

Preventive Measures of Pakistan against US Drone Strikes

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ABSTRACT

This study is about those preventive measures which should take Pakistan in FATA region and take steps to minimize the US drone attacks. Moreover, drone policy is related with decrease in the incidents of terrorist attacks but a lot of collateral damage is also seen there. This type of policy created hate and anger in the people of this region and also in all over the state of Pakistan against America and recruitment of militants are also increased for terrorist attacks. Furthermore, drone attacks eliminated the militant organizations and in the result terrorist attacks are decreased to some extent. Conclusively, Pakistan should take some steps for the betterment of people of this region and also dialogue with US about this drone policy.

KEYWORDS: Drone Strikes, Militants, Pakistan, Tribal Areas, IDPs.

1. INTRODUCTION

Drones are pilotless vehicle that are their great advantage. These vehicles have been used by CIA and US military. It is used for targeted killing so CIA uses it for killing of suspected individuals and terrorists. Two types of drone strikes are personality strikes and signature strikes. Former strikes were common in the era of George W Bush.

American reputation has been decreased not only in Pakistan but in the whole region. There are evidences that American drone policy has provided a chance for non- state factor to contribute in this tension. These non-state actors further disturbed the whole scenario by attacking American military and innocent civilians. Furthermore, the American drone policy set challenges for the rule of law as no legal procedure was adopted for framing this policy (1). In past ten years, American government has fired countless drone strikes. Now, drone attacks are very common phenomenon in the northwest area of Pakistan as this region is in control of different tribes. US administration takes these drones as their potential weapon to fight against Taliban without engaging into a direct war. Yet there is a great opposition of these drones because they are not just killing terrorist but also taking innocent lives. It is a very crucial issue, so the debate has been started not only in Pakistan and USA but on international level too.

In Pakistan there are anti- American sentiments, so individuals are joining terrorist groups. This fact proves failure of these strikes as these strikes are increasing the number of militants rather than reducing them. From this it is clear that drone strategy is a failed one.

There is no doubt that they have killed many prominent leaders of Al-Qaeda and caused much damage to them. Along with these success stories, many innocent lives have been sacrificed. Children, women and old age people have been killed in drone strikes (1). For this reason, drone strikes are considered as a failed policy. This perspective has been unveiled by media. On social level, negative side of drone policy has been exposed social media and internet has covered all these causalities that were due to drone strikes that enraged the youth of Pakistan.

In America, central intelligence agency and joint special command are related with this drone policy. US has attacked on terrorists in the Federally Administered Tribal; Areas with the help of different types of drones. The benefit of drone policy is that US did not deploy troops on the ground of this difficult region but the legal and political consequences are also existed with this drone policy. Some people rejected this policy because of innocent causalities and killing of militants without legal trial. The innocent civilians causalities are illegal and harmful and no compensation is given to the people of this area from US. This US drone policy has not much legal support from international laws and many states of the world have serious concerns about this drone policy and moreover, they are worried about innocent civilians causalities and poor living conditions in this region (2-3).

Many independent countries face considerable pressure to protect innocent civilians (Old age citizens, females and Children) in the war, but significant uncertainties remain as to how to comply with legal principles (4). The New America Foundation observed that 388 strikes were found during 2004 to 2014, while 2,184 to 3,559 deaths were occurred; among them, 258 to 307 are considered as innocent civilian casualties and 199 to 334 as unidentified (5-6). Moreover, it is recommended that Pakistan should dialogue with the Government of United State of America to restrict the drone strikes and to utilize different techniques for reducing innocent causalities (7).

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1. OBJECTIVES

1. To explore the means of prevention of us drone attacks in Pakistan
2. To evaluate & analyze the impact of preventive measures
3. To study the practical side of preventive measures

2. METHODOLOGY

With the view of research objectives, this research is quantitative research. For this purpose, research survey approach was adopted by constructing a structured questionnaire among 200 Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs). The purposive sampling technique was used for data collection. However, the responses received from 134 educated persons (94 males and 40 females) having minimum education equal to Matriculation. This was further used for drawing inferences among the sample. The 7-point scale was used where the figure 1 denotes a strongly disagreement and the figure 7 for strongly agree with the statement. SPSS 12.0 assisted in generating the data based statistical analysis. The sample population was evaluated in different groups based on gender (males and females). It was little tough for the researcher to question the females' segments but help was taken from political agents and tribal leaders.

