



## INFONALYSIS

SECURITY AGAINST CRIME – LONG MILES TO GO

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Research & Development Cell

Karachi Chamber of Commerce & Industry

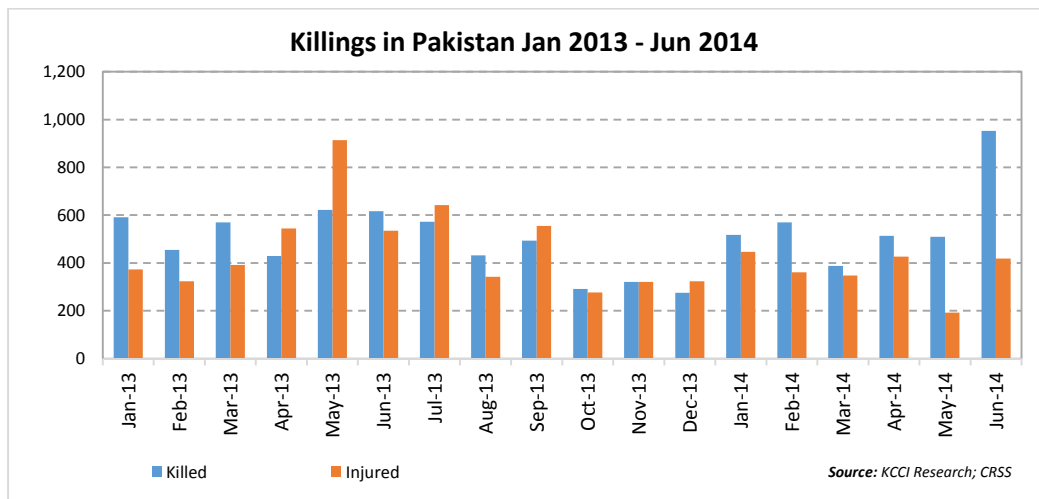
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## Introduction

Security to citizens has always been one of the main responsibilities of a state. From the standpoint of human rights, security does not only mean fighting crime; instead it is about creating an environment conducive to peaceful coexistence of people. And so, the concept of security must place greater emphasis on activities to prevent and control the factors that generate violence and insecurity. The situation of human rights in Pakistan is complex due to variety of factors like the country's diversity, large population and its status as a developing country. Even though the Constitution of Pakistan provides for fundamental rights, which include freedom of speech, thought, information, religion, association, press, and the (conditional) right to bear arms, the on-ground situation does not adequately adhere to the Constitutional covenants.

## Rights of safe existence in Pakistan

Human rights of safe existence in Pakistan has not been satisfactory since the past decade. In the year 2013, as many as 5,665 people were killed in Pakistan where 45 suicide attacks occurred in the country which killed 694 persons, whereas 31 drone attacks carried out in Pakistan and 199 people killed in the attacks. Similarly, around 3,452 people have been assassinated in just six months till June 2014.

