

The Drug Trade and the Death Penalty in Pakistan: Childhood and Practical Remarks from a Narrative - Existential Point of View

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Abstract

The death penalty is an appropriate sentence for all those involved in the drug trade. This trade can be stopped through the political will of government, the implementation of the military to fight the war against drugs, by treating drug dealers as terrorists, through the expansion of the death sentence, by holding families responsible, through the confiscation of the assets of drug dealers, by breaking up the Taliban links with the drug trade, through considering radical counter-drug measures, and by getting criminal justice scholars involved in creating and implementing solutions to this problem.

Keywords

Drug Choice, Drug Wars, Kill the Drug Trade, Narco-Terrorists, Death Penalty, Execution, Confiscate Assets, Taliban, Radical Counter-drug Measures, Talks, Criminal Justice Scholars.

Introduction

Since I was a child I was confronted and fascinated by the cinema and television movies that were dealing about the drug trade. In my mind I was moving like a sniper (Ras 2002:7; 2011a) in the jungles of South America on one or other secret military and CIA operation that not even the President knows of. In my cognitive state of mind I had to be careful out there. There were snakes, booby traps, but most of all, very dangerous drug cartels with many men armed to the teeth that were only occupied with one major thing – business, and that business was drugs; tons and tons of drugs, hidden in the ground under the trees in one or other secret local factory or bunker. My job was to go and blow it up and like John Rambo (Sylvester Stallone), to return back a hero ([http://en.wikipedia.org/Rambo_\(film\)](http://en.wikipedia.org/Rambo_(film))).

My Real Childhood

However, in my real childhood life I did not grow up with drugs at all. I was raised in a God fearing home where alcohol and drugs were absent. I was told that I must love God, Jesus, and all other people, because that is simply the right thing to do. I later have learned that include Jews, Hindus, Buddhists and Muslims. As simplistic as it may sound, I simply just did that, and to be honest, I am still doing that today. I simply have no craving for snow, ice, opium, poppy, heroin, opiates or any drugs at all – not even alcohol. My mother has *inter alia* taught me a basic principle:

“If you smoke, you destroy your life. If you drink, you destroy your family!” As a youngster, I have listened, and I have learned, so I believe, to make the right choice in life (Zuck & Benson 1978; Richards 1980; 1982). I find it simply shocking that in a country like Yemen, the people are simply chewing themselves to death through the consumption of the leaves of the drug plant *khat* (“*catha edulis*” – Butters 2009; Khat 2011).

I Want to See Change

I was stunned when I saw the slides of Fasihuddin, now President of the Pakistan Society of Criminology, in Dubai, United Arab Emirates, at an International Police Executive Symposium (IPES) conference during 2007, pointing out the many drug addicted people that were just laying on the streets of Peshawar in Khyber-Pakhtunkhwa (NWFP). He was presenting a paper on “Drug Problems in Peshawar, Pakistan” (Fasihuddin 2010:97-132). Exposure to drugs will make any healthy and caring person “sick.” It is sick people with sick minds who believe that long term exposure to drugs will not have a negative and detrimental effect on the bodies and minds of ordinary human beings who were made in the image of God and who are suppose to represent Him on earth (*Biblia Hebraica Stuttgartensia* 1979:1-2; *The Holy Qur'an* 1946:1; Kendall & Hammen 1995:364-401; DSM-IV 1995:175-272). I have no doubt that for ordinary civilians and traditional law enforcement officers, who are frequently exposed to drug users, drug pushers, drug traffickers, and especially the drug manufacturers, the drug wars must be intensified and brought to an end. One way to end this is through the use of the death penalty – whether we like it or not.

The Drug Choice and Al-Qaeda

For me the issue today is not to win the war against drugs. To be honest, even before I was born the governments of the day were busy with that war, and they are still claiming and propagating that they are busy with this war nowadays. The issue for me today is much more personal. For me it is now all about “killing” or “blowing up” this trade once and for all. It is nothing more, and nothing less. For me the drug war is all about the hearts and minds of men and women. I believe that it is a choice that people make to get involved with drugs – the wrong choice. I also believe that what will set them free is a choice – the right choice.