3. RESULTS & DISCUSSION

Table 1: Views of the respondents for Drone strikes are an act of national self-defense by the US

Response	Male	Females	Total
Agree	7(7.45%)	6(15.00%)	13(9.70%)
Disagree	22(23.40%)	8(20.00%)	30(22.39%)
Mildly Agree	3(3.19%)	1(2.50%)	4(2.99%)
Mildly Disagree	2(2.13%)	1(2.50%)	3(2.24%)
Neutral	3(3.19%)	0(0.00%)	3(2.24%)
Strongly Agree	11(11.70%)	10(25.00%)	21(15.67%)
Strongly Disagree	46(48.94%)	14(35.00%)	60(44.78%)
No Response	0(0.00%)	0(0.00%)	0(0.00%)
Total	94	40	134

The above table shows the responses about the statement that drone strikes are an act of national self-defense of US. The collected data reveals that nearly less than half respondents were strongly agree while nearly less than one quarter respondents were disagree with statement. However, the results of female respondents are slightly different than male respondents. One quarter respondents were strongly agree with this statement while 35% respondents were strongly disagree.

Table 2: Views of the respondents for "The drone strikes policy is highly unpopular in Pakistan"

Response	Male	Females	Total
Agree	8(8.51%)	9(22.50%)	17(12.69%)
Disagree	3(3.19%)	6(15.00%)	9(6.72%)
Mildly Agree	2(2.13%)	1(2.50%)	3(2.24%)
Mildly Disagree	4(4.26%)	0(0.00%)	4(2.99%)
Neutral	6(6.38%)	3(7.50%)	9(6.72%)
Strongly Agree	63(67.02%)	11(27.50%)	74(55.22%)
Strongly Disagree	7(7.45%)	10(25.00%)	18(13.43%)
No Response	1(1.06%)	0(0.00%)	0(0.00%)
Total	94	40	134

This data shows that more than half male respondents were agreed that US drone policy is unpopular in Pakistan. And one quarter female respondents were disagreed while majority of the female respondents were agreed.

Table 3: Views of the respondents for “The US drone policy affects the social, economic and political life in FATA and Pakistan”

Response	Male	Females	Total
Agree	7(7.45%)	15(37.50%)	22(16.42%)
Disagree	2(2.13%)	0(0.00%)	2(1.49%)
Mildly Agree	4(4.26%)	1(2.50%)	5(3.73%)
Mildly Disagree	0(0.00%)	0(0.00%)	0(0.00%)
Neutral	1(1.06%)	0(0.00%)	1(0.75%)
Strongly Agree	77(81.91%)	24(60.00%)	101(75.37%)
Strongly Disagree	2(2.13%)	0(0.00%)	3(2.24%)
No Response	1(1.06%)	0(0.00%)	0(0.00%)
Total	94	40	134

In response to the statement that The US drone policy affects the social, economic and political life in FATA and Pakistan. Majority of the male and female respondents were strongly agree with this statement.

Table 4: Views of the respondents for “Drone strikes are violating the basic human rights in Pakistan”

Response	Male	Females	Total
Agree	15(15.96%)	10(25.00%)	25(18.66%)
Disagree	1(1.06%)	1(2.50%)	2(1.49%)
Mildly Agree	16(17.02%)	1(2.50%)	17(12.69%)
Mildly Disagree	0(0.00%)	0(0.00%)	0(0.00%)
Neutral	5(5.32%)	3(7.50%)	8(5.97%)
Strongly Agree	54(57.45%)	23(57.50%)	77(57.46%)
Strongly Disagree	2(2.13%)	2(5.00%)	4(2.99%)
No Response	1(1.06%)	0(0.00%)	1(0.75%)
Total	94	40	134

Majority of the male and female respondents were agreed that US drone policy is violating the basic human rights of citizens in Pakistan. Very few respondents were disagreed with this statement.

