

POST 9/ 11 TERRORISM: AN ANALYSIS OF MUSHARRAF ERA IN PAKISTAN

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ABSTRACT

Terrorism has a direct impact on human lives that curbs not only their fundamental rights but also leave the devastate impact on the respective citizens; emotionally, physically and psychologically. The destructive impact of terrorism raise the concerns of International Actors to protect the human lives and provide sufficient security which made the International Organizations more cautious to address such horrifying subject and discernible at United Nation's General Assembly and Security Council. Terrorism endangers the innocent lives, creating an environment of fear and torture that destroys individual freedom which ultimately threaten the dignity and security of human beings in each spectrum of life that undermines pluralistic civil society and aims to undo the democratic basis of society. A fundamental obligation of states, therefore, is to protect the human lives of their nationals by taking positive measures to protect them by bringing the terrorists to trials and cutoff their financial and supplies connections. However, the measures adopted by some States to counter terrorism have themselves often posed serious challenges and possess certain constraints in rule of law which provides legal and practical safeguards to them. After September, 2001 attack on World trade center (US) by radicals, Western powers especially America made counter-terrorism efforts a priority. While joining hand with American War on terror, Pakistani President Musharraf conducted military operations against the activists. Since then, Pakistan has been facing the epic of terrorism, and a war against it. No country has suffered as much as Pakistan in terms of both human lives, and material damage. This research paper is an attempt to strengthen understanding of the complex and multifaceted relationship between terrorism and security with reference to the era of Musharraf in Pakistan. By using case study method, this study explores that the government efforts to counterterrorism has given rise to radicalization in Pakistan.

Keywords: Terrorism, United Nations, security, counter-terrorism, Musharraf era

INTRODUCTION

Terrorism has no legally binding definition as different Nations interpret terrorism within the context of their own bitter experiences and requirements. For Americans, it is the use of violence by extremists against them. For Indians, it is Pakistan sponsored infiltration of terrorists into Indian Occupied Kashmir and Indian State while for Pakistanis, it is brutality, committed by Indian forces against Kashmiri people, anti-Muslim riots, and communal killings of Muslims all over the World. Pakistan's history of terrorism and extremism is a longstanding issue, however, the events of September 11, 2001, marked a turning point for the country's security situation. The terrorist attacks in the United States on 9/11 had far-reaching implications for Pakistan, as the country became a key player in the US-led war on terror. The era of Pervez Musharraf's leadership in Pakistan, which spanned from 1999 to 2008, was marked by Pakistan's close alliance with the United States and the domestic efforts to counter terrorism.

During this period, Pakistan experienced a significant increase in terrorist incidents, which had a profound impact on the country's political and social landscape. The rise of extremist groups in Pakistan, such as the Tehrik-i-Taliban Pakistan (TTP) and Lashkar-e-Jhangvi, among others, brought unprecedented levels of violence and instability to the country. The situation was exacerbated by the influx of militants fleeing the US-

led invasion of Afghanistan, who took refuge in Pakistan's tribal areas (Bajoria, 2009).

The Musharraf era was a time of major political and economic transitions for Pakistan. After seizing power in a military coup in 1999, Musharraf initiated a series of reforms aimed at modernizing the country and boosting economic growth. The US-Pakistan alliance in the war on terror became a defining feature of this period, with Pakistan playing a critical role in the US-led invasion of Afghanistan in 2001 (Ganguly & Kapur, 2010).

The relationship with the United States had a significant impact on Pakistan's security and foreign policy, as well as its domestic political landscape. The close alliance with the US was not without controversy, with many Pakistanis critical of the government's decision to align with a foreign power. The country faced a delicate balancing act, as it sought to maintain its sovereignty and protect its national interests while cooperating with the United States in the fight against terrorism (Jones, 2008).

The era of Musharraf's leadership in Pakistan was a challenging period marked by significant political, economic, and social changes. The country's alliance with the United States in the war on terror, coupled with the rise of extremist groups, had a profound impact on Pakistan's security and foreign policy. This article will examine the challenges and opportunities that emerged during the Musharraf era and evaluate its legacy on Pakistan's political and social landscape, drawing on a range of academic sources to provide an in-depth analysis of this complex and consequential period in Pakistan's history.

