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# PAKISTAN SECURITY REPORT



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## **PAKISTAN SECURITY REPORT 2020**

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**Studies** (PIPS)

Post Box No. 2110,  
Islamabad, Pakistan  
+92-51-8359475-6  
www.pakpips.com,  
editor@pakpips.com

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## LIST OF ACRONYMS

<b>AJK:</b>	Azad Jammu and Kashmir	<b>JID:</b>	Joint Intelligence Directorate
<b>AQIS:</b>	Al-Qaeda in the Indian Subcontinent	<b>JM:</b>	Jaish-e-Muhammad
<b>Arm:</b>	Army	<b>JuA:</b>	Jamaatul Ahrar
<b>ASWJ:</b>	Ahl-e-Sunnat Wal Jamaat	<b>JuD:</b>	Jamaatud Dawa
<b>ATC:</b>	Anti-Terrorism Courts	<b>JUI-F:</b>	Jamiat-e-Ulema-e-Islam-Fazl
<b>ATF:</b>	Anti-Terrorism Force	<b>Kid:</b>	Kidnapping
<b>BH:</b>	Beheading	<b>KP:</b>	Khyber-Pakhtunkhwa
<b>BLA:</b>	Balochistan Liberation Army	<b>LeJ:</b>	Lashkar-e-Jhangvi
<b>BLF:</b>	Balochistan Liberation Front	<b>LeJ-A:</b>	Lashkar-e-Jhangvi Al-Alami
<b>BNP:</b>	Balochistan National Party	<b>LI:</b>	Lashkar-e-Islam
<b>BNP-M:</b>	Balochistan National Party-Mengal Group	<b>LM:</b>	Landmine Blast
<b>BRA:</b>	Baloch Republican Army	<b>LoC:</b>	Line of Control
<b>BSF:</b>	[Indian] Border Security Force	<b>Lvs:</b>	Levies Force
<b>BT:</b>	Bomb Blast	<b>MDM:</b>	Muttahida Deeni Mahaz
<b>Civ:</b>	Civilians	<b>Mil:</b>	Militant
<b>CPEC:</b>	China-Pakistan Economic Corridor	<b>MQM:</b>	Muttahida Qaumi Movement
<b>CTDs:</b>	Counter Terrorism Departments [of police]	<b>MWM:</b>	Majlis Wahdatul Muslimeen
<b>CVE:</b>	Counter Violent Extremism	<b>NACTA:</b>	National Counter-Terrorism Authority
<b>DGMOs:</b>	Director Generals of Military Operations	<b>NADRA:</b>	National Database and Registration Authority
<b>DSP:</b>	Deputy Superintendent Police	<b>NAP:</b>	National Action Plan
<b>FATF:</b>	Financial Action Task Force	<b>NATO:</b>	North Atlantic Treaty Organization
<b>FC:</b>	Frontier Corps	<b>NEC:</b>	National Executive Committee
<b>FIA:</b>	Federal Investigative Agency	<b>NIC:</b>	National Implementation Committee [on FATA reforms]
<b>Fr:</b>	Firing	<b>NSA:</b>	National Security Advisor
<b>HG:</b>	Hand Grenade	<b>P-mil:</b>	Paramilitary Forces
<b>HRCP:</b>	Human Rights Commission of Pakistan	<b>PML-N:</b>	Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz
<b>HuA:</b>	Hizbul Ahrar	<b>Pol:</b>	Police
<b>IDP:</b>	Internally Displaced Persons	<b>PPP:</b>	Pakistan People's Party
<b>IED:</b>	Improvised Explosive Device	<b>PTI:</b>	Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaaf
<b>ISI:</b>	Inter-Services Intelligence	<b>PTM:</b>	Pakhtun Tahafuz Movement
<b>ISIS:</b>	Islamic State in Iraq and Syria	<b>QWP:</b>	Qaumi Watan Party
<b>IS-K:</b>	Islamic State Khorasan	<b>RA:</b>	Rocket Attack
<b>ISPR:</b>	Inter-Services Public Relations	<b>RCB:</b>	Remote-controlled Bomb
<b>JI:</b>	Jamaat-e-Islami	<b>Rng:</b>	Rangers
		<b>SA:</b>	Suicide Attack
		<b>Sab:</b>	Sabotage

