

**Journal of Politics and International Studies**

*Vol. 10, No. 1, January–June 2024, pp.57–77*

## **Trend Analysis of a New-Wave of Terrorism in Pakistan**

**Dr. Mubeen Adnan**

Associate Professor, Department of Political Science University of the Punjab  
Lahore, Pakistan

**Corresponding:** [mubeenadnan.polsc@pu.edu.pk](mailto:mubeenadnan.polsc@pu.edu.pk)

**Rabiya Hamid**

Research Assistant, Department of Political Science University of the Punjab  
Lahore, Pakistan

### **Abstract**

Pakistan's geography creates unavoidable threats for the country, majorly to its peace and security conditions. The constant threat of terrorism simultaneously leads to a series of concerns regarding damages to the state, its institutions and general public. Pakistan has long suffered through repercussions of radicalization, all of which epicenters around potential harms to writ of state, government officials and its inhabitants. The paper is focused to analyse security hazards and extremist activities in Pakistan which have yet again increased to an alarming number when compared to previous years. As year 2023 was considered as the deadliest for Pakistan's police and military. The purpose is to understand all factors that fully exposed Pakistan's vulnerability in the recent wave of terrorism. Further, it also highlights how rise in terrorism is causing distress to Pakistan on several fronts. In this regard, a detailed trend analysis of terrorism has been incorporated showcasing all sectors that have been recently targeted by terrorists. The research is qualitative in methodology and secondary sources have been used to collect the data. Finally, this paper concludes the urgency to identify the root cause of the recent wave of terrorism. It also classifies various means to adapt a resilient policy to tackle with the menace of terrorism and lay forth several recommendations that can possibly curtail the potential threat of terrorism from turning into an on-going catastrophe.

**Key Words:** Security, Peace, Institutions, Extremism, Terrorism.

### **Introduction**

Terrorism has acted as a security hazard for Pakistan since decades. The country has long witnessed innumerable casualties, security hazards and deteriorated law and order scenarios. Pakistan experiences increased terrorist activities from 2022 onwards. According to Global Terrorism Index 2023, Pakistan remains amongst the top ten countries most affected by terrorism in 2022, with deaths in Pakistan rising significantly to a 120 percentage increase in comparison to deaths in 2021 (2023). After a momentary lapse, the threat of terrorism has reappeared in Pakistan. From January, 2023 onwards, a series of extremist incidents occurred all around the country ranging from bomb blasts in political processions, public gatherings as well as attacks on institutions and target killing of security forces in the country.

Pakistan has been a security conscious state since inception which not only relates to external threats and proxy wars but also indicates the existence of several terrorist factions in the country i.e. TTP (Tehrik-e- Taliban Pakistan), Haqqani Network, Lashkar-e Taiba and ISIS and their involvement in the Pakistan cannot be denied. Other than that separatist groups such as Baluchistan Liberation Army and other extremist factions also bring chaos to the country's peace. In the list of countries most affected by terrorism for the year 2022, Pakistan stands on number six, with one of the highest number of incidents, hostility, as well as death and hostage ratio (Global Terrorism Index, 2022). Hostile neighbours and geo-political scenarios have also caused persistent damages to Pakistan's peace i.e. Taliban-centric Afghanistan, tension on Pak-Iran border and proxy warfare from Indian soil have each time resulted into bilateral tensions and resultant security deficit for Pakistan (Sheikh et al., 2012).

Within Pakistan, the underlying cause of extremism is interconnected to a series of systematic flaws ranging from erroneous policies of the state i.e. hard-core Islamized state policy during Zia's regime and state policy of supporting Afghan Taliban against Soviet Union in 1990s. Pakistan has witnessed issues of political uncertainties, rapid-change in policies and shuffle of power every now and then which has only aggravated the challenges related to terrorism. Other than that, the state has suffered from sectarian violence, lack of education, poor-rich gap, tattered social fabric and polarisation in the society which have only added more to the injury. All these segments have a correlation to extremism which is the foundation of ever-emerging waves of terrorism in Pakistan (Bashir, et al., 2023). However, the issue goes deeper than this which surely includes external challenges and most importantly, the hauntings of past miscalculations i.e. Pakistan taking sides during the cold-war and supporting Afghan jihadist and also enrolling into pro-American camp in the post 9/11 world. Apart from that, there is unmanaged madrasa culture, flaws in policy making and economic vulnerability to tackle the grave situation and create effective counter terrorism policies. Hence, regardless of external causes, it is also turning out to be more of a self-made chaos which needs effective and immediate attention (Gul, 2023).

Nevertheless, the misdealing of international community has also played a pivotal role in aggravating peace and security conditions for Pakistan. Gillani (2021) believes that the explanations behind terrorism in Pakistan have always been generalised whereas its ramifications are quite deep, not only for Pakistan but also for the international community. Owing to geo-political location of the country, it has always been dragged into international disputes which not only has posed a security threat to Pakistan but has inevitably harmed its reputation despite all sacrifices. The fact, that Pakistan is often labelled as the one of the most dangerous states in the world, showcases an obvious denial and failure towards acknowledging the penalties this country has paid in form of human suffering, chaotic state affairs and socio-economic devastation namely for the sake of peace restoration, not only at intra-state but also inter-state level. Henceforth, the issue remains unattended as international stakeholders are abstaining from realising their misdeeds. The world is merely labelling the victim to be the culprit and this flawed and ignorant approach deserves a rebuttal because the primary sufferers in this scenario are the people of Pakistan.

Whilst, analysing the psychosocial context of terrorism in Pakistan, one has to agree that Pakistan has suffered through leaps and bounds wherein several factors aided to its misery. For instance, drone attacks have had appalling consequences and innocent civilians who faced the brunt of this intensive operation, took up arms in revenge. Also, the culture of jihad and martyrdom was aggressively exploited by terrorist factions who brainwashed tender minds into becoming anti-state (Nizami et al., 2018). The positioning of Al-Qaeda (AQ) and the Taliban fragments to the ex-FATA region, now merged with Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province, ripped Pakistan's social coherence apart and relinquished the true essence of Islamic cultures in the country. Hence, with such tarnished image, the international jihadist groups aim to utilise Pakistan as a base for performing radicalization to accomplish their enduring objectives of creating the self-adapted Islamic rule. Pakistan inherited a security dilemma since inception, and with this security consciousness turning into a grave reality, Pakistan still has a lot of work to do wherein fundamentals of tackling with this issue requires coherence in theory and practise (Basit & Ahmed, 2021).

The year 2023 marked a new surge in terrorism all around Pakistan. The increase of these incidents came at a time when the country was already suffering from economic uncertainties alongside polarisation in the political realm. Most importantly, 2023 was election year for Pakistan. Later that year, government dissolved and affairs of Pakistan got into the hands of an interim setup i.e. the caretaker governments both in Islamabad and all of provinces. Whilst undergoing such political power shift, rise in radical activities occurred at the most challenging and critical of times. In trying to understand such on-going critical situation in Pakistan, this article tends to address the following questions:

- How the new wave of terrorism in Pakistan has caused a security based catastrophe and a mass-level chaos?
- Why Pakistan is suffering from appalling detriments as a consequence of growing terrorism?
- Does the new wave of terrorism have any link with Pakistan's move to deport illegal Afghan migrants?
- Where does Pakistan stand in terms of security challenges and woes of the victims?
- What counter-terrorism policies does Pakistan need to ascertain in order to curtail extremism at present and in the forthcoming?

