

CITIZENS REPORT

Performance of the National Assembly Standing Committee on Defence

March 16, 2012 - March 15, 2013

CIVIL-MILITARY RELATIONS | MARCH 2013

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Pakistan Institute of Legislative Development and Transparency - PILDAT
Islamabad Office: No. 7, 9th Avenue, F-8/1, Islamabad, Pakistan
Lahore Office: 45-A, Sector XX, 2nd Floor, Phase III Commercial Area, DHA, Lahore
Tel: (+92-51) 111-123-345; Fax: (+92-51) 226-3078
E-mail: info@pildat.org; Web: www.pildat.org

March 16, 2012 - March 15, 2013

CONTENTS

Preface

Executive Summary

Introduction	09
Constitutional Mandate	09
Powers of the Standing Committees	09
National Assembly Standing Committee on Defence	09
Meetings of the National Assembly Standing Committee on Defence: 2012-2013	10
Details of Meetings	12
Conclusions	15
Tables	
Table 1: Membership of National Assembly Standing Committee on Defence	10
Table 2: Meetings of the National Assembly Standing Committee on Defence: 2012-2013	10
Table 3: Meetings by the National Assembly Standing Committee on Defence: 2008-2013	11
Table 4: A Snapshot of Meetings of the National Assembly Standing Committee on Defence	14
Figures	
Figure 1: Year-wise meetings of National Assembly Standing Committee on Defence	11

PREFACE

The **Citizens Report on the Performance of the National Assembly Standing Committee on Defence** covers the 5th Parliamentary year of the 13th National Assembly of Pakistan, i.e., from March 16, 2012 to March 15, 2013. Prepared by PILDAT, the report closely examines the publicly-available data on the work of the National Assembly Standing Committee on Defence.

This report has been prepared under the overall objective of strengthening Parliamentary oversight on defence and national security in Pakistan. This report is a continuation of the analysis prepared by PILDAT for the past 4 years.

PILDAT is mindful of the fact that the democratic institutions like the Parliament and Parliamentary committees have not developed over the years due to repeated military intervention and long spells of autocratic or semi-autocratic regimes led by military. The report therefore is meant to assist the committee in its oversight functions. The objective of the report is not to offer a critique of the work of the committee but to analyse the performance in the backdrop of peculiar security needs of Pakistan and the role Parliament is playing in respect to defining and influencing policy and principles of national security.

The purpose of the report is to examine the exercise of available powers of the Parliament with regards to Parliamentary oversight of defence and security sector in the light of the Constitution of Pakistan and assisting Parliament and its committees in undertaking well-researched, objective and non-partisan oversight of defence and security sector alongside other fields in the executive branch.

Acknowledgments

This report has been prepared by PILDAT team including **Mr. Khurram Malik**, Projects Manager-PILDAT, and **Ms. Aasiya Riaz**, Joint Director-PILDAT, under the supervision of **Mr. Ahmed Bilal Mehboob**, President-PILDAT.

Disclaimer

PILDAT and its team have made every effort to ensure the accuracy of the contents of this report and do not accept any omission or error as it is not deliberate.

Islamabad
March 2013

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

During the past Parliamentary year (March 2012-March 2013) the National Assembly Standing Committee on Defence has held a total of 9 meetings. During the 5 Parliamentary years combined, the Committee has held a total of 45 meetings, with the average of 9 meetings per year.

Out of total 45 meetings, the National Assembly Standing Committee on Defence held 9 meetings on PIA, 9 meetings on reviewing different Bills, 6 meetings on CAA, 4 meetings on DHAs, 5 visits of defence organisations, 4 meetings on different attacks on Defence installations, 2 meetings on Balochistan, two on Counter terrorism policy, one on Swat Military operation and one meeting on Defence Budget.

Another disappointing factor is that the committee did not review Defence Budget this time, whereas it actually reviewed Defence Budget during the 4th Parliamentary year. Thus in five years of its tenure, the National Assembly Standing Committee on Defence has only once reviewed the Defence Budget.

During the period, the Defence Committee received briefings from the Armed Forces and related organisations and visited the GHQ of the Pakistan Army, Air Headquarters of the Pakistan Air Force, and Navel Headquarters of the Pakistan Navy. etc Federal Defence Secretary also briefed the committee on attacks on Defence installations and the security response time.