Because the war on drugs is a war for the minds and bodies of people, drug pushers, drug lords and narco-terrorists want to enslave people in order “to control them” so that they can be used for one or other idiosyncratic reason – mostly to make money out of them or simply to bind them and to destroy them. In political terms, once they have enslaved them, they can control them as well as their geographical areas. If Al-Qaeda wants a world-wide Caliphate (Muslim theocracy

– Bergen 2006; Ras 2010c:12), and they use drugs to fund their beliefs, and at the same time to enchain their enemies to become “zombies” (“mentally-retarded”), then it becomes for me, in political terms, a political war - but at the same time, if they want to control the minds and bodies of those that they try to yoke, then it also becomes a psychological war. It is psychological because of the struggle to win the minds of the populace. This is one of the reasons why I believe that the drug wars need to end now once and for all because this struggle cannot go on *ad infinitum*.

Drug Wars are Cognitive Wars

The drug war is in the first place a cognitive war – an intellectual war – a war of thinking, reasoning and figuring out why one must use drugs and get addicted to it. The people who use drugs have all one simple thing in common – they cannot say “No!” If a person cannot say “No!”, then he or she has a psychological problem – the problem of a too low self-image that struggles to stand up in public and in the midst of the peers to take a firm stand and to take responsibility to say “No!” And if that is the case, then, I believe, we have to help him or her to say “No!” This, in my opinion, can be achieved by putting measures in place that act as a definite deterrent to do drugs. Drugs, indeed is a transnational problem with great implications and challenges (Fasihuddin 2010:131).

The Golden Crescent

There are scholars who say that the drugs in the world can be traced back to the three central areas known as the Golden Crescent, the Golden Triangle and Latin America. The northern borders of Thailand, Myanmar (Burma) and Vietnam (Laos), including the Shan States, make up the Golden Triangle, well-known for heroin smuggling – under the rule of the “Opium Army”, former Chinese Nationalist troops. Latin America produces mostly cocaine and marijuana, coming from Colombia (Abadinsky 1994), while the Golden Crescent, includes Iran, Afghanistan, Pakistan and Turkey. They are part of the so-called French-connection, because, in the past, the belief was that raw opium was smuggled to the city of Marseilles in France for processing into heroin. From here it was shipped to the United States of America. It seems to me that the Mexican drug cartels were not originally, from a historical point of view, receiving as much attention in the older days than what it is receiving today (Hagan 2010:315-316; Abadinsky 1994; Inciardi 1992).

Drugs in and Around Pakistan

Karimi (2010:153) believes that it was imperial states that have produced and spread drugs in states like Iran to reach political goals, like the British East Indian Company. He also said that narco-terrorism is the work of global imperialists and

that the number of drug addicts has reach-ed about 200 million in 2008 (Karimi 2010:156). There are about 4 million drug addicts in Pakistan alone (Fasihuddin 2010:126). During the peak of the cold war narcotics / drugs were used as a political tool and source of revenue. The Taliban deliberately has used drugs to generate funds for their campaigns. They also encourage farmers to cultivate poppy and they use permits to transport narcotics in Afghanistan and outside the country. These drug monies are used to fund their movement's beliefs and terror deeds. Despite the fact that the Taliban later has reduced poppy production in Afghanistan, poor Afghan farmers are still encouraged to grow poppy (Karimi 2010:156-159; Drugs Inc. 2011).

In Pakistan the organizational structure of organized drug-cartels operate at three major levels: the street dealers, the drug distributors and the drug lords or cartels (Narejo 2010:163). Drugs are coming from Afghanistan to Pakistan from areas, like Kandahar (16615 ha), Zabul (3219 ha), and Ghazni (62 ha). In 2005 Afghanistan has produced 87% of the world's opium supply (Fasihuddin 2010:104) and 80% of the opiate products (Narejo 2010) that were destined for Europe. According to Narejo (2010), terrorists in Afghanistan enjoy the benefits of a trafficker-driven economy that lacks even a recognized national government. He is also of the opinion that terrorists get their funding from narcotics gangs (Narejo 2010:164-165).

