

# Police Encounters in Karachi - An autopsy based study

Farhat Hussain Mirza<sup>1</sup>, Qudsia Hassan<sup>2</sup>, Hamid Ali Payar<sup>3</sup>, Naeem Ahmed Kakepoto<sup>4</sup>

## ABSTRACT

**Background & Objective:** A unique study conducted in Karachi with actual facts and figures based on autopsy findings of killings in Police encounters during last three years, also highlighting the number of killings which occurred during last three years along with age group, parts of body involved in such deaths along with areas of Karachi, so as to give an overall picture of these encounters. More over the root causes of these encounters, along with recommendations to improve the prevailing law and order situation in Karachi enabling people to per sue their daily routine without any fear or threat to life and property.

**Methods:** The study is an autopsy based descriptive cross-sectional study conducted at Mortuaries at Civil hospital, Jinnah Postgraduate Medical Center and Abbasi-Shaheed Hospital of Karachi. The duration of study is based on three years, from 1<sup>st</sup> Jan 2011 to October 31<sup>st</sup> 2014. Records were gathered from the office of the Police Surgeon, Karachi and each post mortem report was scrutinized by the authors who are senior Forensic Experts themselves. All cases of police encounters that were brought for autopsy were included in the study while any case which was not autopsied was excluded. Aside from this custodial deaths have been excluded in the study.

**Results:** Total number of encounter deaths autopsied during the period of study are 260, with 135(51.92%) autopsied at JPMC, 95(36.54%) at Abbasi Shaheed Hospital and 30(11.54%) at Civil Hospital Mortuary. Identity of deceased was known in 108 cases (41.54%) and 152(58.46%) remained unidentified. Majority of cases were between 25-30 years (n=135, 51.92%), next in order of frequency were 31-35 years (n=46, 17.69%) and least in 36 and above years (n=37, 14.23%). On autopsy the pattern of frequency of body parts involved is ; bullet injuries in chest and abdomen in 110 cases (42.31%), only chest in 74 cases (28.46%), head in 17 cases (6.54%) and abdomen in 25 cases(9.62%).District wise Malir was venue of most of the encounter deaths 115(44.23%), followed by District South with 44 (16.92%) deaths, District East with 35(13.46). A comparison between 2013 and 2014, showed that the frequency of Police encounters has increased from 19.23% i.e. from 50 deaths in 2013 to 57.69% i.e.150 deaths in 2014, up to October 31<sup>st</sup> 2014.

---

### <sup>1</sup> Farhat Hussain Mirza

Professor & HOD, Department of Forensic Medicine, Shaheed Mohtarma Benazir Butto Medical College, Karachi.

### <sup>2</sup> Qudsia Hassan

HOD, Department of Forensic Medicine, Ziauddin University and Hospitals, Karachi.

### <sup>3</sup> Hamid Ali Paryar

Assistant Professor, Department of Forensic Medicine, Shaheed Mohtarma Benazir Butto Medical College, Karachi.

### <sup>4</sup> Naeem Ahmed Kakepoto

Department of Forensic Medicine, Shaheed Mohtarma Benazir Butto Medical College, Karachi.

### Corresponding Author

Qudsia Hassan

**Conclusion:** The word life has not been defined in the Constitution of Islamic Republic of Pakistan, but it does not mean nor can it be restricted only to vegetative or animal life or mere existence from conception to death. Life includes all such amenities and facilities which a person born in a free country is entitled to enjoy with dignity, legally and constitutionally. So it is the duty of the state to provide safety to public. Although it is a good attempt to clean the city from notorious elements in the city of Karachi, but the main thing is that law enforcing agencies carry it without political discrimination and in cases of police encounters the action should be justified to rule out extra judicial killings. Speedy trial of those apprehended in courts of law and protection to witnesses will be of great help.

