

Pakistan: Extremism and Terrorism

Violent extremists carried out spate of targeted killings around Pakistan between March 16 and April 13, 2024. On April 13, suspected separatist militants ambushed a bus in Naushki, Balochistan. Nine migrant workers were subsequently singled out and executed. The attackers then fired at a car belonging to a provincial parliamentarian. On March 26, Baloch Liberation Army (BLA) militants ambushed a naval airbase in Quetta, Balochistan, killing at least one soldier. BLA carried out a similar attack on March 20 when BLA militants ambushed a complex outside of Gwadar, a strategic port in Balochistan. The ambush, in which militants detonated bombs and opened fire on the complex, killed two soldiers. That same day, a BLA suicide bomber rammed a vehicle into a convoy of Chinese engineers in Peshawar, Khyber Pakhtunkwa, killing six. The BLA, a leading separatist group seeking Balochistan's complete independence, has regularly targeted foreign presences in the region claiming unfair exploitation of resources. (Sources: [Defense Post](#), [Reuters](#), [Reuters](#), [Reuters](#), [Voice of America](#))

Tehrik-i-Taliban Pakistan (TTP), also known as the Pakistani Taliban, also remain a pervasive threat as they regularly carry out higher casualty attacks targeting military and government officials. On March 16, 2024, TTP militants launched a suicide truck bomb and gun attack on a regional army base in the North Waziristan border district, near Afghanistan. The explosion and attack killed at least seven and wounded more than 17 others. Previously, on January 8, the TTP detonated a roadside bomb near a van carrying police assigned to protect polio vaccine workers in Mamund in northwestern Pakistan. The explosion killed at least six soldiers and wounded 10 others. (Sources: [Voice of America](#), [Associated Press](#), [Defense Post](#))

Despite the group pledging to refrain from attacking rallies ahead of the February 8, 2024, parliamentary elections, the TTP remain active in preparing and training for future attacks. According to a January 2024 report published by the U.N. Security Council, the TTP reportedly receives suicide bomber training from al-Qaeda in training camps across Afghanistan to launch cross-border attacks. Reportedly, the Afghan Taliban also supply weapons and equipment to TTP fighters. The report further alleges the TTP-affiliated group, the newly established Tehrik-e-Jihad Pakistan (TJP) has also been operating from Afghan territory potentially to redirect attention and pressure from Pakistan and the Taliban in curtailing TTP violent activities. (Sources: [Voice of America](#), [Associated Press](#), [United Nations](#))

Aside from the TTP, Pakistan continues to contend with extremist groups, including ISIS and Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT), operating within the country. On February 7, 2024, Islamic State Khorasan (ISIS-K) militants launched twin bombings at political offices in Pishin and Qila Saifullah in Pakistan's Balochistan region a day before the country's parliamentary elections. The attacks killed at least 30. A week prior on January 30, ISIS-K militants detonated an explosive at a rally by former Prime Minister Imran Khan's Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) party. The explosion killed two and injured three. The explosion occurred hours after Khan was sentenced to 10 years' imprisonment for leaking state secrets. (Sources: [Associated Press](#), [Reuters](#))

Overview

Since its independence from British colonial rule in 1947, Pakistan has been divided along ethnic, religious, and sectarian lines, a condition which has been exploited by internal and external organizations to foster extremism and terrorism. For example, Sufism—Islamic mysticism—is popular in Pakistan. However, religious fundamentalists and extremists, especially those influenced by Wahhabism, view Sufism as un-Islamic and its followers as heretics, which has led to religious tension and frequent attacks on Sufi shrines in Pakistan. (Sources: [Asian Studies Association of Australia](#), [International Centre for Political Violence and Terrorism Research](#), [Brookings Institution](#))

The Pakistani state itself has also used Islamic extremism as a strategic tool to further its interests in the region. At the end of colonial rule in 1947, the British did not partition Kashmir, which created a rivalry between Pakistan and India that continues today. The two countries have fought three wars over the control of Kashmir, a disputed territory over which India, Pakistan, and China all claim partial or complete ownership. India and Pakistan also engaged in a fourth conflict over the liberation of East Pakistan—now known as Bangladesh. India—whose 1.2 billion population far outnumbers Pakistan's 182 million—defeated Pakistan in all four conflicts. Pakistan not only contests India over territorial claims, but perceives the country as an existential threat aiming to wipe it off the map—a sentiment exacerbated by the fear of India's vast manpower in comparison to its own. Pakistan therefore has tolerated and sometimes supported the activities of militant extremist groups that target Indian interests. Pakistan has also supported groups that operate in Afghanistan in order to deny Indian influence there. (Sources: [CNN](#), [Foreign Policy](#), [South Asia Terrorism Portal](#), [Long War Journal](#), [Brookings Institution](#), [BBC News](#), [Brookings Institution](#))

Extremist groups that Pakistan has tolerated or supported in the past include Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT), Harakat-ul-Mujahideen (HuM), Hizb-il-Mujahideen (HM), the Mullah Nazir Group, Jaish-e-Mohammed (JeM), and the Afghan Taliban and its affiliated Haqqani network. Pakistan has

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instead focused most of its counterterrorism operations against groups that seek to challenge and overthrow the Pakistani state. These groups, which pose a more direct threat to the state, include the Tehrik-e Taliban Pakistan (TTP)—a subset of the Pakistani Taliban and the deadliest of indigenous Pakistani extremist groups, al-Qaeda in the Indian Subcontinent (AQIS), Jamaat-ul-Ahrar (JuA), and Lashkar-e-Jhangvi (LeJ). (Sources: [Long War Journal](#), [Brookings Institution](#), [RAND Corporation](#), [Stanford University](#))

In March 2019, the Pakistani government promised to crack down on extremist groups operating in the country. The following month, Prime Minister Imran Khan accepted Pakistan's responsibility in creating multiple militant groups but said that they no longer served Pakistan's interests and fighting violent extremism was necessary for Pakistan's stability. Pakistan's past counter-extremism efforts have generally been insufficient. In a 2016 report, the U.S. Department of State assessed that Pakistan was not doing enough to disrupt the activities of LeT and JeM—both of which continue to operate, train, organize and fundraise within Pakistan. Although terrorism-related violence has been on the decline in Pakistan in recent years—with only 600 terrorism-related civilian deaths in 2016 compared with 3,000 in 2012—many local scholars claim that intolerance and extremism in the country are on the rise. Pakistan's poor performance on countering violent extremism has been attributed to domestic political constraints such as weak governance, civilian-military divides, and economic obstacles, as well as Pakistan's reluctance to target extremist groups that serve its strategic interests. Most counter-radicalization efforts in Pakistan have been initiated by foreign or civil society organizations or donors, such as the U.S. Agency for International Development. (Sources: [Reuters](#), [Asian Studies Association of Australia](#), [U.S. Department of State](#), [Brookings Institution](#), [Reuters](#), [New York Times](#))

Public opinion on extremism in Pakistan is mixed. A majority of Pakistanis reportedly condemn violence, but many still support extremist ideology, especially when based in religious rhetoric. Many Pakistanis trust the country's religious scholars and faith-based networks, which have significant influence on shaping and molding public opinion. A January 2015 Brookings Institution study concluded that the government of Pakistan has been “largely unsuccessful” in mobilizing public support for its countering violent extremism (CVE) initiatives. (Sources: [International Centre for Political Violence and Terrorism Research](#), [Brookings Institution](#))

Radicalization and Foreign Fighters

The Pakistani state has supported some extremist groups for strategic reasons and at times has leveraged Islamic extremist movements for internal political mobilization. Additionally, socio-economic disparities, competing sectarian agendas, and political marginalization contribute to radicalization in Pakistan. In the Federally Administered Tribal Areas (FATA), radicalization can largely be attributed to the influence of militant Islamist organizations that operate there, including the Taliban and al-Qaeda. Growing radicalization on Pakistani university campuses also poses an increasing challenge to Pakistani counterterrorism efforts. Since December 2014, Pakistan's Inter-Service Intelligence (ISI) officials have been monitoring universities for signs of recruitment by extremists. (Sources: [South Asia Terrorism Portal](#), [Long War Journal](#), [Asian Studies Association of Australia](#), [International Centre for Political Violence and Terrorism Research](#), [Brookings Institution](#), [Combating Terrorism Center at West Point](#))

On May 30, 2022, the Analytical Support and Sanctions Monitoring Team at the United Nations reported that Pakistan-based terror groups such as Jaish-e-Mohammed (JeM) and Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT) maintain training camps in some provinces of Afghanistan. Reportedly, some of those camps are directly under Taliban control. According to the report, JeM maintains eight training camps in Nangarhar, and that LeT—which has previously provided finance and training expertise to Taliban operations—maintains three camps in Kunar and Nangarhar. Additionally, the report stated that Tehrik-e-Taliban Pakistan (TTP) constitutes the largest component of foreign terrorist fighters in Afghanistan, with troops numbering around several thousand. (Sources: [The Hindu](#), [Long War Journal](#), [United Nations Digital Library](#))

Tehrik-e Taliban Pakistan

[Tehrik-e Taliban Pakistan \(TTP\)](#) is a subset of the Pakistani Taliban, which is a general term for Pakistani groups that support and share the ideology and objectives of the Afghan Taliban, though the TTP is a separate organization. The TTP is an umbrella organization comprised of 13 distinct Pakistani Taliban factions—approximately half of all Pakistani Taliban factions. Established in December 2007, the TTP seeks to expel the Pakistani military from the FATA, wage defensive jihad against the Pakistani government, establish an Islamic state under sharia law in Pakistan, and finally, expel U.S.-led coalition forces from Afghanistan. Based in the South Waziristan Agency of the FATA, the TTP contains more than 30,000 members and is the deadliest of indigenous Pakistani extremist groups. The TTP was banned in Pakistan in August 2008, designated as a terrorist organization by the United States in 2010, and sanctioned by the United Nations in 2011. (Sources: [South Asia Terrorism Portal](#), [Stanford University](#), [CNN](#), [U.S. Department of State](#))

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The TTP leadership have pledged allegiance to the Afghan Taliban, using the pledge to boost recruitment among Pakistani Pashtuns who support the Taliban's fight in Afghanistan. The Taliban uses this loyalty to secure safe areas for its fighters and leadership within Pakistan and to recruit Pakistanis into its force. TTP-Taliban relations date back to the beginning of the Taliban's insurgency in 2001, when many TTP members assisted the Taliban with recruitment within Pakistan and provided logistical support for the group before the formation of the TTP in 2007. An August 2021 statement by TTP emir Noor Wali Mehsud renewed the TTP's allegiance to the Afghan Taliban and praised the Taliban's "historic and blessed victory" in Afghanistan. (Sources: [Stanford University](#), [U.S. Institute of Peace](#), [Long War Journal](#))

Unlike the Afghan Taliban, which targets mostly U.S.-led coalition forces in Afghanistan, the TTP focuses its attacks on the Pakistani state and security apparatus. However, the group has also sought to negotiate with the Pakistani state. For example, in January 2014, the TTP began a dialogue with the Pakistani government aimed at achieving peace, but the negotiations collapsed the following month when the group executed 23 Pakistani soldiers. (Sources: [Stanford University](#), [South Asia Terrorism Portal](#), [Telegraph](#))

The TTP recruits masses of teenage boys to become suicide bombers through youth-targeted propaganda. The TTP also recruits from Internally Displaced Persons camps, where many occupants harbor grievances against the Pakistani army. The group has also pledged its support to the Afghan Taliban in the aim of attracting recruits from among Taliban supporters. New recruits are sent to training facilities in the FATA, where they to learn how to conduct guerrilla warfare and carry out bombings—the TTP's preferred method of attack. The TTP frequently conducts attacks designed to wear down the morale of its enemy—such as attacks targeting schools for girls or for military children. The TTP also draws support from conservative and hardline religious Pakistanis due to its efforts to rid cities like Karachi of so-called "immoral" activities such as drugs and prostitution. (Source: [Stanford University](#))

Nevertheless, the group's frequent and increasingly indiscriminate terror attacks are reportedly strongly opposed by the vast majority of Pakistanis. On August 31, 2012, the TTP released a video showing the severed heads of 12 missing Pakistani soldiers arranged on the ground. On October 9, 2012, a TTP gunman shot Malala Yousafzai, a 15-year-old advocate for female education, though Yousafzai survived the gunshot wound to her head and the incident sparked international attention and outrage. The TTP has conducted joint attacks with the Islamic Movement of Uzbekistan (IMU), including a June 2014 raid on Jinnah International Airport in Karachi that killed 18 people. A December 16, 2014 massacre on a Pakistani Army-run school in Peshawar killed 143 individuals—including 134 children. More recently, suicide bombings targeting two Shiite markets in Kurram Agency in June and July of 2017 killed over 120 people altogether, and a December 1, 2017 attack on the Agricultural Training Institute in Peshawar killed nine people—including six students. (Sources: [Stanford University](#), [South Asia Terrorism Portal](#), [Al Jazeera](#))

The TTP has also expressed hostility toward the United States. In December 2009, the TTP carried out a suicide bombing on a U.S. military base in Afghanistan, allegedly in retaliation for TTP leader Baitullah Mehsud's death in a U.S. drone strike. A few months later, the TTP released a video message in which it threatened to attack U.S. cities in response to further drone strikes. In May 2010, U.S. law enforcement authorities linked the group to an attempted terror attack in New York City's Times Square. In November 2013, Hakimullah Mehsud, who assumed TTP leadership after Baitullah Mehsud's death, was also killed in a U.S. drone strike. (Source: [Stanford University](#))

The TTP funds its operations through kidnappings for ransom, smuggling natural resources such as gems and timber, collecting taxes from local populations, and receiving donations from benefactors both in Pakistan and abroad. TTP has also received funding and logistical support from other extremist groups, such as LeJ, HuM, and even al-Qaeda—who reportedly contributed \$15 million to the TTP through the Saudi-based Al-Haramain Foundation. In April 2017, the TTP's former spokesman Ehsanullah Ehsan claimed that Afghan and Indian intelligence agencies provide funding and intelligence to TTP to fight the Pakistani government, though both the Afghan and Indian governments rejected the accusations. (Source: [Stanford University](#))

In 2014, the Afghan Taliban condemned as "un-Islamic" the TTP attack on a Pakistan Army-run school that killed 134 children. Nevertheless, the two groups cooperate in order to maintain control over the tribal regions along the Afghan-Pakistan border, and TTP has pledged its support to the Afghan Taliban in the hopes of attracting new recruits from among Taliban supporters. Likewise, extending some measure of goodwill to the TTP helps the Afghan Taliban maintain safe havens and sanctuaries in Pakistan, and to recruit Pakistani Pashtun tribesmen as fighters. (Sources: [South Asia Terrorism Portal](#), [Stanford University](#))

While U.S.-led coalition forces in Afghanistan regularly conducted drone strikes on TTP commanders and fighters since the group was formed, TTP capabilities grew throughout the late 2000s and early 2010s. It was not until the TTP's second emir was killed in October 2013 that the group faced its first real crisis. The appointment of the unpopular [Maulana Fazlullah](#) as the new commander by the TTP's divided Shura Council led to major internal divisions and defections in 2013, 2014, and 2015. This internal crises coincided with a major military operation launched by Pakistan from 2014 through 2017 that killed more than 3,000 TTP fighters, according to the Pakistani military, and led to the dispersion of TTP cells across Pakistan and major relocations into Afghanistan. These developments played a significant role in the emergence of a new [ISIS](#) affiliate, ISIS-K, in

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South and Central Asia in June 2015, headed by a recently defected TTP commander. (Sources: United States Institute of Peace, [Center for International Security and Cooperation at Stanford University](#), [Al Jazeera](#), [Guardian](#), [Combating Terrorism Center at West Point](#), [Combating Terrorism Center at West Point](#), [Combating Terrorism Center at West Point](#))

The TTP remained weak during Fazlullah's tenure, but his death in 2018 and succession by [Noor Wali Mehsud](#) led the group to regain much of its previous prestige and strength. Mehsud's efforts culminated in a string of mergers announced in July 2020 with eight rival militant groups, including three which had defected from the TTP in 2014. The merger negotiations were reportedly moderated by officials from either al-Qaeda or the Haqqani network. Two of the merging groups were Pakistan-based al-Qaeda affiliates and two others were powerful local North Waziristan factions. (Sources: [RUSI](#), [Combating Terrorism Center at West Point](#))

These unifications significantly strengthened the TTP, ended inter-factional fighting that had occurred since 2013, and led to a steep rise in TTP attacks. In 2020, for the first time, the TTP began participating heavily in Taliban offensives in eastern and southeastern Afghanistan. Following the Afghan Taliban's takeover of Kabul in August 2021—in which the Taliban also released thousands of prisoners from Afghan prisons, including senior TTP members—the TTP became further emboldened in their attacks against Pakistan. However, given the uptick in violence from the militant group, on November 8, 2021, Pakistan's government agreed to a one-month ceasefire with the TTP while the parties conducted peace negotiations in Afghanistan facilitated by the Afghan Taliban. Although the two sides agreed to a month-long ceasefire, on December 9, the TTP unilaterally ended the ceasefire. The TTP accused Pakistan of violating the ceasefire through multiple armed raids against the terrorist group, and Pakistan claimed that the Afghan Taliban did not significantly support Islamabad in stopping the TTP from carrying out attacks against Pakistan. (Sources: [RUSI](#), [Combating Terrorism Center at West Point](#), [NPR](#), [Reuters](#), [Al Jazeera](#), [Deutsche Welle](#))

The TTP continued to steadily carry out attacks against Pakistan in early 2022, often ambushing Pakistani security officials at security posts. Given those ambushes, Pakistan retaliated by launching military strikes on Afghanistan's eastern provinces of Kunar and Khost. However, on May 18, 2022, TTP members agreed to extend a ceasefire with the Pakistani government until May 30. The TTP's spokesman, Mohammad Khurasani, stated the group agreed to extend the ceasefire, which originally began on May 10 and was set to last 10 days, at the request of a group of Pakistani tribal elders. The peace talks were hosted by Afghan Taliban leaders in Kabul, Afghanistan. According to media sources, during the talks, Islamabad demanded that the Afghan Taliban prevent TTP militants from using Afghan territory to launch attacks against Pakistan. (Source: [Deutsche Welle](#), [Reuters](#), [Tribune](#), [Associated Press](#))

The TTP unilaterally extended the ceasefire with the Pakistani government on June 2, 2022. The talks were hosted by the Afghan Taliban in Kabul. Although the two sides have paved the way for peace, they have not come to a permanent solution. Overall, the TTP wants Pakistani government forces to pull out of former tribal regions of the northwestern Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province, seeks the release of TTP fighters in government custody, and wants the revocation of all legal cases against the terror group. However, in the long run, the government in Islamabad wants the TTP to disband and to sever its ties with ISIS's cells in Afghanistan and Pakistan. (Source: [Associated Press](#))

Following allegations of increased attacks against the TTP by the Pakistani army, on November 28, 2022, TTP's spokesman, Mohammad Khurasani, announced the end of its ceasefire with Pakistan's government. In a TTP statement, the group further claimed that the Pakistani military had been increasing the number of attacks against the group, particularly in the Lakki Marwat district of Pakistan's northwestern province of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. In the same statement, the TTP also encouraged their fighters to launch retaliatory attacks against Islamabad. (Sources: [Reuters](#), [Al Jazeera](#))

On December 22, 2022, the Pakistani government called on the Afghan Taliban to confront TTP militants as the group has escalated attacks across Pakistan since the end of the ceasefire in November 2022. Pakistani Foreign Minister Bilawal Bhutto Zardari states that Islamabad "will not turn a blind eye if it is found that the Taliban are not stopping the TTP." According to Zardari, if the Taliban decides to carry out operations against the TTP, Pakistan will be more than willing to support them. (Source: [News 360](#))

In a move to further challenge the sovereignty of the Pakistani government, on December 30, 2022, the TTP declared the formation of a new parallel government. Their parallel government reportedly is comprised of a Cabinet of Ministers, which include portfolios on defense, education, political affairs, fatwas, intelligence, economic affairs, and construction. The TTP's Ministry of Defense is reportedly led by [Mufti Hazrat Deroji](#), a U.S.-designated terrorist. (Source: [OpIndia](#))

However, shortly after the formation of the parallel government, on January 9, 2023, the TTP announced conditions for a potential ceasefire with the Pakistani Army. In a video message, TTP chief Mufti Noor Wali Mehsud claimed that the TTP would maintain the ceasefire if the Pakistani Army halts its operations. Mehsud further claims that his group is "open to guidance" from Pakistan's religious scholars if they believe that the TTP has gone astray in their "direction of our jihad." (Source: [First Post](#))

