

**Pakistan's Sovereignty and the War against Terrorism: An Analysis of the Legal, Political, and Security Challenges that Impede Implementation**

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Received: 09-01-2026

Revised: 11-02-2026

Accepted: 24-02-2026

Published: 15-03-2026

**ABSTRACT**

*In Pakistan, terrorism has been a high drain on the national sovereignty; it presents multifaceted legal, political, and security challenges. The given research paper examines the complex relationship between Pakistan's national sovereignty and its contributions to the War on Terror. In the study paper, we examine the annual data on the terrorist attacks and casualty figures from 2000 to 2024, which illuminate the extreme loss of state sovereignty due to attacks by civilians, security forces, and insurgents. The statistics show that there was a fluctuating pattern of killing incidents and deaths, with the worst year being 2009, with 11317 deaths due to 1,665 incidents. The challenge of this phase of violence magnitude is highlighted by the massive cost of human suffering and the widespread vulnerability to Pakistan's stability. Although there have been attempts to fight terrorism, the fact that these problems persist indicates the need to develop holistic approaches that address the causes of the problem and improve the efficacy of counter-terrorism policies. Through a qualitative textual analysis and quantitative statistical analysis of trends and implications, this paper will offer a subtle insight into the current war on terrorism being waged in Pakistan and its implications for national sovereignty and national security policy. It examines the numeric data, legal, political, and security challenges that hinder the effective implementation of counter-terrorism measures. Through an in-depth analysis, the paper seeks to provide a comprehensive understanding of these impediments due to textual and data analysis and offers recommendations for overcoming them.*

**Keywords:** Pakistan, sovereignty, terrorism, Fatalities, legal, political, security challenges, International Law

**INTRODUCTION**

Terrorism is a major threat to safety and peace around the world right now. In the 21st century, this has made the world a very different place. Pakistan has faced severe threats from terrorism, leading to significant human and material losses over the years. Terrorist attacks is a big challenge of the sovereignty of Pakistan .From March 6, 2000, to July 15, 2024, the country has experienced numerous terrorist attacks, resulting in a high number of fatalities among civilians, security forces, and terrorists/insurgents. During this period, there were 16,891 incidents of killing, leading to a total of 68,319 fatalities. These included 21,661 civilian fatalities, 8,706 security forces fatalities, 34,740 terrorists/insurgents fatalities, and 3,212 unspecified fatalities. Notably, the years between 2008 and 2014 witnessed intense conflict, with 2009 being the deadliest year, reporting 11,317 fatalities from 1,665 incidents(*Terrorism in Pakistan - Yearly Fatalities | SATP*, n.d.). Terrorists are being fought, and people

are being kept safe all over the world(Korstanje, 2019).The South Asian country is in a good spot from a military point of view, and its past is linked to the spread of terrorism around the world(Wolf, 2017). The War on Terror has been going on since Pakistan joined the US after the September 11 strikes. Pakistan quickly agreed to support the union led by the US when General Pervez Musharraf took office. The country made big changes to its foreign policy goals. Pakistan was already facing terrorism and extremism, which made it an already tough time to make such a deal. It was made worse as there was a war in Afghanistan, and terrorist bands went to Pakistan. The US people did not simply accept to help us in countering the terrorists; they counter argued and counter fought. Many people in Pakistan believed the union was unproductive for the country. They were created not necessarily out of the country's goodwill, but rather due to the desire of other nations. Ever since, it has been followed by additional drone attacks and military actions in Pakistan, with or without the support of the government of Pakistan(H. Khan, 2013). This further worsened public opinion about what was happening. Although this was meant to eliminate key terrorist targets, such occurrences turned people in the country against the United States. A significant step of this nature has been made in the effort against terrorist activities in Pakistan by legislation, whereby it became easy to apprehend the terrorists and dismantle the networks(Safdar et al., 2017). The Anti-Terrorism Act of 1997 is the law supposedly against terrorism in Pakistan. New rules are continuously being added to its rules. It has been hard to choose these rules. There have been apprehensions about the manner in which they are utilized, including courts being overworked, and it is even alleged that human rights are being violated in the war on terrorism. Politicians have been talking a lot at home and abroad about whether any action that has been undertaken by other countries, such as drone strikes, is legal and moral. Pakistan claims that it can ensure that its borders are safe and prevent the use of force within its borders(I. Khan et al., 2022). Conversely, individuals who favour the use of drone strikes argue that they are lawful and that they are in self-defence. It is also alleged to aim at preventing acts of violence before their occurrence. The discrepancy in the legislation reveals the fact that the foreign responsibilities and the national authority contradict each other in combating terrorism. Pakistan is a former military dictatorship and a democracy. This has transformed the way the nation combats terrorists. The need to fight terrorism using both civility and military efforts has made it challenging to stay with long-term plans and ensure policies are executed through to the end. It is more challenging to come up with a national plan that involves everybody against terrorists when the government and coalitions change every time. It heavily relies on the trust that citizens of Pakistan have in the strategy to combat terrorism and the efforts of their government in this regard (Ahmed, 2020). Citizens do not trust the government as much as they used to since they no longer believe that what they render works and feel angered that people are dying, and their rights are being violated. Other individuals believe that the War on Terror is an external agenda that has resulted in nationalistic Americans becoming anti-American towards fellow Americans. This modulates individuals' feelings and the government's discourse on national security (Rashid et al., 2023). Pakistan can never be safe since the rebels and terrorists who cross the line can always find a location to be in. FATA are government-run tribal regions, and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, which is adjacent to Afghanistan, was the long-term haven of members of the Taliban and Al-Qaeda. Terrorists can more easily terrorists can bypass, but when there is rough ground, and the borders are open. It is more challenging to secure these areas and prevent attacks that occur beyond their boundaries(Aziz, 2015).

### **Problem Statement**

The purpose of this paper is to analyze data indicating statistical evidence, as well as to critically address the ethics and legal, as well as the political obstacles to counter-terrorism in Pakistan, especially in that context, where changes to such strategies may impact on the expression and protection of the sovereignty of Pakistan, but in a manner that does not conflict with its constitutional structure, cultural and law-related issues internationally.

## **METHODOLOGY**

### **Research Design**

This study employs both quantitative and qualitative methods within a mixed-methods approach. Exploratory Sequential Design using for conduct of this study results It shows all the legal, political, and safety problems in Pakistan that make it difficult to take steps to fight terrorists. The approach clearly analyzes statistical data and identifies the issues that require resolution. We use secondary quantitative data for the quantitative section and textual data for the qualitative approach. Get second-hand numeric information from reliable sources, such as foreign organizations. Different types of statistics are used to identify patterns, connections, and important factors that influence how counter-terrorism tactics are used. These include descriptive statistics and regression analysis. The qualitative part includes written analysis of law papers, policy papers, research articles, and government official sites.

### **Legal framework analysis**

The laws are crucial to Pakistan's fight against terrorism. It requires understanding Pakistan's anti-terrorism legislation to ensure it is robust, effective, and compliant with international norms. This procedure involves checking foreign laws, norms, and deals to discover if they are still in place and what they mean. Anti-terrorism legislation benefits from legal experts' shortcomings and improvements. Another strategy to ensure that the legal system fights terrorism is to examine how successfully judicial systems handle terrorism cases. Pakistan can better defend human rights, promote the rule of law, and maintain global support for its fight against terrorism by studying the law.