**KEY WORDS:** *Police, Encounters, Autopsy, Karachi.*

**Cite as:** *Mirza FH, Hassan Q, Payar HA, Kakepoto NA. Police Encounters in Karachi - An autopsy based study. Pak J Med Dent 2015; 4(1):18-27.*

---

## INTRODUCTION

For past few years due to increase in population and lack of adequate Law enforcing personnel and antiterrorist devices, the law and order situation in Karachi has deteriorated. According to a study in April 2013, the population of Karachi is 23.5 million and a density of 6000 people per square kilometer.<sup>1</sup> People from all parts of Pakistan migrate to Karachi to earn their bread and butter. Moreover as Karachi has become a living place of multi ethnic and linguistic groups along with involvement in national politics, it has become a safe heaven for unscrupulous persons to resort to heinous crimes such as target killing, sectarian killing, kidnapping for ransom, extortion (Bhatta), drug peddling, land grabbing and various other mafias. It is also a turf war between different groups having competing economic, sociopolitical interests who wish to strengthen their position/ control, based on phenomenon of tit for tat with political, moral and financial support or endorsement of political parties which claim representation on behalf of public of Karachi. Moreover suicidal bomb blasts have further aggravated the situation.

All these problems have made life of citizens of Karachi difficult in all walks of life. An unbiased approach is required to fix the situation in Karachi but in view of the piles of weapons in Karachi, use of force alone would lead to extensive bloodshed. Political sagacity and strategy need to be employed. There is so much weaponry in Karachi that any incident can turn the city into a Beirut. Law enforcing agencies

worked on many short and long term strategies and as a result one of the phenomenon which is emerging more and more is police encounters, leading to death of many notorious elements.

There are many other methods which have been deployed such as sharing of information between Provincial law enforcing agencies and Federal agencies like FIA about hide outs of criminals, suspicious activities, escape of criminals from one province to the other, with Customs department to control illegal trafficking of arms and ammunition across the border at Gawadar, seek help from Coast Guard as sea is one of the major route of smuggling of weapons. Registration of Afghans along with collection of data of already migrated Afghans by NADRA. But at the same time there are certain shortcomings which need immediate rectification.

Human Rights Commission of Pakistan has raised questions about credibility of Police encounters and have labeled many cases as fake encounters, for which speedy trial and justification is a must to keep law enforcing persons within their limits and gain confidence of public at large.

- Law enforcement agencies have been politicized and have connections with criminal elements that need political cover. Investigators are absent or lazy so prosecution of cases remains weak.
- The police is politicized resulting in giving free hand to criminals in certain areas of Karachi.

- There is limited number of Anti Terrorist Courts, leading to slow speed of trials.
- Moreover there is no system or law for witness protection due to which many notorious criminals escape punishment.

Since September 4<sup>th</sup> 2013, when it was decided in a meeting of Federal and Provincial Government of Sindh in Karachi, Rangers were deployed to assist the provincial government in curbing lawlessness in Karachi.

Seeing the results it is hoped that if the present operation goes on without political discrimination, this will help a long way in restoring law and order situation in Karachi..

### METHODOLOGY

This was a descriptive cross-sectional study, extending over a period of 4 years from 01<sup>st</sup> January, 2011 to 31<sup>st</sup> October, 2014, that included all reported Police encounter deaths autopsied at Civil Hospital, Jinnah Postgraduate Medical Centre, and Abbasi Shaheed Hospital, Karachi. The cases included in this study were those where the death could only be attributed to direct effect of use of firearm weapons. The medico-legal deaths in Karachi by means other than police encounters, or the deaths which were not autopsied or the dead bodies were handed over to relatives directly were excluded. A detailed autopsy was performed in each case of 260 police encounter deaths during the study period, to determine the age, identity, body parts involved and district of Karachi having maximum number of encounter deaths. Details were collected for those deaths identified to be due

Police encounters. Statistical data was analyzed using SPSS-16. The frequency and percentages were calculated for all categorical variables and body parts affected in Police encounter deaths. The Mean  $\pm$ SD was calculated for age.

### RESULTS

Total number of encounter deaths autopsied during the period of study are 260, with 135(51.92%) autopsied at JPMC, 95(36.54%) at Abbasi Shaheed Hospital and 30(11.54%) at Civil Hospital Mortuary (Table 1) Identity of deceased was known in 108 cases (41.54%) and 152(58.46%) remained unidentified (Table 2). Majority of cases were between 25-30 years (n=135, 51.92%), next in order of frequency were 31-35 years (n=46, 17.69%) and least in 36 and above years (n=37, 14.23%) (Table 3). On autopsy the pattern of frequency of body parts involved is ; bullet injuries in chest and abdomen in 110 cases (42.31%), only chest in 74 cases (28.46%), head in 17 cases (6.54%) and abdomen in 25 cases(9.62%) (Table 4).District wise Malir was venue of most of the encounter deaths 115(44.23%), followed by District South with 44 (16.92%) deaths, District East with 35(16.92%) deaths while other 2 districts did not go beyond 10.00% (Table 5) A comparison between 2013 and 2014 i.e. before and after start of operation on 4<sup>th</sup> September 2013, the frequency of Police encounters has increased as indicated by figures that during 2013 there were 50 (19.23%) Police encounter deaths while in 2014, up to October31, there are 150 deaths (57.69%) in Police encounters which indicate that the increase is more than twofold (Table 5).