#### **Trend Analysis of Terrorism 2023-2024**

According to reports, the year 2023 had record-high number of terrorism-linked incidents in Pakistan. It further highlights that 1,524 violence related casualties alongside 1,463 serious injuries were recorded all across the country (Shahid, 2023). It is notable that the new wave of terrorism was focused upon certain segments i.e. most specifically the government personnel ranging from army officials, policemen etc. At another level, political gatherings and political leaders became a direct target of extremism. Moreover, there were a few major attacks on religious processions i.e. mosques etc. Hence, in order to dissect the new wave of terrorism in Pakistan, it

is essential that we analyse these trends to better understand the reasons behind increased extremism that has hit Pakistan drastically. This research paper encompasses the model of trend analysis to better evaluate the recent wave of terrorism in Pakistan. For this purpose, the first parameter is to identify the pattern of terrorism in the country i.e. classifying the main targets of terrorists as well as assessing the mode of spreading terror adapted by terrorists to cause turmoil in the country. Secondly, it is important to select a current time period which needs to be dealt with i.e. 2023-2024. Moving forward, the goal is to gather relevant data, follow an analytical discourse and identify the on-going trends with regards to this horrid terrorism upsurge in the country. Thus by doing so, it can be well analysed how this new wave of terrorism is causing security upheavals in the country and what measures are required to well-tackle this scenario.

### **Trend I: Attack on Worshippers**

Majorly, two large-scale terrorist incidents alongside one minor blast occurred during 2023 and all of them were aimed at worshippers. In January, 2023, dated 31st, attack was directed towards a mosque in Peshawar in a high security compound which also included counterterrorism department and KPK Police force headquarters. Casualties reported during this blast were around 84 wherein 90% were police officers. It was a suicide blast and the responsibility of this attack was claimed by Jamaat-ul- Ahrar, a faction of Tehrik-e-Taliban Pakistan (TTP) (Saifi et al., 2023).

On 29th September, another suicide bombing was observed in Mastung District, Baluchistan which was timed midst Eid Milad-ul-Nabi procession in remembrance of Mohammad PBUH birthday. This attack occurred near a mosque, causing 60 casualties and somewhere between 50-70 injuries (Shah, 2023). On this same date, just after a gap of a few hours one more bomb blast was witnessed in Hangu, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. The target was to cause mass killing during Friday Prayers, wherein one of the militants detonated explosives close to entrance of the mosque while the other bomber blew himself inside the building. A number of 5 casualties were reported in this act of terrorism whereas 6 injuries were also testified. No responsibility was claimed for both of these attacks whereas it was unofficially reported to be the work of Islamic State of Iraq and Levant (ISIL) (Hussain, 2023).

### **Trend II: Attack on Government Officials (Army, Police, FC & CTD)**

Throughout 2023, statistics expose that terrorism was widely directed towards government officials. Upon investigation, it can be ascertained that the year 2023 shows alarming rise in threatening activities against state. Right from the very beginning, the month of January observed several attacks upon various officials of every rank and profile. On 3rd January, 2023 in Khanewal, Punjab, suspected Pakistani Taliban gunmen shot down two intelligence officers which included the director of provincial counterterrorism department (Arab News, 2023).

On 13th January, Pakistani Taliban claimed responsibility of attacking the Sarband Police Station in Peshawar wherein, three policemen including a District Police Officer were martyred during a gun and grenade attack. Merely two days later i.e. 15th January 2023 witnessed shooter incident in Charsadda, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa-aimed towards three army officers, wherein two of them could not sustain the gunshots (Farooq, 2023). On 18th January, 2023 four soldiers lost their lives during

a cross border attack at Pak-Iran Border in Baluchistan (Gul, 2023). The very next day, three policemen embraced death in a suicide bomb attack at a police outpost in KPK (Reuters, 2023). On 31st January, 2023 an attempted attack was made on Mianwali (Punjab) Police station however sources confirmed that the attack was repulsed (Chaudhry, 2023).

During the first half of the month i.e. 10th February, 2023- two soldiers lost their lives in an IED blast in Baluchistan and 12th February, 2023 – a terror attack in North Waziristan killed one soldier whereas 14 suffered from injuries (Nihad & Siddiqui, 2023). The Karachi Police Station Attack dated 17th February, 2023 was an alarming security breach right in the heart of a metropolitan city with violent gun shootouts as well as grenades, resultantly killing 4 people including one civilian whereas 14 people were wounded (Ayub, 2023).

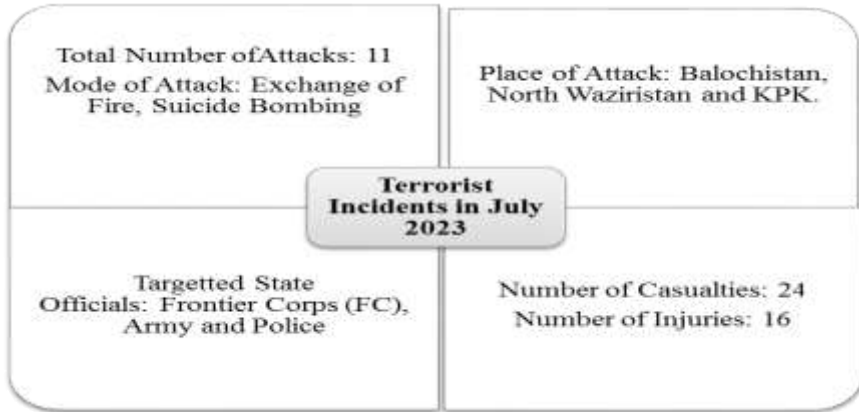
Respectively, on 6th March- 8 policemen were killed and 13 got wounded as a result of suicide bomb attack in Bolan, Baluchistan (Sasoli & Nihad, 2023). In South Waziristan, a shootout occurred on 21st March, 2023 – martyring ISI Brigadier alongside three soldiers (Zehra, 2023). Later on 29th March, 2023, a Deputy Superintendent Police (DSP) and four other policemen were martyred whilst six other sustained injuries in Saddar Police Station, Lakki Marwat located in KPK province (Dawar, 2023).

Aforementioned terrorist events continually increased during April. On April, 1st, 2023 – an attack from Iranian side of Pak-Iran Border in Kech District, Baluchistan killed four soldiers (BBC NEWS, 2023). On 3rd and 4th April, two policemen and four FC personnel were attacked in Kohat (KPK) and South Waziristan respectively who succumbed to their injuries (Imad, 2023). From 7th April, 2023 up till the 11th of April, 2023, attacks on security personnel occurred each day in the areas of KPK, South Waziristan and Baluchistan respectively, causing ten casualties i.e. seven police and three army officers (The Express Tribune, 2023). Insurgency continued wherein 24th April, 2023 marked a high security breach when a Counter-Terrorism Department Building located in Swat faced an explosion killing 17 people and leaving behind 50 injured. Also, on 27th April, 2023 – a Counter-Terrorism Department (CTD) official was executed in a blast in Baluchistan. Moreover, on 28th April, 2023- three Pakistan army soldiers got martyred in three different incidents in Lakki Marwat, KPK (Sasoli, 2023).

