

The Fallout of War on Terror on Pakistan

The exercise was steeped in data reduction in order to visually highlight the zones of violence and conflict within Pakistan from the fallout of the US/NATO led “War on Terror” in Afghanistan in 2001.

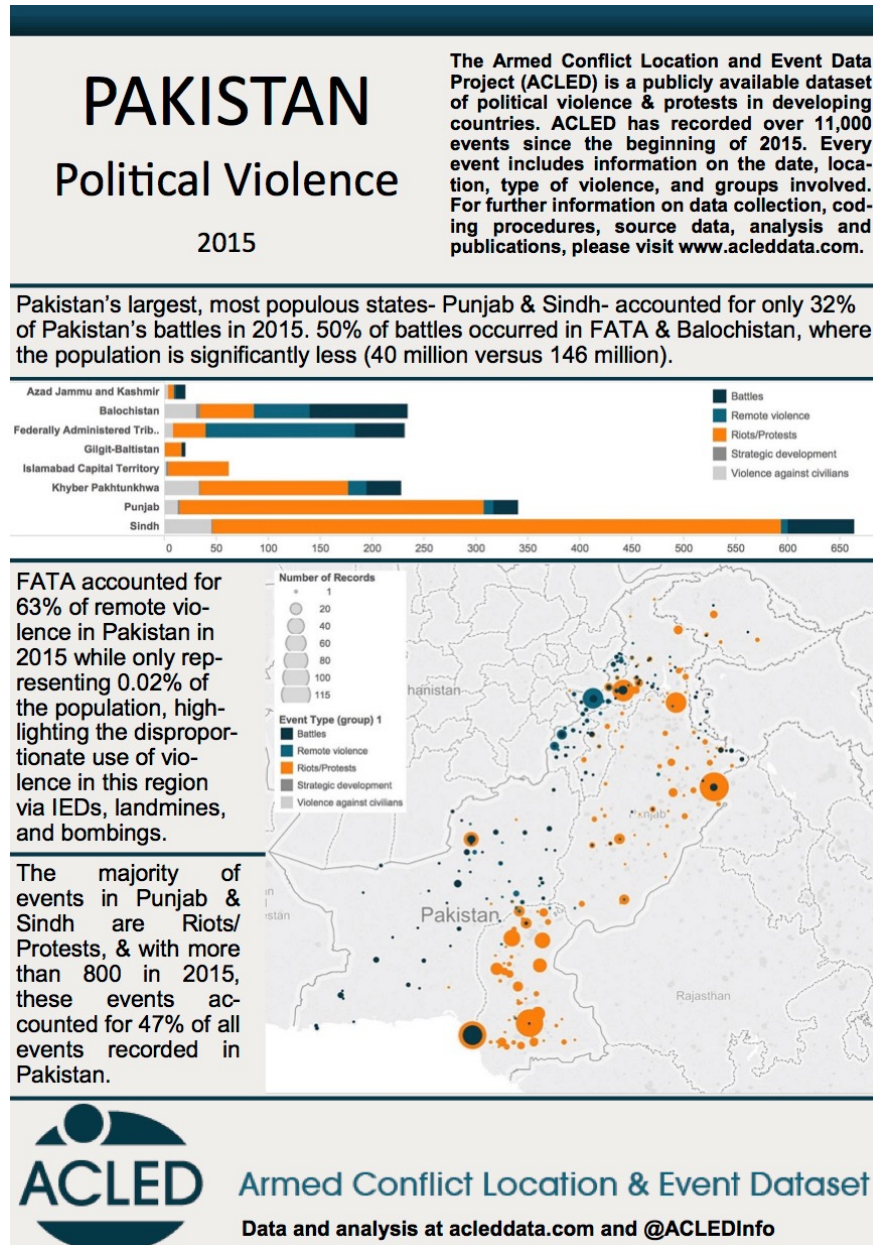
The data is sourced from ACLED (Armed Conflict Location and Event Data) project designed for disaggregated conflict analysis and crisis mapping. The raw dataset comprises of dates and locations of reported political violence and protest events in over 60 developing countries in Africa and Asia. Political violence and protest, according to ACLED, include events that occurred within civil wars and periods of instability, public protest and regime breakdown.

