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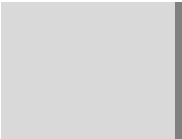
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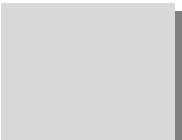
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LIST OF ACRONYMS

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

Pol:	Police	SECP:	Securities and Exchange Commission of Pakistan
PPP:	Pakistan People's Party	Sect:	Sectarian
PTI:	Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaaf	SM:	Sipah-e-Muhammad
PTM:	Pakhtun Tahafuz Movement	SP:	Superintendent of Police
QWP:	Qaumi Watan Party	SSP:	Sipah-e-Sahaba Pakistan
RA:	Rocket Attack	ST:	Sunni Tehreek
RCB:	Remote-controlled Bomb	TA:	Terrorist Attack
Rng:	Rangers	TLP:	Tehreek-e-Labbaik Pakistan
SA:	Suicide Attack	TTP:	Tehreek-e-Taliban Pakistan
Sab:	Sabotage	UBA:	United Baloch Army
SDLF/A:	Sindhu Desh Liberation Front/Army	UN:	United Nations
SDRA:	Sindhu Desh Revolution Army	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.

FOREWORD

The year 2020 sustained the declining trend in the incidence of terrorist violence in Pakistan that has been ongoing since 2014. The statistics provided by Pakistan Security Report 2020 indicated a 36 percent decrease in the number of terrorist attacks this year, as compared to 2019; the number of people killed in these attacks also plummeted by 38 percent. However, these plummeting numbers do not suggest, in any way, that the threat of terrorism has been completely eliminated. While multiple factors have contributed, including continuous operational and surveillance campaigns by security forces, and some counter-extremism actions taken under the National Action Plan (NAP), in reducing terrorist violence at the tactical and operational levels, but the militant and sectarian groups have been becoming active again of late.

Secondly, the underlying factors of religious extremism and persecution persist in the country, which could feed into terrorist violence and/or faith-based violence by individuals and mobs. While the incidence and level of terrorist violence can be measured, it is very hard to measure extremism and extremist trends in a society. Therefore, a reduction in terrorist violence should not be taken as a measure of a reduction in extremism.

The Tehreek-e-Taliban Pakistan (TTP) and its affiliates continued to regroup in parts of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa in 2020; they were believed to be involved in most of the 79 attacks reported from KP, and also claimed few attacks in Karachi, Rawalpindi and Balochistan. The TTP leadership has also managed to bring some former splinters as well as other groups into its fold, including Hizbul Ahrar and Jamaatul Ahrar. The slow reforms process in Ex-FATA has resulted in lackluster administrative, judicial, security, and economic reforms. Experts assert that any governance failures in merged tribal districts or a new war in Afghanistan in the wake of US withdrawal will likely open up new avenues for hardcore militants.

Baloch insurgents were apparently also trying to intensify their attacks (they launched multiple high-impact attacks in 2020) and expand their areas of operations as was visible from their attack on Karachi Stock Exchange. Secondly, they have been placing more focus on south and southwestern Balochistan where lies Gwadar port, so-called lynchpin of China-Pakistan Economic Corridor. Similarly, Sindhi insurgent groups perpetrated at least 10 attacks in Sindh in the year 2020. These groups have a history of perpetrating sporadic low-intensity, low-impact attacks. But in 2020 they managed to create some impact both in terms of number and intensity of the attacks they launched. Half of the attacks by Sindhi insurgents targeted security forces.

As far as the manifestation of religious extremism in the country is concerned, growing sectarian and communal tensions in the year were one indicator. While no such incident had happened in 2019, as many as eight (8) incidents of communal or faith-based violence were recorded in Pakistan in 2020 including six in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and two in Punjab. Members of Ahmadi community and blasphemy-accused were targeted in such violence. In one of these incidents, shrine (Samadhi) of a Hindu saint was vandalized and torched in Karak. Similarly, while on the whole sectarian violence has plummeted in Pakistan in recent years, yet its factors as well as sectarian discord and the groups promoting it continue to exist. The sectarian tensions that gripped the country during and after Moharram in 2020 once again exposed the country's sectarian vulnerabilities and fault-lines.

Although the government has produced clergy-backed documents like the Paigham-e-Pakistan and the Code of Conduct (CoC) with an aim to promote interfaith and intersect harmony and countering the ideologies and narratives of extremist groups, effectiveness of these initiatives remains to be seen. Released in October 2020, the cited CoC acknowledged the right of citizens to practice their religion and religious rites, and declared that a resort to violence in the name of enforcing Islam was illegal and rebellious. The government has also developed a legal draft (Paigham-e-Pakistan bill) to protect the honour of the family members and companions of the Prophet (PBUH). Experts argue that the problem of sectarianism is structural and deep-rooted and cannot be solved with cosmetic measures. Some even argue that religious organizations, including banned ones, use such state-led initiatives as a cover to survive and keep their networks intact. For one, in the most recent countrywide sectarian protests in September 2020, "the same religious leaders who had been preaching sectarian tolerance until last year [as espoused in Paigham-e-Pakistan] suddenly took to the streets with slogans of hatred."¹

Many experts also see this as an indication of faltering and inconsistent NAP implementation. They argue that the governments have been using NAP to flaunt their anti-terror credentials to the world, instead of using it as a meaningful framework for addressing the challenges of terrorism and extremism. There is also this perception that the incumbent government is seemingly not interested in reviewing, revising or expanding NAP. According to a media report, the prime minister was briefed in June 2020 on an "Internal National Action Plan devised during the last 20 months for internal security and for that purpose 14 high-level committees of experts ha[d] been formed to submit proposals on different issues within a month."² However, the subsequent government efforts suggested that this plan largely related to countering terrorist financing, and the wider internal security policy or NAP did not manage to get the required policy focus.

PIPS hopes that this 15th edition of its annual security report would help the policymakers, academics, media and civil society understand the gravity of the security situation in

Pakistan with a view to moving towards sustainable solutions. This year too, the report includes more in-depth analysis on critical security issues. Apart from the comprehensive data on violent incidents, comparative analysis of various security variables, the changing targets and tactics of militants and nature of state responses, the report also contains comprehensive review of militant landscape of Pakistan, the government efforts to ensure CPEC security and a review of Islamic State group's presence and activities in Pakistan.

The credit for this report goes to the entire team at PIPS, particularly Ahmed Ali, Anam Fatima, Qura tul ain Hafeez, and Mikail Shaikh whose research support, especially in developing some sections of the report and drawing annexures and timelines, greatly helped the analysis provided inside; and Hazrat Bilal, who provided technical support for the PIPS database.

Safdar Sial

January 4, 2021

Overview of Security in 2020: Critical Challenges and Recommendations

Safdar Sial and Ahmed Ali*

- 1.1 Overview of Security Situation in 2020
- 1.2 Critical Challenges and Recommendations

-
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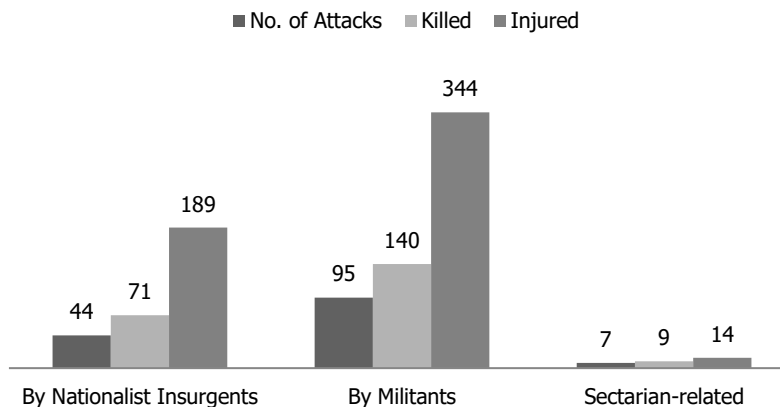
1.1 Overview of Security Situation in 2020

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
Total	146	220	547

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 59 people and wounding 123 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 attacks each from Kech and Quetta, four from each of Qilla Abdullah and Harnai districts, and three attacks from Mastung. Meanwhile, Bolan, Dera Bugti, Kalat, and Panjgur faced two attacks each, while one attack took place in each of Gwadar, Nasirabad, Nushki, 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

Region	No. of Attacks	Killed	Injured
Khyber Pakhtunkhwa	79	100	206
Balochistan	42	95	216
Punjab	7	5	59

Region	No. of Attacks	Killed	Injured
Karachi	15	17	65
Sindh (excluding Karachi)	3	3	1
Islamabad/AJK/GB	0	0	0
Total	146	220	547

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.

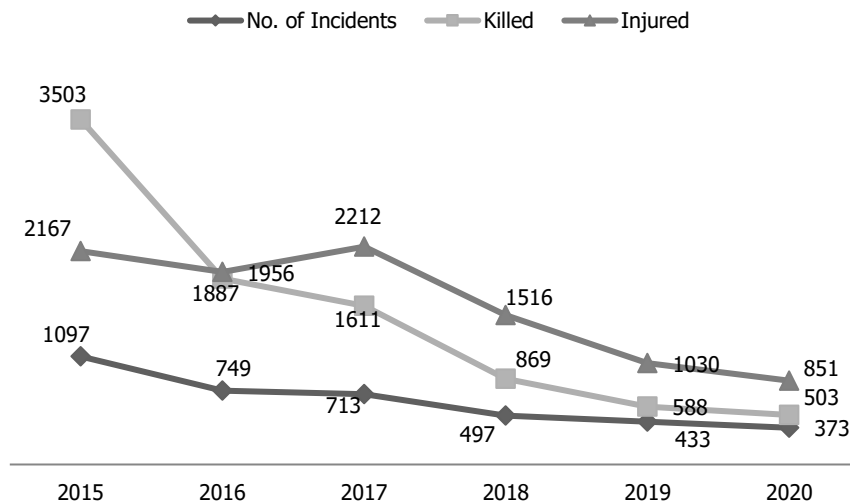
Table 3: Nature of Overall Incidents of Violence

Nature of Incident	No. of Incidents	Killed	Injured
Terrorist attacks	146	220	547
Political/ethnic violence	1	0	5
Clashes & encounters between security forces & militants	15	38	6
Cross-border clashes/attacks	125	62	222
Operational attacks by security forces	47	146	22
Sectarian clashes	1	2	0
Inter-militant clashes/attacks	3	4	10
Communal/faith-based violence	8	6	3
Plot/foiled terror attempts	14	1	0
Targeted attacks [not clear if by terrorists]	11	14	1

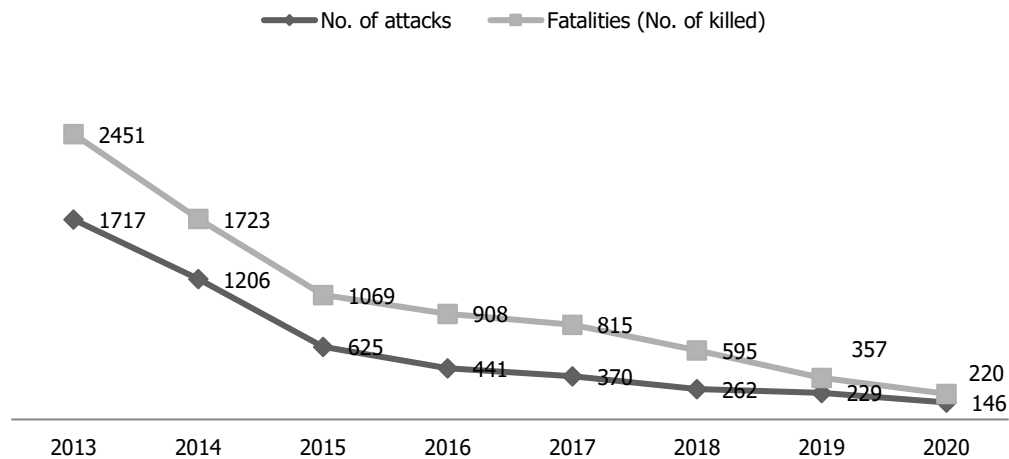
Nature of Incident	No. of Incidents	Killed	Injured
Protests/clashes with security forces	2	10	35
Total	373	503	851

The overall incidents of violence plummeted from 433 in 2019 to 373 in 2020. That decrease in violent incidents was largely contributed by a decrease in terrorist attacks from the year before. Meanwhile, the overall number of people killed in these violent incidents also decreased by over 14 percent; from 588 in 2019 to 503 in 2020. Similarly, the number of people injured in all such incidents of violence also plummeted from 1,030 in 2019 to 851 in 2020. (See Chart 2)

Chart 2: Comparison of Overall Incidents of Violence & Casualties (2015-20)



While in 2020, a considerable decrease was recorded in the number of terrorist attacks compared to previous year, there has been a gradual decrease in such attacks and consequent fatalities in Pakistan since 2014; indeed terrorist had started to take a downturn from 2009 onward with the only exception of 2013. (See Chart 3 and Table 4) The continuous operational and surveillance campaigns by security forces and police's counter terrorism departments (CTDs) – including military operations Zarb-e-Azb, Khyber I-IV, Karachi Operation as well as the operation Raddul Fasaad – and some counter-extremism actions taken under the National Action Plan (NAP) have apparently helped sustain that declining trend in the terrorist violence.