Fasihuddin (2010:127) correctly pointed out that cannabis is the most commonly used drug in Pakistan, followed by heroin, alcohol and psychotropic substances. He also pointed out that there are about 500 000 regular heroin drug users – mostly males, between the ages of 15 to 45 years. He further said that cannabis is 96% used in smoking. To win the war on drugs he has recommended: a general mass awareness campaign, a uniform drug law, equal allocation of resources to all law enforcement agencies, sharing of information, the appointment of specialized drug units, and the registration and early treatment of addicts (Fasihuddin 2010:130-131). Narejo (2010:165-166) correctly pointed out that the Taliban link to drugs *inter alia* needs to be disrupt-ed. I believe that all these remarks are all sound advice, but is it really enough to “kill” or “blow up” the drug trade?

How to Kill the Drug Trade in Pakistan?

I deliberately have chosen the question “How to kill the drug trade in Pakistan?” and not the typical general question of “How to win the war against drugs?” Law enforcers cannot keep on playing with drugs forever. Although there are many who argue that there are no fast and simple solutions to this social challenge in all different social strata of society, I always wonder: “Why not? Why

can't there not be quick solutions? Why must we always rationalize and have long excuses if there can be workable solutions?" In order to make a meaningful contribution to the beautiful country of Pakistan I recommend the following.

The Political Will of Government

The first important thing has to do with the government of the day. They must have, reveal and implement a political will to end the drug war (Ras 2010a). They must be committed to do just that. If there is no political commitment to end this war then the government can expect that there may be people, like those involved in the recent Arab Spring uprisings, who perhaps may also consider toppling and removing them (http://en.wikipedia.org/Wiki/Arab_Spring). Why? Because it is the government's responsibility to protect their own citizens against one of the worst kinds of human enslavement, and if they cannot do that, then they deserve to be replaced by a government that can do that.

Drug addicts are definitely dying at a steady rate and they are perceived, from an educational, health and criminal justice point of view for many, as "problems, sick and criminals" – they are simply a "social disgrace" in society and no nation, who wants to be a healthy nation, literally and figuratively-speaking, can and must tolerate them any longer. The President, the Prime Minister, every Minister and head of government must be committed to eradicate this evil, because it is not just a crime – it is an evil that works as a cancer that devours all human life, dignity and the basic respect that human beings must reveal for themselves and others – respect that make us different from animals like dogs and pigs.

Use the Military to Fight the Drug War

The war on drugs is a "war", and not just "rhetoric" about war. It is a real war. The general perception of the public is that soldiers have a no nonsense approach that sends out a very clear message to those who are the culprits. Soldiers must be organized and utilized along the line of sections, platoons and even battalions in order to eradicate this curse. Men of character and people who are goal directed and not open to any form of bribery are ideal candidates to do this challenging job. When operating in large numbers it becomes also more difficult to be bribed with drug money to look the other way.

A hard and decisive approach is needed to end the drug wars. The military is the highest authority in terms of "fire-power" and this must be utilized. Narcoterrorists and drug cartels are not stronger in terms of firepower and weaponry than the military. We have reached a stage where there are no room for philosophers who are arguing about the proverbial "just war theory" and if there indeed is a drug war going on or not. The fact is that there is a definite war going on and the situation

necessitates that the military, just like in the case of religious extremism and terrorism, must go in and finish it with military power and military ball. In short, use guns and boots.

Identify the Drug Manufacturers

Drug wars are also intelligence wars – it is all about the “who, when, where, why, what” and “how?” Once that information is on the table, the government's law enforcement agencies must, to use a metaphor, clamp down and strangle the breath out of those who are the culprits. The people who are manufacturing drugs are not behaving like ordinary human beings. They are not just poor peasants, or, as they say in Hebrew, the “am ha'arets”, the “people of the land” (the lower social class / the common people / the plebs as opposed to the aristocracy / the peasants as opposed to the townsfolk – De Vaux 1980: 70), who are trying to make a survivalist living. They rather want to make a lot of money fast. Manufacturers are persons who have deliberately decided, before they have started to do so, to involve themselves in the making of money (at times mega bucks) by utilizing other human beings for their own greed and self-enrichment. It is people who have no respect for the sanctity of human life and the dignity of other fellow human beings who were made in the image of God.

