



Role of Technology by Police to Maintain Peace During Muharram

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Received: January 03, 2023; **Accepted:** January 21, 2024; **Published:** March 15, 2024

ABSTRACT

Over the past several decades, policing agencies have implemented an array of technological advancements to improve operational efficiency. Pakistan has increased security measures across the country for muharram processions carried out for Ashura. Security has been enhanced across the country for the peaceful observance of Ashura due to wave of religious terrorism from previous few decads. For this, a huge personnel of regular police officers, along with an additional reserve officers, are deployed to guard mourning processions and gatherings across the country and to keep the law and order situation under control. Role of police in providing peace during muharram is very significant. Police personel perform their duties for late nights with great spirit during 1st week of Muharram under harsh weather (usually hot days), and danger of terrorism despite limited resources. Good behavior, determination, dedication of police force during the muharram duties is praise worthy and exemplary and it ensured maintenance of atmosphere of law and order work with diligence and commitment. Police officers remain alert to counter any untoward incident and keep keen eye on sensitive areas during Ashura. Police sealed many parts of inner as part of security for Ashura. They blocked roads and streets leading to these places. cellular phone signals remained suspended as part of upgraded security. Check-points are kept functional across the country and additional security personnel is served during 9th and 10th muharram. District police personnel, bomb disposal units, Scouts, platoons of Constabulary and soldiers are deployed to protect processions and sacred places and authorities took extraordinary measures to confirm the security of people and religious gatherings during Ashura. Police installed closed circuit television cameras (CCTV) along the procession routes. Police champions bear tough circumstances and nothing can down the determination of the of Police force. We hope that the law enforcement agencies would continue to perform their duties in the same way to ensure the protection of life and property of the citizens across the country.

Keywords: Role, Police, Muharram, CCTV, Ashura, Pakistan.

1. INTRODUCTION

Technology and policing have been interconnected for decades, dating back to the advent of the telephone, the automobile, and

the two-way radio. Today, technology seems to be advancing at an ever-accelerating pace, as seen through the propagation of mobile and wireless technology, high-powered computing, visual and audio technology, advanced analytics, and other technological advancements [1].

The Arabic term *matam* refers in general to an act or gesture of mourning; in Shia Islam, the term designates acts of lamentation for the martyrs of Karbala. Shia Muslims gather in public for ceremonial chest beating as a display of their devotion to Imam Hussain (A.S.) and/or conduct *majlis* in remembrance of his suffering [2, 3]. In some Shi'a societies, such as those in Bahrain, Pakistan, India, Afghanistan, Iran, Syria, Bangladesh, and Iraq, male participants may incorporate knives or razors swung upon chains into their *matam*, there are two basic forms of *matam*, using one's hands only, that is, *sinch-zani* or chest-beating and *matam* with implements like chains, knives, swords and blades, that is, *zanjeer-zani*), *qama-zani*, etc [4].

Matam in South Asia is the most significant and sensitive Shia identity marker, although the act is also condemned by some Shi'a religious leaders. A form of ritual bloodletting, practiced as an act of mourning by some Shia Muslims (it is also forbidden according to Grand Ayatollahs), for the younger grandson of Muhammad, Hussain ibn Ali (A.S.) who was killed along with his family, children, companions and close relatives at the Battle of Karbala by the Umayyad leader Yazid [5,6].

The *matam* was first introduced by the Qizilbash tribe who were contributory in establishing the Safavid government and then a community of Shia maintain the [7] practice hence public nature of *ashura* endorse diverse spiritual, religious, and cultural ideas. One form of mourning is the theatrical re-enactment of the Battle of Karbala. In Iran, this is called *taziyah* or *taziyeh*. Theatrical groups that specialize in *taziyah* are called *taziyah* groups.

Taziyas were popular through the Qajar dynasty until the early twentieth century, but the re-enactments slowly declined until they were mostly abandoned in the large cities by the early 1940s. Nonetheless, *taziyas* continued to exist in Iran on a smaller scale, especially in more rural and traditional areas. Reza Shah, the first of the Pahlavi dynasty, outlawed *taziyas* [8]. Despite attempts since 1979, Muharram processions and various forms of the *rawza khani* are still more common [9].

By increasing the number of Shia Muslims in cities and states, Muharram rituals have changed to a more elaborate form. In the 9th century, lamentation and wailing became propounded as a mourning tradition. *Noha* is the poem and story that was inspired by *Maqatal al-Hussain A. S.* The poet or another one reads the *noha* with a plaintive rhythm. The main subject of *noha* is the pain from the killing of Hussain (A.S.) ibn Ali. *Noha* consists of poems in different languages such as Arabic, Urdu, Farsi, Saraeki, Sindhi, and Punjabi.