Chart 3: Comparison of Terrorist Attacks and Fatalities in Pakistan (2013-2020)**Table 4: Comparison of Terrorist Attacks and Fatalities in Pakistan (2009-20)³**

Year	No. of Terrorist Attacks (%Change)	No. of Killed (% Change)
2009	Baseline year (2,586 attacks)	Baseline year (3,021 Fatalities)
2010	18%↓	4% ↓
2011	7%↓	18%↓
2012	20%↓	14%↓
2013	9%↑	19%↑
2014	30%↓	30%↓
2015	48%↓	38%↓
2016	28%↓	12%↓
2017	16%↓	10%↓
2018	29%↓	27%↓
2019	13%↓	40%↓
2020	36%↓	38%↓

For the past few years, much of the militant violence in Pakistan has visibly concentrated in Balochistan and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa while other regions have been facing less frequent

attacks. While that trend sustained in the year 2020 (79 attacks took place in KP and 42 in Balochistan, which combined were about 83 percent of the total attacks reported from across Pakistan), the number of terrorist attacks in Karachi and Punjab posted a relative upsurge.

On the whole, compared to 2019, the number of terrorist attacks in the year 2020 declined in Balochistan by 50 percent and the number of people killed in these attacks in the province also fell by 44 percent. In Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, the frequency of terrorist incidents plummeted by 37 percent and the number of those killed in these attacks fell by 31 percent.

As cited earlier, the number of terrorist attacks showed a relative upsurge from previous year in Punjab (by 40 percent) but the number of people killed in these attacks fell by 76 percent, which indicates that militants failed to perpetrate some major attacks in the province. While the interior Sindh posted a decrease of 25 percent in terrorist attacks, in Karachi such attacks rose by 50 percent, as compared to the previous year. The number of people killed in terrorist attacks in Karachi also increased by 21 percent. (*See Table 5*)

Table 5: Comparison of Terrorist Attacks & Casualties (2019 vs. 2020)⁴

Province / Region	Number of Attacks (%Change)	Killed (% Change)	Injured (% Change)
KP	37%↓	31%↓	17%↓
Balochistan	50%↓	44%↓	50%↓
Punjab	40%↑	76%↓	44%↑
Karachi	50%↑	21%↑	32 times↑
Sindh (excluding Karachi)	25%↓	25%↓	100%↑
Total	36%↓	38%↓	25%↓

Compared to four (4) suicide attacks in 2019, as many as three (3) such attacks happened in 2020 – two in Balochistan and one in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. These attacks claimed 26 lives – compared to 55 in 2019 – and injured 43 others. The TTP was involved in one of these attacks, which targeted security forces in South Waziristan (KP) inflicting injuries on four people including an army brigadier. The Islamic State (IS) terrorist group claimed one apparently sectarian-related suicide attack that targeted a masjid-madrassa complex in

Quetta killing 16 people, including the bomber, and wounding 19 others. Meanwhile no one had claimed the third reported suicide blast that apparently targeted a rally of a religious organization in Quetta killing nine people including the bomber and injured 20 others.

Posting a decrease of 50 percent from previous year, seven (7) sectarian-related terrorist attacks took place in 2020. These attacks killed nine people, compared to 38 in 2019, and injured another 14 people. Rival Sunni and Shia violent sectarian groups were involved in perpetrating these attacks. Out of total seven such attacks, as many as four targeted Shia religious community killing five and injuring 14 others. A policeman subscribing to Shia sect of Islam was also target killed reportedly on sectarian grounds in Karachi. Meanwhile, two attacks targeted Sunni scholars causing three deaths. While three sectarian-related terrorist attacks happened in Karachi, another two attacks took place in each of Kohat and Kurram districts of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. Apart from these attacks, one violent sectarian clash also took place in Rahim Yar Khan (Punjab) that claimed two lives.

Two less from the year before, a total of 125 cross-border attacks took place in the year 2020 from across Pakistan's borders with Afghanistan (11 attacks) and India (114). As many as 62 people lost their lives in these attacks, a decrease of about 34 percent from the year before; another 222 were also injured. Those 62 Pakistani citizens killed in cross-border attacks included 42 civilians, 18 army officials, and two FC personnel. As in the year before, the situation at Pakistan's borders with India – mainly along the Line of Control (LoC) in Azad Kashmir – remained relatively more volatile, where though the number of cross-border attacks posted a slight decline from previous year yet a significant number of attacks, i.e. 114, took place. Out of these 114 cross-border attacks perpetrated by Indian BSF, 113 concentrated along the LoC in more than nine districts of AJK and one attack happened in Sialkot along the Working Boundary with India. Kotli (37 attacks), Bhimber (21), Poonch (17), Haveli (13), Hattian Bala (9) and Neelum (8) were the AJK districts most affected by Indian cross-border attacks. Meanwhile compared to four (4) cross-border attacks reported from Afghanistan in 2019, as many as 11 such attacks took place in 2020 in Bajaur, Khyber and Upper Dir districts of KP and Zhob district of Balochistan. Similarly compared to six (6) in the year before, cross-border attacks from Afghanistan claimed 17 lives in 2020 including of 12 civilians, two FC men and three army soldiers. With the exception of two attacks that were reportedly launched by Afghan security forces, all other cross-border attacks from Afghanistan were perpetrated by Pakistani Taliban militants sheltered there mainly the TTP.

Security forces apparently stepped up anti-militant operations in 2020. Compared to 28 in the year before, security forces and law enforcement agencies conducted 47 anti-militant operational strikes in 2020 in 22 districts and regions of Pakistan. These actions killed a total of 146 people, as compared to 81 in 2019 and injured 22 others. Those 146 killed

included 129 militants and 17 Pakistan Army soldiers. Out of the total 47 operational strikes reported in 2020, as many as 28 were conducted in KP, 15 in Balochistan, and two each in Punjab and Sindh. There were only seven (7) districts where more than one anti-militant operation happened in the year including North Waziristan (11 operational strikes), DI Khan (5), and Bajaur and Tank (3 strikes each) in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa provinces, as well as Kech and Awaran (4 strikes each), and Harnai (2) in Balochistan. However, North Waziristan drew prime attention of security forces where they killed 49 militants (14 soldiers were also martyred) in 11 operations they conducted.

Security and law enforcement agencies also entered into in a total of 15 armed clashes and encounters with militants – a decrease of 40 percent from such incidents in previous year – across 11 districts of the country. These armed clashes and encounters claimed 38 lives (29 militants, 7 security personnel and 2 civilians). As many as nine of these clashes and encounters (or 60 percent) took place in various districts of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (including 5 in twin Waziristan districts alone), another three (3) happened in Balochistan, while two (2) such incidents took place in Sindh and one in Punjab.

While no such incident had happened in 2019, as many as eight (8) incidents of communal or faith-based violence were recorded in Pakistan in 2020, which in all claimed six lives and injured three others. Six of these attacks took place in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa including five in Peshawar and one in Karak, and one incident each happened in Nankana Sahib and Khushab districts of Punjab. In five incidents of faith-based violence members of Ahmadi community were targeted, and in another two incidents persons accused of blasphemy were shot dead. Meanwhile in one incident of faith-based mob violence shrine (Samadhi) of a Hindu saint was vandalized and torched in Karak.

The number of people killed in overall violent incidents in 2020 (503) represented a decrease of over 14 percent from those killed in such incidents in the year before (588); the number of those injured in such incidents all decreased by over 17 percent. The reported decrease in fatalities was marked by the death of 171 civilians, compared to 235 in 2019, thus representing a decrease of about 27 percent. Fatalities among security forces personnel in 2020 (151) were about 28 percent less from the previous year's fatalities among them (209). The number of militants killed (181), in these violent incidents, however posted an increase of about 26 percent as compared to 2019. (*See Table 6*)

Table 6: Casualties in Overall Violent Incidents in 2020

Category	Killed	Injured
FC	34	33
Militants	181	30

Category	Killed	Injured
Civilian	171	647
Police	28	26
Army	84	104
Levies	3	6
Rangers	2	5
Total	503	851

1.2 Critical Challenges and Recommendations

1.2.1 The FATF Challenge

Pakistan remains on the Financial Action Task Force' (FATF) grey list as it fell short of implementing the 27-point action plan fully by October 2020 despite extension periods. In its three-day virtual plenary in October 2020, the FATF announced Pakistan had largely complied with 21 points, and needed to address the six outstanding items by February 2021 in order to get off the grey list. Earlier in February 2020, the watchdog had warned that Pakistan's failure to meet the body's requirements could lead to the FATF member states tightening their business relations and transactions with Pakistani clients. Due to Pakistan's gradual progress as well as the Covid-19 pandemic, it has been given extensions to implement the action plan fully. Avoiding the blacklist is easier than exiting the grey list because the former needs only three votes at the FATF, while the later would need at least 12 votes. Following the October plenary of the FATF, the industries minister claimed that blacklisting Pakistan was off the table.

Pakistan took a practical course in efforts to unhook itself from the FATF grey list this year (2020). The government carried out financial crackdowns on UNSC-designated terrorist entities, prosecuted persons for terror financing, and went on an eleventh-hour legislation spree to meet the FATF standards. Discussions and debates on these legislations were mostly blocked on the ground of 'urgency'. In June 2020, the interior minister, Ejaz Shah, submitted a report on FATF compliance to the prime minister, detailing that the government had proscribed two main and eleven affiliated groups, and frozen 976 movable and immovable properties linked to proscribed entities. Without giving exact figures, the report also claimed that the government had seized control of schools, colleges, hospitals, dispensaries, and ambulances belonging to banned groups.

Similarly, another significant development has been the prosecution of Jamaatud Dawa (JuD) leaders for money laundering and terror financing. On 3 July 2019, the CTD Punjab had booked thirteen JuD leaders including Hafiz Saeed in multiple cases of money laundering and terror financing.⁵ Hafiz Saeed and his associate Malik Zafar Iqbal were convicted in two cases of terror financing and handed down five-and-a-half years in prison by a Lahore anti-terrorism court in February 2020.⁶ On 24 December 2020, Hafiz Saeed and five others were again convicted in separate cases of terror financing and terrorism and awarded jail terms of 15 years each.⁷ On the other hand, the government also pushed through over a dozen legislations to improve the legal regime on money laundering and terror financing as per the FATF standards. The plan for these legislations was chalked out by the National Executive Committee headed by PM's finance advisor, Abdul Hafeez Shaikh in February 2020.⁸ The haphazard manner in which the legislations were pushed through the Parliament without adequate debate was criticized by the opposition and independent analysts.

However, despite these efforts, there are still six outstanding items on the FATF action plan which Pakistan needs to implement by February 2021. Once the action plan is fully implemented, the FATF would send a technical team on the ground for verification before the country can be taken off the grey list. Following the October plenary, the FATF president said Pakistan was given extension till February 2021 because it had showed progress and made commitments to do better, but he also warned that the extension of deadlines cannot go on forever.⁹ In Pakistan, political leaders have expressed worry about the alleged politicization of the FATF. In August 2020, Prime Minister Imran Khan warned that blacklisting would ruin Pakistan's economy and make it an international pariah like Iran. He accused India of mounting pressures on Pakistan through the FATF.¹⁰ In Oct 2019, the Indian Defense Minister, Rajnath Singh, had announced that Pakistan would soon be blacklisted by the FATF, raising concerns in Pakistan that the FATF was being politicized.¹¹

However, on the other hand, Pakistan has also been provided with some cushion at the FATF forum because of strong support from China, Turkey, and Malaysia. China currently heads the Asia-Pacific Group of FATF which allows some breathing space to Pakistan. In January 2020, China praised Pakistan's progress in improving its anti-terror financing regime, and encouraged the world to acknowledge Pakistan's progress. Following the FATF plenary in February 2020, PM's finance advisor, Abdul Hafeez Shaikh, met Chinese ambassador to Pakistan, Yao Jing, and thanked the Chinese government for the 'massive support' in the FATF meetings.¹² Likewise, Turkey and Malaysia have also been supportive of Pakistan at the forum.¹³

In addition, Pakistan has also been hinging its hope to the US for support at the FATF. In February 2020, while addressing a news briefing, Foreign Minister, Shah Mehmood Qureshi said that Pakistan hoped that the US would help Pakistan get off the grey list.¹⁴ Some analysts believe with Pakistan's role in facilitating the US-Taliban deal, the US might not be eager to push Pakistan hard, especially in view of Pakistan's weakening economy. Following the conviction of Hafiz Saeed in February 2020, the US chief diplomat for South Asia, Alice G. Wells, called the sentence an important step forward towards Pakistan's commitment to fighting terror financing.¹⁵ Some experts are of the opinion that the US is unlikely to help Pakistan get off the grey list. The most the US would probably do is to ensure that Pakistan remains on the grey list and does not fall into the black list.