**Table 1. Shows frequency of police encounter**

Year	2011	2012	2013	2014	Total
JPMC	0	24	36	75	135
CHK	0	0	0	30	30
ABBASI	10	26	14	45	95
TOTAL	10	50	50	150	260
%	3.9%	19.2%	19.2%	57.7%	100%

**Table 2. Shows frequency of unknown/known cases**

Sr.No.	Hospital	Unknown	Known	Total	Percentage
1	JPMC	70	65	135	51.92

2	CHK	15	15	30	11.54
3	ABBASI	67	28	95	36.54
TOTAL		152	108	260	100.00
% OF UNKNOWN/KNOWN CASES		58.46%	41.54%		100%

**Table 3. Statistical data of police encounter cases according age**

	JPMC	ABBASI	CIVIL	TOTAL	%
16YEARS	1	0	0	1	0.4
17YEARS	1	0	0	1	0.4
18YEARS	1	0	0	1	0.4
19YEARS	2	0	1	3	1.1
20YEARS	8	2	1	11	4.2
21YEARS		1	0	1	0.4
22YEARS	8	2	1	11	4.2
23YEARS	2	2	0	4	1.5
24YEARS	6	5	2	13	5.0
25YEARS	17	15	9	41	15.8
26YEARS	16	5	0	21	8.1
27YEARS	4	4	2	10	3.8
28YEARS	5	6	4	15	5.8
29YEARS	1	4	0	5	1.9
30YEARS	25	11	7	43	16.5
31YEARS	0	0	1	1	0.4
32YEARS	7	10	1	18	6.9
33YEARS	0	1	0	1	0.4
34YEARS	1	0	0	1	0.4
35YEARS	13	12	0	25	9.6
36YEARS	2	2	0	4	1.5
37YEARS	0	0	0	0	0.0
38YEARS	1	3	0	4	1.5
39YEARS	1	0	0	1	0.4
40YEARS	7	4	1	12	4.6
41YEARS	0	0	0	0	0.0
42YEARS	2	0	0	2	0.8
43YEARS	1	1	0	2	0.8
44YEARS	0	0	0	0	0.0
45YEARS	1	3	0	4	1.5
50YEARS	1	1	0	2	0.8

52YEARS	1	0	0	1	0.4
55YEARS	0	1	0	1	0.4
	135	95	30	260	100

**Table 4. Police encounter statics of parts injured**

Parts	Total	Percentage
<b>Abdomen</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>9.62</b>
Abdomen/Pelvis	2	0.77
<b>Chest</b>	<b>74</b>	<b>28.46</b>
Chest, Hand, Leg.	2	0.77
<b>Chest/Abdomen</b>	<b>110</b>	<b>42.31</b>
Chest/Head	12	4.62
Chest/Limbs	1	0.38
Chest/Neck	1	0.38
Chest/Neck/Face	2	0.77
Chest/Pelvis	4	1.54
Chest/Shoulder	2	0.77
Head	17	6.54
Chest/Limbs	1	0.38
Pelvis	2	0.77
Neck	1	0.38
Skull/Chest/Abdomen	4	1.54
Total	260	100.00

**Table 5. District wise police encounters, with number of cases and percentage composition**

District.	No. of Cases	Percentage
<b>AVCC, ACLC, CIA</b>	15	5.77
<b>MALIR</b>	115	44.23
<b>SOUTH</b>	44	16.92
<b>EAST</b>	35	13.46
<b>CENTRAL</b>	26	10.00
<b>WEST</b>	25	9.62
<b>G.TOTAL</b>	260	100.00

## DISCUSSION

Detoriating law and order situation in Karachi is the main threat faced by Karachites, as due to this factor many walks of life have been disturbed and some parts of Karachi have become no go areas. Street crimes such as mobile and other valuables snatching have become a routine matter. Moreover the business community is receiving threats for extortion (Bhatta) and some of them are abducted and huge amount of ransom is claimed because of which many businessmen have shifted to other parts of the country. More over investors are reluctant to launch new projects in Karachi. Added to these are sectarian killings and target killings of activists of one political party by the other or killings on linguistic basis, leading to strikes and sit ins and sometimes mob gets enraged leading to damage to public property and transport, thus whole city is paralyzed, creating problems for those who work on daily wages and more over traffic jams causing mental anguish to general public. The threat of terrorists and suicidal bombers have further aggravated the situation.