The reaction of the audience in the reenactment of the Battle of Karbala episode is significant for the strengthening of distinct Shia identity and the weeping over the killing of Hussain ibn Ali (A.S.) and his followers is one of these reactions. There is a close relationship between lamentation and weeping [10]. According to the narration, Shia imams had emphasized weeping for them, so it was transmitted to future generations. According to Shia tradition, the weeping and the flow of tears provide condolences to Imam Hussain (A.S.)'s mother and his family and they believe that lamenting and weeping is just for offering condolences to Imam Hussain's family, there-

fore, it is one of the good deeds done by the mourners of Hassain (A.S.) and will help them to save them from being condemned to hell on the day of judgment [11].

Depending on the condition of society, the Muharram processions rituals vary from one city to another. The common form is the starting of mourning processions from Imam Hassain (A.S.) marsiya and the participants would parade through the streets of their town or village, finally, they come back to Imam Hassain (A.S.) marsiya to perform other mourning of Muharram's ritual. The procession was a common ritual of mourning of dead persons in Arabic states before the appearance of Islam. The chest-beating, flagellation, and face-slapping are usual acts done during the mourning procession, but chest-beating and face-slapping have more precedence and the history of these acts has reached to Buyid dynasty period [12, 13].

In South Asia, literary and musical genres produced by both Shias and Sunnis, that have been inspired by the Battle of Karbala are performed during the month, such as marsiya, noha, and soaz. This is meant to increase the people's understanding of how the enemies fought The Battle of Karbala against Imam Hussain (A.S.) and his followers [14].

In Hyderabad, the Bibi-Ka-Alam procession is taken annually to mark the date. Speaking specifically of Pakistan, Ashura is observed across the country with solemnity every year to pay homage to Imam Imam Hussain (A.S.) and other martyrs of Karbala. Processions with elaborate tazias are carried out in various cities as thousands of security personnel protect the

mourners [15]. The procession routes are dotted with sabeel (drinking stalls), which are especially set up to provide cold drinks and milk to participants, and the general public, after they have walked long distances in hot summer. Local administrations all over the country place hospitals and ambulance services on high alert. But while many of these procession routes have existed since before Partition, there are some interesting stories about how they came about [16]. Every year, on Muharram 9, as the sun sets, the central Ashura procession of Lahore departs from Nisar Haveli, Mochi Gate. After crossing some of the city's prominent mosques, imambar-gahs, and bazaars, such as Mohalla Chehl Bibian, Imambargah Syed Wajid Ali Shah, Koocha Qazi Khana, Imambargah Maulvi Feroz Ali, Mohalla Pir Gilanian, Imambargah Syed Rajab Ali Shah, Chauhatta Mufti Baqir, Chowk Kotwali, Kashmiri Bazaar, Sunehri Masjid, Dabbi Bazaar, Gumti Bazaar, Tehsil Bazaar, Ucchi Masjid and Bhaati Chowk, it culminates at the historic Karbala Gamay Shah on Muharram 10. Some routs have been changed, but the route that was first adopted more than 200 years ago has not changed [17].

2. ROLE OF PAKISTAN GOVERNMENT TO PERMIT AZADARI IN THE COUNTRY

After the partition of the Subcontinent Indo-Pak, the government took responsibility for all the Shia's azadari. So, they issued licenses for their majalis and ways of jaloos. Govt. announced to protect them from the terrorist by police force. From 1972, Prime Minister Zulfiqar Ali Bhutto took stand terrorism against Azadari and after him, some govern-

ments of Pakistan could not do much for the protection of Azadari but Azadar promoted day by day. After 1999, President Musharraf took the important role in the protection of majalis and jaloos but terrorist attacks could not be stopped. After him, President Asif Ali Zardari provided generators to all the Imambargahs due to heavy load-shedding issues of light. After him, in 2013, Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif also support the same motto. Similarly, after the 2018 elections Prime Minister Imran Khan gave very much independence to azadari and also permission to do majlis in any houses after just informing the police station. So, that was an actual and good step for the ashura rituals [18].

2.1. Azadari and terrorism in Pakistan

Shia minority forms the second largest Shia population of any country, larger than the Shia majority in Iraq. In the last two decades, as many as 4,000 people are estimated to have died in sectarian fighting in Pakistan, 300 in 2006. On the day of Ashura, terrorist attacks occurred against Muharram processions in many countries of the world [19].

