parts; strategic, operational and secret. All of three integrated with each other in first the government made efforts to explore talk with militants. At second level the government ensure the security of public through a series of concerned efforts at ground and national level. Moreover the secret part of the NISP remains confidential. These are the following main points of NISP

There is a need to establish Directorate of Internal Security (DIS) under (NACTA) National Counter Terrorism Authority, integrating, all grids of tactical operational and strategic intelligence, civil and military, less than one roof. There is a need to organize a modern, well equipped federal RRF Rapid Responsive Force to coordinate among police and anti-terrorism departments. The government should integrate mosques and madrassas in the national and provincial educational establishments. There should a comprehensive nationwide arms control regime. It is mandatory to prevent misuse of cybercrimes and electronic devices that volatile peace and security of the country. In the result of confrontation among political parties and lack of harmony the government remains fragile to implement it whole heartedly. The military should launch operation against militants in North Waziristan to maintain peace and security (Rumi, 2015).

#### **National Action Plan**

The national action plan essentially reshapes the consequences of NISP along death penalty for convicted extremists and establishment of special military courts to fast-track terrorism related trials of "jet black" terrorists. After terrorists attack on Army Public School at Peshawar in 2014 all party conference concluded a twenty point NAP through mutual harmony among political administration to ensure the protection of the country through eradicate the root causes of terrorism. The agenda of national action plan has following points are; Special trial courts should form under military officers, Government should inhibit all militants organizations. NAP should strengthen and activate NACTA. According to NAP, state should take steps against financial sources of terrorists. State officials should

organize special antiterrorism forces. Pakistan being an Islamic republic state should guarantee freedom to religious minorities (Rumi, 2015).

Government should dismantle terrorist's communication network. State should ban the exaggerated rumours of militant's activities on the internet and social media. Ban airing news of terrorist organizations in (FATA) on return of (IDPs) autonomy should give to Baluchistan to handle security. In keeping view of National action plan government should frame comprehensive policy for Afghan refugees should act against sectarianism also should endure Karachi operation (Rumi, 2015).

The present situation of Pakistan stated that the act of terrorism to some extent controlled day by day. But its challenges and prospects remain on another side in the result of military operations. Through affective policies of NAP to establishment of special military courts the civilian actors realize importance of the state machinery along military strategies which handle state affairs in a better way (Malik, 2015).

Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif expressed that, "we desire more towards talk even then we were being targeted but from supreme courts to Karachi air terminal we were being attacked, our masjid's and schools were also targeted. The on-going operations would finish up just annihilation of terrorists. We will change the destiny of this nation further it will never provide a place for breeding terrorists. Whatever the cost, it will never be given over to militant. If we did not take step to counter terrorist organization it will prove further harmful for our country (Javaid, 2015).

The prime minister of Pakistan had shown a lot of patience and exhausted all peaceful ways to dismantle the terrorist's network. There is a general political support for operation Zarb-i-Azb through PPP, MQM, and ANP favoured it. Whereas Jammāt-e-Islami and Jammiat-e-Ulema Islam (F) against the military operations. From opposition leader Syed Khursheed Shah welcomed it and assured his parties full support towards armed forces (ICG, 2016).

The consequence American involvement in Afghanistan lead to downfall of Taliban has compelled them to leave it and migrate towards FATA also in other geographical limits of Pakistan. The external factors are responsible to jeopardize Pakistan but the above mentioned military operations for maintenance of peace and security but none of them proved to be successful (Javaid, 2016). This is the cause to conduct another military operation in North Waziristan Zarb-e-Azb.

### **Zarb-i-Azb and its consequences**

Hazrat Muhammad (S.W) utilized a sword in Badar and Uhud and it is not yet finished. A full scale military operation in North Waziristan launched on the name of sword of Hazrat Muhammad, zarb-e-azb (Javaid, 2015). The result of it recognized by USA likewise that the endeavours of Pakistan armed force in destroying terrorist network is quiet appreciate able. Operation zarb-e- azb commenced by Pakistan army when TTP, 15 militants attacked Jinnah International airport at Karachi on 8 June 2014, almost 2,500 security persons hostage for seven hour (PILDAT Report, 2015), (Javaid, 2016).