### **Political and Security Data Analysis**

Politics can explain how hard Pakistan's struggle against terrorists is and how it impacts freedom. Politicians, political organisations, and laws will influence terrorist prevention efforts. Why is the political system good or bad? By examining political stability, government policy consistency, and how political choices affect safety, researchers can learn. Political research also examines how foreigners affect the US's anti-terrorism efforts. This study demonstrates how political variables can aid or hinder anti-terrorism efforts. Political analysis helps make politics safer, policies more consistent, and the government stronger. These steps are crucial to fighting terrorism.

### **Statistic Analysis**

In this paper, statistics are used to investigate terrorist aggression across years and fatalities through both correlational and descriptive analyses. This includes data from a reliable foreign organization. We may use statistics to identify patterns and trends in terrorism, as well as the measures we take to combat it.

## **CHALLENGES FOR IMPEDE IMPLEMENTATION**

### **Legal Challenges**

#### **Sovereignty and International Law**

**Sovereignty violations and Drone attacks:** Many international legal experts advocate drone strikes to stop terrorists. This applies to states' independence and self-governance. An unmanned aerial vehicle (UAV) may kill someone out of suspicion of being a criminal or rebel. The military of one country usually flies these UAVs inside another's borders. Considering why people do it, it's hard to say if this is legal or how it affects international legislation(Ronconi et al., 2014).

The UN Charter prohibits using force against a state without its or the Security Council's consent. Any state's political rights or physical integrity are protected. It is believed that unannounced drone strikes,

such as the one used by the US in Pakistan, are risky. These attacks have killed numerous security threats to the U.S., including major attackers of the tribes of Pakistan. They have never ceased to claim that drone attacks are unlawful, despite being aware of the fact that home-grown terrorists are an issue of concern. According to them, this is detrimental to the government of Pakistan's peacekeeping and law enforcement efforts. Karachi is not able to collaborate with the US because of the War on Terror, to the extent that they cause people to suffer and destroys property by using drone attacks. People now loathe the US more. Some drone attack opponents argue they violate human rights and due process, especially when they target non-combatants. International law and fighting terrorism are less important when it is unclear who or how someone is being attacked. Drone strike supporters argue they safeguard individuals in accordance with anticipatory self-defense. Opponents argue that these actions demonstrate that ignoring other nations' rights and using force without cause is unacceptable (Larson & Malamud, 2011). IHL (International Humanitarian law also opposes drone strikes. When is it okay for nations to combat non-state actors in their own territory without permission? This shows that states can defend themselves when threatened. To determine if drone strikes follow IHL, consider how they distinguish lawful from illegal targets, balance and need, and innocent fatalities.

Finally, the argument over privacy invasions and drone strikes reveals how difficult it is for the War on Terror to balance morality and national security. It's hard, too. Sometimes you can't defend national rights and combat global challenges. Many challenges arise from current war tools. People must communicate, collaborate across borders, and follow the law to solve these issues. Because they must preserve sovereign rights and keep people secure, the world will struggle to battle terrorism (Z. I. Khan, 2022).

**International counter terrorism legal framework:** Counterterrorism is governed by international law. This includes various treaties, agreements, and general rules. It protects the world while upholding human rights and the law. The most essential norm is the UN Charter. Except in self-defense or with UN Security Council approval, force cannot be used against a state's government or territory without its consent. It states that each state is independent and equal (Weiss, 2002).

Article 51 of the UN Charter allows a country to defend itself with arms. In other words, states can take any measures to avoid danger. This has been used by several nations, including the US, to justify risky military tactics like drone strikes. Many have debated how to comprehend and employ self-defence to fight terrorism. Besides the UN Charter, various international accords and laws allow countries to fight terrorism collectively. The UN General Assembly ratified the International Convention to Stop Terrorism Financing in 1999. States should criminalize funding terrorists and cooperate together to prosecute them. Many UN Security Council judgments have been based on Chapter VII of the Charter. Every UN member must fight terrorism immediately, even with sanctions and other punishments. Area groupings and treaties are important in international law (Ejova, 2023). The Council of Europe Convention on the Prevention of Terrorism is one of many anti-terrorism statutes. However, the Organization of American States' Inter-American Convention against Terrorism allows American nations to fight terrorism jointly. Even with these rules, protecting rights and national security is difficult. When employed outside their authorized areas to fight terrorism, targeted assassinations and drone attacks may be illegal. They infringe on the right to due process and territory. It is even worse when they are witnessed in non-war zones or without the permission of the host state. It is more challenging to follow international law in circumstances where non-dangerous people are murdered without any form of accountability, and particularly where the targets are not clear (Hunt, 2006). International organizations such as the Financial Action Task Force and the Global Counterterrorism Forum are seeking to assist lawyers in cooperating and strategizing to fight terrorism. These groups find ways to prevent terrorists from acquiring money and make it easy for countries to cooperate and extradite. All nations must cooperate and follow international law to combat terrorism. All states' rights and authority must be respected (De Londras, 2019).

### **Domestic Legislation and Judicial Processes**

**Laws of Anti-Terrorism:** Many nations value anti-terrorism laws. They protect the nation against terrorists. These rules allow the government to investigate, charge, and punish terrorists. Additionally, the authorities can employ them to pursue criminal gangs and their money. Pakistan has and follows anti-terrorism laws, as do many other countries. These statutes safeguard due process and civil rights. This is because terrorist threats vary frequently. The Anti-Terrorism Act (ATA) 1997 is Pakistan's most essential guide to fighting terrorism. It has been strengthened, and the law has been altered to offer police greater alternatives. ATA "terrorism" includes several crimes intended to control or frighten individuals, modify government policy, or disrupt society (Raza, 2021). This word can be used to punish various war crimes because of its many meanings. These offenses include murder, funding, and joining a terrorist group. The ATA, police may investigate and prosecute terrorists. Anti-terrorism courts are countrywide. These are simple courts that conduct quick hearings and deliver justice to terrorist offenders. This indicates that the administration takes the issue of responding to security threats in a timely and effective manner. In the event of terrorism, additional measures are taken to safeguard all people and ensure they receive a fair trial. Representative of the participants: Video-link evidence and closed-door trials offer security to the witnesses and judges. The ATA will augment penalties and lifetime imprisonment of terrorism perpetrators. The death penalty may cause significant injuries or deaths. Pakistan is tightening its restrictions to show its readiness to take tough actions against terrorists. Modifications enable the police to track and detain individuals more proactively.

Robberies can be prevented in time. Just like it is imperative to have laws in Pakistan, they should be implemented by the judges who have to enforce the law on terrorists. It comprises terrorism courts, High Courts, and the Pakistan Supreme Court. They should also abide by the anti-terrorism laws without contravening international human rights. The state has to protect fundamental freedoms against terrorists. The right against arbitrary detention and torture is one of them. A fair hearing is another. Nonetheless, there are complaints that Pakistan has a weak law in fighting against terrorism. Anti-terrorism bills are meant to protect the country, but lawyers and human rights groups fear that they may be misused to attack the media, political activists, and minorities. Anti-terrorist activities require strong measures and a balance of power to ensure that authorities do not abuse them and respect human rights. It is because individuals are supposedly mishandled in jail, killed without trial, and lost. This is further compounded by the way the courts have been dealing with cases of terrorism and the role of the security agencies. Questions are raised about whether Pakistan's courts are independent and just. Nevertheless, there is no easy way to balance the rights guaranteed by the Constitution with national security. People should monitor this, the courts should review it, and amendments to the legislation to fight terrorism should be favoured (Rehman, 2018).