**SDLF/A:** Sindhu Desh Liberation  
Front/Army  
**SDRA:** Sindhu Desh Revolution Army  
**SECP:** Securities and Exchange  
Commission of Pakistan  
**Sect:** Sectarian  
**SM:** Sipah-e-Muhammad  
**SP:** Superintendent of Police  
**SSP:** Sipah-e-Sahaba Pakistan

**ST:** Sunni Tehreek  
**TA:** Terrorist Attack  
**TLP:** Tehreek-e-Labbaik Pakistan  
**TTP:** Tehreek-e-Taliban Pakistan  
**UBA:** United Baloch Army  
**UN:** United Nations  
**WB:** Working Boundary

## METHODOLOGY AND VARIABLES

The PIPS conflict/security database and archives are the basic sources relied upon for this report. The archives and the database are the outcome of a meticulous monitoring process on every relevant incident in the country on a daily basis. A regular follow up is conducted in liaison with PIPS correspondents in the regions in order to keep track of daily developments on such incidents. PIPS compiles data from sources including newspapers, magazines, journals, field sources and screening of official record. More than 30 English and Urdu dailies, magazines, and journals, and various television news channels are monitored to update the database and archives. Regional daily newspapers and weeklies from Peshawar, Quetta, Gilgit and Karachi are also monitored for details of incidents reported in the local media. Correspondents in provincial capitals are the primary source for PIPS to verify the media reports. In case of a major incident, PIPS teams consult the local administration and journalists for further details. In cases where PIPS finds it difficult to verify facts of a particular incident, it gives preference to the official statements in that regard.

PIPS security reports utilize eight major variables with their respective set of sub-variables for analysis of the security situation in Pakistan. The security landscape is mapped through a combination of quantitative and qualitative approaches. Quantitative methods are used, based on PIPS Conflict and Security Database, to measure the scale and level of violence. Meanwhile, the qualitative approach dilates upon changes and developments on the militants' front, state responses to these developments and projections of future scenarios. The following eight major variables with their sub-sets of variable are used in the PIPS Security Reports:

- 1. Attacks:** This major variable has a sub-set of five sub-variables i.e. (i) terrorist attacks including militant attacks, nationalist insurgent attacks and sectarian-related attacks; (ii) incidents of ethno-political violence; (iii) cross-border attacks; (iv) drone attacks; and (v) operational attacks by security forces against militants. Since Pakistan's security landscape is very complicated with a diverse array of insecurity indicators in different parts of the country, the type of violence in one geographical unit is often different in its nature and dynamics from security landscape in other parts of the country. For this purpose, the mentioned sub-set of variables is carefully monitored and analyzed in the security report with a view to suggest specific counter-strategy for each type of attack in these areas.
- 2. Clash:** Another variable used is of clashes which include four sub-variables, i.e., (i) inter-tribal; (ii) sectarian; (iii) clashes between security forces and militants; and (iv) militants' infightings. The number of such clashes and their geographic location is taken as an indicator of parallel trends unfolding simultaneously with major trends and patterns of security in different areas of the country.

- 3. State Responses:** It has two sub-variables: (i) security measures, and (ii) political and administrative responses. The first takes into account the security forces' operational attacks and clashes with militants, search and hunt operations and terrorists' arrests, etc. The second variable entails the government's political and administrative measures to maintain law and order and reduce insecurity and violence.
- 4. Casualties:** Casualties include both the number of people killed and injured. Casualties among civilians, militants and security forces are treated as another indicator to measure the levels and trends of security in the country.
- 5. Attack Tactics:** This head takes a comprehensive account of various tactics used by different actors including suicide attacks, missile attacks, hand grenade attacks, kidnappings, rocket attacks, beheadings, landmine blasts, firing, sabotage, target killings, and bomb and improvised explosive devices blasts.
- 6. Development on Militants' Front:** This variable analyzes statements, activities, internal divisions and other activities of militants to determine their strength and the dynamics of their strategies.
- 7. Opportunities and Challenges** include political measures and military responses to different security issues along with highlighting constraints and challenges encountered by the state.
- 8. Claim of Responsibility:** It provides insight into militants' targets, tactics, areas of operation, and agendas.



## GLOSSARY

**Military Operation:** Large-scale operations launched by military and paramilitary forces against Islamist militants and separatist insurgents in KP, FATA and Balochistan to preserve law and order and the writ of the state.

**Operational Attack:** Pre-emptive attacks launched by military and paramilitary troops to purge an area of militants.

**Clashes between Security Forces and Militants:** Armed clashes between security forces and militants, triggered by militants' attack on security check posts/ convoys and confrontation during search operations.