Table 5: Views of the respondents for Drone strikes are violating the sovereignty of independent state of Pakistan

Response	Male	Females	Total
Agree	11(11.70%)	12(30.00%)	23(17.16%)
Disagree	1(1.06%)	0(0.00%)	1(0.75%)
Mildly Agree	9(9.57%)	0(0.00%)	9(6.72%)
Mildly Disagree	0(0.00%)	0(0.00%)	0(0.00%)
Neutral	0(0.00%)	1(2.50%)	1(0.75%)
Strongly Agree	73(77.66%)	26(65.00%)	99(73.88%)
Strongly Disagree	1(1.06%)	0(0.00%)	1(0.75%)
No Response	-1(-1.06%)	1(2.50%)	0(0.00%)
Total	94	40	134

The responses about the statement that drone strikes are violating the sovereignty of independent state of Pakistan indicates that more than three quarter male respondents were strongly agreed whereas less than three quarter female respondents were also strongly agree.

Table 6: Views of the respondents for Drone strikes have created anti-American sentiments in Pakistan

Response	Male	Females	Total
Agree	20(21.28%)	14(35.00%)	34(25.37%)
Disagree	5(5.32%)	0(0.00%)	5(3.73%)
Mildly Agree	5(5.32%)	2(5.00%)	7(5.22%)
Mildly Disagree	1(1.06%)	0(0.00%)	1(0.75%)
Neutral	0(0.00%)	0(0.00%)	0(0.00%)
Strongly Agree	61(64.89%)	24(60.00%)	86(64.18%)
Strongly Disagree	1(1.06%)	0(0.00%)	1(0.75%)
No Response	1(1.06%)	0(0.00%)	0(0.00%)
Total	94	40	134

The collected data shows that majority of the respondents were in favor the statement that drone strikes have created anti-American sentiments in Pakistan.

Table 7: Views of the respondents for US drone strikes have damaged the infrastructure of the area

Response	Male	Females	Total
Agree	25(26.60%)	14(35.00%)	39(29.10%)
Disagree	3(3.19%)	0(0.00%)	3(2.24%)
Mildly Agree	5(5.32%)	0(0.00%)	5(3.73%)
Mildly Disagree	0(0.00%)	0(0.00%)	0(0.00%)
Neutral	4(4.26%)	0(0.00%)	4(2.99%)
Strongly Agree	55(58.51%)	26(65.00%)	81(60.45%)
Strongly Disagree	2(2.13%)	0(0.00%)	2(1.49%)
No Response	0(0.00%)	0(0.00%)	0(0.00%)
Total	94	40	134

Almost all the respondents agreed that US drone strikes have damaged the infrastructure of the area.

Table 8: Views of the respondents for US drone policy towards Pakistan has resulted extra-judicial killings

Response	Male	Females	Total
Agree	0(0.00%)	0(0.00%)	0(0.00%)
Disagree	0(0.00%)	1(2.50%)	1(0.75%)
Mildly Agree	6(6.38%)	5(12.50%)	11(8.21%)
Mildly Disagree	1(1.06%)	0(0.00%)	1(0.75%)
Neutral	5(5.32%)	1(2.50%)	6(4.48%)
Strongly Agree	62(65.96%)	25(62.50%)	87(64.93%)
Strongly Disagree	1(1.06%)	2(5.00%)	3(2.24%)
No Response	19(20.21%)	6(15.00%)	25(18.66%)
Total	94	40	134

The responses presented in this table regarding the statement “US drone policy towards Pakistan has resulted extra-judicial killings”, majority of the respondents were strongly agreed to the statement (64.93%), while 18.66% persons didn't show any response.

4. CONCLUSION

Almost all of the respondents agreed that it has damaged the infrastructure of the area. Drone strikes are also creating panic and terror in the region and destabilizing the social, political and economic life. People are also suffering from psychological disorder in the region of FATA. Thus, majority of the respondents shown dissent towards drone attacks and claimed that they are destructing the whole region along with bringing some undesirable response in many tribes. A wave of terrorism arises from the drone affected areas and spread throughout Pakistan. Furthermore, to uproot the roots of terrorism in Pakistan and to enhance the peace and prosperity. Pakistan should provide better health, education and economical facilities to the local people in the affected areas. Conclusively, it is recommended that Government of Pakistan should negotiate with the US to ban the drone attacks and to adopt some alternate policy with minimum loss. If the US still insist to continue than it must be continued with the counseling of the Pakistan military intelligence ensuring the confirmation of the target.

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