Execute those Involved with Drugs – Let the Death Penalty Serve as an Example

Drug wars are deadly wars. Drug manufacturers cannot expect mercy from government when they are caught in these illegal activities. Because this is all about a “war on drugs”, drug planners, designers and producers must be executed if founded guilty so that other potential opportunists will fear to follow the same route and get involved. What manufacturers and governments very often forget is that these drugs do not stay in their own countries. It is sold to drug pushers all around the globe where it enslaves members of different nations, especially targeting children and youngsters and those that are vulnerable. I believe there are deliberate attempts from Al-Qaeda and some Taliban members, who support the drug trade, to finance their terror deeds and to bind those in so-called Western democracies. This enslavement is part of their plans to paralyze their enemies and to take them over in order to establish an Islamic Caliphate. I believe that the death penalty (Van Zyl 1992:2-10; Snyman 2008:25-29) will act as a definite deterrent for those who want to enslave, paralyze and kill other fellow human beings by poisoning their minds and bodies with drugs.

The introduction of the death penalty for everyone who is involved with drugs in any form is a not inhuman. The death penalty may sound shocking but I believe it will be the quickest way of getting the desired effect, and that is, a radical reduction

in drug offenses. A South African woman was recently executed in China after she was caught with 3 kilograms of crystal methamphetamine (IOL-News 2011). There is no doubt in my mind that other South African drug distributors will think twice before they will try to smuggle drugs into China, because they know what will happen to them if they are caught. It is essential to remember that drug cartels “kill” people with drugs, and as a result, those involved in this crime must fear the consequences of getting involved. Drug addicts are also putting an unnecessary burden on the state that can rather use the funds in a proactive manner instead of utilizing it in a reactive rehabilitative manner.

Why is it that some countries do not have drug challenges but others do? If punishments are severe and people fear the consequences of getting involved, then it is good. It is better to use the death penalty and there are less drug problems than to have a country filled with drug addicts and drug wars. People also do not pay taxes on the “illegal drug money” they circulate. I have made the choice to stay drug-free and sober. Millions of others have made the same choice. Why can't others not do the same? Must good people allow bad people like “drug lovers” to rule them? The answer is a definite “No!” Those involved in drugs must either change sides and join the anti-drugs campaigners or simply experience the consequences of trying to deliberately poison others to death in an inhuman manner.

Treat Narcotics Handlers and Dealers as Terrorists

Karimi (2010:155) appropriately pointed out that “...Narcotics terrorism is a kind of terrorism in which people directly or indirectly are involved in the cultivation, production, transfer, or distribution of drugs.” We also know that narco-terrorist activities are financed through the drug trade. These terrorist activities include murder, kidnapping, extortion, threats, intimidation and anything that brings fear into the hearts and minds of men and women (Karimi 2010:155). I believe that the majority of Pakistan's citizens are peace-loving and good people who want to make an honest living through hard work and entrepreneurship, and not through the drug trade.

By treating those involved with drugs as terrorists, Pakistan will send out a very strong and clear message to the world that the country means good business and stands for good and responsible governance. In our neighboring African country, Lesotho, cattle (cows) are regarded as the most important possession of the Basotho people, and as a result of this, the crime of “stock theft” (“cattle theft”) is regarded as “terrorism” (Myburgh 2007:36) Pakistan can do the same when it comes to drugs. When a drug crime is committed by a citizen of a country against its own people, especially where drugs are used “to poison people to die a slow death”, then the culprits need to face the consequences of their deeds.

If narcotic handlers and dealers are treated as terrorists then it means *in practice* a “no-mercy approach” will be followed that will have a positive “shock effect” on anyone who witness their arrests, “terrorist trial” and execution. There are numerous examples in the history of the world, since the time of Babylonian king Hammurabi, and Moses in the Old Testament, where people were severely punished so that others must fear (Exodus 21:14). Drug offences (like drug manufacturing) are so serious that I think it deserves the death penalty – especially when innocent children are deliberately targeted by drug dealers to enslave them or to make money out of them.