Seeing the state of affairs, the Supreme Court of Pakistan took suo motu action on detoriating law and order situation in Karachi in October 2011<sup>2</sup> as according to the court Article 9 of the Constitution of Islamic Republic of Pakistan, no person should be deprived of life as per law. The word life is very important as it covers all facts of human existence. The word life has not been defined in the Constitution but it does not mean nor can it be restricted only to vegetative or animal life or mere existence from conception to death. Life includes all such amenities and facilities which a person born in a free country is entitled to enjoy with dignity, legally and constitutionally.<sup>3</sup> So it is the duty of the state to provide safety to public.

Various short term and long term operations by law enforcing agencies are launched from time to time, but after some time the same problems start again and gradually the conditions flare up. Seeing the critical situation as well as hue and cry by the business community, the Federal Government convened a meeting in Karachi with Prime Minister of Pakistan in chair along with Sindh Government on 4<sup>th</sup> September 2013, and

it was decided to launch a full fledged operation to restore law and order situation in Karachi, with Rangers being given additional powers to act along with police to restore sanctity of the city. Many strategies were adopted and one of them was to arrest culprits through police encounters where ever resistance was offered by criminal elements. An important aspect of present study is to see the frequency of these encounters before and after 4<sup>th</sup> September 2013.

The present study expands over a period from 01<sup>st</sup> January 2011 to 31<sup>st</sup> October 2014 i.e. 3years and 10 months so as to have comparison of frequency before and after launching of operation.

An **encounter** is a Pakistani, Indian, SriLankan and Bangladeshi euphemism used to describe extra judicial killings by the police or the armed forces of suspected gangsters or terrorists in gun battles. In a **fake encounter**, the police or armed forces kill the suspects, when they are either in custody or are unarmed, and then claim to have shot them in self-defence. In such cases, the police may plant weapons on or near the corpses to provide a justification for killing the individual. To explain the discrepancy between records that show that the individual was in police custody at the time of his "encounter", the police may say that the suspect had escaped. Such killings are not authorized by a court or by the law.

Police encounters did took place off and on, but since commencement of present surgical operation they were more highlighted, efforts were made by mafias to discourage the law enforcing agencies from eradication of these elements. Issues like missing persons being shown to have been killed in fake encounters were raised. Another popular theory put forward has been the facts that as usually the miscreants escape punishment from courts of law due to lack of evidence, so they are killed in encounters rather than apprehension.

Human Rights Commission of Pakistan's Annual Report 2013 revealed that as many as 357 police encounters were reported and 503 suspects were killed while 49 injured in encounters where as 50 policemen were killed.<sup>4</sup> So keeping all aspects in view it was decided by the authors of this original paper to include authentic figures for reference, it was decided to

consider all those cases which underwent proper autopsy to verify the cause of death along with injuries on the dead body to ensure the cause of death and at the same time rule out torture or custodial death as alleged by many. In all cases autopsied, firearm injuries were found and they were present on front parts of the body as given in Table 4.

It has also been mentioned that because of the operation, the police are active and there is pressure from federal government to control law and order situation in the city. However, that if the Protection of Pakistan Ordinance is enforced it will result in an increase of police encounters and extrajudicial killings. Initially, the law enforcement agencies did not have the permission to open fire. Now if this law comes in, they can shoot over suspicions. It will legalize such killings and the situation may get worse. On the other hand, a former chief of the Citizens Police Liaison Committee said that the performance of the law enforcement agencies should not be doubted or demoralized. CPLC is of the view that today's criminals are fully armed and they fight back with full strength when police go to capture them. If there are fake encounters, then the law enforcers are prosecuted and brought to justice. The line between human rights and citizens rights should be defined, he stressed, adding that there is a limit to which one can speak of human rights when terrorists and criminals are killing thousands of people.<sup>5</sup>

The police in Indian cities such as Mumbai, Chennai, Kolkata have a very high frequency of encounter killings. Some of the killings have been controversial, and the police have been alleged to have created "fake encounters."

