

Scenario 52

BB's MURDER: OFF THE RECORD

Referring to '*The News*' of 22nd July 2002 : Benazir Bhutto had appointed Rehman Malik as Additional Chief of the Federal Investigation Agency in 1995 which then launched a secret war against the Islamists, which amounted to a direct attack on the ISI. The Pakistani military was equally dismayed by reports of FIA contacts with the Israeli secret service, the MOSSAD, to investigate Islamist terrorists. The FIA leadership under Benazir Bhutto had also angered Islamist elements because they allowed the extradition of Ramzi Yousaf to the US for trial on the New York Trade Centre Bombing in 1993.

[Details available at another authentic source tells that '*following a tip-off from Istiaque Parker, on February 7, 1995, Inter-Services Intelligence (ISI) and U.S. Diplomatic Security Service Special Agents, including Bill Miller and Jeff Riner, raided room number 16 in the Su-Casa Guest House in Islamabad, Pakistan, and captured Yousef before he could move to Peshawar. Parker was paid \$2 million for the information leading to Yousef's capture.*']

However, one of the first acts of President Farooq Leghari, after dismissing Benazir Bhutto in November 1996, was to imprison Rehman Malik, the then Addl DG FIA on various charges.

As given earlier, after release when Rehman Malik fled to UK and claimed asylum in year 2000, he managed to come much closer to Benazir Bhutto in London. His office at Crown House, North Circular Road used to be a hub of such political and business activities in which Benazir Bhutto's finances were being invested. Numerous local and off-shore companies floated jointly by them for various activities including one named 'Petro-Line'. Its office was also linked or opened in Vienna city of Austria to streamline money laundering from Swiss accounts of Benazir Bhutto. Its brief has been mentioned in previous pages under NRO's head.

Rehman Malik had established good relations with Gen Musharraf, DG MI Ashfaq Kiyani, DG ISI Nadeem Taj and other top brass of Pakistani Army may be through US bosses or under a garb of mediator between Gen Musharraf and PPP since 2006. When Benazir Bhutto mentioned that Ejaz Shah, the DG IB, might be involved in the attack (of 18th October 2007 at Karachi on her first arrival after exile), Mr Malik was summoned by the DG ISI Nadeem Taj. The security provided to him was unprecedented because Ejaz Shah had accompanied him to the GHQ in order to settle things with DG ISI.

[*Earlier, Rehman Malik was taken aback when he was given extraordinary protocol at the Islamabad airport. He found dozens of top security and protocol officers receiving him inside the plane. A bullet proof car was specially parked close to the plane and he was taken out of the Islamabad airport amid tight security, which was not even available to the federal ministers then.*]

Rehman Malik did not respond to journalists when they came to know about the above referred meeting and asked for his opinion. Talking to the news media, Rehman Malik had only confirmed his meeting with DG ISI but refused to comment on the nature of his talks. On the issue of extraordinary security provided to him by the government, Mr Malik told that they had some concerns about my security and they acted on their own.

Rehman Malik was the chief negotiator of Musharraf - Benazir deal and had established many key connections which he used intelligently after her death. The immediate indicators after

BB's death on 27th December 2007 also led many investigative journalists to float an opinion that if Mr Malik was a part of the whole big game especially keeping in view the above narrated event of protocol by the army. In his first interview, within hours of BB's Death, Mr Malik had claimed that **his car was about forty feet away from BB's car during incident 'but he could not hear gunshots'**. In fact he was miles away.

Being BB's Chief Security Officer (CSO), he did bother to call anyone in BB's car (Naheed Khan, SP Major Imtiaz, Safdar Abbasi & 'other person') but even then he had presumed that BB was safe and it was what he told the Geo TV after the explosion. Brig Cheema had also confirmed the same on Geo TV but referring it to the verification done by Mr Malik. The CSO did not know that the tyres of BB's car had gone burst after the explosion and Major Imtiaz had moved the BB to Shery Rehman's car after travelling a short distance.

Every sane person understands that what should have been the duties and obligations of a CSO, Chief Security Officer. How Rehman Malik had performed his duty to protect Benazir Bhutto as her old aide and CSO can be judged from the following:

'On 26th December 2007, at 9.30 PM, Rehman Malik was attending a marriage dinner at Holiday Inn Islamabad where he was invited by one Maqbool Malik, a solicitor from [Malik Law Solicitors & DM Digital TV] Manchester UK. Rehman Malik remained with his friends from abroad till late that night whereas he was supposed to check and supervise his team deployed for the security arrangements at Liaqat Bagh [where BB was going to make a public speech next day at 3 PM] at that time because any miscreant could hide a bomb device near the stage in darkness to be detonated later at an appropriate time.'

'On 27th December 2007, Maqbool Malik [from Manchester UK] visited Rehman Malik along with his two brothers in law in Marriot Hotel Islamabad. Their meeting started at 9.30 AM and ended at 1.30 PM when Rehman Malik departed saying that he was going to Liaqat Bagh. What security checks he had launched at Liaqat Bagh and when; should be a matter of concern for the PPP. He was not bothered at all that who were the persons on duty, how many were they and at what points were they deployed, who was the supervisor of PPP workers, who was keeping liaison with local police, what were the escape routs, who was controlling the routs, who were men to check security of people around stage and hundreds of more questions like that.'

Benazir Bhutto was going to address at 3 PM at Rawalpindi and her Chief Security Officer was leaving Marriot Islamabad at 1.30 PM to travel an hour's journey; what was the inside – planning?

*From Liaqat Bagh premises, Rehman Malik was particular to send a call to his guests from abroad asking them categorically that **'Do not come to Liaqat Bagh; note it seriously; don't come here... see you soon'**. What was the background of sending such stern instructions to his guests?*

This event could be analyzed in the backdrop of the cogent fact that the CSO Rehman Malik & Babar Awan were about two miles away from Benazir Bhutto when the explosion took place at Liaqat Bagh.'