May 2023 was no different i.e. on 12th, a Frontier Corps Camp in Muslim Bagh, Baluchistan was under attack by militants and resultantly, six members of the corps got martyred but after counter attack by forces, all attackers were put to death (ALJazeera, 2023). On 16th May, 2023 – a suicide bomb blast in North Waziristan killed six security personnel (DAWN, 2023). On May 24th, a security check-post in North Waziristan was attacked by a suicide bomber causing four casualties (ALJazeera, 2023). Furthermore, on 31st May, 2023, five Frontier Corps (North Waziristan) were attacked by an explosive device however all sustained injuries (THE NEWS, 2023). In the month of June, two major acts of radicalisation occurred against government officials and both happened in North Waziristan i.e. on 5th June – a shootout assassinating two soldiers and on 20th June, two soldiers killed by a bomb blast (Shirazi, 2023).

July was yet another petrifying month with regards to terrorist attacks on government officials. To evaluate statistics of this month, Figure 1 given below highlights all Major Attacks towards state officials in July, 2023.

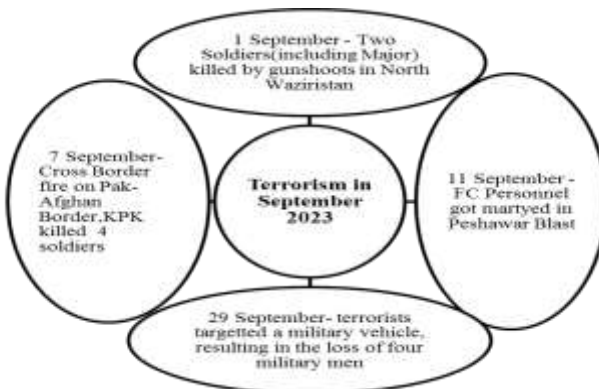
**Figure 1.** *Highlighting Terrorism in Pakistan during July 2023*



**Source:** (Zehri, 2023; Imdad, 2023; Imdad & Shah, 2023; Hayat, 2023; Haq, 2023; Gul, 2023; Akbar, 2023; ALJazeera, 2023).

In August, 2023 four terror attacks were conducted. On 1st, August two police officers were shot dead during a polio vaccination drive in Quetta (Ashraf, 2023). On 9th August, a suicide bomber attacked a security vehicle in Bajaur but merely one official faced injuries (AAJ News, 2023). Dated 22nd August, South Waziristan, a terror attack by TTP caused death of eight soldiers whereas six were injured. On 31st August, Bannu (KPK), a suicide attack was directed towards Pakistan Army wherein 10 soldiers embraced martyrdom and 18 got severely wounded (Pakistan Today, 2023).

**Figure 2.** *Terrorism in September 2023*



**Source:** (Saeed, 2023; Hussain, 2023; Saddiq et al., 2023)

Similarly, in the month of October and November, the terrorist continually made attempts to disrupt security conditions. On 9th October, the Dera Ismail Khan Police

station came under attack killing one policeman, leaving two injured. On 10th October, 2023 the same police station faced another attack by hand grenades however, no casualties were reported (Davies & Drury, 2023). On October 28th, a police camp near Dera Ismail Khan Toll Plaza was attacked, one policeman got killed (Marwat, 2023). In November, 2023 four major acts of aggression towards government officials were carried out. The Table 1 below highlights some specifications of these attacks. Attacks upon government officials in the month of November were one of the most eminent ones as most prestigious institutions with top-notch security were aggressively hit by extremists.

**Table 1.** *Extremism towards Government Officials in November.*

<b>Date</b>	<b>Attack Whereabouts</b>	<b>Category</b>	<b>Casualty/Injury</b>
3 <sup>rd</sup> November, 2023	Gwadar District, Baluchistan	Pakistan Army Convey Attacked	14 soldiers died/ no injuries reported
4 <sup>th</sup> November, 2023	Mianwali Airbase	Failed attack swiftly stopped by base personnel.	None. Nine militants got killed
6 <sup>th</sup> November, 2023	Khyber District, KPK	Exchange of Fire	One Colonel & 3 soldiers martyred/ No injuries reported
7 <sup>th</sup> November, 2023	Oil & Gas Company, Dera Ismail Khan	Heavily armed militants and violent shootout	2 policemen died/three got injured

**Source:** (Shirazi, 2023; Peshimam, 2023; ISPR Press Release, 2023; Khan, 2023)

Only a few days before election dated 3rd February, 2024, around ten policemen embraced martyrdom and four sustained injuries during hours-long assault on the police station in Khyber Pakhtunhwa (Davies and Drury, 2024). On February 8th, 2024 – security personnel got killed in Tank District, KPK. Later that same day, four policemen embraced martyrdom (in KPK) whilst several got injured as police-van was attacked with an explosive device. In another attack, two security officials got killed whereas nine received wounds from a blast in Baluchistan (Sajid, 2024).

### **Trend III: Attack on Institutions**

Another significant trend witnessed in the new wave of terrorism in Pakistan is insurgency and attempted attacks on innumerable national institutions. While dissecting this category of extremism, it can be viewed that quite notable institutions came under direct threat and were caused harmed in different terrorist events. In the month of January, three major institutions suffered from terrorism i.e. on 3rd January, Counter-terrorism Department in Khanewal, Punjab was attacked, 13 January, 2023- Sarband Police Station in Peshawar (KPK) suffered a brutal attempt of terror and on 31st January, a security breach and terror incident occurred at a Mianwali Police Station (Arab News, 2023; Farooq, 2023; Chaudhry, 2023). Most important, the infamous Peshawar Mosque Bombing dated 30th January, 2023 also occurred inside a high-security compound next to provincial counter-terrorism department as well as headquarters of the police force (Saifi et al., 2023).

On 17th February, 2023 – armed militants stormed into the heavily guarded Karachi Police Office (KPO) located centrally in metropolitan city Karachi. This attack at such a security efficient institution sent shock waves country-wide (Ayub, 2023). Following month, on 29th March, 2023 a terrorist incident occurred in Saddar Police Station in Lakki Marwat (KPK) wherein the militants managed to flee from the crime scene (Dawar, 2023). Later on, April 24th witnessed a massive explosion in the Counter-Terrorism Department building located in Kabal, Swat (Sasoli, 2023). The month of May was no different i.e. dated 12 May, 2023 – insurgents attacked the Frontier Corps Camp situated in Muslim Bagh, KillaSaifullah District in Baluchistan. The spike in terrorism directed towards institutions continued in the other half of 2023 as well. On the 12th of July, 2023, a Pakistan Military Base located in Zhob, Baluchistan came under attack (ALJazeera, 2023). Furthermore, two suicide-bombers attacked a government compound in Bara, KPK (Imdad & Shah, 2023).