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TTP ambitions remain troubling for the South Asia region. On July 25, 2023, the United Nations Security Council issued a report claiming the TTP has reabsorbed some splinter groups and increased its operations against Pakistan, seeking to reclaim control of “territory within the country.” The U.N. claimed that as a close ally to the Afghan Taliban, the TTP has the potential to destabilize the region if allowed to operate within Afghanistan without impunity. The report further asserted the TTP may merge with al-Qaeda in the Indian Subcontinent (AQIM), a terror outfit that reportedly offers the TTP guidance on increased attacks within Pakistan. The TTP’s affiliations extend to the Eastern Turkistan Islamic Movement (ETIM/TIP) as TTP fighters are using ETIM training camps in Kunar Province. (Source: [United Nations Security Council](#))

The TTP remain a pervasive threat throughout Pakistan. By mid-August 2023, the group had killed almost 500 people, including at least 130 officers and soldiers. The group pledged to refrain from attacking election rallies ahead of Pakistan’s February 8, 2024, parliamentary elections. The TTP claimed they had no interest in the political parties participating in the elections and that their operations chiefly targeted military and security forces. On March 16, 2024, TTP militants launched a suicide truck bomb and gun attack on a regional army base in the North Waziristan border district, near Afghanistan. The explosion and attack killed at least seven and wounded more than 17 others. According to a January 2024 report published by the U.N. Security Council, the TTP reportedly receives suicide bomber training from al-Qaeda in training camps across Afghanistan to launch cross-border attacks. Reportedly, the Afghan Taliban also supply weapons and equipment to TTP fighters. The report further alleges that a TTP-affiliated group, the newly established Tehrik-e-Jihad Pakistan (TJP), has also been operating from Afghan territory potentially to redirect attention and pressure from Pakistan and the Taliban in curtailing TTP violent activities. (Sources: [Voice of America](#), [Associated Press](#), [United Nations](#), [Voice of America](#))

Lashkar i-Jhangvi

Formed in 1996, Lashkar i-Jhangvi (LeJ) is a Sunni terrorist organization that splintered off from the militant group Sipah-e-Sahaba Pakistan (SSP) due to ideological disagreements. The group aims to transform Pakistan into a Sunni Islamic state and drive Western influence from the region. LeJ leadership mainly consists of jihadis who fought against Soviet forces in Afghanistan, and a majority of its members are recruited from Sunni religious schools in Pakistan. LeJ was outlawed in Pakistan on August 14, 2001, by then-President Pervez Musharraf, and was designated as a Foreign Terrorist Organization by the United States in 2003. LeJ often cooperates with the TTP, and one of its cells officially merged with the TTP in May 2015. (Sources: [South Asia Terrorism Portal](#), [Stanford University](#), [U.S. Department of the Treasury](#), [Long War Journal](#), [Diplomat](#))

LeJ’s attacks have mostly targeted Shias within Pakistan, including targeted killings of Shia religious and community leaders. LeJ has carried out several deadly attacks in recent years, including a January 2013 double bombing of a pool club in Quetta that left more than 100 dead, and a June 2013 attack in which female suicide bomber targeted a bus full of female university students, killing 14. LeJ’s targets have also included U.S. interests. In 2002, LeJ kidnapped and beheaded American journalist Daniel Pearl. The U.S. issued a \$5 million reward for the capture of former LeJ commander Qari Zafa due to his alleged involvement in a March 2, 2006 attack on the U.S. Consulate in Karachi that killed two Pakistani nationals employed there. However, Zafar was reported killed in an IED blast in June 2010. (Source: [South Asia Terrorism Portal](#), [Stanford University](#), [Guardian](#))

LeJ also has links to other Pakistan-based terrorist organizations, including Jaish-e-Mohammed (JeM) and Harakat-ul-Mujahideen (HuM). Many LeJ members reportedly receive military training in HuM camps in Afghanistan. In February 2015, LeJ reportedly requested assistance from al-Qaeda amid a crackdown on its activities by Pakistani security forces but was rejected. LeJ then appealed to and successfully received financial assistance from the TTP. LeJ has also reportedly received substantial funding from wealthy benefactors in Karachi. (Sources: [South Asia Terrorism Portal](#), [South Asia Terrorism Portal](#), [Stanford University](#))

Lashkar-e-Taiba

[Lashkar-e-Taiba](#) (LeT) is a Sunni militant group that was founded in 1990 in Afghanistan’s Kunar province and is currently based near Lahore, Pakistan. LeT seeks to refute Indian sovereignty in Jammu and Kashmir—an Indian state that makes up about 45 percent of the disputed territory of Kashmir—and to extend Islamic rule to parts of India and to other regions surrounding Pakistan. It is active in Kashmir, Chechnya, and other parts of Central Asia. LeT leader Hafiz Muhammad Saeed has stated that he considers India, Israel, and the United States to be his prime enemies, and has threatened attacks on U.S. interests. However, LeT refrains from targeting Muslims and the Pakistani state. The group was designated as a U.S. Foreign Terrorist Organization in December 2001 and is also outlawed in both India and Pakistan. However, Pakistan has continued to tolerate and at times, directly support LeT, as the government benefits from the militant group’s anti-Indian activities. (Source: [South Asia Terrorism Portal](#), [Stanford University](#), [Long War Journal](#), [Washington Post](#), [CNN](#))

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Within Pakistan, LeT maintains a vast network of training camps and branch offices. LeT openly fundraises, holds rallies, recruits, and trains within Pakistan, and has even been funded, armed, and trained in part by Pakistan's Inter-Services Intelligence (ISI). LeT also operates a large social service infrastructure—Jamaat-ud-Dawa (JuD)—which includes 135 secondary schools, an ambulance service, mobile clinics, and blood banks. The group publishes an Urdu-language monthly journal, *al-Dawa*, as well as publications in English and Arabic. The group receives substantial funding from global charitable donations, and has received direct support from Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, and other Gulf states. (Sources: [U.S. Department of State](#), [South Asia Terrorism Portal](#), [Carnegie Endowment for International Peace](#), [Long War Journal](#))

LeT has targeted U.S.-led coalition forces in Afghanistan since 2004. The United States also holds LeT leader Hafiz Saeed responsible for masterminding the November 2008 Mumbai attacks that killed 166 people, including six Americans. After Pakistan released Saeed from house arrest on November 24, 2017, the White House criticized Pakistan and called for his immediate re-arrest and prosecution, stating that his release “sends a deeply troubling message about Pakistan’s commitment to combatting international terrorism and belies Pakistani claims that it will not provide sanctuary for terrorists on its soil.” Following his release, Saeed announced that LeT’s political wing, the Milli Muslim League, would run in the 2018 general election, though the party has yet to be recognized by Pakistan’s electoral commission. No LeT members have been prosecuted in Pakistan for involvement in the 2008 Mumbai attack, though at least three Pakistani military officials have been implicated by Interpol for their involvement. (Sources: [Carnegie Endowment for International Peace](#), [The White House](#), [Jamestown Foundation](#), [Long War Journal](#))

Pakistani authorities arrested Saeed on July 17, 2019, on terror financing charges. Nonetheless, critics of the Pakistani government believed that authorities arrested Saeed only because of a pending meeting between Pakistan’s prime minister and then-U.S. President Donald Trump, and Saeed would soon be released. During their meeting on July 22, Trump requested Prime Minister Imran Khan prosecute Saeed. On July 24, an anti-terrorism court in Gujranwala ordered Saeed be remanded into custody for 14 days while investigation continued into his ties to terrorism. Saeed denied all charges against him. (Sources: [New York Times](#), [Republic](#), [Reuters](#))

On December 11, 2019, a Pakistani antiterrorism court indicted Saeed on terrorism financing charges for his association with JuD. On February 12, 2020, the Lahore High Court convicted Saeed on terrorism-related charges and sentenced him to two prison terms of five and a half years, which will run concurrently, and a \$194 fine (30,000 rupees). Saeed was found guilty of having links with terrorist groups—specifically JuD. The conviction on February 12 was the first time Saeed had been sentenced. He was previously arrested and on several occasions put on house arrest. Saeed’s close aide, Malik Zafar Iqbal, was also given a similar sentence. Saeed was sentenced to an additional 10 years in prison on two charges of terrorism financing on November 19, 2020. The sentences—five years each—will run concurrently with the previous two sentences handed down in February of 2020. (Sources: [Al Jazeera](#), [New York Times](#), [Radio Free Europe](#), [Al Jazeera](#), [Reuters](#))

Saeed was handed down an additional sentence of 31 years imprisonment for two cases related to terrorism financing on April 7, 2022. The two criminal complaints were filed in 2019 under various sections of the Anti-Terrorism Act (ATA) of 1997. However, given that Saeed is currently incarcerated and that his two previous sentences are running concurrently, it is uncertain how much jail time Saeed will definitively serve. (Sources: [Reuters](#), [Jurist](#))

On January 16, 2023, the U.N. Security Council added LeT deputy emir Abdul Rehman Makki to its sanctions list. Makki has served as the head of LeT’s foreign relations department and member of LeT’s governing body. Makki notably directed the group of LeT militants responsible for carrying out the November 2008 Mumbai attacks that killed more than 160. Makki was designated as a Specially Designated National (SDN) by the U.S. Department of the Treasury on November 4, 2010, given his role in raising funds for LeT operations and for serving a principal role in LeT’s foreign operations. Makki was sentenced to 24 months imprisonment on two separate charges of financing terrorism in August and December of 2020. As of January 2023, Makki is still detained at Kot Lakhpat Jail in Lahore. (Sources: [United Nations](#), [Rewards for Justice](#), [Reuters](#), [Al Jazeera](#), [Hindustan Times](#))

Jaish-e-Mohammad

Jaish-e-Mohammad (JeM) is a Pakistan-based extremist group that aims to undermine Indian control in Kashmir, impose sharia law in Pakistan, and expel U.S.-led coalition forces from Afghanistan. JeM was founded by Masood Azhar, a former member of Harakat al-Mujahedeen (HuM), reportedly with the support of Osama bin Laden, the ISI, and the Afghan Taliban. JeM initially conducted attacks in Indian-controlled Kashmir, but later began operating in other parts of India, Pakistan, and Afghanistan. The United States designated JeM as a Foreign Terrorist Organization in December 2001, and Pakistan banned JeM in 2002. However, JeM is still able to freely hold rallies, raise money, recruit, and train inside Pakistan. (Sources: [Stanford University](#), [Long War Journal](#), [U.S. Department of State](#))

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JeM carried out multiple deadly attacks in the early 2000s. In October 2001, JeM attacked the legislative assembly building in Indian-controlled Kashmir, killing 30 people. That December, JeM collaborated with LeT in an armed assault on the Indian parliament that killed 14, according to Indian authorities. A JeM member was also implicated in the 2002 abduction and beheading of American journalist Daniel Pearl, carried out by LeT. In December 2003, Pakistani officials implicated JeM members in two 2002 assassination attempts against then-President Musharraf. JeM has received funding for its militant activities through charitable foundations, such as the Al-Rashid Trust, a trust fund designated by the United States as a financial facilitator of al-Qaeda and the Taliban, as well as through personal donations. (Sources: [Stanford University](#), [U.S. Department of State](#), [U.S. Department of State](#))

JeM splintered into two factions—Khuddam ul-Islam (KUI) and Jammāt ul-Furqan (JUF)—in 2003, although sources have continued to refer to both factions as JeM. The group faced setbacks in the mid-2000s after many senior leaders were arrested by the Pakistani government. In June 2008, JeM reportedly refocused its efforts on expelling foreign forces from Afghanistan, though JeM attacks in Kashmir continued. (Source: [Stanford University](#))

JeM claimed responsibility for a February 14, 2019, suicide car bomb in the Pulwama district of India-controlled Kashmir that killed at least 40 Indian paramilitary police officers and wounded five others. The Indian government accused Pakistan of having a “direct hand” in the attack. On February 26, India launched air strikes on JeM training camps inside Pakistan, allegedly killing hundreds of JeM militants. It was India’s first direct air strike in Pakistan since 1971. Pakistan retaliated on February 27, resulting in aerial combat between Indian and Pakistani forces and the capture of Indian pilot Abhinandan Varthaman. The Pakistani government returned Varthaman on March 1 and pledged to crack down on JeM. India reportedly sent the Pakistani government a dossier on JeM militants, training centers inside Pakistan, and evidence of JeM’s complicity in the February 14 bombing. After Pakistan arrested 44 militants, including the son and brother of JeM leader Masood Azhar, on March 5, Pakistani military authorities said the crackdown was part of ongoing domestic policy and not in response to tensions with India. All 44 of the JeM militants arrested were listed in the Indian dossier. The Pakistani government has also denied that India struck a JeM camp in its February 26 airstrike. (Sources: [CNN](#), [Washington Post](#), [NDTV](#), [Reuters](#), [BBC News](#), [CNN](#))

India also shared that dossier with all 15 members of the U.N. Security Council in an effort to have JeM leader Azhar added to the council’s list of designated terrorists. The United Nations designated JeM as a terrorist organization in 2001, but permanent Security Council member China vetoed past efforts to designate Azhar. According to Pakistani Foreign Minister Shah Mehmood Qureshi in a February 28, 2019, CNN interview, Pakistani authorities know Azhar is in Pakistan but he is “very unwell” and unable to leave his house. Asked why Pakistan does not arrest Azhar, Qureshi said that India should provide “acceptable” evidence that Pakistan can use to convince the Pakistani people and the Pakistani judiciary. Asked directly if he doubted accusations against Azhar and JeM, he said “there is a legal process and you have to satisfy that legal process.” On March 5, the Pakistani Foreign Minister said it was ready to take action against the assets and bank accounts of militant groups within its borders and within Pakistan-controlled Kashmir. (Sources: [CNN](#), [CNN](#), [CNN](#), [Times of India](#))

As of July 2020, India has continued its investigation into the 2019 Pulwama attack. On July 7, 2020, India’s National Investigation Agency (NIA) arrested Bilal Ahmed Kuchey in Pulwama, for harboring and providing logistical support to JeM members who were involved in the attack. Additionally, on July 2, 2020, NIA forces arrested Mohammad Iqbal Rather in Budgam, Jammu and Kashmir, for allegedly facilitating the movement of Muhammad Umar Farooq into the Indian territory of Jammu. Farooq, a member of JeM, was a key conspirator in the 2019 Pulwama bombing. (Sources: [New Indian Express](#), [The Indian Express](#))

Jaish al Adl

Jaish al Adl (“Army of Justice”) is a Sunni extremist group founded in 2012 and based in Pakistan’s Balochistan region. It claims to champion the rights of Iranian Sunnis whom they say are persecuted by Iran’s Shiite government. The group has carried out multiple cross-border attacks against the Iranian government and Iran’s [Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps](#) (IRGC). The group claimed responsibility for a February 13, 2019, suicide bombing in Iran’s Sistan-Baluchestan province near the Pakistani border, which killed at least 27 Islamic Revolutionary Guards Corp members and wounded 13 others. Iran has repeatedly called on Pakistan to crack down on Jaish al Adl and other groups operating in its territory. (Sources: [Reuters](#), [BBC News](#), [Terrorism Research & Analysis Consortium](#))

Jamaat-ul-Ahrar

Jamaat-ul-Ahrar (JuA) broke off from the TTP in August 2014 due to a disagreement over the TTP’s participation in peace talks with the Pakistani government. JuA leader Omar Khalid Khorasani, who had links to al-Qaeda, criticized the TTP for straying from its goal of establishing a global

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Islamic caliphate. JuA's main base of operations is in Mohmand Agency in the FATA, and the group recruits from tribal districts along the Pakistan-Afghanistan border as well as from TTP factions across Pakistan. JuA has reportedly received funding from al-Qaeda due to Khorasani's links with the organization. JuA spokesman Ehsanullah Ehsan has also claimed that the group receives assistance from Indian and Afghani intelligence and security services, although both countries have denied the claim. (Source: [Stanford University](#))

After splitting from the TTP, JuA conducted its first suicide attack in November 2014 in Wagah, a village outside of Lahore. The attack killed 60 people and injured 100 others. JuA has since stated that it opposes attacks on Islamic places of worship and public gathering places, such as markets, though the group has not always adhered to this claim. For example, in March 2017, JuA conducted a suicide bombing at a market in Parachinar near a nearby women's mosque, killing 22 and injuring 57. (Source: [Stanford University](#))

In March 2015, JuA re-unified with the TTP following Operation Zarb-e-Azb, a major Pakistani government counterterrorism offensive. However, JuA has continued to retain some degree of independence, releasing its own publications and attack claims. In July 2016, Khorasani was killed in a U.S. drone strike in eastern Nangahar Province, though the group has successfully continued to mount attacks since. (Source: [Stanford University](#))

On August 3, 2016, the U.S. Department of State designated JuA as a Foreign Terrorist Organization. In its designation, the State Department cited the group's March 2016 attack on the U.S. consulate in Peshawar, which killed two Pakistani employees, and Easter Sunday 2016 suicide bombing at an amusement park in Lahore that killed over 70 people, including many women and children. JuA has also recently conducted joint attacks with ISIS, such as a June 2017 attack on the office of the police chief of Balochistan that killed 13 people. Despite the ideological differences between al-Qaeda and ISIS, JuA leverages and maintains relationships with both groups. (Sources: [U.S. Department of State](#), [Stanford University](#))

Al-Qaeda in the Indian Subcontinent

[Al-Qaeda in the Indian Subcontinent](#) (AQIS) is a U.S.-designated terror group and al-Qaeda's newest affiliate that seeks to wage jihad and impose Islamic rule by sharia law on the Indian subcontinent. Al-Qaeda leader [Ayman al-Zawahiri](#) announced its formation in September 2014. AQIS reportedly operates in Pakistan, Afghanistan, India, Myanmar, and Bangladesh. The group has claimed numerous attacks in the region, although it has gained the most traction within Pakistan. AQIS conducted a few assassinations of Pakistani professors and military personnel in 2014 and 2015, but has been unable to conduct larger-scale attacks typical of al-Qaeda. Analysts generally believe that AQIS was formed as an attempt to take attention away from ISIS and to preserve al-Qaeda's safe havens in Pakistan and Afghanistan. (Sources: [Stanford University](#), [Australian National Security](#), [New York Times](#), [Voice of America](#), [Long War Journal](#), [Long War Journal](#), [Long War Journal](#), [Diplomat](#))

AQIS works with al-Qaeda Central and the Taliban, and its fighters have sometimes fought under the flag of the Taliban. In June 2017, the group released a 20-page "Code of Conduct" reiterating its allegiance to those groups, as well as its intentions to conduct attacks against military targets in its countries of operation as well as American targets in Afghanistan and Pakistan (Source: [Long War Journal](#))

In addition to AQIS, senior leaders of al-Qaeda Central continue to operate in Pakistan despite an ongoing multinational effort that has degraded the group's capabilities, and maintain links to multiple extremists groups. For example, the TTP provides al-Qaeda members with a safe haven in parts of Pakistan, while al-Qaeda provides the TTP with logistical support. The Pakistani military continues to battle al-Qaeda militants in the North Waziristan region of Pakistan bordering Afghanistan. Al-Qaeda leader Ayman al-Zawahiri reportedly enjoys sanctuary in Pakistan—likely in the southwest corner of Balochistan. (Sources: [U.S. Department of State](#), [Stanford University](#), [New York Times](#), [Long War Journal](#))

Haqqani Network and the Afghan Taliban

Founded in Afghanistan in the 1970s, the Haqqani network is a Sunni militant organization that now operates in southeastern Afghanistan and North Waziristan, Pakistan, where it runs the notorious Manba Ulom madrassa. The [Taliban](#) was founded as a Sunni militant organization in 1994 and as the predominant umbrella group for the Afghan insurgency. The Haqqani network is officially considered to be under the umbrella of the Taliban, although it retains its own independent structure. Both the Taliban and Haqqani conduct attacks in Afghanistan, as they seek to expel U.S.-led coalition forces from the country and establish Taliban rule under sharia law there. Both groups maintain close links to al-Qaeda and the Haqqani network is designated as a Foreign Terrorist Organization by the United States. (Sources: [Stanford University](#), [Stanford University](#), [Institute for the Study of War](#))

Pakistan's ISI has reportedly provided both the Haqqani network and Afghan Taliban with extensive funding, weapons, and sanctuary. Most early Taliban members were also trained in the Deobandi or Saudi-funded Wahhabi madrassas of Pakistan, and the group continues to recruit from madrassas there. While the Afghan Taliban still thrives in Afghanistan—reportedly controlling up to 43 percent of the country in 2014—the