**Judicial corruption its impact on terrorist attack:** In Pakistan, among other countries, corruption by dishonest judges undermines justice and the rule of law. There must be a certain degree of trust in the law and the courts to protect fundamental rights. It secures the Constitution, the law, and rights. Bribery, corruption, and slow justice undermine faith in the law. Now the court is less valuable. The Pakistani has always accused judges of being unscrupulous. It has an impact on the Supreme Court and the revered High Courts. In court, it is wrong to pay someone to do what one wants. Preselling and allowing politics to interfere with judgments are excessive. There are dangers posed by fair and independent tribunals, since influential individuals are not allowed to suffer. Courts can also be dishonest. The Pakistani courts are corrupt. The judges handle too many cases, are not compensated, and do not receive adequate perks; they also take too long to rule and are bound by many twists and turns. There is bullying and intimidation by lawyers and ordinary citizens, which may put pressure on judges, notably lower court judges. This can influence judges' decisions and restrict their freedom. It is not clear who is hired and promoted in the judiciary, and no one is held responsible. This encourages impunity and corruption. The courts in

Pakistan contribute to corruption. Citizens do not trust the courts because cases are significant, debates are long-term, and decisions are made late. The process of justice is long, and it is difficult to combat crime and enforce the law(Imran & Idrees, 2020). Pakistan has struggled to remove dishonest and incompetent judges. Creating special courts to fight corruption and making courts more accessible, responsible, and separate have gone some way to protect judges from corruption. These steps are still insufficient. Setting up case management tools, training judges and court staff, and raising knowledge of justice system ethics and honesty have helped change things. However, lasting political will and institutional support are needed for true change(Wattoo, 2022).

### **Political Challenges**

#### **Political Instability**

**Frequent Government Changes:** Pakistan has long been a democracy but has become unstable due to frequent government changes. Changes in the government significantly impact policy stability and national security. Pakistan's government has changed since 1947. Political assassinations, military coups, alliance breakdowns, and government stagnation have occurred. Power disputes, corruption claims, weak institutions, and popular discontent often create these shifts. Pakistani groups have diverse racial, regional, and ideological goals. This causes government instability. Coalition regimes are usually like-minded rather than policy-minded. The government has no majority party. Political groups need many members. They may lack the strength or life to change things and solve problems.

Political participation in Pakistan is perilous, but the military runs the government. Democracy and government trust suffered. Pakistan has moved toward freedom since the 2000s. Several civilian administrations have assumed power after elections. Politics under military authority remain problematic. Every day, Pakistanis and others globally ask their leaders to change. This tension comes from protests, lawsuits, and international attention. Several recent lack-of-trust votes have toppled Pakistani leaders. When party groups decline, citizens become dissatisfied with governance. Fewer rules last when leaders change often. Managing the country's social and economic concerns and long-term growth aspirations is harder(MengYun et al., 2018).

#### **Inconsistencies of policies**

The government of Pakistan has been experiencing unrealized policies. This has resulted in confusion, waste, and poor policy outcomes for the populace. Volatile politics, shareholder stakes, changes in leadership, weak institutions, and external influences drive such differences. Policies that violate rules would reduce government efficiency, make long-term planning more challenging, and erode public trust in the state's socioeconomic solutions. Pakistan is a country whose political landscape is defined by numerous political groups and their policies. This is one of the primary reasons the country's policies differ. The administration changes after an election or a change in allies, leading to differing policies and goals. The parties differ on foreign affairs, the economy, and social welfare. This renders it impossible to have consistency of laws among governments. Short-term election issues and political interests usually influence Pakistani policy. This results in hasty solutions and populist attempts that might not lead to long-term growth. Businesses and politicians who switch their minds in response to public pressure or selfish interests harm the reputation of the policies and leave citizens, businesses, and civil society groups in the dark. Planning the economy is not easy in volatile economies. Foreign investors stay off, and the essential economic sectors succeed and collapse(Wahab, 2023). Pakistan is also facing contradictory policies due to a built-in slowness in its system and the executive level of a failed system. The process of monitoring and executing policies is not as effective as it could be due to interdepartmental work, role convergence, and lengthy decision-making processes within government departments. Assessing the effects and adapting to changing social and economic conditions are aspects for which government agencies lack the professional know-how and capacity-building programs to establish policies based on

facts. Pakistan does not necessarily imitate the foreign aid, politics, and economic development pursued by other nations. Fluctuations in global commodity prices and geopolitical developments may undermine national policy goals and distort trade, budgetary, and development targets. The government may find it difficult to make independent economic decisions when it relies on international financial institutions for loans and other assistance(Niazi & Qureshi, 2024).

### **Public Perception and Support**

**Anti-American Sentiment:** Pakistan, during the Cold War and the subsequent War on Terror, and Afghanistan had been aiding the United States in countering terrorism. Locals do not trust the U.S. when it comes to hearing the U.S. policy, actions, or initiatives. This affects public opinion regarding the United States' international aspirations and connections. There is also an opinion that many Pakistanis do not like the United States, as they think that the country damages its citizens and the authorities. Drone attacks involving suspected terrorists in Pakistan, often carried out without the government's request, are a topic of protest. The act of bombings, which have claimed the lives of civilians and destroyed property, has caused an increasing resistance towards the U.S. and the feeling that they have no regard for the authority and territory of Pakistan. The Pakistanis do not believe that the U.S cares about freedom and even human rights since it upholds dictatorships and provides military assistance with conditions. These people do not trust the United States because of its political ties with various countries. Naturally, Pakistan is not viewed as a strategic partner in economic development and peace; it is most often seen as a security partner. The US-Pakistan relations seem unequal due to this. There is even less trust and association among people toward the US. The Pakistanis also do not like the US because of religious and social reasons. Some Pakistanis are fond of US movies and TV shows. The US is perceived as a threat by many Muslims to society and their faith. The Pakistani people hate the Americans and the West. Such sentiments are based on past injustices like the U.S. support for Israel in the Israeli-Palestinian war and its unjustness in the international arena. When people do not like Americans, they do not shift their views like that. They also influence the politics, the policy, and relations between the United States and Pakistan. Protest against the U.S. policy, poor relations between the two nations, and limitations of co-operation have undermined the two countries' goal of economic growth, security, and terrorist co-operation.(W. Z. Khan, 2014).

To overcome Pakistanis' distrust of the US, we must be fair and acknowledge past wrongs. Pakistan's freedom and people's wishes should be respected. People from different backgrounds can make friends by conversing, participating in cultural exchange programs, and talking to others. People in Pakistan can benefit from the U.S.'s role. Pakistanis know the U.S. will defend human rights, assist democratic institutions, and boost the economy(Hussain & Hamid, 2022).

### **Federal and Provincial Discrepancies**

**Policy Coordination:** The federal and provincial administrations of Pakistan should collaborate to ensure that citizens abide by the law. The move will assist in ensuring that the country is not in danger and address the hard facts presented by terrorists. The rights and duties of every state are specified in the Constitution. This can be done under the country's constitution. The fight against the enemies and the defense of the country are becoming harder. Strategies should be thought through to achieve success. In this fashion, there will be clear guidelines, an equitable allocation of resources, and mechanisms to deter the proliferation of terrorist threats. The provinces must retain their freedom to safeguard the country. The central government of Pakistan determines the country's security. These regulations combat terrorism, ensure border security, and promote the health and well-being of everyone. Pakistan is accountable to other nations and faces terrorism threats both within and beyond the nation, so these restrictions should be implemented. All of them can cooperate to combat terrorism, exchange knowledge, and perform war work through the federal, state, and local governments. This will ensure consistent adherence to laws and

the completion of fieldwork. The complexity of federal and city policies has slowed the pace of counterterrorism implementation. It is through this Constitution that we have the strength to rule and to control. The lack of congruent political goals, financial resources, or administrative abilities may prevent provinces from designing policies and accomplishing shared national security objectives. The central and local governments have failed to combat terrorism because they differ on three fronts: leadership and strategy. There are different approaches to financial spending, law enforcement, and terrorist regulations. These inconsistencies complicate internationally established regulations. Institutional reform and improved intergovernmental communication are required in the Pakistani federal and municipal governments. They should also seek ways to negotiate disputes and align policy objectives. This can assist individuals in collaborating to combat terrorism and secure borders and national sovereignty. Nationwide systems enable individuals to exchange information, deal with emergencies, and strategize as a team. Skills, financial resources, and technical assistance can be used to strengthen the provinces and make them resilient. Therefore, it would be more advantageous for local governments to apply national counter-terrorism efforts and also focus on local security, socio-economic, and other matters(Ashraf et al., 2023).

