

PRESS RELEASE
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
January 21, 2010

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EXPERTS EXAMINE COUNTERTERRORISM STRATEGIES IN SOUTH ASIA

Seattle, WA –The National Bureau of Asian Research (NBR) assesses the challenges of current approaches to counterterrorism and counterinsurgency in South Asia in two new Special Reports: “Development and Counterinsurgency in Afghanistan and Pakistan” by Agnieszka Paczynska and “Counterterrorism Cooperation in South Asia” by Sumit Ganguly. Together these essays provide policy advice for improving the ability of local, regional, and international institutions to resolve violent conflict in South Asia.

Agnieszka Paczynska examines challenges in designing and implementing development strategies amid continuing active insurgency in Afghanistan and the tribal areas of Pakistan. Challenges include satisfying the immediate needs of the population, building capacity, and involving local communities in the development process. Paczynska recommends that Afghanistan and the international community take immediate steps to combat the corruption that currently weakens development strategies and delegitimizes government. She also strongly recommends tailoring development strategies to meet the specifics of local circumstances.

Sumit Ganguly examines the history of terrorism in South Asia, past attempts at counterterrorism cooperation, and challenges facing regional cooperation. Given the persistent and transnational nature of terrorism in South Asia, the region’s countries share a common interest in cooperating. Ganguly discusses several strategies for a more effective regional approach to counterterrorism in South Asia, including the potential for external actors to assist with the functional features of policing and counterterrorism cooperation.

Agnieszka Paczynska is Associate Professor at the Institute for Conflict Analysis and Resolution and Associate Faculty at George Mason University’s Center for Global Studies. Sumit Ganguly is Professor of Political Science and holds the Rabindranath Tagore Chair in Indian Cultures and Civilizations at Indiana University in Bloomington.

Download a copy of the reports at www.nbr.org.

To request an interview with the authors or for more information please contact media@nbr.org.

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