1.2.2 The Need for De-Radicalization Programs

Pakistan realized the limitations of hard approach to countering terrorism in the wake of the liberation of the Swat valley from the Taliban which brought to light a worrying fact that a large number of would-be suicide bombers captured during the operation were teenagers who had been mentally programmed to kill and die. This led to the initiation of the de-radicalization projects in the valley. By October 2015, there were about ten militant rehabilitation centers in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and former FATA, reportedly run under a public-private partnership framework and supervised by the military.¹⁶ The Institute for Strategic Dialogue defines de-radicalization as programs "directed against individuals who have become radical with the aim of reintegrating them into society or dissuading them from violence." The process seeks complete shift in the prisoner's mindset, sympathies, and attitudes.¹⁷

The first project called the *Mishal* De-radicalization and Emancipation Program (DREP) pursued 'no blood on hand' policy, meaning that only those militants were enlisted who had not done any bodily harm to others. Most de-radicalization programs have been led by the military with little participation from other stakeholders like civil society organizations. Information on these programs is scant, but reports claim Pakistan has borrowed heavily from the Saudi Arabia de-radicalization model.¹⁸ Besides, the initiative has been very limited in scope and reach. And given the increasing manifestations of radicalization in the country (e.g. the enormous gathering at Khadim Rizvi's funeral in Lahore, the anti-Shia demonstrations, the fresh wave of attacks on the Ahmadis, and the alleged re-grouping of militants in some tribal agencies, etc.), it may be assumed that the de-radicalization part of the CE strategy is lacking in meaningful impact on the overall CE efforts.

Radicalization is an enormous challenge in Pakistan, yet there is no formal de-radicalization policy or framework in the country. De-radicalization is inherently a long-term process

which cannot be achieved in a few months or even years. The de-radicalization programs initiated following the Swat operation in 2009 are extremely limited, often confined to individuals in post-conflict scenarios. These undertakings are very costly, and the government may be lacking in financial capacity to expand the scope and reach of the initiative. Experts believe this capacity gap can be bridged through increased partnership between the public and non-government sector. Besides, the de-radicalization programs mostly employ moderate clerics to re-educate detainees in prisons in classroom setups. The effectiveness of this method is difficult to gauge without individualized assessments.¹⁹ Overall, the de-radicalization initiative is headed by the military with only sporadic and limited involvement of civil society organizations despite the latter's potential for addressing the conflict's political, economic, and social drivers by facilitating employments for former militants and providing social services to those interested in disengaging from terrorism.²⁰ Overall, Pakistan's de-radicalization efforts lack the 'whole of society' approach, and no policy framework has been devised in this regard despite the promises made in the five-year National Internal Security Policy (2018-23).

Therefore, the PIPS recommends the following points for improving the de-radicalization programs in Pakistan:

- The efficacy of de-radicalization programs have been proven both locally and in other countries. Therefore, there should be briefings by experts to the Parliament on this subject.
- The political leaders and policymakers should actively own de-radicalization programs because no de-radicalization initiative would achieve its maximum potential in the absence of political will.
- The state should approach de-radicalization in a holistic manner with involvement of multiple stakeholders. The subject must not be an exclusive domain of the security agencies.
- The education system in general and de-radicalization programs in particular should inculcate critical thinking, empathy, and compassion in children so that they learn to see the consequences of their actions.
- The government should actively engage civilian experts including psychologists, clerics, and others in the de-radicalization process because the security agencies alone are not capable of carrying out the de-radicalization effectively. Engaging diverse stakeholders would help them learn from each other and share knowledge and experience.
- Evidence shows monetary benefit has been a significant factor in attracting young people to terrorism. Thus, any de-radicalization program must offer alternatives to the individuals in terms of career or occupation so as to prevent them from falling back into terrorism or extremism.

1.2.3 Countering Violent Extremism

Pakistan has a high concentration of violent extremist groups. As many as 78 entities²¹ have been proscribed by the government, majority of which are linked with terrorism and violent extremism. Terrorism is no longer an epidemic in Pakistan, yet the more severe challenge of religious extremism continues to manifest in the larger society. This is partly because countering violent and non-violent forms of extremism has barely been a priority for a state that has traditionally focused more on the acts of terrorism and less on the drivers of it. Surely, other factors such as lack political will and definitional clarity about extremism and resource constraints etc. also explain why extremism is going largely unchecked.

Quite often, in cases of extremism, the state either adopts an ambiguous stance or resorts to the tried-and-failed strategy of appeasing the radicals in order to de-escalate a standoff or situation. Such an approach, often contradicting the existing laws and policies, only emboldens the extremist lots and incentivize hostile behavior on their part. This year 2020 witnessed one of the most worrying manifestations of religious extremism in Pakistan in years as an alliance of various Sunni extremist groups rallied against the Shias in several cities including Karachi and Islamabad, calling the Shia sect 'heretical' and demanding violent action against its followers. Spearheaded by the proscribed outfit Ahle Sunnat Wal Jamaat (ASWJ), four major anti-Shia rallies were taken out in mid-Sep 2020 after a Shia cleric had made some controversial remarks during a *Moharram* sermon in late August.

Observers termed the phenomenon as 'unprecedented and alarming'. Since 30 August, at least five Shias had been killed in different parts of the country and more than 30 cases of blasphemy had been registered against the Shias including a three-year old child.^{22 23} The sectarian tensions resurged weeks after the Punjab Assembly passed the controversial *Tahafuz-e-Bunyad Islam* (protection of the foundations of Islam) bill in July. The bill's provision for upholding Sunni interpretation as the only acceptable version of Islam sparked uproar among Shia clerics who complained that the bill's clause requiring mandatory reverence for esteemed Sunni figures was contrary to Shia beliefs.²⁴

Similarly, the Ahmadi community came under increased attack this year particularly in Peshawar where five Ahmadis were killed in separate attacks. In one of incidents, an under-trial prisoner, Tahir Ahmed Naseem, 57, was shot dead inside a courtroom in Peshawar. The victim, an American national of Pakistani origin, was undergoing a trial for blasphemy. The teenage murderer told the police that he killed the victim because he was an Ahmadi. Likewise, another elderly Ahmadi businessman, Miraj Ahmad, was murdered at his shop by unknown gunmen in Peshawar. According to the Ahmadi community, the murder was preceded by a social media hate campaign against the victim's family. And yet in another

incident, an Ahmadi professor, Naeemuddin Khattak, was killed allegedly by his colleague following a heated debate in Peshawar. The Peshawar police also rescued an Ahmadi family from a Muslim mob that surrounded the family's house following some debate about a public event. Apart from Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, two Ahmadi men were also killed in Khushab and Nankana Sahib districts of Punjab. In December, a religiously inspired mob vandalized and torched a shrine (Samadhi) of a Hindu saint in Karak district of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa.

Extremism and intolerance were also in full display over the matter of construction of a Hindu temple in Islamabad. In June, the prime minister approved funds for the construction of Krishna Mandir, a long-standing demand of the capital's estimated 3000-strong Hindu community. The temple complex was to include a crematorium, accommodation for visitors, a community hall, and a parking area. The temple's foundation stones were laid during a ceremony on 23 June which triggered a severe backlash from radical clerics, politicians, as well as some media houses. The government's coalition partner, PMLQ, called for the cancellation of the project, claiming that it was "against the spirit of Islam". The Lahore-based *Jamia Ashrafia* issued a fatwa, declaring that the temple's construction was "not permissible" in Islam. Similarly, JUI-F leader and former minister, Maulana Amir Zaman, said Islam did not allow the construction of new places of worship by minorities in an Islamic state.

Under pressure from the radical quarters, the government reversed its decision to fund the temple on 3 July, and two days later, a mob vandalized the temple's boundary walls.²⁵ The government then referred the matter to the Council of Islamic Ideology for advice which ruled in October that there were no constitutional or religious barriers to the construction of the temple. The Council's decision said the Hindus like all other religious groups in Pakistan had the constitutional right to a place for last rites as per their faith. However, it ruled against providing public funds for the construction work. Following the decision, the Capital Development Authority issued a 'no objection certificate' for the construction of the temple on 23 December.²⁶ But, just a week after this positive development, as cited earlier, another Hindu temple was destroyed and burned by a Muslim mob in Karak, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. The same temple had been vandalized back in 1997, but was rebuilt on the order of the Supreme Court. According to reports, a local cleric had incited people against the Hindu temple which led to the mob attack.

The resurrection of extremist lots after years of hibernation does not augur well for Pakistan particularly at a time when the country is already under increased monitoring by the FATF, and lingering on the threshold of sanctions. The government is apparently cognizant of this fact which is probably the reason it took some initiatives to promote interfaith and intersect harmony following the sectarian tensions earlier this year. In

October, the government and the clergy signed a 'Code of Conduct' (CoC) for sectarian harmony in the country. Endorsed by religious scholars of mainstream schools of thought, the CoC prohibits issuing decrees of infidelity against any group or individual, and declares taking up arms against the state in the name of Islam as rebellion. It also acknowledges the rights of non-Muslim citizens to practice their religion and rites as per their belief systems. Likewise, it prohibits the use of religious institutions or platforms like mosques and imambargahs for hate speech.

A month after the pronouncement of the CoC, the cabinet also approved an interior ministry proposal for the establishment of a commission for the implementation of national narrative and development of structures against violent extremism and radicalization. The proposed commission's main objectives include, among other things, providing a legal mechanism to curb violent extremism and enforcing national narratives and policies in line with the National Action Plan.²⁷ It is unclear how this proposed commission would be any different from existing institutions with similar mandates such as NACTA. Besides, the National Internal Security Policy (NISP) has more or less identical objectives.

Pak Institute for Peace Studies has advocated diverse recommendations for Pakistan's Counter Violent Extremism (CVE) framework and reconstruction of national narratives through various publications. The Institute believes these documents would be a useful source a policy initiative on CVE. Few highlights of those recommendations are listed below:

- There is a need for establishing a national dialogue forum (NDF). It can serve as a platform for the scholars, academicians, political and religious leaders and policymakers to bring all the key challenges on the discussion table and to understand each other's viewpoints. The NDF cannot only help to connect diverse ideological, social and political segments of the society, but it can also create an environment to discuss critical issues. Such an important initiative must come from the chief executive of the country, with the support of the parliament.
- The NDF secretariat can have support from a counter-extremism research centre comprising experts from the relevant fields of social sciences and religious studies. This centre can also establish a desk to monitor the extremist narratives and hate speech.
- The provinces will need to establish curriculum review committees comprising educationists, and experts from diverse religious, academic and political backgrounds. Such committees can be established separately within existing mechanisms, with specific tasks to regularly monitor and evaluate the impact of the textbooks.

- The provinces need to prioritize the registration of madrassas and to set up a mechanism to bring them under their administrative control. Interestingly, while provinces consider madrassas a federal issue, federal ministries of religious affairs and interior are confused about who is actually responsible for administering madrassa sector.
- To neutralize violent extremist tendencies, detaching the conventional militant groups from terrorism landscape and curbing hate speech, the government has to initiate a reintegration scheme.

1.2.4 Sub-nationalist Insurgency

In 2020, while Sindhi insurgents stepped up terrorist attacks, Baloch insurgent groups also made some major attacks in Balochistan against security forces and also launched a coordinated *fidayee* attacks against Pakistan Stock Exchange, Karachi. Various Sindhi separatist outfits such as the Sindhudesh Revolutionary Army (SDRA) and the Sindhudesh Liberation Army (SDLA) perpetrated ten terrorist attacks in Sindh during the year. Seven of these attacks were carried out in Karachi, two in Larkana, and one in Ghotki. The main targets were the Rangers and an office of Ehsaas Program. The attacks came a month after the interior ministry proscribed (in May) the JSQM-A, SDRA, and SDLA under the anti-terrorism act of 1997. According to the interior ministry, there were “reasonable grounds” to believe that these outfits were involved in terrorism in Sindh.²⁸ Historically, the Sindhi insurgents have perpetrated sporadic low-intensity and low-impact attacks, but in 2020 they managed to create some impact both in terms of the number of attacks and intensity of the attacks they launched.

