



PROJECT "SALAM"
INNOVATING MEANS TO RESOLVE RADICAL EXTREMISM
IN PAKISTAN
(Wining Hearts-Changing Minds)

By

Centre for Pakistan and Gulf Studies

(CPGS)

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Concept Note

Violent extremism has become a major threat to international peace and security. The global character of this phenomenon reflects in its unselective nature. The fact that violent extremism is not linked with a specific state, civilization or ideology, makes it a global phenomenon and capitals from Oslo to Cairo, Riyadh to Kuala Lumpur and London to Washington are actively dealing with this menace. No region or even country can claim to be entirely safe. In the threat spectrum, individuals and groups with diverse ideologies and interests present single major threat to international security.

In response to this multidimensional and multi-faceted problem, approaches that rely on military force have dominated the global counter terrorism agenda. Catch, kill, and disrupt strategies, which have been applied by multiple countries, have not always led to an appreciable reduction in threat. The effects of military action and state repression on the population have often further radicalized individuals and increased support for extremist groups among general population. Though the operational capabilities of threat groups have been minimized, the intentions and goals remain intact.

Recently, however, the growing awareness of the above mentioned problem has led to an upsurge and interest in more comprehensive counter-extremism policies. Saudi Arabia, Singapore, Malaysia, Indonesia, Yemen, Turkey, Iraq, Sri Lanka and some Western European countries have implemented or proposed, what broadly known as the de-radicalization and counter-radicalization programs. These innovative counter terrorism tools have gone beyond the strategies that rely on use of military force, harsh repression and detention of suspected extremist and terrorists; Instead these states-directed efforts to change the 'hearts and minds' have led convicted and suspected terrorist to express remorse, repent, recant their violent ideologies and re-enter mainstream positive activities in the society.

The terms de-radicalization and counter-radicalization, which are often used as alternatives to each other, have different meanings, when they are applied practically in field. According to John Horgan's definition, which has also been adapted by

United Nation Working Group on Radicalization and Extremism that led to terrorism essentially means "the programmes that are generally directed against individuals who have become radical with the aim of re-integration them into society or at least dissuading them from violence." In simple, de-radicalization seeks to reverse the radicalization process for those already or partly radicalized. In contrast, counter-radicalization is defined as "a package of social, political, legal, educational and economic programmes specifically designed to deter disaffected (and possibly already radicalized) individuals from crossing the line and becoming terrorists." In other words, counter-radicalization seeks to prevent individuals and groups from becoming radicals.

Saudi Arabia's counter terrorism program which is a mix of de-radicalization and counter-radicalization tools, commonly known as 'PARC' (prevention, rehabilitation and aftercare) has proven successful so far in countering the violent extremism. In 2003, there was a wave of attacks by Al-Qaeda terrorists on Arabian Peninsula, a campaign of bombing, targeting specifically the Western companies within the Kingdom. In response, Saudi Arabia aggressively launched de-radicalization and counter-radicalization campaigns to bring back the radicalized elements within its society to a normal and workable level. In response to these efforts extremists eventually began targeting the Saudi national security apparatus. According to open source knowledge, there were 61 violent confrontations between terrorists and Saudi security forces only in 2003 and 2004. Nevertheless, Saudi Security Forces have remained successful in managing its de-radicalization campaign. As since 2006, there has not been any successful attack on the Saudi Security Apparatus by the terrorists.

In Singapore the government directed efforts have mainly concentrated on a multipronged rehabilitation approach involving several different partners including the government and various sectors of the community. While in Yemen where guns are considered to outnumber people and sectarian conflict is at its peak, the government has undertaken an unorthodox approach to deal with detained extremists and militants, usually known as 'prison based de-radicalization'.

Pakistan, the hardest hit victim of extremism, has been fighting the menace of terrorism and extremism for almost one decade. The cause of extremism and terrorism in Pakistan can be traced back to the fabrication of violent culture in the name of Jihad to promote and secure foreign agenda of one super power against the other. Later on the 9/11 episode and subsequent American led counter terrorism offensive in Afghanistan, and spill over of militancy and extremism into Pakistan led to destruction of social, economic, and political fabric of Pakistani state. According to South Asian Terrorism Portal (SATP) in 2012, there were 6211 terrorism fatalities in Pakistan, including 3007 civilians, 2472 militants, and 732 Security Forces Personnels, as against 6,303 fatalities, including 2,738 civilians, 2,800 militants, and 765 SF personnel in 2011. The first 69 days of 2013 have witnessed 1,537 fatalities, including 882 civilians, 116 SF personnel, and 539 militants.