Hold Families Responsible

All drug pushers and addicts are / were members of one or other family. Family members know what are their family members doing and if they are involved in the drug trade or not. A mother knows her child. A father knows his son. Brothers and sisters have contact with one another and uncles and aunts or cousins are not living in isolation. Even through extended family networks, people know what their relatives are doing and up to. Introduce legislation that compels all family households to declare all terrorists and drug related issues. Force members to come forward to the police, and if they do not do so and the police will find out that they have hidden this information, they must be held accountable. People have individual responsibilities as well as collective responsibilities when it comes to drugs and terror-related crimes.

Confiscate All Assets and Properties of Drug Manufacturers

The confiscation of all assets and properties of those who are involved in the planning, manufacturing and making of drugs must be implemented through legislation and active law enforcement. Sell or use the gathered assets and properties to further fund the war against drugs. Drug cartels consist of greedy people - people who only serve their own interests and not that of Pakistan. Their loyalty lies where the monies are, and definitely not with the country who gives them the right and who expect them to be responsible and peace-loving citizens. In fact, they are betraying their own country because of greed and the desire for idiosyncratic power. In short, they are like traitors and guilty of “treason” because they enslave and betrayed their own people – something that definitely is not right, especially when young children are involved.

Have “En Masse” Military and Police Clean-Up Operations

Military firepower and police firepower are two key ingredients of cleaning any drug-ridden area. Clean up operations is one of the quickest ways of dealing with this so-called age old problem that never really disappears. Make things happen, be different and have the guts to clean the streets. The fear for government

and the police will “fall upon” the people of the land and, whether in a rural setting, or in the cities, people will start to comply very fast when they see the police and military means business. Search and cordon operations and basic common sense approaches where people have to declare everything if they are in possession of drugs or not must become second nature for all visitors to Pakistan as well as for local inhabitants.

Democratically-appointed leaders in parliament, through law enforcement, must rule the country, not drug pushers and drug lords. Enforce the law and drugs will disappear. One cannot have a democracy and implement democratic principles in an area where narco-terrorists are ruling – one first has to clean the area and do proper sweeps to prevent a country from becoming a “narco-state.”

Break Up the Taliban Links with the Drug Trade

If Pakistan continues with their existing way of doing business, then the country will be flooded in future with unnecessary and unwanted drug problems and challenges – something it cannot afford. Talk to the Taliban (Fergusson 2010:282-288) and tell them in a frank manner that drugs are killing their own people and all other users as well. Make it clear to them that all local, national and international efforts will be implemented to stop this war once and for all. The quicker there is clarity and consensus about the wrongness of the use of drugs the better. The consequences of “sin” (wrong-doing) is always death – and with death I mean death.

Humanitarian reasons or democratic arguments to excuse some and to pardon others are not consistent with any government policy that wants the devastating effects of drugs to stop. How many more bodies must lie in the streets of Pakistan before sanity will prevail? It is essential that if the Taliban or Al-Qaeda or any militant group is involved with the drug trade in one or other form, than they must not only be immediately disrupted, but also be taken out of business as soon as possible, by any means available.

Consider Radical Counter-Drug Measures for a Change

Sometimes in psychology we make use of rational emotive therapy (RET). We have “to shock” people to bring them back to their senses. The death penalty and execution in front of a firing squad, for example, certainly will fall in a RET-category. Since the abolishment of the death penalty in South Africa, especially after the introduction of the first democratic rule in April 1994, our murder rates, violent crimes like car hijackings and rape have sky-rocketed (Snyman 2008:22-29). There is no doubt in my mind that the death penalty definitely will stop potential criminals “dead” in their tracks – especially when one thinks of the fact that those who have experienced the death penalty never again had committed any form of crime at all.