The SDLA is an underground militant outfit linked with Shafi Burfat-led Jeay Sindh Muttahida Mahaz (JSMM), the only nationalist group to have announced its planned armed struggle. In 2013, the Interior Ministry banned the JSMM for its involvement in province-wide violence and placed Burfat, who lives in Europe in self-exile, on its list of wanted people. A few years back, Syed Asghar Shah, an SDLA leader hailing from Jamshoro district, abandoned the SDLA after developing differences with Burfat over funds and leadership, and formed his own outfit, the SDRA. In the beginning, both militant outfits were carrying out attacks on law enforcement personnel, railway tracks, gas pipelines, and electricity pylons as well as undertaking targeted killing on the basis of ethnicity. “But since the start of China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC)-linked development projects, the group has started attacking the Chinese nationals using roadside improvised explosive devices (IEDs) in the province.” Luckily, no Chinese national has died in the attacks in the province so far.²⁹

Another important development in 2020 was the reported alliance between Baloch and Sindh separatist militant groups. On 25 July 2020, the Baloch Raji Ajohi Sangar (BRAS) announced operational alliance with SDRA.³⁰ The BRAS, a conglomerate of Baloch separatist groups, is reportedly the brainchild of Dr. Allah Nazar – the kingpin of BLF.³¹ Between 2015 and 2019, the Baloch insurgency suffered setbacks mainly due to infighting among separatist groups themselves particularly the BLA and BLF, military operations, and surrender of several militants. During this period, the militants executed only 37 attacks, while in 2020 alone they carried out 38 attacks.

This worrying trend indicates there may have been a possible rapprochement between BLA and BLF, and these groups' alliance with SDRA has complicated the security challenges. Pakistan believes the Baloch militants have sanctuaries on the Iranian side of the Pak-Iran border. Currently, the government is fencing its borders both with Afghanistan and Iran. The fencing works continued throughout the 2020 despite the Covid-19 pandemic. Around 100km of the border with Iran has already been fenced, and the rest would be completed by the end of 2021.³² The insurgency in Balochistan is a political issue, and this fact was acknowledged in the National Action Plan which provides for reconciliation with the indignant Baloch leaders. However, no reconciliation effort has ever taken off due to several reasons. Nevertheless, the state must work out a plan for peaceful resolution of the issue.

1.2.5 Regularizing Madrassas

Madrassa has figured prominently in the discussions of religious extremism, yet there is a continuing lack of credible and comprehensive data on the widespread madrassa system in Pakistan. Figures about the actual number of madrassas are mostly raw estimates and official figures often contradict independent research, making it difficult to analyze the system in the light of hard facts. As a result, concerns about the madrassas often tend to border on generalizations. Lack of authentic data may also be a factor impeding meaningful reforms. The number of madrassas has grown exponentially during the last two decades, but the basic task of their registration continues to remain an elusive goal for the authorities. According to government estimates, about 1.8 million students were enrolled in registered madrassahs alone in 2015.³³ Repeated attempts at reforming the madrassa system have met frustrations due to various reasons including opposition from madrassahs.

This year the FATF also reverberated in the talks of madrassa reforms. Reforming the madrassa sector has probably been a point of discussion in the FATF meetings because in Jan 2020 Pakistan informed the FATF's joint group in Beijing that under new reforms the madrassas were given the status of schools where students would be awarded

matriculation and intermediate education certificates.³⁴ Unfortunately, many madrassahs have had ties with extremist groups, and they helped maintain the militant network in Pakistan in the past.³⁵ On 29 August 2019, the government signed an agreement with the Ittehad-e-Tanzeem-ul-Madaris for the registration of madrassas with the education ministry. The agreement envisaged allowing madrassas to open bank accounts, accept foreign donations, and manage their administrative affairs independently in return of registration. It also promised to allow madrasa students to take their secondary and higher secondary exams through their designated education boards and apply for higher studies through mainstream education institutions or for jobs.³⁶ However, in February 2020, the madrasa leaders complained that the government was not implementing the agreement it had inked with the madrassas. Maulana Hanif Jalandhari, the secretary general of Wifaq-ul-Madaris al-Arabia, accused the government of not being serious in negotiating with the madrassas.³⁷

Madrassas also remained a topic of debate this year due to the government's Single National Curriculum (SNC) which claims to end "educational apartheid" and introduce uniform curriculum across all strata of education system in the country. Critics warn that instead of introducing contemporary subjects in madrasa education, the SNC would bring madrassas to regular education system. The SNC also provides for employing madrasa graduates as teachers at regular public schools. Proponents, however, claim that the SNC would turn madrassas into schools.^{38 39} The SNC is scheduled to be implemented fully by 2023, and it remains to be seen whether it will help improve madrasa education.

Successive governments have toyed with the idea of madrasa reforms, yet no significant progress has been made so far. The great majority of madrassahs operate beyond the radar of the state. The government cannot indefinitely evade the much-needed reforms, and has to eventually come up with some workable plan to address this challenge. The number of madrassahs has constantly been growing, yet there is a continuing lack of comprehensive data on the system. Therefore, the stakeholders particularly the government should conduct independent studies to determine the factors behind the rapid growth of the religious schools, and assess the impact of that growth on the society. As one of first steps, the *Paigham-e-Pakistan* can be incorporated into the syllabus of both madrassahs and schools. Currently, public knowledge about the *Paigham-e-Pakistan* is extremely limited. Besides, madrassas should be encouraged to teach basic critical thinking skills to students because evidence from Pakistan's de-radicalization programs shows that youth lacking critical thinking are extremely vulnerable to radicalization.

1.2.6 Implementation of National Action Plan

The National Action Plan (NAP) was initially viewed by many as a paradigm shift in the state's policy towards terrorism and extremism. Others believed the plan was an attempt by the government to pacify the public sentiment that had reached a boiling point following the APS incident. Even though certain NAP clauses propose non-military solutions to the issues like the Baloch insurgency and hate speech etc., still the broader NAP framework lacks a robust response to the problem of extremism which analysts term as a threat to stability in the country. Actions under NAP put significant pressure on militant and extremist groups, forcing them into hibernation modes, but reports suggest some of these groups made a comeback in 2020. Reports emerged of extremist elements patrolling public places in areas of ex-FATA, and sectarian outfits returning to the streets. The situation brought into focus the NAP's role as the lynchpin of the state's CT and CE policy, and the resurgence of militants in tribal areas and of sectarian extremists in urban centers indicate the NAP has faltered on its promises. Similarly, it has failed to bring about the promised reconciliation in Balochistan because throughout the 2020 separatist insurgency remained a significant security issue for the government.

Some observers believe implementing the NAP is not a priority for the government. At the start of 2020, the NAP came under severe criticism from analysts and public alike in the wake of Ehsanullah Ehsan's escape from state custody in Peshawar. A former spokesman of the TTP and Jamaat-ul-Ahrar, Ehsan had reportedly surrendered to the security agencies back in 2017. In Feb 2020, he released an audio message, claiming that he had escaped from detention at a safe house in Peshawar. Initially, the government remained silent on the development but weeks later the Interior Minister, Ejaz Shah, confirmed that the ex-TTP leader had, indeed, escaped from the custody of security agencies.⁴⁰ Likewise, the reported regrouping of the TTP and its factions in the erstwhile FATA is also being attributed to government's failure to implement the NAP. Local accounts suggest the TTP has managed to bring its breakaway factions back into its fold, and that more militants are joining the outfit. As a result, the North Waziristan and Bajaur have emerged as the flashpoints of insecurity in recent months where TTP perpetrated two major attacks against the FWO and tribal elders in 2020, though a number of militants were also killed in retaliation by security forces.

These developments are duly seen as a failure of the NAP to check a return of the militants and extremists. It is extremely heavy on agenda with short-term and long-term goals haphazardly placed with one another. Some goals are very broad and vague with no strategy as to how they would be achieved. Very limited attention has been given to the non-kinetic side of the NAP. The *Tehreek Labbaik Pakistan* (TLP) – an extremist outfit – was born in the post-NAP period which is extremely worrying as it raises question over the

effectiveness of NAP as CE tool. To make matters worse, the government sought to appease the TLP in 2017 which emboldened the latter to assert itself with greater confidence. Similarly, as mentioned earlier, the NAP has failed to initiate reconciliation in Balochistan to end the deadly insurgency. The *Pur Aman Balochistan* (Peaceful Balochistan) project failed to open up the dialogue process with the indignant tribal leaders. The government claims thousands of insurgents have surrendered under the *Peaceful Balochistan* project, but observers doubt if they were genuine militants. Overall, the state has lacked the capacity or will to implement the NAP in letter and spirit.

Therefore, in view of the emerging security challenges, the PIPS recommends the following:

- The NACTA conducted a thorough review of the NAP in 2019, and offered recommendations for updating the goals and objectives and addressing loopholes. These recommendations should be implemented in order to improve NAP framework.
- The law enforcement agencies (LEAs), primarily the police, should be empowered through better training, increased resources, and greater operational autonomy so as to enable them to tackle the challenge of terrorism as well as extremism effectively.
- The NAP mandate is too broad for any single ministry to manage effectively. Therefore, the implementation should be supervised directly by the Prime Minister's Office, and spearheaded by civilian authorities.
- The government should encourage and facilitate open debates on policies relating to national security, terrorism, and extremism in order to democratize the policymaking process and improve the quality of policies. Transparency and openness would help build trust between the public and the state, and lead to greater ownership by the people.
- The government should develop a computerized national database on terrorism and extremism, allowing provincial police and CTDs to access and share information swiftly.
- Counter-extremism units should be formed within the federal and provincial LEAs with the mandate to keep watch on actors advocating extremism.
- The Baloch insurgency is basically a political problem, and military actions over the last one and a half decade have failed to put an end to the insurgency. Therefore, a genuine reconciliation process must be initiated in the province instead of investing more resources in military efforts.
- Despite cybercrime laws, many extremist groups and leaders continue to have online presence. The government needs to strengthen efforts to prevent such entities from using the cyberspace for propaganda and recruitment.

- The government should take lessons from the past, and stop treading the path of appeasement with regard to extremist groups like the TLP, and start enforcing its writ.

1.2.7 Ex-FATA's Merger with Khyber Pakhtunkhwa

The reforms process in the merged districts of ex-FATA has been disappointingly slow with no major progress seen in 2020. The slow process has resulted in lackluster administrative, judicial, security, and economic reforms. According to former Senator, Afrasiab Khattak, there has been a lack of ownership and clear roadmap for implementing the reforms. The pace for establishing courts and incorporating the local levies into the police is also sluggish. At present, most criminal and civil courts for the seven new districts are established in their respective bordering districts of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. And the challenge of merging the 30,000-strong levies with the police also remains unaddressed. The levies personnel lack training and infrastructure to undertake policing, which is still performed by the army and paramilitary troops in most parts of the merged districts. The situation has created confusion among residents as many people want to know whether they are still governed by the old system.⁴¹

There has been a gap between the government's expressed promises with the people of the ex-FATA and the government's actual budgeting priorities towards the region. Back in 2018, Islamabad promised to spend nearly \$10 billion on the region's uplift over a ten-year period. But, reports suggest that less than 10% of the \$540 million of the allocated budget for the merged districts was spent during the fiscal year of 2019-20.⁴² In Apr 2020, the press reported that the government had diverted substantial amounts from funds allocated for the displaced people of the former FATA to security enhancement. Originally, the Parliament had approved Rs.32.5bn for special development programs for the displaced persons in the 2019-20 budget, but later 48% of this budget was diverted to security, bringing the budget to Rs17bn. And in ten months till Apr 2020, only Rs5bn had been disbursed for the original purpose.⁴³

The residents continue to lack access to safe drinking water, basic health and education, electricity, etc. The region is also suffering from a prolonged suspension of mobile phone services. Throughout the 2020, the people of former FATA held intermittent protest rallies and sit-ins to draw the government's attention to their plight. The repeated protests show people's resentment about how things are going at present. In early Dec 2020, the JUIF threatened to launch a movement for the legal and constitutional rights of the tribal districts along with expediting the process of merger.⁴⁴ The military operations had displaced an estimated one million people. Those people still await compensation to rebuild their houses which were destroyed during the operations.

On the other hand, the Supreme Court admitted a petition challenging the 25th Constitutional Amendment and the merger of ex-FATA with KP. The petitioners, tribal elders, have pleaded that the merger has destroyed the distinct character of FATA as a unit of the federation. The counsel for the petitioners argued that FATA has lost its identity as well as 12 seats in the NA and 8 seats in the Senate.⁴⁵ Earlier in Jan 2020, the mainstream political parties in the KP assembly had passed a unanimous resolution, urging the government to expedite reforms process. They also demanded of the government to withdraw the amendments in the mines and minerals laws, claiming that the purpose of the amendments was to occupy mineral reserves in the erstwhile FATA. It is true that successful implementation of the reforms would be a long-term process which cannot be achieved in a hasty manner, but observers like Threlkeld, deputy director at a Washington think-tank, have warned that any governance failures in the former FATA or a new war in Afghanistan in the wake of US withdrawal will likely open up new avenues for hardcore militants.⁴⁶ The federal government, therefore, must prioritize the implementation of reforms programs in the merged districts because the residents have already been in a limbo for a few years now.

CHAPTER 2

Security Landscape of Pakistan in 2020

Safdar Sial*

- 2.1 Khyber Pakhtunkhwa
- 2.2 Balochistan
- 2.3 Sindh
- 2.4 Punjab
- 2.5 Suicide Attacks
- 2.6 Sectarian Violence
- 2.7 Faith-based Violence
- 2.8 Border Attacks

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2.1 Khyber Pakhtunkhwa

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.