There is a consensus in making that Pakistan needs a holistic approach and strategy to effectively eliminate the menace of extremism from its society. The de-radicalization and counter-radicalization experience of above mentioned countries, in this regard could prove to be a guideline for Pakistani counter terrorism experts to envisage a comprehensive strategy and approach towards elimination of extremism and terrorism from Pakistan.

The subject has gained further attention in the context of NATO forces withdrawal in 2014 and the consequent fear of increasing stronghold of radical groups with serious implications for Afghanistan and neighbouring countries. Therefore a comprehensive study of emerging scenarios (post NATO withdrawal) and its impact on Pakistan is urgently required.

For this purpose Centre for Pakistan and Gulf Studies (CPGS) has taken the initiative to organize a research project "**SALAM**" "Innovating Means To Resolve Radical Extremism In Pakistan", which aims at formulating a comprehensive plan of action to first sensitize society, access all possible groups and institutions, link their efforts, act to persuade decision makers and finally manage and monitor the progress. It will include commissioned research studies and surveys, an international seminar and different other activities including establishment of a model institution and center.

"SALAM"

The name of the project has been derived from Islamic greeting which is extended to everyone at first meeting to offer cordial welcome, respects and convey peace and blessings. The literary meaning of Salam is "Peace", which reflects the core objective of CPGS of promoting global peace, security and harmony by making substantive intellectual, academic and diplomatic contributions. The Arabic and Urdu word SALAM also lays out the entire strategy of the project. Each word denotes a required action in the desired order of priority.

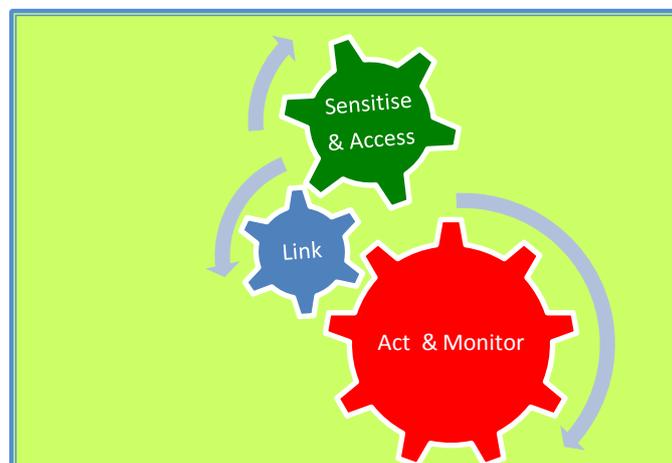
S Sensitize society and institutions to highlight the gravity of the problem based on detailed research and comprehensive view of existing environment focusing on possible drivers of change.

A Access everyone involved at all stages of the project including the people of the affected areas, local administration, policy makers, media experts, academics and experts from other countries.

L Link all individuals, organisations and institutions working in the field to focus efforts of the society and develop coordinated response.

A Act timely to persuade policy decision at national level and encourage implementation of mutually agreed plan of action in a sequential manner. Also help establish a model institution to execute required plan of action.

M Monitor progress throughout to ensure sustainable change and recommend suitable changes if required as and when identified.



PROJECT "SALAM"
INNOVATING MEANS TO RESOLVE RADICAL EXTREMISM IN
PAKISTAN

*Winning Hearts and Changing Minds Through
Sensitising, Accessing, Linking, Acting and Monitoring*

Outline. The project will be completed in three phases:-

- **Phase 1.** Sensitise & Access society and institutions to highlight the gravity of the problem based on detailed research and comprehensive view of existing environment focusing on possible drivers of change. Enhance awareness through discussion, dialogue and sharing experience aimed at improving practical understanding based on ground realities. Access everyone involved at all stages of the project including the people of the affected areas, local administration, policy makers, media experts, academics and experts from other countries
- **Phase 2.** Link all individuals, organisations and institutions working in the field to focus efforts of the society and develop coordinated response. Rally necessary support for the proposed policy and connect all on-going efforts.
- **Phase 3.** Act and Monitor. Act timely to persuade relevant institutions and policy decision makers at national level and encourage, if possible, legislation on the subject. Assist in the implementation of mutually agreed plan of action in a sequential manner. Suggest viable alternatives and recommend best possible solution in the form of a complete plan of action. Maximise gains by helping timely implementation of the project and demonstrate a success model on ground. Help establish a model institution to execute required plan of action. Monitor progress throughout to ensure sustainable change and recommend suitable corrections if required at all stages of implementation and ensure success.

Detailed Activities. An expert level team has been formulated to execute Project "SALAM". Detailed coordination and planning has commenced and phase 1 activities are being launched. Comprehensive project report covering detailed conduct methodology has been prepared. Summary of the planned activities for each phase of the project are as given bellow.

