

## Review of Us Drone Policy

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### ABSTRACT

An effort to view the effects of drone attacks in reference to Federally Administered Tribal Areas (FATA) is made. Drone strike is a phenomenon that attracts the attention of masses in the beginning of 21st century. This data comprises of the US drone policy and its impacts on the tribal areas of Pakistan with critical evaluation of US policy to combat terrorist activities in the tribal areas of Pakistan with the main objective that any actions have established as a proper strategy to combat terrorist activities. Methodologically, it is both a qualitative and quantitative research. In reference to the qualitative method of research, data obtained from different journals, the U.S strategy of drone attacks were examined and in quantitative research, survey was conducted by employing a patterned questionnaire in Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs). The research reveals that the drone attacks are making perplexity because of casualties of destruction of infrastructure, loss of innocent lives, psychological impact, and indeed bringing the educational and economic turmoil for the residents of the tribal areas of Pakistan. The research recommends the communication among Pakistan government and US to adopt some alternative policies that cause minimum loss.

**KEY WORDS:** Review, Fact, Sampling, Drone, USA, Pakistan

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### 1. INTRODUCTION

The most dangerous and a big incident for America was 9/11 which leads to American to initiate a war on terrorism so they decided to take revenge from many Muslim and non-Muslim organizations like Al-Qaeda and Taliban etc. George.W.Bush was the president at that time he declared to fight against these organizations. George W Bush initiated these drone strikes and continued in the recent epoch of Barack Obama too. Nevertheless, it is difficult for the future use of unmanned aircraft from the United States because there are many countries that have drone technology with them. Hamas and even Taiwan thieves obtain this technology. America is not having reputation as there is significant decline in her reputation after 9/11. There is increase of anti-American sentiments for that very reason it is mounting threat of terrorism for America (1). Theoretically, drone program was initiated to combat militancy. There is no doubt that many terrorist has been killed but in those targeted area nearby innocent people has also been victimized. USA and its partners in war on terror are under high risk of terrorist activities and many threats have already been given to them. US is not targeting without consent of relevant governments and individuals of those states are well aware of this fact. For this reason, there is political instability and atmosphere of mistrust is prevalent in those regions (2). Drone strike is very important phenomenon and a matter of great responsibility. In this way, it is a complicated matter of utilization of these lethal weapons. US counterterrorism adepts censured drone attacks as non-productive struggle. This act creates destabilization in Pakistan. Despite all these results, Obama administration is enamored of the previous policies of Bush administration that gave authority to enhance drone attacks in Pakistani areas. Obama administration has used drone strikes more widely after 2009. As the occurrence of drone strikes increases, inquiry of the program has also grown. Drone attacks are detested in Pakistan because of needless guarantee damage and civilian fatalities. New America Foundation steered a Poll in 2009 in which 84 percent of FATA people felt that drone strikes largely killed noncombatants and only 16 percent felt that drones precisely target radicals. The staffing of activists in terrorist groups increases the attacks against the US and local governments, which further weaken the region. Drone strikes give extremists ammunition to recruit those on the verge of becoming terrorists, converts non-radicals and drone strikes enrage the reasonable and open-minded fragments of Pakistani society that are conventionally more sympathetic to the US (3). "Drones seem to offer a way to kill bad guys without producing American casualties" (4). The eradication of such bad persons who bring destruction for innocent people while safeguarding others, harbors a pleasant concept which deserves the sweets willing of all people. Drones can be used in the areas which are difficult for manned mission (5). They give great military assistance in its process of attack. Drones can carry out important missions that would otherwise be too difficult or dangerous. Those regions which were not easy for military exploration or great risks were involved for soldiers' lives can now be tackled by drone attacks.

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In 2009, CIA further confirmed that these drone strikes will not be stopped at any rate. After this statement of Director of CIA, Obama reaffirmed that strikes are useful to disrupt major terrorist groups so these will be continued. He even proposed and declared that they are expanding these to Baluchistan. US has right to use power as it's comes under the rule of self- defense as propounded by international law. Many politicians in the US and scholars have protested against these strikes. Dennis Kucinich, a congress representative, declared these drone strikes as unlawful and as violation of human rights. He also said that it is against the international law.

Waziristan is the most targeted area of these drone strikes. This whole region is covered by mountains. So, there is no chance of any effective military campaign to dislodge terrorist attacks. Terrorist can easily cross the borders and can be on any side of two states at any time. So, Bush, in last year of his presidency, launched massive drone strikes in these regions that further contained by Obama administration. In Feb, 2009, they started attacking on the training camps of these terrorists.

Many academies and researchers have tried to analyze US drone policy with particular reference to Pak-US relationship. US used excessive power in order to combat terrorism that is threat for them and their people. Yet, in doing so, they have produced negative emotions for them. These anti-American sentiments are more dangerous for them and their people also killing of poor civilians, destruction of economic infrastructure, increase in criminal activity, political instability, suicide attacks and extremism (6).