Much like the conclusion of our previous analysis on the performance of the National Assembly Standing Committee on Defence, there is little to celebrate in analysing the performance of the Committee this year. Most of the reform proposals offered through the past many years are just as relevant today due to lack of progress on those.

March 16, 2012 - March 15, 2013

Introduction

According to the IPU-DCAF Handbook on Parliamentary Oversight of the Security Sector: Principles, Mechanisms and Practices, 4 conditions are needed for an effective parliamentary oversight of the security sector:

- i. Clearly defined Constitutional and legal powers
- ii. Customary practices
- iii. Resources and expertise, and
- iv. Political will¹

Constitutional Mandate

The principle of Parliamentary oversight on the Executive is enshrined in the Constitution of Pakistan mandated mainly through Parliamentary powers of legislation and passage of the budget. These powers are further defined under respective rules of the National Assembly that govern the functioning of the Parliamentary committees as well.

Due to peculiar political history of Pakistan, Pakistan has been unable to develop mature traditions of Parliamentary oversight of the defence and security sector. The key reason attributed for this is understood to be “a combination of lack of political will, fear of the khakis, incompetence, and resistance by the security sector.”²

Committees are created in the National Assembly with most of the standing committees set-up to correspond to the Ministries or Divisions of the federal government. The functions of Standing Committees are to debate legislation relating to, and oversee the working and performance of, the relevant Ministries or Divisions.

Standing committees have wide powers to call witnesses, requisition official records, seek statements on oath and take up any matter within their jurisdiction, without reference by the House.

Powers of the Standing Committees

Defining specific roles and powers of the Standing Committees in the National Assembly of Pakistan, clause 198 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business of the National Assembly states that:

“(1) there shall be a Standing Committee for each of the Ministry of the Government

(2) Each Committee shall deal with the subjects assigned, under the rules for the allocation and transaction of business of the Government to the Division or the Ministry with which it is concerned or any other matter referred to it by the Assembly.”

Clause 201 (1) further defines the role of the Committees as “A Committee shall examine a Bill, subject or matter referred to it by the Assembly or the Speaker and shall submit its report to the Assembly or to the Speaker, as the case may be, with such recommendations including suggestions for legislation, if any, as it may deem necessary. In the case of a Bill, the Committee shall also examine whether the Bill violates, disregards or is otherwise not in accordance with the Constitution.”

Clause 201 (4) further states that “A Committee may examine the expenditures, administration, delegated legislation, public petitions and policies of the Ministry concerned and its associated public bodies and may forward its report of findings and recommendations to the Ministry and the Ministry shall submit its reply to the Committee.”³

National Assembly Standing Committee on Defence

The National Assembly Standing Committee on Defence was elected on April 24, 2008 alongside other committees within the timeframe of 30 days as provided in the National Assembly Rules of Procedure and Conduct of business, 2007.

However, a Committee only becomes functional upon the election of its chairperson, which, in the case of National Assembly Standing Committee on Defence, could only take place almost a year later on February 17, 2009 when **Dr. Azra Fazal Pechuho**, Member of the National Assembly of Pakistan returned from Nawabshah-I, Sindh for her second term and politically affiliated with the Pakistan People's Party-Parliamentarian (PPPP), was elected as the Chairperson of the committee.

The first meeting of the committee was held on April 28, 2009, about 2 months after the election of the Chair. The

1. The IPU-DCAF Handbook on Parliamentary Oversight of the Security Sector: Principles, Mechanisms and Practices (2003): <http://www.ipu.org/PDF/publications/decaf-e.pdf>
2. Mushahid Hussain Sayed, *Parliamentary Oversight of Security Sector in Pakistan, Background Paper, PILDAT (October 2010)*: <http://www.pildat.org/publications/publication/cm/pildatbparliamentaryoversightofthesecuritysectorinpakistanoctober2010.pdf>
3. Rules of Procedures and the Conduct of Business in the National Assembly of Pakistan, National Assembly of Pakistan