Phase1.This includes planning and execution of following activities:-

- **Research.** CPGS research team under the guidance of subject experts will conduct a detailed research based on all available open source literature to identify relevant experts, possible ideas in the field of study and scan drivers of change.
- **Public seminar.** Plan and conduct an international public seminar on the subject involving experts locally and from all over the world to sensitize relevant segment of the society. This will help increase awareness, enhance understanding and augment policy debate on the subject.
- **Interactive Scenario Workshop.** An interactive workshop will be planned where world leading future study expert Dr Sohail Inayatullah will be invited to conduct a one day workshop exploring future scenarios for Pakistan suggesting possible strategy to undo existing radical extremist tendencies in the society.
- **Legislative Study.** Study and evaluate existing legal framework relevant to the subject area and suggest legislative reforms in light of objective analysis.
- **Ground survey.** Conduct field survey in the affected areas to determine actual reality based on empirical evidence. A comprehensive data collection plan based on initial research and seminar findings will be executed under qualified teams of experts and researchers. The data results will be properly analysed and outcome will be incorporated in the final report.
- **Report .**Prepare and publish a comprehensive final research report, including all the initial findings, proceedings of the seminar, results of the survey and recommended plan of action.

Phase 2. The final report will be shared with the stake holders, relevant authorities and policy makers. Following activities will be planned:-

- **Discussion**. Four round table discussion will be organised
 - Focus on academic experts.
 - Focus on government officials and legal experts.
 - Focus on media persons and civil society including NGOs.
 - Focus on important diplomatic missions.

- **Publicity campaign**
 - Media campaign both print and electronic.
 - Presentations at policy formulation level to government officials, relevant Parliamentary committees and private sector stakeholders.
 - Personal meetings to share study and objectives of project with the relevant decision makers.
 - Involving major political parties to build necessary support.
 - Involving the local and international think tanks and experts.
 - Local communities and society.

Phase 3. Suggest viable alternatives and recommend best possible solutions in the form of a complete plan of action. This final plan of action will then be shared with all stakeholders for necessary action as suggested (where ever possible). A Model project will be launched at local level based on self-help to demonstrate success targeting individuals of the affected areas as under:-

- **Young Persons** (between age 16 – 45)
 - For literate group education programme including local and international scholarships.
 - For illiterate group skill development program.
 - Local and overseas employment for skilled and semi-skilled labour,

- **Senior Citizens** (over 45)
 - Social security program based on local need assessment.
 - Medical support and health care.

- Awards scheme for senior leaders.

- **Children**(bellow 15)
 - Orphanage.
 - Health care.
 - Education.
 - Sports facilities.

(Note the exact details of the model project will be reviewed in light of findings and recommendations of the entire process)

Time Frame

Phase 1 - One year.

Research and review is a continuous process but basic study will be completed by 1st August 2013.

- Seminar to be held on 22/23 August 2013.
- Interactive scenario workshop in the first week of September 2013.
- Field survey to be completed by 1st December 2013.
- Final report will be prepared by 1st January 2014.

Phase 2- To be executed simultaneously and completed by 1st Mar 2014.

Phase 3- Model Project report to be ready by 1st May 2014. The project launched by 1st June 2014.

PROPOSED
INTERNATIONAL PUBLIC SEMINAR
Innovating Means to Resolve Radical Extremism in Pakistan

Objectives. The seminar will aim at achieving following objectives:-

- Provide a joint forum to both local and foreign experts to share ideas, concepts, and analysis on the subject.
- Sensitise relevant segments of the society to increase awareness regarding the existing situation in the country.
- Help formulate national policy by presenting various possible alternatives and recommendations.

Target audience

- Government officials and policy makers.
- Diplomatic community.
- Local and international NGOs working in the subject area.
- Academic experts and students engaged in relevant research.
- Media managers and opinion makers.
- Civil society.

Methodology

- Published papers will be available for distribution before the seminar so that the audience can better understand the content of the presentation being made by the speakers.
- Short Presentations by eminent scholars followed by detailed question answer session to engage all the participants.
- Round table discussion at the end of seminar to finalise draft recommendations
- A comprehensive media coverage will be ensured by inviting local and international media representatives, issuing media briefs and on spot interviews
- The entire seminar proceeding and papers submitted by the speakers will be published

Feedback. Feedback will be sought from all the panellists and participants of the seminars in the form of a questionnaire specially designed for every session. The feedback forms will be circulated at the beginning of each session and will be collected at the end. A report based on the feedback will be prepared separately for analysis and evaluation

Proposed List of Experts

(On availability / confirmation)