- In 1940 bomb was thrown on Ashura Procession in Delhi, 21 February [20].
- Raman [21] reported the explosion of a bomb at the sacred shrine of Hazrat Imam Ali
- Raza (A. S.) on 20 June, in Mashhad, Iran. A total of 25 people were killed during this attack and about 70 people got injured, it was the most horrible terrorist attack in Iran since 1981.
- In 2004 bomb attacks, during Shia

pilgrimage to Karbala, March 2, Karbala, Iraq, and 178 people were killed whereas 5000 were injured [16].

- In 2008 due to clashes between Iraqi troops and members of a Shia cult 263 people were killed on 19 January in Basra and Nasiriya in Iraq [22].
- In 2009 (December 28), Karachi, Pakistan, an explosion of a bomb killed dozens of people during the Ashura procession, and hundreds were injured.
- 2010: detention of 200 Shia Muslims, at a shophouse in Sri Gombak known as Hauzah Imam Ali ar-Ridha (Hauzah ArRidha), 15 December, Selangor, Malaysia.
- In 2011: explosion of a bomb, during the Ashura procession on 28th December, Hilla and Baghdad, Iraq, 30 people were killed.
- In 2011(6th December) a suicide attack on Ashura procession, Kabul, Afghanistan, 63 people killed.
- In 2015 (on 24th October) three explosions, during the Ashura procession, at a mosque in Dhaka, Bangladesh, one person was killed, and 80 people were injured.

Suicidal Attack on Muharram processions

Although suicide bombing has long history, however, there is a recent increase in this cruel incidents in Pakistan as over few last years thousands people have been killed in suicide bombing incidents by terrorists. Assessing the attitudes and perceptions of people toward suicide bombing can help understand some of the root causes of this phenomenon. The

majority of the muslims condemnsuicide bombing even no any religion supports this inhuman fundamentalism action that is probably due to some underlying psychiatric illness. Detail of Suicidal attacks in 2022:

- On 20th January 2022 suicide bomb attack in Lahore
- On 25th January 2022 suicide bomb attack in Kech District attack
- On 2nd February 2022 suicide bomb attack in Panjgur and Naushki raids
- On 2nd March 2022 suicide bomb attack in Quetta
- On 3rd March 2022 Sibi suicide bombing
- On 4th March 2022 suicide bomb attack in Peshawar mosque
- On 15th March 2022 suicide bomb attack in Sibi IED explosion
- On 26th April 2022 suicide bomb attack in University of Karachi
- On 12th May 2022 suicide bomb attack in Karachi Saddar
- On 15th May 2022 suicide bomb attack in Miranshah
- On 16th May 2022 suicide bomb attack in Karachi Bolton Market

2.2. Role of Police in to conduct peaceful Muharram Processions

The social security is the right of every citizen and it is the duty of that state to provide religious freedom to its inhabitants. For this purpose, Security Institutions (Army, Police,

IB) of Pakistan do their duties for the the protection of the the public Public participating in any festival. In our country, on the the occasion of any festival (Political, Religious, Social) these institutions provide security to the the public.

Religious and cultural festivals are very important in any civilized society. The participation of the people in these shows their respect and interest in these festivals. Like other events, 9th and 10th Muharram (Called Youm Ashora) are great events for muslims. There is a great significance of these days because these days are mentioned to the martyred of Hazrat Imam Hussain (A.S).

Like other Muslims, people of Lahore also celebrate muharram with great excitement. In 1850, Syed Ghulam Ali Shah (Gammy Shah) arranged the first Azadari procession in Lahore. The procession was started from Mochi Gate and afterwards residents of Lahore followed and continued this Azadari procession till date.

Being a Republican State in Pakistan everybody can has/have his/her rights without any fear. Religious freedom is part of the Constitution of Pakistan. Everybody can live without any pressure and everyone has religious freedom. All the Muslims celebrate Youm Ashora in their own way whereas Fiqah Jaffria celebrates it by mourning and Azadari Processionis.

In Pakistan police had always provided foolproof security to all the majlis and ashura jaloos all over the country despite of their sect and interest. All the other institutions are on

holiday but the police provide 24/7 duty on critical days of Muharram and face hardships these days to ready all the situations. A lot of sacrifice is given by the police officers and young person has been reported during these days in the country during terrorist attacks.

For the protection of azadar and azadari procession, all institutions launch their security programs. Like, Police establish a walk through gates at the the entry and exit points from the the majlis using intelligence ways. Traffic and Patrolling Police also play its role to smooth control of traffic. That azadar can be azadari without any disturbance.