My aim is to map the geographic zones still taking the brunt of violence in Pakistan 14 years after the first airstrikes began in Afghanistan in the aftermath of 9/11. In 2015 the number of fatalities in terrorist violence in Pakistan were 3,682. The large concentration of these attacks on security personal and civilians was from organizations which had newly surfaced (namely the Pakistani Taliban or TTP) claiming to fill the void left by Al-Qaeda and Taliban leadership especially after the death of Osama bin Laden and Mullah Omar respectively.

In over a decade the conflict has metastasized and metamorphosed and the objectives of the actors in this conflict: the Pakistan security forces and various Taliban factions, are seemingly distant from those set out 14 years ago. It is a civil war like situation with sporadic violence of over a calendar year but concentrated geographically around the Pak-Afghan border.

It is safe to conclude that Pakistan is to Afghanistan, what Cambodia was to Vietnam. Pakistan has been blamed for harbouring terrorists, yet it is an indispensable military ally. It has suffered from the simultaneous US policy of “do-more” and “distrust” and from the shame of being the hideout place for Osama bin Laden. In the electronic media the senseless and sometimes heinous violence is now being construed as a proxy war spearheaded by Pakistan’s traditional foe India, in its efforts for to weaken the state and establish regional hegemony.

Representative Infographic:



ScreenShots:

RAW DATA

ACLED-Asia-Running-life-January-to-December-2015-V2																									Search Sheet																					
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1	771	18NG	1	01-January-2015	2015	1	Riots/Protests	Rioters (Bangladesh)	AL:	5	Rioters	AL: Awami	5	55	Bangladesh	Khulna		Sharsha	Bagachra	22.95	88.96	1	United	One person was injured	0																					
2	771	28NG	2	01-January-2015	2015	1	Riots/Protests	Protesters (Bangladesh)	Jel:	6	Police Forces of		1	16	Bangladesh	Dhaka		Dhaka	Dhaka	23.42	90.22	3	The	The last day of the two-	0																					
3	771	38NG	3	01-January-2015	2015	1	Riots/Protests	Rioters (Bangladesh)		5	Rioters		5	55	Bangladesh	Rangpur		Parbatipur	Parbatipur	25.66	88.93	1	The New	A freedom fighter (FF)	1																					
4	771	48NG	4	01-January-2015	2015	1	Battle-No	Unidentified Communal Group		4	Police Forces of		1	14	Bangladesh	Sylhet		Sunamganj	Sunamganj	25.06	91.40	1	United	Sunamganj, Jan 2 (UNB)	0																					
5	771	58NG	5	02-January-2015	2015	1	Riots/Protests	Protesters (Bangladesh)		6			0	60	Bangladesh	Barisal		Patuakhali	Patuakhali	22.33	90.33	2	United	Bus owners went on a	0																					
6	771	68NG	6	02-January-2015	2015	1	Violence	Unidentified Communal Group		4	Civilians		7	47	Bangladesh	Barisal		Barisal	Wazirpur	22.82	90.24	1	The New	A school teacher	1																					
7	771	78NG	7	03-January-2015	2015	1	Riots/Protests	Rioters (Bangladesh)	JDC:	5	Police Forces of		1	15	Bangladesh	Sylhet		Bishwanath	Bishwanath	24.80	91.76	1	United	At least 10 people were	0																					
8	771	88NG	8	03-January-2015	2015	1	Riots/Protests	Protesters (Bangladesh)	BUP:	6	Police Forces of		1	16	Bangladesh	Barisal		Bhola	Bhola Sadar	22.68	90.64	1	United	Police on Saturday	0																					
9	771	98NG	9	03-January-2015	2015	1	Riots/Protests	Protesters (Bangladesh)		6			0	60	Bangladesh	Barisal		Patuakhali	Patuakhali	22.33	90.33	2	The	The strike by bus	0																					
10	771	108NG	10	04-January-2015	2015	1	Riots/Protests	Rioters (Bangladesh)		5			0	50	Bangladesh	Dhaka		Dhaka	Savar	Ashulia	23.89	90.32	1	The	Local people said in	0																				
11	771	118NG	11	04-January-2015	2015	1	Riots/Protests	Rioters (Bangladesh)	AL: Juba	5	Civilians		7	57	Bangladesh	Dhaka		Dhaka	Dhaka	23.42	90.22	1	The	At least four journalists	0																					
12	771	128NG	12	04-January-2015	2015	1	Riots/Protests	Rioters (Bangladesh)		5			0	50	Bangladesh	Dhaka		Dhaka	Dhaka	23.42	90.22	1	The	Assailants set alight	0																					
13	771	138NG	13	04-January-2015	2015	1	Riots/Protests	Rioters (Bangladesh)	JDC:	5			0	50	Bangladesh	Dhaka		Dhaka	Dhaka	23.42	90.22	1	The New	Over alleged	0																					
14	771	148NG	14	04-January-2015	2015	1	Riots/Protests	Rioters (Bangladesh)		5			0	50	Bangladesh	Dhaka		Dhaka	Dhaka	23.42	90.22	1	The	Two buses were set	0																					
15	771	158NG	15	04-January-2015	2015	1	Riots/Protests	Rioters (Bangladesh)		5			0	50	Bangladesh	Dhaka		Dhaka	Dhaka	23.74	90.38	1	United	A rickshaw-puller	0																					
16	771	168NG	16	04-January-2015	2015	1	Violence	Unidentified Armed Group		3	Civilians	BKL:	7	37	Bangladesh	Dhaka		Dhaka	Lalbagh	23.42	90.22	1	The New	An activist of	1																					
17	771	178NG	17	04-January-2015	2015	1	Remote	Unidentified Armed Group		3			0	30	Bangladesh	Dhaka		Dhaka	Paltan	23.73	90.41	1	United	Two bombs went off	0																					