To arrest drug manufacturers, drug couriers and pushers and simply put them into over-crowded prison cells are certainly a waste of valuable state resources in my opinion. It is more humane to use the death penalty and to eliminate them than to try to preserve, protect and to nurture people who do not really want to change, but who are more determined to again enchain other healthy people with their poisonous weed or opium when they are released. There are also too many foreigners who are drug smugglers or pushers that are caught in Pakistan (Fasihuddin 2010), even coming from my own country. Do not feel sorry for them. According to the rational-choice theory they have deliberately decided to commit these crimes and must pay the highest price – giving up their lives.

Some academics think that it is wrong to even consider the death penalty for serious crimes. In fact, many are so “democratic and human rights-minded” that they are very often too blind for simple practical solutions that may work. The drug wars must stop. During a war there are always casualties and it is everyone's duty to stay alive as long as possible. If there is a drug war going on, and we all know there is one going on, then certainly the good guys must try every-thing in their might to stay alive, and if that means to eliminate those who try to poison and kill them with drugs, then, even if it is painful to say it, let it be.

Infiltrate Drug Cartels and Eliminate Them

The main reason why we are living and are surviving through the years is simply because we have decided to stay away from crime and because we have decided to make a difference and to do what is good. Both the Holy Qur'an and the Holy Bible clearly state that men must do good to others. To stop drug manufacturers, drug distributors, drug pushers, drug users and those who experiment with drugs and to prevent them from poisoning and killing other healthy God-given people, is to make sure they do not execute their evil plans. Drugs are evil because it kills a healthy person in an inhuman and slowly and deadly manner. There is no better and stronger word in a dictionary than the word “evil” when it comes to drugs. Whoever tries to use drugs must be stopped right away. Elimination of drug lords simply means “take them out.”

I do not believe that money must be placed upon the heads of those who are the most wanted men in law enforcement, because it is everyone's duty to assist the government of the day to ensure that social order is maintained at all costs (Van Heerden 1995) – this practically means one must assist them for free. One cannot go on and on and on and on and do business in the same manner year in and year out. The drug cultivations that take place in Afghanistan, Pakistan, Iran and in other countries are abominations that cause thousands of deaths and will lead on the long run to instability, regime changes and new governments.

Democracy, real democracy, does not bring death, but freedom and a healthy quality lifestyle where people live happy and prosperous lives. Pakistan owes it to its own people to stop those involved with drugs, “dead” in their tracks. Intelligence-led policing, where cartels are infiltrated and where the police, after sufficient information have been gathered, will do mob up operations to clean up drug cartels must be the norm. I am sure that even the United States of America and all its allies will assist Pakistan when they will request funds to just do that, and if they cannot assist, just pray. I am also sure that ordinary law-abiding citizens will step in, and like Rambo, start changing the rulers of the day to change the existing *status quo*.

Talks and Triggers

We all know that RPG-7s and AK-47s (Jalali & Grau 2001) are not really the solution to stop the drug trade, extremism and terrorism, but if necessary, it must be used. Drugs can only be stopped if the people who are involved in the drugs are stopped, and this starts in the minds and hearts of people who make that decision to do what is right. Constant peace negotiations and talks between opposing factions and groups are critical in order to eliminate the drug trade. If this means that one must go and talk to the enemy (Fergusson 2010), while keeping the trigger finger inside the trigger guard, then do so – just stop this trade once and for all. It is non-governmental organizations (NGOs), sound religious leaders, community activists and government officials who must take the lead and through “straight” and peace talks eliminate the damaging effects of the drug trade. The creation of new “ideas” that are “drug and terrorist free” must be taught and implemented at all levels in society. All educators have a critical role to play in this regard.

Poverty, Extremism, Religious Violence and Inequality

It was correctly pointed out that poverty, extremism, religious violence and inequality may cause terrorism (Narejo 2010:165-166). In fact, we know that many people are involved in the drug and arms trade in order to make a living and to feed their personal, economic and ideological appetites – these issues must be addressed through constant peace talks and negotiations at the highest political and international levels, but at the same time, tact and discretion must be used to know when to rely on real firepower instead of diplomatic persuasion and “going-nowhere-anywhere smooth talks.”