The telecast must be available on investigator's record in which Rehman Malik was saying that:

'They (other person Babar Awan) stopped at the Hospital and found that BB's car was not coming. He took a U turn from there and found that BB's car had already entered hospital and there was a huge crowd over there. Then they left for Islamabad.'

Mr Malik remained at Bilawal House in Islamabad and confined himself there until Mr Zardari reached Islamabad from Dubai. Babar Awan sitting next to RM had also confirmed that they directly went to Bilawal House in Islamabad assuming that BB was okay and she was directly following their car.

Once Babar Awan found that BB did not reach Islamabad, he immediately rushed back towards Rawalpindi and Mr Malik did not accompany him to Rawalpindi. Babar's statement (who was sitting next to RM) was in complete contradiction to Mr Malik's claiming that:

- They returned to hospital from next U-Turn (as told to Anchor person Mr Iftikhar of Geo).
- They stopped the car when they could not see lights of BB's car anymore.

Later Mr Malik told the newsmen that he was trying his best to get custody of the dead body *As Soon As Possible* from the Hospital. Why he wasn't bothered about the post mortem, the most basic requirement for further investigation when he had been once a Director of FIA.

Last but not the least; the suspicious person with odd looks standing close to BB while she was addressing at Liaqat Bagh, was made to join BB's entourage on special recommendation of Rehman Malik. This person was Khalid Shahinshah who was personal servant of Zardari House, might have known about the explosion in advance which could be the reason he rushed into the armoured car before everyone else.

PPP sources had told that the moment Benazir Bhutto ended her address; this man (Khalid Shahinshah) was the first one to dive into her bullet proof Land Cruiser; an unusual change from his past routine whilst he always boarded the vehicle after Benazir; often hanging by the external pedestals of her Cruiser.

Naheed Khan and Dr Safdar Abbassi got seated in the rear portion of the Cruiser, and when the suicide bomber blew him apart, Khalid was also present in the Cruiser. Afterwards he went over to Zardari House Islamabad where he lived for two days; did not visit Naudero to participate Benazir's funeral, making it there on third day. He disappeared from the Naudero scene too soon after over an excuse of his mother's death.

This person, Khalid Shehanshah, was then mysteriously shot down at his residence in Karachi after six months and none of Bhutto's or Zardari's associate ever bothered to follow the investigation of their old-age domestic servant and Benazir Bhutto's *'jan-nisar'*.

Rehman Malik was a buddy of Tariq Aziz, Secretary and close associate of President Gen Musharraf. Mr Malik then assumed the role of a bridge between Gen Musharraf and Zardari through Tariq Aziz. Fatima Bhutto openly blamed Asif Zardari for assassinating Murtaza Bhutto. Mr Malik was the right hand man of Mr Zardari and hence his role due to his high position in FIA made him even more suspicious.

Rehman Malik desperately tried to stop restoration of CJ Iftikhar Chaudhry's team of judges vis a vis sacking of thoroughly militarized and yes men judges. Mr Malik, allegedly using Farooq Naek's shoulders, was toeing American CIA's dirty lines and policies which were totally anti people. He used to attend all major meetings of Negroponte and US Ambassador in Islamabad Miss Anne Patterson.

'The News' of 8th May 2008 divulged an open secret through Ansar Abbasi and quoted Election Commission's confirmation about Rehman Malik's key role in by-polls delay. The controversy behind the postponement of the by-elections deepened a day earlier when the Election Commission's Secretary Kanwar Dilshad revealed that he had received a phone call from Adviser to the Prime Minister on Interior Rehman Malik, who had asked for a delay. This had confirmed a similar claim by the NWFP government. As Dilshad's statement to 'the News' firmly established that Rehman Malik was the man who had successfully executed the controversial postponement, it was still unclear who, between the Zardari House in F-8/2 Islamabad and the Presidency, actually authored the script of the so-called conspiracy.

Rehman Malik has been known for releasing press statements to create panic in public but just to make the Bhutto's associates believe that he is much concerned about Bhuttos. For instance in mid-2011, he publicly announced that *'the al Qaeda and Tehrik e Taliban Pakistan (TTP) have planned to kidnap and assassinate PPP's Chairman Bilawal Bhutto Zardari as he*

visits Pakistan next month'. While saying so he forgot that he had spoken about his own weakness being the Interior Minister.

As per revelations made by *The Express Tribune*:

*'Some banned outfits have notorious designs against Bilawal Bhutto, quoting the British Security Service (MI5), a UK based intelligent agency responsible for national security. The MI5 with coordination of Oxford University is assessing how to provide more security to Bilawal where he is residing. A detailed report on this matter will be handed over to the President by end of this month [September 2011]. **Around Rs:136.5 million is being spent on Bilawal's security in Britain**'. Poor nation's begged money!*

CASES AGAINST MR MALIK CLEARED:

7th May 2010: An accountability court quashed two corruption references against Federal Interior Minister Rehman Malik after the National Accountability Bureau (NAB) opted to withdraw the same. Judge Chaudhry Abdul Haq in his short order said since Bureau did not want to pursue & proceed in the two references filed in 1997, the court absolved the minister and other accused of the charges.

In the first reference, it was alleged that Mr Malik as ADG FIA had sent a team to search the houses of Abbas Raza and Hashim Raza which [the team] allegedly took away Rs:0.7 million and 25 grams gold. In second reference, Mr Malik was accused of receiving two cars worth Rs:1.798 million from Toyota Central Motors in Karachi through Deputy Director Waseem Ahmed as commission for the purchase of vehicles by the FIA worth tens of millions of rupees. When Rehman Malik came in government in 2008 and assumed charge as the Federal Interior Minister, Waseem Ahmed was elevated as IGP Sindh and subsequently was brought as DG FIA after making extension in his service and the Supreme Court had to order for his removal.