### **Security Challenges**

**Militant Safe Havens:** There are many dangerous regions in Pakistan, which can be used as hideouts for extremists. Such places are a threat to national security and cripple counterterrorism efforts. The terrain of the area is rugged and diverse, with mountains, thick woods, and remote valleys, and thus offers elements of an ideal getaway for militant organizations, where they can carry out their operations. The land's geographical features not only make it difficult to fight terrorism but also hinder security and law enforcement efforts. Pakistan has very rugged and porous border regions. This is especially the case in the area near the Afghan border of the Federally Administered Tribal Areas (FATA) and the province of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. This helps in the creation and sustenance of safe havens created by the terrorist groups. The existence of rugged mountainous terrain, which has steep slopes, ravines, and secluded areas, may be a strategic edge to extremists who want to hide, make an assault, and finally get away as they break international borders. Despite the guards and soldiers being present, insurgents still have chances of hiding in these isolated locations as they are not being monitored. People can gather here, meet new friends, and receive additional food and drinks(Yusuf, 2014).

### **Cross-Border Terrorism**

The Afghanistan border is porous, and this factor interferes with Pakistan's responsibility to keep the area safe. This renders international terrorism a significant issue. Afghanistan and Pakistan are 2,600 kilometres apart. It is hard to navigate rugged terrain, mountainous routes, and isolated areas. To terrorists, militants, and illegal activity, the terrain offers easy access. This complicates maintaining the area and preventing cross-line attacks. The border between Pakistan and Afghanistan is usually blurred. With the help of either side, terrorist groups have formed tunnels, training centres, and hot spots. These safe havens across borders allude to the interests of militants. They allow them to avoid being caught, restructure after military actions, and attack civilians and security forces. Border security is difficult because the terrain is rough and there are no barriers. Individuals entering illegally are hard to trace. This eliminates the smuggling of arms and the supply of drugs to militant factions. The state of security in Afghanistan continues to lose ground because of the existing war, weak government, and various armed groups. This further worsens international terrorism. Afghanistan is less secure and thus unsafe for Pakistan. Ideas of the right radical, racial violence and radicalization are more accessible to underprivileged people on both sides of the border. International terrorists are a threat to all people, such as militants who cross borders. To prevent it, partners in Afghanistan and in noisy countries such as Pakistan must collaborate(Haidari, 2024).

**Resource Constraints**

**Funding and capacity building:**

Budget and equipment constraints impair Pakistan's sovereignty and capacity to fight terrorism. To combat terrorism, law enforcement and security services require funds and modern tools. Economic constraints and conflicting objectives typically underfund counter-terrorism operations in Pakistan. Insufficient money for counter-terrorism inhibits security personnel from purchasing, training, and using new technologies. Pakistan's security forces are striving to acquire enhanced tools for ensuring public safety, maintaining communication, and monitoring activities to prevent terrorists from launching new attacks. We don't have enough resources to gather information, watch the borders, and do law enforcement work that is meant to stop attackers and protect the borders. These tasks take longer. Short-term cuts to funds hurt long-term efforts to fight terrorism that get to the heart of what makes people extremists, strengthen communities, and improve institutions. In order to deter attackers and radicalism, we must prioritize education, job training, and fostering growth in both business and society. They can't do much because they don't have enough money, but these steps help promote fair growth, social stability, and long-lasting peace in places that have been through war(Zia et al., 2022)

**Intelligence Coordination and Technological Advancement**

Pakistan needs to cooperate with other entities to sustain its sovereignty and fight terrorism. The police, intelligence agencies, army, courts, and anti-terrorism departments work together by sharing information, equipment, and other resources to reduce the threat of terrorism. Interagency collaboration has been difficult due to institutional competitive forces, bureaucratic barriers, and varying stakeholder goals. Interagency cooperation in Pakistan ensures the integration of intelligence, threat assessment, monitoring, and strategy in counter-terrorism activities. Improved cooperation among the intelligence services by including MI, MI, and ISI will be used to track down and destroy terrorist networks, hence curbing threats to national security. The cooperation of the police, Rangers, and Frontier Corps (FC) is also essential to plan the event, identify the attackers, and ensure the security of the people. The Pakistani government has imposed curfews that prohibit collaboration among certain groups. Agency collaboration cannot occur easily due to the dissimilarity of their spheres. There exist numerous bureaucracies; people are assigned to different duties, and there is no centralization in the hierarchies. This can obstruct the synchronization of activities and impede the process of making decisions during a crisis. Government entities that are dishonest or power-seeking encounter more difficulties in building trust, working together, and guaranteeing transparency among their ranks. Some of the advantages encompass receiving aid with technology, gaining fresh knowledge, and enhancing one's talents. The participation of multilateral organizations, international counterterrorism networks, and geographically neighbouring nations is essential due to global security concerns. Terrorist organizations necessitate the capability to obtain cash through decentralized networks, while it is crucial to bolster the security of regions impacted by armed hostilities. Pakistan necessitates sophisticated technology to counteract terrorism and protect its fundamental liberties(Khattak & Asghar, 2024)

**Fatalities Due to Terrorist Attacks: A statistical analysis**

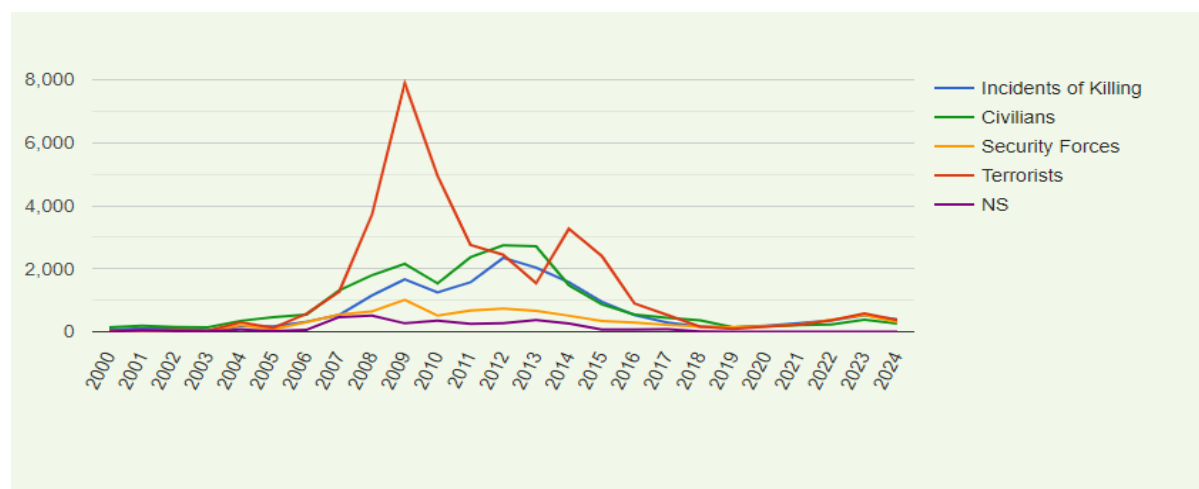
**Table 1: Terrorist Attacks and Fatalities**