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Afghan government and U.S.-led coalition forces have inflicted great damage on the Haqqani network in recent years, bringing its total size from 10,000 members in 2011 to around 2,000 in 2012. Furthermore, since 2014, Pakistan has carried out extensive counterterrorism operations against the Haqqani network. However, many of the group's fighters have reportedly relocated from North Waziristan to other parts of Pakistan, such as the Kurram tribal area. Sirajuddin Haqqani, the leader of the Haqqani network, reportedly moved freely around Pakistan as of February 2016 and has even visited Pakistani intelligence offices in Rawalpindi. (Sources: [Stanford University](#), [Reuters](#), [Long War Journal](#), [Wall Street Journal](#), [Washington Post](#), [New York Times](#), [BBC News](#), [Brookings Institution](#), [Long War Journal](#))

According to U.S. and Afghani officials, both the Haqqani network and Afghan Taliban take shelter and launch attacks from the Pakistani side of the Afghanistan-Pakistan border. As of 2016, Pakistan was supporting Afghan efforts to bring the Haqqani network, Taliban, and Afghan government into peace talks, but the U.S. State Department assessed that it was not doing enough to prevent their attacks on Afghan and U.S. targets inside Afghanistan. (Source: [Stanford University](#), [Washington Post](#), [U.S. Department of State](#))

The Taliban solidified its control over Afghanistan in August 2021. The Pakistani government has not officially recognized the Taliban government, but Pakistani Prime Minister Imran Khan has called on the international community to engage with the Taliban to avoid a humanitarian crisis in Afghanistan. Pakistan has since reportedly supplied the Taliban with intelligence and technical support to fight ISIS's local affiliate. A senior Taliban leader told the *Washington Post* Pakistan is aiding the Taliban in monitoring phone and Internet communications, as well as passing the Taliban raw intelligence. That October, Afghanistan's new Taliban government assigned members of the group to oversee the Afghan mission in Islamabad. Pakistan had not officially recognized the Taliban government but permitted the assignments and issued visas to the Taliban officials. The Taliban also appointed diplomats at Afghan consulates in Karachi, Peshawar, and Quetta. In November 2021, the Taliban's acting foreign minister, Amir Khan Muttaqi, announced a mission to Pakistan to meet with government officials to discuss trade and other ties. Further, according to Muttaqi, the Afghan Taliban has begun mediating between the Pakistani government and the TTP. (Sources: [Washington Post](#), [Voice of America](#), [Reuters](#), [Al Jazeera](#))

ISIS

Established in January 2015, the Khorasan Province (ISIS-K) is ISIS's formal branch in Pakistan and Afghanistan. The group was led by former TTP commander Hafiz Saeed Khan, who was killed in a July 2016 U.S. drone strike. The group has since lost hundreds of fighters and control of some territory due to counterterrorism operations by Afghan and U.S. forces, but it remains active in the region. In addition to a number of high-profile, mass-casualty attacks in Kabul, Afghanistan, ISIS-K has claimed a number of mass-casualty attacks inside Pakistan, many of which were conducted in collaboration with Lashkar i-Jhangvi (LeJ). (Source: [Long War Journal](#), [U.S. Department of State](#))

On September 1, 2016, the Pakistan military announced that it had arrested more than 300 ISIS members and disrupted the group's efforts to establish itself in Pakistan. However, subsequent attacks inside Pakistan have been claimed by ISIS-K—for example, a December 2017 double suicide bombing at a church in Quetta that killed nine. (Source: [U.S. Department of State](#), [Associated Press](#))

Harakat-ul-Mujahideen

Harakat-ul-Mujahideen (HuM)—a.k.a. Jamiat ul-Ansar—is a Sunni militant organization founded in 1985 to fight the Soviet occupation of Afghanistan. The group has since changed its focus to waging jihad against Indian forces in Kashmir. HuM's primary aim is to unite Kashmir with Pakistan and establish an Islamic state in Pakistan under sharia law. The United States designated HuM as a Foreign Terrorist Organization in 1997. HuM maintains extensive ties to al-Qaeda and is allied with several other Pakistani terrorist groups, including Hiz-il-Mujahideen, Lashkar-e-Taiba, and Lashkar-e-Jhangvi. HuM targeted the United States in a 2002 attack outside the U.S. consulate in Karachi that killed 11, but has mostly conducted attacks against Indian targets. The group has allegedly received support from Pakistan's ISI as recently as 2011. (Sources: [Stanford University](#), [Long War Journal](#))

Hizb-il-Mujahideen

Hizb-il-Mujahideen (HM) is one of the largest and most powerful militant groups operating in Kashmir. It seeks the integration of Kashmir with Pakistan. The group formed in September 1989 as the military wing of Jamaat-e-Islami (JeI), a conservative Islamist political party in Pakistan. It aimed to counter the Jammu and Kashmir Liberation Front, which advocated for complete independence for Kashmir. The group is headquartered at Muzaffarabad in Pakistan-occupied Kashmir and has an estimated 1,500 members. Former Pakistani Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif and army chief Gen. Qamar Javed Bajwa both glorified slain HM commander Burhan Wani as a leader of the "freedom struggle in Kashmir." HM was designated

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as a Foreign Terrorist Organization by the United States on August 16, 2017. (Sources: [South Asia Terrorism Portal](#), [Hindustan Times](#), [U.S. Department of the Treasury](#))

HM has received support from Pakistan's ISI and its leader, Syed Salahuddin, is allowed to operate with relative impunity in Pakistan. Most of HM's fighters are from Pakistan, and Salahuddin has stated that the Pakistani military allows him to run "hundreds of training camps" in the country. In recent years, HM has also utilized social media and video tutorials in an attempt to recruit and train Kashmiri youth. (Sources: [Long War Journal](#), [BBC News](#), [Hindustan Times](#), [International Business Times India](#))

Mullah Nazir Group

The Mullah Nazir Group is a faction of the Pakistani Taliban operating within South Waziristan. It seeks to expel U.S.-led coalition forces from Afghanistan, and establish an Islamic state ruled by sharia law in Afghanistan, Pakistan, and eventually, around the world. The Mullah Nazir Group merged with the TTP for a brief time in 2007, but broke away the following year due to ideological disagreements. The group has extensive ties to al-Qaeda, and in 2013, was designated as a Foreign Terrorist Organization by the United States. Although the Mullah Nazir Group eventually seeks to overthrow the Pakistani government, its immediate focus is on Afghanistan, and Pakistan has viewed it as an ally against other groups in the FATA that pose an immediate threat to the Pakistani state and has even provided it with direct support. (Sources: [Long War Journal](#), [Stanford University](#), [Jamestown Foundation](#))

Balochistan Separatists

Multiple separatist groups seek independence for the Balochistan region in Pakistan, Afghanistan, and Iran. After Pakistan's 1947 partition from India, Balochistan was divided between Pakistan's Balochistan province, Afghanistan's Balochistan region, and Iran's Sistan province. The largest of these separatist movements is the Balochistan Liberation Army (BLA), an armed separatist group based in Pakistan's Balochistan region with activities also in Afghanistan and Iran. The BLA seeks to create an independent Balochistan nation in the Baloch regions of Pakistan, Afghanistan, and Iran. Pakistan, the United States, and the United Kingdom have designated the BLA as a terrorist group. The group rose to prominence in 2000 after it claimed credit for a series of bomb attacks on Pakistani authorities. The BLA has since claimed responsibility for multiple terror attacks in Pakistan, including an August 2018 suicide car bombing that wounded five, a November 2018 attack on the Chinese consulate in Karachi that killed four, and a May 2019 attack on a luxury hotel in Balochistan that killed five. The BLA views Chinese investment in Pakistan as a Chinese attempt to colonize Balochistan. As such, the BLA has conducted multiple attacks on the Chinese consulate in Pakistan and China-owned businesses and other interests. (Sources: [Kootneeti](#), [Express Tribune](#), [Al Jazeera](#), [New York Times](#), [New York Times](#), [Reuters](#), [BBC News](#), [U.S. Department of State](#), [Gov.UK](#))

Pakistan accuses India of supporting Baloch separatists. After a June 2020 attack on the Stock Exchange building in Karachi, Pakistani Prime Minister Imran Khan told the Pakistani parliament there was no doubt India had supported the attack. The Pakistani government has also specifically accused the Indian spy agency Research and Analysis Wing of supporting the BLA. India denies the allegations. (Sources: [Al Jazeera](#), [India Today](#))

In January 2022, two smaller Baloch separatist groups—the Balochistan Republican Army and the United Baloch Army—merged to form the Balochistan Nationalist Army (BNA). The BNA appointed Mureed Baloch as its spokesman. Baloch claimed responsibility for a January 20, 2022, attack on the Anarkali bazar in Lahore that killed at least three and wounded 28 others. (Sources: [Reuters](#), [Associated Press](#), [Associated Press](#))

Tehrik-e-Labbaik Pakistan

Tehrik-e-Labbaik Pakistan (TLP) is a formerly outlawed Islamist political party founded in 2015 following a protest campaign seeking the release of a police guard who assassinated a provincial governor in 2011 over his calls to reform blasphemy legislation. In 2017, TLP entered Pakistani politics and received more than 2 million votes in the country's 2018 elections. On April 12, 2021, police in Lahore arrested TLP leader Saad Rizvi, son of TLP founder Khadim Hussain Rizvi. The arrest was reportedly to deter TLP supporters from further demanding the expulsion of France's ambassador over the publication in France of cartoons featuring Islam's Prophet Muhammad. Rizvi had claimed the government had reached an agreement with his party to expel the ambassador by April 20, while government officials claimed they agreed only to discuss the issue in parliament. In response to Rizvi's arrest, TLP supporters blocked highways and clash with police across the country over the course of two days, killing at least four people and wounding dozens of others, including at least 60 police officers. The Pakistani government declared TLP a terrorist organization and banned it on April 14. (Sources: [Reuters](#), [Voice of America](#), [Dawn](#))

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On April 18, 2021, TLP supporters attacked a police station in Lahore while rallying in the city against Rizvi's arrest. The protesters took hostage 11 officers. The protesters released the hostages the following day after negotiations with the government. Photos released of the hostages during the negotiations showed they had been tortured. Pakistan released Rizvi on November 18, 2021, a week after removing him from the country's terrorism watch list as part of a deal to end weeks of protests. The government also lifted its ban of TLP, released more than 2,000 of its members from prison, and agreed to allow TLP to participate in the country's elections. (Sources: [Voice of America](#), [Associated Press](#), [Reuters](#))

However, the group reportedly fell out of favor with the public by Pakistan's February 2024 national election. Some media sources claimed the death of Khadim Rizvi in November 2020 contributed to the decline. His son and successor, Saad Rizvi, reportedly lacks the charisma of his late father. He not only failed to maintain his father's public following, but also reportedly compromised alliances with Pakistan's powerful generals and the now incarcerated former prime minister Imran Khan. The support from Khan helped legitimize the group, though they squandered their credibility following their series of violent anti-Western protests. (Source: [Agence France Presse](#))

Although primarily operating in Pakistan, TLP has reportedly expanded its network overseas, notably within the United Kingdom. A 2024 U.K. counterterrorism report warned of the growing popularity of the anti-blasphemy movement mobilized by Bareilvi and Deobandi groups based in Pakistan. Although it is unconfirmed if the U.K. branch is officially recognized by TLP leadership in Pakistan, the division has carried out some high-profile protests. In March 2021, TLP supporters led protests against a grammar schoolteacher who distributed caricatures of Islam's Prophet Muhammad. After receiving death threats, the teacher and his family were forced into hiding. In June 2022, TLP supporters reportedly joined 200 anti-blasphemy demonstrators who were protesting a cinema in Birmingham, England, for its screening of a movie depicting both the prophet and his daughter Fatima. The cinema subsequently cancelled the screenings to protect its staff and other customers. Since Rizvi's death in November 2020, TLP-UK has reportedly organized three annual events to honor the anti-blasphemy leader. (Sources: [U.K. Commission for Countering Extremism](#), [Guardian](#))

Dawat-e-Islami

Dawat-e-Islami (DeI) is a hardline Islamist movement founded in 1981 in Pakistan by Islamic cleric Hazrat Allama Maulana Muhammad Ilyas Attar Qadri Razavi Ziyae, better known as Ilyas Qadri. DeI follows the Bareilvi practice of Islam, which emphasizes an anti-blasphemy mission. DeI endorses fundamental interpretations of Islam's blasphemy laws and has launched lengthy protests against any attempt by the Pakistani government to amend their blasphemy laws. Although previously considered a moderate form of Islam, the Bareilvi sect has transformed into a violent movement against those accused of blasphemy. Upon its founding, DeI quickly gained popularity and by the mid-1990s more than 100,000 people attended the DeI *ijtimahs* (conventions). In extreme cases, DeI supporters have called for violence and murder against those accused of blasphemy against Islam. DeI regularly targets Ahmadi Muslims, a strain of Islam that fundamentalists consider a heretical practice. Additionally, DeI regularly demonstrates against politicians and publications accused of defaming and depicting Islam's Prophet Muhammad, both actions of which are outlawed in Islam. In 2005, Denmark's *Jyllands-Posten* newspaper published cartoons depicting the Prophet of Islam as a terrorist. DeI, along with other Bareilvis, launched months-long protests across Pakistan. DeI first drew widespread attention in 2011 following the murder of Salmaan Taseer, the governor of Pakistan's Punjab region. DeI follower Mumtaz Qadri shot and killed the governor due to his criticism of Pakistan's stringent blasphemy laws and support for liberal reforms in 2011. Another notable follower of DeI ideology was Zaheer Hussan Mahmoud, who stabbed two people outside of the former *Charlie Hebdo* offices in Paris in September 2020 due to the publication's reissue of caricatures of Islam's Prophet Muhammad. DeI has also been linked to the murder of a tailor in Udaipur in Rajasthan, India in June 2022. The tailor had reportedly shared a social media post that supported a politician who had made offensive comments against the prophet on television earlier that year. DeI senior figure Mahmood Qadri denounced the killing and further emphasized DeI's policy as a non-violent movement. (Sources: [Middle East Forum](#), [Jamestown Foundation](#), [Dawat-e-Islami UK](#), [BBC News](#), [First Post](#), [The Hindu](#), [Economic Times](#))

2018 Elections

Several candidates in Pakistan's July 25, 2018, national elections were reportedly linked to extremist groups. According to news reports, 1,500 right-wing candidates have promoted fundamentalist ideals. For example, 566 candidates were aligned with Tehreek-e-Labaik Pakistan, whose platform included increased enforcement of a law proscribing the death penalty for those convicted of insulting Islam. The Milli Muslim League is banned from participation in Pakistan's politics because the party's spiritual leader, Hafiz Saeed, is a U.N.-designated terrorist suspected of orchestrating the 2008 Mumbai terror attacks. Nonetheless, the party fielded 260 candidates in the election, either as independents or under other parties. The Ahl-e-Sunnat Wal Jamaat (ASWJ) party is the accused political wing of Lashkar-e-Jhangvi (LeJ), a terror group that has at times allied with both al-Qaeda and ISIS and is responsible for killing hundreds. More than 150 LeJ candidates ran in the election under the Pakistan Rah-e-Haq party or as independents. A month before the election, the Pakistani government removed ASWJ leader Muhammad Ahmed Ludhianvi from its terrorism watch

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list. The Islamist parties ran under a joint political alliance called Muttahida Majlis-i-Amal. (Sources: [CNBC](#), [Reuters](#), [Reuters](#))

Pakistani voters largely rejected extremism in the election. Muttahida Majlis-i-Amal failed to win a significant number of seats. Former cricket star Imran Khan’s conservative Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf party won 116 of the 270 parliamentary seats. Khan has reportedly expressed sympathy for the Taliban and support for Pakistan’s blasphemy laws. Khan’s opponents and other protesters have alleged voter fraud and called for a new election. (Sources: [New York Times](#), [Hindustan Times](#), [Dawn](#), [Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty](#))

Foreign Fighters

As of December 2014, as many as 300 Pakistani foreign fighters were reportedly in Syria fighting against Bashar al-Assad’s government forces. In August 2016, Pakistani intelligence officials reportedly assessed that as many as 650 Pakistani foreign fighters were fighting for several extremist groups in conflict zones including Syria, Iraq, Yemen, Afghanistan, and Central Asian states. Pakistani intelligence agencies were able to identify 132 of them, and expressed concern over the security risks that these “radicalized, trained, and experienced” fighters could present upon returning to Pakistan. In November 2017, Afghan officials claimed that many Pakistanis were included in the 3,000 foreign fighters fighting on behalf of ISIS in Afghanistan. (Sources: [Dawn](#), [U.S. Library of Congress](#), [New York Times](#), [Voice of America](#))

In May 2011, foreign fighters from other countries reportedly amassed in Pakistan’s tribal areas to prepare cross-border attacks on U.S.-led coalition troops in Afghanistan. A Moroccan man who had traveled to Afghanistan told British authorities upon arrest that some of the fighters converging in Pakistan were from France and Saudi Arabia. Foreign fighters have also joined some of Pakistan’s most prominent extremist groups, such as Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT), which reportedly includes members from Afghanistan, Sudan, Bahrain, Central Asia, Turkey, and Libya. (Sources: [Telegraph](#), [South Asia Terrorism Portal](#))

Major Extremist and Terrorist Incidents

During the 2001 U.S. invasion of Afghanistan, Pakistan provided logistical support to NATO forces there. Some militant religious groups previously supported by the Pakistani state opposed this decision and subsequently began to attack foreign targets inside Pakistan. As a result, Pakistan launched military operations against these groups, who were mostly based in the country’s tribal areas. These terrorists then began to direct attacks against the Pakistani state and the general public in revenge. For example, after the May 2, 2011 death of Osama bin Laden, the TTP accused Pakistan of complicity in the raid that killed him and mounted several high-profile attacks in revenge throughout the month—such as a double suicide bombing the following week that killed more than 80 people. (Source: [Defense & Security Analysis](#), [Center for Strategic and International Studies](#), [Guardian](#), [Reuters](#))

In addition, terrorist groups operating in Pakistan continue to target civilians, officials, and religious minorities at venues such as schools, markets, government institutions, and places of worship. (Source: [U.S. Department of State](#))

Pre-Election Violence

Less than a week before Pakistan’s July 25, 2018, elections, Pakistan’s Election Commission ordered the army to deploy approximately 371,000 troops around the country to guard election sites. The commission also granted the army judicial power to immediately try and sentence anyone found to be breaking election laws. The army deployment was triple that for the 2013 elections. At least 158 people were killed and 670 wounded in attacks in the six weeks ahead of Pakistan’s July 25, 2018, elections, according to the Pakistan Institute for Peace Studies. Most prominently, an ISIS suicide bomber killed at least 149 and wounded more than 180 at a political rally in Balochistan on July 13, 2018, in the third deadliest attack in Pakistan’s history. The bombing targeted the anti-Taliban Awami party, which was also the subject of a July 10, 2018, attack that killed 20 people in Peshawar. Among the fatalities was Awami National Party provincial candidate Haroon Bilour, whose father, Bashir Bilour, was killed in a December 2012 Taliban bombing ahead of Pakistan’s 2013 elections. According to the Pakistan Institute for Peace Studies, 170 people were killed during the 2013 election period. (Sources: [Reuters](#), [Al Jazeera](#), [Wall Street Journal](#), [Reuters](#), [Al Jazeera](#), [Reuters](#), [New York Times](#))

Attacks on Schools

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In one of the TTP's most notorious attacks on December 16, 2014, militants stormed an Pakistani Army-run children's school in Peshawar, killing at least 143 people—including 134 children—and wounding more than 121 others. In October 2012, in an incident that spurred international outrage, a TTP gunman shot Malala Yousafzai, a 15-year-old advocate for female education, on a school bus. The TTP has also attacked the Agricultural Training Institute in Peshawar, Bacha Khan University in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, and other schools and school-related targets across Pakistan. (Sources: [South Asia Terrorism Portal](#), [Al Jazeera](#), [Stanford University](#), [Guardian](#), [Indian Express](#))

According to Human Rights Watch, the TTP and other militant groups in Pakistan target schools and universities in order to foster intolerance, attack symbols of the government, and enforce gender discrimination by preventing the education of girls in particular. There were reportedly 867 attacks on education institutions in Pakistan between 2007 and 2015, and as of 2017, an estimated 25 million Pakistani children were not enrolled in school. Human Rights Watch predicts that such a devastating impact on education will have negative long-term effects on Pakistani society. (Sources: [Human Rights Watch](#), [Human Rights Watch](#))

