

A Note from the Editor-in-Chief

Academics and researchers write most of the contemporary criminological literature leaving little to be contributed by practitioners in law-enforcement agencies or people otherwise involved in the criminal justice system. Criminological societies have worked hard to bridge this gap and encourage field officers to write and share their best practices and experiences with other colleagues and researchers. But in fact, they seldom find the requisite mental peace or the leisure and proper avenue to express their feelings and reflections on crime or crime prevention strategies. Some change their profession and join academic institutions, in pursuit of scholarly work, and thus cease to be practitioners anymore, and a few may write their life stories and autobiographies, which are rarely referenced by academic journals or books on criminology or the criminal justice system. In Pakistan, there is a depressing dearth of criminological literature, including the absence of published annuals or progress reports for governments or their departments. Moreover, policing science is not a subject of academic interest in this country, and not a single branch of the social sciences has included it in their curriculum. Criminology is in a primitive state in Pakistan, and we need to develop our knowledge stores in this field.

As one initiative, the Pakistan Society of Criminology decided to reproduce in the current issue a few articles from police officers, who are generally regarded as some of the most educated in the country after having passed the Central Superior Service (CSS) competitive examination and after undergoing much professional and capacity-building training in their careers. There is no shortage of experience or stories with field police officers. But they rarely publish, and even if they do, they tend to do it individually. The Pakistan Society of Criminology, from its very inception, has encouraged Pakistani police officers to contribute to the indigenous criminological literature by reflecting on their experiences and analyzing the data that are readily available in their offices (though often in unstructured and rudimentary forms). In almost all of previous issues, the response was very promising and our senior police officers worked hard in this direction, thanks much to the encouragement of others. This writing by police officers provides both clues and basic information, from which academics can begin more in-depth studies.

This issue contains two articles from one senior police officer, Syed Akhtar Ali Shah, Additional Inspector General of Police, Special Branch. The first article is a typical example of a police officer's reflections on the causes of crimes. The article is in a narrative form with no analyzed data, but it is indicative of the frustration of a field police officer who is hard-pressed to eliminate crimes in all quarters of society. In his encounter with crimes and criminals, a police officer is supposed to observe the dictates of law, restore justice, and follow procedures, rules, and regulations.

However, deep in his mind and heart, his inquisitiveness is perturbed by the variety of seemingly real causes and motivating and contributing factors of crime. A police officer comes across a lot of replies, answers, and evidence, which lead him to no single theory of criminality, unlike the theoretical criminologists, who search for specific answers and data. Mr. Shah's reflections clearly indicate the desire of a police officer to look for other partners and stakeholders in the society for fighting crime. The vast array of contributing or breeding factors for crime genesis as identified by Mr. Shah, from his personal experience of daily crime-interactions, can provide guidelines for a researcher to start with in a more formal and empirical manner.

Interestingly, Mr. Shah's second article, on the 'Role of *Madrassahs* (Islamic seminaries) in the Politics of Pakistan,' is a relatively well-referenced article. It is actually based on Mr. Shah's Individual Research Paper (IRP) at the National Institution of Public Administration (NIPA), where he underwent a career-training course, which is necessary for promotion to a higher grade. It shows that when police officers get time in an academic environment, away from the hard times of practical field engagement, they can produce fine articles by studying and reflecting on their experiences and feelings about the corruptibility of the human mind, power-politics, and the development of groups and gangs involved in criminal activity. The debate on the role of Islamic schools, commonly called *Madrassahs*, is a sensitive one in the current political atmosphere of the country. Serious differences are noticed in the positive and negative role of religious parties in the politics of Pakistan, but a passionate and value-free analysis is welcomed in academic circles. Mr. Shah's efforts are academic in this sense, though of course others may have different points of view. Despite the serious debate and keen interest in the role of Pakistani *Madrassahs* in politics by national and international scholars and media, Mr. Shah seems to have deliberately omitted its contribution in the overall criminality and radicalization of our society. Practitioners and researchers of policing sciences may find it hard to digest this omission. But, in fact, this linkage is not easy to establish with valid data. Secondly, a police officer may be contended with the hazy perception he develops in this connection, but he may be equally conscious of the repercussions of its open and elaborate propagation. Pakistan has not developed that kind of a sophisticated scholarship, empiricism and an intelligence-led policing which could provide basis for such write-up. However, the perceptions and perspective of a police officer is not out of place, especially those of someone who has personally served in areas of militancy and has twice survived attempts on his life.

