

Editorial

The Pakistan Journal of Criminology was formally launched in May of 2009 at the Pakistani National Police Academy in Islamabad. The publication was received with support and encouragement from academics and justice officials in Pakistan, as well as from the international scholastic community. We are thankful to all for their insight, appreciation, critical evaluation and suggestions for improvement. The justice system in Pakistan has seen considerable improvement of late. The recent effort of those in the legal community to move towards the restoration of the civil judiciary and rule of law is one example of this. This movement seeks to restore public confidence in the judiciary by adopting speedy trial rules, incorporating universal due process protections, and establishing transparent fiscal accountability procedures. Yet despite this and other promising developments, law-enforcement agencies are struggling to efficiently respond to such problems as terrorism, drug use and abuse, street crimes, property crimes, and kidnapping. There are also substantiated allegations of human rights abuse on the part of some in the law enforcement community that need to be addressed. The country's police educational and training components are well below international standards, and the nation's law enforcement agencies have simply not modernized. Unfortunately, legislated police reforms (particularly the Police Order, 2002) are rarely implemented as mandated at the line level. National law enforcement leadership (as well as the national correctional leadership), needs to step up and actively seek to embed a progressive vision within those who work in the field, following the model of the Pakistani judiciary and the military. The Pakistan Society of Criminology (PSC) will continue in its efforts to achieve an ever greater understanding of the country's crime problem, to improve the fairness and efficiency of the justice system operations, and to enhance the quality performance of the criminal justice system actors. The PSC is grateful to all for their support of these lofty, and crucial, endeavors.

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