The police administration and founder of majlis finalize a fool proof plan to avoid any untoward incident. Strict ban enforced on provocative speeches, and material. 29 emergency ambulances, 11 fire vehicles, 4 rescue vehicles, water rescue teams, and rescuers on different mobile posts have been deployed to provide emergency cover in the Lahore during Muharram.

Activities of persons included in the Fourth Schedule and those of banned organizations are closely monitored and strict action is taken against the elements involved in delivering provocative speeches or wall-chalking etc irrespective of their sectarian, political, ethnic, or other affiliations without any discrimination. The security plan designed for the protection of majlis and processions are adhered to with its true spirit and all the departments concerned have been directed to remain active to maintain law and order. The Lahore police have prepared emergency contingency plans in close coordination with district administrations

and Imamia. Police have sketched out a complete security plan for majalis and Jaloos during Muharram. For this over 7,000 emergency staff and scouts have been trained to control terrorists attack during Ashura. Every year before the Muharram government appoints duties of police officers in different cities for the security of majlis and jalooses of licensed imambargah. The paths of jalooses are covered by proper security, and checked by bomb detectors, and rescue teams are available every moment during the table. Police play a vital role in the safety of people. CCTV cameras are installed in the routes of jaloos and police officers are appointed for proper checking. The lady police officers are also appointed in ladies wings. The entrance of all the streets that are connected to the imambargah and jaloos paths are strictly checked and closed through barriers and security police is appointed there with heavy weapons. So, police provide all the security for the safety of Muharram. Search, sweep, combing and/or intelligence-based operations are continued in and around the localities of gatherings and procession routes. A force of plain clothed commandos and snipers on rooftops of buildings, on the route of mourning processions/religious gatherings is also deployed [23]. Security forces are made being high alert across Pakistan and authorities likely elevate security around all azadari sites and near procession routes, especially in major urban centers.

Police personnel set up checkpoints on major roadways, increased patrolling hours at night, and increase security at malls, markets, and other soft targets as a precautionary measure [23]. Violence is possible in many areas,

particularly in major cities such as Islamabad, Karachi, Lahore, Peshawar, Quetta, and Rawalpindi.

Major Ashura procession routes points are typically at the following locations:

- Islamabad: Markazi Imambargah in Sector G-6 to Melody Market, and back to Markazi Imambargah
- Karachi: Nishtar Park on M.A. Jinnah Road to Hussainian Iranian Imambargah in Kharadar
- Lahore: Mochi Gate to Lower Mall, as well as Nisar Haveli to Karbala Gamay Shah Multan: Mumtazabad to Shah Shams Shrine
- Peshawar: Qissa Khawani to Kohati Gate
- Quetta: Rehmatullah Chowk on Alamdar Road to Punjabi Imambargah
- Rawalpindi: Imambargah Col. Maqbool Hussain on College Road to Imambargah Qadeemi of Banni via Fawara Chowk.

During Pandemic police also successfully enforce COVID-19 restrictions in permitted gatherings. Officials may impose temporary localized telecommunication restrictions to prevent militant attacks and sectarian clashes. To ensure peace and security during Muharram, the police have successfully prepare the sound plan. A team of high police officials, led by the Capital City Police chief, arrange the security arrangements with stakeholders such as organizers of Majalis, Imambargahs caretakers and, religious leaders as well as members of divisional and executive peace

committees. The high command police officers visit the Imambargahs and routes of mourning processions in the city. The police make peace and religious harmony possible by cooperation of people from various groups to maintain the spirit of brotherhood on the occasion of Muharram. Some 15,000 cops drawn from various squads and units of the police force are also deployed for security outside Imambargahs, along the routes of mourning processions, and at public places. The police, with the assistance of the Counter Terrorism Department and the Federal Investigation Agency keep a strict watch on social media that may try to cause hatred among people. The police also play role to draw attention of the people towards the external dangers the country is facing and to get support against enemy machinations. The security arrangements are discussed in a meeting presided over by the Senior Superintendent of Police (Operations) which is also attended among others by all Zonal SPs, SP (Investigation), Sub-Divisional Police Officers, and Station House Officers. All wings of police were given directions to ensure complete coordination for the success of this plan. The SSP has directed all SDPOs and SHOs to maintain close liaison with peace committees and organizers of 'majlis' and processions in Muharram-ul-Haram. The SSP is directed strict security arrangements for gatherings and special checking of participants. Police personnel make it ensure to arrange strict checking of participants of processions using metal detectors. Strict vigilance is maintained to ensure security measures are in place by the police as well as peace committees, the SSP maintained. Police is directed to launch an effective search opera-

tion and combining activities in the slum areas of the city including Afghan habitats and enhancing vigilance at all entrance points of the city. All SPs are asked to monitor this search operation themselves and inform the SSP's office daily about progress in this regard.