Table 1: Terrorist Attacks in KP in 2020

District	Attacks	Killed	Injured
Bajaur	9	7	4
Bannu	1	1	0
Buner	1	1	1
Charsadda	1	2	0
D.I Khan	4	2	2
Khyber	3	2	1
Kohat	3	4	0
Kurram	3	2	17
Lakki Marwat	2	2	2
Lower Dir	2	0	6
Mohmand	1	0	0
North Waziristan	31	50	55

District	Attacks	Killed	Injured
Nowshera	1	1	0
Orakzai	2	2	2
Peshawar	6	13	103
Shangla	1	1	0
South Waziristan	6	7	13
Swabi	1	2	0
Swat	1	1	0
Total	79	100	206

Over the past few years, the number of intensive or high-impact terrorist attacks has decreased in the province. Yet in 2020, there were recorded 10 such attacks in which three or more fatalities or deaths happened. These included an attack on Boya check-post in North Waziristan in April; attack on army patrolling party in North Waziristan in June that also killed Captain Sabih; targeted attack on FC soldiers in Peshawar in July; ambush of an army party in Kazkai region of Ladha (South Waziristan) in August; IED blast near a convoy of army troops in North Waziristan in September, which also martyred Lieutenant Nasir Hussain Khalid; October blast in Razmak, North Waziristan that claimed the lives of six soldiers including a captain; blast in a madrassa in Dir Colony, Peshawar in October; and two separate attacks on an FWO vehicle and tribal elders in North Waziristan in November.

Militants relied more on direct shootout or firing, employing this particular tactic in 37 attacks, besides carrying out 31 IED blasts, one suicide bombing, four hand grenade attacks and as many rocket attacks, and two acts of sabotage. Security forces, mainly police, as well as tribal elders were among the prime targets hit by militants using firing or targeted attacks.

Apart from 79 terrorist attacks cited earlier, 28 anti-militant operational strikes by the security forces and nine armed clashes/encounters between security forces and militants were also recorded in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. Security forces also foiled 10 terror plots. As many as 10 cross-border attacks from Afghanistan also took place in bordering regions of the province, which were mainly perpetrated by Pakistani Taliban sheltered in Afghanistan. Furthermore, six incidents of faith-based violence, and three inter-militant clashes also took place in parts of KP. Similarly, 10 targeted attacks happened in the province, which were not certain if perpetrated by militants. On the whole, 155 reported incidents of violence of various types killed 253 people in the province and wounded 258 others.

Militants mainly targeted security forces and law enforcement personnel in their attacks. Over 63 percent of the total terrorist attacks reported from Khyber Pakhtunkhwa in 2020 hit personnel, convoys and posts of the security and law enforcement agencies, which claimed in all 62 lives. However, compared to 25 in the year before, as many as eight attacks apparently targeted civilians in KP in the year 2020. Meanwhile, another five attacks hit tribal elders, and three attacks targeted political leaders and workers. Members of Shia religious community were targeted in four attacks. Other sporadic targets hit by the terrorist in KP in 2020 are given in the table below.

Table 1a: Targets Hit by Militants in KP in 2020

Targets	No. of attacks	Killed	Injured
Security forces/law enforcement personnel	50	62	91
Tribal elders	5	9	0
Civilians	8	6	11
CD/other shops/private property	1	0	0
Shia religious scholars/community	4	5	14
Worship places/shrines/madrassas	1	8	90
Sunni religious leaders/community	1	1	0
Haqqani Network	1	1	0
Political leaders/workers	3	0	0
Media/journalists	1	1	0
Health/polio workers, security escorts	2	3	0
Development, exploration projects, companies, workers	1	4	0
NATO/US supply vehicles	1	0	0
Total	79	100	206

Some frequently hit targets in KP in 2020 are described below.

2.1.1 Attacks on Security Forces/Law Enforcement Agencies

Compared to 69 such attacks in 2019, as many as 50 terrorist attacks in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa hit security and law enforcement agencies in 2020, including 24 in North Waziristan alone. These attacks killed 62 people including 49 personnel of security and law enforcement agencies (30 army soldiers, 15 policemen, 3 FC men, and one Levies), nine

militants and four civilians, and wounded 91 others including 71 security personnel, 10 civilians and as many militants.

The TTP, its former splinters Hizbul Ahrar and Jamaatul Ahrar that rejoined it in August 2020, local Taliban groups as well as Khyber-based Lashkar-e-Islam were mainly found involved in these attacks.

North Waziristan, South Waziristan and DI Khan witnessed a combined total of 33 attacks hitting security and law enforcement personnel. Meanwhile, three such attacks happened in Peshawar, and 2 attacks each in Bajaur, Khyber, and Lakki Marwat. In 8 other KP districts, at least one attack targeted security personnel.

Out of the total 50 reported attacks against security forces in KP, as many as 25 were either incidents of targeted killing or direct [targeted] shootout mainly against policemen including in merged tribal districts where establishment of police stations continued in the year 2020.

Some of the attacks against security forces and law enforcers reported from KP in 2020 are narrated below:

- January 14: Nine people, including two policemen and five women, were injured in an explosion near the Karkhano police check-post located at the border of **Peshawar** and Khyber districts. According to police, the explosion happened due to a hand grenade the militants lobbed near the check-post.⁴⁷ One of the injured succumbed to his injuries on January 15th.⁴⁸
- March 19: Jamaatul Ahrar militants attacked a police station in the Arghunja area of **Orakzai** with heavy weapons causing death of two policemen, who were identified as Constable Yahya and Constable Akhtar Janan.⁴⁹
- April 19: One army soldier, havaladar Akbar, embraced martyrdom while three others, Saeed, Yasir and Shafqat, received injuries when militants assaulted the Boya check-post in **North Waziristan** with heavy weapons. The security forces repulsed the attack and killed at least 5 of the invading terrorists.⁵⁰
- May 7: Two soldiers were martyred when a rocket, fired from an unknown direction, slammed into a checkpoint in Edek village, near Mirali town of **North Waziristan**. The martyred soldiers were identified as Hawaldar Zafar and Sepoy Asif.⁵¹ Later in the month, on May 18 to be precise, security forces were patrolling the same area when a remote-controlled device went off near their vehicle close to Nizameia Mosque. One soldier, Amir, was martyred and three others were wounded in the blast.⁵²

- June 21: Terrorists opened fire at a security forces patrolling party near Ghariom, a secluded area in **North Waziristan** adjacent to the South Waziristan tribal district. Pakistan Army Captain, Sabih, and Sepoy Naveed were martyred, while two soldiers received injuries during the ensuing encounter. One terrorist was also killed.⁵³ In another attack reported from the district on the same day, a remote-controlled device exploded close to a military vehicle near Mirali. However, no casualty was reported in the blast.⁵⁴
- August 30: Three soldiers of a patrolling party were martyred and four others got bullet injuries in a terrorist attack in Kazkai region of Ladha tehsil in **South Waziristan**. The martyred personnel were identified as Subedar Nadeem, Lance Naik Musawar and Sepoy Saleem.⁵⁵
- September 3: The terrorists detonated a roadside IED near a convoy of troops providing protection to road construction teams working on Ghariom section of Shaga-Nishpa road in **North Waziristan**. As a result, Lieutenant Nasir Hussain Khalid and two other soldiers embraced martyrdom. Four soldiers were injured.⁵⁶ Later in September, another three army officials lost their lives including Captain Abdullah Zafar in three separate attacks reported from twin Waziristan districts.
- October 15: Militants targeted a military convoy with remote controlled blast in Razmak area of **North Waziristan**. As a result, six army soldiers including a captain were martyred.⁵⁷

2.1.2 Attacks on Civilians

Marking a significant decline from previous year's 25 attacks, civilians in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa faced apparently eight terrorist attacks in 2020. Reported from five districts of the province, these attacks claimed the lives of six civilians and inflicted injuries on 11 others. Local Taliban and some unknown militants were involved in these attacks.

Highest attacks against civilians for any one region of KP were reported from North Waziristan (3 attacks), followed by Bajaur (2 attacks). Meanwhile one attack hit civilians in each of Lower Dir, Orakzai and South Waziristan districts. With the exception of one targeted shootout, all other attacks targeting civilians employed low-intensity IEDs of different types.

As noted earlier, most of the attacks against civilians were of low intensity, as indicated by relatively fewer consequent fatalities. Indeed half of reported attacks against civilians in KP caused no death. Seven children were injured in three landmine explosions in North and South Waziristan and Orakzai districts. Similarly, another three children were injured in a toy bomb blast in Lower Dir.

Separately, three people, including a senior civil servant, Zubaidullah Khan, were shot dead in an act of targeted killing in Mir Ali, North Waziristan. All the three victims belonged to the Dawar tribe. According to North Waziristan police, initial investigations revealed the incident was a terror attack.⁵⁸

2.1.3 Attacks on Tribal Elders and Political Leaders/Workers

A combined total of eight attacks in KP targeted tribal elders and political leaders and workers, which claimed nine lives. Tribal elders came under five attacks in North Waziristan and Bajaur causing all nine fatalities cited earlier. Political leaders and workers were targeted in terrorist attacks in Bajaur and Peshawar but these attacks did not cause any casualty. The TTP, Hizbul Ahrar and some unknown groups perpetrated these attacks.

At least seven tribal elders were target killed in North Waziristan in three recorded attacks against them. On January 18, militants shot dead two tribal elders, Zakaullah and Wali Khan, and managed to escape.⁵⁹ On November 30, four tribal elders were assassinated by assailants in a vehicle of tinted glass in North Waziristan tribal district. According to police, the elders were victims of targeted killing because they had no family feud.⁶⁰ Another elder, Malik Maulla Khan, was shot dead in a targeted attack in Miramshah area of the North Waziristan tribal district on December 1.

Separately in Bajaur, a tribal elder Malik Abdur Rasheed, 65, was on way to home in his Khooor Chai village when unknown persons opened fire on him. The elder was critically wounded and taken to the district hospital, Khar, but he did not survive.⁶¹ It could not be verified if some militant groups was involved.

Attacks on political leaders and workers included a hand grenade attack on the house of a Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) leader and member of the National Assembly Gul Zafar Khan in Mamond tehsil of Bajaur, another grenade attack on the house of PTI leader Zubair Afridi in Hayatabad area of Peshawar, and a rocket attack on the residence of ruling PTI MNA Gul Dad Khan in North Waziristan. As cited earlier, no casualty was recorded in these three attacks.

2.1.4 Attacks on Polio/Health Workers and Development Workers

As many as seven people lost their lives in three terrorist attacks that targeted polio vaccinators and their security escorts as well as development workers in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa in 2020. Two of these attacks targeted polio workers in Swabi and Bajaur districts, while one attack hit workers of FWO in North Waziristan. The TTP and local Taliban groups were allegedly involved in these attacks, which are described below:

- January 29: Two lady health workers were killed when motorcyclists attacked them in Razaar tehsil soon after commencement of a three-day immunization drive in Swabi district. Reportedly, the polio workers were not accompanied by any law enforcement personnel.⁶²
- May 21: Unknown gunmen killed a health worker of Expanded Programme on Immunisation (EPI) in Sharif Khana area of Bajaur tribal district. EPI technician Abdul Wahab was sitting in a shop along with villagers when the assailants, who had covered faces, opened fire on him with automatic rifles.⁶³
- In another targeted attack reported from North Waziristan, four daily wagers working for the Frontier Works Organisation, a military engineering organisation, were killed when gunmen opened fire on a vehicle near Mirali town in North Waziristan tribal district.⁶⁴

2.1.5 Incidence of Sectarian and Communal Violence in KP

On the whole, 10 incidents of communal and sectarian related violence or targeted attacks took place in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa in 2020, which claimed nine lives and injured 14 others. Four of these incidents were sectarian-related terrorist attacks in which militants of violent Sunni sectarian groups targeted Shia community members in Kurram and Kohat districts. Meanwhile, six incidents of faith-based violence were reported from KP including five from the provincial capital Peshawar; four of these attacks killed members of Ahmadi community, another attack target killed a blasphemy accused, while in another attack a Hindu shrine was vandalized.

With the exception of two sectarian-related IED blasts in Kurram and two acts of sabotage in Karak and Peshawar, all other incidents of sectarian and communal violence employed firing as attack tactics. In Kurram, these sectarian-related attacks included an IED blast in an Imambargah in the Shorko area of Lower Kurram in May, which killed one person, and a blast in Turi Bazaar of Parachinar in July, which killed one injured 14 people. The other two sectarian-related attacks happened in Kohat in September, when sectarian tensions were high in the country; Three Shia Muslims Qaisar Abbas, Irtaza Hassan and Syed Mir Hassan lost their lives in these targeted attacks.