March 16, 2012 - March 15, 2013

Table 1: Membership of National Assembly Standing Committee on Defence ⁴

Party	No. Of Members In Committee
Pakistan Peoples Party-Parliamentarian (PPPP)	7
1. Dr. Azra Fazal Pechuho , MNA Chairperson of the Committee (NA-213 Nawabshah-I, Sindh)	
2. Capt. (Retd.) Rai Ghulam Mujtaba Khural , MNA (NA-143, Okara-I, Punjab)	
3. Syed Hamid Saeed Kazmi (NA-192, Rahim Yar Khan-1, Punjab)	
4. Nawab Abdul Ghani Talpur , MNA (NA-231, Dadu-I, Sindh)	
5. Dr. Talat Mahesar , MNA (NA-233, Dadu-III, Sindh)	
6. Dr. Abdul Wahid Soomro , MNA (NA-237, Thatta-I, Sindh)	
7. Sardar Nabil Ahmed Gabol , MNA (NA-248, Karachi-X, Sindh)	
Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N)	6
8. Sardar Mehtab Ahmad Khan , MNA (NA-17 Abbottabad-I, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa)	
9. Mr. Shahid Khaqan Abbasi (NA-50, Rawalpindi-1, Punjab)	
10. Mr. Ayaz Amir , MNA (NA-60, Chakwal-I, Punjab)	
11. Shaikh Rohale Asghar , MNA (NA-124 Lahore-VII, Punjab)	
12. Mr. Bilal Ahmed Virk , MNA (NA-136 Nankana Sahib-cum- Sheikhpura, Punjab)	
13. Begum Ishrat Ashraf , MNA (NA- 273, Punjab-I)	
Pakistan Muslim League (PML)	3
14. Makhdoom Syed Faisal Saleh Hayat , MNA (NA-88, Jhang-III, Punjab)	
15. Sardar Talib Hassan Nakai , MNA (NA-142, Kasur-V, Punjab)	
16. Malik Nauman Ahmad Langrial , MNA (NA-163, Sahiwal-IV, Punjab)	
Muttahida Quami Movement (MQM)	1
17. Ms. Shagufta Sadiq , MNA (NA-319, Sindh-XII)	
Awami National Party (ANP)	1
18. Syed Haider Ali Shah , MNA (NA-16, Hangu, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa)	
Independent (Ind.)	1
19. Mr. Jawad Hussain , MNA (NA-39, Tribal Area-IV, FATA)	
Total	19

National Assembly Standing Committee on Defence has held a total of 45 meetings in the five years tenure: March 2008 – March 2013, bringing the average meetings per year to 9 during five years. It had held only one meeting in the Parliamentary year 2008-2009, 14 meetings in the Parliamentary year 2009-2010, 12 meetings during the Parliamentary year 2010-2011, 9 meetings in Parliamentary year 2011-2012 and 9 meeting in Parliamentary year 2012-2013.

The party wise distribution of the committee is contained in Table 1. As provided for in the rules, the Minister concerned serves as an ex-officio member of the Committee.

Meetings of the National Assembly Standing Committee on Defence: 2012-2013

During the 5th Parliamentary year (March 2012-March 2013) the National Assembly Standing Committee on Defence held a total of 9 meetings.

Table 2: Meetings of the National Assembly Standing Committee on Defence: 2012-2013

Month	Number of Meetings held
April 2012	01
May 2012	01
June 2012	01
July 2012	00
August 2012	00
September 2012	01
October 2012	00
November 2012	01
December 2012	01
January 2013	00
February 2013	02
Total	07

4. Members of standing committee on Defence, <http://na.gov.pk/en/cmnen.php?comm=Ng>

March 16, 2012 - March 15, 2013

In 5 Parliamentary years combined, the National Assembly Standing Committee on Defence has held a total of 45 meetings, with the average of 9 meetings per year.

During the 5th parliamentary year, the National Assembly Standing Committee on Defence passed the following four bills:

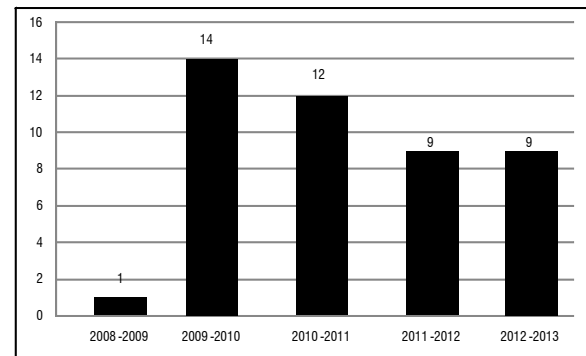
- i. Airports Security Force (Amendment) Bill 2011
- ii. Maritime Security Agency (Amendment) Bill 2012
- iii. The Defence Housing Authority Islamabad Bill 2013
- iv. The Survey and Mapping Bill 2013

The Airports Security Force (amendment) Act 2012 is approved from both houses of Parliament and became a Law.

