

## **Ruling elite, weapons and militancy**

Less than 24 hours after taking oath as Member of Sindh Assembly, a delinquent and despicable MPA decided to celebrate the Independence Day by ruthlessly beating an ordinary citizen over a minor traffic issue in Karachi. Two factors came together to give this lowly creature the incentive for his obnoxious behaviour.

First the realisation that he had now become a card holder of Pakistan's lawless ruling elite and the second that he was escorted by his armed goons who would facilitate any barbarity or illegality that he decides to embark upon.

For over a decade, "**Citizens Against Weapons**", have highlighted the deep relationship between Pakistan's ruling elite, weapons and militancy. Track any crime in Pakistan and these three disgusting factors would be found occupying the centre stage.

If the new government has any desire to bring sanity in Pakistan, it ought to implement the following actions as some of its first tasks.

- a. Ban all weapons in the hands of all civilians, regardless of the bore of the weapon or the status of the citizen and introduce a weapon surrender and buy-back programme.
- b. Cancel all weapon licenses issued so far to any individual.
- c. Declare a complete ban on possession, carrying, display, sale or purchase of weapons.
- d. Withdraw all police protection given to influential people in Pakistan so that they learn to behave like ordinary citizens.

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for

Citizens Against Weapons

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