## 2. OBJECTIVES

1. To analyze the impact of drone strikes in FATA
2. To observe the reaction of IDPs against US Drone Strikes

## 3. METHODOLOGY

With the view of research objectives, this research is Mix-Method (both qualitative and quantitative) research. For qualitative method, secondary data has been used to examine US strategy of drone strikes whereas for quantitative research survey approach was adopted by employing a structured questionnaire among 200 Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs). The purposive sampling technique was used for data collection. However, the responses received from 134 educated persons (94 males and 40 females) having minimum education equal to Matriculation. This was further used for drawing inferences among the sample. The 7-point scale is used where the figure 1 denotes a strongly disagreement and the figure 7 for strongly agree with the statement. SPSS 12.0 assisted in generating the data based statistical analysis. The sample population was evaluated in different groups based on gender (males and females). It was little tough for the researcher to question the females' segments but help was taken from political agents and tribal leaders.

## 4. RESULTS AND INTERPRETATIONS

**Table 1: Views of the respondents for “The US drone policy affects the social, economic and political life in FATA and Pakistan”**

Response	Male	Females	Total
Agree	7(7.45%)	15(37.50%)	22(16.42%)
Disagree	2(2.13%)	0(0.00%)	2(1.49%)
Mildly Agree	4(4.26%)	1(2.50%)	5(3.73%)
Mildly Disagree	0(0.00%)	0(0.00%)	0(0.00%)
Neutral	1(1.06%)	0(0.00%)	1(0.75%)
Strongly Agree	77(81.91%)	24(60.00%)	101(75.37%)
Strongly Disagree	2(2.13%)	0(0.00%)	3(2.24%)
No Response	1(1.06%)	0(0.00%)	0(0.00%)
Total	94	40	134

It has been observed from past experiences too that higher drone attack results in higher responses from the militants in Pakistan. The respondents showed strong contentment about this statement “The US drone policy affects the social, economic and political life in FATA and Pakistan”, as only few peoples disagreed to the statement.

**Table 7: Views of the respondents for Drone strikes have created anti-American sentiments in Pakistan**

Response	Male	Females	Total
Agree	20(21.28%)	14(35.00%)	34(25.37%)
Disagree	5(5.32%)	0(0.00%)	5(3.73%)
Mildly Agree	5(5.32%)	2(5.00%)	7(5.22%)
Mildly Disagree	1(1.06%)	0(0.00%)	1(0.75%)
Neutral	0(0.00%)	0(0.00%)	0(0.00%)
Strongly Agree	61(64.89%)	24(60.00%)	86(64.18%)
Strongly Disagree	1(1.06%)	0(0.00%)	1(0.75%)
No Response	1(1.06%)	0(0.00%)	0(0.00%)
Total	94	40	134

The responses against the above statement showed that respondents were strongly agreed almost with equal ratio of male and female. However, almost one quarter (25.37) respondents were also agreed with the statement.

**Table 8: Views of the respondents for Drone strikes are creating panic and terror in the region**

Response	Male	Females	Total
Agree	12(12.77%)	12(30.00%)	24(17.91%)
Disagree	0(0.00%)	2(5.00%)	2(1.49%)
Mildly Agree	8(8.51%)	1(2.50%)	10(7.46%)
Mildly Disagree	0(0.00%)	0(0.00%)	0(0.00%)
Neutral	0(0.00%)	3(7.50%)	3(2.24%)
Strongly Agree	73(77.66%)	20(50.00%)	93(69.40%)
Strongly Disagree	1(1.06%)	2(5.00%)	2(1.49%)
No Response	0(0.00%)	0(0.00%)	0(0.00%)
Total	94	40	134

The above-mentioned results revealed the responses about the statement “Drone strikes are creating panic and terror in the region” that nearly less than three quarter respondents were strongly agree whereas minor ratio of respondents were agreed with the statement.

**Table 9: Views of the respondents for US drone strikes have damaged the infrastructure of the area**

Response	Male	Females	Total
Agree	25(26.60%)	14(35.00%)	39(29.10%)
Disagree	3(3.19%)	0(0.00%)	3(2.24%)
Mildly Agree	5(5.32%)	0(0.00%)	5(3.73%)
Mildly Disagree	0(0.00%)	0(0.00%)	0(0.00%)
Neutral	4(4.26%)	0(0.00%)	4(2.99%)
Strongly Agree	55(58.51%)	26(65.00%)	81(60.45%)
Strongly Disagree	2(2.13%)	0(0.00%)	2(1.49%)
No Response	0(0.00%)	0(0.00%)	0(0.00%)
Total	94	40	134

The respondents given the agreement and strongly agree response to the statement “US drone strikes have damaged the infrastructure of the area”. In fact, many of them shared stories of house damages etc to the researcher. However, the responses were with different ratio. Slightly more than half respondents were strongly agreed and more than one quarter respondents were agreed.