Meanwhile, faith-based violence reported from Peshawar claimed lives of four members of Ahmadi community including Tahir Ahmad Naseem, an under-trial prisoner arrested over two years ago on a charge of committing blasphemy; a 61-year-old man Miraj Ahmed; a professor belonging to Ahmadi community, Dr. Naeemuddin Khattak; and a 75-year-old Mahboob Khan. Late in December, a mob vandalized the Samadhi (shrine) of a Hindu saint and subsequently set it on fire in the Karak district.

These incidents indicated that while on the one hand communal violence entailing individuals and mobs was apparently increasing in parts of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, on the other hand sectarian tensions had also been flaring up. However, the incidents of sectarian violence had relatively wider than local context. On the whole, the country has been in sectarian tension since the month of Moharram when Shia and Sunni clerics indulged in sectarian-related hate speech. Sectarian groups and organizations also took out rallies to protest and show their strength. Such rallies have been observed in KP also. While Kurram has a history of sectarian tensions, Kohat also lies on a belt of sectarian sensitivity, which stretches to its west traversing through Hangu, Orakzai and Kurram districts. These four horizontally adjoined districts have in the past seen sectarian-related tensions and violence, apart from the western DI Khan district of the province.

Nonetheless, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province in the past fared well, comparing to other provinces, in incidents of communal or faith-based violence including against minorities, though militant or terrorist violence against minorities had been more frequent there. But these incidents of individual or mob violence on the basis of faith or sectarian basis have apparently increased recently. That suggests that the negative processes of ideological radicalism or religious extremism are underway in the province, which eventually feed into terrorism. Such incidents though don't entail militants but some individuals or mobs are involved. That also indicates a growing intolerance towards minority faiths and sects in the province.

2.1.6 Other Sporadic Targets Hit in KP

Militants carried out a major terrorist attack in Peshawar, inside a madrassa where over 1,000 students are recruited. At least eight people were killed including children and over 90 were injured when a powerful bomb ripped through the madrassa Jamia Zubairia in Dir Colony locality near the Ring Road, Peshawar. The bomb was reportedly placed in a bag and detonated by a remote control when a senior teacher Rahimullah Haqqani was delivering his lecture, which was also being shown live on social media.⁶⁵ While no one claimed the attack, the TTP condemned it. According to some accounts, Islamic State group or some of its local affiliates could be involved in the attack on sectarian grounds. Rahimullah Haqqani reportedly remained member of the Afghan Taliban in eastern Afghanistan and has been a staunch critic of the Daesh as well as Salafist ideology. In the past he also escaped one attack. More than 100 Afghan students also studied in the madrassa.

Separately, militants shot dead renowned religious scholar Maulana Shah Jahan Malang in Peshawar on January 15 after he came out of mosque after offering the morning prayers. The deceased was the local head of Shabab Ahle Sunnat.⁶⁶ Similarly, a member of Ishaq group of Haqqani Network Nek Amanullah was killed in a remote control bomb blast in Bannu.⁶⁷

Meanwhile, three people, including a senior civil servant Zubaidullah Khan, were shot dead in an act of targeted killing in Mir Ali, North Waziristan. All the three victims belonged to the Dawar tribe. According to North Waziristan police, initial investigations revealed the incident was a terror attack.⁶⁸

In another attack, reported from Khyber district, armed men torched NATO's four Humvee military trucks along with two trailers in Bara tehsil. Three men riding motorcycles intercepted the trailers at gun point and asked the drivers to disembark from their trailers before they sprinkled the vehicles with petrol and put them on fire.⁶⁹

2.2 Balochistan

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 59 people and wounding 123 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 attacks each from Kech and Quetta, four from each of Qilla Abdullah and Harnai districts, and three attacks from Mastung. Meanwhile, Bolan, Dera Bugti, Kalat, and Panjgur faced two attacks each, while one attack took place in each of Gwadar, Nasirabad, Nushki, Sibi and Sohbatput districts.

Table 2: Terrorist Attacks in Balochistan in 2020

District	Attacks	Killed	Injured
Bolan	2	7	0
Dera Bugti	2	1	4

District	Attacks	Killed	Injured
Gwadar	1	14	0
Harnai	4	9	19
Kalat	2	1	16
Kech	9	19	26
Mastung	3	0	8
Nasirabad	1	0	1
Nushki	1	0	0
Panjgur	2	5	16
Qilla Abdullah	4	8	33
Quetta	9	31	87
Sibi	1	0	3
Sohbatpur	1	0	3
Total	42	95	216

In addition to the terrorist attacks listed at Table 2, multiple violent incidents of other types also took place in Balochistan in 2020. These included 15 operational strikes against militants, three clashes/encounters between security forces and militants, two incidents of armed clashes between security forces and protestors, and two foiled terror bids, among others. On the whole, 65 incidents of violence of different types happened in the province, which claimed 52 lives and injured 255 others.

Though the reported 42 terrorist attacks in Balochistan hit diverse targets, most of them (24 or 57 percent) targeted security forces and law enforcement agencies. As many as 12 attacks apparently targeted civilians, and another two attacks each hit workshop places and railways tracks. One attack each targeted tribal elders and Sunni religious community. (See Table 2a)

Table 2a: Targets Hit by Terrorists in Balochistan in 2020

Targets	No. of Attacks	Killed	Injured
Security forces/law enforcement	24	61	114
Tribal elders	1	0	2

Targets	No. of Attacks	Killed	Injured
Civilians	12	9	58
Worship places/shrines/imambargahs	2	16	22
Sunni religious leaders/community	1	9	20
Railway tracks / trains	2	0	0
Total	42	95	216

2.2.1 Attacks by Baloch Insurgents

The Baloch insurgents perpetrated 32 terrorist attacks in the province, compared to 51 in the year before. Spread over 12 districts of Balochistan, these attacks killed 59 people – compared to 71 in 2019 – and injured 123 others; those killed included 41 security personnel (29 FC men, 11 army soldiers and one Levies) and 18 civilians.

Baloch insurgents continued to place their operational focus on southern Kech district where they perpetrated nine terrorist attacks in 2020 causing 19 deaths and injuries to 26 others. Meanwhile, they hit the provincial capital Quetta with five attacks and Mastung with three attacks. Two attacks by Baloch insurgents happened in each of Bolan, Dera Bugti, Kalat and Panjgur districts, and one attack in each of Gwadar, Nasirabad, Nushki, and Sohbatput districts. The single reported attack from Gwadar's Ormara neighbourhood claimed 14 lives.

The attack tactics employed by the Baloch insurgents included 18 IEDs blasts, mainly including landmines and vehicle-borne IEDs, 10 incidents of firing or targeted killing, and four hand grenade attacks.

As noted earlier, the attacks by Baloch insurgents caused significant fatalities among security forces and law enforcement personnel (41 deaths). That was mainly due to the fact that out of total 32 attacks perpetrated by Baloch insurgents in the province, as many as 19, or over 59 percent, targeted security and law-enforcement personnel, their convoys and check-posts. These attacks (against security forces) were reported from eight districts of Balochistan with 8 such attacks from Kech alone.

Worst of these Baloch insurgents' attacks against security forces was recorded from Ormara, near Gwadar. Baloch Raaji Aajoi Sangar (BRAS), an alliance of Baloch insurgent groups mainly including BLA, BLF and BRG, claimed that its fighters were behind the attack.⁷⁰ It also stated that companies such as OGDCL along with China were at the forefront in exploiting natural resources of Balochistan. The incident was similar to several

previous attacks by the Baloch groups. In April 2019, the Baloch insurgents had pulled off 14 personnel of the Navy and Coast Guards vehicles and shot them dead on the same coastal highway. BRAS had later claimed responsibility for the attack. Such high-impact attacks – including the BLA attack on Karachi Stock Exchange in June 2020 – are also meant to get international attention and news space. Apparently, the Baloch groups are trying to transform the low-scale Baloch conflict into a flashpoint of violence, which is able to draw the world attention.

Some relatively more intense attacks by the Baloch insurgents against security forces in the year 2020 are listed below:

- February 18: The BLA militants used heavy weapons in their assault on a security post in the Balangor area Turbat in **Kech** district, about 30 kilometers from the Iranian border on a key highway. Five FC soldiers were martyred and three injured in the assault; three militants were also killed in retaliatory fire by security forces.⁷¹
- May 8: According to ISPR, a vehicle of armed forces hit a locally made landmine in Buleda area of **Kech** district. As a result of the blast, Major Nadeem and five other army officials lost their lives. The security officials were engaged in fencing the Afghan border when they hit the landmine.⁷² BLA was reportedly involved in the attack.
- May 19: According to a statement by ISPR, the military's media wing, six FC soldiers including a Junior Commissioned Officer (JCO) and a civilian driver embraced martyrdom in an IED attack in Pir Ghaib, Mach (**Bolan** district), on FC vehicle returning to base camp after routine patrolling duty. The United Baloch Army claimed responsibility saying it targeted the soldiers assigned to protect engineers of an oil and gas facility.⁷³
- July 14: The suspected BLA terrorists opened fire on a patrolling party of security personnel near Gichak valley of **Panjgur**. According to the ISPR statement, three soldiers were martyred and eight others, including an officer, received injuries in the attack.⁷⁴
- August 13: According to initial reports, a young student from Turbat was killed and three FC men suffered injuries in a remote controlled roadside blast targeting FC convoy in Turbat area of **Kech** district. Later, the brother of the deceased student claimed his brother was killed when FC opened fire after the blast. BBC Urdu quoted SSP Turbat to claim that the police had taken the FC official into custody who reportedly opened fire in haste on the student working in a nearby garden.⁷⁵
- October 15: Security forces were escorting a convoy of OGDCL from Gwadar to Karachi when insurgents attacked it on Coastal Highway near **Ormara**. As a result of ensuing encounter, 7 FC soldiers and 7 private security guards were martyred. BRAS, an alliance of Baloch insurgent groups, claimed the attack.⁷⁶

- December 27: At least seven security personnel were martyred and six others injured in an attack by terrorists on a Frontier Corps check post in the areas of Sharag coal mines in Balochistan's **Harnai** district. According to ISPR, heavy exchange of fire took place between FC personnel and terrorists and the latter were repulsed. According to BBC Urdu BLA claimed the attack.⁷⁷

Meanwhile, 11 attacks by Baloch insurgents apparently targeted civilians, which claimed nine lives and wounded 68 others. These were mostly low-scale IED blasts, largely carried out by BLA and BRA. A relatively more lethal of these attacks happened in Quetta in October. Reportedly, three people were killed and ten others injured in the bomb blast in the Hazarganji area on the outskirts of the provincial capital. A car and several motorcycles caught fire after the blast. A nearby shop was also damaged.⁷⁸ Meanwhile BLA militants perpetrated two attacks against railways tracks in Bolan and Mastung districts, which though partially damaged the parts of tracks but did not cause any casualty.

2.2.2 Attacks by Religiously-inspired Militants

The TTP, its former splinter Hizbul Ahrar that re-joined it in August 2020, the Islamic State group, and some other militants with similar objectives perpetrated 10 attacks in Balochistan, compared to 26 attacks by them in the year before. These attacks killed 36 people, compared to 69 killed in such attacks in 2019, and injured 93 others. Most of these attacks by so-called religiously inspired groups concentrated in areas with larger Pashtun populations including four attacks each in Quetta and Qilla Abdullah's Chaman area bordering on Afghanistan as well as one attack in each of Harnai and Sibi districts.

At least three of these were high-impact or major attacks including two suicide blasts in Quetta, targeting a mosque adjacent to a madrassa and a religious rally, and one in Chaman against law enforcement personnel.

Half of the attacks by the religiously inspired militant groups targeted security forces and law enforcement agencies, another two attacks targeted worship places, while one attack each hit tribal elders, civilians and a rally of a religious organization.

Attacks against security and law enforcement personnel were reported from Qilla Abdullah, Harnai and Quetta districts, some of which are narrated below:

- January 7: At least two people were killed and 14 others, including children and security personnel, wounded in a motorcycle bomb blast near a hospital in the Mecongi road shopping area of **Quetta**. Police said the bomb was detonated to target an FC vehicle patrolling the busy market place. Hizbul Ahrar claimed the attack.⁷⁹

- April 10: Two Pakistan Army soldiers were martyred and two others injured in Toba Achakzai area of **Qila Abdullah** when an improvised explosive device blast targeted their vehicle. The incident took place early in the morning when security personnel were clearing the area for fencing the border.⁸⁰
- August 10: At least six people were killed and 21 others, including three soldiers of the Anti-Narcotics Force (ANF), injured in a bomb blast in the border town of **Chaman**. The blast happened when IED planted in a parked motorcycle exploded, targeting a vehicle of ANF.⁸¹

Meanwhile in January, militants once again hit hard the provincial capital Quetta with a dastardly **suicide** bombing. The blast inside a mosque adjacent to a madrassa claimed 15 lives, including that of a deputy superintendent of police, and left 19 others wounded in the Satellite Town area of **Quetta**. The prayer leader Sheikh Hakimullah was seriously injured in the attack but survived. The AFP citing the SITE intelligence group said the **Islamic State** (IS) group had claimed the attack.⁸² While some speculated the killed police officer was the apparent target of the attack, others claimed the madrassa-mosque complex used to host the Afghan Taliban, who could be the target of the blast claimed by their rival group in Afghanistan, i.e. IS. Few months back, similar attacks against a worship place and a Sunni religious leader had happened in the Quetta's neighborhood.