## Pakistan Counter Terrorism Policy since Zarb-i-Azab: Challenges and Prospects for Peace and Security

All these operation could not result in to better outcome. That is why Zarb-e- Azb operation was started after the previous operation Rah -e- Nijat, a major and last military operation to target the TTP militants in South Waziristan. In the result various Islamic militants faced difficulty and reluctance to enter in, (FATA) Federally Administered Tribal Areas, North Waziristan. The purpose of zarb -e- azb is to eliminate the Al Qaeda and its associated movements such as Islamic Movement of Uzbek, Chechen Islamic Jihad Union, Emirate-e-Kaukav, East Turkish Islamic Movement and TTP disturbed socio, political and economic aspects of Pakistan's national security.

The international community stressed Former Chief of Army Staff General Ashfaq Pervez Kiyani in 2011 to launch military operation in North Waziristan Agency against refuge Islamic militants. "We will undertake operations in North Waziristan the operation Zarb- e -azb is remarkable because at that time the rate of destruction go down and operation rah- e -rast was profoundly demonstrate successful operation. It effectively removed terrorists from Swat to ensure the return of Internally Displaced persons back to their home. When we want to...we will undertake such operations when it is in our national interests militarily" stated by general Yaseen (Zahid, 2015).

It was realized by the government of Pakistan after June, 15 2014 that operation Zarb e Azb had concluded fruition talks with TTP. Pakistan army is getting edgy due to the huge strikes of insurgents against military operation. During operation zarb- e -azb Pakistan three stars General Sanaullah Niazi the fourth Pakistan army general had died in the result of bomb explosion by militants attack in Uppar Dir district near Afghan border (The News International, 2013). In February 2014 operation Zarb- e -Azb getting more intensive as compare to earlier one due to the violent action of TTP beheading of twenty three soldiers of Pakistan Frontier corps. Moreover with the assistance of insurgents attacked upon the Jinnah International terminal of Karachi, targeted twenty eight personnel (Khan, 2016).

The horrible incident of Wagha border resulted by militants attack on November 2014. In the result it led to demonstrate the casualties of 255 injured another attack by Jamaat- ul- harrar a faction of TTP injured two hundred people and died fifty five. Another horrific attacked by militants under leadership of Mullah Fazullah in 2014 at Army Public School known as "Pakistan's 9/11" due to the claim of loss of 142 lives out of them 132 were school going children (Zahid, 2015).

There are some weaknesses in operation Zarb-e-Azb in one year of effort although it has gained a lot of success but not fully achieved objective due to non-cooperation element from Pakistan's Afghan government. If they cooperate surely, they shall stop the penetration of insurgents to Afghanistan. The absent of mutual harmony between two country led the militants to a safe place because militants affiliated with 400 families than lived lawless part of Afghanistan. (Zahid, 2015).That is why operation become more intense such strategies to counter terrorism had utilized by military based upon aerial support; radio transmitted wave's communication to deployed armed forces in the militants surrounded areas. Later army bombed terrorist's places by using artillery, jets and helicopters to

reduce the casualties of civilians by evacuated locals from insecure areas (Khan,2016).

During General Sharif visited to Gwadar on April 12, 2016, highlighted the importance and success of “operation zarb-e- azb is not only an opportunity but a wholesome concept but the primary objective of zarb -e-azb was remained to destroy the syndicates of terrorism, extremism and corruption” (Khan, 2016). During a decade of military operations in Pakistan from 2002-uptill, lack of coordination between two autonomous bodies of Pakistan Afghanistan continuously create hurdles to maintain status-co. The major consequences is it weakness that come out in the result of flew of TTP leader like Mullah Fazullah, Adnan Rashid, Omar Khorsani, and Gul Bhadur still had not killed (Zahid, 2015).

Owing to the mentioned weakness about it gave insight that the Zarb -e- Azb had not been fully achieved aim that is why we have started another operation called it “Combing Operation” in Shahwal stated by former chief of army staff Gen, Raheel. A military official stated that “combing operation can be undertaken anywhere in the country. We shall follow terrorists everywhere and use every strategy to defeat them” (Syed, 2016).

There remained few weakness during military operation in Pakistan is that it is completely based upon military actions. In spite of military actions some important steps should take by civil administration in educational reforms and cultural integrations are needed to fill the vacuum it could maintain peace, by investments in roads, networks, creating jobs and linking remote areas with other parts of Pakistan (Khan, 2016).