(Data since March 6, 2000, to Data till, July 15, 2024)

<b>Year</b>	<b>Incidents of Killing</b>	<b>Civilians</b>	<b>Security Forces</b>	<b>Terrorists/Insurgents/Extremists</b>	<b>Not Specified</b>	<b>Total</b>
2000*	65	137	8	20	1	166
2001	110	190	31	26	48	295

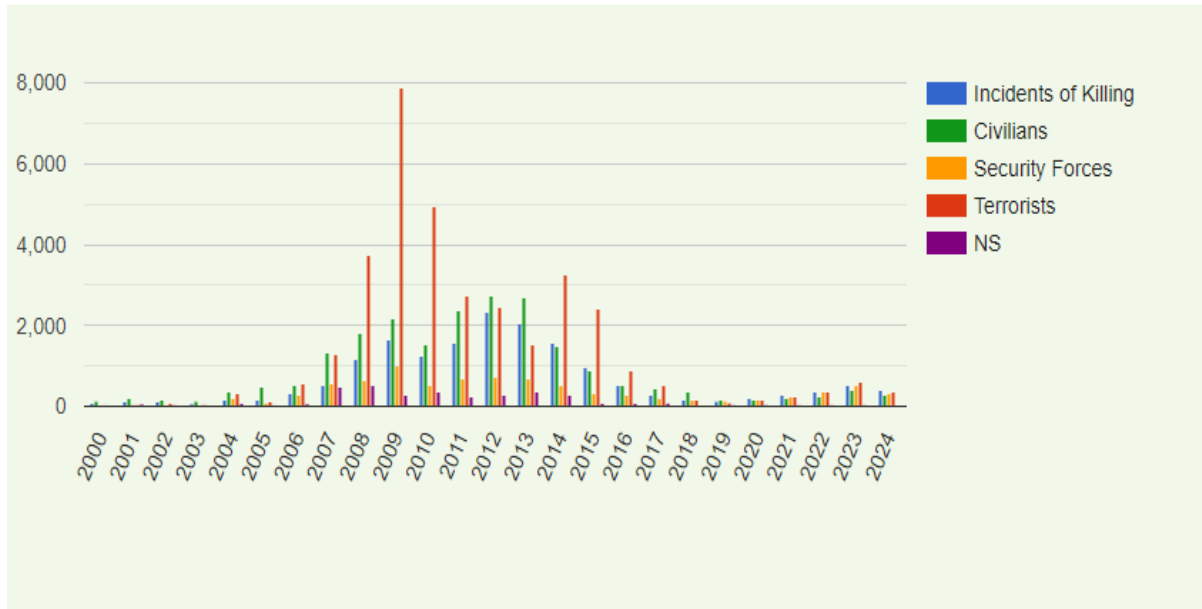
2002	103	148	20	65	24	257
2003	55	137	23	29	8	197
2004	168	347	208	302	68	925
2005	166	465	79	124	18	686
2006	317	541	301	568	56	1466
2007	531	1311	548	1271	464	3594
2008	1149	1796	647	3724	516	6683
2009	1665	2154	1012	7884	267	11317
2010	1246	1537	512	4945	348	7342
2011	1573	2371	674	2752	253	6050
2012	2347	2743	734	2444	267	6188
2013	2034	2713	665	1541	375	5294
2014	1569	1471	508	3268	263	5510
2015	950	866	339	2407	73	3685
2016	526	541	291	897	68	1797
2017	294	439	216	533	81	1269
2018	164	363	158	162	10	693
2019	136	142	137	86	0	365
2020	193	169	178	159	0	506
2021	268	215	226	223	0	664
2022	365	229	379	363	0	971
2023	527	386	532	584	0	1502
2024	394	263	307	371	4	945
<b>Total</b>	<b>16915</b>	<b>21674</b>	<b>8733</b>	<b>34748</b>	<b>3212</b>	<b>68367</b>

**Data Source:** <https://www.satp.org/datasheet-terrorist-attack/fatalities/pakistan>



**Data Source:** <https://www.satp.org/datasheet-terrorist-attack/fatalities/pakistan>

**Fig: 1 Trend in Incidents of Killing and Fatalities by Group (2000-2024)**



Data Source: <https://www.satp.org/datasheet-terrorist-attack/fatalities/pakistan>

Fig.2 Yearly Breakdown of Incident



Data Source: <https://www.satp.org/datasheet-terrorist-attack/fatalities/pakistan>

Fig 3: Different trends of terrorist attacks and fatalities Data

A Statistical analysis of Terrorist Attacks and Killing analysis

**Table 2: Pearson's Correlations**

Variables		Incidents of Killing	Civilians	Security Forces	Terrorists/Insurgents/Extremists	Not Specified	Total
1. Civilians	Pearson's r	0.998	—				
	p-value	< .001	—				
2. Security Forces	Pearson's r	0.994	0.994	—			
	p-value	< .001	< .001	—			
3. Terrorists/Insurgents/Extremists	Pearson's r	0.982	0.981	0.984	—		
	p-value	< .001	< .001	< .001	—		
4. Not Specified	Pearson's r	0.984	0.99	0.985	0.976	—	
	p-value	< .001	< .001	< .001	< .001	—	
5. Total	Pearson's r	0.994	0.994	0.995	0.996	0.988	
	p-value	< .001	< .001	< .001	< .001	< .001	

The Pearson's Correlation table presented here shows the correlation coefficients (r) and p-values between different variables related to incidents of killing. The degree of relationship is expressed by coefficient which range from correlation ( $-1 \leq r \leq +1$ ). The correlation is said to be positive correlation if the values of two variables changing with same direction.

**Civilians:** The Pearson correlation coefficient between incidents of killing and civilians is 0.998, indicating a very strong positive correlation. The p-value is < .001, meaning this correlation is statistically significant.

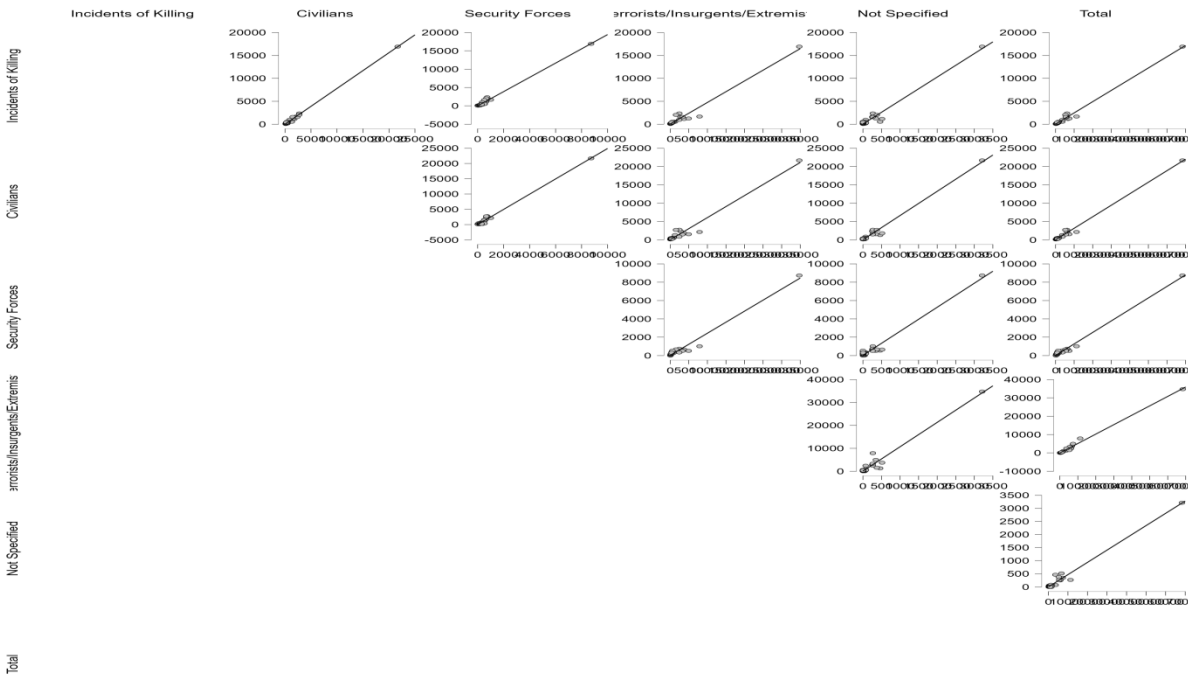
**Security Forces:** The correlation with security forces is 0.994, also very strong and positive, with a p-value < .001, indicating statistical significance.