Another **suicide** attack hit the provincial capital in February, when eight people were martyred, including two policemen and a Levies, and over 20 others injured in suicide blast near **Quetta** district courts and press club. The suicide bomber had attempted to break through a police barrier and enter a rally organized by Ahle Sunnat Wal Jamaat, but blew himself up on facing resistance from security personnel. The rally was held to mark the death anniversary of Hazrat Abu Bakr.⁸³

2.3 Sindh

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.

Table 3: Terrorist Attacks in Sindh in 2020

Types of Attacks	No. of Attacks	Killed	Injured
By nationalist insurgents	11	12	66
By Taliban and similar militants	4	4	0
Terrorist attacks [sectarian-related]	3	4	0
Total	18	20	66

Regional distribution of terrorist attacks in Sindh in the year 2020 is given at Table 3a.

Table 3a: Regional Distribution of Terrorist Attacks in Sindh

Location	No. of Attacks	Killed	Injured
Ghotki	1	3	0
Karachi	15	17	65
Larkana	2	0	1
Total	18	20	66

2.3.1 Karachi

Nationalist insurgents stepped up terrorist violence in Karachi carrying out eight attacks in the city in the year 2020. While the Baloch insurgent group BLA perpetrated one of these attacks, all others were low-intensity attacks that were carried out by Sindhi insurgent groups, mainly the SDRA, as cited earlier.

In June, the BLA perpetrated a major attack against Karachi Stock Exchange, which was though averted by timely and brisk response by the law enforcers, yet the group achieved which it apparently aspired out of it; i.e. an international highlight and focus. Reportedly, four BLA-Majeed Brigade attackers, armed with grenades and automatic rifles, launched

the attack and attempted to enter the stock exchange compound. The police and Rangers intercepted the attackers and killed all four of them. One sub-inspector and three security guards were martyred in the attack, and seven others were injured including three policemen.⁸⁴

Seven reported attacks by Sindhi nationalists in Karachi claimed one life and injured 58 people. Three of these attacks targeted police and Rangers (injuring 4 security personnel and two civilians), another two hit civilians, while one attack each was targeted against the rally of a religious-political party and a Chinese national. On June 19, a hand grenade attack near an Ehsaas Programme centre, near Anjuman-e-Islamia School, Liquatabad, Karachi, killed one civilian and wounded eight others including a Rangers officer.⁸⁵ On August 5, at least 39 people were injured in a grenade attack on a Jamaat-i-Islami (JI) rally held to condemn Indian atrocities and show solidarity with the people of Kashmir in Gulshan-i-Iqbal, Karachi. The banned Sindhudesh Revolutionary Army claimed responsibility for the attack.⁸⁶

Religiously inspired militants including TTP perpetrated four attacks in Karachi including three targeted killings of policemen and one hand grenade blast that targeted civilians. The policemen who lost their lives in these targeted attacks included sub-inspector Mohammad Yar, policeman Arif Khan and a head constable.

Meanwhile three **sectarian-related attacks** took place in Karachi. In a heinous attack in October, which was condemned from all quarters, Maulana Dr Adil Khan, head of a prominent seminary Jamia Farooqia in Shah Faisal Colony and the son of the late founder of the seminary Maulana Saleemullah Khan, was shot dead along with his driver in the city.⁸⁷ No one claimed the attack. While some said some rival sectarian group could be involved, others saw an external hand that sought to add to sectarian discord in the country.

Earlier in January, an activist of the banned Ahle Sunnat Wal Jamaat (ASWJ), Mohammed Zahid, 30, was shot dead in the Baloch Colony area.⁸⁸ Later, on August 14th, a police Head Constable Syed Muhammad Ali Rizvi was shot dead on what police suspected to be sectarian grounds in Karimabad area of Karachi. Majlis Wahdatul Muslimeem secretary general Allama Sadiq Jaffary condemned the target killing adding weight to police's suspicion.⁸⁹

2.3.2 Interior Sindh

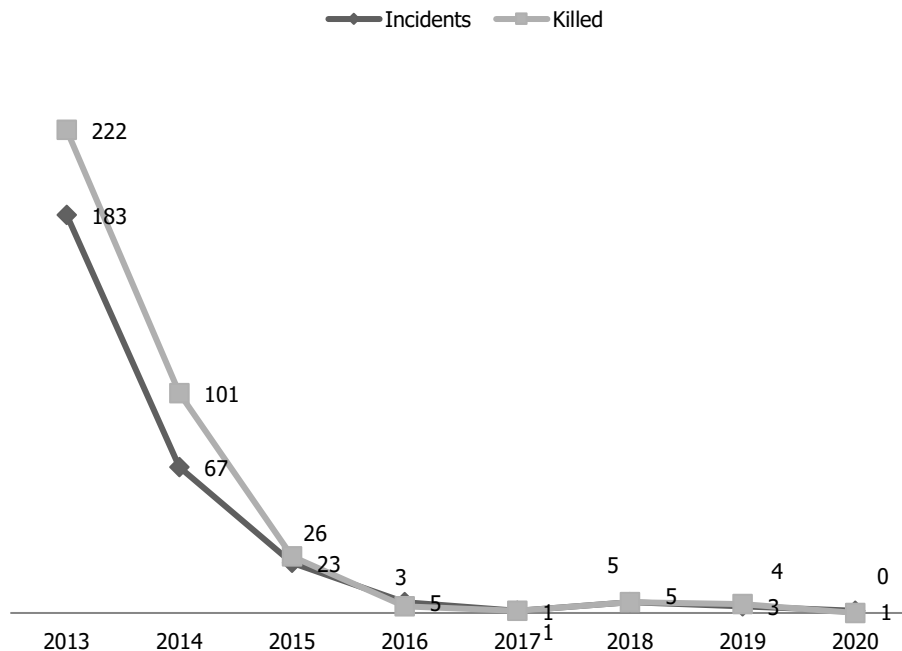
Sindhi nationalist insurgents perpetrated three attacks in interior Sindh, including two in Larkana and one Ghotki. Sindhudesh Liberation Army and Sindhudesh Revolutionary Army were involved in these attacks. Details are as under:

- January 1: A locally made explosive device fitted in a bicycle went off at Mirokhan Chowk, Larkana, but no damages or loss of life was reported. According to another account, the bicycle was parked near an ice factory and the explosive material packed in a tin of ghee was placed on it.⁹⁰
- June 19: One Rangers official was injured when militants riding a motorcycle hurled a cracker at a security checkpoint of Rangers Public School on VIP Road Larkana.⁹¹
- June 19: At least two Rangers personnel and one civilian lost their lives when a blast took place near a security forces vehicle in Sindh's Ghotki. Sindhudesh Revolutionary Army was reportedly involved.⁹²

2.3.3 Ethno-political Violence in Sindh

The downturn in the incidents of ethnic/political violence in Karachi that started in 2013, when the Rangers-led security operation started there, sustained in 2020. One such incident happened in the year under review, compared to four in the year before. Five men suffered injuries when workers of Pakistan Peoples Party and Grand Democratic Alliance clashed ahead of a scheduled political gathering of PPP at Masurji Wah near Moro town in Naushahro Feroze district. The activists used sticks in the fight.⁹³

Chart 1: Trends of Ethno-political Violence in Karachi (2013-20)



2.4 Punjab

In all, seven (7) terrorist attacks took place in Punjab in the year 2020, two more than the previous year, 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.

Militants employed IEDs of different types in five of these attacks and used firing and hand grenades in the other two attacks.

Table 4: Terrorist Attacks in Punjab in 2020

District	Attacks	Killed	Injured
Rahim Yar Khan	1	0	0
Rawalpindi	6	5	59
Total	7	5	59

As cited earlier, Pakistani Taliban militants perpetrated six attacks in Rawalpindi. On December 14, police arrested 3 suspects belonging to TTP who confessed their involvement in carrying out 4 attacks in the city starting from the January 2020.⁹⁴ The city faced two attacks in January. First, on January 7, an armed militant opened firing on policemen manning a check-post in Cantonment area of Rawalpindi, killing two officials Saeed and Muhammad Ali and injuring three others including a policeman and a woman. A formation of Dolphin Force chased the attacker and killed him. The police later identified him as a native of Pasrur, Sialkot and a member of Jamaatul Ahrar.⁹⁵ Few days later, two unknown motorcyclists threw a cracker (IED) outside a bank on Adiala Road that blew out injuring three persons critically. The motorcyclists took a U-turn from Mani CNG and lobbed another cracker outside a car rent showroom injuring another person. The attackers sped away towards Chungi Number 20.⁹⁶ Hizbul was believed to be involved in the attack.

On March 12, an explosion in a scrap market in Rawalpindi Cantonment area injured five people. The explosion happened due to an IED planted in a motorcycle.⁹⁷ In another attack reported from the city on June 12, one person was killed and 15 others were injured, including three children, when an explosive device, believed to be planted close to an electric pole, went off in the busy Kola Centre of Kabari Bazaar, Saddar. The deceased was

identified by police as Arfeen Akram, a resident of Allama Iqbal Colony.⁹⁸

The TTP launched two more attacks in Rawalpindi in December. On December 4, an IED placed in a rickshaw went off outside a general store in the Pirwadhai area of Rawalpindi, leaving one person dead and seven others injured.⁹⁹ Later, on December 13, over two dozen people including women and children were injured in a blast in the busy Ganj Mandi area of Rawalpindi. Eyewitnesses said two motorcyclists hurled a hand grenade at passers-by and those gathered around a shoe vendor before speeding away.¹⁰⁰

Separately in southern Punjab, militants of Baloch nationalist insurgent group BLA blew up a 36 inch diameter gas pipeline in Nawazabad area of Sadiqabad tehsil of Rahim Yar Khan district. About 10kg explosives were used and the blast destroyed a large area of standing crops.¹⁰¹

2.5 Suicide Attacks

Compared to four (4) suicide attacks in 2019, as many as three (3) such attacks happened in 2020 – two in Balochistan and one in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. These attacks claimed 26 lives – compared to 55 in 2019 – and injured 43 others.

The TTP was involved in one of these attacks, which targeted security forces in South Waziristan (KP) inflicting injuries on four people including an army brigadier. The Islamic State (IS) terrorist group claimed one apparently sectarian-related suicide attack that targeted a masjid-madrassa complex in Quetta killing 16 people, including the bomber, and wounding 19 others. Meanwhile no one had claimed the third reported suicide blast that apparently targeted a rally of a religious organization in Quetta killing nine people including the bomber and injured 20 others.

Those killed in suicide attacks in 2020 included 19 civilians, four security personnel (3 policemen and one Levies), as well as three suicide bombers. Those injured included 39 civilians, and four army soldiers.

Table 5: Suicide Attacks in Pakistan in 2020

District	Attacks	Killed	Injured
Quetta	2	25	39
<i>Balochistan Total</i>	<i>2</i>	<i>25</i>	<i>39</i>
South Waziristan	1	1	4
<i>KP Total</i>	<i>1</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>4</i>
Pakistan Total	3	26	43

These suicide blasts are re-narrated below, despite their description in respective sections on regional security landscapes.

- January 10: A suicide bombing inside a mosque adjacent to a madrassa claimed 15 lives, including that of a deputy superintendent of police, and left 19 others wounded in the Satellite Town area of Quetta. The prayer leader Sheikh Hakimullah was seriously injured in the attack but survived. The AFP citing the SITE intelligence group said the Islamic State (IS) group had claimed the attack.¹⁰²
- February 17: Eight people were martyred, including two policemen and a Levies, and over 20 others injured in a suicide attack near Quetta district courts and press club. The suicide bomber had attempted to break through a police barrier and enter a rally organized by Ahle Sunnat Wal Jamaat, but blew himself up on facing resistance from security personnel. The rally was held to mark the death anniversary of Hazrat Abu Bakr.¹⁰³
- August 11: An army brigadier, the officer of 24 Mechanised Brigade, was going to Wana when a suicide bomber blew himself up close to his vehicle near Badar bridge, Ladham leaving the brigadier and three soldiers wounded.¹⁰⁴

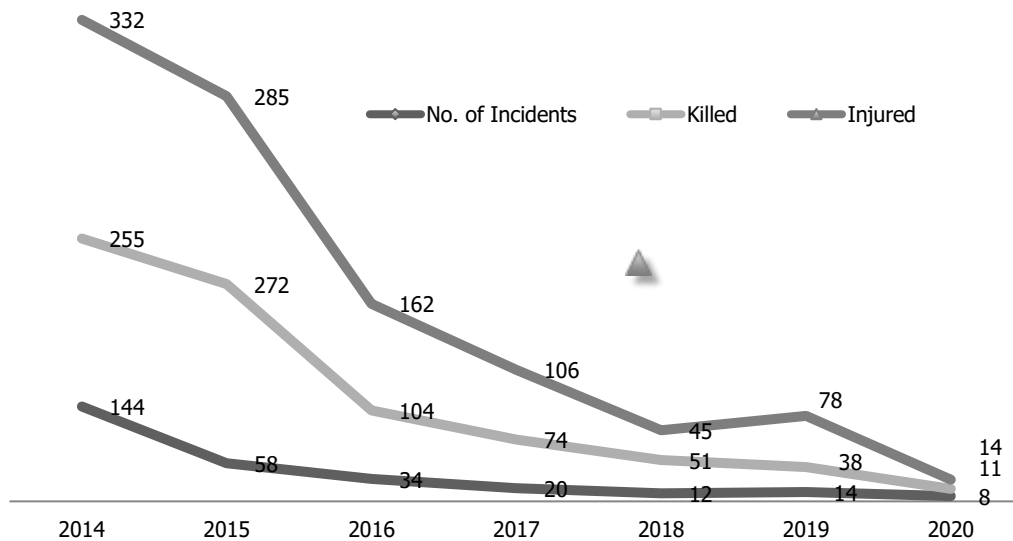
2.6 Sectarian Violence

Posting a decrease of 50 percent from previous year, seven (7) sectarian-related terrorist attacks took place in 2020. These attacks killed nine people, compared to 38 in 2019, and injured another 14 people.