Table 3: Meetings by the National Assembly Standing Committee on Defence: 2008-2013

Parliamentary Year	Number of Meetings held
2008-2009	01
2009-2010	14
2010-2011	12
2011-2012	09
2012-2013	09
Total	45

Figure 1: Year-wise meetings of National Assembly Standing Committee on Defence



March 16, 2012 - March 15, 2013

Details of Meetings

April 03, 2012: Meeting on PIA

As in previous four years, the National Assembly Standing Committee on Defence again held a meeting on PIA. The New MD PIA, Air Chief Marshal (Retd.) Rao Qamar Suleman, briefed the committee about PIA's business plan, fleet renewal programme, the airline routes and their economic viability.⁵

Rao Qamar Suleman said that PIA could be turned around for which difficult decisions, hard work and discipline would be required to make the system more efficient for bringing about gradual change for the betterment of the airline. The Committee extended full support to the PIA Management in improving the airline.⁶

May 03, 2012: Meeting on PIA and Hajj Operation

Second meeting of the year was again held on PIA on May 03, 2012. The committee was briefed on the preparations of Hajj operation, the budget assumption of PIA for the year 2012 while the salient features of flight operations, capacity and traffic plan and financial projection were also explained on the occasion.⁷

June 20, 2012: Meeting on PIA

On June 20, 2012, the National Assembly Standing Committee on Defence held another meeting on the affairs of PIA. The committee showed its concerns on financial condition of the PIA and high perks and privileges given to its officers. According to media reports, the committee directed the PIA management to terminate the contract of its deputy managing director who is drawing a tax-free salary of US \$ 50,000 per month for almost four years.⁸

Members of the committee noted that the salary package of Mr. Siyani came to more than Rs. 4.6 million per month because income tax on his emoluments was being paid by the airlines. "Now we can guess reasons for the current financial standing of the PIA," Begum Ishrat Ashraf of the PML-N said, "This also shows the sincerity of the PIA and government for a turnaround of the national flag carrier,"

she added.

The committee was informed that the PIA has planned to acquire new aircraft on rent to meet the growing passenger traffic demand. The members of the committee raised questions over terms and conditions of the deal presented to it about six months ago.

September 27, 2012: Meeting on CAA

The National Assembly Standing Committee on Defence held a meeting on September 27, 2012 in PIA headquarters under the Chairpersonship of Dr. Azra Fazal Pechuho, MNA, to look into the affairs of the Civil Aviation Authority. The Committee directed the Civil Aviation Authority (CAA) to give a complete detail of land leasing policy and breakup of leased out properties. The committee showed serious concern on the issue that land owned by Civil Aviation Authority (CAA) being encroached by multinational companies.⁹

November 20, 2012: Meeting on CAA

A meeting of the National Assembly Standing Committee on Defence was held on November 20, 2012 under the Chairpersonship of Dr. Azra Fazal Pechuho, MNA, to discuss the implementation status of recommendations made in its meeting held on September 27, 2012 regarding PIA, CAA and Ministry of Defence.

The Standing Committee censured MD PIA for not attending the meeting and not complying with the commitments given in the previous meeting of the committee. The Committee directed PIA to clear all its dues payable to the CAA. The Committee also asked the DG CAA to take immediate steps for speeding up the construction process at the new Benazir Bhutto Airport project in Islamabad and the Multan Airport. The DG CAA was also directed to get all encroached land especially in Karachi vacated from the usurpers and land grabbing mafia.¹⁰

December 13, 2012: Meeting on PIA

The National Assembly Standing Committee on Defence met again on December 13, 2012 in the Conference Room

5. NA body on defence felicitates Qamar Suleman as PIA MD, Daily Times, April 04, 2012, http://www.dailytimes.com.pk/default.asp?page=2012%5C04%5C04%5Cstory_4-4-2012_pg5_8

6. Ibid

7. NA defence body asks PIA for proper operation of Haj flight, The News, May 03, 2012, <http://www.thenews.com.pk/Todays-News-13-14327-NA-defence-body-asks-PIA-for-proper-operation-of-Haj-flight>

8. Committee orders removal of PIA's deputy MD, Dawn, June 21, 2012, <http://dawn.com/2012/06/21/committee-orders-removal-of-pias-deputy-md/>

9. NA body directs CAA to give detail of land leasing policy, APP, September 27, 2012, http://app.com.pk/en/_index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=209795

10. National Assembly Standing Committee on Defence Meets, National Assembly Press Release, November 20, 2012, <http://na.gov.pk/en/pressrelease.php?content=103#493>

March 16, 2012 - March 15, 2013

of PIA Booking Office, Islamabad, under the Chairpersonship of Dr. Azra Fazal Pechuho, MNA.