THE BACKGROUND OF TERRORISM IN PAKISTAN

Terrorism has been a persistent problem in Pakistan for several decades, with the country experiencing some of the deadliest attacks in modern history. Understanding the background and root causes of terrorism in Pakistan is essential to comprehending this complex and multi-layered phenomenon.

The historical context of terrorism in Pakistan can be traced back to the country's partition from India in 1947. The partition resulted in a massive population transfer and significant sectarian violence. The country has also faced religious and ethnic conflicts that have contributed to the rise of militant groups. The Soviet-Afghan war in the 1980s provided an opportunity for these groups to grow, with Pakistan's military and intelligence agencies supporting their activities (Ahmad, 2013 and Zeb & Ali, 2017). The 9/11 attacks in the US further compounded the problem, with Pakistan becoming a key player in the global war on terror.

The rise of extremist groups in Pakistan can be attributed to several factors, including the country's political and economic instability. Pakistan's military and intelligence agencies supported some of these groups in the past, hoping to use them as strategic assets in neighboring Afghanistan and in the ongoing conflict with India. However, these groups later turned against the state and became a significant source of violence and instability. The Afghan Taliban, Haqqani Network, and Lashkar-e-Taiba are some of the most prominent militant groups operating in Pakistan (Khan, 2017 and Ali & Raza, 2017).

Several factors have contributed to the rise of terrorism in Pakistan. The country's geopolitical location makes it vulnerable to external forces, particularly given its proximity to Afghanistan, which has been the site of prolonged conflict (Chowdhury, 2017). The weakness of state institutions, rampant corruption, and poor governance have also created an environment in which extremist groups can thrive. The prevalence of poverty and social inequality has also contributed to the problem, with many young people joining militant groups as a means of escaping poverty and unemployment.

SIGNIFICANCE OF THE STUDY

The case study of terrorism while choosing a specific era can be used to open new gates of research on terrorism and its related organizations. It can be used as a source of information for public awareness, seminars, and for other researchers as a source of secondary data.

RESEARCH OBJECTIVES

- To find out the historical wave of terrorism in post 9/11 scenario.
- To identify the main reasons of joining war on terror by Musharraf in Pakistan.
- To explore the counter terrorism measures taken by General Musharraf.

RESEARCH QUESTIONS

RQ1: How did terrorism created a real threat to the security of Pakistan during Musharraf regime? RQ2: Why Musharraf did agree for War on terror in Pakistan?

RQ3: How has Musharraf tried to counter and eliminate terrorism in Pakistan?

REVIEW OF LITERATURE

For an in depth analysis about the topic, the literature have been categorized into three themes as follows:

- a) War on Terror and Pakistan
- b) War on Terror and Military Operations
- c) Pakistan and Counter Terrorism

WAR ON TERROR AND PAKISTAN

Among the supreme reasons of Pakistan's extremism, an honestly high rank was assigned to participate in the battle against violence. Pakistan's contribution in the war on terror means Pakistan's backing for the (US), Britain &NATO armies in the global war on extremism that the United States started in hunt of Usama bin Laden afterward the September 11 tragedy (Nasr, 2017).

Factually, Pakistan backed these clusters to achieve their goals in Afghanistan & India, but Pakistan's contribution in the war on terror turned these clutches into anti-Pakistan rebels, and started directing the police, infrastructure & citizens. These anti-Pakistan clusters were prepared as Pakistan's Tehlik and Taliban (TTP). TTP accepted that they are responsible for terrorist attack in Karachi Airport. The terrorist group was also responsible for the May 2011 violence on the Mehran naval. This radical group claims many other destruction attacks. On 15 June 2014, Pakistani joint militaries threw an aggressive Zarb-c-Azb operation against these extremist collections (Aymen Aijaz, 2015).

War on Terror and Military Operations

Pakistan's current crisis of instability is largely rotted in the ongoing war against Terrorism. With every passing day, the number of troops in Afghanistan has up and the Taliban militants have also responded with increased activity, in the grand of violence on the rise ever Since. The same happened in Pastas, the first deployments of the Pakistan army were in the heights of Tirah Valley in December 2001, with a few hundred soldiers (in an attempt to block the Passage of al Qaeda and Taliban militants from Afghanistan). The arrival of al Qaeda and Taliban in Waziristan forced the army to deploy all along the routes, conduct search and surveillance operations, and also establish additional check posts.