Attacks in Kashmir

Kashmir has been a contended territory since the end of colonial rule in 1947, when the British did not partition the territory but left its princes to choose allegiance to either Pakistan or India, creating a rivalry between the two countries that continues today. The present insurgency in Kashmir began in 1989, and continues today, with death toll estimates well over 40,000. Several Pakistan-based extremist groups, including Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT), Jaish-e-Mohammed (JeM), Harakat-ul-Mujahideen (HuM), and Hizb-il-Mujahideen (HM), conduct attacks on Indian targets in the Indian state of Jammu and Kashmir, which makes up 45 percent of the overall Kashmir region. For example, a February 14, 2019, suicide bombing in Jammu and Kashmir's Pulwama district killed at least 40 Indian paramilitary police officers and resulted in India's first direct air strike into Pakistan since 1971 as the country bombed what it called a JeM training camp. (Sources: [CNN](#), [Foreign Policy](#), [Hindu](#), [Hindustan Times](#), [CNN](#), [Washington Post](#), [Reuters](#), [BBC News](#))

- **March 12, 2025:** Dozens of BLA militants blow up a railway line and subsequently hijack the Jaffar Express, a passenger train traveling between Quetta and Peshawar in southwestern Pakistan. The BLA take hostage at least 450 people. The BLA demands the Pakistani government release Baloch political prisoners, activists, and missing people in exchange for the hostages within 48 hours. At least 21 people are reportedly killed before the Pakistani military and security personnel launch an air and land offensive to regain control of the train. The Pakistani army successfully repels the BLA, securing the release of the remaining hostages. Sources: [Guardian](#), [Associated Press](#), [Reuters](#), [Euro News](#), [CNN](#)
- **March 2, 2025:** A suicide bomber detonates an explosive at Darul Uloom Haqqania, colloquially referred to as the "University of Jihad," in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province. The explosion kills six, including head of school Hamid ul Haq Haqqani, and injures 20 others. The school has ties to the Taliban and was previously used by the United States and Pakistan to train and deploy rebels against the Soviet invasion of Afghanistan. According to sources from the Afghan Taliban, Haqqani may have been a casualty of infighting within the Taliban government. Haqqani had reportedly endorsed pledging allegiance to Taliban Interior Minister Sirajuddin Haqqani over the Taliban leader Haibatullah Akhundzada. Sources: [Indian Express](#), [Telegraph](#)
- **February 19, 2025:** Suspected BLA militants ambush a passenger bus traveling to Lahore. Residents from Punjab region are forced off the bus and all seven are shot and killed. Source: [Deutsche Welle](#)
- **February 6, 2025:** A group of militants armed with assault rifles ambush a police post in Karak, killing three and wounding five others. Source: [Associated Press](#)
- **January 31, 2025 - February 1, 2025:** BLA militants launch overnight attacks in Kalat, killing at least 19 and wounding five others. Source: [Arab News](#)
- **December 21, 2024:** TTP militants ambush Pakistani security forces in South Waziristan, killing 16 soldiers and wounding eight others. The TTP claims the attack in response to the death of one of its senior commanders at the hands of Pakistani troops earlier in the week. Source: [Voice of America](#)
- **November 30, 2024:** BLA militants launch two attacks targeting a dam construction site in Nushki, southwestern Pakistan. The militants abduct six laborers and seize weapons before destroying machinery and equipment by setting them on fire. Source: [Arab News Pakistan](#)
- **November 21, 2024:** Armed gunmen ambush a passenger vehicle carrying Shiite Muslims in Kurram, killing at least 38 passengers and wounding 10 others. Source: [Euro News](#)
- **November 19, 2024:** A suicide bomber from Islamist militant group Hafiz Gul Bahadur detonates an explosive at a security outpost in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province, killing 12 soldiers. Source: [Reuters](#)
- **November 9, 2024:** A BLA suicide bomber detonates an explosive at Quetta railway station in Balochistan province, killing at least 26 and wounding more than 60 others. Source: [Euro News](#)

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- **October 29, 2024:** Gunmen launch two attacks on health centers carrying out anti-polio campaigns in Orakzai and North Waziristan, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa.
In Orakzai, gunmen kill two police officers. In North Waziristan, gunmen storm a health center and seize weapons before threatening health workers to not take part in anti-polio campaigns. Source: [Associated Press](#)
- **October 24, 2024:** TTP militants ambush a police outpost in Dera Ismail Khan, killing at least 10.
The TTP claims the attack is retaliation for the killing of senior leader Ustad Qureshi. Source: [Reuters](#)
- **October 14, 2024:** TTP militants ambush a police station in Bannu, northwestern Pakistan, killing three.
Source: [Reuters](#)
- **October 7, 2024:** BLA militants detonate an explosive near Pakistan’s largest airport in Karachi, targeting a convoy carrying Chinese nationals.
The attack kills two Chinese citizens and injures another. An unidentified number of police escorts are also injured. The Chinese nationals were engineers and investors working at the Port Qasim Electric Power Company—a joint Pakistan-China coal-powered plant. Source: [Sky News](#)
- **October 5, 2024:** TTP militants ambush Pakistani security forces in Kurram, northwestern Pakistan, killing seven and wounding two.
Source: [Voice of America](#)
- **October 5, 2024:** TTP militants ambush a military convoy in North Waziristan, near the Afghan border, killing at least six soldiers and wounding 22 others.
Source: [Voice of America](#)
- **September 22, 2024:** A roadside bomb detonates near a convoy of diplomats in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province, killing at least one police officer and wounding several others.
The convoy carried foreign diplomats from at least a dozen countries, including Russia, Iran, Kazakhstan, and Tajikistan. Source: [Deutsche Welle](#)
- **August 25, 2024 - August 26, 2024:** BLA militants launch multiple attacks overnight across Pakistan’s Balochistan province, killing more than 50.
On August 25 in Musakhail district, BLA militants stop buses on highways and demand identification from riders. Insurgents shoot and kill 23 passengers from the Punjab region, while 14 soldiers are slain battling the separatists. At a police station in Qalat district, gunmen kill 10, while authorities later find six other bodies after insurgents blow up a railway track in Bolan district. BLA claims responsibility for the attacks, which they call operation “Haruf” or “dark windy storm.” Sources: [Financial Times](#), [Associated Press](#), [Reuters](#)
- **July 19, 2024:** According to a leaked call heard by Express News, senior TTP leaders, including leader Noor Wali Mehsud and local commander Saqib Gandapur, are conspiring on how to disrupt the peace in Pakistan without implicating the TTP.
According to the report, the TTP plans to employ two methods to achieve their goals. One method is to target schools and hospitals in supposed “retaliatory” attacks for demolishing TTP homes, and the other requires TTP not claiming responsibility for these explosive attacks and instead destroying police and military personnel’s homes. Source: [Express Tribune](#)
- **July 19, 2024:** Despite the U.N. Security Council’s claim that Amin ul-Haq, an al-Qaeda leader and former close associate of Osama bin Laden, was arrested by Pakistani authorities in March 2024, Pakistan’s Counter-Terrorism Department (CTD) announced ul-Haq’s arrest on July 19 in Sarai Alamgir, northwestern Pakistan.
The operation was reportedly conducted in collaboration with intelligence agencies. According to the CTD, ul-Haq was in reportedly in the process of planning a “large-scale terrorism project,” that would sabotage key installations in Pakistan’s populous Punjab region. Sources: [Voice of America](#), [Reuters](#)
- **July 16, 2024:** Suspected terrorist ambush a rural medical facility in Ber Ismail Khan district, Pakistan, killing at least seven.
Authorities suspect TTP of responsibility for the attack. Source: [Voice of America](#)
- **July 15, 2024:** Affiliates of TTP launch a pre-dawn raid on an army base in Bannu, Pakistan, killing at least eight soldiers and wounding dozens of others.
In the attack, a suicide bomber rams an explosive-laden vehicle into a wall of the compound while other militants open fire on the soldiers. The security forces kill all assailants. Source: [Voice of America](#)
- **May 9, 2024:** Militants shoot and kill seven barbers in the port city of Gwadar, Pakistan.
Authorities suspect BLA militants are behind the attack as all of the victims were from Punjab. In recent years, BLA militants have killed workers from Punjab to force them to leave the province. Source: [Associated Press](#)
- **April 21, 2024:** Unidentified gunmen ambush customs officers in Dera Ismail Khan, western Pakistan, killing three.
Source: [Radio Free Europe](#)
- **April 13, 2024:** Suspected separatist militants ambush a bus in Naushki, Balochistan, Pakistan.
Nine migrant workers are subsequently singled out and executed. The attackers then fire at a car belonging to a provincial parliamentarian. Although the politician is not in the car, two others are killed. Source: [Defense Post](#)
- **March 26, 2024:** BLA militants ambush a naval airbase in Quetta, Pakistan, killing at least one soldier.
That same day, a BLA suicide bomber rams a vehicle into a convoy of Chinese engineers in Peshawar, northwest Pakistan. The collision kills six. The vehicle was en route to the engineer’s camp in Dasu, the site of a major dam. Source: [Reuters](#)
- **March 20, 2024:** BLA militants ambush a complex outside of Gwadar, a strategic port in Balochistan.
The ambush, in which militants detonate bombs and open fire on the complex, kills two soldiers. Source: [Reuters](#)
- **March 16, 2024:** TTP militants launch a suicide truck bomb and gun attack on a regional army base in the North Waziristan border district, near Afghanistan.
The explosion and attack kill at least seven and wounded more than 17 others. Source: [Voice of America](#)
- The U.N. Security Council reports that Pakistani authorities had arrested senior al-Qaeda leader Amin ul-Haq for illegal possession of weapons.

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- Ul-Haq was reportedly attempting to cross into Pakistan from Afghanistan with the illicit cargo. Source: [United Nations](#)
- **February 7, 2024:** ISIS-K militants launch twin bombings at political offices in Pishin and Qila Saifullah in Pakistan's Balochistan a day before the country's parliamentary elections. The attacks kill at least 30. Source: [Associated Press](#)
 - **February 5, 2024:** Suspected militants ambush a police station in Drab region, Khyber-Pakhtunkhwa province, killing at least 10 personnel and injuring six others. Source: [Reuters](#)
 - **January 31, 2024:** BLA militants ambush servicemen in Bolan County, Balochistan, Pakistan. The ambush kills six, including two civilians. Source: [Defense Post](#)
 - **January 30, 2024:** ISIS-K militants detonate an explosive at a rally by former Prime Minister Imran Khan's Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) party. The explosion kills two and injures three. The explosion occurs hours after Khan was sentenced to 10 years imprisonment for leaking state secrets. Source: [Reuters](#)
 - **January 15, 2024:** A bomb blast targets a vehicle carrying Pakistani soldiers in Kech district in Pakistan's Balochistan region. The explosion kills at least five. No group claims responsibility but authorities suspect the BLA are responsible. Source: [Defense Post](#)
 - **January 8, 2024:** The TTP detonate a roadside bomb near a van carrying police assigned to protect polio vaccine workers in Mamund, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Pakistan. The explosion kills at least six soldiers and wounds 10 others. Source: [Associated Press](#)
 - **December 23, 2023:** Tehreek-e-Jihad Pakistan, a TTP affiliated group, rams an explosive-laden vehicle into a military base in Dera Ismail Khan, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province. The explosion kills at least 23 soldiers and wounds another 36. Source: [Defense Post](#)
 - **December 2, 2023:** Gunmen ambush a bus in Chilas, northern Pakistan, killing nine and wounding 25 others. No group claims responsibility. Source: [Agence France Presse](#)
 - **November 3, 2023:** An explosives-laden motorcycle detonates near a bus stop in Dera Ismail Khan, northwest Pakistan, killing five and injuring 20 others. Security officials suspect TTP are responsible for the bombing. Source: [Associated Press](#)
 - **October 15, 2023:** Gunmen ambush an under-construction house in Turbat city in Pakistan's Balochistan. The attack kills six ethnic Punjabi workers and injures two others. Authorities suspect separatist militants who have previously targeted ethnic Punjabis, Sindhis, and foreigners in attacks. Source: [Defense Post](#)
 - **September 29, 2023:** Suspected terrorists carry out two bombings in Pakistan's Balochistan and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa provinces. The first bomb in Balochistan targets a large gathering of people celebrating the birth of Islam's Prophet Muhammad. The explosion in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa targets a mosque. The explosions kill more than 50 and injures dozens of others. Authorities suspect either the TTP or ISIS of responsibility. Source: [BBC News](#)
 - **September 5, 2023:** A suspected TLP supporter shoots and injures a Christian priest in Faisalabad, Pakistan, after the victim reportedly removed questionable religious slogans on the church's exterior. The victim received threats by individuals who stated "as our written slogans have been deleted from the wall of the church, soon you will also be deleted." Source: [Voice](#)
 - **September 1, 2023:** A suspected TTP suicide bomber rams his motorbike into a military convoy in Bannu district, western Pakistan. The explosion kills at least nine and injures five others. Source: [Defense Post](#)
 - **August 22, 2023:** The Pakistani military launches a raid on TTP hideouts in South Waziristan. The ensuing clashes kill six soldiers. Source: [Voice of America](#)
 - **August 16, 2023:** Large mobs of anti-blasphemy activists burn down 21 churches and 35 homes belonging to Christians in Jaranwala, Punjab, Pakistan, following reports that two Christians "desecrated the Quran." According to the Punjab regional government, more than 100 people, including an unspecified number of TLP supporters, are arrested in connection to the attacks. Despite the extensive damage, there are no reported casualties. Sources: [Rediff News](#), [Reuters](#)
 - **July 30, 2023:** A suspected suicide bomber detonates an explosive at a political rally in Bajur District, northwestern Pakistan on the border of Afghanistan. The explosion kills at least 55 and injures 135 others. The rally is held for religious political party Jamiat Ulema Islam, run by Maulana Fazlur Rehman. Although no group claims responsibility, it is expected that ISIS-Khorasan Province (ISIS-K) is responsible. Rehman is a pro-Taliban cleric, and ISIS-K regularly targets Taliban officials throughout Afghanistan. Source: [Associated Press](#)
 - **July 19, 2023:** Two TTP suicide bombers ambush a compound with a police station and government offices in Bara, northwestern Pakistan. The attack kills four and injures 11 others. Earlier that day, TTP gunmen shoot and kill two police officers in Peshawar. Source: [Associated Press](#)
 - **July 18, 2023:** A suspected TTP suicide bomber targets a truck carrying security forces in Peshawar. The explosion wounds at least eight. Source: [Associated Press](#)
 - **July 2, 2023:** TTP militants ambush security officials in Balochistan, southwestern Pakistan. The subsequent shootout kills four. Source: [Agence France Presse](#)
 - **June 25, 2023:** ISIS gunmen shoot and kill a man in Peshawar. The man belonged to Pakistan's minority Sikh community. Source: [Associated Press](#)
 - **June 24, 2023:** A suicide bomber detonates an explosive in Turbat, southwestern Pakistan.
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- The explosion kills the assailant and one police officer, while injuring four others. The woman was a member of the separatist group, Baluch Liberation Army. Source: [Associated Press](#)
- **June 11, 2023:** Suspected members of the TTP ambush a security checkpoint in Miran Shah, North Waziristan. The attack kills three soldiers. Source: [Associated Press](#)
 - **May 31, 2023:** Suspected TTP gunmen open fire on a team of polio workers during a door-to-door vaccine campaign in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, near the Afghan border. The attack kills one soldier and wounds another. Source: [Associated Press](#)
 - **May 24, 2023:** A suspected TTP suicide bomber detonates an explosive at a security checkpoint in North Waziristan, the former stronghold of the TTP. The explosion kills four and injures several others. Source: [Al Jazeera](#)
 - **May 23, 2023:** Around 50 TTP militants ambush a natural gas and oil production facility in Hangu, northwestern Pakistan. The attack kills six. Source: [Reuters](#)
 - **May 20, 2023:** Militants ambush a security post in Zarghoon Marget, Balochistan, southwestern Pakistan. The attack kills three soldiers. The security post was newly set up to “help check extortion efforts targeting coal mines in the area.” While no group claims responsibility, Balochistan—a strategically important area due to its reserves of natural gases and precious metals—is regularly targeted by terrorists. Source: [Radio Free Europe](#)
 - **May 13, 2023:** Militants ambush a security facility in Muslim Bagh, northern Balochistan. The attack kills 13 and wounds six others. Security forces are able to neutralize all six assailants. Source: [Al Jazeera](#)
 - **April 11, 2023:** Pakistani security forces launch a raid targeting a TTP hideout in Quetta, southwestern Pakistan. TTP militants and the Pakistani police engage in a gunbattle, killing four. Source: [TRT World](#)
 - **April 8, 2023:** A roadside bomb detonates in Kyber district, northwestern Pakistan. The explosion targeted a military vehicle, killing two soldiers and wounding four others. TTP claims responsibility for the bombing. Source: [Voice of America](#)
 - **March 29, 2023:** TTP militants target a police vehicle, detonating a bomb in Lakki Marwat, northwest Pakistan. The explosion kills four. The officers were responding to an attack at a police station in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province, where TTP militants launched an unspecified attack that wounded six. Source: [TRT World](#)
 - **February 17, 2023:** TTP militants ambush the Karachi police headquarters, resulting in gunfight between the two sides that lasts for hours. At least four people are killed and 19 are injured. Source: [Voice of America](#)
 - **February 5, 2023:** A bomb detonates in Quetta, southwestern Pakistan. The explosion, which killed at least one and injured 12 others, targeted a military vehicle at the entrance of a security checkpoint. Source: [Voice of America](#)
 - **January 30, 2023:** A suicide bomber detonates explosives during prayers at a mosque inside a police compound in Peshawar. The explosion kills 100 and injures 200 others, of which the majority of casualties were police officers. The compound houses Peshawar’s police headquarters and is located in a high-security zone. Security officials believe the TTP carried out the attack, but TTP spokesman Muhammad Khorasani releases a statement denying the accusations. However, Jamaat-ul-Ahrar (JuA), a powerful TTP faction, later claimed credit for the suicide bombing. Omar Murakam Khurasani, the emir of JuA and a member of TTP’s leadership council, claimed the attack was in retaliation for the death of Omar Khalid Khurasani, JuA’s former emir who was killed in August 2022 in Afghanistan. Sources: [Associated Press](#), [CNN](#), [Wall Street Journal](#), [Long War Journal](#)
 - **January 28, 2023:** Security forces carry out a raid in Marsikhel, North Waziristan. Forces kill one TTP member and arrest two others. Upon investigation of the location, officials discovered arms, ammunition, and Afghan origin SIM cards. Source: [Dawn](#)
 - **January 22, 2023:** Unidentified gunmen open fire at a police checkpoint in Pakistan’s Khyber Pakhtunkhwa region. The attack kills two and injures three others. Source: [The Print](#)
 - **January 16, 2023:** The U.N. Security Council adds Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT) deputy emir Abdul Rehman Makk to its sanctions list. According to the United Nations, Makki and his associates were involved in raising funds, recruiting, and radicalizing youth to plan terror attacks in India. Notably, Makki was involved in the Mumbai Attacks in November 2008 that killed more than 160 individuals and injured approximately 300 others. Sources: [United Nations](#), [Indian Express](#)
 - **January 3, 2023:** A TTP gunman shoots and kills two Pakistani intelligence officers in Punjab Province. The victims were a deputy director of the ISI intelligence agency and a counterterrorism inspector. Originally, a group called Lashkar-e-Khorasan Pakistan (LeKP) claimed responsibility for the attack, but the TTP later claims responsibility, stating the attack was carried out by their secret brigade. Source: [Radio Free Europe](#)
 - **December 23, 2022:** A suicide bomber detonates an explosive at a police security checkpoint in Islamabad. The explosion kills one officer and injures 10 others. The TTP claim responsibility for the attack. Source: [Voice of America](#)
 - **December 22, 2022:** Militants storm a police station in Wana, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province. The heavily armed militants injure one policeman before escaping with arms and ammunition. No group claims immediate responsibility for the ambush. Source: [Dawn](#)
 - **December 18, 2022 - December 20, 2022:** On December 18, TTP militants seize a counterterrorism center in Bannu, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province, and take hostages. According to media reports, the takeover occurs while police are interrogating a group of detainees who manage to snatch weapons from the security guards and overpower them. The next day, Pakistani authorities unsuccessfully open talks with the TTP to try and resolve the standoff,
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with the fighters reportedly demanding safe passage to Afghanistan. On Tuesday, December 20, security forces launch an operation to clear and regain control of the center, which is in a region of northwestern Pakistan that borders Afghanistan, killing 25 of the 35 attackers. Seven surrender and another three, who attempt to escape, are arrested. One hostage and two commandos are also killed in the operation, according to the Pakistani army. Sources: [Associated Press](#), [Washington Post](#), [Reuters](#), [Deutsche Welle](#), [Reuters](#)