The prosecutors told the court that Mr Malik was kept in jail for 11 months in 1997 without obtaining a judicial custody order from a competent court. It may be mentioned here that the Accountability Court Rawalpindi had awarded him sentence in January 2004 in absentia. The competent court had accepted his applications and terminated conviction in both cases on 5th March 2008 when he appeared in the court while being in Pakistan. These convictions were revived again in the light of 16th December 2009's judgment of the Supreme Court, striking down the National Reconciliation Ordinance as void *ab initio*. Mr Malik had to approach the High Court to remove the convictions from his record. His petition for bail and further process was admitted in LHC.

The bench comprising LHC Chief Justice Khwaja Sharif and Justice Manzoor Ahmed Malik admitted the appeals of Rehman Malik [for regular hearing] filed against conviction in two cases and issued notices to the NAB Chairman for 12th January 2010. The minister was also ordered to submit two surety bonds of Rs:100,000 each. He argued; the Supreme Court had held in numerous cases that conviction and sentence awarded under Section 31-A of the NAB Ordinance 1999 in absentia was void; also that there was no proof that he [Rehman Malik] was an absconder and intentionally left the country to avoid trial; and that Section 31-A of the NAB Ordinance was in violation of Article 2-A, 4, 9 of the Constitution.

Rehman Malik moved another application for suspension of his sentence under Section 426 of CrPC, but the court declined to entertain it. The court observed the NAB Ordinance was a special law and suspension of sentence could only be sought through a writ petition under Article 199 of the Constitution. The Court was requested to convert his application into a writ petition, but the court turned down the plea, observing that there was a procedure for it. After a short while, the minister's counsel filed a writ petition and the court passed the suspension order on it. Rehman Malik also sought exemption from personal appearance on the next

hearing, saying he was scheduled to proceed abroad next month. The court refused to give him exemption, but adjourned the case to his convenience.

As there was Kh Sharif sitting as Chief Justice and the applicant was from PPP so the appeal had to be rejected. Had there be any person belonging to Nawaz Sharif's PML(N), the acceptance of appeal or acquittal was eminent and immediate. Kh Sharif should have avoided being a part of bench in Rehman Malik's case as Mr Malik's political rivalry with Sharifs and CJ's association with them, were matters of record. Media knew it well.

The PPP had well apprehended that Justice Kh Sharif would go to every extent in pleasing Nawaz Sharif by penalizing a sitting PPP Minister and an ex FIA Officer who had done about a dozen investigations against Sharif's family. As a strategy, just to leave a partisan judge on thorns for ever, President Asif Ali Zardari, exercising his special powers of Article 45 of the Constitution, pardoned Mr Malik and his fellow accused officers. Afterwards, the NAB court also discharged the said cases.

Referring to **'the News' of 23rd December 2009**, Mr Malik, when he was coming out of the LHC, told the newsmen that *'we are not a political party that attacks courts and beats judges to make them flee, leaving their shoes behind. We will never commit a contempt of court. I forgive those who registered fake cases against me.'* But earlier when Rehman Malik was talking to the US Ambassador in Pakistan, his stance was a bit different. He had told the US Ambassador Anne Patterson during a mutual discussion on 11th November 2009, that:

'The Supreme Court is not likely to revoke presidential immunity of Asif Ali Zardari on corruption charges and if the court does so, then he (Malik) would instruct concerned prosecutors to dismiss these charges before the court. The minister further disclosed that he already had several of his cases disposed off in this manner through dictating prosecutors, who subsequently told the relevant courts that cases against him were baseless.'

He [Rehman Malik] also accused Nawaz Sharif for pressurizing Chief Justice Iftikhar M Chaudhry into cancelling the immunity for Zardari. A variety of issues including NRO, growing thickness in MQM & PML-N relations and threats to President Zardari from the DG ISI Lt Gen Shuja Pasha who, he proposed, should be made deputy army chief in March 2010 as a confidence building measure, only to replace Gen Kayani after his retirement in October 2010 suggesting latter's elevation to the post of Joint Chief of Army Staff.'

Rehman Malik had asserted again that **'in one of his own corruption cases, this had been done, and that in another case, the Supreme Court had ruled his imprisonment illegal, and that President Zardari had the ability to pardon anyone'**. Perhaps it was all being done for the President Zardari in focus.

In the same meeting of 11th November 2009, the Interior Minister also told Anne Patterson that MQM had confided in him saying that:

'They [the MQM] had withdrawn support on the NRO when tabled in the National Assembly in 2008 on the instance of the US authorities and that the Army, US, UK and Saudi Arabia were behind this attempt to push the government on the NRO issue.'

Saudi Arabia might be up against Mr Zardari while trying to oust him from the Presidency. Mr Malik had also complained that he and President Zardari, had lost the US blessings at a time when they were direly needed, urging the ambassador to get a statement issued from Washington in support of the PPP government. He also shared his concerns that US Secretary of State Hillary Clinton was not happy with the performance of the present set-up during her visit to Pakistan. He had inquired as to ***whether the ambassador was aware that the 'establishment' was involved in working against NRO and for President Zardari's removal.*** Patterson told Mr Malik that 'we were aware of such allegations'.

The wording of above Wikileaks cable had given an impression that during the meeting, Mr Malik was perhaps nervous and that the US government was distancing itself both from him and President Zardari. The Interior Minister had claimed that the MQM had received 'this message' during the Sindh Governor's trip to the United States in those days and that Altaf Hussain had been approached by the British government in London. Ambassador Ann Patterson strongly denied these allegations, stating that the US Government had not held such discussions with the Sindh Governor.