3. TRAFFIC MANAGEMENT BY POLICE

As the Ashura is very sensitive ritual therefore traffic police provide foolproof security by strict traffic management this day. Police have deployed closed-circuit video cameras along all the procession routes to facilitate strict command and control monitoring cell at police headquarters in the country. The Police established commendable, foolproof security procedures the major procession of Muharram to proceed peacefully to their destinations. Considering the threat of placing and planting any subversive material within mosques or Imambargahs, at the locations of Majalis, along the routes of the processions, particularly in abandoned buildings, the administration enacted additional security measures.

According to the Police chief, the major goal of the police specified in this security order is to protect lives, maintain law and order, ensure the orderly and peaceful conduct of azadari processions, and to be alert to deal with any emergency or terrorist activity. The police forces of the districts and divisional police chiefs, SDPOs, and SHOs, as well as the police chiefs of the South and East Ranges are in charge of overseeing the security measures in their respective jurisdictions.

4. ENFORCEMENT OF LAW AND REGULATION FOR SECURITY OF ASHURA PROCESSION

The authorities order to safeguard the safety and security of the people and belonging of mourners as well as the general public. The government also order station house officers to go-ahead to file complaints against anyone found to be in breach of the prohibition under Section 188 of the Pakistan Penal Code. The Punjab Home Department apply enforcement of Section 144 and enlist the assistance of the Pakistan Army in order to ensure the maintenance of law and order and public safety during the Muharram. In light of this decision, a notification is released to enforce Section 144 throughout Punjab during Ashur-e-Muharram. The notification states that the provincial government has called upon the Army personnel to remain on standby in order to provide support to the police force in maintaining law and order, particularly in areas deemed sensitive.

The Home Department maintains and ensure the presence of army, mostly on Muharram 8, 9, and 10th muharram to guarantee the safety of the public in sensitive zones. Army personnel is appointed along the routes of major processions on Muharram 9 and Ashura. These provisions encompass a prohibition on initiating new processions, congregating in groups, and engaging in any actions that could potentially impede public order. Furthermore, the utilization of knives, swords, and sticks during processions has been unequivocally forbidden. In order to maintain the safety of residents and participants during Muharram processions, the

authorities have implemented a ban on individuals standing on rooftops of houses and shops along the procession routes. This measure has been put in place to prevent any accidents or incidents that may arise due to overcrowding or unsafe behavior.

Additionally, in an effort to minimize the risks associated with motorcycle-related incidents during the climax of the religious observance on 9th and 10th Muharram, a ban on pillion riding has been enforced. The intention behind this measure is to reduce the number of people on the roads, thereby decreasing the potential for accidents and ensuring public safety. Section 144 is a legal provision that grants authority to local administrations in order to prohibit gatherings of five or more individuals, public processions, and demonstrations, with the objective of averting any potential threats to public peace and tranquility. In regard to Muharram, the implementation of Section 144 aims at preventing any untoward incidents from occurring during this sensitive period [24].

For the 110 Imambargahs in the district Rawalpindi, there had been extensive security set up under the plan. On July 30, 2022, mourning majalis started. 112 radical zakirs from different sects are not permitted to enter the district during the month of Muharram, according to the capital government. It's interesting to note that the list also includes several zakirs and academics who have passed away. Approximately 3,500 police officers, Rangers, and volunteers had been stationed on procession routes throughout Muharram as part of the security plan, particularly on the 9th and 10th

of Ashura. The district had planned the impenetrable protection of Imambargah for the tranquil conclusion of Muharram processions. Helicopters were used to observe the funeral processions from above. Drone coverage of funeral processions had been forbidden by the security arrangement.

The capital territory police also made sure that the Residents were prohibited from standing on rooftops, balconies, or plazas during the Ashura processions. Additionally, gathering bricks from the rooftops of homes on each side of procession routes was prohibited by the capital territory police. No one would be permitted to carry matches or lighters during the Muharram processions according to the security arrangement by the police chief. People entered mourning processions through walk-through gates, and barbed wire had been placed to close off all streets that were in the procession's path which were also guarded by police officers. With the use of carts and containers, central roads were also sealed.