The presence e and operations of the army in the tribal areas enraged the tribesmen, who until then had not been familiar with the army at all. They found it very right-wing political parties such as NE and Jamaat-e Islami (JI] exploited these conditions, and have kent calling for the pullout of the army from tribal areas. This also plays into the common faculty to reconcile with the new situation (Rathore, 2017).

The Lal Mosque (Islamabad) Operation in July 2007, in which several dozen Islamists and their chief Abdur Rasheed Ghazi were killed, also provided another trigger that resulted in a) widespread resentment and outrage against the government, and b) a massive reaction by different militant groups, who began a series of deadly suicide bombings. A lot of antigovernment militants currently operated from FATA under the name of Ghazi Force (named after Abdur Rasheed Ghazi). Since 2004, Pakistan Army has been carrying out military operations in different agencies of FATA and also in some settled areas of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa.

The army has also deployed over 100.000 troops along the Pak-Afghan Border to check infiltration by the militants. During the fight against the Taliban, the army has lost around 3000 troops and the total estimated death toll of Pakistani civilians killed in this war so far has been put at 30,000 (Nasir, 2019). The operations of Swat (May 2009) and South Waziristan (October 2009) have been declared the most successful ones. Although the wave of militancy in Pakistan has relatively subdued during the recent months: however, many believe that the Taliban have US pressing Pakistan to launch a military operation.

The war has also incurred heavy economic loss on Pakistan. In the ministerial meeting of Friends of Democratic Pakistan [FoDP] held in Islamabad in July 2010, Foreign Minister Shah Mahmood Qureshi said Pakistan has suffered \$43 billion in the past nine years.

In consequence to the conflicts persisting in this region for the last three decades, the Pakistani society has become largely radicalized. Not to speak of the poor. Illiterate and unemployed rural inhabitants, even educated youth has strong inclination towards religion.

According to a survey conducted by the Pakistan Institute for Peace Studies (PIPS), Islamabad. In the various postgraduate colleges and country's Universities., in September 2010, 92.4 percent respondents said that religion is an important factor in their life; 55.8 percent were of the view that religious values are critical to the country's progress; 51.3 percent endorsed the country's prevalent legal system in which Sharia [Islamic law] is on, but not the only, source of law while 28.2 percent opined that religion should be the only source of law in the Country (50 percent of respondents from Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and 61.5 percent From FATA said that the Sharia must be the only source of law in the country).

Commenting on this survey, Ishtiaq Ahmed, Professor Emeritus of political Science at Stockholm University, says that such sort of personal Radicalization is not harmful for the society. He said. The fact that 92.4 percent opined that religion was an important factor in their life is an interesting finding. Such personal radicalization (sic) is unproblematic as long as it serves as a moral and ethical radar to make sense of lute's meaning and purpose. For liberals and Democrats there should be no problem in respecting radicalization However. as soon such as radicalization imping's on the rights of individuals and carries implications for the legal and political system, there is need to be more critical.

Drone Attacks

Drone attacks, carried out by the US Central Intelligence Agency, also serve as, trigger factor of instability. The New America Foundation says such attacks have gone up by 50 per cent since the Obama administration took over the White House in January 2009. Bush administration George W. of 2001 and January of 2009. There were roughly 45 drone attacks under between the invasion of Afghanistan in October but since then, according to CRSS, Islamabad, as Many as 130 missiles have hit targets in Waziristan.

In 2010, the US drones carried out a record number of 124 attacks in the tribal areas – more than double the number of predator strikes conducted in 2009-Hulling 1184 people, compared with 2009's death toll of 760 in 53 such attacks. Right-wing religion-political parties, mainstream Pakistan Muslim League N), and sympathizers of al Qaeda and Taliban condemn the drone attacks as a violation of Pakistani sovereignty', and therefore also use them to justify their opposition to the military's counter-insurgency efforts. Even Amnesty Integrational has now started public campaigning against the US drone strikes through a series of seminars and discussions. It also released a 130-page report which documents the "human rights violations carried out by almost all warring Factions, sects and cults in Khyber and FATA base (Shahzad, S. S. 2011: 27).

