**Impact of war against terrorism on economy of Pakistan**

The purpose of this handout is by no means to hurt someone’s feelings. The purpose is to debate on a topic which has become the question of life and death for our people. We as Pakistani nation has a right to know what is happening in our country, who is our enemy and why we are being killed.

Economic cost of war against terrorism

* Dislocation of economy
* High losses of property and life
* Impact of investment climate
* Total cost = 43 billion US $ between 2001 to 2010



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**War against terrorism and its cost to the economy**

Direct cost = compensation to the victims, damage to property and infrastructure, higher expenditures on defense, higher expenditures on police and higher cost to private security

Total direct cost of terrorism has increased from 150 billion in 2007-08 to 320 billion in 2009-10

Growth in private investment was 8.6 percent in 2001, 40.5 percent in 2006 and negative 3.5 percent growth in 2009-10

Total indirect costs was 230 billion in 2007-08 and 520 billion in 2009-10

**Total cost in 8 years = 43 billion US$**

**The beauty of the question is half of knowledge**

Again, the same lesson with some new questions, the questions are about one of the most important topics of our lives at the moment. The topic is Terrorism in our society. This issue is a matter of life and death for us because we are being killed and we are paying huge cost in the world, greater than any other nation. paying

I will try to analyze the issue by asking questions from two different perspectives. The first one is the perspective of those people who think this is our war and of those who are fighting this war.

What people think about Pakistani people in general?

They think that Pakistanis are corrupt and they support terrorism because there are so many religious organizations which openly threat to other countries. They are intolerant even with other sects of their own religion

We supported Taliban who protected the anti Europe and anti American groups in Afghanistan. These groups were responsible for 9/11 incident and killing of thousand of innocent people in different countries of the world.

According to them these militant extremists are so rigged that they don’t allow women to work in any fields, they slashed them in front of people, they don’t respect the rights of other religions and so many other things like this

They think that Pakistan is unstable country where so many religious extremists live and openly operate. They kill each other and some of them even openly motivate to kill people of other religions and countries

So what should we expect from those people who are living in other countries to think about us? Obviously whenever there will be a terrorists attack in those countries they will think that we are responsible. In general our projection in world is that we are religious extremist who do not accept any other’s point of view.

We are so quick in labeling a person as “ Kafir”

We mostly see only one aspect of life and usually take our decisions on emotional basis, we think that we are serving the Islam by killing people or judging their believes.

We do not allow the women to get education that is why they destroy the schools of girls

So why people in the west should not think that Islam is a religion whose followers are intolerant, rigid and extremist people.

Now to look at the other side I will try to highlight the issue by asking some fundamental questions which are in the minds of Pakistani people. This point of view is not against any nation by any means. These are just the question which are in the mind of Pakistani people which need to be answered.

1. What is the war against terror? When it was started? Who started it?
2. Who are these terrorists?
3. What is their purpose? And what are their demands?
4. When this terrorism started in our country?
5. How many incidents of suicide attacks were there before war against terrorism?
6. How many Sulman Taseers were killed? How many ministers of minorities were killed? How many women were slashed? How many schools were destroyed? How many bombs were blasted before this war against terrorism?

**Due to this war against terrorism**

1. How many people we have lost in Pakistan?
2. How many Americans have lost their lives?
3. Who are dying in the world due to terrorism?
4. Who are being blamed in the world?
5. In which countries suicide attacks are being conducted?
6. Where are the weapons of mass destructions?
7. Where were the weapons of mass destruction claimed to be?
8. Who supported the democracy in the world?
9. Who support the dictators in the world?
10. Who were responsible for the 9/11 incident?
11. What was their demand? Why demands are not highlighted?
12. Who used the atomic bombs in the world?
13. Who fought and still fighting the most of the wars in the world since 2nd world war?
14. Where most of the wars are being fought during last 1000 years? And among whom these wars were fought?
15. Among whom two world wars were being fought?
16. How many people were killed?
17. Who developed the most destructive weapons in the world?
18. Who is holding the largest number of weapons of mass destructions in the world?
19. How peace is being established in the world at the moment?
20. Is there now peace in Iraq, in Afghanistan, in Pakistan etc?
21. Who supported the militants in Afghan war?
22. Who brought Osama Bin Ladan here in Afghanistan?
23. Is there any law in the world which allows someone to kill before prosecution?
24. Who can assure that people who are killed in drone attacks are all terrorists?
25. What Afia Siddiqui did? And what she got as punishment? Why an educated lady like her acted like that?
26. What Reymond Devis did? And what he got in punishment? Why rules are not observed for the country like Pakistan?
27. Why Osama was so quickly drowned in the ocean when they use to preserve body of important people like him?
28. Can we establish peace in the world as we are trying to establish now? What will left in the world?
29. Why it is our war? To whom we are fighting with? Who is our enemy? Why this enemy was not there in first fifty years of our lives? Why it suddenly appeared? What they demand? Why they are fighting? Why we are killing our own people?
30. Can Peace be established by fighting?
31. Is it justified to attack other countries and kill millions of innocent people in the name of giving them freedom, democracy etc while at the same time these countries are supporting dictators in the country like Pakistan

These are some of the queries in the mind of our common people who are paying the greatest cost of this war. It is their right to know why they are being killed and still being blamed. They should be given equal rights to live peacefully in this world as other nations are living and want to live. We as the Pakistani people want to convey our message to the peace living nations and common public of all the countries in the world to please come forward and find a peaceful solution which should not be based upon another war.

At the same time we as Pakistani should also put our house in order, we have to decide that whether we want to allow extremists people to grow here and use our land to fight with other nations? How long we will keep on fighting with each other. Should we allow everyone to interpret their own Islam in their own way. Does Islam allow us to kill any human being just because he or she is not of our religion. Do we know the cost of a single life in Islam? Do we know what respect is given to the followers of other religions? Do we know what are the rights of any citizen in an Islamic country? Do we know the importance of education, tolerance and peace in Islam?