**Table 10: Views of the respondents for US drone strikes have psychologically affected the people of FATA**

Response	Male	Females	Total
Agree	48(51.06%)	16(40.00%)	64(47.76%)
Disagree	3(3.19%)	3(7.50%)	6(4.48%)
Mildly Agree	12(12.77%)	4(10.00%)	16(11.94%)
Mildly Disagree	4(4.26%)	0(0.00%)	4(2.99%)
Neutral	13(13.83%)	3(7.50%)	16(11.94%)
Strongly Agree	8(8.51%)	10(25.00%)	18(13.43%)
Strongly Disagree	6(6.38%)	4(10.00%)	10(7.46%)
No Response	0(0.00%)	0(0.00%)	0(0.00%)
*Total	94	40	134

In a cross question, “US drone strikes have psychologically affected the people of FATA”, the 47.01% respondent given the agree response, while 7.46% peoples disagreed with the statement. Interestingly, some of the respondents were of the view that tribes of FATA are stronger therefore such drone attacks do not affect them psychologically.

**Table 11: Views of the respondents for Pakistani govt has failed to protect and enforce the rights of victims of drone strikes**

Response	Male	Females	Total
Agree	50(53.19%)	11(27.50%)	61(45.52%)
Disagree	5(5.32%)	1(2.50%)	6(4.48%)
Mildly Agree	11(11.70%)	2(5.00%)	13(9.70%)
Mildly Disagree	0(0.00%)	1(2.50%)	1(0.75%)
Neutral	5(5.32%)	4(10.00%)	9(6.72%)
Strongly Agree	21(22.34%)	21(52.50%)	42(31.34%)
Strongly Disagree	2(2.13%)	0(0.00%)	2(1.49%)
No Response	0(0.00%)	0(0.00%)	0(0.00%)
<b>Total</b>	<b>94</b>	<b>40</b>	<b>134</b>

In response to 24<sup>th</sup> statement “Pakistani government has failed to protect and enforce the rights of victims of drone strikes. The respondents showed their dissent with Pakistan Government and 31.34 and 45.52% person given strongly agree and agree, respectively.

**Table 12: Views of the respondents for Drone strikes are intensifying public anger towards the US and the host govt.**

Response	Male	Females	Total
Agree	28(29.79%)	9(22.50%)	37(27.61%)
Disagree	22(23.40%)	5(12.50%)	27(20.15%)
Mildly Agree	9(9.57%)	4(10.00%)	13(9.70%)
Mildly Disagree	4(4.26%)	0(0.00%)	4(2.99%)
Neutral	20(21.28%)	4(10.00%)	24(17.91%)
Strongly Agree	11(11.70%)	17(42.50%)	28(20.90%)
Strongly Disagree	0(0.00%)	1(2.50%)	1(0.75%)
No Response	0(0.00%)	0(0.00%)	0(0.00%)
<b>Total</b>	<b>94</b>	<b>40</b>	<b>134</b>

In response to statement “Drone strikes are intensifying public anger towards the US and the host government”. Around 27.67% and 20.90% respondents showed agree and strongly agree respectively response in favor of this statement. However, some of them were not agreed to the statement.

**Table 13: Views of the respondents for US drone policy towards Pakistan has resulted extra-judicial killings**

Response	Male	Females	Total
Agree	0(0.00%)	0(0.00%)	0(0.00%)
Disagree	0(0.00%)	1(2.50%)	1(0.75%)
Mildly Agree	6(6.38%)	5(12.50%)	11(8.21%)
Mildly Disagree	1(1.06%)	0(0.00%)	1(0.75%)
Neutral	5(5.32%)	1(2.50%)	6(4.48%)
Strongly Agree	62(65.96%)	25(62.50%)	87(64.93%)
Strongly Disagree	1(1.06%)	2(5.00%)	3(2.24%)
No Response	19(20.21%)	6(15.00%)	25(18.66%)
<b>Total</b>	<b>94</b>	<b>40</b>	<b>134</b>

The responses presented in this table regarding the statement “US drone policy towards Pakistan has resulted extra-judicial killings”, majority of the respondents were strongly agreed to the statement (64.93%), while 18.66% persons didn’t show any response.

## 5. CONCLUSION

After a detailed study of the impacts of drone strategy on the FATA areas, we have concluded that this policy has negatively affected not only the people living over there but also the law and order situation of Pakistan. A wave of terrorism arises from the drone affected areas and spread throughout Pakistan. Furthermore, to uproot the roots of terrorism in Pakistan and to enhance the peace and prosperity in the affected areas it is recommended that government of Pakistan should negotiate with the US to ban the drone attacks and to adopt some alternate policy with minimum loss. If the US still insist to continue than it must be continued with the counseling of the Pakistan military intelligence ensuring the confirmation of the target. In this way, we can avoid civilian casualties and

infrastructure. Pakistan army should take action against the criminals in the FATA, need to watch over the Pak-Afghan border to hinder the entrance of terrorists from across the border. Peoples of the affected areas deserve more education, health facilities and better living standards. The research concluded that drone attacks are creating confusion among the masses due to array of problems e.g. casualties of innocent lives, destruction of infrastructure, psychological impact, and indeed bringing the educational and economic turmoil for the residents of the tribal areas of Pakistan. The research recommended that Pakistan government should negotiate with the US to ban the drone attacks and to adopt some alternate policy with minimum loss. Moreover, peoples of the affected areas deserve more education, health facilities and better living standards.

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