The agenda of meeting was as under:-

- i. New purchase of aircrafts by PIA
- ii. Fire incidents in Islamabad bound PIA flight PK-308 on 2nd December, 2012
- iii. The implementation status of recommendations made in its meeting held on 27th September, 2012 regarding PIA¹¹

The Standing Committee was briefed by the MD PIA on the purchase of new aircrafts. It was told that in order to turn around PIA, the induction of new aircrafts is extremely essential and vital. On smaller routes ATR's will be inducted to strengthen the Southern Punjab, Sindh and Northern Areas. While issuing tenders, all PEPRA rules have been complied with and Transparency International has also been kept on board.

On the issue of fire incident in Islamabad bound flight PK-308 on 02-12-2012, the Committee was informed that much misinformation has been wrongly circulated by the print and electronic media. No fire took place in the engines of the Aircraft; it was the failure of the engine to start which resulted in all the events occurred in the flight bound for Islamabad.

The Committee gave the Managing Director PIA a 24-Hours notice to implement the recommendations of Standing Committee on the issue of employees reinstated under Sacked Employees Reinstatement Act (SERA-2010), otherwise show cause will be issued and the case will be referred to the Standing Committee on Rules of Procedure and Privileges.

February 06, 2013: Defence Secretary Briefs Committee about attacks on Defence Installations

After six meetings in 10 months on PIA and CAA, the National Assembly Standing Committee on Defence held its meeting about attacks on Defence installations and reviewed the security arrangements on February 06, 2013. The Defence Secretary, Lt. Gen. (Retd.) Asif Yasin Malik,

gave a briefing to the committee in an in camera meeting. According to media reports, the committee was informed that defence installations have been attacked sixteen (16) times in the country since 2009, adding that the last attacks were in Peshawar and the Kamra airbase.¹²

The Defence Secretary said that in the attack on the Kamra airbase, an Airborne Warning and Control System (AWACS) plane was destroyed, while ten attackers were also killed.

Mr. Asif Yasin further said that all four sides were attacked in Peshawar but fortunately all installations remained safe.

In his briefing, the Defence Secretary informed the committee that quick response forces had been deployed at all defence installations while action had been taken against army personnel involved in these attacks.

February 27, 2013: Meeting to review security arrangements of Defence Installations

The National Assembly Standing Committee held a meeting on February 27, 2013 to review the security of Defence installations, construction of US base at Karachi airport, the DHA bill and Bahria town issue.

At the meeting the Defence Secretary reportedly denied that the US Army Corps of Engineers had been permitted to build a 'Tactical command and operations Centre' at the Jinnah International Airport in Karachi for counter-narcotics operations.

"I assure you that no such permission has been granted by the Ministry of Defence to the US Army for constructing a base at Karachi airport," he told the legislators. The secretary said an online advertisement seeking expression of interest for constructing such a facility at the Karachi airport was being investigated.¹³

He also said that the security of military installations had been beefed up because of serious threats they faced. There was a serious threat to military installations, particularly those of the Navy and Air Force, he said. Army commandos, he said, had been deployed for the protection

11. Meeting of National Assembly Standing Committee on Defence held, National Assembly Press Release, December 13, 2012, <http://na.gov.pk/en/pressrelease.php?content=103>

12. 16 defence installations attacked since 2009, The News, February 07, 2013, <http://www.thenews.com.pk/article-86977-16-defence-installations-attacked-since-2009:-Defence-Secretary->

13. Military not to interfere in polls: defence secretary, Dawn, February 28, 2013, <http://dawn.com/2013/02/28/military-not-to-interfere-in-polls-defence-secretary/>

March 16, 2012 - March 15, 2013

of the Pakistan Air Force and Navy facilities.

The committee was told that the Bahria Town real estate development group was using the name illegally. "The name Bahria was used on a temporary injunction/stay order and is void of legal footing," a statement issued by the committee said.

The committee asked the Defence Ministry to help the Bahria Foundation in legal proceedings against the Bahria Town management.

The committee also passed Defence Housing Authority Islamabad Bill 2013.