The US CIA and American military's unlawful drone missile strikes – which have illegally killed thousands of innocent Pakistani civilians/citizens in Pakistan during the last 10 years. From 2000 to 2010 – were unlawfully authorized by PPPP, MOM, ANP, JULF and, PML-Q leaders. Amnesty International USA has demanded legal accountability of all American and Pakistani war criminals for Tie US unlawful drone-bomb attacks on Pakistan.

Pakistan and Counter Terrorism

In order to given the detaining condition of violence in the Pakistan & to assistance the people affected by it in the Taliban engaged regions of Pakistan the Military threw numerous operations against the activists).

General Musharraf's chiefly attentive on the tribal areas (FATA) of Pakistan. The condition detailed were very grave hence in order to take this danger the government of Pakistan advised launching army operations in the Bajaur Agency in 2008, the action was specified the name Sher-Dil to shape up Its writ in Bajaur. Around, 8 thousand Frontier Crops along with 12 thousand troops who had the assistance of Cobra Helicopters partook in the process yet the Pakistan Army challenged critical resistance. Along with the army the activists also faced a vast number of problems when compared with the Pakistani security force. In accordance with the plan shaped the control and command construction of the activists was focused on and demolished. It was projected that the major and main persons of TTP flew away to Afghanistan. Pakistan army made new check posts near to Afghanistan borders. Moving down, in 2008 extra action was launched in Khyber Agency with the name Daraghalam. The basic goal of the action was

to offer security for NATOS main supply ways along with this to totally destroy the secret hideaways of the main leader of the activists denoted to as Mangal Bagh in Khyber Agency (Khattak, 2015).

Another achievement taken by general Musharraf comprised, under his rule the management had put a ban on sixteen fundamental groups working nationally and caught a vast number of supposed activists, however a huge portion of them were discreetly freed. Along with the terrorist group known as Jaish-e-Muhammad, which was also the radical groups whom the intelligence agencies of Pakistan supposed to have had made alliances were Sipah-e-Sahaba Harkat ul-Mujahedcen, & Lashkare-Jhangvi, all of which were banned by President Musharraf as a feature of his certain crackdown. Under the burden of the United State of America (USA), Musharraf put Jamaat-ud-Dawa on a watch list in November 2003. After this The Musharraf government had on oath, just like several of the past Pakistani administrations had done, to change the position of madrasas and provide them proper education. (Aizenman, 2005), He bad moreover on oath to alteration the madrasa framework as a chief aspect of its activities taken for anti-terrorism purposes in accordance to the UNO (International crises group, 2002).

METHODOLOGY

The present study used the qualitative and explanatory based case study. The data was collected through secondary sources of information as books, research journals, research articles, newspapers, and, authentic websites. By using analytical tools for research, this paper helps the readers to understand the context of terrorism and counter terrorism in Musharraf era of Pakistan.

Musharraf's Alliance with The United States

The alliance between the United States and Pakistan during the Musharaf era had far-reaching implications for both countries and the wider region. Understanding the dynamics of this partnership is essential to comprehend the complexity of the US-Pakistan relationship and the ongoing conflict in Afghanistan.

Following the 9/11 attacks, Pakistan, under the leadership of General Pervez Musharaf, aligned itself with the United States in the war on terror. The

alliance was critical for the US-led coalition's military operations in Afghanistan, given Pakistan's proximity to the country and its historical links with the Afghan Taliban. The Musharaf regime provided the US with intelligence and logistical support and helped capture several high-profile terrorists (Burki, 2013).

The US-Pakistan alliance in the war on terror also had significant implications for Pakistan. The alliance strengthened Musharaf's regime and provided it with much-needed financial assistance, military equipment, and diplomatic support (Ali, 2015). However, the alliance also led to a surge in anti-American sentiment in Pakistan, with many people viewing the partnership as an infringement of the country's sovereignty (Iqbal, 2013). The alliance also fueled the growth of militant groups in Pakistan, as some of these groups viewed the partnership as a betrayal of Pakistan's Islamic identity (Taufiq, 2018). The implications of the alliance on Pakistan were significant and far-reaching. The country became more deeply embroiled in the conflict in Afghanistan, with many militants crossing the border to join the fight against the US-led coalition (Khan, 2015). The alliance also led to a surge in terrorist attacks in Pakistan, with many of these attacks targeting government and military installations (Abbas, 2015). The alliance also had a profound impact on Pakistan's relations with India, with many in India viewing the partnership as a threat to its security.

