



**PAK INSTITUTE
FOR PEACE STUDIES**



Terrorist Attacks and Community Responses

**PAK INSTITUTE
FOR PEACE STUDIES**

Amjad Tufail

Dated: 02-03-2010

Abstract

One of the main objectives of terrorists worldwide is to create panic and shake people's confidence in the state. The psychological effects of terrorism go beyond the immediate victims of an attack and can cause complex and diverse post-traumatic stress disorders. This study – based on public perspective ascertained through a survey conducted in three Pakistani cities – assesses the psychological effects of terrorism on people's attitudes. It reveals alarming impact of terrorism on children, as well as on adults' behaviour, and underlines the significance of the psychological impact of terrorist attacks on a population. The findings also underscore the need for the news media to reflect on the pattern of its coverage of terrorist attacks. The study also analyzes the social discourse on anti-terrorism efforts and advocates that it should inform the state's counter-terrorism strategies.

(Complete paper is published in *PIPS Research Journal Conflict and Peace Studies*, Volume 3, Number 1, Jan-Mar 2010.)

To buy and/or subscribe you can
Email at publications@san-pips.com
or
Contact by telephone on +92 –51- 2291586
or
write to Post Box No. 2110, Islamabad, Pakistan