5. SAFETY OF THE PROCESSION

All arrangements required to assist the mourning had been completed by the capital police department and law enforcement. By Imambargah, all of the processions had come to an end at 10:00 p.m. Religious academics and clerics would draw attention to the tragedy's different elements as well as Imam Hussain's (RA) teachings. No one other than approved police personnel was permitted to carry a weapon during the Muharram parade, a police spokesperson said. According to him, police had not permitted anyone to arrange a

brand-new Muharram parade, and stern punishment had been taken against anyone found to have violated SOPs. He added that a separate, round-the-clock control room had been established in his workplace. Due to the installation of CCTV cameras along the routes of the main Zuljinnah processions and in the locations where majalis had been held, Ashura processions were strictly supervised. Before the processions began, the routes had been thoroughly checked, and a bomb disposal team had cleared them. In addition to District Police, Ladies Police, Elite Force, Anti-Riot Force, Traffic Police, Punjab Highway Patrol, Punjab Constabulary, and Dolphin Force personnel, 2000 volunteers were also in charge of security. The Ashura processions had been followed by 20 mobile rescue squads. A thorough plan had been developed to give the mourners first aid and on-site pre-hospital medical care while critical patients were transported to local hospitals.

6. PUNJAB POLICE ALL SET FOR STRICT SECURITY IN MUHARRAM

Conducting of peaceful Muharram, protection of people of all schools of thought, as well as full security for Muharram meetings and mourning processions is the top priority of police department. More than 5,000 majlis and 650 mourning processions provide foolproof security during the forthcoming Muharram, whereas more than 4000 majalis held from the 1st to the 10th of Muharram. The maximum number of 143 mourning processions out of the total would be held in the City division during Ashura [25]. The CCPO directed SPs

and supervisory officers to stay in constant liaison with the organizers of majlis and mourning processions, license holders, scholars of all schools of thought, businessmen, and local representatives and all the supervisory officers are asked to identify trouble points in their respective areas of responsibility and resolve the disputes and conflicts in consultation with stakeholders, ensuring surety bonds, mandatory to ensure a feeling of peace.

The CCPO direct the SPs, Circle Officers, and SHOs to supervise operational and logistic matters including briefing the staff on the security of routes, ensuring adherence to the sound system act, enforcement of restrictions of routes and timings of Majalis and mourning processions. The social media monitoring, search and sweep operations, geo-tagging, police pickets, and registration of tenants is ensured to avoid any mischievous actions of anti-peace elements. Checking of all suspicious vehicles and persons entering the city is also being ensured through the e-police checking mechanism at the entry and exit points of the city. The construction of vantage points, installation of walk-through gates, metal detectors, and CCTV cameras at the Imambargahs are ensured in collaboration with the administrators. The participants of the main mourning procession are provided three layers of security and nobody is allowed to enter the mourning processions and Majalis without complete checking.

The central mourning procession and other sensitive programs are continuously monitored with the help of CCTV cameras of the Punjab Safe Cities Authority and the district adminis-

tration, he said, and added that strict action would be taken against those spreading hate material, literature, and divisive propaganda. All police officers are fully aware of logistics and human resources at the police station, circles, and divisional levels, he added. DIG Operations, DIG Investigation, SSP Operations Mustansar Feroze, SSP Investigation, SPs, and concerned police officers attended the meeting. Inspector General Police (IGP) Punjab Faisal Shahkar reported that the security of majlis and processions during Ashura Muharram are made with consultation of all stakeholders including clerics, peace committees, civil society, and district administration and that the Special Branch and Counter Terrorism Department (CTD) provide all possible support and provide reports to field commanders for security arrangements of Muharram. The IG Punjab directed that all preparations for the security of Muharram should be completed on time so that there was no danger of disturbance of peace and that the process of punishment should be ensured immediately, and all supervisory officers should dispose of the pending show-cause notices at the earliest in a week. The existing workload is completed within 7 days and the progress report is submitted to the Central Police Office. Police officers are directed to keep constant contact with their Jawans so that they do not face any difficulty in solving their problems. The IGP directed all supervisory officers including DPOs, and SPs to ensure that the orderly room was held regularly.

The IG Punjab while giving instructions to the officers for a zero-tolerance policy against black sheep involved in corruption, mistreatment of citizens, and illegal activities be strict-

ly punished against one-wheelers, kite flying, and drug dealers [26].

(Starts from 9th Muharram 11pm to 10th Muharram 9:30 pm).