In October, 2023 (dated 9th and 10th) Hathala Police Station in Dera Ismail Khan was attacked twice in two consecutive days wherein heavy weapons and grenades were brought to use by militants (Davies & Drury, 2023). Similarly, attacks upon institutions continued in the month of November and December as well. Mianwali Airbase Attack (November 4th) was yet another attempt to undermine peace and security condition in Pakistan however; the attack was failed as timely action was taken to curtail any damage (Peshimam, 2023). December 12th, 2023 stunned the country yet again with mass shooting and suicide bomb attacks in Daraban Police Station, Dera Ismail Khan, KPK (Mehsud & Ali, 2023).

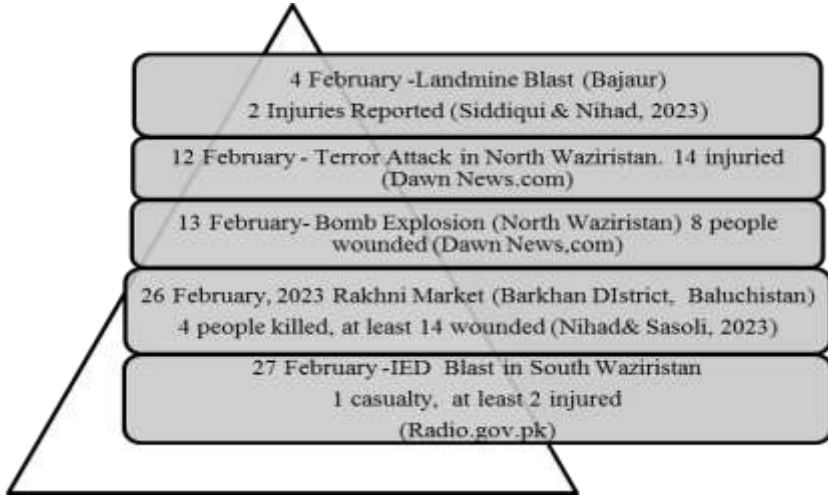
#### **Trend IV: Attack on Public Places**

Another trend inspected during this new wave of terrorism included extremism towards mass-gatherings wherein at several occasions public places suffered from insurgency resulting into death toll and innumerable injuries. On 20 January 2023, a passenger train was derailed after a bomb attack leaving eight people severely injured. The famous Bolan Expressway was attacked 150kilometres away from the metropolitan capital of Baluchistan. A total of eight rail cars got derailed along with engine which became the ultimate cause of accident (Hussain, 2023). The infamous Peshawar Mosque Bombing was no other than a mass-gathering of 400 plus people (mostly police officers) for offering prayer which included people from within public strands as well because statistics indicate that ten percentage (out of 84 killed) casualties were common people (Saifi et al., 2023).



When analysing situation for the month of February, five major attacks were directed towards the public of Pakistan. These attacks were majorly carried out in Baluchistan along with North and South Waziristan. Figure 3 below reflects upon these incidents and their peculiar details.

**Figure 3.** Major Incidents Recorded on Public Places in February, 2023



On March 15th, two people were killed and seven sustained injuries during a vehicle blast in Khuzdar, Quetta (Saleem, 2023). Later on, 10 April 2023, violent attack was made in Kandahari Bazar, Quetta which killed four people whereas 15 got severely injured (Hanifullah, 2023). Again (April 14th), an IED Blast killed three minors in Chaman, Baluchistan. Another bomb blast incident surfaced in Peshawar, Ring Road area (18th May) wherein one casualty and three injuries were reported (Shah, 2023). Furthermore, on 3rd June, two people were killed through a remote control bomb blast in Bajaur District. Following that, one person got killed while five others were injured in the result of suicide bombing in Turbat, Baluchistan. Two major terrorist incidents occurred in Bajaur, on 21st and 24th July wherein four and three people succumbed to their injuries. On 19th August, 2023, eleven labourers embraced death as a result of an IED blast. 3rd November, 2023 - Dera Ismail Khan Bomb Blast became a headline (explosives planted in motorbike) which resulted into five casualties and at least 20 injuries (SAMAA, 2023).

As of 2024, these terrorist activities remained on-going. General Elections in Pakistan were conducted on 8th February, 2024 wherein around 51 terrorist incidents occurred on a single day. This was a clear attempt to disrupt the electoral process countrywide. Mostly these extremist actions happened in areas of Baluchistan and KPK. A total of 39 people received injuries during these attacks and at least ten people got killed (Sajid, 2024).

### **Trend V: Attack on Political Leaders**

On the 20th March, 2023, an act of violence was committed in Havelian, a town in Abbottabad (KPK) which caused around eleven casualties along with Atif Munsif Khan Jadoon (PTI Leader and Mayor of the said town). The incident happened while travelling when the vehicle's fuel tank was targeted with a bullet leaving it in flames and entirely gutted afterwards. The police however claimed that this assassination was a result of generational animosity between two parties (Javed, 2023). Furthermore, on 19th May, 2023 – a suicide bomber targeted the convoy of SirajulHaq (Head of Jamaat-i-Islami) who was visiting Zhob District to address a political gathering. Due to this attack, 6 people were injured including Siraj-ul-Haq who managed to escape from the scene (Zehri, 2023).

On 30th July, 2023 – a suicide bombing incident took place during a political rally of JamiatUlema-e-Islam (F) in Bajaur District, Khyber Pakhtunhwa which took the lives of nearly 63 people whereas 200 other received injuries which included children as well. Maulana Zia-Ullah, a local Leader of the JUI-F got killed during this attack (Yusufzai, 2023). In another incident, a remote control bomb in Kech District located within South-western Pakistan struck a vehicle containing IshaqYaqub - a Union Council Chairman belonging to the Baluchistan Awami Party (BAP) alongside six of his colleagues that were all travelling together. Resultantly, all of them got killed (Shah, 2023).

#### **Trend VI: Attack on Political Gatherings**

The highlights of 2023 was the deadliest terrorist attacks on JUI-F political rally which caused numerous fatalities and quite many injuries as explained above (Trend V). Other than that, the convoy a JI Head Siraj-ul-Haq was also attacked however no deaths were reported (see Trend V). Hence proving that the attackers wanted to leave a mark upon the political landscape of Pakistan as well and these outbreaks are a clear attempt to damage the outlook of Pakistan.

In 2024, attacks upon political activities midst the election season, did not come to an end. According to the Pakistan Institute for Conflict and Security Studies, Pakistan witnessed almost 21 attacks on different occasions all throughout January 2024 which killed more than 10 people and at least 25 suffered from injuries. It is significantly important to mention here that at least two candidates (General Election 2024) lost their lives, and several candidates narrowly escaped harm. Two isolated blasts outside election offices of political parties just one day before election (7 February, 2024) killed 22 people and left several people injured. First one was at the election office of an independent candidate AsfandiyarKakar near Pishin District, Baluchistan. Shortly after the first blast, another attempt of insurgency was made at the election office of JUI-F in QilaSaifullah (Rehman, 2024).