I find it totally unacceptable that billions of dollars of foreign aid are ploughed into the war on terror, or even into governmental aid to create jobs, to assist with medical, education and social development challenges and issues, but there are no positive visible returns. For “outsiders” Pakistan has reached a challenging “now or

never” point in their history where the legitimacy of even their own government is questioned from all angles. Foreign governments will no longer sit still on the long run when their freedom and tranquility are threatened and frustrated by possible terrorists who use the drug trade to finance themselves. If I may use a metaphor: Pakistan is like a big steam pot. The challenges like the drug trade, extremism and terrorism are like turbulent water inside the pot, busy “heating up.” The lit of the pot (foreign aid) will certainly blow when the steam reach boiling point. It is the job of government (Pakistan) to regulate and control the heat, otherwise “street-wise” people, who are simple “fed-up” may step in to make some socio-political changes, like in Tunisia, Egypt and Libya (Arab-Spring 2011).

Who are the Real Enemies in the Drug Wars?

Despite everything that I have just said, I am still moving around today, just like during my childhood years, with a “sniper rifle” in my head “to get them” (Ras 2011a) - the problem is just that I do not always know “who” to get. I mean, there are some authors like Mills (1986), who say that the largest narcotics conspirator in the world is the government of the United States whose intelligence agencies conspire with or ignore officials in at least 33 countries as soon as the Drug Enforcement Agency (DEA) closes in for the kill. Just when they want to move in to close the cases, then the United States' State Departments and CIA operators suddenly popped up “in the name of foreign policy” (Hagan 1987; 2010:316) to prevent these “crack-downs.”

Let us be honest, if the mighty USA and all its allies, through all the years, with all the billions of dollars that they have pumped into the eradication of the drug trade “could not” win the war on drugs, then certainly one must seriously question the motives of the political leaders and the policies of their foreign departments and clandestine units when it comes to their so-called “wars against drugs” slogans and war propaganda. Although freedom of speech allows Pakistanis to ask the question: “Is the USA today part of the problem or part of the solution?” I believe that, despite the Osama Bin-Laden raid, the USA-government is not an enemy of Pakistan. They are part of the solution and a “salvage-package” to assist the Pakistani people to protect themselves against extremists and terrorists who are trying to sow death and destruction, but at the same time, the USA is acting as a catalyst that put pressure on the existing Pakistan government to eradicate the drug trade and terrorism.

What Must Criminal Justice Scholars Do?

It will be wrong to say or to do nothing. It will also be dangerous to childishly play Rambo when you are alone. Practical solutions lie for me in collaborative efforts of all concerned scholars and law enforcement personnel who really want to see and experience a positive change. Never give up. Nothing is impossible with

God. Through character education, persuasion, practical law enforcement (like clean up operations, search and cordon operations, eagle patrols), intelligence-driven operations (Ras 2010a) and anti-drug activities of specialized units, the physical elimination of drug lords and cartels, winning the hearts and minds of the people, even at a very young age, are all things that we can propagate and can implement. The role of women (like mothers and grand mothers) in the education process is critical and no war against drugs or terrorism can be won without their daily input (Ras 2010b:21-32). Women simply have that loving and caring ability to form and shape their children in a positive and responsible manner. Pakistani men must be encouraged to unite and say no to drugs, extremism and terrorism and to be good examples to their young. Criminal justice scholars must simply use their academic standing and emphasize the important role of knowledge gathering, dissemination and sharing with local, provincial, national and international communities, in order to set sound parameters in which law enforcement agencies can operate and can ensure peace and stability.

Concluding Remarks

As an “outsider” I have perhaps spoken “too much” in line with my former childhood dreams and fantasies where the good guys, like Rambo, always take out the bad guys. However, the essence of being an academic is very often to say something that will draw fire from those who are very often too silent to bring peace and lasting solutions. I want to challenge our great scholars and brave law enforcement men and women who are perhaps, more than me, constantly in the proverbial line of fire on the great frontier – trying to make a difference. Let us again see what we can do to stop this senseless drug wars and everything that makes a beautiful country like Pakistan to go up in bombs and flames. I know we can change things. I mean, we have to change things and make it better. Why? Because it is simply the right thing to do, and also because, so I believe, God is watching us.

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