DR QADEER HELD FOR U.S. PLEASURE:

Earlier in the same year, the important role of Rehman Malik in having relationship with America could be seen through another communication sent by the US Ambassador in Islamabad Ann Patterson on 9th February 2009 to her State Department in Washington. The US Ambassador had held a meeting with President Zardari a day before saying that '..... **Rehman Malik had failed badly this time**'.

The complete text of the cable was as follows:

(S) Summary: President Zardari assured the [US] Ambassador on February 8 (2009) that A.Q. Khan would remain under house arrest and not engage with the media. Minister of interior Rehman Malik also insisted that Khan would be prohibited from talking to the press and politicians, and his movements would be curtailed. Zardari and Malik speculated to the Ambassador that PML(N) leader Nawaz Sharif was about to run A.Q. Khan for the Senate on his party's slate.

The Pakistani government claims that they were trying to establish a legal basis for Khan's detention, as he had been restrained previously by the Ministry of Defence "for his own security." However, the timing of the court decision obviously took Zardari by surprise, reflecting the GOP's persistent lack of coordination and message control. Now the government is trying to catch up. End Summary.

2. (S) President Zardari assured the Ambassador on February 8 that A.Q. Khan would not talk to the press and would remain under strict control. Ambassador conveyed that the release of A.Q. Khan, the world's most serious nuclear proliferators, aggravated by Khan's press conference on his front lawn thanking Zardari and Interior Minister Rehman Malik for his release, was a very unfortunate signal to send to the world. For the United States, it was particularly unsettling coming on the eve of Ambassador Holbrook's visit and as the U.S. Congress considered assistance and trade bills for Pakistan.

The U.S. was seeking a commitment that A.Q. Khan would stay out of the press and his movements would be restricted as before. Zardari argued that referring Khan's detention to the Islamabad High Court was designed to prevent Khan from receiving a Senate ticket from
PML(N) leader Nawaz Sharif.

3. (S) Minister of Interior Rehman Malik also reassured the Ambassador and DCM in several phone calls and meetings that A.Q. Khan would be kept under wraps; he would not talk to reporters or politicians, and his movements would be strictly controlled. Malik reported that President Zardari, who heard about the court decision from the Ambassador and then Pakistani Ambassador to the U.S. Haqqani and not his own ministers; had been annoyed about being blindsided; Malik told us that there had been no previous legal basis for Khan's detention.

Note: *This is true. The head of Pakistan's nuclear "Strategic Plans Division" Lt. General Kidwai has often told us that there was no legal basis for Khan's detention except to provide for his own security.*

4. Malik said repeatedly that the press conference had "gotten out of hand" and the press had rushed to Khan's house even before the decision was announced. xxxxx

Media Reaction: (U) Unsurprisingly, Khan's press conference was widely covered by the electronic and print media. All papers ran Dr. Khan's "triumphant" photograph Dr. Khan's gratitude toward the government of Pakistan was underscored in a widely reported quote that he is "grateful to the president, the prime minister, and the interior advisor Rehman Malik."

5. (U) F M Qureshi [Shah Mahmood] and the MFA issued the official reaction for the GOP; their remarks were aimed at minimizing foreign reaction and that the government maintains the right to appeal the court's decision.

*6. (S) Comment: **The Islamabad High Court is firmly under the control of the government, so it would appear that this was a planned move by some government element, probably Rehman Malik, in a too clever by half move that was not coordinated with Zardari.***

Malik, who has aspirations to become deputy prime minister (or even prime minister), has failed badly this time.

*There was not even a hint publicly that Nawaz Sharif ever intended to nominate A.Q. Khan for a Senate seat. Moreover, the new court decision would not make Khan's nomination any less probable. This fiasco demonstrated yet another example of amateur, uncoordinated governance in Islamabad, and Nawaz will waste no time in exploiting this misstep. **We will continue to monitor Khan's freedom to determine if the GOP is implementing the restrictions that they promised to continue imposing on Khan.***

Patterson

The above communications amongst the US officials explicitly points toward the Pakistani rulers who have been playing in the American hands like puppets. It also reflected about the real intentions of the US policy makers towards Pakistan's nuclear program. They had already got hanged Z A Bhutto for okaying the nuclear program but now through Gen Musharraf, Mr Zardari and Rehman Malik they were able to drag its founder Dr Qadeer through the thorns of arrests and isolation; the process of revenge and punishments was being taken to its end after thirty years. Hats off to the American agents as rulers of Pakistan and still they are holding slogans of 'democracy'. Colonial era has come back perhaps.

Nawaz Sharif should have nominated Dr Qadeer to join PML(N) as Senator of Parliament even he was in custody. There was no bar for contesting election from being in jail or custody. The fact remained that Nawaz Sharif had also agreed with the US stance of keeping Dr Qadeer away; after all, the Sharifs were also old American buddies and still aspire to rule Pakistan through their blessings.

MALIK – WELL PLAYED: NY TIMES

Let us skip over to the affairs a year after.

New York Times of 6th January 2011 had mentioned in an article carrying Salman Taseer's murder story that:

'Government ministers and party officials indicated that they were dropping the campaign to change the blasphemy laws that Mr Taseer had championed. No senior official would be drawn to comment on the religious extremist aspect of the killing at the funeral. Those who did comment indicated a shift in the government position, by suggesting the killing was a political murder and a conspiracy, rather than a religiously motivated attack.'

Foreign Minister Shah Mahmood Qureshi avoided to comment and merely expressed his condolences to the family when approached by journalists. The Interior Minister, Rehman Malik, went as far as to say he would shoot any blasphemer himself.

Now, we all know Rehman Malik is a bumbling fool, but this really takes the cake. Well done. Seriously well played'.