According to the National Human Rights Commission of India, there were 440 cases of alleged fake encounters in the country during 2002-2008. Most of these happened in the states of Uttar Pradesh (231), Rajasthan (33), Maharashtra (31), Delhi (26), Andhra Pradesh (22) and Uttaranchal (19).<sup>6</sup>

From 2009-10 to February 013, NHRC recorded 555 cases of alleged fake encounters. The states with high number of cases were Uttar Pradesh (138), Manipur (62), Assam (52), West Bengal (35) and Jharkhand (30).<sup>7</sup>

Police encounter killings were common in Mumbai from the 1990s through the mid-2000s. Some of the police officers involved in such killings came to be known as "encounter specialists". The Mumbai police believed that the encounter killings delivered speedy justice, when the courts were overloaded with cases. They used encounter killings to severely cripple the underworld in Mumbai and broke down the extortion racket, which was rampant at that time. A section of the police officers saw staged encounters as a way of fighting the dangerous criminals, whom they were unable to prosecute legally (due to lack of evidence or powerful political connections). Human rights activists consider these killings, custodial deaths and associated torture of prisoners to be gross human rights violations. From 2009-10 to February 2013, NHRC recorded 555 cases of alleged fake encounters. The states with high number of cases were Uttar Pradesh (138), Manipur (62), Assam (52), West Bengal (35) and Jharkhand (30).

To bring transparency in encounter cases, the Supreme Court of India issued a string of guidelines to police making both FIR and Magisterial investigation mandatory. The police in cities, including Mumbai, Chennai, Kolkata have a very high frequency of encounter killings. Some of the killings have been controversial, and the police have been alleged to have created "fake encounters."

Within the limits set by the U.S. Supreme Court in *Tennessee v. Garner*, authority to use deadly force in the line of duty is granted by state law to state and local law enforcement agencies. Individual agencies set policies and procedures regarding when and how to use deadly force.<sup>8</sup> When deadly force is used within the prescribed manner, the killing is deemed a justifiable homicide. Some law enforcement agencies routinely investigate all uses of deadly force while others investigate only cases involving extenuating circumstances. Other causes of death to suspects include accidents and police brutality. When the circumstances surrounding a death are questionable, a state and/or federal agency may investigate.<sup>9</sup>

Some reports have put forward one of the only figures available: that approximately 400 "justifiable police homicides" each year since 2008, according to the FBI's annual Supplementary Homicide Report (SHR). That

data point has appeared with heavy caveats in a string of media reports, including in *USA Today*, the *St. Louis Post-Dispatch* and the *Washington Post*.

The statistics might seem solid at first glance. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and the Bureau of Justice Statistics - independently of the FBI - also estimate the number of police homicides per year at around 400.

The locations where crimes happen are not completely random, but instead often have a degree of underlying spatial structure. As chaotic as they may sometimes appear to be, there is often a rationality influencing the geography of their occurrence. Routine activity theory suggests that crimes tend to occur in those locations where suitable (in terms of profit and risk) victims are encountered by motivated offenders as both move through their daily activities (Clarke and Felson, 1993; Cornish and Clarke, 1986; Felson, 1986, 1987).<sup>10</sup> As offenders travel among their homes, workplaces, and social activity sites, their activity space (composed these locations and their connecting paths) describes an awareness space that forms part of a larger mental map—an "image of the city" built upon experience and knowledge.<sup>11</sup>

The lists of people killed by nonmilitary law enforcement officers, whether in the line of duty or not, and regardless of reason or method. Inclusion in the lists implies neither wrong doing nor justification on the part of the person killed or the officer involved. The listing merely documents the occurrence of a death.

The lists provided are incomplete, as the annual average number of justifiable homicides alone is estimated to be near 400.<sup>12</sup> Although Congress instructed the Attorney General in 1994 to compile and publish annual statistics on police use of excessive force, this was never carried out, and the FBI does not collect this data either.<sup>13</sup>