25 Columns reduced to 14

Removed Columns:

- Event IDs - 5 columns
- Ally actors - 2 columns
- Year, Country , Precision and Inter - 4 columns

Filtered for Country:

- Pakistan.

Filtered for Organizations:

- Military Forces of Pakistan,
- TTP (Tehrik-i-Taliban Pakistan)
- Military Forces of United States of America
- Hafiz Gul Bahadur Group
- Civilians (Pakistan)
- Jundallah
- Lashkar-e-Islam
- Jamaat-al-Ahrar
- BLA: Baloch Liberation Army

Filtered out Casualties from:

- un-affiliated sectarian , political and criminal groups,
- police/swat team operations
- armed resistance in Kashmir
- Cases of Domestic violence

Filtered for Fatality count > 3

Reduced entries **169** from **1800**

Refined Data:

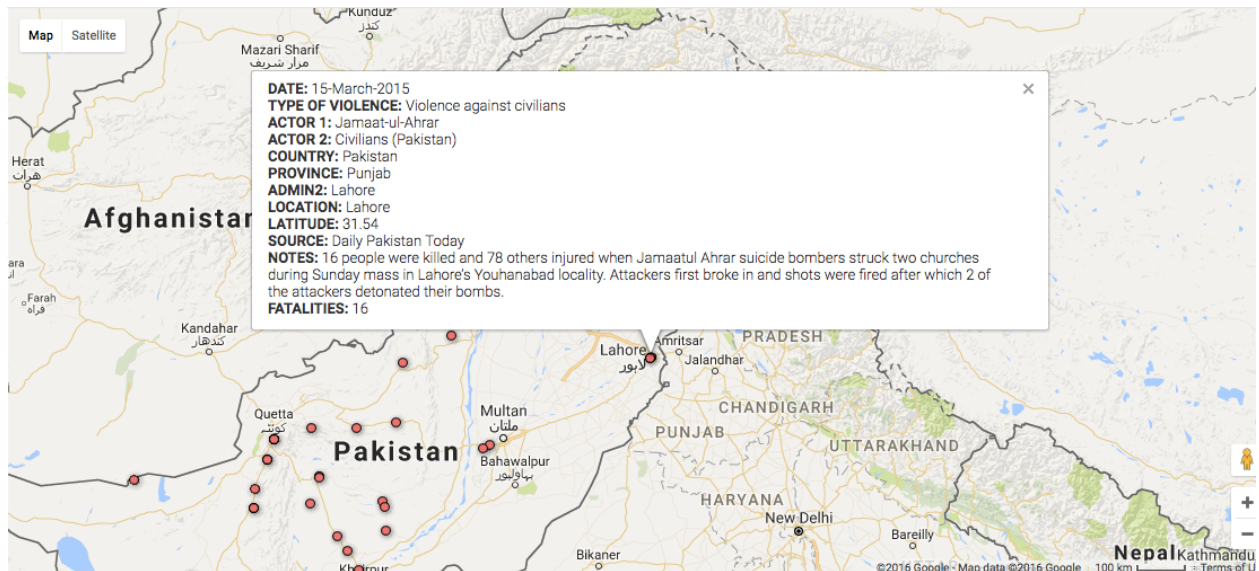
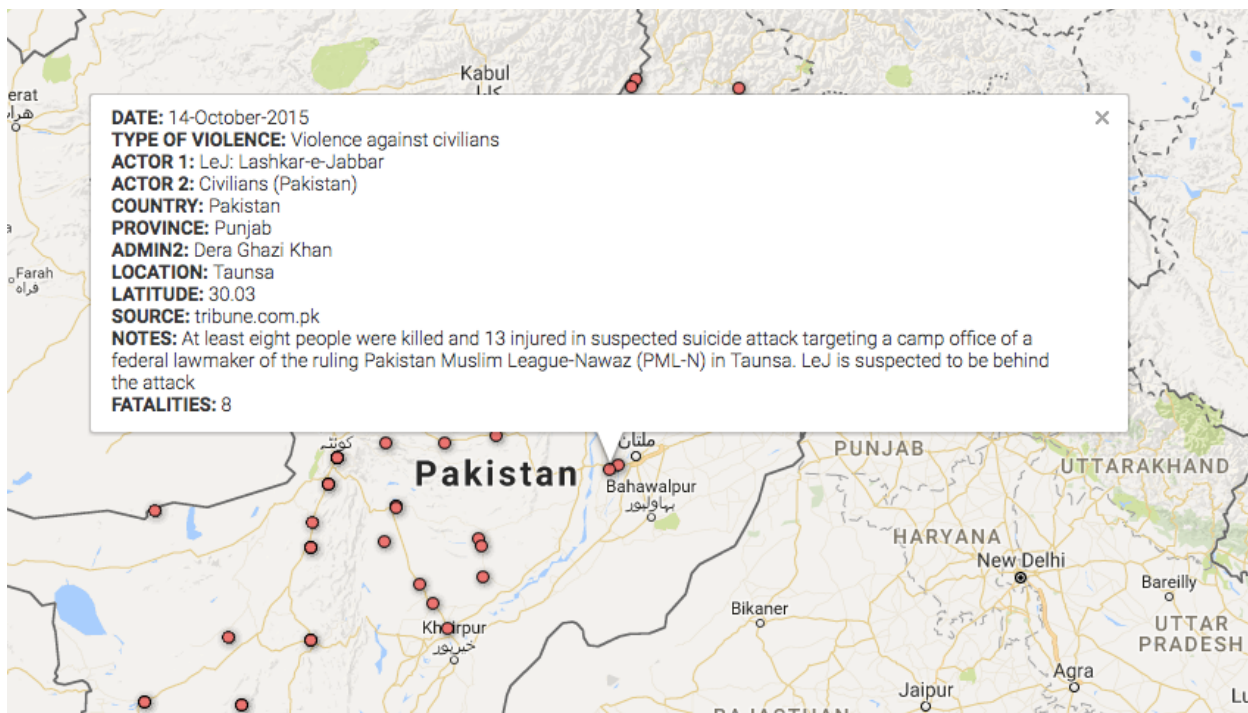
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Pakistan_Conflict_Zone