Operation zarb-e- azb is considered a biggest blow for terrorists in the world. It comprises of 180,000 security soldiers. It is completed by comprehensive “national internal security policy and national action plan.” It endeavour through several military actions, enormous political social and economic policies to counter extremism (Ahmad, 2015).

Major General Asim Saleem Bajwa stated that in 9,000 intelligence based operation (IBO) 2763 militants had been assassinated including 218 terrorists commanders. Another military official stated that approximately eight hundred and thirty seven covert places of terrorists have been destroyed and huge amount of explosive nearly two hundred and fifty three ton captured. It has also recovered 18,087 “arms, kalshankov, heavy machine guns, sniper rifles, rocket launchers and AK-47s” during it (Akram, 2016). International donor and powers acknowledge the efforts and result of zarb-e-azb team by considering the honour of 347 martyred of soldiers during it to further killed 2,763 terrorists for peace and security of country (Yusafzai, 2015).

Moreover, in the outcome of peaceful visit of Chinese President Xi Jinping and many other dignitaries also the peaceful visit and success of Zimbabwe cricket match team in T 20 have proved the success of military operations in Pakistan. Chinese President stated, zarb -e- azb proved a “game changer” not only for Pakistan somewhat for South Asia (The Express Tribune, 2015). Another success of operation zarb- e- azb is decreased rate of death and casualties in the outcome of terrorist are activities in Federally Administered Tribal Areas. These are 2,863



## Pakistan Counter Terrorism Policy since Zarb-i-Azab: Challenges and Prospects for Peace and Security

deaths in 2014 and it led towards 411 pro rata reduction of around a third in first three month of 2015. Pakistan Finance Minister Ishaq Dar stated that the total cost of military operation zarb- e-azb against insurgents approximately \$ 1.3 billion (Zahid, 2015).

From 1980 to present almost two generation of Pakistan paid a heavy price of terrorist's activities; in terms of social, cultural and economic field. Operation zarb -e-azb is ongoing and entered in its second phase to achieve success in country. A significant area of Miranshah recovered 80% after long lasting effect of operation zarb -e-azb. Why military has compelled to utilise strategic cooperation with government to end this wave of terrorism from volatile region of Pakistan? This is the reason that due to pressure of opposition leadership and public uproar the newly elected leadership of Pakistan has adopted a tool of unconditional dialogue with Tehrik-i- Taliban Pakistan in the concerned area (Malik, 2014).

Major General Asim Bajwa stated it is a war of survival also a time to end terrorism. The head of army has determined they would not only capture such militants those who threatened peace and stability of Islamabad relatively the army has sealed the surrounded area of agency also 180 km border towards Afghanistan. In such means it is difficult for terrorists, militants to escape from boundary of South Waziristan (Progress Secretariat, 2016).

### **Challenge of Internally Displaced Persons**

According to UN Guiding Principle (1998), Internally displaced persons are those who have been forced or obliged to leave their homes in result of armed conflict, situations of generalized violence, violations of human rights either natural or man-made disasters, also have not crossed an internationally-recognized state border are called internally displaced person. The United States stated that under international or domestic law IDP's are eligible to enjoy equality and freedom in their home country as well (Hameed, 2015).

At times this strategy of state proves fruitful for sustainability of her country peace but it has created a lot of challenges to government of Pakistan in the existence of Internally Displaced People. People feel insecurity and harm instead of success of Pak army in operation zarb-e-azb because they suffer from huge destruction of not only infrastructure also loss of many lives. This blood shed war in war torn areas compels people to migrate from their home town to other areas for better future and peaceful live. It is a big challenge to state craft to settle them through curtailing their problems in an amicable way (Progress Secretariat, 2016).

Operation Zarb-e-Azb had both in short term and long term implications (Javed, 2014). One of the concerning challenge remained to Pakistan is that the return and rehabilitation of IDP's had been settle down in their homeland because almost whole region cleaned up from terrorists but the government of Pakistan entails enormous volume for this return phase because displacement was on a large scale. Nowadays IDP's are becoming a persistent challenge to government in terms of their rehabilitation, reconstruction and renewal of livelihoods and basic necessities of health. Holmes stated, mostly states confronting the crisis of internally mechanism to carter the needs of IDP's (Hameed, 2015).

