

Asia Society Report: Police Reform is Key to Stabilizing Pakistan

New York, July 23, 2012 – The Asia Society report *Stabilizing Pakistan through Police Reform*, released today, finds that Pakistan’s efforts to combat crime and to counter terrorist activities are being outpaced by the innovation and agility of criminal networks and terrorist organizations. Without comprehensive reform of the legal framework governing police action, the police force as an institution, Pakistan’s law enforcement strategy, and interagency and international coordination, Pakistan’s progress toward political stability and economic security will be limited.

The report was written by the Asia Society Independent Commission on Pakistan Police Reform, an unprecedented convening of law enforcement experts in Pakistan and the U.S. led by Asia Society Senior Advisor **Hassan Abbas**. “There is a widely held notion in foreign policy circles that military action can resolve the terrorism problem in the Pakistan-Afghanistan border region, and help efforts to thwart violent radicalism throughout the region,” said Dr. Abbas. “This idea, while sensible when peering at Pakistan from the outside, misses an important reality on the ground: it is the domestic police force that can best root out terror networks, find and disable their financial support, and even manage de-radicalization programs in association with local communities.”

Asia Society will host panel discussions featuring Dr. Abbas and other key contributors to the report on **Tuesday, July 24, in New York**, and **Wednesday, July 25, in Washington D.C.** For event details, go to AsiaSociety.org/PakistanPoliceReform.

The report recommends:

1. An assertive approach to Pakistan’s legal framework for law enforcement, including by:

- Establishing a clear and uniform set of rules nationwide through the implementation of Police Order 2002 and its extension to the Federally Administered Tribal Areas (FATA);
- Revising the Anti-Terrorism Act 1997 to clarify its scope;
- Authorizing the Federal Investigation Agency to pursue complaints made against federal employees, regardless of their rank or status;
- Establishing a legal framework to make the National Counter Terrorism Authority fully functional; and
- Instituting a strong witness protection system.

2. Significant institutional reform within the police force, including by:

- Establishing an independent police complaint authority;
- Improving working conditions and salaries and changing organizational culture, following the model of the successful National Highways and Motorway Police;

- Revamping training and curriculum in police academies to address the needs of vulnerable groups and to present course material in a user-friendly style;
- Providing police with independent facilities for the interception of terrorists' communications, mobile tracking systems, and telephone call data analysis;
- Investing in national databases on vehicles and weapons;
- Overhauling the system of promoting and hiring police to eliminate political interference; and
- Utilizing police officers (in training jobs and managing challenging tasks) who return after serving in UN Peacekeeping operations.

3. A refreshed counterterrorism strategy, including by:

- Creating within the police a special cadre of terrorism investigators;
- Establishing special units to rapidly coordinate with private cellular companies in cases of suspected terrorism;
- Expanding and strengthening the country's de-radicalization program with police in a lead role; and
- Funding quantitative and statistical research on the causes of terrorism.

4. Enhanced coordination among Pakistani agencies and the international community, by including:

- Strengthening cooperation between the military and police, so that Pakistan's civilian law enforcement can better take responsibility for internal security;
- Empowering the civilian Intelligence Bureau and bolstering its cooperation with the police investigators, and Inter-Services Intelligence (ISI);
- Constructing mechanisms for intelligence sharing between Pakistan and neighboring countries; and
- Improving coordination among the United Nations (Police Division), international donors, the private sector and local law enforcement stakeholders, increasing international support in the spheres of technical assistance, training, and modern equipment.
- Increasing international support in the spheres of technical assistance, training, and modern equipment.

For the full report, please visit AsiaSociety.org/PakistanPoliceReform.

For questions or to receive a copy of the report, please contact pr@asiasociety.org or 212-327-9271.

— Members of the Asia Society Independent Commission on Pakistan Police Reform—

Project Director

Hassan Abbas, Senior Advisor, Asia Society; Professor, College of International Security Affairs, National Defense University

Members

Iftikhar Ahmed, Former Inspector General of Police, Islamabad

Aitzaz Ahsan, Member, Senate of Pakistan; Former Interior Minister of Pakistan; Former President of Pakistan's Supreme Court Bar Association

Arif Alikhan, Former Distinguished Professor of Homeland Security and Counterterrorism, National Defense University; Former Assistant Secretary for Policy Development, U.S. Department of Homeland Security

Hasan Asad Alvi, Chief Security Officer, Secretariat of the Prime Minister of Pakistan

Mohib Asad, Former Director General, Federal Investigation Agency (FIA)

Brig. Shafqat Asghar, Officer in the Pakistani Army; Visiting faculty member at the College of International Security Affairs, National Defense University

Andrew Carpenter, Chief, Strategic Policy and Development Section, Police Division, Office of Rule of Law and Security Institutions, Department of Peacekeeping Operations (DPKO), United Nations

Zulfiqar Hameed, Assistant Inspector General of Police, Punjab

Syed Ejaz Hussain, Deputy Inspector General of Police, Punjab

Tahira Khan, Scholar of South Asian studies

Tariq Khosa, Advisor on Rule of Law and Criminal Justice, United Nations Office of Drugs and Crime (UNODC); Former Inspector General of Police, Balochistan

Roger B. Myerson, Glen A. Lloyd Distinguished Service Professor of Economics, University of Chicago

Tariq Parvez, Former Director General, Federal Investigation Authority (FIA); Former National Coordinator, National Counter Terrorism Authority (NACTA)

Muhammad Amir Rana, Director, Pak Institute for Peace Studies (PIPS)

Afzal Ali Shigri, Former Inspector General of Police, Sindh; Former Director General, National Police Bureau

Shoaib Suddle, Federal Tax Ombudsman of Pakistan; Former Inspector General of Police, Sindh

Muhammad Tahir, Former Senior Superintendent of Police, Peshawar; Hubert H. Humphrey Fellow, University of Minnesota

Sohail Habib Tajik, Former Senior Superintendent of Police, Rahim Yar Khan (Punjab)

Sheikh Muhammad Umar, Counselor, Community Affairs, Embassy of Pakistan; Former Senior Superintendent of Police, Sindh

Contributing Writers

Ahmed Ali Aafani, Assistant Director, Federal Investigation Agency (FIA)

Humayun Tarar, Member of Pakistan's police force; Hubert H. Humphrey Fellow, Maxwell School, Syracuse University

Zamir Haider, Journalist, *Dunya News*

About the Asia Society

Asia Society is the leading global and pan-Asian organization working to strengthen relationships and promote understanding among the people, leaders and institutions of the United States and Asia. The Society seeks to increase knowledge and enhance dialogue, encourage creative expression, and generate new ideas across the fields of arts and culture, policy and business, and education. Founded in 1956, Asia Society is a nonpartisan, nonprofit educational institution with offices in Hong Kong, Houston, Los Angeles, Manila, Melbourne, Mumbai, New York, San Francisco, Seoul, Shanghai, and Washington, D.C. Asia Society is on the web at www.AsiaSociety.org