Starts from Nisar Haweli at 11:00 pm and moves towards Chowk Nawab Sahab and turns back to Lal Khuh Bazar (Mochi gate). Then after passing from Tawela Nawab, Muhala Shiyan, it returns to Kashmiri bazar then moves to Chowk Rang Mehal. After that, it moves to Tehsil Bazar turns left from Judge Latif Chowk and moves straight to Bhati Gate. It ends at Karbala Gamy Shah.

Table 1: Detail of Road Map Of 9th ,10th Muharam Procession of Gamay Shah K Arbla LAhore

Streets	136
Mosques	37
Safe City Cameras	147
CCTV Camera	79
Darbar	04
Amam Bargah	38
Total Distance	5.1 Km

7. ROLE OF TRAFFIC POLICE TO CONTROL TRAFFIC DURING ASHURA

The Islamic month of Muharram-Ul-Haram is a month of mourning for all Muslim communities around the world as it includes the remembrance of happenings of 'Karbala'. Mourning processions are regularly organized and

practiced mostly among the ‘Shia’ community and groups from all over Pakistan commemorate to organize ‘Majaalis’.

Traffic police also have a greater role like other public services body because leading these groups safely to their ‘Imaam Baargah’ is a big responsibility. Stops and barriers are placed all along the cities and the main roads and routes so that there is no stoppage for the communities that are going to their processions or even other people who are just carrying out their normal routine. Multiple traffic check-posts ensure the safety of all citizens and meanwhile, they selflessly and fearlessly perform their duties whether it is raining or sunny. Keeping an eye on the traffic and keeping everyone on track is a major contribution by the traffic police in satisfying all communities during the Ashura days.

Moreover not only keeping traffic on track, the traffic wardens also contribute significant role in conducting the majlis by helping them mourners out in re-routing when lost as well as lending a hand to make it easier to prepare and distribute feasts (lungr) whenever and wherever necessary. Regardless of sects and beliefs as well as the difference in the school of thought these wardens selflessly and sincerely guide and perform all they can on duty without any hesitation and with commitment although the rest of the country practices holidays.

Keeping aside their family and children with sheer commitment and wholesomeness the traffic police department performs their duties as an obligation and never demands any reward in return. Technically they are assigned

to just keep an eye on the activity of the citizens on the road and keep in check that everyone follows traffic rules but they always go a step further to ensure there is no ambiguous activity that causes any problem for anyone. In addition, they have a hawk-eyed observation of every movement and every act that is being performed so that the safety of the citizens and the mourners is never compromised. Providing alternate and short routes for ambulances and 1122 emergency first-aid bikes is a great and impeccable contribution of traffic police towards the nation which is always appreciated and blessed with the Du’as of the nation. Metro bus service has been suspended in view of the security of Ashura Day, speedobs service has also been limited from MAO College to Shahdara, orange line train operation is going on as usual.

They have always been alert and ready to sacrifice themselves wherever required just to maintain the peace and prosperity in the community among the citizens. Sights and scenes of wardens helping out the women, children, and elderly people at Majaalis are always heart-warming and the commitment and dedication that they show is definite that Allah Almighty will surely greatly reward them for these deeds that they perform. The traffic police department has intelligently performed its duties during Ashura keeping the cities working and hustling as well as the mourners carrying out their peaceful processions. The services of the real heroes of the land of the pure are and will always be appreciated in good words by the citizens Insh A Allah [27].

8. ROLE OF SPECIAL POLICE BRANCH TO ENSURE SECURITY FOR MUHARRAM PROCESSIONS

The organization is headed by an officer who is assisted by 4 Deputy Inspectors-General of Police and some senior superintendents, superintendents, deputy and assistant superintendents, and other staff. For administrative and operational purposes, the organization is divided into 9 regions, each headed by an officer of the rank of Senior Superintendent or Superintendent of Police. It has field offices in all districts of the Punjab. The main duty of this special police is to acquire and develop intelligence usually of political or sensitive nature and conducts investigation to protect the state from perceived threats of subversion and other terrorist activity and extremist political activity. Special police is deployed during national events to ensure the safety of the public like the most active of Moharram procession. Multiple police branches officers are dispatched for example firefighters normal police bomb disposal squads etc Bomb disposal squads are always on call and are ready to jump into action as soon as they are needed. These are highly trained professionals who are very familiar with the mechanism inside the bomb. Bomb disposal squads continuously check the routes and areas surrounding the routes that the people take during the procession. Moreover, drones are also used to check the area from the high grounds. If anything suspicious is recorded then it is immediately informed the authorities and safety measures are take [28].