Through the Violent Crime Control and Law Enforcement Act of 1994, specifically Section 210402, the US Congress mandated the Attorney General to collect data on the use of excessive force by police and to publish an annual report from the data.<sup>14</sup> Two national systems collect data which include homicides

committed by law enforcement officers in the line of duty. The National Center for Health Statistics maintains the National Vital Statistics System (NVSS) which aggregates data from locally filed death certificates. State laws require that death certificates be filed with local registrars, but the certificates do not systematically document whether a killing was legally justified nor whether a law enforcement officer was involved.<sup>14</sup> The FBI maintains the Uniform Crime Reporting Program (UCR) which relies on the voluntary participation of state and local law enforcement agencies in submitting reports about crimes.<sup>14</sup> A study of the years 1976 to 1998 found that both national systems underreport justifiable homicides by police officers, but for different reasons. Records in the NVSS did not consistently include documentation of police officer involvement. The UCR database did not receive reports of all applicable incidents. The authors concluded that "reliable estimates of the number of justifiable homicides committed by police officers in the United States do not exist."<sup>14</sup> A study of killings by police from 1999 to 2002 in the Central Florida region found that the national databases included (in Florida) only one-fourth of the number of persons killed by police as reported in the local news media.<sup>14</sup> "Nationally, the percentage of unreported killings by police is probably lower than among agencies in Central Florida..."<sup>14</sup>

Brian Burghart a journalist remarks "This is the most heinous thing I've learned in my two years compiling Fatal Encounters. You know who dies in the most population-dense areas? Black men. You know who die in the least population dense areas? Mentally ill men. It's not to say there aren't dangerous and desperate criminals killed across the line. But African-Americans and the mentally ill people make up a huge percentage of people killed by police and if you want to get down to nut-cutting' time, across the board, its poor people who are killed by police" (And by the way, around 96 percent of people killed by police are men).<sup>15</sup>

Highlights from the Report: 120 black people executed without trial by police, security guards and self-appointed law enforcers, January 1 – June 30, 2012

This Report was prepared by Arlene Eisen and Kali Akuno for MXGM. These executions destroy

Black communities' future and spirit by stealing the lives of our youth. Of the 120 lives taken:

- 13 or 11% were children under 18 years old.
- 22 or 18% were 18-21 years old, just entering adulthood.
- 48 or 40% were 22-31 years old.
- 20 or 17% were 32-41 years old
- 10 or 8% were 42-51 years old
- 5 or 4% were over 52 years
- 2 or 2% were of undetermined age.
- 15 cases in this report or 12.5%,

If the police reports are accurate, involve situations where the "suspect" shot and wounded and/or killed the police and/or others while the police were on the scene. Although it would have been preferable to stop them with non-lethal force, the use of lethal force in these circumstances cannot be considered excessive. But in the remaining 105 cases, the killings were extrajudicial, that is, they used lethal force with no legitimate justification and violated peoples' basic human rights.<sup>16</sup>

List of people killed by law enforcement officers in the United Kingdom for *notable* cases in the history of United Kingdom of people who died directly or indirectly because of the actions of law enforcement officers, regardless of the manner of death, duty status of the officers, or if they acted officially or unofficially. This includes officers working for all law enforcement agencies, existing or historical, in England, Wales, Scotland, and Northern Ireland, but excludes crown dependencies, colonies or other political entities subject or previously subjected to the direct control of the government of the United Kingdom. It also excludes deaths for which other government agents are responsible, such as deaths as a result of actions of the British Armed Forces.

During The Troubles in Northern Ireland, the Royal Ulster Constabulary (RUC) killed 30 civilians, 17 members of Irish republican paramilitaries and 4 members of loyalist paramilitaries.<sup>17</sup>

Early in the morning of September 5<sup>th</sup> 2014, London police shot and killed a man who was threatening a woman with a knife—the first fatal police shooting in the city since 2011. The 40-year-old man, apparently known to his victim, reportedly broke into her home sometime

around 11 p.m. Police sent a negotiator to the scene, but at 1 a.m., police fired the fatal shots.<sup>18</sup>

The United Kingdom is made up of four constituent countries: England, Scotland, Wales (which make up Great Britain) and Northern Ireland. In Northern Ireland, all police officers carry firearms. In the rest of the United Kingdom, police officers do not carry firearms, except in special circumstances. This originates from the formation of the Metropolitan Police Service in the 19th century, when police were not armed, partly to counter public fears and objections over armed enforcers as this had been previously seen due to the British Army maintaining order when needed. The arming of police in Great Britain is a perennial topic of debate.