Imported at Mon Oct 31 23:47:42 PDT 2016 from Pakistan_Conflict_Zone.xlsx.
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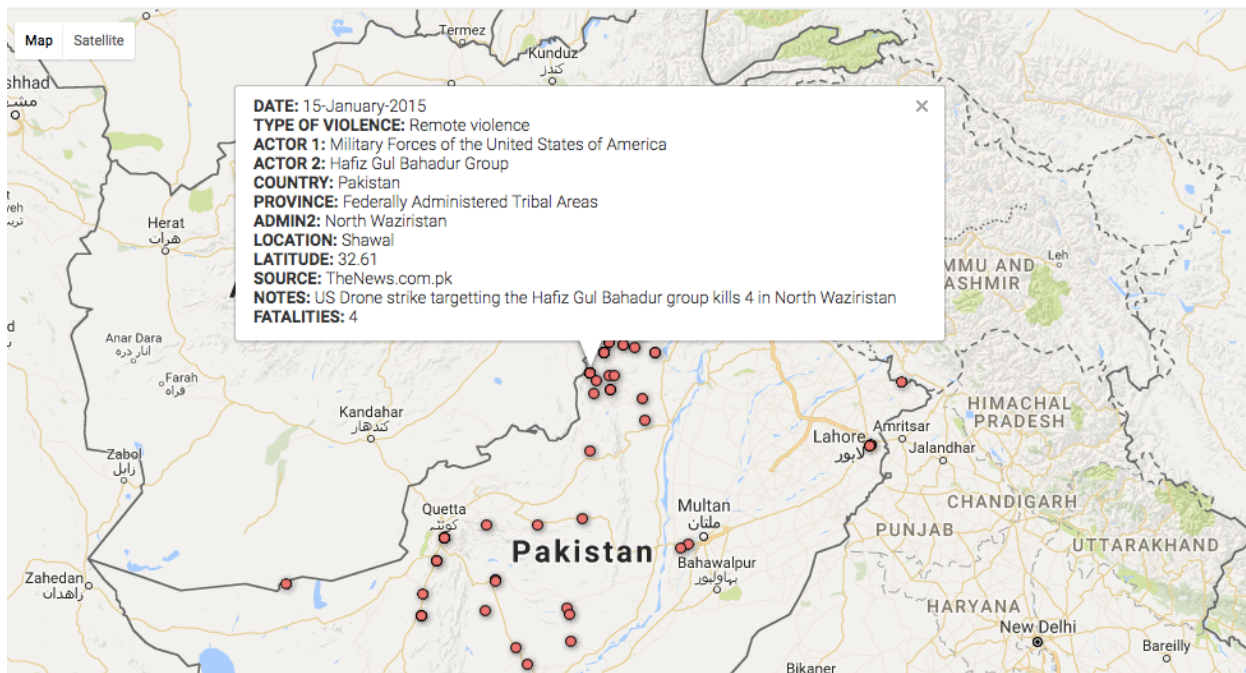


Story#1: Violence against civilians in urban eastern cities of Pakistan**Story#2: Violence against civilians in urban eastern cities of Pakistan**

Story#3: Pakistan Military action against militants in western tribal areas of Pakistan bordering Afghanistan



Story #4: US drone strike against militants and terrorists in tribal areas of Pakistan



In conclusion:

The pattern is quite clear. The military attacks in tribal areas have a blowback in terms of suicide and armed gunmen attacks on civilians in eastern urban cities of the country. The genesis of this conflict is rooted in the war on terror and all 169 of the geographic data points tell a different side of this story.