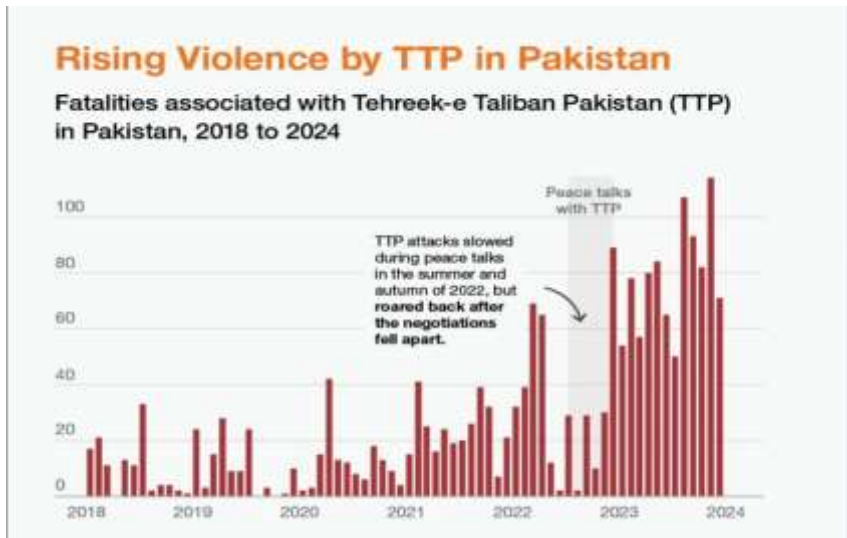
#### **Identifying the Afghan Factor**

There is no denying that Pakistan has encountered recurring phases of terrorism however, what seems peculiar this time is that more lethal attacks are being carried out against the security forces of the country. Other segments i.e. public and political are a target too. Another component which is note-worthy is that Pakistan currently battles with rising terror threat in Afghan border regions. In this regard, Pakistan has time and again released its official remarks as well. The care-taker prime minister Anwar-ul-HaqKakar claimed on various occasions that the intensity and consistency of such attacks has become possible because military equipment left behind by the

United States is put to use. He further asserted that current resurgence of terrorism observed in Baluchistan and Khyber Pakhtunhwa is also an outcome of rushed withdrawal by the US forces and NATO allies (Gul, 2023).

Figure 4 below also highlights the rapid increase in terrorism on Pakistani soil ever since Taliban have resumed power in Afghanistan because TTP (Tehrik-e-Taliban Pakistan) is no less than an offshoot of TTA (Tehrik-e-Taliban Afghanistan) hence their close proximity has strengthened the latter more since prior recently gained prominence in the neighbouring country. The Figure 4 below resonates that year 2023-2024 witness highly increased terrorist events in the country. Despite negotiations in Spring-Autumn 2022, the attacks gained momentum after the talks failed.

**Figure 4.** A graph highlighting Rise in Violence by Tehrik-e-Taliban Pakistan



**Source:** <https://www.crisisgroup.org/asia/south-asia/afghanistan/337-talibans-neighbourhood-regional-diplomacy-afghanistan>

Midst, this alarming situation, Pakistan announced deportation of unregistered Afghan refugees. Historically speaking, Pakistan has accommodated millions of Afghans for quite a long time now. Mostly, these Afghans crossed borders during the 1979-1989 Soviet Occupation. Later on, quite many people fled from Afghanistan when Taliban clutched back control in the final weeks of U.S and NATO evacuation and pull-out from Afghanistan. When Taliban regained control over Afghanistan back in 2021, Former Prime Minister Imran Khan acknowledged them. By doing so, he reflected upon Pakistan’s desire to work in collaboration with new Afghan setup to maintain inter-state harmony and ensure growing prospects for the inhabitants of both countries in an atmosphere of trust. However, instead of enhancing ties with Islamabad, the Taliban have gone the other way around to create sense of animosity by providing secure haven to terrorist groups and jihadists including the TTP (Donnell, 2023).

The dismissal of Afghans from Pakistani territory came after some prior efforts such as trade restrictions to exercise pressure on Kabul to show restraint towards Tehrik-i-Taliban Pakistan which presented a grave security challenge for Pakistan since attacks on Pakistan's security forces highly increased. The Acting Prime Minister of Pakistan interlinked the expulsion of Afghan refugees to the inability of Afghan Taliban led government to curb radicalism. Whilst connecting dots, he lamented that ever since Taliban regained power in Afghanistan, Pakistan has witnessed a spike in terrorism (almost a 60 percentage increase) committed by Tehrik- Taliban Pakistan, a close ally of Afghan Taliban. During these terrorist attacks, 2,267 Pakistanis lost their lives whereas 64 illegal Afghan migrants (involved in militancy) were killed by security forces, all of which were known to Afghan authorities. He also stressed upon the need that all anti-Pakistani elements residing in Afghanistan, must be immediately arrested and handed over to Pakistani authorities. Thus, the caretaker Prime Minister opened up with a charge sheet against Afghanistan and shared logistics to present the case of Pakistan wherein increased extremism had linkage with Afghan refugees in the country (Mashaal, 2023).

However, realistically speaking, as thousands crossed into Afghanistan border with barely any assets or belongings to get relocated into a country they initially fled from, chances are that this may be regarded as mistreatment and it might turn more ghastly for Pakistan. According to Zahid Hussain, an eminent militancy analyst and author, there must have been a settlement between Afghanistan and Pakistan to avoid any repercussions instead Afghan refugees are being hoarded into holding centres and sent away. He suggested that as the situation is quite tricky and sensitive it should be dealt with utmost caution to avoid any misgivings (Butt, 2023). On the contrary, the fact remains, that around 4 million Afghans reside in Pakistan whereas 1.7 million remain undocumented. With this notion set in mind, even the public of Pakistan majorly declared it to be a rightful step. According to Gallup Survey conducted in November 2023, around 84 percentage Pakistanis approved the government's initiative to deport all ill legal's and 64 percentage of the participants believed that Pakistan will better maintain its peace and security conditions after this deportation (Fahrney, 2023).

### **Recommendations**

After trend analysis of the recent wave of terrorism in Pakistan, various elements can be ascertained. Most importantly, it is an established fact now that the rise of Taliban into power and the fall of Kabul have come-out as a major security threat for Pakistan. When analysing the role of Tehrik-e-Taliban Pakistan (TTP) juxtaposed with Tehrik-e-Taliban Afghanistan (TTA), it seems that Pakistan has a Twin-Taliban problem. Even though, both these factions may not have same ideological grounds but clearly they extend their viewpoint about bringing damage to Pakistan's peace and security. After gaining power, the Taliban awarded TTP with de-facto political asylum. As a result, TTP has utilised its upgraded status in Afghanistan to initiate cross-border assaults and is repeatedly sending armed militants in Pakistan. Moreover, instead of having gratitude for all the support over the years, the ultimate and official Afghan Government reaction is quite a shock for Pakistan. Not only are they out rightly defying Pakistan but are also working in close collaborations with all agents that have anti-Pakistan motto. The Taliban have made no efforts to mask their backing towards TTP in Afghanistan but the logic behind such far-reaching support towards TTP in Afghanistan remains unclear.