What else one could expect from the leadership of the PPP; one should not be surprised that the PPP which despite being in power did not care about bringing to justice the killers of its own leader Benazir BHutto (not carrying out post-mortem, delaying the investigation, not releasing the reports etc). Loss of life in PPP does not carry much significance because everyone knows that death of their members would be an opportunity to garner sympathy votes and a few more seats in the parliament. *This was a straight forward case of murder of a citizen also what political colour you assign to it. I think what Rehman Malik said was 'brainless' in the given circumstances in Pakistan',* one reader held.

MALIK'S STATEMENTS – A FIASCO:

Could Rehman Malik be taken serious while issuing such statements on political turmoil in the smaller provinces? He has been issuing hundreds of such speeches on situations in Karachi, around Peshawar and Swat. What happened in the end; nothing but bloodshed. Let us see his actual words since 2009 at least.

The '**Daily Times**' of **3rd May 2009**: *'The interior minister asked the Taliban to disarm, saying it was the last warning being handed out to the terrorists.'* [The response came immediately. On 27th May 2009 the Taliban killed at least 35 people and injured 250 by firing on guards and then destroying the 'Emergency Response' building at the City's Police HQ Lahore. Three attackers who died in the attack were unidentified; two of them emerged from a Toyota van used in the attack and fired on security officials. The driver was not able to breach the boundary of security cordon before he detonated the bomb.]

The '**Daily Times**' of **15th July 2009**: *'The Federal Interior Minister Rehman Malik warned that strict action would be taken (against police officers) if any incident of target killing occurs from today onwards.'* [Even then the increase in the number of killings remained appalling. In HRCP's Report, the total number of killings during 2009 was 747, while the number of target killings in Karachi totalled 291. A staggering 218 people were targeted and killed on political grounds and out of them, 61 belonged to the MQM, 40 to the ANP, 39 were activists of the MQM-H and 29 belonged to the PPP. However, in the first 11 months of this year, the total number of killings in the metropolis stands at 1,860 including 711 target killings. Out of the 711 murders, 283 were non-political in nature. The worst months, in which the number of political and non-political target killings was the highest, were July and October.]

The '**Daily Times**' of **2nd January 2010**: *'People involved in violating the law will be brought to justice ... no matter what their political affiliations are.'*

The **Dawn** of **8th January 2010**: *'The government will have a strict no-tolerance policy for target killing incidents.'*

The **GEO TV** of **9th January 2010**: *'The Interior Minister said satellite system is also being used for carrying out monitoring.'*

[During the same period of two weeks, the media was aware that on **1st January 2010** a suicide bombing occurred at a volleyball game in Khyber PK province's border town killing at least 95 and injuring over 100.

The PK-politics internet site had also published on **13th January 2010**, the statistics of killings in Karachi to show a mirror to Rehman Malik. The figures were:

Muhajir Qaumi Movement (Amir Group) – 1314
Muhajir Qaumi Movement (Afaaq Group) – 270
Motahida Qaumi Movement (Altaf Group) – 84
Pakistan People's Party (PPP) – 75
Awami National Party (ANP) – 54

Jamaat-e-Islami (JI) – 51
Sunni Tehreek (ST) – 40
Sipah-e-Sahaba Pakistan (SSP) – 14

The **Dawn of 15th January 2010**: *'Gangsters were present in these localities and action would be taken against them at all cost.'*

[On **30th January 2010**, one of the same like gangster group at Pak-Afghan border caused a suicide bombing at a military checkpoint within the town of 'Khaar', in the Bajaur Agency, killing at least 16 people and injuring around 25 others.]

The **Dawn of 2nd February 2010**: *'Those involved in terrorism and target killings will be dealt with an iron hand.'*

[The miscreants in Pakistan took that statement seriously and immediately responded next day on **3rd February** by causing a suicide bombing within the Lower Dir District area in the North, killing at least 8 people, including 3 American soldiers and injuring around 70 other people. On **5th February**, twin bombings, one of which included a suicide attack, occurred in the city area of Karachi, killing at least 25 people and injuring more than 50 others. **On 10th February**, a suicide bomber targeting a police patrol in the Khyber Agency near Peshawar killed at least 19 people, including 13 local policemen. On **18th February 2010**, a bombing had blasted a local mosque in the Tirah Valley of the same area of Khyber Agency, killing at least 30 people and injuring more than 70 others. What a nice way it was to take notice of government's warning.]

The **Dawn of 15th March 2010**: *'Interior Minister Rehman Malik directed Inspector General of Rangers Sindh to maintain peace in collaboration with police and deal strictly with those who take the law into their hands.'*

The daily **Nation of 22nd March 2010**: *'The incidents of target killing have dropped considerably and activities of miscreants are being monitored through satellite.'*

The **Daily Times of 23rd March 2010**: *'He said that if those involved in target killings think they could escape after committing their crime, they are wrong since they are being watched closely and a satellite watching system is also being maintained for this purpose. I am not just scaring them, but I mean business.'*

[Rehman Malik's above noted statements of March 2010 were replied by the 'interested parties' in a very crude way like that three separate suicide bombings targeting Pakistani security forces occurred from **8th - 12th March 2010**. The media reports told that more than 72 people were killed in these three suicide attacks and more than 190 others were also injured & admitted in various civil & military hospitals of Khyber PK.

On **5th April 2010**, another series of coordinated bombings at the US consulate in Peshawar and at the ANP – PPP party rally in the Khyber PK province occurred killing 50 people and injuring more than 100 others. On **10th April 2010**, another 100 civilian people were killed in an air raid on Waziristan area at Pak-Afghan border through a concerted attack by unknown intruders. Strangely it was not a drone attack. On **17th -18th April 2010**, three more suicide bomb attacks occurred within the town of Kohat of the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Province. At least 58 people were killed in these three suicide attacks and around 86 others were injured. On **19th April 2010**, a suicide bombing struck a marketplace in the centre of Peshawar city killing at least 25 people and left tens injured.]