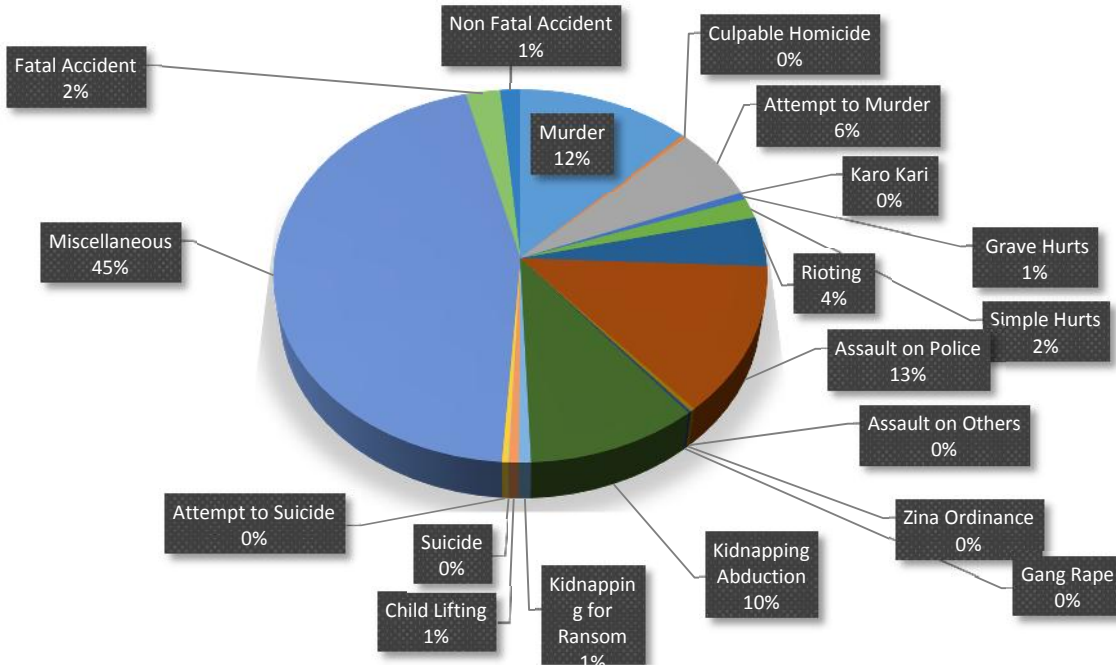


## Current situation of Law & Order in Karachi

Karachi, largest GDP contributing city of Pakistan, has remained a victim of political unrest for long time marked by ethnic, political and sectarian conflicts. This phenomena has acted as a catalyst for heightened violation of human rights, adding to the sufferings of the city. The situation highlights sectarian violence, targeted and extrajudicial killings and disappearances as major complexities. The recent security operation launched by the government for restoring peace in the city has failed to produce desired impact including those by Rangers personnel, only gave temporary respite from violence. While suspects were arrested, failure to investigate the cases and prosecute criminals remains a serious concern.

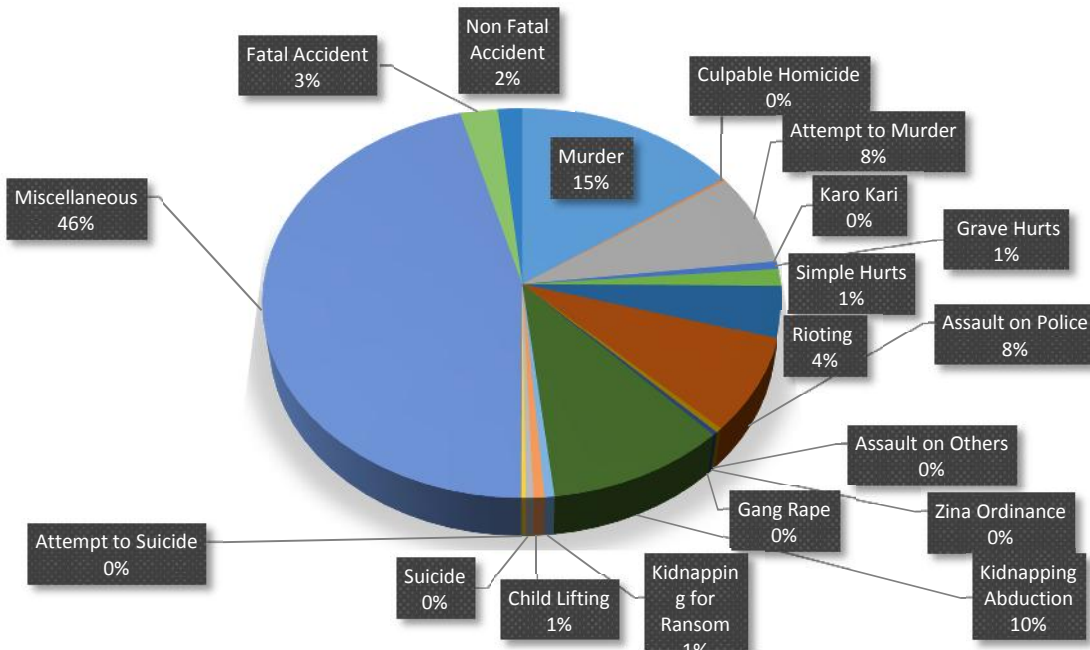
According to media monitoring by HRCP 3,218 people were killed in 2013, up 14% from 2012 when 2,823 people were killed in Karachi. The menace of targeted killings seemed to be more rooted than ever as 1,006 citizens excluding political activists were gunned down in targeted attacks in 2013. The figure was 19% higher compared to 843 target killings of this nature in 2012. As many as 268 political activists were killed in Karachi in 2013, while 356 had been killed in 2012.