The contribution of Afghan citizens in acts of terrorism against Pakistan is yet another significant concern that needed to be dealt with. Herein, Pakistan took immediate action as any attacks towards the security forces of the country as well as its inhabitants will be answered back with an effective and timely response i.e. deportation of illegal Afghan migrants was a step in the right direction. Hence by sending away illegal-migrants, Pakistan has effectively executed its two-tier motive i.e. the hope to pressurise Taliban government to take terrorism more seriously and to cleanse its ranks from all anti-Pakistan elements. In this regard, Pakistan stands united as both government ranks and public perception suggest that Pakistanis strongly approve the government's attempt to expel all illegal migrants and it is believed that this move will ensure improved peace and security conditions in Pakistan. So basically, there is no denying the fact that Pakistan made a wise move by announcing to deport illegal Afghan refugees (potential risk to Pakistan) as a significant number of those involved in terrorist activities are from among these undocumented migrants.

In case of Pakistan, despite much anticipated peace-maintaining efforts and targeted operations against terrorists on state level, the country is yet again going through another wave of terrorism presently. Hence, it is mandatory to keep making amends and dig-out the root-cause of terrorism specifically to rectify the issues and challenges it brings alongside. Evidently, Pakistan needs to envisage a coping mechanism with reference to the crucial reality that terrorism has bounced back in the country. Consequently, not only are the peace and security conditions of the country actively threatened but Pakistan's reputation is at stake too. The optics that a nuclear-equipped country with one of the best defence army in the world is vulnerable and exposed to extremist activities is definitely not a good message for the world. With the current state of security, the arrangements made by law-enforcement bodies and security agencies need to be more impactful. Every breach of security that happened all around the year needs to be fully looked into. Basically, Pakistan needs to initiate 'security-audit' of all such happenings in order to better understand the reason for such severe security lapse. There is an urgent need for a comprehensive policy in order to curb the hazards of terrorism and minimise its damages to a maximum extent. In this regard, the state machinery, security agencies, law-enforcing bodies and public sector need to work hand in hand in order to fully combat this hazard.

On another level, Pakistan must voice its concerns to all relevant platforms more diligently. There must be no hesitation to showcase protest against any ill-doings directed towards Pakistan. However, the medium of dialogue must always remain open. Even though, certain elements claim that Pakistan's initiative to curb terrorism by deporting migrants might backfire by fuelling grievances and reducing Afghan Taliban's willingness to cooperate, the fact remains that Pakistan needs to put its house in order first and for that Pakistan is entitled to take all measures. Similarly, United Nations and NATO countries alongside the United State of America are all actively involved parties that need to acknowledge the sacrifices of Pakistan. Hence, vital steps must be adopted by international community to redress the damages of Pakistan and neutralise the situation proficiently enough to avoid any further disorders in this region of the world which has remained a battleground for long.

### **Conclusion**

The rise of terrorism in Pakistan is surely undeniable as the country is most adversely hit by it in the recent past. Non-stop security breaches and severe form of extremism directed towards various segments of Pakistan are a genuine cause of worry for the state. This paper has adequately shed light upon all the major trends observed during this new wave of terrorism wherein the country seemingly struggles to battle with this menace. After a thorough observation, it can be deduced that Pakistan faces potential threats attempting to disrupt its peace and security conditions. With an alarming increase in these attacks, the country can no longer sit back and witness its doom carried out by malicious actions and ill-will of anti-Pakistan agents. Therefore, tangible steps are being adapted in order to well-manage this crisis which is quite appreciable. However, the need of the hour is that all agendas of restoring peace and stability in the country must stay in continuation until the root-cause of extremism is obliterated. In this regard, all sectors of Pakistan need to work hand-in hand to play a fundamental role in curbing terrorism. Also, the international community must recognize the responsibility of adhering to the ongoing suffering of Pakistan and resultantly contribute in restoring peace and equilibrium in the region.

## References

- [1] *AAJ NEWS*.(2023, August 10).Suicide bomber attacks FC vehicle in Bajaur, 1 injured. Retrieved from <https://www.aajenglish.tv/news/30330058>
- [2] Akbar, N. (2023, July 05).Three soldiers martyred in North Waziristan suicide attack. *AAJ News*. Retrieved from <https://www.aajenglish.tv/news/30326452>
- [3] *ALJazeera*. (2023, July 12). Fighters kill four soldiers at southern Pakistani army base Retrieved from <https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2023/7/12/fighters-kill-four-soldiers-at-southern-pakistani-army-base#:~:text= Suspected%20fighters%20attacked%20a%20military,army%20said%20in%20a%20statement>.
- [4] *Arab News*. (2023, January 03). Police say gunman kills 2 Pakistani intelligence officers. Retrieved from <https://www.arabnews.pk/node/2226236/pakistan>
- [5] Ashraf, S. (2023, August 01). Two cops martyred in attack on polio vaccination team in Quetta. *GEO NEWS*. Retrieved from <https://www.geo.tv/latest/502634-two-cops-killed-in-attack-on-polio-vaccination-team-in-quetta>
- [6] Ayub, I. (2023, February18).Security comes under question after audacious attack on Karachi Police Office. *DAWN*. Retrieved from <https://www.dawn.com/news/173773>
- [7] Basit, A & Ahmed, Z. (2021). *The Persistence of Terrorism in Pakistan: An analysis of Domestic and Regional Factors*. Routledge Press.
- [8] Basit, A & Ahmed, Z. (2021).*Terrorism, Security and Development in South Asia*.Routledge Press. Retrieved from <https://www.taylorfrancis.com/chapters/edit/10.4324/9780429342523-11/persistence-terrorism-pakistan-abdul-basit-zahid-shahab-ahmed>
- [9] Bashir, Q, Ahmad, M &Bhatti, N. (2023, March). Terrorism and Extremism in Pakistan: The Need for a Comprehensive Approach. *AL- Qamar*, 6(1). Retrieved from <https://alqamarjournal.com/index.php/alqamar/article/view/1296/812>
- [10] *BBC NEWS*. (2023, April 01). Balochistan: Four Pakistan border guards killed by militants near Iran. Retrieved from <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-asia-65148387>
- [11] Bokhari.F.(2024, January 29). Pakistan battles rising terror threat in Afghan border regions. *The Financial Times*. Retrieved from <https://www.ft.com/content/f739d848-5061-412e-b55a-027502925a64>
- [12] Butt, R. (2023, November 10). Pakistan's Anti-Migrant Crackdown Risks Radicalizing Deported Afghans. *The Diplomat* .Retrieved from

<https://thediplomat.com/2023/11/pakistans-anti-migrant-crackdown-risks-radicalizing-deportedafghans/#:~:text=7%2C%202023.&text=The%20Pakistani%20governm ent's%20crackdown%20on,analysts%20and%20experts%20said%20Thursday>.