**Terrorist Attacks:** Include militant, nationalist, insurgent and sectarian attacks. Indiscriminate use of violence by militant outfits such as Tehreek-e-Taliban Pakistan (TTP), Lashkar-e-Islam (LI) and Lashkar-e-Jhangvi (LeJ) etc., manifested through suicide attacks, beheadings and destruction of educational institutions, CD/video shops, etc.

**Nationalist Insurgent Attacks:** Attacks by separatists/nationalist insurgents mainly in Balochistan and interior parts of Sindh.

**Sectarian Attacks:** Indiscriminate use of violence rooted in differences among various Islamic schools of thought over interpretation of religious commands. Incidents involving indiscriminate use of violence perpetrated by banned sectarian outfits such as LeJ, Tehreek-e-Jafria, Imamia Student Organization (ISO), Sipah-e-Muhammad, etc., against rival schools of religious thought.

**Ethno-political Violence:** The threat or use of violence, often against the civilian population, to achieve political or social ends, to intimidate opponents, or to publicize grievances.

**Inter-tribal Clash:** Clashes or feuds reported between tribes, mainly in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Balochistan, rural areas of Punjab and parts of interior Sindh.

**Search and Hunt Operation:** Launched by law enforcement agencies on intelligence to capture militants or to purge a particular locality of suspected militants and their hideouts.

**Sectarian Clashes:** Violent clashes between armed factions of banned sectarian outfits or between followers of rival sects such as Sunni-Shia, Deobandi-Barelvi strife. Sectarian clashes also include tribal feuds between followers of Sunni and Shia schools of thought as in Kurram, where once the Sunni Turi tribesmen frequently clashed with members of the Shia Bangash tribe.

**Overall Number of Attacks:** The sum of militant and counter-militant attacks by the security forces, besides drone attacks, incidents of ethno-political violence, and attacks with sectarian motives or by nationalist insurgents.

**Plot/Unsuccessful Attempts:** These include attempts at terrorist attacks that were either foiled by security forces and bomb disposal squads, or explosives went off by accident before militants or suicide bombers reached their intended target.

## **Chapter 1**

# **Overview of Security in 2020**

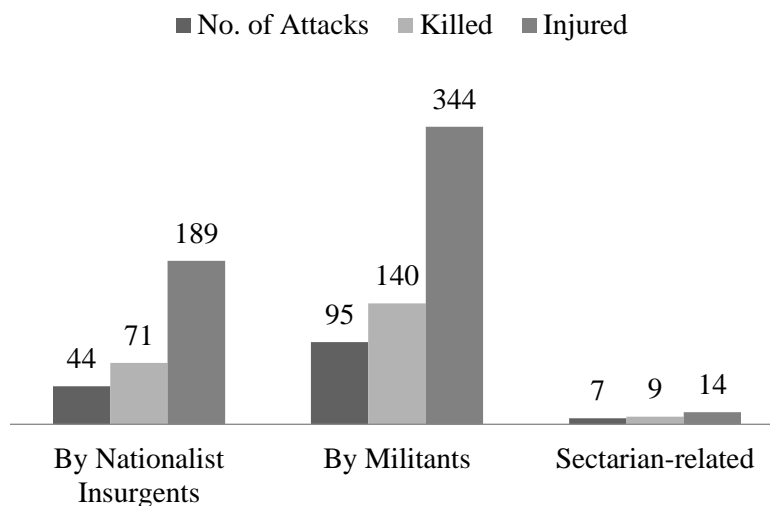
## **1.1 Overview of Security Situation in 2020**

Marking a decline of over 36 percent from the year before, different militant, nationalist/insurgent and violent sectarian groups perpetrated a total of 146 terrorist attacks across Pakistan in 2020 including three suicide blasts. These attacks claimed in all 220 lives – a decline of 38 percent from those killed in such attacks in 2019 – and injured another 547 people.

A distribution of these terrorist attacks by their perpetrators suggests that so-called religiously inspired militant groups such as the Tehreek-e-Taliban Pakistan (TTP), its splinter groups Hizbul Ahrar and Jamaatul Ahrar (both groups declared a return to their parent group, i.e. TTP in August 2020), as well as other militant groups with similar objectives such as local Taliban groups, Lashkar-e-Islam and ISIS-affiliates perpetrated 95 terrorist attacks – compared to 158 in previous year – which killed 140 people and injured 344 others. Meanwhile Baloch and Sindhi nationalist insurgent groups carried out 44 attacks – as compared to 57 such attacks in 2019 – which claimed 71 lives and wounded another 189 people. As many as seven of the reported terrorist attacks in 2020 were sectarian-related – half from such attacks in the year before – which killed nine people and inflicted injuries on 14 others.

