



MONITOR

Civil-Military Relations in Pakistan

September 2016



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Pakistan Rangers (Punjab) Deployed in Punjab

In a development, which has seemingly failed to catch the eye of observers amidst hostility between Pakistan and India, the Provincial Government of the Punjab called in the Pakistan Rangers (Punjab) for a limited operation against terrorist outfits in specifically 'designated areas'.¹ The Provincial Minister for Law and Parliamentary Affairs, Rana Sanaullah Khan, MPA, made an announcement in this regard on September 09, 2016, with the Federal Ministry of Interior issuing a notification on the same upon the request of the Provincial Government. The request was made under Section 7 and Section 10 of the Pakistan Rangers Ordinance, 1959² for an initial period of two months.³

It must be noted that Rana Sanaullah Khan was particularly careful in establishing that the Rangers would only assist the Provincial Police and the Counter Terrorism Department in conducting operations, perhaps to guard against the larger-than-life role that the paramilitary force has attained in Sindh.

The Provincial Government of the Punjab had come under increasing pressure with regards to its somewhat lackluster performance in controlling the law and order situation in some parts of the province, especially during the past one-year. The two incidents of the blast in Lahore's Gulshan Iqbal Park on March 27, 2016 and the assassination of the Provincial Home Minister, Col. (Retd.) Shuja Khanzada in Attock in August 2015 were particular causes of concern. Subsequently, the failure of the Provincial Government's law enforcement apparatus to contain the *Chottu* Gang in southern-most part of Punjab also signified a centralized governance model, with the peripheries of the province apparently ignored.

In the larger context of policing in the province, it is important to note that with the requisitioning of Rangers, the Provincial Government of the Punjab has also resorted to a quick fix because of which the policing service in Pakistan, especially in Sindh, is suffering. The requisitioning signifies the policing woes of the Provincial Government of the Punjab, especially in the peripheries of the province, which came to the fore with the shameful resistance put up by the *Chottu* Gang in April 2016.

The deployment of Rangers to aid with policing, and maintenance of law and order, might be an easy option, but it has long-term adverse ramifications. Consider the case of Karachi, where the Rangers have become a permanent feature of the law enforcement dynamics of the province for more than 20 years. What are required are certain reforms in the policing service of the province, which have already been outlined by PILDAT in the case of Punjab's police.⁴

1. For details, please see: <https://en.dailypakistan.com.pk/headline/rangers-to-launch-operation-against-outlawed-organizations-in-punjab-rana-sanaullah>
2. Section 7 of the Pakistan Rangers Ordinance, 1959 titled Assistance to the Police states that:
The Force [Rangers] shall:
 - a) *Assist the Police in the prevention and detection of crime in the border areas;*
 - b) *Reinforce the Police for the maintenance of law and order whenever it is necessary.*Section 10 of the Pakistan Rangers Ordinance, 1959 titled Powers and Duties of Members states that '*Government may, by a general or special order, confer or impose upon any member of the Force, any of the powers or duties conferred or imposed on a Police Officer of any class or grade by any enactment for the time being in force.*'
3. For details, please see: <http://www.pakistantribune.com.pk/punjab-government-calls-rangers-operation-terrorists.html>
4. For details, please see the PILDAT publication titled Policy Recommendations for Reforms in the Police System of Pakistan, which may be accessed at: <http://www.pildat.org/Publications/publication/ROLR/PolicyRecommendationsforReformsinPoliceSystemofPakistan.pdf>

United Kingdom's Special Representative for Pakistan and Afghanistan Calls on the COAS



As noted previously, the centrality of the Military leadership in particular areas of our foreign policy, and the COAS' resultant exclusive interactions with visiting foreign civilian leadership has become an established trend. In line with that, the United Kingdom's Special Representative for Pakistan and Afghanistan, Mr. Owen Jenkins, called on the COAS at the GHQ on September 05, 2016.

According to the presser issued by the ISPR, '*Matters of regional security and mutual interest came under discussion during the meeting. The visiting dignitary appreciated Pakistan Army's achievements and continuing efforts in fight against terrorism and contribution for regional peace and stability.*'

It is interesting to note that during his one-day visit, Mr. Jenkins' only official engagement was with the COAS.

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Premier-COAS Interactions



The month of September 2016 saw the Premier and the COAS interacting twice.

- i. The first meeting between the two, a one-on-one interaction, was on September 16, 2016, when the COAS called on the Premier at the Prime Minister House. According to the Press Release issued by the PMO, '*matters pertaining to internal and regional security were discussed during the meeting*'.⁵
- ii. The second meeting was held on September 28, 2016 to take note of the Indian hostilities in Kashmir. It was attended by Federal Minister for Finance, Senator Ishaq Dar, the National Security Advisor, Lt. Gen. (Retd.) Nasser Khan Janjua, the Foreign Secretary, Mr. Aizaz Ahmad Chaudhary, and the Director General Military Operation.⁶

In both the meetings, the Federal Minister of Defence, was not present.

5. For details, please see: http://pmo.gov.pk/press_release_details.php?pr_id=153

6. For details, please see: http://pmo.gov.pk/press_release_details.php?pr_id=1555