- [13] Chaudhry, A. (2023, February 1). TTP attack on Mianwali police station ‘repulsed’ DAWN. Retrieved from <https://www.dawn.com/news/1734674>
- [14] Davies, C & Drury, F. (2024, February, 05). Pakistan: At least 10 killed in attack on police station. *BBC*. Retrieved from <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-asia-68201548>
- [15] Dawar, Rasool. (2023, March 30). Four cops martyred in LakkiMarwat terrorist attack. *GEO NEWS*. Retrieved from <https://www.geo.tv/latest/479282-lakki-marwat-terror-attack-leaves-four-cops-dead>
- [16] Donnell, L.O. (2023, November 13). Why Pakistan is pushing out Refugees. *Foreign Policy*. Retrieved from <https://foreignpolicy.com/2023/11/13/pakistan-afghanistan-taliban-refugees-deportation/>
- [17] Fahrney, M. (2023, December 15). Why Pakistan Is Deporting Afghan Migrants. *Council on Foreign Relations*. Retrieved from <https://www.cfr.org/in-brief/why-pakistan-deporting-afghan-migrants>
- [18] Farooq, U. (2023, January 15). DSP among three martyred in audacious Peshawar attack. *DAWN*. Retrieved from <https://www.dawn.com/news/1731712>
- [19] Gillani, D. (2021). *The History of Terrorism in Pakistan*. Cambridge University Press. Retrieved from <https://www.cambridge.org/core/books/abs/cambridge-history-of-terrorism/history-of-terrorism-in-pakistan/C91EC2FD3A183B8D0BA7B561DC34F8E2>
- [20] Global Terrorism Index 2022: Measuring the Impact of Terrorism. (2022). *Institute for Economics & Peace*. Retrieved from <http://visionofhumanity.org/resources>
- [21] Global Terrorism Index 2023: Measuring the Impact of Terrorism. (2023). *Institute for Economics & Peace*. Retrieved from <http://visionofhumanity.org/resources>
- [22] Gul, I. (2023, March 29). Explaining the Resurgence of Terrorism in Pakistan. *East Asia Forum*. Retrieved from <https://www.eastasiaforum.org/2023/03/29/explaining-the-resurgence-of-terrorist-violence-in-pakistan/>



- [23] Gul, A. (2023, July 03). Militant Ambush Kills 2 Pakistan Soldiers Amid Spike in Terrorism. *VOA*. Retrieved from <https://www.voanews.com/a/militant-ambush-kills-2-pakistan-soldiers-amid-spike-in-terrorism-/7164593.html>
- [24] Gul, A. (2023, September 02). Pakistan Blames 'Rushed' US Troop Exit for Terror Resurgence. *VOA*. Retrieved from <https://www.voanews.com/a/pakistan-blames-rushed-us-troop-exit-for-terror-resurgence-/7252042.html>
- [25] Gul, A. (2023, January, 18). Pakistani Army: Iran-based 'Terrorists' Kill 4 Pakistani Soldiers in Cross-border Attack. *VOA*. Retrieved from <https://www.voanews.com/a/pakistani-army-iran-based-terrorists-kill-4-pakistani-soldiers-in-cross-border-attack-/6923844.html>
- [26] Hanifullah. (2023, April 10). Cleric gunned down in Bajaur ambush. *The Express Tribune*. Retrieved from <https://tribune.com.pk/story/2410933/cleric-gunned-down-in-bajaur-ambush>
- [27] Haq, Z. (2023, July 25). Bomb blast at mosque kills police officer, injures others in Khyber. *ARY NEWS*. Retrieved from <https://arynews.tv/bomb-blast-at-mosque-kills-police-officer-injures-others-in-khyber/>
- [28] Hayat, A. (2023, July 21). 4 injured in blast in KP's Bajaur district. *DAWN*. Retrieved from <https://www.dawn.com/news/1765985/4-injured-in-blast-in-kps-bajaur-district>
- [29] Hussain, A. (2023, September 29). At least five killed as another blast hits Pakistan on prophet's birthday. *ALJazeera*. Retrieved from <https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2023/9/29/several-killed-as-another-blast-hits-pakistan-on-prophets-birthday>
- [30] Hussain, A. (2023, September 7). Four soldiers, 12 TTP fighters killed in northwest Pakistan. *Al-Jazeera*. Retrieved from <https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2023/9/7/four-soldiers-12-ttp-fighters-killed-in-northwest-pakistan>
- [31] Hussain, A. (2023, January 20). Several injured as bomb blast derails passenger train in Pakistan. Retrieved from <https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2023/1/20/blast-derails-passenger-train-in-pakistans-balochistan-report>
- [32] Imad, Z. (2023, April 7). ASI martyred, 2 constables injured in grenade attack in Swabi: police. *DAWN*. Retrieved from <https://www.dawn.com/news/1746423>
- [33] Imdad, Z. (2023, July 18). 6 Frontier Corps personnel injured as convoy attacked in Peshawar's Hayatabad: police. *DAWN*. Retrieved from <https://www.dawn.com/news/1765450>

- [34] Imdad, Z. & Shah, H. (2023, July 20). 3 policemen martyred, civilians among 9 injured in blast in Bara Bazaar in KP's Khyber district. *DAWN*. Retrieved from <https://www.dawn.com/news/1765787>
- [35] ISPR Press Release. (2023, November 06). Security forces conducted an intelligence based operation in general area Tirah, Khyber District on reported presence of terrorists. Retrieved from <https://www.ispr.gov.pk/press-release-detail?id=6665#:~:text=On%206%20November%202023%2C%20security,on%20reported%20presence%20of%20terrorists.>
- [36] Javed, R. (2023, March 21). PTI Mayor among 10 killed in Havelian Attack. *DAWN*. Retrieved from <https://www.dawn.com/news/1743350>
- [37] Khan, M.A. (2023, November 07). Two Policemen Martyred, 3 injured in another terrorist attack in DI Khan. *Dawn News*. Retrieved from <https://www.dawn.com/news/1787232>
- [38] Khan, M. (2023, June 3). 2 killed in remote-controlled bomb blast in Bajaur: police. *DAWN*. Retrieved from <https://www.dawn.com/news/1757731/2-killed-in-remote-controlled-bomb-blast-in-bajaur-police>
- [39] Marwat, G.M. (2023, October 21). Four militants killed in Lakki Marwat. *DAWN*. Retrieved from <https://www.dawn.com/news/1782510/four-militants-killed-in-lakki-marwat>
- [40] Mashaal, R. (2023, November 08). Expulsions of Afghans Follow Increase in Terrorism in Pakistan, Says Acting PM. *RFE/RL*. Retrieved from <https://www.rferl.org/a/pakistan-afghans-expulsions-kakar-terrorism/32676719.html>
- [41] Mehsud, S & Ali, M. (2023, December 12). Militant suicide truck attack kills 23 Pakistani soldiers. *REUTERS*. Retrieved from <https://www.reuters.com/world/asia-pacific/militant-attack-kills-four-security-officials-northwest-pakistan-official-2023-12-12/>
- [42] Nihad, G. & Sasoli, I. (2023, February 26). 5 killed, 13 injured in blast in Balochistan's Barkhan. *DAWN*. Retrieved from <https://www.dawn.com/news/1739232/explosion-reported-in-balochistans-barkhan>
- [43] Nihad, G. & Siddiqui, N. (2023, February 10). 2 soldiers martyred in IED blast in Balochistan's Kohlu: ISPR. *DAWN*. Retrieved from <https://www.dawn.com/news/1736391>
- [44] Nizami, A. T., Hassan, T. M., Yasir, S., Rana, M. H., & Minhas, F. A. (2018). Terrorism in Pakistan: the psychosocial context and why it matters. *BJPpsych*