### Breakup of Crimes Reported in Karachi (2014)



Source: KCCI Research; Sindh Police

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### Factors influencing Crime and Violence

#### **Weak enforcement of Security, and side effects of War on Terrorism**

Terrorism is a great hurdle in Pakistan's socio-economic prosperity, political stability, geo-strategic sustainability and energy security. In this backdrop, the persistently deteriorating security situation in Karachi, being the major contributor to the revenue generation for Pakistan, needs immediate attention. Comprehensive end to end security plan from crime investigation and arrest to conviction is desirable.

Some elements in Law Enforcement Agencies (LEAs) have long been understood to take extortion money from illegal business like gambling and liquor dens to provide cover for their smooth operations. These dens effectively harbor criminals and serve as breeding grounds for budding criminals, who then go on to become seasoned extortionists and target killers.

The government should initiate three-pronged policy i.e. dialogue, development and deterrence. Policymakers and LEAs should sit-in with the business community for drawing up security plans, as businesses and businessmen are primary targets of terrorists. The jointly devised plans should be implemented in letter and spirit so as to eradicate lawlessness and crime from the city.

There is an urgent need for further augmenting the security apparatus in Pakistan especially Karachi, NWFP and Tribal areas that includes deployment of armed forces in support of police, and para-military forces. Modern training may be imparted to police force to combat terrorism and a better coordination among various agencies and law enforcement departments is also recommended.

#### **Economic factors**

Negative trends in the economy like increase in inflation, poverty, unemployment, and decline in investment are main reasons for negative trends in law and order (increase in crime rate). In addition to the economic and poverty factors, crimes may be caused by existing social environment which motivates or encourages crime, and dysfunctional family conditions like parental inadequacy, parental conflict, parental criminality, lack of communication (both in quality and quantity), lack of respect and responsibility, abuse and neglect of children, and family violence.

It is agreed at different levels that any single policy is not going to work to eradicate poverty. It is a complex issue and requires multidirectional approach with a mix of policies ranging from cash payments to human resource development. It should aim at greater growth that ensures an adequate flow of benefits to the poor and vulnerable.

Another important initiative required is to provide employment by initiating labor intensive industry and programs. One important factor for increasing rate of poverty in the country has been slow down of the small and medium industries that are mostly labor intensive and rural.

Several initiatives have been designed from time to time by the govt. to improve rural infrastructure, cash transfers, Zakat, Bait-ul-maal, employment creation through small and medium enterprises, micro-finance programs, Khushal Pakistan Program, Rural Support Program, Social Action Program, and Poverty Reduction Strategy of Pakistan (PRSP). Recent initiatives to this end have been Benazir Income Support Program (BISP) and PM youth loans. However, much more rigorous and focused efforts are required to address the issues of the growing population.

## **INFONALYSIS: SECURITY AGAINST CRIME – LONG MILES TO GO**

On the economic front, to control rise of inflation, the administration should take initiatives for enabling consumers to form their effective consumer associations supplementing already in place monitoring mechanisms. Primarily, it is the domestic investors who have to be encouraged. The administration of governmental incentives to them should be more business-friendly. Once, domestic investors start flourishing, it will encourage foreigners to invest in Pakistan as well.

There is a need to improve business environment in the country, including the availability of educated and skilled manpower, ancillary industries and utility services. We need to improve our infrastructure facilitations to make the business environment more conducive to foreign and local investments. Physical infrastructure including road, and bridges in inaccessible affected areas be constructed.

Ad-hocism, and poor implementation of policies have been distorting the system. In order to stimulate investment and revitalize the economy, continuity of economic policies coupled with political stability is intensely needed.

### **Demographic and Cultural**

Disparities between rural and urban areas create a very strong urban bias in the provision of basic services. A sense of deprivation and backwardness in rural areas fosters misgivings and ill-feelings against the urban population which leads to theft and other such vices. Further, increased urbanization caused by heavy and unchecked influx from rural areas without proportionate job creation and that of accommodation facilities is a major cause of high crime rates in urban centers like Karachi.

Improvement of basic facilities like health and education, employment opportunities and standard of living in rural areas is the key in reducing the sense of deprivation, and checking urban migration.

Let us hope that our soil will be freed from the terrorism and there will be no more bloodshed in the days to come and justice would prevail.

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