Chairs

- Gen (Retd) Ehsan Ul Haq (Former Chairman Joint Chiefs of Staff Committee Pakistan)
- Dr Abdulaziz Sager (Chairman Gulf Research Center and Gulf Research Foundation Centre)
- Prof Dr Tim Niblock (Emeritus Professor of Middle Eastern Politics at the University of Exeter UK)
- Prof Dr Pervez Iqbal Cheema (Dean Faculty of Contemporary studies , NDU Islamabad.
- Dr STK Naim (Consultant COMSTECH)

Speakers

- Tentative list of international Scholars (from Western, European, Gulf and Regional countries) and local experts:
- Saudi expert (Head / or representative of De-Radicalization & Rehabilitation Programme).
- Representation from Yemen, Egypt, Iraq and Turkey.
- Afghan expert.
- Karen Armstrong (British author and commentator known for her books on comparative religion).
- Dr Richard Bonney (Professor Emeritus Leicester University UK).
- Dr Muhammad Masoom Yasinzai (VC Quaid-i- Azam University)
- Dr Muhammad Shoaib Suddle (Former Director General of the National Police Bureau).
- Dr Jamil Qalandar (Professor International Islamic University, Islamabad).
- Dr Tahir Amin (Professor Quaid i Azam University)
- Dr Sarfraz Ansari (Professor National Defence University)
- Mr Rahimullah Yousafzai (Afghanistan expert and security analyst)
- Ambassador Rustam Shah Mohmand (Former Pakistani Ambassador to Afghanistan).
- Mr Shehzad H. Qazi (International expert on de radicalisation)

Two Days Seminar

Tentative Programme of Work 21-22 Aug 2013

(Subject to change)

Time	Activity	Remarks
0900- 0930	Registration and arrival of the guests	
<u>Day 1- 21 Aug</u> <u>Inaugural session</u>		
0930-1030	Introductory note by President CPGS senator Sehar Kamran	
	Welcome address by Chairman advisory board Gen (Retd) Ehsan ul Haq	
	Key note speech by Imam Kaaba	(Preferred)
1030-1100	Light refreshments and tea	
<u>1stSession</u> <u>Root Causes and Evolution of Radical Approach</u>		
1100-1300	<p><u>Chair:</u> Gen (Retd) Ehsan UI Haq</p> <p><u>1stSpeaker.</u> Karen Arms Strong/ Dr Richard Bonney <u>Topic.</u> Western Perspective of Contemporary Islamic Radicalism and Extremism</p> <p><u>2nd Speaker.</u> Prof Dr Jamil Qalander <u>Topic.</u> History and root causes of radicalism and its evolution in Pakistan</p> <p><u>3rd Speaker.</u> Prof Dr Tahir Amin/Prof Dr Sarfraz Ansari, <u>Topic.</u> Understanding Radical extremism.</p> <p><u>Q&A Session</u></p>	(Proposed)
1300-1400	<u>Lunch</u>	
<u>2nd Session</u> <u>Contemporary Radicalism and its Impact on Society</u>		
1400-1600	<p><u>Chair.</u> Dr Abdulaziz Sager/ Prof Dr Tim Niblock</p> <p><u>1st Speaker.</u> Afghan expert /Ambassador Rustam Shah Mohmand <u>Topic.</u> The Afghan experience of violent approach and its</p>	(Proposed) (Proposed)

	<p>impact on society</p> <p>2nd Speaker. Expert from Saudi Arabia/ Gulf countries Topic. Sharing experience of dealing with violent extremism and its impact on their society</p> <p>3rd Speaker. Dr Muhammad Masoom Yasinzai / Mr Rahimullah Yousafzai. Topic. Contemporary trends of violence in Pakistan and its impact</p> <p>Q&A session</p>	(Proposed)
<u>Day 2- 22 Aug 2013</u>		
<u>3rd Session</u> <u>Challenges and Way Forward</u>		
0930-1130	<p>Chair. Prof Dr Pervaiz Iqbal Cheema / Dr STK Naim</p> <p>1st Speaker. Dr Tim Niblock / Expert from European & Western countries. Topic. Review of existing challenges of radical extremism and way forward</p> <p>2nd Speaker. Mr Shehzad H. Qazi Topic. Civil society initiatives against radicalization in Pakistan and way forward.</p> <p>3rd Speaker. Dr Muhammad Shoaib Suddle Topic. Way forward for Pakistan - Future strategy</p> <p>Q&A session</p>	(Proposed) (Proposed)
1130-1200	<p>Concluding session</p> <p>Summary recommendation of the Project report by Project Director</p> <p>Vote of thank by the President CPGS Sehar Kamran</p>	
1200 hrs	Distribution of souvenirs/ Certificates	
	Group Photo	