The **Dawn of 20th May 2010**: *'No one would be allowed to break the law in Karachi and violators would be dealt with iron hand.'*

The **Dawn of 24th May 2010**: *'The government would not allow anyone to take law in his hand in the city or any part of the country. Those involved in creating a law and order situation would be severely dealt with.'*

[These warnings from the Federal Interior Minister were reciprocated on 28th May 2010 by causing a series of co-ordinated attacks on two Ahmadi mosques in Lahore. The Tehrik e Taliban Pakistan claimed these attacks but it was presumed that some other XE sponsored secret agents had performed that act using TTP's name to create an atmosphere of hatred and enmity between the Ahmediya and Muslim populations of Pakistan. At least 86 people were killed in those terrorist attacks and more than 120 others were injured.]

The **Daily Times of 24th May 2010**: *'Malik vowed that he would not tolerate the elements who were trying to destroy the law and order of Karachi and said that any attempts to harm the peace of the city would be foiled.'*

The **Dawn of 14th June 2010**: *'Peace will be established in Karachi at all costs and no group or faction will be allowed to create any kind of violence and those who do work against the law will face strict action.'*

Referring to the News Agency **PTI dated 15th June 2010**: *'We have decided to take severe action against the culprits and whosoever is involved in target killings will be arrested and taken to task. There is 'zero tolerance' for criminals and anti-social elements.'*

Referring to News Agency **ANI dated 16th June 2010**: *'Peace would be ensured and no one would be allowed to take the law into his hands.'*

[The above state threats of Mr Malik were welcome. On **1st July 2010**, a twin suicide bombing at Data Darbar, shrine of the patron saint of Lahore, killed 50 people while leaving about two hundred wounded and crying in the nearby hospitals. On **9th July 2010**, a suicide bomb attack occurred at a market within the Mohmand Agency of north-western Pakistan. At least 104 people were killed in this suicide attack and more than 120 others were injured. On **15th July 2010**, at least five people were killed and nearly 50 wounded in a suicide bomb attack near a crowded bus stop in Mingora, the main town of the Swat valley. In Swat valley, suicide bombings against and targeted killings of police and the army informants or peace activists had become a commonplace then.]

The **Daily Times of 25th July 2010**: *'The government will take action against the terrorists at any cost, and it does not care whether it remains in power or not.'*

Referring to News Agency **PPI dated 27th July 2010**: *'Target-killing in Karachi has fully ended now [... but astonishingly 90 persons were killed in Karachi just in one day on 2nd August 2010].'*

The **GEO TV of 6th August 2010**: *'Interior Minister Friday reiterated his warning to the elements involved in the terrorist activities in Karachi firstly, to stop violence or be ready for a stern action against them. Secondly, that no criminal who has taken law in his hand will be spared.'*

[Next day the media had managed to dig out the police record showing that as many as 249 targeted killings took place in Karachi from 1st January to 6th August 2010, which were indeed disturbing statistics from an economic perspective as well, given the fact that the city accounts for two-thirds of Pakistan's trade and industry and almost half of its GDP. Conflicting political, sectarian and linguistic affiliations, marked by intense personal rivalries, were the major causes of the blind murders.]

The **Express Tribune of 7th August 2010**: *'The government has officially hired the services of satellite imaging experts to tackle the situation in Karachi... Any house which will be used as a hideout will be demolished and its members will be arrested.'*

The daily **Nation of 7th August 2010**: *'Stern action would be taken against the culprits without taking their political affiliations in consideration.'*

[The government's strategy of 'satellite imaging' was adequately refuted by the fighting factions of Karachi and thus on **3rd August 2010**, MQM's MPA Raza Haider was assassinated in Karachi thereby causing serious threats to the law & order situation. Riots erupted at once

and more than hundred people were slaughtered in the city during revengeful reaction of the MQM. The Federal Interior Minister could not bring even a single arrest on record what to speak of trials.

On **14th August 2010**, about 12 suspected militants in North Waziristan were killed by a suspected American attack on a civilian village. On the same day of **14th August**, at least 16 people were killed following an outbreak of violence in Balochistan. No record with police was available for the human rights activists. On **15th August 2010**, condemnations and the promise of a government inquiry followed the lynching of two teenaged brothers, Mughees and Muneeb Butt, by a mob in Sialkot. The killings were allegedly sparked by a mistaken belief that the two brothers were robbers, were caught on film by a Dunya TV reporter and aired on all private media channels.

On **1st September 2010**, at least 35 people were killed and more than 250 injured, following a series of bomb attacks on a Shia Islamic procession in Lahore. The attacks, two of which were said to be from suicide bombers took place at a commemoration of the death of Esteemed Ali bin Abi Talib (RA). Again on **3rd September 2010**, in a similar attack on Shia Muslims at least 50 people were killed in Quetta by a suicide bomber at a Shia rally. Responsibility was claimed by the Taliban who state that the killings were a revenge attack for the killing of a Sunni leader in 2009.

On **16th September 2010**, exiled politician Imran Farooq was found murdered near his home in north London having been stabbed several times. Violence erupted in his hometown Karachi following his murder. Several shops and vehicles were set on fire however no casualties were reported. On **25th September 2010**, four people were killed in Miranshah in an American cum NATO attack. Seven more died in the Datta Khel area of North Waziristan in a similar attack the following day.]

The **Dawn of 17th October 2010**: *'Anyone violating the law must immediately be arrested,'* but on a single day of 20th October 2010, an acute political and ethnic violence suddenly erupted in Karachi resulting in 35 deaths.

