

## **Merciless killings in Fata**

18<sup>th</sup> February 2012

*(unpublished)*

My driver, who has been in service with our family since the last 18 years, hails from Fata, the troubled tribal area. He has been honest, sincere and extremely loyal all along. He keeps us updated with various happenings in the area, thanks to the easy availability of cell phones.

Just yesterday he informed me that his elder brother's 12 year old son, his cousin and his young son and another boy, who were praying in the area mosque were instantly killed due to some bombing. He was totally shattered by the news and rightly so. But this is not a single odd incident; killing of innocent people has become a regular occurrence in that region. People are fleeing from their homes. He wants his wife and daughters to come to Karachi now. These are normal decent folks like us; they have children and families but they live in constant fear. They do not side with the *pro-govt* or *against* factions. They are not even aware of the real enemies or the intentions of the war planners living many oceans away. They just see that Pakistanis are killing each other. Some are in uniform and some are not. At times it is also difficult to tell who is killing who, but the number of dead in the families is increasing day by day.

Is there anybody responsible or accountable for such horrors that befall our innocent citizens? For how long this torture and bloodshed is going to continue? How many more hapless citizens have to die for no reason at all? Is this not creating more and more enemies within the survivors, who are bound to take up arms *against* or *for* the cause which is becoming even more confusing with time.

It is such a heart breaking experience seeing Pakistan slide into mayhem and chaos. Yes we are amidst a so called 'war on terror' fighting someone else's war since long on our soil but this is changing Pakistan beyond recognition. I suggest to the war strategists to wake up before it is too late and put a stoppage to innocent murders otherwise this fire is going to spread to the entire country.

DAZ