**Terrorists/Insurgents/Extremists:** The correlation is 0.982, showing a very strong positive relationship, and the p-value is < .001, indicating this is statistically significant.

**Not Specified:** The correlation is 0.984, again very strong and positive, with a p-value < .001, indicating statistical significance.

**Total:** The correlation is 0.994, showing a very strong positive relationship, with a p-value < .001, indicating statistical significance. All variables have strong positive relation.

In fig.3 all the variables show very strong positive correlations with each other, with correlation coefficients (r) close to 1. The p-values for all correlations are less than 0.001, indicating that these correlations are statistically significant. This suggests that as incidents of killing increase, the numbers of civilians, security forces, terrorists/insurgents/extremists, and unspecified fatalities also increase correspondingly. The "Total" column shows a comprehensive strong correlation with each specific category, reinforcing the interconnected nature of these variables.



**Fig.3** Person’s correlation of variables relationship

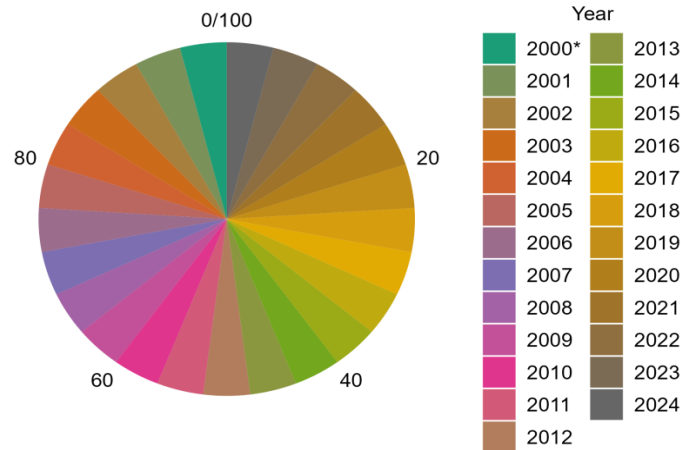
**Table 3: Descriptive Analysis**

	Year	Incidents of Killing	Total
Valid	25	25	25
Missing	1	1	1
Median		365.000	1269.000
Mean		676.600	2734.680
Std. Deviation		684.238	2981.842
Minimum		55.000	166.000
Maximum		2347.000	11317.000

*Note.* Not all values are available for *Nominal Text* variables

The table is based on 25 valid observations for each variable, with one missing value for each. For incidents of killing, the median is 365, indicating that half of the observations fall below this value and half above it. The mean number of incidents is 676.600, suggesting that, on average; there are about 677 incidents of killing. However, the standard deviation is quite high at 684.238, indicating substantial variability around the mean. The highest and lowest numbers of reported incidents are 55 and 2347, respectively, indicating a substantial variation in the number of incidents reported across the years. In the case of total fatalities, the median is 1269, meaning that half are below 1269 and the other half are above. The average total number of deaths is 2734.680, which means that an average of 2735 people dies. As in the killing cases, the standard deviation is wide at 2981.842, suggesting high variability. The lowest total number of fatalities is 166, the highest number of fatalities is 11317, which indicates that the range of numbers of those who died is wide.

These figures indicate that there is a significant fluctuation in the cases of killing and the total number of deaths, as some of the years is marked with extremely high rates. This fluctuation indicates that a specific analysis is needed to understand the factors driving these changes and to develop effective measures to reduce violence.



**Fig.4 Intensity of Variables**

Fig. 4 shows the distribution of data by year, demonstrating a gradient with some years having much higher values than others (dark shades). The darker bars indicate years with more incidents or fatalities, including 2007, 2008, 2009, and 2023. These are some of the years located at the outer edges of the circle to emphasize their elevated magnitude. Light segments, indicated by years such as 2000, 2001, 2002, and 2019, show years with fewer cases or deaths. These years are near the centre of the circle. The chart illustrates the change in intensity over the years in a visual format. The effect of light to dark can be traced, revealing the time of intensification and deflation of incidents or loss of lives.



**Fig.5 Yearly trends variation over incident**

**X-Axis (Total):** Represents the total number of fatalities.

**Y-Axis:** Represents the frequency or count of data points for each total fatality value.

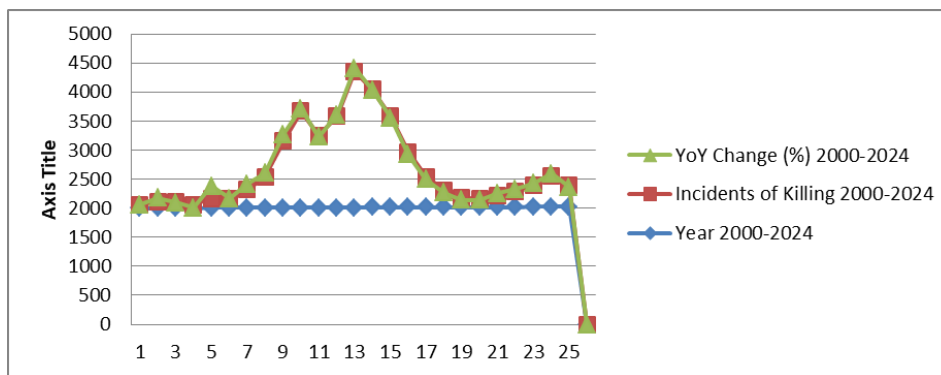
Fig.5 shows that most of data points are clustered at the lower end of the total fatalities spectrum, indicating that the majority of the years had relatively lower total fatalities. There are a few outliers, with one data point significantly higher than the others, suggesting a year with exceptionally high fatalities.