The habitants of North Waziristan were compelled to leave their homes to take shelter in other region as Bannu, Dera Ismail Khan, and as far as Karachi. Almost one million populations of such areas already left their home before operations due to fear of loss of human lives in the result of terrorist's attacks. The strength of IDP's growing day by day becoming a challenging for the government. But they have no other option to find a permanent solution for their peaceful co-existence. The federal and provincial governments should ensure provision of shelter, food, health and education facilities to IDPs. Moreover Pakistan's army is determined to treat all terrorists alike (ICG, 2016).

After 9/11, Pakistan is facing a lot of challenges among them one of main concerning is economic which is exaggerated after expenditure of zarb-e-azb. The average financial loss dragged the country in to deficit almost from a decade and four year that has increased from 106.98 billion dollar to 8702.75 billion rupee. After the joint meeting of All parties national action plan concluded there is a need to improve in the overall situation of country (Durrani, 2015). Pakistan, presently surrounded in the economic deficit, it needed a support from international community for reconstruction of infrastructure and rehabilitation of displaced persons (Report, 2015).

Zarb-e-Azb has absolutely brought some positive changes, but, it is challenging to bring calmness only by military tacit in country. As for as, the pre requisite of sustainability is structure of good governance, stop corruption, promote cooperation cultural harmony in society, reduce poverty, to protect human rights and a lot instead of a military fight. After wards the situation of zarb-e-azb can realize it may possible that it will end terrorists attack in major cities of Pakistan but it will prove fragile to help in bringing enduring peace to ill-starred Pakhtun land which has been experienced brutal terrorism since decade (Khan, 2014).

The outcome of operation Zarb-e-Azb in term of its success and sustainability in Pakistan is hard to assess. The counter terrorism doctrine has been framed under the command of Retired General Ashfaq Pervez Kiyani during 2002-2007. It is known as a formative phase. Now insurgency in FATA has completely transformed in to insurgent movement across tribal areas. That is why General Ashfaq Kiyani had taken coercive strategy to prevent its escalation and attacks. That was the Kiyani's greatest challenge how to build consensus on the issue to conduct military operation. It is evitable during 2002-2009 due to the edgy and intense militant's attacks. Even though the government of Pakistan had wished to adopt soft approaches as political solution and carrot and stick (Rana, 2016).

The second aspect of military strategy of operation Zarb-e- Azb describes its positive outcomes as Pakistan is relatively a safer place today than it was before the launch of Azb. The strength of terrorist attacks has gone underwent. ISPR reported that an area of 3,600sq km in North Waziristan including Shahwal has been cleared, which comprise of 900 terrorists belonging to Lashkar-e-Islam. Pakistan army has seized and destroyed almost 253 tonnes of explosive material, 7,500 bomb making factories and 992 hide outs had ruined (The Express Tribune, 2016).

According to primary source of (ISPR) Inter Services Public Relations stated that numerous military operations mainly zarb-e- azb is becoming a great success to

## Pakistan Counter Terrorism Policy since Zarb-i-Azab: Challenges and Prospects for Peace and Security

dismantle and wrecked 837 militants sanctuaries in northern areas by crushed 253 tons of explosive raw material, caught 18,087 arms, launched 90,000 operations and killed 2,637 militants in its consequence 347 soldiers died. Moreover, the halted and sensitive areas of tribal belt in Pakistan transform into tranquillity which remained under terrorists control for a long time. At time indicated by Pakistan finance Minister Ishaq Dar about 1.3 billion dollar devoured in military operation. Its result could estimate by giving fact and figure about fatalities rate of FATA stayed 2,863 in 2014 however soon it down towards almost 411 in 2015 (Zahid, 2015).

After success of zarb-e-azb, a collective commander of US and NATO forces in Afghanistan Lt-Gen. J., Anderson stated to United States defence department that Haqqani's is now fractured earlier as Taliban. Chinese vice chairman of central military commission said that Pakistan reached at realm of success and stability after war against terrorists (Akram, 2016).