The **Dawn of 12th November 2010**: *'Rehman Malik vowed to root out terrorism from the country by taking strict action against the terrorists'.*

[The media immediately placed the statistics till October 2010 for the consumption of the Federal Interior Minister. There were 1,034 deaths in the first ten months of 2010 with the month of August having the highest death toll of the year with 176 people murdered. The month of June saw the second highest death toll of 135 people being killed in various localities of the city. CPLC's records show that this was the highest number of target killings since 1995 {when the figures were 1782; it was again a PPP's regime with Rehman Malik as Additional DG Operations of FIA}.

According to a report in **'The Gulf Today'**, target killings in Karachi during full year of 2010 had claimed more lives than that of suicide bombings across the country in that year of 2010. Pakistan was struck by 335 incidents of suicide bombings in 2010 that claimed 1,208 people's lives, according to the paper, whereas the number of target killings during the same period was 1,233. The data collected by Gulf Today showed that 122 people were killed in January, 133 in February, 130 in March and April each, 144 in May, 122 in June, 135 in July, 176 in August, 81 in September and 13 people in the first two weeks of October. They said that at least 46 policemen and 2 Rangers' personnel were killed in the city in year 2010 till then.]

Going by individual events, the reports appeared that on **1st November 2010**, a suicide bomber killed two policemen and wounded 10 others as security forces tried to stop him from walking into their local headquarters in Swabi town of Khyber PK province. On **3rd November 2010**, two government schools were destroyed by Taliban militants in an attack in the Mohmand area. On **5th November 2010**, a bomb exploded in a mosque in Darra Adam Khel in North-West Pakistan, killing at least 55 people and injuring over 100. Later that same day a grenade attack on another mosque in the village of Sulemankhel near Peshawar

claimed at least two lives. Both attacks occurred during the prayer sessions. On **9th November 2010**, the headquarters of the Pakistan Police's Criminal Investigation Department (CID) in Karachi was attacked by gunner's squad of the militants. After the attack, a lorry load of explosives was detonated; destroying a perimeter wall; 200 deaths and over 100 injuries were reported.

In the ending week of 2010, the people paid their last tribute to Rehman Malik's warnings and statements by causing an armed clash in Khyber PK province on **24th December 2010** in which Taliban militants attacked the security forces killing 11 soldiers but also lost their 24 militant companions as dead. Next day, on **25th December 2010**, a female suicide bomber killed at least 43 people in 'Khaar' of Mohmand Agency on the way to Swat.

The **Dawn of 15th January 2011**: *'Malik further said that the government would not allow anyone to destroy the [Karachi] city's peace.'*

[But none opted to seek his permission by the way; local police was enough to take care of (& facilitate) them]

The **Express Tribune of 23rd May 2011**: *'The terrorists [who attacked Mehran Air base] were dressed like Star Wars characters.'*

[That was why they were let go Scot free. Also see **'the Express Tribune of 13th March 2011** telling that shooting in Karachi had claimed at least 18 lives in the last 24 hours while police failed to arrest even a single suspect. Six people were killed in the recent incidents of violence across the city two days earlier. An angry mob also set three cars and an office on fire in the Kharadar area against the killing of a political worker. A night before, there were protests claiming more lives taking the 48-hour toll to 22; at least 12 men were shot dead as targeted killings.

Another media report dated **15th June 2011** told that at least eight persons were killed in firing incidents of a day before in Karachi. Firing incidents were reported between armed groups in Orangi, Banaras, Qasba, Ali Garh, Data Nagar and nearby places. The death toll in Karachi violence reached 20 during last 24 hours. About 6 persons were injured in different firing incidents. Two minors were killed in a firing incident in Orangi Town. Fear spread after the incident and shopkeepers closed down their shops. A man was killed in Qasba Colony, while a body was found from Lyari. Another person killed in a firing incident in Water Pump Kashti Chowk.]

The **Indian Express of 14th July 2011**: *'Seventy per cent (70%) [of target killings in Karachi] were by those people who wanted to be rid of their wives and girlfriends or girlfriends who wanted to get rid of their boyfriends.'*

[Rehman Malik could be offered Nobel Prize for so deep research and responsible statement. He was perhaps referring to HRCP report telling that as many as 65 women were killed during first six months of this year; 24 of them were killed by relatives, 26 by unidentified culprits, four were set on fire, three killed on railway tracks, 2 each killed by robbers and Lyari gangsters, three on the pretext of Karo-Kari, while one woman was killed by police. Taking 65 out of 1138 total killings, what was the stance of Mr Malik; needed no comments.

A media columnist wrote that: *'this was strange indeed! Malik was not blaming India or the RAW for this violence in Karachi; unless "wives and girlfriends" were code for India and RAW. Wives against girlfriends or girlfriends against wives; were the women doing the killings and causing the mayhem? Where were the men? This is anarchy, Pakistan-style.'*

The **Dawn of 28th July 2011**: *'Interior Minister Rehman Malik said that the people of Karachi would soon have a peaceful environment in their city and the government was taking all out measures to achieve the objective.'*

[See also: Statistics compiled by the HRCF Karachi chapter shows that a total of 1138 people have been killed in the city during the first half of 2011, with 490 of them falling prey to targeted killings on different grounds including political, sectarian and ethnic basis. What a peaceful environment it was?

Continuous target killings during July 2011 claimed the lives of over 300 people. The high death toll in July made it one of the deadliest months in almost two decades in the history of Karachi - in fighting linked to ethnic and religious tensions that plague the city. The shooting incidents, starting from 6th July 2011, were perpetrated by unknown gunmen and fired indiscriminately in various neighbourhoods throughout the city. In the third day alone, at least 27 people were shot dead, in what was described as one of the worst days the city was witness to since the PPP-led coalition government came into power.

During the course of the attacks, some three buses were fired upon; some shootings were conducted in Orangi Town, causing many suburban locals to vacate their homes and flee to safer areas. All of the attackers managed to escape immediately after the crime. President Zardari summoned a meeting of top officials to discuss the ongoing violence and find a solution but it was only an eye wash statement like before.