**Year over Year Trend Analysis**

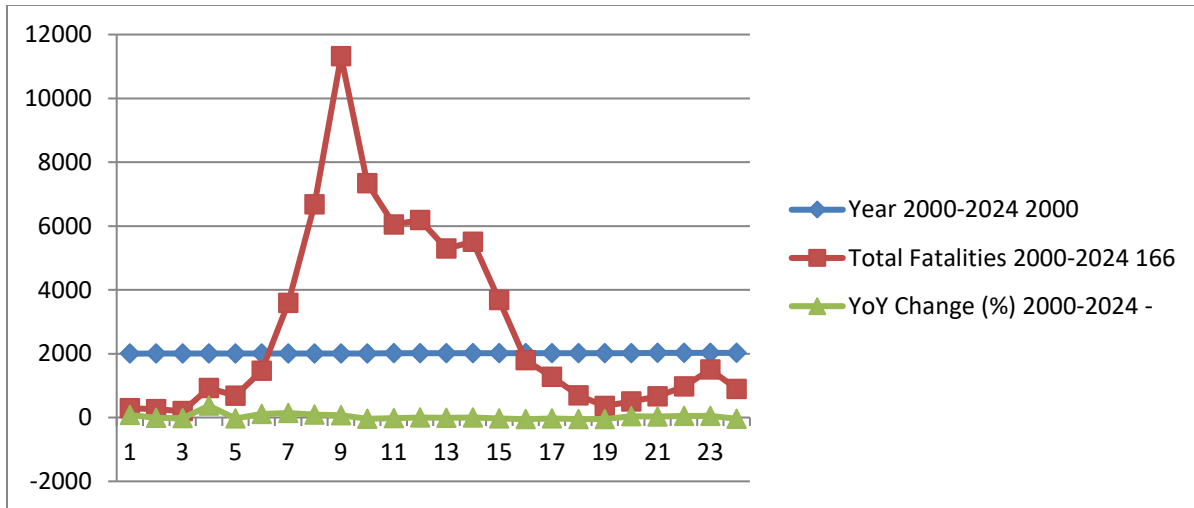
$$\text{YOY Change} = \frac{\text{Value current year} - \text{Value previous year}}{\text{Value previous year}} \times 100$$

**Table 4: Summary Table incident of Killing and Fatalities**

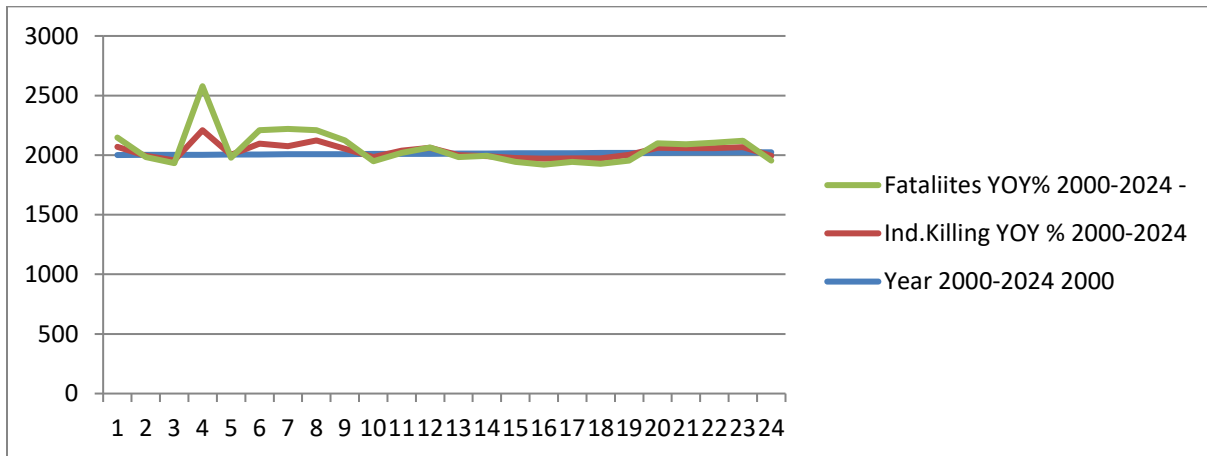
Year	Incidents of Killing	YoY Change (%)	Year	Total Fatalities	YoY Change (%)	Year	Ind.Killing YOY %	Fatalities YOY%
2000	65	-	2000	166	-	2000	-	-
2001	110	69.23	2001	295	77.71	2001	69.23	77.71
2002	103	-6.36	2002	257	-12.88	2002	-6.36	-12.88
2003	55	-46.6	2003	197	-23.35	2003	-46.6	-23.35
2004	168	205.45	2004	925	369.04	2004	205.45	369.04
2005	166	-1.19	2005	686	-25.84	2005	-1.19	-25.84
2006	317	90.96	2006	1466	113.7	2006	90.96	113.7
2007	531	67.5	2007	3594	145.14	2007	67.5	145.14
2008	1149	116.45	2008	6683	85.97	2008	116.45	85.97
2009	1665	44.88	2009	11317	69.37	2009	44.88	69.37
2010	1246	-25.19	2010	7342	-35.12	2010	-25.19	-35.12
2011	1573	26.22	2011	6050	-17.61	2011	26.22	-17.61
2012	2347	49.2	2012	6188	2.28	2012	49.2	2.28
2013	2034	-13.35	2013	5294	-14.44	2013	-13.35	-14.44
2014	1569	-22.89	2014	5510	4.08	2014	-22.89	4.08
2015	950	-39.45	2015	3685	-33.13	2015	-39.45	-33.13
2016	526	-44.63	2016	1797	-51.23	2016	-44.63	-51.23
2017	294	-44.11	2017	1269	-29.38	2017	-44.11	-29.38
2018	164	-44.22	2018	693	-45.39	2018	-44.22	-45.39
2019	136	-17.07	2019	365	-47.34	2019	-17.07	-47.34
2020	193	41.91	2020	506	38.63	2020	41.91	38.63
2021	268	38.86	2021	664	31.23	2021	38.86	31.23
2022	365	36.19	2022	971	46.22	2022	36.19	46.22
2023	527	44.38	2023	1502	54.66	2023	44.38	54.66
2024	370	-29.79	2024	897	-40.28	2024	-29.79	-40.28



**Fig.6 YOY % Change of Killing Due to Terrorist Attacks**

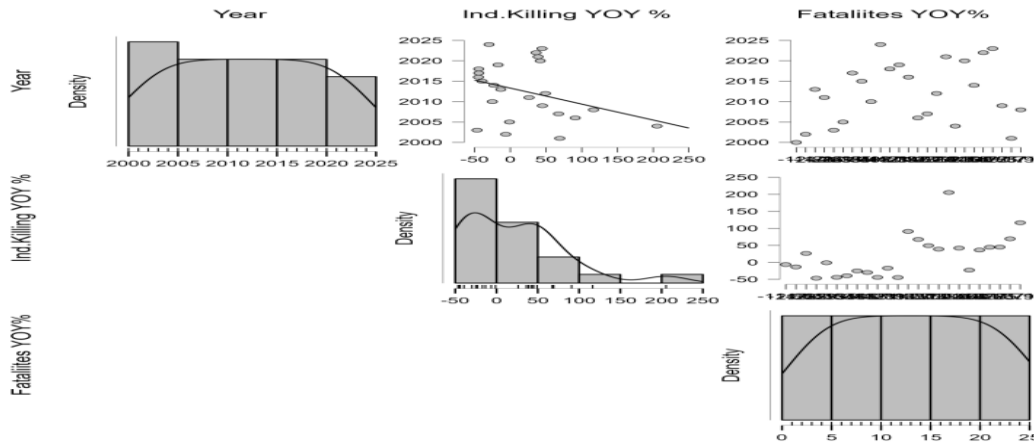


**Fig.7 YOY % Change of Terrorist Attacks**



**Fig.8 YOY % change in Killing and Attacks**

Fig.6,7,8 shows that the data on incidents of killing and total fatalities over the years reveal significant fluctuations, indicating varying levels of conflict intensity. First, the number of cases of killing during 2000-2001 increased significantly by 69.23, which may imply a higher level of violence. This was accompanied by a slight decline in 2002, a significant decline in 2003, and a dramatic 205.45 percent increase in 2004. There are some upsurges and down surges in the years that follow, with the highest peaks in 2006 (90.96%), 2008 (116.45%), and 2009 (44.88%). The killing cases have reduced considerably between 2010 and 2018, and are more stable. Nevertheless, it recovered in 2020, and since then, there has been resurgence, with a peak in 2023 and a significant decrease in 2024. The overall death rate shows a similar trend of significant year-to-year changes. The dramatic growth was 77.71 percent between 2000 and 2001, after which the number varied in other years. It is important to note that in 2004, the increase was 369.04%, signifying alarming growth. The years 2006 and 2007 also saw further significant increases, and 2010 experienced a significant decline. Deaths also varied significantly, with decreases in 2015 (33.13%) and 2016 (51.23%), indicating better situations. The same was, however, increased once more in 2020 and 2021 and with a significant upsurge in 2022 and 2023, and then a large drop in 2024.