The network system during ashura is temporarily disabled to prevent any leaking of information and potential threats of hacking and virus-

es are also eliminated. The police disguise themselves as normal civilian and they provide information to other police officers. They mix themselves among normal people and perform the same activities as them to lower the suspicion while keeping a very close eye on their surroundings. They look closely at everyone and if they notice someone suspicious then they alert the other police officers and follow the suspect. If the person turns out to be a criminal then they are immediately sent to jail. Medical staff is also available at all times. If someone gets hurt then they are immediately transferred to hospitals.

Special gates are present which ensure proper arrangement of the people involved in the procession and everyone is monitored thoroughly to make sure no one is carrying any weapon or firearm. Routes that will be used in the processions are closed off using large containers and no vehicles are allowed to enter. Professionals are hired who continuously monitor the footage provided by the cameras police officers and drones. They watch it carefully and check for any suspicious activity. Everything is directly reported to the higher offices who overlook all the departments involved in the procession [29].

9. CONCLUSION

To protect muharram processions in the future, today all the police and security authorities should check upcoming years' measures of security all over Pakistan. All SSPs, SPs, and SDPOs should make it possible to control wall chalking or pasting posters which can hurt the sentiments of people. Patrolling officers must conduct visits to all the routes of Muharram processions and 'imambargahs' and rooftops to be covered by the police officials. The lady

Police should be deputed for the female gatherings while police officers and 'jawans' would perform security duties outside the 'imambar-gahs'. All Station House Officers (SHOs) should get the complete bio-data of those volunteers performing security duties. Peace committees would be asked to ensure that no stranger is allowed to stay in the worship places for security reasons during the month of Muharram. In Punjab: In Muharram, more police officers, volunteers, special police, and Razakars should be deployed in Punjab for security. The officers should provide foolproof four-layered security cover to the sensitive Majalis and processions during Muharram to maintain law and order in all districts of the province. The police should work closely with the Punjab Safe City Authority to ensure security monitoring through maximum CCTVs installed in different parts of the city as part of a high-tech surveillance project. Similarly, the police should carry out the flag march in sensitive areas to promote a sense of security among citizens. Policewomen would be given security briefings before being deployed at the main gatherings and mourning processions. The Special Branch, an intelligence wing of the Punjab police, should assist the law enforcement agency during field operations. A regional police officers (RPO) conference should be called to point out sensitive and most sensitive zones in major cities of Punjab in Muharram. To meet any untoward situation during the holy month, elite teams of IG's reserve will remain on standby in districts with Punjab Constabulary platoons of the IG's reserve on high alert. Companies of the army and Rangers should also remain on standby. Leaves of all operational and security officials should be canceled for Muharram. Special passes should be issued to all security personnel to prevent

criminals from disguising themselves in police uniforms. Strict action should be taken against those displaying firearms, and weapons, and firing in the air. Security guards should be provided temporarily to personalities who have received threats. The IGs should direct officers to ensure the installation of searchlights and a public address system on security vehicles besides arranging for video recording of all processions with the cooperation of the counter-terrorism department and Special Branch. Installation of CCTV cameras, barbed wires, walkthrough gates, jammers, and metal detectors at all entry and exit points of cities and processions must be ensured. Monitoring of houses on procession routes must also be included in the security plan. The decision to monitor anti-state elements involved in walk chalking, publication of hate material, misuse of loudspeakers, and ulemas banned and prohibited from addressing publicly should also be made mandatory. For Emergency Plan, emergency ambulances; fire vehicles, rescue vehicles, water rescue teams, and rescuers on different mobile posts should be deployed to provide emergency cover to all mourning processions. All mobile posts and ambulances with medical kits should manage to move along with the processions to provide mourners with immediate medical treatment. Emergency officers, including trained doctors, should supervise the arrangements on 9th and 10th Muharram. Rangers should also form a Crisis Management Cell Headquarters to deal with any untoward incidents. Moreover, troops should actively conduct snap-checking, and mobile patrolling in different parts of the province. Rangers should be asked to warn and discourage the hate material, hate speeches and that strict restrictions be placed on aerial firing and show of weapons. Strict action will be

taken against those who fail to follow the rules, according to the Rangers. Citizens should be advised to contact Rangers on their WhatsApp number 0316-2369996 and helpline 1101 to report any suspicious activity. Safe City Project can help in curbing street crimes during muharram. In the future, we hope that all institutions will provide security to azadar by maintaining their traditions. We hope that officers of all these departments will watch everything. And provide full proof security to azadar and azadari procession. And save the azadari procession from any disturbing situation. It is the moral and constitutional right of azadar to demand security from the Government. Because constitutionally that is their right.

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