Daily **the News of 2nd August 2011**: *'The interior minister said that any and every action would be taken against the miscreants to restore peace in Karachi and added their masters would not be able to save them... Rahman Malik said that he has ordered for surveillance planes to be brought to Karachi for locating and weeding out the ever-allusive target killers.'*

[To be researched if the US or China wanted to sell such planes to Pakistan and for how much kick-backs]

The **Nation of 12th August 2011**: *'Rehman Malik has said that due to effective measures taken by the government, incidents of target killings have been controlled to a great extent in Karachi.'*

[See also: During the first six months of 2011, out of total of 490 target killing victims 77 belonged to MQM; 26 to PPP; 29 to ANP; 16 to MQM-H; 7 to Sunni Tehreek; 9 to Jamaat Ahl e Sunnat; 2 to JUI; one to PML(N); one to JI; one each to PML(F), Jeay Sindh Qaumi Mahaz, and Punjabi - Pakhtun Ittehad and four to Sipah e Sahaba (SeS) and the rest of the people unknown]

Referring to the News Agency **APP dated 16th August 2011**: *'Rehman Malik said that he had directed the law enforcement agencies to gather information so as to take stern action against "Batha Mafia" as was taken against target killers in Karachi.'*

[Vow...still to gather information! it was just a joke otherwise he knew it well; his IGP, SPs, all Police Stations Incharge and the 'others' concerned always keep ready lists]

Daily **the News of 19th August 2011**: *'Talking to media after visiting police commandos who were injured in an ambush in Korangi, here at Jinnah Hospital, Interior Minister appreciated their courage and vowed to deal miscreants with iron hands.'*

The **'Express Tribune of 20th August 2011**: *'Interior Minister Rehman Malik claimed that more than 100 terrorists have been arrested in Karachi and they will be exposed on television within two days.'* [But astonishingly during the same month of August, 44 more people were killed in non-stop shootings. Most of the victims were members of the Muhajir community, the largest ethnic group in Karachi.]

The above was only a sample of Mr Malik's press statements. One may need a full book for all the divine words he has been uttering to justify the security position in Pakistan viz a viz poor people's tax money. The fact remained that despite the above plethora of statements, Karachi continued to burn from ethno - sectarian violence or target killings. Rehman Malik then announced a new weapon in the government's arsenal to hunt down the culprits: Satellite Imaging. The government had officially hired the services of satellite imaging experts to

tackle the situation in Karachi. The Interior Ministry was using this satellite technology for at least seven months till then. Mr Malik had also added that *'I am not just scaring them, but I mean business.'* Media knew it that Mr Malik had been threatening the criminals since February 2008 at least but without a single apprehension or arrest.

It was the same thing over and over again every few weeks. Political violence used to break out in Karachi; Rehman Malik came to Karachi, held meetings with MQM and ANP; announcements made that those criminals would not be tolerated: Rehman Malik suddenly flew back to Islamabad always on a pretext of urgent meeting at the presidency. It had been the routine since four years at least.

During the third week of October 2011, Mr Malik said that Pakistan would hold peace talks with the Taliban only if the militants lay down their weapons first; minimum agenda for talks was for the insurgents to give up arms. He wished that the Taliban would not *'keep Kalashnikovs and hold talks'*. Both sides indicated they were open to negotiations, but no such condition was set for previous talks, which failed to end violence in which thousands had died. Correspondents held that his comments might not reflect official Pakistani policy. In the past, peace talks with militants in tribal areas near the Afghan border had resulted in short lived accords and accusations that Pakistan was providing the militants with sanctuary.

A senior Pakistani Taliban leader, however, refuted Rehman Malik's wish and told the BBC that talks with Islamabad would not succeed until US forces leave Afghanistan in 2014. Washington continued pressing Islamabad to take further military action against the militants. The same day, Mr Malik, released details of what he said was a plan by militants to kidnap Bilawal Bhutto, to gain cheap popularity amongst the PPP workers and at the same time making grounds for his frequent visits to London causing a high toll on poor national exchequer. He also confirmed that militants were holding Shahbaz Taseer, son of slain Punjab Governor Salman Taseer, but with zero progress in that regard.

A media columnist went angry out of the way by saying that:

'On 23rd November 2010: Mr Rehman Malik made another dull foot-in-mouth statement the other day – which can only be explained by recalling the time when he was a little baby and the nanny dropped him on his head twice. His current statement contradicts his last statement which repudiated his comments from the time before. Mr. Malik's latest epiphany refutes dozens of other statements by Mr. Malik, President Zardari, President Musharraf, General Kayani, General Pasha and the CIA.'

Talking to media reporters at the Karachi airport Mr Malik listed the outfits, commonly labelled as 'terrorist organisations', for creating trouble in Karachi and other parts of Pakistan. How he had come to that categorical conclusion to suggest that RAW, CIA and MOSSAD were engaged in that nefarious mission. Mr Malik is on record having said that his Ministry possessed documentary evidence of Indian involvement. When the media men asked that:

'If the ministry knew it then what remedial measures had been taken so far? Secondly; why the problem has not been sorted out yet.'

The Interior Minister had no answer as his flight was getting late.

The Minister's volte-face could reflect an attempt to distort the factual position under some threatening pressure to divert the attention of law enforcement agencies away from the real culprits. The obvious objective seemed to be to make it too hard to eliminate the menace and let the agonising state of insecurity persist. The other possibility was that the authorities, if they possess enough evidence of outside interference, were unable to deal with these destabilising elements because their hands were tied under outside influences. The situation was a sad and telling indication of Rehman Malik's pitiable subservience for survival; he was actually the main obstacle to dumping the baggage of the so-called war on terror also for which the whole Pakistan was continuously suffering.

Let us wait for dawn.