Most officers are instead issued with other items for personal defense, such as Speed cuffs, Extendable "ASP" Baton, and incapacitant sprays such as PAVA or CS spray. While not firearms, incapacitant sprays are subject to some of the same rules and regulations as a projectile firing firearm under Section 5 (b) of the Firearms Act 1968.<sup>19</sup>

The Police Service of Northern Ireland (formerly the Royal Ulster Constabulary), Northern Ireland Security Guard Service, Ministry of Defense Police, Civil Nuclear Constabulary, Belfast Harbour Police, Belfast International Airport Constabulary, and the Diplomatic Protection Group and Special Escort Group of the Metropolitan Police are issued firearms as a matter of routine. Every force also has a Force firearms units, with armed response vehicles.

In the year 2011–12, there were 6,756 Authorised Firearms Officers, 12,550 police operations in which firearms were authorised throughout England and Wales and 5 incidents where conventional firearms were used.<sup>20</sup>

Since 2004, police forces have increasingly been issuing Tasers to Authorised Firearms Office,<sup>21</sup> for use against armed assailants. Tasers are considered by the authorities to be a non-lethal alternative to firearms. The national media has criticized the so-called "shoot to kill" policy adopted by police forces. Police firearms training actually teaches the use and discharge of firearms to "remove the threat" rather than to kill. Following the September 11, 2001

attacks new suspects. These guidelines were given the code name "Operation Kratos". Based in part on advice from the security forces of Israel and Sri Lanka—two countries with experience of suicide bombings—Operation Kratos guidelines allegedly state that the head or lower limbs should be aimed at when a suspected suicide bomber appears to have no intention of surrendering. This is contrary to the usual practice of aiming at the torso, which presents the biggest target, as a hit to the torso may detonate an explosive belt. Operation Kratos referred to tactics developed by London's Metropolitan Police Service for dealing with suspected suicide bombers, most notably firing shots to the head without warning. The tactics were developed shortly after the 11 September 2001 attacks, based in part on consultation with Israeli and Sri Lankan law enforcement agencies on how to deal with suicide bombers. Little was revealed about these tactics until after the mistaken shooting of Jean Charles de Menezes on 22 July 2005, in the wake of the 7 July 2005 London bombings.<sup>22</sup>

In other European countries the main causes of police encounters are related to traffic violations, drug peddlers and decoities, while in Asian countries nearly same type of situations prevail whether it is Pakistan, India, Bangladesh or Sri Lanka.

## CONCLUSION

The aim of the study was to highlight the state of law and order in Karachi, and after analysis, it is recommended that law enforcing authorities may be given up to date information about latest techniques of crime control along with sophisticated equipment and facilities, so as to deal with present situation in a more effective manner and counteract terrorism, rewards for families of those personnel who become disabled or sacrifice their lives to make lives of others worth living be given due consideration. Media should avoid unnecessary criticism and try to present facts rather than fiction.

## REFERENCES

---

<sup>1 1</sup> Amer K. Population explosion: Put an embargo on industrialization in Karachi. Express Tribune [Internet]. 2013 Oct 6. Available from:

<http://tribune.com.pk/story/614409/population-explosion-put-an-embargo-on-industrialisation-in-karachi/>

<sup>2</sup> Zulfiqar Q. Judicial intervention: SC takes suo motu notice of Karachi violence. *Express Tribune* [Internet]. 2011 Aug 22. Available from: <http://tribune.com.pk/story/236881/karachi-violence-cjp-takes-suo-motu-notice/>

<sup>3</sup> Fundamental Rights, Article 9, Security of person; The Constitution of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan, revised edition 2007; The Ideal Publishers, Karachi.

<sup>4</sup> Lillah W. Human Rights Commission of Pakistan Annual Report 2013:3,218 killed in various incidences of violence in Karachi. *Business Recorder*. 2014 Apr 25.

<sup>5</sup> Perspective of Karachi Surgical Operation. *Pakistan State Times* [Internet]. 2014 Apr 16. Available from: <http://www.pstimes.com/2014/04/16/perspective-of-karachi-surgical-operatrion/>

<sup>6</sup> Gurumurthy S. Sohrabuddin: Interrogating the media. *New Indian Express* [Internet]. 2011 Aug 11. Available from: <http://www.newindianexpress.com/columns/article482874.ece>

<sup>7</sup> Headlines Today Bureau. NHRC stats show there were more fake encounters in Congress-ruled states than in Narendra Modi's Gujarat. *India Today* [Internet]. 2013 July 4. Available from: <http://indiatoday.intoday.in/story/fake-encounters-congress-ruled-states-narendra-modi-gujarat/1/286891.html>

<sup>8</sup> Roy R. Deadly But Legal. *Orlando Sentinel* [Internet]. 2004 May 23. Available from [http://articles.orlandosentinel.com/2004-05-23/news/0405230342\\_1\\_deadly-force-shooting-suspects-orange-county-deputy](http://articles.orlandosentinel.com/2004-05-23/news/0405230342_1_deadly-force-shooting-suspects-orange-county-deputy)

<sup>9</sup> FBI: Frequently Asked Questions. *The Federal Bureau of Investigation*.