Pakistan's Domestic Counter-Terrorism Efforts

Pakistan has been facing the challenge of terrorism for several decades. The country has made significant efforts to counter terrorism on its own soil, particularly during the Musharaf era. However, the country's efforts have been marred by challenges such as the impact of Operation Enduring Freedom and the role of intelligence agencies.

General Pervez Musharaf, who was in power from 1999 to 2008, implemented a multifaceted strategy for counter-terrorism. He focused on strengthening the capacity of law enforcement agencies and intelligence services, introducing legal reforms, and working with international partners to combat terrorism. His government also launched several military operations against militants in the tribal areas, such as Operation Al-Mizan and Operation Rah-e-Nijat (Khalid, 2017 & Hussain, 2017).

Pakistan's efforts to counter terrorism were significantly impacted by Operation Enduring Freedom, launched by the US-led coalition after the 9/11 attacks. The operation resulted in a significant increase in terrorism in Pakistan, as militants who fled Afghanistan found refuge in Pakistan's tribal areas. The operation also led to the influx of foreign militants into the country, further complicating Pakistan's counter-terrorism efforts (Shah, 2016).

Pakistan's intelligence agencies, such as the Inter-Services Intelligence (ISI), have played a significant role in the country's counter-terrorism efforts. The ISI has been involved in gathering intelligence and carrying out covert operations against militant groups. However, the role of the intelligence agencies has also been controversial, with some accusing them of supporting militant groups to further Pakistan's strategic interests in the region (Rizvi, 2016).

Despite these challenges, Pakistan has made some progress in countering terrorism on its own soil. The country has launched several successful military operations against militant groups, such as the Zarbe-Azb operation in 2014, which targeted the Pakistani Taliban. The country has also introduced legal reforms, such as the National Action Plan, to strengthen the legal framework for counter-terrorism (Rehman, 2016 & Yousafzai, 2017).

The Rise of Talibanization in Pakistan

The Musharaf era in Pakistan saw a rise in Talibanization, with the spread of the extremist ideology from the tribal areas to urban centers. This trend had a significant impact on Pakistan's society, creating new challenges for the government and security forces.

The tribal areas of Pakistan, which border Afghanistan, have long been a stronghold of the Taliban and other militant groups. During the Musharaf era, the Talibanization of these areas intensified, as militants established safe havens in the region and imposed their ideology on the local population (Rashid, 2015). The government's efforts to control the situation were complicated by the complex tribal dynamics in the region, which made it difficult to distinguish between militants and ordinary tribespeople (Bajoria, 2011). In addition to the tribal areas, Talibanization also spread to urban centers in Pakistan. The city of Karachi, in particular, saw a rise in sectarian violence and the emergence of Taliban-style groups such as the Tehrik-e-Taliban Pakistan (TTP). The spread of Talibanization in urban areas was facilitated by the porous borders with Afghanistan and the presence of Afghan refugees in Pakistan, some of whom were sympathetic to the Taliban (Zahab, 2016 & Siddiqa, 2013).

The rise of Talibanization had a significant impact on Pakistan's society, creating new challenges for the government and security forces. The ideology of the Taliban was at odds with Pakistan's relatively moderate and pluralistic culture, and its imposition led to the oppression of women and religious minorities. The violence associated with Talibanization also had a significant economic impact, as it deterred foreign investment and tourism, and disrupted supply chains in the country (Shah, 2016 & Khan, 2011).

The Musharaf era in Pakistan was marked by a rise in Talibanization, with the extremist ideology spreading from the tribal areas to urban centers. This trend had a significant impact on Pakistan's society, creating new challenges for the government and security forces, and undermining the country's stability.

The Lal Masjid Incident

The Lal Masjid incident in 2007 was a significant turning point in Pakistan's history, with far-reaching implications for the country's political and security landscape. The events leading up to the incident, the government's response, and its aftermath have been widely debated and discussed.

The Lal Masjid was a mosque in the heart of Islamabad that had become a hub of Islamic extremism under the leadership of two brothers, Abdul Aziz and Abdul Rashid Ghazi. The mosque had been at the center of a series of controversies and clashes with the government, with the brothers advocating for the implementation of Sharia law and taking the law into their own hands (Khan, 2008). The situation came to a head in July 2007 when the Lal Masjid students, who had taken up arms and were refusing to surrender, were besieged by security forces. The siege resulted in a bloody battle that left

dozens dead and sparked a wave of violence across the country.