*international*, 15(1), 20–22. Retrieved from:  
<https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC6020923/>

- [45] *Pakistan Today*. (2023, August 31). Suicide attack on military convoy leaves nine soldiers martyred in JaniKhel. Retrieved from <https://www.pakistantoday.com.pk/2023/08/31/suicide-attack-on-military-convoy-leaves-nine-soldiers-martyred-in-jani-khel/>
- [46] Peshimam, G.N. (2023, November 04). Militants attack air-force base in central Pakistan, say Military. Reuters. Retrieved from <https://www.reuters.com/world/asia-pacific/militants-attack-air-force-base-central-pakistan-military-2023-11-04/>
- [47] Rehman, Z. (2024, February 07). Election Office Blasts in Pakistan Kill at Least 22 a Day Before Vote. *The New York Times*. Retrieved from <https://www.nytimes.com/2024/02/07/world/asia/pakistan-elections-attacks.html>
- [48] Reuters. (2023, January 19). Pakistani Taliban attacks police outpost, killing three officers. Retrieved from <https://www.reuters.com/world/asia-pacific/pakistani-taliban-attacks-police-outpost-killing-three-officers-2023-01-19/>
- [49] Saddiq, A, Saboohi, N & Haider, S. (2023, September 11). Peshawar Blast leaves one FC personnel martyred, several injured. *The News*. Retrieved from <https://www.thenews.com.pk/latest/1108813-vehicle-carrying-security-forces-targeted-in-peshawar-blast>
- [50] Saeed, T. (2023, September 02). Army Major among two martyred in NW Shootout. *Pakistan Observer* Retrieved from <https://pakobserver.net/army-major-among-two-martyred-in-nw-shootout/>
- [51] Saifi, S., Mehsud, S & Humayun, H. (2023, January, 30). Pakistan mosque attack kills more than 60 people. *CNN*. Retrieved from <https://edition.cnn.com/2023/01/30/asia/peshawar-pakistan-mosque-blast-intl/index.html>
- [52] Sajid, I. (2024, February 08). 51 'terrorist attacks' on Pakistan election day left 12 people dead: Army. *Asia-Pacific*. Retrieved from <https://www.aa.com.tr/en/asia-pacific/51-terrorist-attacks-on-pakistan-election-day-left-12-people-dead-army/3131071>
- [53] Saleem, S. (2023, March 15). Two killed, seven injured in Khuzdar vehicle blast. *DAWN*. Retrieved from <https://www.dawn.com/news/1742288>
- [54] SAMAA (2023, November 4). Retrieved from <https://www.samaa.tv/208733779-five-killed-over-20-injured-in-di-khan-motorbike-blast>

- [55] Sasoli, I. (2023, April 27). CTD official martyred in blast in Balochistan's Khuzdar. *DAWN*. Retrieved from <https://www.dawn.com/news/1749574>
- [56] Sasoli, I & Nihad, G. (2023, March 06). 8 policemen, one civilian martyred in suicide attack on Balochistan Constabulary van in Bolan. *DAWN*. Retrieved from <https://www.dawn.com/news/1740715/explosion-reported-in-balochistans-sibi>
- [57] Security Forces kill three terrorists in Zhob (2023, September 29). *Radio Pakistan*. Retrieved from <https://www.radio.gov.pk/29-09-2023/security-forces-kill-three-terrorists-in-zhob>
- [58] Shah, S.A. (2023, September 29). At least 50 killed, scores injured in blast near Eid Miladun Nabi procession in Mastung. *The Express Tribune*. Retrieved from <https://tribune.com.pk/story/2438428/at-least-20-killed-dozens-injured-in-blast-near-eid-miladun-nabi-procession-in-mastung>
- [59] Shah, S.A. (2023, April 14). IED blast kills three children in Chaman near Afghan border. *The Express Tribune*. Retrieved from <https://tribune.com.pk/story/2411965/ied-blast-kills-three-children-in-chaman-near-afghan-border>
- [60] Shah, S.A. (2023, August 07). UC chairman among seven dead in blast near Balochistan's Panjgur. *The Express Tribune*. Retrieved from <https://tribune.com.pk/story/2429677/uc-chairman-among-seven-dead-in-blast-near-balochistans-panjgur>
- [61] Shahid, A. (2023, September 29). Major attacks in Pakistan during 2023. *REUTERS*. Retrieved from <https://www.reuters.com/world/asia-pacific/major-attacks-pakistan-during-2023-2023-09-29/>
- [62] Sheikh, M., Shaikh, F & Price, G. (2012). *Pakistan: Regional Rivals, Local Impacts*. Chatham House. Retrieved from [https://www.files.ethz.ch/isn/154089/RP2012-12-Pakistan-regional-rivalries-local-impacts\\_web.pdf](https://www.files.ethz.ch/isn/154089/RP2012-12-Pakistan-regional-rivalries-local-impacts_web.pdf)
- [63] Shirazi, I. (2023, November 03). 14 Soldiers martyred as Militants Ambush Security Forces' vehicles in Gwadar: ISPR. Dawn News. Retrieved from <https://www.dawn.com/news/1786153>
- [64] Shirazi, I. (2023, June 20). 2 soldiers martyred in IED blast in North Waziristan's Spinwam: ISPR. *DAWN*. Retrieved from <https://www.dawn.com/news/1760817>
- [65] Siddiqui, A., Saboohi, N & Haider, S. (2023, September 11). Peshawar blast leaves one FC personnel martyred, several injured. *The News*. Retrieved from <https://www.thenews.com.pk/latest/1108813-vehicle-carrying-security-forces-targeted-in-peshawar-blast>

- [66] Siddiqui, N. (2023, February 05). Woman, son injured in Bajaur landmine blast. *DAWN*. Retrieved from <https://www.dawn.com/news/1735318/woman-son-injured-in-bajaur-landmine-blast>
- [67] Yusufzai, M. (2023, July 30). Suspected Pakistan suicide bombing kills at least 55, injures 135 more at political rally. *NBC*. Retrieved from <https://www.nbcnews.com/news/world/bomb-political-rally-northwest-pakistan-kills-least-35-people-wounds-1-rcna97141>
- [68] Zehri, A. (2023, July 02). 4 security personnel martyred after checkpoints in Balochistan's Sherani come under attack. *DAWN*. Retrieved from <https://www.dawn.com/news/1762571#:~:text=Three%20police%20officials%20and%20a,Sherani%20subdistrict%20came%20under%20attack.>
- [69] Zehra, Z. (2023, March 21). ISI brigadier martyred in South Waziristan shootout. *GEO NEWS*. Retrieved from <https://www.geo.tv/latest/477772-isi-brigadier-martyred-in-south-waziristan-shootout>
- [70] Zehri, A. (2023, May 19). Sirajul Haq escapes suicide attack on convoy in Balochistan's Zhob, 6 others injured: police. *DAWN*. Retrieved from <https://www.dawn.com/news/1754368>