March 07, 2013: Meeting on CAA

On March 07, 2013, the National Assembly Standing Committee on Defence held another meeting on Civil Aviation Authority matters. The Committee looked into the killing of a senior official of Airport Security Force (ASF) in an aircraft mishandling incident at the Sukkur airport in February. The Committee took strong exception to the Civil Aviation Authority's apparent negligence in taking to task a PIA pilot responsible for the killing of an ASF officer.¹⁴

The Defence Committee voiced strong displeasure over

the role of the CAA in this regard while Director General CAA Khalid Chaudhry failed to defend his department and kept saying, "Strong action will be taken against the pilot." The ASF's Commanding Officer in Nawabshah Tanvir Ahmed Khan had died after being hit at the Sukkur Airport by the propeller of an aircraft of the PIA Training Academy on February 21, 2013

During the hearing, Khalid Chaudhry admitted before the NA defence panel that the pilot was at fault and the ASF officer's death had occurred due to his negligence. "We will initiate a strong action against him," he claimed but only to be snubbed by the Committee Chairperson. "When? Next year? Or may be after that? When will you take action Mr Chaudhry? Why does it always occur that the CAA claims are confined to hollow words sans any sense and practicality?"

Dr Azra Fazal remarked as an all embarrassed DG CAA fell short of words to defend himself. "Investigation is going on," he murmured in a trembling tone. I think that would also be completed in the coming years!" the Chairperson said.

She warned Chaudhry that strong action would be recommended against.

Table 4: A Snapshot of Meetings of the National Assembly Standing Committee on Defence

No.	Date	Issue (s) discussed
1.	April 03, 2012	i. Meeting on PIA
2.	May 02, 2012	i. Meeting on PIA and Hajj operation
3.	June 20, 2012	i. Meeting on PIA
4.	September 27, 2012	i. Meeting on CAA
5.	November 20, 2012	i. Meeting on CAA
6.	December 13, 2012	i. Meeting on PIA
7.	February 06, 2013	i. Attacks on Defence installations ii. Reviewed the security arrangements
8.	February 27, 2013	i. Meeting to review security arrangements of Defence Installations ii. construction of US base at Karachi airport iii. DHA bill 2013 iv. Using Pak Navy name in Bahria town
9.	March 07, 2013	i. Meeting on CAA

14. NA defence panel grills DG CAA for inefficiency, The Nation, March 08, 2013, <http://www.nation.com.pk/pakistan-news-newspaper-daily-english-online/national/08-Mar-2013/na-defence-panel-grills-dg-caa-for-inefficiency>

March 16, 2012 - March 15, 2013

Conclusion

The 5-year performance of the National Assembly Standing Committee on Defence in terms of playing an effective oversight role on Defence and National Security leaves much to be desired.

During the past Parliamentary year (March 2012-March 2013) the National Assembly Standing Committee on Defence has held a total of 9 meetings and a total of 45 meetings in 5 years of its tenure, with the average of 9 meetings per year.

Out of total 45 meetings, the National Assembly Standing Committee on Defence held 9 meetings on PIA, 9 meetings on reviewing different Bills, 6 meetings on CAA, 4 meetings on DHAs, 5 visits of defence organisations, 4 meetings on different attacks on Defence installations, 2 meetings on Balochistan, two on Counter terrorism policy, one on Swat Military operation and one meeting on Defence Budget.

Another disappointing factor is that committee did not review Defence Budget this time, whereas it actually reviewed Defence Budget during the 4th Parliamentary year. Thus in five years of its tenure, the National Assembly Standing Committee on Defence only once reviewed the Defence Budget.

During the period, the Defence Committee received briefings from the Armed Forces and related organisations and visited the GHQ of the Pakistan Army, Air Headquarters of the Pakistan Air Force, and Navel Headquarters of the Pakistan Navy. etc Federal Defence Secretary also briefed the committee on attacks on Defence installations and the security response time.

Much like the conclusion of the analysis of performance of the National Assembly Standing Committee on Defence (March 2012), there is little to celebrate in analysing the performance of the National Assembly Standing Committee on Defence. Most of the reform proposals

offered through the past many years are just as relevant today due to lack of progress on those.