The government's response to the Lal Masjid incident was controversial and criticized by many. The operation to storm the mosque was undertaken by the Pakistani military, with support from the United States. The operation was marked by excessive use of force, with the mosque and adjacent madrassa being heavily shelled, leading to the deaths of many innocent civilians (Jalal, 2010). The handling of the aftermath was also criticized, with the government failing to address the underlying issues that had led to the Lal Masjid's radicalization and violent actions.

The Lal Masjid incident had a significant impact on Pakistan's political landscape. It led to a wave of terrorist attacks across the country, with militants targeting security forces, government officials, and civilians. It also highlighted the growing radicalization of Pakistan's society and the government's inability to contain the threat. The incident further eroded public trust in the government, with many questioning its ability to tackle the growing menace of extremism (Jaffrelot, 2012).

the Lal Masjid incident was a turning point in Pakistan's history, with far-reaching implications for the country's political and security landscape. The government's response to the incident and its aftermath were widely criticized, highlighting the growing challenge of extremism and terrorism in the country.

CONCLUSION

The Musharaf era was a tumultuous period in Pakistan's history, characterized by an escalation in terrorist activities and the rise of extremist groups. Despite the government's efforts to counter terrorism and build a strategic alliance with the United States, these challenges persisted, with far-reaching implications for the country's political and social landscape.

Musharaf's legacy remains a matter of debate. Some credit his government with making progress in the fight against terrorism while others argue that his authoritarian rule and focus on military solutions failed to address the underlying causes of extremism and violence. Moreover, his alliance with the United States has been criticized for fueling anti-American sentiment and undermining Pakistan's sovereignty. Looking ahead, the future of terrorism in Pakistan remains uncertain. While the government has made progress in dismantling terrorist networks and implementing counterterrorism measures, the threat of extremism and terrorism persists. The spread of Talibanization, particularly in the tribal areas of Pakistan, poses a significant challenge to the country's security, with militant groups taking advantage of the region's rugged terrain and porous borders.

In addition, the Lal Masjid incident and its aftermath highlight the difficulties of addressing the root causes of extremism in Pakistan. While the government was successful in neutralizing the threat posed by the Lal Masjid, it failed to address the underlying factors that had contributed to the mosque's radicalization. The incident underscored the need for a more comprehensive approach to counterterrorism, one that addresses the social, economic, and political factors that contribute to extremism. However, Pakistan's struggle with terrorism and extremism is far from over. The country's security forces and intelligence agencies must continue to be vigilant and proactive in countering the threat, while the government must the underlying factors address that fuel radicalization. The legacy of the Musharaf era, with its successes and failures, provides a roadmap for navigating these challenges and securing a more stable and prosperous future for Pakistan and its people.

RECOMMENDATIONS

By analyzing all the data related to research problem, the researcher has identified following recommendations:

- Poverty is social cause in a society that is a major cause of violence. In Pakistan huge statistics of persons are breathing lower poverty line. Due to these conditions, some people join terrorism and its related crime. So the poverty rate should be lower through better policies.
- Government should decrease unemployment rate through their policies, because this is one of chief cause of terrorism.

- Political quarrels are also the main and chief cause of these activities. Government of Pakistan should take suitable actions to resolve the political issues.
- Management among intelligence & law enforcement agencies (LEAs) should be improved.
- In order to start peace in this region especially Pakistan, government of Pakistan (GOP) must open discussions with Taliban & Al-Qaida.
- Justice system should be free and fast in Pakistan.
- The prime minister of Pakistan must also inquire for intervallic development reports & elect the minister of interior to communicate with the district and other key objects. These reports and statistics should be shown in parliament for conversation on a fixed basis and also with the community. The NAP should fix up a workplace, in the Prime Minister's Secretariat to assist, coordinate & implement the plan at the Federal and provincial stages. NACTA's part must be explained and related to the NAP in overall.

There should be strong task of duty & contribution of key fundamentals of the public in the NAP's discussions, with detailed part for the Ministry of interior (MO) & NACTA, the Ministry of Defense, the Intelligence Bureau, and provincial police sections.

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