<sup>10</sup> Rossmo DK. Place, Space and Investigations: Hunting serial violent criminals. *Crime Prevention* 2010; 4: 217-235. Available from: [www.popcenter.org/library/crimeprevention/volume\\_04/10-Rossmo.pdf](http://www.popcenter.org/library/crimeprevention/volume_04/10-Rossmo.pdf)

<sup>11</sup> McEwen JT, Taxman FS. Applications of computer mapping to police operations. *Crime Prevention* 2012; 4: 259-284. Available from: [http://www.popcenter.org/library/crimeprevention/volume\\_04/12-mcewentaxman.pdf](http://www.popcenter.org/library/crimeprevention/volume_04/12-mcewentaxman.pdf)

<sup>12</sup> Johnson K. FBI: Justifiable homicides at highest in more than a decade. *USA Today* [Internet]. 2008 Oct 15. Available from: [http://usatoday30.usatoday.com/news/nation/2008-10-14-justifiable\\_N.htm](http://usatoday30.usatoday.com/news/nation/2008-10-14-justifiable_N.htm)

<sup>13</sup> Dokoupil T. What is police brutality? Depends on where you live. *NBC News* [Internet]. 2014 Jan <sup>13</sup>. Available from: [http://usnews.nbcnews.com/\\_news/2014/01/14/22293714-what-is-police-brutality-depends-on-where-you-live](http://usnews.nbcnews.com/_news/2014/01/14/22293714-what-is-police-brutality-depends-on-where-you-live)

<sup>14</sup> Colin L, Wiersema B, McDowall D, Dobrin A. (July 2003). Underreporting of Justifiable Homicides Committed by Police Officers in the United States, 1976–1998. *Am J Public Health* 2003; 93(7): 1117-1121. doi:10.2105/AJPH.93.7.1117. PMC 1447919. PMID 12835195.

<sup>15</sup> Burghart DB. What I've Learned from Two Years Collecting Data on Police Killings. *Gawker* [Internet]. 2014 Aug 22. Available from: <http://gawker.com/what-ive-learned-from-two-years-collecting-data-on-poli-1625472836>

<sup>16</sup> Every 36 Hours: Report on the Extrajudicial Killing of 120 black people. *Malcom X Grassroots Movement* [Internet]. 2012 Jul 16. Available from: <https://mxgm.org/report-on-the-extrajudicial-killings-of-120-black-people/>

<sup>17</sup> Sutton M. *Sutton Index of Deaths*, Conflict Archive on the Internet. CAIN [Internet]. Available from <http://cain.ulst.ac.uk/sutton/crosstabs.html>

<sup>18</sup> Mathis-Lilley B. First Fatal Police Shooting Since 2011 Reported in London. *The Slate* [Internet]. 2014 Sep 5. Available from: [http://www.slate.com/blogs/the\\_slate/2014/09/05/london\\_police\\_shooting\\_first\\_since\\_2011.html](http://www.slate.com/blogs/the_slate/2014/09/05/london_police_shooting_first_since_2011.html)

<sup>19</sup> S.5 Firearms Act 1968. Available from [Statutelaw.gov.uk](http://Statutelaw.gov.uk)

<sup>20</sup> Home Office Crime Statistics. Statistics on police use of firearms in England and Wales 2011-2012 [Internet]. UK; 2013 Available from <https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/statistics-on-police-use-of-firearms-in-england-and-wales-2011-2012>

<sup>21</sup> More UK police to get stun guns. *BBC News* [Internet]. 2007 May 16. Available from: [http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/uk\\_news/6660283.stm](http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/uk_news/6660283.stm)

<sup>22</sup> Burns J. Met adopted secret shoot-to-kill policy in the face of a new and deadly threat. *Financial Times* [Internet]. 2005 Jul 25. Available from: <http://www.ft.com/cms/s/0/08207b18-fca8-11d9-8386-00000e2511c8.html>