

News

Pakistan: Problems in FATA are multifarious: Ghani

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406 words

19 May 2010

Plus News Pakistan

PMPLUN

English

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ISLAMABAD: A two-day Strategic Workshop on "Rehabilitation and Deradicalization of Militants and Extremists" was held in Peshawar here Tuesday which was presided over by Governor Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Owais Ahmed Ghani.

Organized by the FATA Secretariat, under the banner of FATA Capacity Building Project, the workshop was attended by Senior Government Officials, Political Administration, Foreign Dignitaries, Seasoned Policy Analysts, Civil Society Representatives, besides Inspector General Police Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Malik Naveed, US Consul General Candace Putnam and Secretary Administration and Coordination FATA Abid Majeed, as stated in a press release issued by the Directorate of Information FATA Secretariat.

The principal aim of this one-of-a-kind policy dialogue was to find practical ways and means of reforming the ideology of radicalized extremists in an effort to rehabilitate them so that they could be reintegrated into mainstream society without returning to their extremist cause. Addressing the inaugural session, Former Chief Secretary Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Khalid Aziz underlined the urgency of a policy that prescribed a process to transform individuals who were currently under detention so that they could be released with relative assurance they would not continue to be a threat to security and stability of the national interest.

Governor Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Owais Ahmed Ghani, while addressing the participants stated that since the problems in FATA were multifarious so a multidimensional approach was needed to tackle them. "Although we have accomplished significant success as far as counter insurgency measures in FATA are concerned, still a lot must be done in terms of initiating reconciliation with those who can be brought back to the mainstream society", he added. In his concluding remarks, the Governor expressed optimism that with the help of much noble and strong tribal reconciliatory mechanisms (Jirga System) which were already in place in FATA, things were about to change for better.

Stretched over two phases, each one day in length, the first in the series had been designed to expose a broad group of leaders and policy makers from FATA and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa to case studies from subject matter experts who have successfully carried out such rehabilitation, reintegration and deradicalization programs in other conflict affected countries. These guest speakers hailing from Singapore, Yemen, Saudi Arabia, Iraq and Sri Lanka were brought together on a single platform by the International Center for Political Violence and Terrorism Research (ICPVTR) Singapore in partnership with the FATA Capacity Building Project.◦