Personnel of security and law enforcement agencies suffered significant casualties in these attacks including 97 dead and 113 injured; those 97 dead included 42 army officials; 25 FC men; 25 policemen; 3 Levies; and 2 Rangers. Similarly, 94 civilians lost their lives and another 372 were wounded in these attacks. Meanwhile 15 militants were killed and another four were injured, either in suicide blasts or security forces' retaliatory fire following some attacks.

### **Chart 1: Classification of Terrorist Attacks in Pakistan in 2020**



The militants hit diverse targets of over 17 types in their attacks but they targeted security forces and civilians more frequently. A total of 84 attacks, or about 58 percent of the total terrorist attacks reported in 2020, hit personnel, vehicles/convoys and posts of security forces and law-enforcement agencies across Pakistan. These attacks targeting security and law enforcement personnel also caused significant casualties (133 killed; 215 injured). Civilians were the apparent targets of 29 attacks, which claimed 19 lives and injured 138 others. A combined total of eight attacks targeted Shia and Sunni community members, claiming 18 lives, and another three attacks hit worship places and madrassas killing 24 people. Meanwhile, six attacks targeted tribal elders, and four attacks hit political leaders and workers. Other sporadic targets hit by the terrorist in 2020 are given at Table 1.

**Table 1: Targets Hit in Terrorist Attacks in 2020**

Targets	No. of Attacks	Killed	Injured
Security forces/law enforcement agencies	84	133	215
Gas pipelines	1	0	0
Tribal elders	6	9	2
Civilians	29	19	138
CD/other shops/private property	1	0	0
Shia religious scholars/community	4	5	14

Worship places/shrines/madrassas	3	24	112
Govt. offices/public property (hospitals, banks etc.)	1	8	7
Sunni religious leaders/community	4	13	20
Haqqani network [of Afghan Taliban]	1	1	0
Political leaders/workers	4	0	39
Media/journalists	1	1	0
Health/polio workers, security escorts	2	3	0
CPEC/workers/Chinese nationals	1	0	0
Railway tracks / trains	2	0	0
Development, exploration projects, companies, workers	1	4	0
NATO/US supply vehicles	1	0	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>146</b>	<b>220</b>	<b>547</b>

In perpetrating the reported 146 attacks, terrorists mainly employed improvised explosive devices (IEDs) of various types (68 attacks) and direct firing/shootout (56 attacks). They also used other attack tactics, though less frequently, including three (3) suicide blasts, 12 hand grenade attacks, four (4) rocket attacks, one coordinated gun-and-bomb attack and two acts of sabotage.

Khyber Pakhtunkhwa witnessed the highest number of terrorist attacks for any one region of Pakistan. A total of 79 terrorist attacks happened in the province, including 31 in the North Waziristan tribal district alone, which in all claimed 100 lives and inflicted injuries on another 206 people. While a majority of these attacks (50) targeted security forces, as many as eight attacks hit civilians, and a combined eight attacks were directed against tribal elders and political leaders/workers. Shia religious community was hit in four attacks, and a single attack targeting a madrassa claimed eight lives. The TTP, Hizbul Ahrar, Jamaatul Ahrar, local Taliban, Lashkar-e-Islam and other groups with similar objectives perpetrated 75 of the total attacks reported from KP, while the other four attacks were sectarian-related.

As in 2019, North Waziristan remained a major flashpoint of insecurity and militant violence in the year 2020 where 31 terrorist attacks took place, or about 39 percent of the total reported attacks from KP, which killed 50 people and injured 55 others. Nine terrorist attacks happened in Bajaur tribal district claiming seven lives. Meanwhile, six (6) terrorist attacks happened in each of Peshawar and South

Waziristan districts. Similarly, four attacks took place in DI Khan, and three (3) attacks were recorded in each of Khyber, Kurram and Kohat districts. In all, terrorist attacks were recorded in 19 districts of KP.

After Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Balochistan province was most affected by terrorism in 2020 where 95 people were killed and 216 others were injured in 42 reported attacks. Different Baloch insurgents groups, mainly the Baloch Liberation Army (BLA), Balochistan Liberation Front (BLF), BRAS – a newly established alliance of Baloch insurgent groups mainly including BLA, BLF and Baloch Republican Guard (BRG) – Lashkar-e-Balochistan, Baloch Republican Army (BRA), and United Baloch Army (UBA) etc., perpetrated 32 attacks killing 50 people and wounding 87 others. These attacks included at least four major attacks that targeted security forces in Kech, Bolan, Gwadar (Ormara) and Harnai.

Meanwhile, religiously inspired militant groups such as the TTP, Hizbul Ahrar, ISIS-affiliates and some other similar unknown militants were reportedly involved in as many as 10 attacks in Balochistan that caused death to 36 people and injuries to another 93 people. Attacks by religiously inspired militants also included few major ones including two suicide blasts in Quetta – one of these suicide blasts was perpetrated by the Islamic State group against the mosque attached to a madrassa – and a vehicle-borne blast in Chaman (Qilla Abdullah). On the whole, terrorist attacks happened in 14 districts of Balochistan including nine from Kech, eight from the provincial capital Quetta, four from Qilla Abdullah and three attacks from Mastung. Bolan, Dera Bugti, and Harnai faced two attacks each, while one attack took place in each of Gwadar, Kalat, Nasirabad, Nushki, Panjgur, Sibi and Sohbatput districts.

As many as 18 terrorist attacks happened in Sindh province – 15 in Karachi and 3 in interior Sindh – which killed a total of 20 people and injured 66 others. Eleven of these attacks were perpetrated by nationalist insurgents, including 10 attacks by Sindhi nationalist groups Sindhudesh Revolution Army (SDRA) and Sindhudesh Liberation Army (SDLA), and one attack was carried out by a Baloch insurgent group, BLA, against the Karachi Stock Exchange. These attacks by Sindhi and Baloch insurgent groups claimed 12 lives and wounded 66 others. Religiously inspired militants including the TTP perpetrated four attacks, which claimed as many lives. Meanwhile, three attacks reported from Sindh were sectarian-related targeted killings, two of which targeted Sunni leaders and community members,

and another targeted a policeman who subscribed to Shia sect of Islam. Half of the attacks reported from Sindh targeted security and law enforcement personnel (including one attack that had sectarian motivation), another four targeted civilians, and two attacks hit Sunni community members. Meanwhile one attack targeted, as cited earlier, Karachi Stock Exchange and another attack hit a rally held by Jamaat-e-Islami. Yet another attack targeted a Chinese national, though without causing any casualty.

In all, seven (7) terrorist attacks took place in Punjab in the year 2020 which claimed five lives and injured 59 people. With the exception of one attack, which was perpetrated by the Baloch insurgent group BLA in Sadiqabad tehsil of south Punjab's Rahim Yar Khan district, all other attacks concentrated in Rawalpindi and were perpetrated by Pakistani Taliban including the TTP and its splinters Jamaatul Ahrar and Hizbul Ahrar, which rejoined the former in August 2020. While five of these attacks in Punjab targeted, apparently, civilians, one attack targeted the police and another targeted a gas pipeline.

No terrorist was recorded in Islamabad, Gilgit-Baltistan and Azad Jammu and Kashmir during the year 2020. (See Table 2)

**Table 2: Terrorist Attacks in Pakistan in 2020**

<b>Region</b>	<b>No. of Attacks</b>	<b>Killed</b>	<b>Injured</b>
Khyber Pakhtunkhwa	79	100	206
Balochistan	42	95	216
Punjab	7	5	59
Karachi	15	17	65
Sindh (excluding Karachi)	3	3	1
Islamabad/AJK/GB	0	0	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>146</b>	<b>220</b>	<b>547</b>

### 1.1.1 Comparison

However, when counted together, as many as 373 incidents of violence of different types were recorded across Pakistan including the terrorist attacks cited earlier.

Apart from 146 terrorist attacks, these violent incidents also included a combined total of 125 cross-border attacks from India and Afghanistan; 47 anti-militant operational strikes carried out by security forces and their 15 armed clashes/encounters with militants; eight (8) incidents of communal/faith-based violence; 14 thwarted/failed terror plots; three (3) inter-militant clashes; two (2) clashes between security forces and protestors; one sectarian clash; one incident of ethno-political violence; and 11 targeted attacks, whose motivation was not clear (*See Table 3*). These overall incidents of violence killed a total of 503 people and injured 851 others.

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