**Fig: 9 Visual analysis of %YOY**

The chart in Figure 9 provides a detailed visual overview of year-over-year (YoY) changes in killings and deaths. This is evident in the density plots: most years show small fluctuations, with some recording significant increases, especially in the initial and late years. The YoY percentage change in incidents of killing, as shown in the scatter plot, shows a decreasing trend over the years, suggesting that better control or reporting systems are in place. In contrast, the scatter plot of fatalities is less uniform, suggesting unpredictable year-to-year changes in the death count. Also, the scatter plot of YoY changes in incidents versus deaths shows no strong correlation, indicating that variation in the number of incidents does not always predict variation in the number of fatalities. All in all, it is essential to note that although the number of incidents increased at a low rate, the number of fatalities has fluctuated, a fact that complicates the relationship between these two variables over the years.

**Regression and ANOVA analysis**

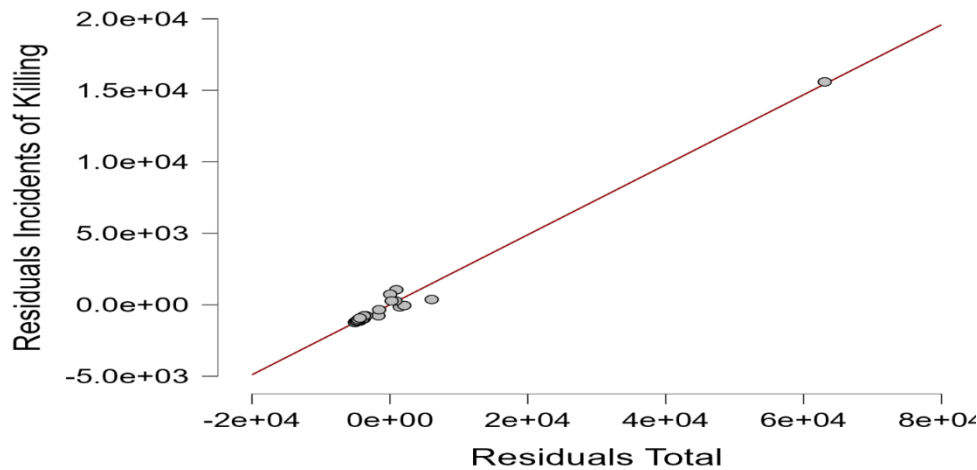
Table 5: Model Summary - Incidents of Killing

Model	R	R <sup>2</sup>	Adjusted R <sup>2</sup>	RMSE	R <sup>2</sup> Change	F Change	df1	df2	p
H <sub>1</sub>	0.995	0.989	0.989	363.700	0.989	2303.199	1	25	< .001

ANOVA						
Model		Sum of Squares	df	Mean Square	F	p
H <sub>1</sub>	Regression	3.047×10 <sup>+8</sup>	1	3.047×10 <sup>+8</sup>	2303.199	< .001

According to the table 5, the summary of the linear regression model on the incidents of killing provides that there is a robust and statistically significant correlation between the variable being predicted and the incidents of killing. The correlation coefficient (R) is 0.995, indicating a close-to-perfect positive linear relationship between them. The coefficient of determination (R<sup>2</sup>) is 0.989, indicating that the model explains 98.9 percent of the variation in the number of killings, which is a perfect fit. The adjusted R-squared of 0.989 indicates that the model is robust, given the number of predictors. The mean distance between the calculated and actual values is indicated by an RMSE of 363.700. According to the ANOVA table, the F-statistic is highly significant (F (2, 2303) = 2303.199, p < 0.001), indicating that the model is significant.

**Incidents of Killing vs. Total Terrorist Attacks**



**Fig.10: Liner Regression Model**

Fig. 10 shows the residues as the differences between the observed and predicted values, along with the regression model. The vertical axis in this plot shows the residuals for Incidents of Killing, and the horizontal axis shows the total. As shown in the residuals plot, a strong linear association exists between the residuals of the variables Incidents of Killing and Total, indicating that the regression model fits the data well. This is further supported by the fact that most points are close to the line, indicating little deviation and preserving the model's accuracy. Nevertheless, the presence of outliers implies that additional research will be required to identify the anomalies in the data.

**DISCUSSION**

The 2000-2024 statistical analysis of murder cases indicates several significant trends and patterns. The annual killing rate is provided as 676.6 with a standard deviation of 684.238, indicating substantial year-to-year variability. The data shows a sharp peak in incidences between 2008 and 2009, followed by a notable decrease in later years. The linear regression model shows that the predictor variable has a high correlation with incidents of killing, with an R2 of 0.989, which implies that the model accounts for 98.9 percent of the variance in incidents. A strong explanatory power, as indicated by high F and t values, underscores the model's accuracy.

The YoY analysis helps shed further light on the nature of violence. It reveals that fluctuations are significant, with large increases in 2004 and 2008 and significant decreases in 2010 and 2016. These results are supported by the descriptive statistics, which show a median incident value of 365, which is very low relative to the mean, indicating that a few high-incident years are driving the average up. The regression coefficients indicate that an increase in the predictor variable has a significant effect on the number of incidents, as evidenced by a high standardized coefficient and a significant p-value.

Table.2 Two Pearson correlation shows that each variable very strong positive relation from 2000 to 2024 it mean there is no political, legal and security policy to which effectively positive and to reduce this terror effect on fatalities.

The number of incidents has been declining in recent years. However, the study suggests that they may increase without notifying anyone. It is imperative to maintain a low crime rate or further decrease it. Considerable effort is required to halt the loss of life and combat terrorism.

## CONCLUSION

Qualitative and quantitative analysis shows that Pakistan is obligated to maintain its integrity and combat terrorism. It is impossible to address abusers and preserve human rights in the absence of explicit regulations. Community norms are impeded by unreliable leaders. The situation is deteriorating. Zone containment is challenging due to the ability of terrorists to conceal themselves in permeable borders and precipitous terrain. The country is experiencing a scarcity of these resources. It is essential to get agencies to collaborate, but this may not happen due to red tape and power struggles. It is hard to coordinate in case of terrorist attacks. The events in the world and the expectations of people might also alter the way Pakistanis can see their anti-terrorism activity. Quantitative statistics indicate a strong relationship between the variables for the years 2000-2024. Descriptive statistics also reveal the police's failure in counterterrorism. Pakistan needs to address its legal, political, and security problems and leverage its international relations. This will not only make Pakistan stronger but also protect its independence and world peace.

## FUTURE RESEARCH DIRECTIONS

- I. Focus on years with significant increases (2004, 2008, 2009) to understand and address underlying causes.
- II. Conduct in-depth studies on factors contributing to the high variability in certain years to develop targeted strategies for violence reduction.
- III. Examine years with substantial changes to identify effective policies or significant events and check the positive correlations variable reasons.
- IV. Ensure the linear regression model's assumptions (linearity, homoscedasticity, independence, and normality) are satisfied by further diagnostic tests.

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