- **December 3, 2022:** The TTP ambush police officers in Noshera, northern Pakistan.
The attack kills three. Source: [Reuters](#)
- **December 2, 2022:** ISIS militants open fire on Pakistan's embassy in Kabul.
The attack wounds a security guard. Pakistan's Foreign Office claims the attack was meant to target the head of mission, Ubaid-ur-Rehman Nizamani. Source: [Reuters](#)
- **November 30, 2022:** A TTP suicide bomber detonates an explosive in Quetta, southwestern Pakistan.
The explosion, which struck a police vehicle, kills four and wounds at least 24 others—20 of which were policemen. Sources: [Al Jazeera](#), [Reuters](#)
- **November 29, 2022:** Pakistani military engage in a shootout with TTP militants in Lakki Marwat district, near the border of South Waziristan.
The shootout kills eleven TTP members, including Tipu, a high-ranking TTP commander. Source: [Indian Express](#)
- **November 17, 2022:** TTP militants ambush police officers in Shahab Khel, northwest Pakistan.
The gunmen kill six. Source: [Defense Post](#)
- **November 16, 2022:** TTP militants clash with Pakistani soldiers in Bajaur, near the border of Afghanistan.
Two soldiers are killed. Source: [Defense Post](#)
- **October 10, 2022:** A suspected TTP militant opens fire on a school van in Mingora, central Swat Valley.
The attack kills the driver and injures one student. Source: [Voice of America](#)
- **September 19, 2022:** TTP militants detonate a bomb in Kabal town, Swat Valley.
The explosion kills eight, including Idrees Khan, the former peace committee head. Source: [Defense Post](#)
- **September 5, 2022:** Pakistani military raid a TTP hideout in Boyya, North Waziristan.
Following an exchange of gunfire, five soldiers are killed. A TTP commander tells AFP that the government has also reportedly carried out six other attacks against the group in recent weeks. Source: [Defense Post](#)
- **June 1, 2022 - July 31, 2022:** According to the Islamabad-based think-tank, Pakistan Institute for Conflict and Security Studies, although the TTP announced an indefinite ceasefire in June 2022, militants reportedly increased attacks in July.
In June, the terror group carried out 26 attacks that killed 36 people and injured 26 others. In July, the group carried out 33 attacks, killing 34 people and injured 46 others. Source: [Dawn](#)
- **May 17, 2022:** Pakistani police arrest two militants who were involved in the Lahore bombing on January 20.
The explosion at Anarkali bazaar killed three at wounded 33 others. The suspects confess to having a role in the bombing. It is not reported if they were members of the Balochistan Liberation Army group—the group that claimed responsibility for the attack. Source: [Associated Press](#)
- **April 14, 2022:** Militants ambush a Pakistani military convoy in North Waziristan, near the border of Afghanistan.
The assailants open fire, killing seven soldiers. No group claims responsibility, but it is suspected by Pakistani security forces that TTP militants were behind the attack. Source: [Associated Press](#)
- **April 7, 2022:** A Pakistani anti-terrorism court sentences Hafiz Muhammad Saeed, the founder of the militant group Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT) to 31 years in connection with terrorism financing.
Saeed was found guilty of multiple breaches in two cases. However, it is uncertain how much jail time the LeT founder would serve given that he is currently incarcerated and his two previous sentences of five and a half years each run concurrently. Source: [Reuters](#)
- **March 4, 2022:** An ISIS-K militant detonates a suicide bomb at a Shiite mosque in Peshawar, Pakistan.
The explosion kills at least 56 and wounds another 194. The assailant reportedly stormed the mosque and shot dead two police guards before detonating his vest inside the main hall. Source: [Voice of America](#)
- **February 8, 2022:** Unidentified attackers throw a grenade at a bus stop in Dera Murad Jamali, in Balochistan province, killing one and wounding two others.
Source: [Associated Press](#)
- **February 6, 2022:** Militants inside Afghanistan open fire at a Pakistani border post in Pakistan's Kurram district, killing at least five soldiers.
The TTP claims responsibility. The Afghan government denies the attack came from within Afghan territory. Source: [Reuters](#)
- **February 4, 2022:** A grenade attack on a paramilitary post in Chaman, near the Afghan border, wounds at least six.
Source: [Reuters](#)
- **February 2, 2022:** BLA assailants attack Pakistani soldiers in the Naushki and Panjgur districts, killing nine.
The BLA claims responsibility for both attacks, during which 20 assailants are also killed. The BLA claims its suicide bombers had detonated explosive-laden vehicles at the entrances of the bases killing more than 100 soldiers. The Pakistani government dismisses the BLA's high casualty claims. The attacks are reportedly the biggest in recent history by Baloch separatists. On February 5, the Pakistani military announces it has killed at least 20 militants linked to the attacks. Sources: [Associated Press](#), [Reuters](#), [Reuters](#), [Al Jazeera](#)
- **January 25, 2022:** Militants attack a Pakistani army post in Sibdan, in the Kech district, north of Gwadar port, killing 10 soldiers.
The army claims to kill one of the attackers and arrest three others. The BLA claims responsibility and claims it killed 17 soldiers while one of its members was also killed. Sources: [Reuters](#), [New York Times](#)
- **January 20, 2022:** A timed device rigged to a motorcycle explodes outside a shop at the Anarkali bazar in Lahore, killing three, including a 9-year-old boy, and wounding 28 others.

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A newly formed Baloch separatist group, the Balochistan Nationalist Army, claims responsibility and that it had targeted a bank. Sources: [Reuters](#), [New York Times](#), [Associated Press](#)

- **January 17, 2022 - January 18, 2022:** Two gunmen on a motorcycle open fire on a security checkpoint in Islamabad overnight, killing a police officer and wounding two others. The militants are killed in the attack. The TTP claims responsibility on Twitter. Source: [Voice of America](#)
- **January 17, 2022:** TTP militants ambush a security checkpoint in Islamabad, killing one officer and wounding two others. That same day, TTP fighters attack the districts of Dir and North Waziristan in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province, killing two policemen. Sources: [Associated Press](#), [Voice of America](#)
- **January 14, 2022:** TTP militants attack an army post in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province, killing one soldier. Source: [Associated Press](#)
- **December 31, 2021:** Pakistani forces raid two TTP hideouts in the Tank and Waziristan districts. Ensuing gun fights leave four soldiers dead. Security forces arrest one militant and seize weapons and ammunition. Sources: [Al Jazeera](#), [Voice of America](#)
- **December 16, 2021:** Militants kill an intelligence official in Lakki Marwat district in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province. The TTP claims responsibility. Source: [Nikkei Asia](#)
- **December 14, 2021:** Gunmen on motorcycles attack a police patrol in the Pir Wadhai area of the Rawalpindi district, killing one and wounding two others. The district houses Pakistan's army headquarters. The TTP claims responsibility. Sources: [Nikkei Asia](#), [Business Standard](#)
- **December 11, 2021:** Assaultants riding a motorcycle attack a security team escorting polio vaccinators in Tank in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province, killing one and wounding another. There are no immediate claims of responsibility, but the attack comes two days after the TTP ends a ceasefire with the Pakistani government. The TTP has routinely condemned polio vaccination campaigns as government espionage. Source: [Voice of America](#)
- **December 1, 2021:** A Sri Lankan manager of a factory in Sialkot in eastern Pakistan is attacked, tortured, and killed by a large group of his employees. The workers accused the manager of blasphemy for reportedly tearing down a poster with Islamic holy verses. Videos of the bloody incident are distributed across Twitter and Facebook showing men dragging the victim while others stoned and kicked the man to death. Security forces suspect the attack was inspired by violent protests carried out by TLP a few weeks before. On April 18, 2022, an anti-terrorism court sentences suspects connected to the December murder. Six suspects are sentenced to death, nine are sentenced to life imprisonment, and 70 other culprits are handed two-year sentences. Sources: [Atlantic Council](#), [Reuters](#), [International Crisis Group](#)
- **November 27, 2021:** Unidentified militants attack a military post in the Datta Khel area of the North Waziristan district in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province, killing two. Source: [Associated Press](#)
- **November 13, 2021:** A bomb kills four soldiers and wounds another in North Waziristan. The TTP claims responsibility, calling the attack revenge for the deaths of four TTP fighters two days earlier. Militants kill two soldiers in a shootout in the Hoshab area of the Turbat district. Another soldier is killed while attempting to clear an IED. An IED kills two policemen stationed at a reservoir in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province. Six civilians are also wounded. Outside of Quetta, explosives planted in a motorcycle target a police patrol, wounding an officer and five others. The TTP denies responsibility for the other attacks and says it will continue to abide by the ceasefire it agreed to on November 8. Sources: [Reuters](#), [Reuters](#)
- **November 13, 2021:** An explosive device planted in police barracks in the Bajaur district of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province kills two. ISIS claims responsibility. Source: [Reuters](#)
- **October 27, 2021:** Unidentified gunmen attack a police patrol in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province's Lakki Marwat, killing four. The attackers escape. Source: [Associated Press](#)
- **October 21, 2021:** An IED in the Mamund area of Bajaur district kills four security personnel. Source: [Gulf News](#)
- **October 20, 2021:** A vehicle carrying security forces conducting a search operation in the northwestern Bajaur district in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province strikes an IED, killing two police officers and two members of the paramilitary Frontier Corps forces. In the Thal area of Hangu district, militants attack a security post, killing a soldier. In the southwestern district of Kech, in Balochistan province, militants attack a security checkpoint, killing a soldier. A security vehicle strikes a roadside IED, which kills four. Sources: [Al Jazeera](#), [Al Jazeera](#)
- **October 18, 2021:** A remote-controlled IED planted in a motorcycle targets a police bus at the gate of the University of Balochistan's Quetta campus, killing at least one and wounding 17 others. The fatality and at least 13 of the wounded are police officers. Sources: [Associated Press](#), [Al Jazeera](#)
- **October 11, 2021:** Journalist Shahid Zehri is killed by a magnetic bomb attached to his car while he is driving in the town of Hub. The BLA claims responsibility. Source: [Al Jazeera](#)
- ISIS-K claims responsibility for killing at least two Pakistani civilians in separate incidents after accusing the individuals of being informants to the Pakistani military. Source: [BBC News](#)
- The TTP claim 24 attacks in Pakistan. Source: [Agence France-Presse](#)
- **September 30, 2021:** ISIS militants shoot and kill 45-year-old Satnam Singh inside his herbal medicine clinic in Peshawar.

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- The gunmen escape. An ISIS claim of responsibility accuses the Sikh civilian of being a polytheist. Source: [Associated Press](#)
- **September 29, 2021:** A cross-border attack from Iran targets a Frontier Corps border post in Chukab, Balochistan, killing a Pakistani soldier and wounding another.
Source: [Al Jazeera](#)
 - **September 28, 2021:** Pakistani forces and unidentified militants engage in a shootout during a raid on a suspected insurgent hideout, resulting in the deaths of 10 militants.
The military links the militants to past attacks but does not identify to which group they belong. Source: [Associated Press](#)
 - **September 15, 2021:** Seven Pakistani soldiers and five militants are killed during an anti-TTP operation in South Waziristan.
The TTP claims responsibility and that it had ambushed the Pakistani troops. Sources: [Associated Press](#), [Dawn](#)
 - **September 5, 2021:** A suicide bomber targets a security checkpoint manned by the paramilitary Frontier Corps in Balochistan province's capital of Quetta, killing at least three and wounding 15 others.
TTP claims responsibility. Source: [Al Jazeera](#)
 - The TTP claim 37 attacks in Pakistan.
Source: [Agence France-Presse](#)
 - **August 31, 2021:** In response to the recent killing of two police officers, Pakistani forces launch a pre-dawn on an ISIS hideout in Balochistan's Mastung district, killing 11 militants.
Police seize suicide belts, hand grenades, and assault rifles. Source: [Associated Press](#)
 - **August 29, 2021:** Cross-border fire from militants in Afghanistan kill two Pakistani soldiers in Pakistan's Bajaur district.
The army claims to kill two or three of the attackers. Source: [Al Jazeera](#)
 - **August 20, 2021:** A suicide bomber attacks a motorcade in Balochistan carrying Chinese personnel, killing two local children and wounding a Chinese national.
Source: [Associated Press](#)
 - **August 19, 2021:** A roadside bomb strikes a Shiite procession in Punjab province's city of Bahawalnagar, killing at least three and wounding more than 50 people.
The procession was marking the 7th century death of Prophet Muhammad's grandson Hussein, a Shiite saint. Source: [Associated Press](#)
 - **August 14, 2021:** Militants in Karachi attack a truck carrying people returning from a wedding ceremony, killing at least nine and wounding nine others.
Karachi police chief Imran Yaqub Minhas labels the attack as an "act of terrorism." Source: [Associated Press](#)
 - The TTP claim 32 attacks in Pakistan.
Source: [Agence France-Presse](#)
 - **July 15, 2021:** A roadside bomb in Balochistan province's Pasni district kills two soldiers.
Source: [Associated Press](#)
 - **July 14, 2021:** A suicide bomber explodes aboard a bus carrying workers to a dam project in Khyber-Paktunkhwa province, sending the bus over a ravine and killing 13 people, including nine Chinese nationals.
The Pakistani government initially denies the incident resulted from a suicide bomb, calling it a vehicle failure from a gas leak. The Chinese government demands Pakistan investigate the explosion as a bombing. On August 12, the Pakistani government says the explosion resulted from a suicide bomber belonging to Islamist militants backed by the Indian and Afghan intelligence agencies. The government later accuses the TTP of responsibility, but the TTP denies involvement. Sources: [Reuters](#), [Reuters](#), [Reuters](#)
 - **June 26, 2021:** Unidentified militants kidnap 16 men installing a mobile telephone tower in the Kurram ethnic Pashtun tribal district.
The kidnapers release 10 of the hostages and then behead one. They demand a ransom for the remaining five. Pakistan's military rescues the five on July 16. Two soldiers are killed during the operation. The military does not identify the militants responsible. Source: [Reuters](#)
 - **June 25, 2021:** Unidentified militants ambush Pakistani soldiers in Balochistan province's Sangan, killing five.
Source: [Reuters](#)
 - **June 17, 2021:** Gunmen open fire on a security checkpoint near an airport in Balochistan's Turbat district, killing one soldier.
Source: [Associated Press](#)
 - **June 14, 2021:** A bomb at Marget Mines, east of Quetta, kills four soldiers.
Source: [Associated Press](#)
 - - : The TTP carries out at least 100 attacks against Pakistani security forces.
Source: [Diplomat](#)
 - **May 31, 2021:** Suspected militants attack a security post in Quetta, killing four soldiers and wounding six others.
Soldiers kill four of the attackers and wound eight others. Later in the day, a roadside bomber targets a security vehicle in Balochistan province's Turbat, wounding two soldiers. Source: [Associated Press](#)
 - **May 21, 2021:** A motorcycle bomb at a pro-Palestinian rally in Balochistan province's Chaman kills at least six and wounds 13.
Source: [Reuters](#)
 - **May 10, 2021:** Gunmen ambush a military vehicle in Quetta, killing three soldiers and wounding another.
Separately, gunmen kill four soldiers patrolling near the Iranian border in Turbat. Source: [Associated Press](#)
 - **May 5, 2021:** Militants ambush Pakistani soldiers patrolling in the Zhob district along the Afghan-Pakistan border, killing four.
Source: [Reuters](#)
 - **April 28, 2021:** A roadside bomb detonates near a police car in Qilla Abdullah in Balochistan province, killing a police officer and wounding five others.
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Source: [Associated Press](#)

- **April 21, 2021:** A car bomb explodes in the parking lot of the Serena Hotel in Quetta while Chinese ambassador to Pakistan Nong Rong is staying in the hotel, killing at least five and wounding 11. The ambassador is not present during the attack. TTP claim responsibility. “It was a suicide attack in which our suicide bomber used his explosives-filled car in the hotel,” the TTP said in a text message to Reuters. Sources: [Reuters](#), [Associated Press](#)
- **April 18, 2021:** TLP supporters attack a police station in Lahore while rallying in the city against the April 12 arrest of their leader, Saad Rizvi. The protesters also call for the expulsion of France’s ambassador over the publication in France of cartoons depicting Islam’s Prophet Muhammad. The protesters take hostage 11 officers. The protesters release the hostages the following day after negotiations with the government. Photos released of the hostages during the negotiations show they had been tortured. Source: [Associated Press](#)
- **April 12, 2021 - April 13, 2021:** On April 12, police in Lahore arrest Saad Rizvi, leader of the outlawed Islamist political party Tehreek-e-Labbaik Pakistan (TLP). The arrest is reportedly to deter TLP supporters from further demanding the expulsion of France’s ambassador over the publication of cartoons featuring Islam’s Prophet Muhammad. Rizvi had claimed the government had reached an agreement with his party to expel the ambassador by April 20, while government officials claimed they agreed only to discuss the issue in parliament. In response to Rizvi’s arrest, TLP supporters block highways and clash with police across the country over two days, killing at least four people and wounding dozens of others, including at least 60 police officers. Source: [Voice of America](#)
- **April 4, 2021:** Gunmen shoot and kill anti-terrorism judge Aftab Ahmed Afridi, his wife, and their two children while they are traveling from the Swat Valley to Islamabad. Two of Afridi’s bodyguards are also wounded. Source: [Associated Press](#)
- **March 27, 2021:** Unidentified vandals attack and damage a Hindu temple in Rawalpindi. Source: [Associated Press](#)
- **March 25, 2021:** Unidentified gunmen open fire on a passenger van in the Gilgit-Baltistan region, killing five and wounding seven. Source: [Xinhua](#)
- **March 23, 2021:** A bomb hidden in a motorcycle near an office of the Levies paramilitary force in Chaman kills at least four and wounds 13. Source: [Voice of America](#)
- **March 15, 2021:** A roadside bomb explodes in Karachi near a vehicle carrying paramilitary rangers, killing one and wounding 11. Source: [Associated Press](#)
- **March 6, 2021:** Gunmen ambush a convoy carrying navy personnel in Gwadar district in the Balochistan province, killing two and wounding one. The BLA claims responsibility. Sources: [Hindu](#), [Voice of America](#)
- **March 5, 2021:** A roadside bomb kills five and wounds five others in Balochistan province. Source: [Voice of America](#)
- **February 22, 2021:** Unidentified gunmen ambush a car carrying female Pakistani aid workers in Mir Ali in North Waziristan, killing four and wounding two, including the male driver. The aid workers are part of a program to help women develop household skills. The attackers escape into the mountains. Source: [New York Times](#)
- **February 18, 2021:** Militants attack a security checkpoint in South Waziristan, killing five and wounding one. The Pakistani Taliban claim responsibility and claim the military had been conducting an active operation against the group. Source: [New York Times](#)
- **February 11, 2021:** Militants attack a security outpost in Makeen, in South Waziristan, killing four soldiers. Four of the attackers are also killed. Source: [Associated Press](#)
- **January 20, 2021:** An IED explodes in the Sibi district of Balochistan province, killing at least four and wounding five others. The BLA claims responsibility. Source: [Xinhua](#)
- **January 15, 2021:** Pakistani soldiers clash with militants in North Waziristan. Three soldiers and two militants are killed. Source: [Al Jazeera](#)
- **January 12, 2021:** Unidentified gunmen on motorcycles shoot and kill a police officer guarding a polio vaccination team in Karak in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province. There are no other reported casualties. Since 2012, at least 102 people have been killed in attacks on polio vaccination teams and those guarding them. Source: [Al Jazeera](#)
- **January 6, 2021:** Afghanistan-based militants fire across the border at a security checkpoint in Pakistan’s Mohmand district, killing one. Source: [Anadolu Agency](#)
- **January 3, 2021:** Militants attack a coal mine in the Mach area of Bolan district in Balochistan province, abducting and then killing 11 of Pakistan’s Shiite Hazara minority. Four others are wounded. ISIS claims responsibility. Sources: [New York Times](#), [Reuters](#)
- **December 30, 2020:** A mob attacks and sets on fire a Hindu temple in the Karak district of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province. No casualties are reported but the temple is heavily damaged. The mob is led by a local cleric and supporters of the Jamiat Ulema-e-Islam party who were protesting the temple’s alleged expansion. Pakistani police arrest more than one dozen people. Sources: [CNN](#), [Al Jazeera](#)
- **December 29, 2020:** Unidentified militants throw a grenade at a security vehicle belonging to the paramilitary Frontier Corps in Sorab, wounding 14 passersby. Source: [Associated Press](#)

