Carnage at Karachi Airport and Shia Pilgrims

Syed Naeem Uddin Published in BridgeUS-June2014

As insecurity and massacre sustained this impoverished helpless nation, the sad and synchronized tragedies of brazen terrorist attacks on Karachi airport and killing of 24 Shia pilgrims in Taftan have surprised national and international community. The question is – What happened to the enormous amount of money, training and skilled provided to Pakistan by the international community to fight against terrorism. Why terrorists are still intact despite of 9 known operations by the Pakistani security forces since 2007? Pakistan's armed forces and the civilians have paid the highest price in the war on terror. Soldiers have sacrificed their lives valiantly and civilians are left at the mercy of the suicide bombers helplessly, but the elected governments remained unable to put a policy in place against terrorism and protecting minorities.

Since 2009, The United States has provided more than \$3.3 billion in civilian assistance to Pakistan, including about \$1 billion in humanitarian response to conflict and floods.

While combating terrorists at the Karachi Airport, law enforcement personnel's were not equipped with the necessary equipment needed to face such intense disasters. No bullet proof jackets, gloves, extinguisher for chemical fire, generators, masks, and the leadership – there was chaos, death and helplessness. Workers of the local aid organizations were also working in similarly terrible situation with bare hands, no masks, shoes and communication devices.

How come very next day, terrorists again pounced on Air Port Security Force – ASF? The post disaster situation still witnessed flaws in the Air Port Security. Both the Federal and Provincial governments remained apathetically unmoved.

7 people burnt to death while their families were in wait. Who cleared the airport or the inside links to terrorists intentionally let that happened to cause maximum harm to innocent civilian? The attack was carried out by Taliban or as the old saying goes a FOREIGN HAND, but the painful death is the certain and criminal negligence of the Federal and the Provincial governments. The responsible individuals must be charged with premeditated manslaughter to get to the terrorists who have infiltrated within security forces. The aftermaths have left everybody thinking about the safety of the nuclear installations and the possibilities of several carnages to come.

Police and education are the fundamentals of every society. Both the institutions are long infected with deep rooted corruption; bribery and nepotism are the levels of entry to those institutions. Now the mushroom growth of TV channels has levelled media with education and law enforcement. The irresponsible, inexperienced and over excited anchors were simultaneously creating panic and clamouring the judgements about the situation. Media entirely ignored the massacre of 25 Shiite the very same day. Many overseas Pakistani learnt about the attack on Shiite through foreign media. That was a clear exposure of media biased in dealing with minorities in Pakistan.

The USAID and donors to Pakistan should take this situation very seriously and make the incumbents accountable for the deaths of the civilian caused by the paucity of resources and criminal negligence and evaluate the situation thoroughly about the funds and resources given to the government and NGOs in Pakistan. Actions of the donors against incumbents would speak and make difference.