### **Challenges and Prospects for Peace and Security**

Uighur another militant organization threatened Western province of Xinjiang by massive attacked. Beijing's evaluation of the operation is very positive as can be seen in various statements of Chinese leaders. During his visit to Pakistan in April 2015, Chinese president Xi Jinping admired Pakistan's efforts to maintain peace in the region and stated that, "Pakistan has stood on the frontline in the international fight against terrorism." Gen F.Chaglong also admired the efforts and contribution of Pakistan's military to stop the terrorist's activities in their country as never China would assists Islamabad to meet non- conventional security threats of Pakistan. Further, they admit the achievement of Zarb- i -azb as "decisive, bold and a hard blow for terrorists" (Saddiqa, 2016).

Moreover, the global actors like USA and Afghanistan were not satisfied to Pakistan's success because it did not help much to reduce the intensity of militant's activity from Afghanistan. Pakistan suffered lack of interest from American's due to such reasons as the case of Raymond Davis; NATO Strikes on Shalala check post due to which twenty four soldiers died and hidden operation against Osama bi Laden (Rana, 2016). J.W.Nicholson joint commander of US and NATO troops in Kabul expressed that Pakistan Afghanistan has the huge concentration of terrorists because among US designated terrorists group 13 were based in Afghanistan and seven in Pakistan. General Nicholson stated that the Haqqani's network of terrorists still posed the threats to the United States along its coalition partners and to the Afghans. He also added that haqqani's are holding five American citizens hostage that is why they are remained on the top of the list of US forces, "They do enjoy sanctuary inside Pakistan's" (Iqbal, 2016).

One shortcoming remain in well-equipped military operations on Pakistan side is failure of trust building and cooperation between Pakistan and Afghan officials. However due to lack of cooperation on both sides gives an opportunity to hundreds of terrorist's, of "Al-Qaida and Islamic militants of Uzbekistan." It provides an opportunity to them to cross border with help of natives of that regions of Pak afghan to ensure their stay to conduct terrorist's activities. Although Pakistan faces grim situation from Afghan since Soviets intervention to 9/11 rather the present

situation is worsening day by day due to military operation against those terrorist who take shelter in Afghanistan. Such lack of Pak-Afghan cooperation resulted in the bitter fact presently why no major terrorist's leader and their networks have so far been ended in result of coercive strategies of army (Zahid, 2015).

The term *combing operation* is an associated as a lexicon to *zarb-i- azb*. It was facilitated via (IBO), Intelligence Based Operation outside the tribal agency, remained successful to maintain peace and security in the country. In *Combing operation*, military takes direct actions after provision of information from specific intelligence regarding terrorist's activities. The purpose behind *combing operation* is to find out the militants facilitators, sleeper cell to neutralize them despite of expanding the law enforcement agencies in such areas (Syed. 2016).

The outcome of *Zarb-e-Azb* is that after it we will see change in Afghan-Pak relations, and the region as a whole will be adjusting to new dynamics. Pakistan state officials including General R. Sharif and S. Aziz visited Kabul to discuss the security challenges, war against insurgency and diplomatic relations between both countries in the post US withdrawal scenario. The Army chief offered to train the Afghan forces to ensure stability in both the countries. This is the reason why military keep on fighting to counter terrorism in Islamabad with a strong purpose to eliminate it because it is hoped that the operation brings positive implications for Pakistan and the entire region (Javed, 2014).

New army Chief General Bajwa took over charge when Pakistan is passing the road of recovery. It is realized that this phase of counter terrorism is probably to be focused on urban areas and requires ideal cooperation and harmony between military and civilian administration of Pakistan on implementing the national action plan. Contemporary general would work with his team, to choose better policy and choices that secured Pakistan's national interests first, but without suppressed or antagonizing US. This piece of advice has been given to him and his team by their predecessors and Pakistan's civilian leaders have consistently received from China to maintain peace and security. This new tone has been set by present army general for his institution because Pakistan needs more than a good enough approach from its civilian and military leadership (Yusaf, 2016).

## **Conclusion**

The counter terrorism framework in Pakistan has formulated to maintain peaceful co-existence and tranquillity in the whole country. Moreover an assessment of *zarb- e- azb* success is challenging even it has contributed to counter the terrorist's activities. The lexicon of *zarb-i-azb*; *combing operation* is in framework and continue under new Chief of Army Staff General Asim Saleem Bajwa, it would see a good operational strategy as earlier one to find hideouts of terrorist's along containing their militant's attacks to bring sustainability not in the country but for whole region.

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