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- **December 26, 2020:** Militants attack a security checkpoint in Harnai, in Balochistan, killing at least seven Pakistani paramilitary soldiers.
Source: [Deutsche Welle](#)
 - **December 4, 2020:** A timed explosive near a bus terminal in Rawalpindi kills one and wounds seven others.
Source: [Al Arabiya](#)
 - **October 27, 2020:** A bomb kills at least seven and wounds more than 50 at a religious school in Peshawar.
Source: [BBC News](#)
 - **October 25, 2020:** A remote-controlled bomb attached to a motorcycle kills at least three and wounds at least seven at a fruit market in Quetta.
Sources: [Nation](#), [The News](#)
 - **October 15, 2020:** Militants attack a convoy belonging to the Oil and Gas Development Company in Balochistan province, killing at least 14 paramilitary and private security guards.
The separatist alliance Baloch Raji Ajoi Sangar claims responsibility, calling drilling in the area without permission of the people unacceptable. Separately, a roadside bomb kills six soldiers near Razmak, in North Waziristan. The Pakistani Taliban claim responsibility for that attack.
Source: [New York Times](#)
 - **October 10, 2020:** Three gunmen on a shared motorcycle kill Islamic cleric Maulana Adil Khan and his driver in Karachi.
The gunmen escape. Prime Minister Imran Khan accuses India of attempting to create sectarian conflict in Pakistan. Source: [Associated Press](#)
 - **August 5, 2020:** A grenade wounds at least 30 at a rally in Karachi marking the first anniversary of India's revocation of Kashmir's semi-autonomy.
The SRA claims responsibility. Source: [Reuters](#)
 - **July 29, 2020:** A cross-border attack from Afghanistan kills a Pakistan soldier in Bajur near the Afghan border.
Source: [Anadolu Agency](#)
 - **June 29, 2020:** Four gunmen armed with grenades attack the Pakistan Stock Exchange in Karachi, killing two guards and a policeman before security forces kill them.
The BLA claims responsibility. Pakistani Prime Minister Imran Khan accuses India of responsibility for the attack. Source: [Al Jazeera](#)
 - **June 19, 2020:** Sindhudesh Revolutionary Army (SRA) militants launch three consecutive explosions in Sindh province, southern Pakistan.
The attacks kill four people and injure over a dozen others. The SRA is a secessionist group that seeks to break from the Pakistan Federation.
Source: [Reuters](#)
 - **June 12, 2020:** A bomb detonates near Kabari Bazar in Rawalpindi.
At least one person is killed and 12 others are wounded. No group claims responsibility for the attack, but it is expected the area was targeted given the proximity to the headquarters of the Pakistan Army. Source: [Anadolu Agency](#)
 - **May 27, 2020:** Two gunmen open fire on policemen at a roadside checkpoint outside of Islamabad.
The attack kills two. Hizbul Ahrar, a splinter group of the Pakistani Taliban, claims responsibility for the attack. Source: [Associated Press](#)
 - **May 12, 2020:** Counterterrorism officers arrest two ISIS militants in Bahawalnagar district.
The militants allegedly sought to carry out an IED attack on a "sensitive installation" in Bahawalnagar. Source: [Telangana Today](#)
 - **May 10, 2020:** A roadside bomb detonates in Balochistan, southwestern Pakistan.
The explosion targeted a vehicle belonging to security personnel. The attack kills six soldiers and wounds one other. The BLA claims responsibility for the attack. Source: [Statesman](#)
 - **April 17, 2020:** A JeM terrorist captured by Afghanistan's security forces claims that Pakistan has reactivated Taliban camps along the Afghanistan-Pakistan border, and that the militants are being trained to launch attacks in Kashmir as well as on Indian assets in Afghanistan.
It is also alleged that the captured terrorist and his fellow militants were infected with coronavirus and sought to spread the virus into Kashmir.
Sources: [Zee News](#), [DNA India](#)
 - **April 10, 2020:** The Hindustan Times reports that Pakistan-based jihadist groups have activated launch pads along the Line of Control (LoC) in Kashmir and the international border in Jammu.
According to intelligence collected by national security investigators, around 160 LeT, JeM, and Hizbul Mujahideen (HM) militants are in position to infiltrate the region. Source: [Hindustan Times](#)
 - **April 7, 2020:** The Indian army launches an operation in Keran, Kashmir, targeting suspected terrorists who infiltrated the area from Pakistan.
At least five special force members are killed as well as five terrorists. Source: [Hindustan Times](#)
 - **March 29, 2020:** An Indian intelligence agency claims that two suspected terrorists from Pakistan sought to carry out a terror attack in New Delhi.
The terrorists were originally operating in the Shopian region of Jammu and Kashmir and had allegedly pledged allegiance to ISIS, according to Telegram communication accessed by the intelligence agency. Source: [Times of India](#)
 - **March 19, 2020:** U.S. federal agents arrest a Pakistani national at the Minneapolis-St. Paul International Airport on a terrorism charge.
Paid FBI informants allege that the suspect, Muhammad Masoon, had claimed to pledge allegiance to ISIS and that he sought to carry out lone wolf attacks in the United States. Sources: [U.S. News](#), [Voice of America](#)
 - **March 4, 2020:** India's National Investigation Agency (NIA) arrests a father-daughter duo with ties to two Pakistani terrorists who carried out the February 2019 Pulwama terror attack.
Tariq Ahmad Shah and his daughter Insha Jan allegedly sheltered all of the JeM terrorists who planned the attack. The duo also allegedly assisted in recording the assailant's video that was released after the attack. Source: [Economic Times](#)
 - **February 21, 2020 - February 25, 2020:** On February 21, an assailant with a hammer randomly bludgeons a woman to death in Toronto, Canada.
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The assailant, Saad Akhtar, is a Pakistani national, turned himself in to Toronto Police a few hours after the attack. On February 25, after uncovering unreported statements from Akhtar regarding ISIS, Canadian police charge Akhtar with “murder-terrorist activity.” Sources: [National Post](#), [Global News](#)

- **February 19, 2020:** A Pakistani anti-terrorism court sentences three members of Jamaat-ul-Ahrar to death for their involvement in the 2014 Wagah border bombing that killed over 60 people.
Sources: [New Indian Express](#), [The Hindu](#)
- **February 17, 2020:** A suicide blast targets a religious rally in Quetta, southwestern Pakistan. The attack kills at least eight and injures at least 20 others. The rally was organized by Ahle Sunnat Wal Jammāt (ASWJ), a radical Sunni Muslim political party that has long called for Shia Muslims to be declared “non-Muslim” under Pakistani law. No group claims responsibility for the attack. The attack took place in a province that is continually plagued by both a low-level Baloch separatist insurgency and militants linked to proscribed terrorist groups including ISIS. Source: [Voice of America](#)
- **February 12, 2020:** An antiterrorism court in Pakistan convicts Hafiz Muhammad Saeed on terrorism-related charges and sentences him to two prison terms of five and a half years, which will run concurrently, and a \$194 fine (30,000 rupees). Saeed is found guilty of having links with terrorist groups, raising funds for terrorism, and having illegal property. Source: [New York Times](#)
- **January 11, 2020:** Former Pakistani Taliban spokesman, Ehsanullah Ehasn, escapes from a maximum-security military prison after detained for three years. Ehsan, a high-profile local Taliban figure, announced and justified the 2012 attack on Malala Yousafzai, and also claimed responsibility on behalf of the Taliban for scores of attacks. Source: [Reuters](#)
- **August 30, 2019:** Pakistani-born, current New York resident, Awais Chudhary, is arrested and charged by a Brooklyn federal court of plotting a terrorist attack with a knife on behalf of ISIS. Chudhary communicated with undercover FBI agents in text messages, telling them he planned to carry out a stabbing or bombing to kill innocent people in the name of ISIS and wanted to record it to “inspire” others. Chudhary faces up to 20 years in prison if convicted. Source: [Fox News](#)
- **August 16, 2019:** A bomb explodes at the Al-Haj mosque in Quetta, killing four and wounding 25. Among the fatalities is the brother of Afghan Taliban chief Mullah Haybatullah. Sources: [Dawn](#), [U.S. Department of State](#)
- **August 6, 2019:** Following India’s revocation of Kashmir’s autonomy, Pakistani military forces and Prime Minister Imran Khan warn of the potential rise of extremist activity in the Muslim-majority region as Kashmiris and rebels support either an independent Kashmir or having the state unified under Pakistan. Source: [Telegraph](#)
- **August 3, 2019:** India claims that Pakistan is planning a terrorist attack against Hindu pilgrims heading to the Amarnath shrine in Kashmir. Indian forces claim they found ammunition and weapon filled mines covered in Pakistani ordinance markings along the route of the pilgrimage. The annual event attracts over 20,000 pilgrims and thousands of more tourists a year. Source: [BBC News](#)
- **July 21, 2019:** The Taliban carries out twin attacks in Dera Ismail Khan, northwestern Pakistan. An unidentified number of gunmen attack a security checkpoint while a suicide bomber targets a hospital. At least 10 are killed and another 30 are wounded. TTP takes responsibility and claims the attacks are carried out to avenge the killing of one of its militants in the district the previous month. Sources: [New York Times](#), [U.S. Department of State](#)
- **July 7, 2019:** Counterterrorism forces arrest Ali Nawaz, a man accused of funding al-Qaeda militants through funds from Human Concern International, a non-governmental organization. Source: [Associated Press](#)
- **July 4, 2019:** Pakistan, under pressure from the United States and the Financial Action Task Force, prosecutes Hafiz Muhammad Saeed on charges of terrorism financing. Pakistani officials register 23 cases against Saeed and more than a dozen of his associates after discovering that two charities—Jamaat-ud-Dawa and Falah-e-Isaniat Foundation—were fronts for the banned Lashkar-e-Taiba group he founded. Lashkar-e-Taiba carried out the deadly 2008 Mumbai attacks which killed more than 160 people. Source: [New York Times](#)
- **June 23, 2019:** Counterterrorism police officials kill a Taliban militant during a raid at his compound in Dera Ismail Khan. Source: [New York Times](#)
- **June 6, 2019:** An unidentified number of gunmen open fire on a paramilitary vehicle in Quetta, killing two troops before fleeing. It is not clear if the attackers belonged to any militant group although Quetta is targeted in a low-level insurgency by Baloch separatists. Source: [Associated Press](#)
- **May 24, 2019:** Militants remotely detonate a bomb inside a mosque in Quetta. The attack kills three people and injures another 28. No group claims responsibility. Source: [Al Jazeera](#)
- **May 14, 2019:** A bomb detonates near two police vehicles in Quetta. At least four policemen are killed and an unreported number are wounded. The BLA claims responsibility for the attack. Source: [Al Jazeera](#)
- **May 13, 2019:** Militants remote detonate a bomb hidden under a motorbike in Quetta. Four police officers are killed and nine are wounded. Tehrik-e Taliban claims responsibility for the attack. Source: [The Defense Post](#)
- **May 11, 2019:** Three members of the separatist BLA raid and open fire on the Pearl Continental luxury hotel in Gwadar, Balochistan. Eight people, including the three attackers, are killed and another six are injured. The army’s media wing, the Inter-Services Public Relations (ISPR) claims the group targeted the Chinese-owned hotel to target foreign investors. Sources: [U.S. Department of State](#), [BBC News](#)
- **May 8, 2019:** A suicide bomber detonates at the Data Darbar Sufi shrine in Lahore, killing at least 10 and wounding at least 24.

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- TTP faction Hizbul Ahrar claims responsibility and claims law enforcement, not civilians, were the target. Source: [U.S. Department of State](#)
- **April 28, 2019:** A bomb detonates near a security checkpoint in North Waziristan. Three security personnel are killed and one is injured. No one claims responsibility for the attack but the area is known as a stronghold for the Taliban. Source: [Associated Press](#)
 - **April 18, 2019:** Dozens of gunmen ambush a passenger bus in Balochistan, killing 14. Authorities suspect the BLA is responsible for the attack. It is suspected that the victims were targeted for either belonging to the Pakistani security forces or belonging to the Punjabi ethnic group. Source: [Independent](#)
 - **April 16, 2019:** Security forces raid a militant hideout in Peshawar, triggering a 15-hour shootout. Six people are killed, including five militants. Source: [Associated Press](#)
 - **April 12, 2019:** A bomb explodes in a vegetable market in Quetta, killing at least 20 and wounding at least 48. At least nine of the dead are part of the minority Shiite Hazara community, which has been targeted in the past. Lashkar-e-Jhangvi claims responsibility. Sources: [New York Times](#), [CNN](#)
 - **February 18, 2019:** Gunmen attack a security outpost in Panjgur district of the Balochistan province, killing four paramilitary soldiers. Pakistani authorities suspect Balochistan separatists. Source: [Reuters](#)
 - **February 12, 2019:** Gunmen open fire on a police vehicle in in the Dera Ismail Khan district of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province, killing four officers. The TTP splinter group Hizbul Ahrar claims responsibility. Source: [Reuters](#)
 - **January 29, 2019:** Three suicide bombers attack the Deputy Inspector General Police office compound in Loralai in the Balochistan province, killing at least nine and injuring 21. Two of the bombers are shot before they can set off their explosives. TTP claims responsibility. Source: [Voice of America](#)
 - **January 5, 2019 - January 6, 2019:** On January 5, a car bomb in a market area of Peshawar wounds four people. On January 6, two roadside bombs wound eight in the Balochistan province. There are no immediate claims of responsibility for any of the attacks. Sources: [Xinhua](#), [Associated Press](#)
 - **January 4, 2019:** A car bomb explodes outside a mosque in Peshawar, wounding three. There are no immediate claims of responsibility. Source: [Associated Press](#)
 - **January 1, 2019:** Gunmen attack a training facility belonging to the paramilitary Frontier Corps in Loralai district in the Balochistan province, killing at least four and wounding two. Four of the gunmen are killed, including one who detonates a suicide vest. There are no immediate claims of responsibility. Source: [Reuters](#)
 - **November 23, 2018:** Three militants attack the Chinese consulate in Karachi, killing two police officers and two civilians at a checkpoint. The attackers are killed by security forces. The separatist group BLA claims responsibility in a Twitter post. Later that day, a bomb explodes in a fruit and vegetable market in the town of Kalaya in the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province, killing at least 30 and wounding 40. There are no immediate claims of responsibility. In January 2019, Pakistan accuses Indian spy agency Research and Analysis Wing of involvement in the attack on the Chinese consulate. India denies the allegation. Sources: [New York Times](#), [India Today](#)
 - **October 31, 2018 - :** Following the Supreme Court of Pakistan's October 31, 2018 acquittal of Asia Bibi, a Christian woman accused of blasphemy for insulting Islam's Prophet Muhammad, TLP supporters launch protests across the country. TLP leader and founder Khadim Hussain Rizvi demands that the government put Bibi to death and states the demonstrations will continue until the government accepts their demands. Concessions from the government include promises to challenge Bibi's acquittal and putting her name on an exit control list. After threatening to continue with their protests if further demands are not honored, Rizvi and other leaders of the group are then taken into "protective custody." On November 12, 2018, an anti-terrorism court in Lahore charges Rizvi with sedition and terrorism for delivering anti-state speeches and inciting violence. Rizvi is ultimately released on bail in March 2019 due to good behavior. Sources: [Geo News](#), [Dawn](#), [Dawn](#), [Guardian](#)
 - **August 11, 2018:** A suicide bomber in a pick-up truck attacks a bus carrying Chinese mining workers in the Balochistan province, wounding five. The BLA claims responsibility. Sources: [New York Times](#), [Reuters](#)
 - **July 25, 2018:** More than 30 people are killed in multiple attacks during Pakistan's national elections. An ISIS suicide bomber explodes outside a polling station in Quetta in the Balochistan province, killing at least 31 and wounding more than 30. A grenade attack in Balochistan's Khuzdar district kills one. There are no immediate claims of responsibility. A shooting between political rivals in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province also leaves one dead. Sources: [CNN](#), [BBC News](#)
 - **July 13, 2018:** A suicide bomber explodes at a political rally for the Balochistan Awami Party in the Mastung district of Balochistan, killing at least 149 and wounding more than 180. ISIS claims responsibility. It is the third deadliest attack in Pakistan's history behind the 2008 Karsaz bombing and the 2014 attack on a school in Peshawar. Separately, a bombing at a campaign event of the JUI-F party in the northwest town of Banmu kills at least four and wounding 19. There are no immediate claims of responsibility for the Banmu bombing. On July 20, Pakistani forces kill Hidayat Ullah, the alleged mastermind of the Balochistan bombing. Sources: [Al Jazeera](#), [Wall Street Journal](#), [Reuters](#), [Agence France-Presse](#)
 - **July 10, 2018:** A suicide bomber explodes at a campaign rally for the anti-Taliban Awami National Party (ANP) in Peshawar, killing 20 people and wounding 69 others. The TTP claims responsibility. Among the fatalities is ANP provincial candidate Haroon Bilour, whose father was killed in a Taliban bombing ahead of Pakistan's 2013 elections. The Peshawar bombing is the first such attack ahead of the July 25 general elections. Sources: [Al Jazeera](#), [Reuters](#), [New York Times](#)
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- **December 17, 2017:** Two suicide bombers target a church in Quetta where hundreds of worshippers are attending prayer services, killing nine and injuring dozens.
One attacker is shot outside of the church, while the second reaches the church’s entrance hall and opens fire before detonating an explosive vest. ISIS claims responsibility for the attack. Source: [Associated Press](#)
- **December 1, 2017:** TTP gunmen attack the Agricultural Training Institute in Peshawar, killing nine people—including six students—and wounding 37 others.
Sources: [South Asia Terrorism Portal](#), [Al Jazeera](#)
- **October 5, 2017:** A suicide bomber targets a religious shrine in Fatehpur, a small town in the Balochistan district, killing 24 people and wounding 30 others.
Source: [South Asia Terrorism Portal](#)
- **August 12, 2017:** A suicide bomber targets a military truck at a bus stop in Quetta, killing 15 people—including eight soldiers—and wounding 40 others.
Source: [South Asia Terrorism Portal](#)
- **July 26, 2017:** The TTP conducts two coordinated suicide attacks against a Shiite market in Kurram Agency of the FATA, killing 60 persons and wounding 180 others.
The attack is allegedly an attempt to avenge Shia attacks on Sunni Muslims in Iraq and Syria. Source: [Stanford University](#)
- **July 24, 2017:** A suicide bomber targets a commercial building in Lahore, killing 26 people—including nine policemen—and wounding 56 others.
Source: [South Asia Terrorism Portal](#)
- **June 24, 2017:** In Kurram Agency of the FATA, the TTP launches back-to-back explosions at a market crowded with people shopping in preparation for a religious holiday, killing 67 people and wounding 200 others.
Sources: [South Asia Terrorism Portal](#), [Stanford University](#)
- **June 23, 2017:** In a joint operation, JuA and ISIS carry out a suicide car bombing outside of the office of the Balochistan police chief, killing 13 and wounding 20.
Source: [Stanford University](#)
- **May 21, 2017:** A suicide attack in Balochistan targets a convoy carrying politician and Senate deputy chairman Mualana Abdul Ghafoor Haider, killing 27 people and wounding 40 others.
Source: [South Asia Terrorism Portal](#)
- **March 31, 2017:** A JuA suicide bomber targets a market in Kurram Agency of the FATA, killing 24 people and wounding 100 others.
Sources: [South Asia Terrorism Portal](#), [South Asia Terrorism Portal](#)
- **February 21, 2017:** JuA terrorists wearing suicide vests attack a court in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, along Pakistan’s northern border with Afghanistan, killing seven people—including a lawyer and an eight-year-old boy—and wounding 25 others.
Sources: [South Asia Terrorism Portal](#), [South Asia Terrorism Portal](#)
- **February 16, 2017:** A suicide bomber targets a crowded Sufi shrine in Jamshoro District in Sindh, killing 88 people are killed and wounding 343 others.
ISIS claims responsibility for the attack. Sources: [South Asia Terrorism Portal](#), [Asian Studies Association of Australia](#), [Al Jazeera](#)
- **February 13, 2017:** A suicide bomber targets a public protest in Lahore, killing 14 people—including six policemen—and wounding 85 others.
Source: [South Asia Terrorism Portal](#)
- **January 21, 2017:** A bomb explodes at a vegetable market in Kurram Agency in the Federally Administered Tribal Areas, killing at least 25 people and wounding at least 87 others.
Source: [South Asia Terrorism Portal](#)
- **November 12, 2016:** A suicide bomber kills 53 people and injures more than 100 others at the shrine of Sufi saint Shah Bilal Noorani in Balochistan.
A LeJ affiliate and ISIS-K both claim responsibility. Sources: [U.S. Department of State](#), [South Asia Terrorism Portal](#)
- **October 24, 2016:** Three militants storm a police training center in Quetta with gunfire and suicide vests, killing at least 60 people with gunfire and wounding 164 others.
A LeJ affiliate and ISIS-K both claim responsibility, and the TTP is also suspected. Sources: [U.S. Department of State](#), [South Asia Terrorism Portal](#), [Stanford University](#)
- **October 7, 2016:** Two coordinated bomb blasts target railway tracks in Balochistan, killing six people and injuring 19 others.
Source: [Al Jazeera](#)
- **September 16, 2016:** A suicide bomber targets a mosque in the Mohmand Tribal District, killing at least 36 people and injuring at least 37 others. JuA claims responsibility.
Sources: [U.S. Department of State](#), [Stanford University](#), [South Asia Terrorism Portal](#)
- **August 8, 2016:** A bomb kills 70 people at a hospital in Quetta where lawyers had gathered to mourn the assassination of a prominent colleague.
The JuA faction of the TTP and ISIS-K both claim responsibility. Sources: [U.S. Department of State](#), [Stanford University](#), [Stanford University](#), [South Asia Terrorism Portal](#)
- **March 27, 2016:** A suicide bomber targets Christians celebrating Easter at Gulshan-e-Iqbal Park in Lahore, killing 74 people and wounding 300 others. The JuA faction of the TTP claims responsibility.
Sources: [U.S. Department of State](#), [Stanford University](#), [Stanford University](#), [South Asia Terrorism Portal](#)

