

Kidnapping for Ransom: A growing Challenge for Pakistan

Kidnapping for ransom is defined as ^{taking} illegal hostages of a person from the society to a confined area for the sake of taking money from the guardians or other family of the person abducted. The practice of kidnapping for ransom started in late 1990s when the economic position of Pakistan started declining due to invasion of Russian army over Afghanistan. The creation of Mujahideen to fight Russian forces provides a linchpin for rise in culture of ransom. The terrorist groups most oftenly generate their revenues from kidnapping the innocent people and in turn ask for heavy amount of ransom. The surge in kidnapping for ransom was seen in 2010's when groups like Al Qaeda and Lashkar-e-Jangvi hold their positions in the valley of Swat. The Klashankor culture, left by cold war also aided the insurgent groups. Kidnapping for ransom is deemed as an organized crime. A well-organized chain of people operates interconnectedly for conducting such heinous crimes. The Pakistan Penal Code 1860, ^{under} ~~the~~ section 364 prescribes

seven years of punishment along with fine for those who are caught guilty of committing such offence. The revenue generated by these ill-gotten means are later on used for buying weapons, modernized devices, vehicles and other stock for these notorious groups. These groups then, causes a severe threat to the internal security of Pakistan. Thus, deteriorating the writ of the state and engaging the law enforcement agencies time and again.

Other than that, the rise in cost of living and soaring inflation is another conundrum to eludate. This become the reason for harbouring vice against others. Therefore, even a number of close relative puts themselves at quandary by nurturing bad intentions for their rich relatives. They plot events for kidnapping with the help of criminal groups and resultantly take advantage of others helplessness. Even in some cases, many groups kidnap people for the purpose of slavery, baggery, prostitution, brainwashing and trafficketing of human resource. Such practices are widely condemned and the authorities concerned should look into

drafting mechanisms for overcoming such criminal activities. A proper medium of communication with such kidnappers should be formed at national level in all law enforcement department. Additionally, the potentials of modern devices such as geo fencing etc should be harnessed for locating such gangs.

The rehabilitation counselling & centres should also be formed by the government for those who have suffered the trauma of kidnapping.

This will make them the better member of the society. Above all, the writ of the state should be strengthened by working on & minor ~~external~~ defects in surveillance system.