In addition to the above, we have decided to reproduce a small book on '*Criminal Justice and the Community*', which was written by the late Muhammad Yousaf Orakzai, a former Inspector General of Police (IGP), who had a remarkable

service record and who was a pioneer of many innovative contributions to the police department until his retirement in 1983. Mr. Orakzai wrote this booklet in 1990, with reflections on his creative services, such as the establishment of new units and departments. He has eloquently summarized the internal police culture and the extraneous circumstances and pressures under which the police have to deliver and dispense. Mr. Orakzai has provided the basic concepts of some landmark institutional developments of his time and has clearly identified some workable suggestions for a future roadmap for policing. Time and again, Mr. Orakzai has noted in this book the importance of data collection of criminal justice indicators, and has carried out comprehensive and small-scale studies within the department on various policing issues, including recruitment, selection, burn-out, community satisfaction, and police performance. Unfortunately, the Police Research and Development (R&D) section has never thrived in any province of this country. Police officers prefer to work in the field rather than set at a desk and work at policy-making, research, and institutional development. Indeed, the latter are some of the least rewarded and least appreciated activities in all police departments in Pakistan. We have reproduced this booklet of Mr. Orakzai, with the permission of his widow, who graciously granted permission to reproduce it for our readership (the booklet is no longer available in the market). We are most grateful to Ms. Orakzai for her kind cooperation. Mr. Orakzai's other small book, '*Guide to the New Entrant to the Police Department*' (1985), will also be reproduced in the same manner as soon as we receive permission from the publisher (this booklet is also unavailable in the market). The *Pakistan Journal of Criminology* would like to preserve these hard-to-get and valuable writings of our senior police officers and scholars, which will serve as a foundation for the development of criminological study and policing science in this country. Pertinent to mention that this reproduction is not only aimed at preservation of some historic document but also to capture and appreciate the vision of a legendary police pioneer leader, who laid the foundation of so many huge and important police units as mentioned by him. The progeny may rightly ask itself whether they have correctly grasped the vision and outlook of the pioneer designers of these units and fulfilled their commitment with honesty and devotion or have badly missed the basic idea of these institutions. A self-appraisal and self-accountability may lead us to a clear vision and understanding of the early justification of these units for drugs control, combating serious organized crimes and road safety. These problems are increasing and becoming more difficult to be tackled effectively in Pakistan. The present law-enforcement people can see a lot in Mr. Orakzai's booklet in terms of their self-evaluation and their institutional progress and performance. We all have to do a reflective thinking, not only to judge our efficiency but also to discover the level of our commitment and sincerity to our cause and mission. This conscious realization is the basic relevance of reproduction.

Lately but pleasantly, we received an article from Mr. Aftab Nabi, a former Inspector General of Police, Sindh, and a scholar and writer of his own style. Mr. Aftab Nabi generally writes on the development and evolution of police administration, particularly in the colonial period, and on the police performance and reforms during the first few decades of our independence. His basic idea is to reflect on the very basis and fabrics of our police administration, which retains the text and texture of a colonial authority, but which is justifiably expected to provide services to a society who rightly claims to be “independent, free, democratic and enlightened”. This dichotomy of expectations and reality doesn't carry away the attention, of Mr. Aftab Nabi, who unswerving tries to find out both the excellent and fault-lines of the colonial police administration, and reasonably reflects on the historical developments with an impartial critique for future guidance and lessons. His present and previous articles in this journal speak of his peculiar style, and his unique historiography of policing sciences. His current paper, though initially double than the size of the present one, is on cattle-theft. To the outside modern world, it may seem some remote historic crime like magic offences, but the fact is that cattle-theft is still a crime of concern in the rural areas of Pakistan. To replace cattle by vehicles, cars and motorcycles, we may get the same number and dynamics of theft in the urban localities of this country. Mr. Aftab Nabi's approach of studying a particular and common crime in the colonial period is basically an invitation to the readers to trace back the present crime of theft in the context of responses from the existing criminal justice system. This is how Mr. Aftab Nabi leaves his logical conclusions to the imagination of students and practitioners of the criminal justice system.

The Pakistan Society of Criminology stands in debt to Prof. Roderic Broadhurst of the Australian National University, Australia who very kindly consented to be the Guest-Editor of this issue. Prof. Broadhurst is a well-known criminologist who has widely published on crime and policing issues. He is Chief investigator at the Australian Research Council's Centre of Excellence in Policing and Security, ANU, Canberra, Australia. Prof. Broadhurst has a keen interest in promoting criminology research in the Asia-Pacific Region in particular, and is very supportive of the academic work of the Pakistan Society of Criminology since its inception in 2008. On behalf of the Editorial and Advisory Boards and the Members of the Society, I express my gratitude to him for his continued facilitation and support.

Fasihuddin (PSP)