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- **March 15, 2016:** A power bomb rips through a bus carrying government employees in Peshawar, the provincial capital of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, killing 15 people and wounding 25 others.
Source: [South Asia Terrorism Portal](#)
 - **March 7, 2016:** A teenage JuA suicide bomber kills 17 people—including six women, two children, and two policemen—and injures 23 others in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa.
Sources: [Stanford University](#), [South Asia Terrorism Portal](#)
 - **January 20, 2016:** TTP militants storm Bacha Khan University in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, located in northwestern Pakistan along the border with Afghanistan, killing at least 30 people and injuring at least 50 others.
Sources: [Guardian](#), [Indian Express](#)
 - **January 19, 2016:** A suicide bomber targets military personnel in Khyber Agency in the FATA, killing 12 people—including a journalist—and wounding 39 others.
Source: [South Asia Terrorism Portal](#)
 - **January 13, 2016:** A suicide bomber targets a government health center in Quetta, Balochistan, killing one civilian and 14 police and military personnel, and wounding 25 others.
Source: [South Asia Terrorism Portal](#)
 - **December 29, 2015:** A JuA suicide bomber targets a government building in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, killing 26 people and wounding 50 others.
Sources: [Stanford University](#), [South Asia Terrorism Portal](#)
 - **December 13, 2015:** A bomb attack on a marketplace in Parachinar town in the Kurram tribal area kills at least 25 people and injures at least 62 others.
LeJ claims responsibility, stating that the attack targeted unspecified Shia elements who support Syrian President Assad and the Iranian government. Ansar-ul-Mujahideen, a group based in South Waziristan, also claims responsibility. Source: [South Asia Terrorism Portal](#)
 - **October 23, 2015:** A suicide bomber targets a Shia mourning procession near a park in Sindh Province, killing 22 people—including eight children—and wounding 40 others.
Source: [South Asia Terrorism Portal](#)
 - **October 19, 2015:** A bomb explodes inside a local city bus in Quetta, Balochistan, killing 11 people—including two children—and wounding 20 others.
Source: [South Asia Terrorism Portal](#)
 - **May 13, 2015:** Unidentified militants open fire on a bus near the Dow Medical College in Karachi, killing 45 Shia and wounding 24.
Source: [South Asia Terrorism Portal](#)
 - **April 26, 2015:** A bomb explodes near a vegetable market in Balochistan, killing four people and wounding 20 others.
Source: [South Asia Terrorism Portal](#)
 - **April 10, 2015:** Unidentified militants attack a labor camp in Balochistan, killing 20 laborers and wounding three others.
Source: [South Asia Terrorism Portal](#)
 - **March 28, 2015:** AQIS militants assassinate Pakistani Army Colonel Tariq Azim in a “targeting killing operation.”
Source: [Australian National Security](#)
 - **March 15, 2015:** Two suicide bombers target two churches in Lahore, killing 15 people—including 13 Christians and two policemen—and wounding 70 others.
Source: [South Asia Terrorism Portal](#)
 - **February 13, 2015:** A gun and bomb attack targets Shia worshippers in Peshawar, killing 22 people and wounding 50 others.
Source: [South Asia Terrorism Portal](#)
 - **January 9, 2015:** Eight persons are killed and 25 others are wounded in a bomb blast in Rawalpindi, Punjab.
Source: [South Asia Terrorism Portal](#)
 - **December 16, 2014:** TTP militants storm an Army-run children’s school in Peshawar, killing at least 143 people—including 134 children—and wounding over 121 others.
Sources: [South Asia Terrorism Portal](#), [Stanford University](#)
 - **November 2, 2014:** A JuA suicide bomber targets a military checkpoint in Punjab, killing at least 61 people and wounding at least 150 others.
Sources: [South Asia Terrorism Portal](#), [Stanford University](#)
 - **October 4, 2014:** A suicide bomber targets shoppers preparing for a religious holiday in Quetta, Balochistan, killing five people and wounding 12 others.
Source: [South Asia Terrorism Portal](#)
 - **September 8, 2014:** Professor Mohammed Shakil Auj, who teaches Islamic studies at the University of Karachi and known for his liberal views, is shot dead.
The attack is later claimed by AQIS. Sources: [Guardian](#), [Long War Journal](#)
 - **September 6, 2014:** AQIS gunmen assassinate Brigadier Fazal Zahoor, a senior commander in the Pakistani military.
The same day, AQIS militants also attempt to hijack two Pakistani and two U.S. naval ships, but the operation is thwarted by the Pakistani Navy. Sources: [Stanford University](#), [Australian National Security](#)
 - **June 8, 2014:** In a joint operation with the Islamic Movement of Uzbekistan, 10 TTP-led militants conduct a five-hour long siege at Jinnah International Airport in Karachi, killing 18 people and wounding 26 others.
Source: [Stanford University](#)
 - **April 25, 2014:** A bomb explodes on a road in Karachi, killing six people and wounding 30 others.
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According to a security official, a busload of worshippers may have been the target. Police suspect LeJ of involvement. Source: [South Asia Terrorism Portal](#)

- **April 8, 2014:** Seventeen people are killed, including a woman and five children, and 44 others are hurt when a passenger train is bombed in Balochistan.
Source: [South Asia Terrorism Portal](#)
- **February 16, 2014:** A bomb attack causes a train to derail in Sindh Province, killing six people—including four children—and injuring 35 others.
Source: [South Asia Terrorism Portal](#)
- **February 11, 2014:** Three back-to-back explosions at a cinema in Peshawar kill 13 people and injure 19 others.
Source: [South Asia Terrorism Portal](#)
- **February 4, 2014:** A suicide bomber targets a restaurant in Peshawar, killing nine people and wounding 40 others.
Source: [South Asia Terrorism Portal](#)
- **January 21, 2014:** A bomb targets a bus in the Khusak area of Kanak in Mastung District, killing at least 24 Shia pilgrims returning from Iran and wounding at least 40 others. LeJ claims responsibility.
Source: [South Asia Terrorism Portal](#)
- **January 1, 2014:** A suicide bombing targets Shia pilgrims in Quetta, killing three people and wounding 30 others.
Source: [South Asia Terrorism Portal](#)
- **September 29, 2013:** A bomb explodes at a market in Peshawar, killing 42 people and wounding at least 100 others.
Source: [South Asia Terrorism Portal](#)
- **September 22, 2013:** Two TTP suicide attackers target a church in Peshawar, killing 81 and wounding at least 145 others.
Sources: [South Asia Terrorism Portal](#), [Stanford University](#)
- **August 8, 2013:** A suicide bombing targets a funeral in Quetta, Balochistan, killing 38 people and wounding at least 40 others.
Source: [South Asia Terrorism Portal](#)
- **August 7, 2013:** A suicide bombing targets a football stadium in Karachi, killing 11 people and wounding 26 others.
Source: [South Asia Terrorism Portal](#)
- **July 26, 2013:** Twin suicide attacks in Kurram Agency of the FATA kill 26 and wound at least 160.
Source: [South Asia Terrorism Portal](#)
- **June 18, 2013:** A suicide bomber targets a funeral service in Mardan District, killing 35 people and wounding 57 others.
Source: [South Asia Terrorism Portal](#)
- **June 15, 2013:** Unidentified militants detonate bombs targeting a university bus and a medical college hospital in Quetta, killing 24 people—including 14 female nurses—and wounding 27 others.
Source: [South Asia Terrorism Portal](#)
- **May 17, 2013:** Separate bomb blasts at two mosques in Malakand District in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa kill 21 people and injure 120 others.
Source: [South Asia Terrorism Portal](#)
- **April 29, 2013:** A suicide bomb attack on University Road in Peshawar kills 10 people—including an Afghan diplomat and a journalist—and injures 60 others.
Source: [South Asia Terrorism Portal](#)
- **April 23, 2013:** Three bomb blasts in Quetta injure six people. LeJ claims responsibility.
Source: [South Asia Terrorism Portal](#)
- **March 22, 2013:** A bombing near a market in Jaffarabad District kills ten people—including two children—and injures 37 others.
Source: [South Asia Terrorism Portal](#)
- **March 21, 2013:** A car bomb targets an internally displaced persons camp in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, killing 17 people and wounding 34 others.
Source: [South Asia Terrorism Portal](#)
- **March 18, 2013:** Two suicide bombers target a judicial building in Peshawar, killing four people—including a policeman and three civilians—and injuring 49 others.
Source: [South Asia Terrorism Portal](#)
- **March 9, 2013:** A remote-controlled bomb detonates inside a mosque in Peshawar, killing six people and injuring 30 others.
Source: [South Asia Terrorism Portal](#)
- **March 3, 2013:** A bomb explodes in a Shiite-majority neighborhood in Karachi during a religious ceremony, killing 48 people and wounding 70 others.
Source: [South Asia Terrorism Portal](#)
- **February 16, 2013:** A bomb blast in Quetta kills 84 people and injures 200 others. Claiming responsibility, a LeJ spokesman says, “Our suicide bomber carried out the blast and the Shia community was the target.” Source: [South Asia Terrorism Portal](#)
- **February 8, 2013:** A bomb blast kills 16 and injures 27 in Kalaya, the capital of Orakzai Agency in the FATA.
Source: [South Asia Terrorism Portal](#)
- **January 1, 2013:** A suicide bomber targets a mosque just after Friday prayers in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, killing 28 Shia and wounding 46.
Source: [South Asia Terrorism Portal](#)
- **January 10, 2013:** Two separate bomb blasts on Alamdar Road in Quetta kill 105 people and injure 169 others.

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That same day, a bomb in Quetta explodes under a security force vehicle, killing 12 people and wounding 47 others. LeJ claims responsibility for that bombing. Source: [South Asia Terrorism Portal](#), [South Asia Terrorism Portal](#)

- **January 1, 2013:** An IED explodes in Karachi, killing four people and wounding 50 others.
Source: [South Asia Terrorism Portal](#)
- **December 29, 2012:** A bomb targeting an intercity bus in Peshawar kills six people—including a woman and a child—and injures 50 others.
Source: [South Asia Terrorism Portal](#)
- **December 22, 2012:** A suicide bomber explodes during an Awami National Party rally in Peshawar, killing at least nine and wounding 17 others.
Among the fatalities is Provincial Minister Bashir Bilour. The Taliban claim responsibility. Source: [Agence France-Presse](#)
- **December 17, 2012:** A car bomb targeting a market in Khyber Agency in the FATA kills 19 people—including women and children—and injures 71 others.
Source: [South Asia Terrorism Portal](#)
- **November 21, 2012:** A suicide bomber targets a funeral procession in the Rawalpindi District of Punjab, killing 20 people and wounding 30 others.
Source: [South Asia Terrorism Portal](#)
- **October 9, 2012:** A TTP gunman shoots Malala Yousafzai, a 15-year-old advocate for female education, on a school bus. Yousafzai survives the gunshot wound to her head, and the incident spurs international attention and outrage. Source: [Stanford University](#)
- **September 16, 2012:** A remote-controlled bomb destroys a passenger van in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, killing 16 people and wounding 13 others.
Source: [South Asia Terrorism Portal](#)
- **September 10, 2012:** A suicide bombing targets a crowded market in Kurram Agency in the FATA, killing 15 people and wounding 40 others.
Source: [South Asia Terrorism Portal](#)
- **September 3, 2012:** A suicide bomber targets a vehicle used by Americans in Peshawar, killing four people—including two Americans—and wounding 19 others.
Source: [South Asia Terrorism Portal](#)
- **July 26, 2012:** An explosives-laden truck explodes in a market in Bajaur Agency in the FATA, killing 15 people and wounding 23 others.
Source: [South Asia Terrorism Portal](#)
- **June 28, 2012:** A suicide attack in Quetta targets a bus full of pilgrims returning from Iran, killing 15 people and wounding 30 others. LeJ claims responsibility.
Source: [South Asia Terrorism Portal](#)
- **June 18, 2012:** A powerful bomb explodes near a bus approaching the Balochistan University of Information Technology in Quetta, killing five Shia students and a professor and wounding 54 others.
Source: [South Asia Terrorism Portal](#)
- **June 7, 2012:** A remote-controlled bomb targets a religious school in Quetta, killing fifteen people—including five children—and injuring 48 others.
Source: [South Asia Terrorism Portal](#)
- **May 4, 2012:** A suicide attack targeting security in Bajaur Agency in the FATA forces kills 29 people—including four policemen—and injures 73 others.
Source: [South Asia Terrorism Portal](#)
- **March 11, 2012:** A suicide bomber targeting a funeral in Peshawar kills 17 people and injures 32 others.
Source: [South Asia Terrorism Portal](#)
- **March 2, 2012:** A suicide bomber targets a mosque in the Tirah Valley in Khyber Agency of the FATA, killing 25 people and injuring 18 others.
Source: [South Asia Terrorism Portal](#)
- **February 23, 2012:** A car bomb attack on a bus stop in Peshawar kills 15 people—including two children—and injures 38 others.
Source: [South Asia Terrorism Portal](#)
- **February 17, 2012:** A suicide bomber targets a mosque in Kurram Agency in the FATA, killing 40 Shia and wounding 24.
Source: [South Asia Terrorism Portal](#)
- **January 15, 2012:** A bomb attack targets a procession marking a religious observance in Rahim Yar Khan District, killing 18 Shia and wounding 30.
Source: [South Asia Terrorism Portal](#)
- **January 10, 2012:** A bomb planted in a pick-up truck explodes at a petrol station in a market in Khyber Agency in the FATA, killing 35 people and injuring 78 others.
Source: [South Asia Terrorism Portal](#)
- **September 20, 2011:** LeJ militants kill 29 Shia in two separate attacks.
The first attack, in the Ganjiodori area of Mastung District, targets Shia pilgrims en route to a town on the Iranian border. The militants order the pilgrims off of a bus, line them up, and shoot them indiscriminately. An hour later, militants kill three people in Quetta on their way to collect the bodies of relatives killed in the Ganjiodori attack. Source: [South Asia Terrorism Portal](#)
- **August 19, 2011:** The TTP carries out a suicide bombing during prayers at a mosque in Khyber Agency of the FATA, killing 56 and wounding 123.
Source: [Stanford University](#)

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- **July 29, 2011:** LeJ militants kill seven people—including four Shia—waiting at a bus terminal in Taftan.
Source: [South Asia Terrorism Portal](#)
- **May 18, 2011:** Gunmen kill seven Shia and wound six others in Quetta. LeJ claims responsibility.
Source: [South Asia Terrorism Portal](#)
- **May 3, 2011:** The TTP carries out a suicide bombing against a police cadet training center in revenge for the killing of Osama Bin Laden, killing 98 people and wounding 115 others.
Source: [Stanford University](#)
- **April 3, 2011:** Two TTP suicide bombers attack a Sufi shrine in Dera Ghazi Khan, killing 50 and wounding 120.
Source: [Stanford University](#)
- **November 11, 2010:** An explosive-laden truck blows up inside the head office of the Crime Investigation Department in Karachi, killing at least 20 people and wounding 100 others.
LeJ is suspected of responsibility. Source: [South Asia Terrorism Portal](#)
- **September 1, 2010:** Two suicide attacks and one grenade attack targeting a Shia procession in Lahore kill 43 people and injure 230 others.
LeJ claims responsibility. Source: [South Asia Terrorism Portal](#)
- **April 17, 2010:** Two suicide bombers kill 44 people and injure 70 others waiting to register and receive aid at an internally displaced persons camp in North Waziristan.
LeJ claims responsibility and cite the presence of Shia at the camp as the reason for the attack. Source: [South Asia Terrorism Portal](#)
- **April 16, 2010:** A suicide bomber blows himself up inside a hospital in Quetta, killing 11 people and injuring 35 others.
LeJ claims responsibility. Source: [South Asia Terrorism Portal](#)
- **March 12, 2010:** Twin suicide blasts target a bazaar in Lahore during Friday prayers, killing 57 people—including eight soldiers—and wounding 90.
Source: [South Asia Terrorism Portal](#)
- **July 9, 2010:** The TTP conducts a double suicide bombing at a market in Mohmand Agency of the FATA, in close proximity to an anti-Taliban militia gathering.
The attacks kill 105 people and wound at least 100 more. Source: [Stanford University](#)
- **January 1, 2010:** The TTP conducts a suicide car bombing in Lakki Marwat, where hundreds of people gathered to watch a volleyball game.
The attack kills 105 and wounds at least 100 more. Source: [Stanford University](#)
- **December 30, 2009:** The TTP targets a U.S. military base in Afghanistan, killing seven and wounding six.
The attack is allegedly intended to avenge the death of TTP leader Baitullah Mehsud, who was killed in a drone strike. Source: [Stanford University](#)
- **March 30, 2009:** TTP militants target a police training academy in Lahore, killing 10 and wounding 95.
The attack is allegedly intended as retaliation for Pakistani assistance to U.S. drone strikes. Source: [Stanford University](#)
- **October 10, 2008:** A TTP suicide bomber targets a meeting at which local tribal leaders are discussing the formation of a militia to secure the region and oppose the Taliban, killing 85 and wounding 200 people.
Source: [Stanford University](#)
- **August 21, 2008:** The TTP conducts twin suicide attacks against Pakistan's largest weapons factory, killing 66 and wounding 70.
Source: [Stanford University](#)
- **December 23, 2007:** A TTP suicide attack on a military convoy in Mingora kills 13 and wounds 25.
Source: [Stanford University](#)
- **December 25, 2002:** JeM makes two assassination attempts on Pakistani President Pervez Musharraf in Rawalpindi, Pakistan.
Source: [Stanford University](#)
- **August 4, 2002:** JeM members attack a convent school in Islamabad and then a nearby Christian hospital a few days later, killing 10 persons and wounding 23.
Source: [Stanford University](#)
- **June 14, 2002:** A bombing near the U.S. Consulate in Karachi kills 12 people.
Pakistan police subsequently determine that LeJ was involved. Source: [South Asia Terrorism Portal](#)
- **May 8, 2002:** At least 16 people are killed and 26 others injured in a bomb blast in Karachi.
Pakistan police subsequently determine that LeJ was involved. Source: [South Asia Terrorism Portal](#)
- **January 23, 2002:** JeM members in Karachi, Pakistan, abduct U.S. journalist Daniel Pearl. He is beheaded the following week on February 1.
Source: [Stanford University](#)

Domestic Counter-Extremism

Pakistan has long faced international criticism that it allows violent extremist groups to operate within its territory. In March 2019, the Pakistani government pledged to take action against these groups and actuate an idled 2014 Plan of Action against extremism. That month, the government took control of at least 182 religious schools affiliated with extremist groups, as well as dozens of hospitals and other charities. The crackdown came in response to a February 14, 2019, Jaish-e-Mohammad (JeM) attack in India that killed at least 40 and sparked international criticism that Pakistan

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has harbored violent extremist groups. The Pakistani government claimed the crackdown is part of a long-planned strategy and not in response to pressure following the attack in India. In April 2019, Pakistani Prime Minister Imran Khan declared that the push against violent extremism was necessary for Pakistan's stability and the country "will not allow armed militias to operate." He further stated that the government is seeking to bring the country's 30,000 madrassas under government control and rehabilitate thousands of former militants. Nonetheless, the U.S. State Department has declared Pakistan is still doing too little to confront terrorist groups. (Sources: [Reuters](#), [Reuters](#), [Reuters](#), [Associated Press](#))