Some of the key themes emerging from the analysis are narrated below:

Effective Oversight on Defence: Parliament and Parliamentary committees are at the heart of the efforts of creating this 'credible civilian alternative' together with the elected Executive. Regardless of the number of times the Committee has met, it is unclear from the aforementioned analysis how effectively it has helped influence the elected executive on defence and security policies of the country. From earning the label of "*debating clubs rather than making the defence services accountable for their actions and non actions*,"¹⁵ to not fulfilling the basic requirement of reporting their recommendations to the House, the Committee has made modest achievements on the path of effective oversight on Defence.

Oversight of Intelligence: It is of the essence of our democratic parliamentary system that elected leaders must be accountable for the work of all government agencies funded by public money. The intelligence services cannot be an exception to this rule. Intelligence services have vast powers and abilities to collect information not available to members of the society.¹⁶ There is a widespread public demand in Pakistan for a legal framework and Parliamentary oversight on the role of intelligence agencies. As intelligence agencies are strategic assets of Pakistan, public strongly feels that the agencies should be facilitated within their prescribed professional mandate without encroaching into the political sphere. Indigenous citizens organisations like PILDAT have been demanding that Parliament must extend its oversight mechanism on intelligence apparatus in Pakistan also. The example of UK is of special relevance to Pakistan where a Parliamentary Special Committee (Intelligence and Security Committee), placed inside the Cabinet office and not the Parliament, examines the policy, administration and expenditure of the intelligence agencies.¹⁷ As a first step, it has been proposed to existing

15. Muhammad Ziauddin, Parliament's Quest for Oversight on Defence in Pakistan, Issue Paper, PILDAT (January 2012):

<http://www.pildat.org/Publications/publication/CMR/ParliamentsQuestforOversightOnDefenceinPakistan-CMR.pdf>

16. Mr. Shahid Hamid, Democratic Control of Intelligence Services in Pakistan, Issue Paper, PILDAT (September 2012):

http://www.pildat.org/Publications/publication/CMR/DemocraticControlofIntelligenceServicesinPakistan_PILDATIssuePaper.pdf

17. The UK Intelligence and Security Committee (ISC) is a special committee of the House of Commons. The Prime Minister, in consultation with the leaders of the two main opposition parties, appoints the ISC members. The Committee reports directly to the Prime Minister, and through him to Parliament, by the publication of the Committee's reports. The Members are subject to Section 1(b) of the Official Secrets Act 1989 and have access to highly classified material in carrying out their duties. The Committee takes evidence from Cabinet Ministers and senior officials – all of which is used to formulate its reports. For details, please see: Pakistan Parliamentary Defence Committee Delegation Study Tour To United Kingdom: PILDAT Report, (May 2009): <http://www.pildat.org/publications/publication/ils/ukstudyvisitapril2009report.pdf>

March 16, 2012 - March 15, 2013

Defence Committees in the Parliament to create sub-committees on intelligence, a step that has not been undertaken during the reporting period.

Reviewing Defence Budget

The Senate Standing Committee on Defence and Defence Production had initiated a tradition of reviewing defence budget every year before it is presented in the House since 2006. However, the Committee presented no reports to the Senate on the Defence Budget. The National Assembly Standing Committee on Defence, in its five year tenure, had only once reviewed the Defence Budget. In India, as a regular practice, the Standing Committee on Defence reviews the Defence Budget of India and presents its reports to the Lok Sabha. Although, legally and technically, the recommendations of the Committee are not binding, the Indian government usually accepts most of them. The Committee extensively reviews the Demands for Grants before the budget every year and details of the latter, along with committee recommendations that are published in the form of a report for public knowledge. The standing committees through their reports have succeeded in putting defence budget in proper perspective. Through the medium of their published reports there is information in the public domain about Defence budgeting process.¹⁸

18. Amiya Kumar Ghosh, How to Review the Defence Budget: the Case of Indian Parliamentary Committee on Defence, Background Paper, PILDAT, (June 2009): http://www.pildat.org/Publications/publication/budget/howtoreviewdefencebudget_20-06-09.pdf



Pakistan Institute of Legislative Development And Transparency - PILDAT

Islamabad Office: No. 7, 9th Avenue, F-8/1, Islamabad, Pakistan

Tel: (+92-51) 111 123 345 | Fax: (+92-51) 226 3078

Lahore Office: 45-A, 2nd Floor, Sector XX, Phase III, Khayaban-e-Iqbal, DHA, Lahore, Pakistan

Tel: (+92-42) 111 123 345 | Fax: (+92-42) 3569 3896

Web: <http://www.pildat.org>