Although Pakistan has in the past taken action against some extremist groups that have threatened the state or its interests, most of its responses have been reactionary, according to the Asian Studies Association of Australia. Furthermore, Pakistan continues to tolerate and even encourage the activities of other extremist groups that serve its greater strategic interests. According to *Foreign Policy*, Pakistan not only contests India over the control of Kashmir, but fears that India aims to challenge Pakistan's very existence. Pakistan has therefore tolerated and even supported extremist groups that attack Indian targets and contest India's control of the Kashmir region. The Brookings Institution also attributes Pakistan's inadequate countering violent extremism (CVE) performance to additional domestic political constraints such as weak governance, civilian-military divides, and economic obstacles. Local scholars have reported that extremism is on the rise, which makes Pakistan's deficient CVE efforts especially concerning. (Sources: [South Asia Terrorism Portal](#), [Asian Studies Association of Australia](#), [Foreign Policy](#), [Long War Journal](#), [Brookings Institution](#), [Brookings Institution](#))

While the Pakistani government has touted its assistance to the United States in brokering a ceasefire with the Taliban, the government faces international criticism of its counterterrorism efforts. In June 2020, the U.S. government criticized Pakistan for doing too little to combat terrorism, particularly the Haqqani network and groups targeting Indian interests. The Financial Action Task Force (FATF) maintains that Pakistan has not done enough to combat terror financing. And despite objections by the Pakistani government, the Pakistani Supreme Court in January 2021 acquitted Ahmed Omar Saeed Sheikh, who had spent the previous 18 years on death row for the 2002 death of American-Jewish journalist Daniel Pearl. Washington intends to seek Sheikh's extradition to the U.S. and try him there. The court also ordered the release of Fahad Naseem, Sheikh Adil, and Salman Saqib, who had all been sentenced to life in prison for roles in Pearl's murder. (Sources: [Associated Press](#), [Guardian](#), [BBC News](#), [Associated Press](#))

Legislation

Pakistan's National Counter Terrorism Authority (NACTA), provincial counterterrorism departments, and a National Action Plan on Preventing Violent Extremism aim to regulate madrassas, block extremist communications, and curb terrorist financing. However, according to the U.S. State Department, the plan has not been consistently implemented. For example, although Pakistani authorities announced in September 2016 that they had frozen the bank accounts of 8,400 individuals suspected of having links to terrorism, the following month, members of the multi-national Financial Action Task Force (FATF) expressed concern over terrorist financing in Pakistan. Furthermore, the U.S. State Department has expressed concern over the lack of information sharing between Pakistan's counterterrorism agencies. (Sources: [U.S. Department of State](#), [International Centre for Political Violence and Terrorism Research](#))

Pakistan's legal code includes anti-terrorism legislation, including the Antiterrorism Act (ATA) of 1997, which bans membership, support, and funding for certain terrorist groups. It was amended in 2014 to expand its definition of terrorism to groups that act against foreign or international targets. However, acquittal rates in ATA courts are reportedly high due to bureaucratic disagreements between military and civilian security agencies and bribery by terrorist groups. (Sources: [U.S. Department of State](#), [U.S. Library of Congress](#))

Pakistan unveiled its National Action Plan in 2014 in the wake of that December's TTP attack on the Army Public School. The 20-point plan calls for strengthening existing anti-terrorism authorities, creating and deploying a specific counter-terrorism force, enforcing the death penalty for convicted terrorists, registering and regulating religious seminaries, addressing terror financing and propaganda, and "dealing firmly with sectarian terrorists." The plan called on the minister of interior to design a mechanism to implement the plan. In his first address as prime minister in August 2018, Imran Khan recognized that many parts of the NPA called for the National Action Plan's implementation. He declared that Pakistan "cannot progress without combating terrorism." (Sources: [National Counter Terrorism Authority Pakistan](#), [The News](#))

Terror Financing

The Financial Action Task Force (FATF) has placed Pakistan on its "grey list" of nations that maintain insufficient anti-money laundering/counter terror financing (AML/CTF) mechanisms. In June 2018, Pakistan committed to work with FATF to improve its AML/CTF policies. In February 2019, FATF reported that Pakistan has made "limited progress." According to FATF, Pakistan "does not demonstrate a proper understanding" of the

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terror financing risks posed by al-Qaeda, ISIS, Lashkar-e-Taiba, Jaish-e-Mohammed, and other terror groups. FATF called on Pakistan to demonstrate that sanctions are being applied to money laundering and terror financing cases, improve effectiveness and cooperation among authorities, and increase support for prosecutors. In October 2021, FATF announced Pakistan would remain on its grey list and increased monitoring. According to FATF, Pakistan has produced two action plans and has made high-level commitments to address its deficiencies but had not yet made significant enough progress in enhancing the impact of sanctions beyond its jurisdiction by nominating individual and entities for designation at the United Nations. FATF also called on Pakistan to demonstrably increase its money laundering investigations and prosecutions. (Sources: [Reuters](#), [FATF](#), [FATF](#))

On April 20, 2020, the *Wall Street Journal* reported that Pakistan removed thousands of names from its terrorist watch list over the past 18 months. Among the names removed were senior members of al-Qaeda, the Taliban, and Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT). The proscribed persons list, maintained by Pakistan's National Counter Terrorism Authority (NACTA), provides a guideline for financial institutions to avoid doing business with or processing transactions of suspected terrorists. The amendments were made in an effort to correct and update the list for the FATF. (Sources: [Wall Street Journal](#), [Times](#), [Organized Crime and Corruption Reporting Project](#))

In September 2020, the Pakistani senate rejected legislation that would have expanded the investigative powers of authorities to combat terror financing by allowing them to conduct undercover operations, intercept communications, and access computer systems. On February 25, 2021, FATF recognized Pakistan had made "significant progress" in updating its policies but "serious deficiencies" remained in its terror financing laws. Specifically, FATF said Pakistan still needed to better demonstrate that terror financing investigations and prosecutions target people and entities acting on behalf of designated individuals and entities; demonstrate that terror financing prosecutions result in effective, proportionate, and dissuasive sanctions; and effectively implement targeted financial sanctions against designated terrorists and those acting on their behalf. The FATF granted Pakistan an extension until June 2021 to address the remaining deficiencies. (Sources: [Hindustan Times](#), [Hindustan Times](#), [FATF](#), [Reuters](#))

Military

Pakistan has also launched military operations against terrorist groups within the country, with mixed results. The Pakistan military has killed hundreds of terrorists in raids in Khyber, North Waziristan, and elsewhere, reducing the number of terrorism-related civilian deaths in Pakistan, according to the U.S. State Department. For example, in February 2017, the Pakistan military launched Operation Radd-ul-Fasaad ("Reject Disorder"), which targeted three ISIS-linked terror groups: Jamaat-ul-Ahrar, the TTP, and Lashkar-e-Jhangvi. Although 100 militants were killed in the first week of the operation and a large cache of weapons and ammunition were recovered, an analysis published by NATO Association of Canada assessed that such military operations would be insufficient to root out terrorism in Punjab without accompanying efforts to target radicalization at its source. In July 2017, the Pakistani army launched a new operation in Khyber Agency called "Khyber 4," which aimed to stop ISIS from making inroads into the area. (Sources: [U.S. Department of State](#), [Asian Studies Association of Australia](#), [Washington Post](#), [NATO Association of Canada](#), [CNN](#), [Dawn](#), [Reuters](#))

On April 7, 2023, military and political leaders met in Islamabad where they discussed how terror groups, particularly the TTP, have regrouped in tribal areas since the Afghan Taliban's takeover of Kabul in 2021. Pakistan's National Security Committee announced an anti-terror plan that would involve an "all-out comprehensive" operation to eliminate terror risks in the country. The three-part plan includes deterrence, dialogue, and development. Further details on the plan remain limited, but Pakistan's military reportedly will not wage full-scale anti-terror operations in affected areas. Pakistan saw a 120 percent increase in terrorism-related deaths since 2021. A total of 643 deaths were recorded in comparison to 292 deaths the previous year. (Sources: [Dawn](#), [Jerusalem Post](#), [Voice of America](#))

Countering Violent Extremism

Pakistan does have several initiatives underway to counter radicalization and recruitment. In Khyber Pakhtunkhwa's Swat valley, a region occupied by the Taliban from 2007 to 2009, the government has implemented a rehabilitation program for former militants, including teenagers trained as suicide bombers. Between 2009 and summer 2015, 2,500 former Taliban militants were de-radicalized and reintegrated back into society, including 1,400 individuals between the ages of 12 and 25. In 2011, over 900 ex-militants from groups including LeT, JeM, and LeJ participated in a rehabilitation program run by the Counter Terrorism Division of the Pakistan police in Punjab. The program offered psychological assessment, religious rehabilitation, and vocational training, but was shelved the following year due to lack of funding. Programs are also underway in religious institutions and schools, especially in the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province, to counter the influence of extremism and promote religious tolerance. Pakistan's military also runs a radio station which, in cooperation with the government, broadcasts counter-propaganda messages. (Sources: [International Centre for Political Violence and Terrorism Research](#), [New York Post](#), [Brookings Institution](#), [Asian Studies Association of Australia](#))

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On January 31, 2018, NACTA announced the finalization of a Pakistani national narrative on extremism, sectarianism, terrorism, and militancy. According to NACTA coordinator Ihsan Ghani, the narrative will be the “cornerstone of the country’s response to non-traditional threats and to deal with extremist ideology,” and discuss topics such as coordination of government institutions, rehabilitation of extremists, and creation of interfaith harmony. Ghani also indicated that NACTA had finalized a set of National Counter Extremism Guidelines, which outline strategies and action plans for CVE initiatives. (Source: [Express Tribune](#))

Pakistan has also sought to reform and regulate madrassas (Islamic religious schools). According to analysis published by the International Centre for Political Violence and Terrorism Research, the growth of extremism in Pakistan is “closely linked” with the proliferation of radical madrassas, of which there were about 35,000 in 2016. In 2008, President Musharraf issued an ordinance requiring that madrassas register with the government and teach curriculum which does not preach militancy, hate, or sectarianism. In 2010, the government signed an agreement with an umbrella organization of madrasa oversight boards that prohibited madrassas from publishing extremist literature, but the agreement was ultimately not passed by Pakistan’s parliament due to bureaucratic difficulties. Despite these efforts, extremist groups such as JeM reportedly run hundreds of madrassas throughout Pakistan. The charitable network Jamaat-ud-Dawa (JuD), which the U.S. government classifies as a front for Lashkar-e-Taiba, reportedly runs 300 madrassas, as well as hospitals and ambulances. The Pakistani government banned JuD in February 2019. In March 2019, provincial governments took control of 182 madrassas affiliated with banned organizations. (Sources: [International Centre for Political Violence and Terrorism Research](#), [Reuters](#), [Reuters](#))

Non-governmental organizations in Pakistan have also undertaken domestic CVE initiatives. For example, advocacy groups such as the Jinnah Institute conduct public awareness campaigns, including peace rallies, in an effort to reduce public support for extremist organizations. The National Flag Day March brings together cross-sections of civil society to demonstrate public support for military operations targeting extremists. Other groups have organized sit-ins to denounce attacks on civilian targets and sites significant to culture heritage. (Sources: [Brookings Institution](#), [Jinnah Institute](#))

International Counter-Extremism

Pakistan has not joined the U.S.-led Global Coalition to Defeat ISIS. However, it has designated ISIS as a terrorist group and has detained and killed a substantial number of ISIS-affiliated militants, according to the U.S. State Department. (Source: [U.S. Department of State](#))

On November 23, 2017, the sixth round of the Pakistan-EU Political Counter-Terrorism dialogue was held in Islamabad, during which both sides reiterated their resolve to jointly combat terrorism “in all its forms,” promote inter-cultural and inter-religious dialogue and understanding, and exchange CVE best practices. Specifically, all sides reaffirmed their determination to work together in promoting international cooperation through forums such as the Financial Action Task Force (FATF) and the Global Counterterrorism Forum (GCTF), as well as their commitment to the U.N. Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy. (Source: [European Union](#))

U.S.-Pakistan Cooperation

Although the United States has acknowledged Pakistan to be an “important counterterrorism partner,” it has repeatedly urged Pakistan to improve its CVE efforts. On December 4, 2017, during a visit to Pakistan, U.S. Defense Secretary Jim Mattis called on Pakistani security officials to “redouble” efforts to prevent Islamist militants from using Pakistan as a refuge and launchpad for attacks in Afghanistan and elsewhere. On an October 24, 2017, visit to Islamabad, U.S. Secretary of State Rex Tillerson urged Prime Minister Shahid Khaqan Abbasi to eliminate safe havens for extremists in Pakistan, and to increase efforts to eradicate terrorists operating within Pakistan. In response to U.S. criticism, Pakistan issued a “fact sheet” in December 2017 detailing its counterterrorism efforts and successes, such as its efforts to strengthen the National Counter Terrorism Authority (NACTA). (Sources: [Washington Post](#), [Dawn](#), [Wall Street Journal](#), [U.S. Department of State](#), [Pakistan Today](#))

Between 2001 and 2016, the United States provided more than \$30 billion in civilian and military assistance to Pakistan, which included funding for CVE efforts. Additionally, the United States aids Pakistan through government programs designed to counter extremism. The U.S. Agency for International Development, for instance, runs programs in Karachi and southern Punjab that provide recreational opportunities and vocational training to promote counter-narratives and mitigate social and political factors that facilitate recruitment of youth into extremist groups. Other U.S. government programs in the FATA and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa aim to build trust between the Pakistani government and community organizations in order to create community resilience against extremism. (Sources: [Foreign Policy](#), [Brookings Institution](#))

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The United States has conducted several covert military operations within Pakistan. U.S. Special Operations Forces have conducted ground raids and joint operations with the Pakistani military targeting militant groups in Pakistan's tribal regions. Notoriously, U.S. Special Operations Forces killed al-Qaeda leader [Osama bin Laden](#) in a May 2, 2011 raid on his compound in Abbottabad, Pakistan. The United States has also conducted drone strikes on Pakistani soil, though not always with the consent of the Pakistani government. On October 16, 2017, at least 20 suspected militants were killed in a U.S. drone strike on an unidentified compound in Pakistan near the border with Afghanistan in the FATA. Another U.S. drone strike killed a Haqqani network leader and two of his aides in northwestern Pakistan on January 24, 2018. However, Pakistan condemned the latter drone strike as a violation of the country's sovereignty. (Sources: Council on Foreign Relations, [Nation](#), [CNN](#), [South Asia Terrorism Portal](#), [New York Times](#))

In February 2019, the Taliban announced that a delegation would meet with U.S. representatives for peace talks in Pakistan later that month in response to a "formal invitation" from the Pakistani government. The talks were later canceled due to "US and UN travel restrictions" on the Taliban representatives. It would have been the first meeting of Pakistani leaders with the Taliban since the 2001 overthrow of the Taliban government. In February 2020, the Taliban and the United States reached an agreement to reduce violence in Afghanistan. In its annual terrorism report in June 2020, the U.S. State Department recognized Pakistan had played a "constructive role" in aiding a ceasefire agreement between the United States and the Taliban. In April 2021, Pakistani President Arif Alvi said Pakistan continues to use its influence over the Taliban and wants to play "a peaceful role," but does not want to "become a base for U.S. actions in Afghanistan." (Sources: [Al Jazeera](#), [Washington Post](#), [Express Tribune](#), [Associated Press](#), [Associated Press](#), [Voice of America](#))

Regional Cooperation

Pakistan participates in various multilateral groups that discuss counterterrorism issues, including the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation and the Global Counterterrorism Forum. Pakistan has also participated in U.N. Security Council meetings on counterterrorism. (Source: [U.S. Department of State](#))

On November 27, 2017, according to the Kazakhstan Defense Ministry, Pakistan and Kazakhstan completed a two-week counterterrorism exercise aimed at bolstering military readiness. About 100 military personnel from Pakistan and Kazakhstan reportedly participated in the training held at Pakistan's National Counter-Terrorism Center in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Province. (Source: [Central.Asia-News.com](#))

At a November 7, 2017 meeting in Beijing, China, Pakistan, China, and Afghanistan reportedly agreed to "step up" cooperation on counterterrorism. China expressed gratitude to both Pakistan and Afghanistan for "constantly and steadfastly supporting" China in fighting the East Turkistan Islamic Movement and other terrorist forces. (Source: [Pakistan Today](#))

The Taliban

Over the decades, Pakistan has denied any connection to the Taliban, including providing military support and funding in their operations against the Afghan government. However, regional scholars have noted that Pakistan's Inter-Services Intelligence (ISI) held considerable sway with the Taliban. In the late 1990s, the ISI even provided the Taliban with a small team of military advisers and facilitated the training of Pakistani volunteers to join the Taliban's ranks. Following the fall of the first Taliban regime in 2001, some of the group's leadership sought safe haven in Pakistan. Pakistan's support during the crucial period of 2001 and 2004 allowed the Taliban to reemerge in Afghanistan. (Sources: [Human Rights Watch](#), [Brookings Institution](#))

Pakistan remained a critical benefactor of the Taliban as they waged an insurgency against the U.S. and the former Afghan government. Following the Taliban's second takeover of Kabul in August 2021, relations between the two camps began to sour due to disagreements over the status of the Afghan-Pakistan border as well as increased attacks within Pakistan from the TTP that reportedly operates with impunity in Afghanistan. (Source: [United States Institute of Peace](#))

The Taliban has made efforts to reconcile its relations with Islamabad. On May 18, 2022, the Taliban hosted peace talks between the TTP and the Pakistani government in Kabul. Members of the TTP agreed to extend a ceasefire with the Pakistani government until May 30. The TTP's spokesman, Mohammad Khurasani, stated that the group agreed to extend the ceasefire, which originally began on May 10, at the request of a group of Pakistani tribal elders. According to media sources, Islamabad demanded that the Afghan Taliban prevent TTP militants from using Afghan territory to launch attacks against Pakistan. On June 3, 2022, the TTP announced an indefinite ceasefire with Pakistan's government. Although once promising, peace progress faced a new roadblock on November 28, 2022, when the TTP unilaterally ended the ceasefire. The TTP claimed the Pakistani military was increasing the number of attacks against the group and encouraged their fighters to resume attacks against Islamabad.

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(Sources: [Washington Post](#), [Reuters](#), [BBC News](#), [Al Jazeera](#), [Reuters](#))

In the midst of allegations that Afghan-based militants are increasingly carrying out terrorist attacks in Pakistan, senior officials from Pakistan and the Taliban met in Kabul on July 19, 2023, to discuss security cooperation between the two parties. In particular, Pakistan urged the Taliban to abide to the conditions of the February 2020 U.S.-Taliban agreement that bars terrorists from operating in Afghanistan. The talks occurred amidst an increase in militant activity particularly around the Afghan-Pakistan, of which most attacks are claimed by or blamed on the TTP. (Source: [Voice of America](#))

Public Opinion

Public opinion on extremism in Pakistan is mixed. In a spring 2014 public opinion poll, 8 percent of respondents reported favorable views of the Pakistani Taliban while 12 percent reported favorable views of al-Qaeda. Respondents were more concerned by the threat that India poses to Pakistan than the threat posed by terrorist groups. Slightly more than half (51 percent) identified India as the greatest threat to Pakistan, while only a quarter (25 percent) identified the Taliban as the greatest threat. A January 2015 Brookings Institution study concluded that the government of Pakistan has been “largely unsuccessful” in mobilizing public support for its CVE initiatives. (Sources: [U.S. Institute of Peace](#), [Brookings Institution](#))

As of March 2019, extremist groups such as JeM reportedly maintained public support among the Pakistani population, primarily due to their civic outreach efforts. JeM and other extremist organizations run mosques, hospitals, schools, and other charities that influence public opinion. Pakistanis interviewed by the Associated Press believe that JeM militants “just want to spread Islam.” According to a 2015 report by the International Centre for Political Violence and Terrorism Research, a “moderate majority” in Pakistan rejects violence, yet many still support extremist ideology, especially when based in religious rhetoric. Many Pakistanis trust the country’s religious scholars and faith-based networks, which have significant influence on shaping and molding public opinion. However, in an early 2016 public opinion poll conducted by Gallup Pakistan, 87 percent of Pakistanis agreed that “Islam preaches peace and love instead of extremism.” (Sources: [International Centre for Political Violence and Terrorism Research](#), [The Muslim Post](#), [Associated Press](#))