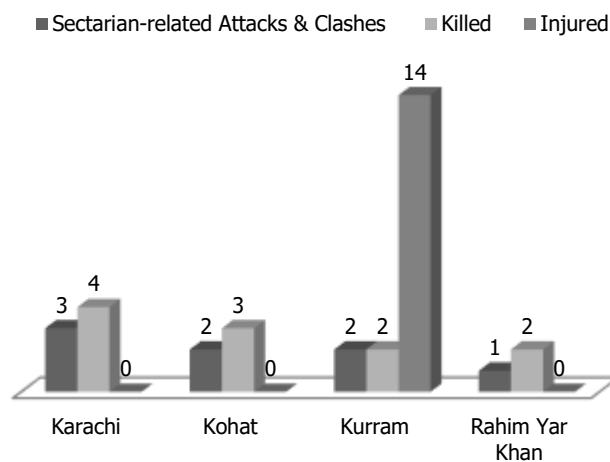
Rival Sunni and Shia violent sectarian groups were involved in perpetrating these attacks. Out of total seven such attacks, as many as four targeted Shia religious community killing five and injuring 14 others. A policeman subscribing to Shia sect of Islam was also target killed reportedly on sectarian grounds in Karachi. Meanwhile, two attacks targeted Sunni scholars causing three deaths. While three sectarian-related terrorist attacks happened in Karachi, another two attacks took place in each of Kohat and Kurram districts of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa.

Apart from these attacks, one violent sectarian clash also took place in Rahim Yar Khan (Punjab) that claimed two lives.

Thus on the whole, eight incidents of sectarian violence - including 7 sectarian-related terrorist attacks and one armed sectarian clash – claimed 11 lives and wounded 14 people.

Chart 2: Trends of Sectarian Violence (attacks and clashes) (2014-2020)

Incidents of sectarian violence were reported from four districts including Kohat and Kurram in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Karachi in Sindh and Rahim Yar Khan in Punjab. (See Chart 3)

Chart 3: Geographical Spread of Sectarian Violence in 2020

With the exception of two bomb blasts, all other incidents of violence employed firing or target killing.

Karachi faced the highest number of incidents of sectarian violence for any one region of the country, where three such attacks claimed four lives. On January 15, an activist of the banned Ahle Sunnat Wal Jamaat (ASWJ), Mohammed Zahid, 30, was shot dead in the Baloch Colony area which police and party officials said was a suspected sectarian attack.¹⁰⁵ On August 14, a police Head Constable Syed Muhammad Ali Rizvi was shot dead on what police suspected to be sectarian grounds in Karimabad area of Karachi. Majlis Wahdatul Muslimeem secretary general Allama Sadiq Jaffary condemned the target killing adding weight to police's suspicion.¹⁰⁶ Later in October, Maulana Dr Adil Khan, head of a prominent seminary, Jamia Farooqia in Shah Faisal Colony and the son of the late founder of the seminary, Maulana Saleemullah Khan, was shot dead along with his driver in a suspected targeted attack in Karachi.¹⁰⁷

Two sectarian-related attacks happened in each of **Kurram** and Kohat districts of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. In Kurram, on May 4, explosives planted at the wall of an Imambargah in the Shorko area of Lower Kurram near the Afghan border went off badly damaging the building of the Imambargah. The blast critically injured the caretaker who died few days after.¹⁰⁸ Again in July, an IED blast in Turi Bazaar of Parachinar (Kurram) injured 15 people including two seriously. The blast happened due to an IED planted in a fruit and vegetables hand cart. One of the injured, Rajab Ali, 16 years old, succumbed to his injuries on August 21; locals said being poor he could not afford proper treatment.¹⁰⁹

Meanwhile, the two reported sectarian-related attacks in **Kohat** happened in the month of September when sectarian tensions were on the rise in the country. First, on September 7, a Shia Muslim Qaisar Abbas was shot dead at his shop in Kohat, according to the spokesman of Shia political-religious organization Tehreek-e-Nifaz Fiqqa Jaafria.¹¹⁰ A week later, on September 15 to be precise, two men belonging to the Shia community were shot dead inside a medical store at the Peshawar square in Kohat. Protests broke out in different parts of the city following the firing incident. The victims were identified as Irtaza Hassan and Syed Mir Hassan.¹¹¹

Meanwhile on November 29 a sectarian clash took place in Rahim Yar Khan. Reportedly, two persons were killed in firing during a dispute between two suspected sectarian groups allegedly during a quarrel at Chak No 36-P over possession of a mosque, in the limits of Sahja police station in Rahim Yar Khan district.¹¹²

2.7 Faith-based Violence

While no such incident had happened in 2019, as many as eight (8) incidents of communal or faith-based violence were recorded in Pakistan in 2020, which in all claimed six lives and injured three others.

Six of these attacks took place in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa including five in Peshawar and one in Karak, and one incident each happened in Nankana Sahib and Khushab districts of Punjab.

In five incidents of faith-based violence, members of Ahmadi community were targeted, and in another two incidents persons accused of blasphemy were shot dead. Meanwhile in one incident of faith-based mob violence, the shrine (Samadhi) of a Hindu saint was vandalized and torched in Karak.

Table 6: Incidents of Faith-based Violence in Pakistan in 2020

District	Attacks	Killed	Injured	Damages\ Target
Khushab	1	1	0	Blasphemy accused
Nankana Sahib	1	1	3	Ahmedi community
Peshawar	5	4	0	Ahmedi community; blasphemy accused
Karak	1	0	0	A Hindu shrine
Total	8	6	3	

Details on these incidents are narrated below in chronological order:

- July 29: An under-trial prisoner arrested over two years ago on a charge of committing blasphemy was shot dead by a teenage boy inside a courtroom at the Peshawar Judicial Complex. The deceased, Tahir Ahmad Naseem, 57, was seated in the court of an additional sessions judge after arguments in his case, awaiting to be shifted to prison, when he was shot dead at point-blank range by 19-year-old Faisal, who was arrested on the spot.¹¹³
- August 13: Unidentified assailants shot dead the owner of a medical store, Miraj Ahmed, 61, belonging to Ahmadi community, in Dabagari area of Peshawar. A spokesperson for the Ahmadi community said the family was facing a hate campaign against it on social media; even the employees had refused to work at victim's shop.¹¹⁴
- September 10: An Ahmadi family was rescued by police after a mob surrounded their house over an argument about a public event. A large contingent of police was sent to the scene which rescued the five-member family and shifted them to an unknown location.¹¹⁵
- October 5: Peshawar police said that a professor belonging to Ahmadi community, Dr. Naeemuddin Khattak, was assassinated on Kohat road Peshawar. According to one account, he was apparently killed by his colleagues after an argument over religion a day earlier.¹¹⁶

- November 4: A bank manager was shot dead by its security guard allegedly over blasphemy allegations in Punjab's Khushab district. District Police Officer retired Capt Tariq Wilayat said police were investigating the incident. Quoting initial reports, he said the security guard and the manager had been quarrelling for some time.¹¹⁷
- November 8: An elderly man Mahboob Khan, 75, belonging to a religious minority was gunned down by an unidentified attacker at a bus stop in Peshawar. A spokesperson for the Ahmadiya community claimed that the murder was a direct result of an ongoing hate campaign against the community which remained vulnerable to such attacks.¹¹⁸
- November 20: A man belonging to the Ahmadi community was shot dead while three members of his family were injured in an ambush at Mauza Marrh Balochan in Nankana Sahib. Dr Tahir Ahmad along with his father, uncle and a cousin was going home after performing their religious rites at their worship place when Hammad Cheema opened fire on them. Dr Tahir died on the spot while others were injured.¹¹⁹
- December 30: More than a thousand people led by some local elders of a religious party held a protest and demanded the removal of the Hindu place of worship. After delivering speeches, they moved towards and attacked the shrine.¹²⁰

2.8 Border Attacks

Two less from the year before, a total of 125 cross-border attacks took place in the year 2020 from across Pakistan's borders with Afghanistan (11 attacks) and India (114). As many as 62 people lost their lives in these attacks, a decrease of about 34 percent from the year before; another 222 were also injured.

Those 62 Pakistani citizens killed in cross-border attacks included 42 civilians, 18 army officials, and two FC personnel.

As in the year before, the situation at Pakistan's borders with India – mainly along the Line of Control (LoC) in Azad Kashmir – remained relatively more volatile, where though the number of cross-border attacks posted a slight decline from previous year yet a significant number of attacks, i.e. 114, took place. Out of these 114 cross-border attacks perpetrated by Indian BSF, 113 concentrated along the LoC in more than nine districts of AJK and one attack happened in Sialkot along the Working Boundary with India. Kotli (37 attacks), Bhimber (21), Poonch (17), Haveli (13), Hattian Bala (9) and Neelum (8) were the AJK districts most affected by Indian cross-border attacks.

Meanwhile compared to four (4) cross-border attacks reported from Afghanistan in 2019, as many as 11 such attacks took place in 2020 in Bajaur, Khyber and Upper Dir districts of KP and Zhob district of Balochistan. Similarly compared to six (6) in the year before, cross-

border attacks from Afghanistan claimed 17 lives in 2020 including of 12 civilians, two FC men and three army soldiers. With the exception of two attacks that were reportedly launched by Afghan security forces, all other cross-border attacks from Afghanistan were perpetrated by Pakistani Taliban militants sheltered there mainly the TTP.

Table 7: Border Attacks/Clashes in 2020

Nature of Attack	No. of Attacks	Killed	Injured
Pak-Afghan border	11	17	18
Pak-India border	114	45	204
Total	125	62	222

2.8.1 Pak-Afghan

As cited earlier, posting a significant increase from previous year as many as 11 cross-border attacks from Afghanistan took place in 2020, which claimed 17 lives – 12 civilians and five security personnel. About 73 percent of these attacks (8 out of the total 11) concentrated in Bajaur tribal district alone. Meanwhile one such attack happened in each of Khyber and Upper Dir districts of KP and another attack took place in Zhob district of Balochistan province bordering on Afghanistan.

In February, seven members of a family were killed when a mortar shell fired from the Kunar province of Afghanistan hit a house in Bajaur district. The mortar shell was reportedly fired by the militants and hit the house of one Fazal Ghani, destroying it.¹²¹ As cited earlier, Bajaur, which was once hub of Pakistani Taliban mainly the Jamaatul Ahrar group, witnessed growing cross-border violence in 2020. The district shares border with Afghanistan's Kunar province, where Pakistani Taliban groups have been hiding for several years now, among other regions of Afghanistan. Nonetheless, a media report in February quoted the government officials as terming the Operation Raddul Fasaad as a "successful model" for fighting extremism and terrorism including from across the border.¹²² The report said: "border fencing with Afghanistan for preventing unauthorised cross-border movement by terrorists and other criminals was initiated in mid-2017 as a crucial ingredient of the strategy for ending terrorism. [According to the officials], so far [until February] 1,450km of the 2,611km-long porous border with Afghanistan ha[d] been fenced. A total of 843 border forts were planned out of which 343 ha[d] been completed and another 161 [we]re under construction," the report claimed.¹²³

In May, a man was killed and a girl suffered injuries when two mortar shells fired from Afghanistan's Kunar province landed in the Gardao border area of Salarzai tehsil in Bajaur.

While no militant group claimed the attack, the Bajaur tribesmen blamed the attack on the Afghan National Army.¹²⁴ In the month of June, four labourers were wounded when militants from Afghanistan's Kunar province attacked a border locality of Bajaur tribal district.¹²⁵

In July, two cross-border attacks from Afghanistan took place in Bajaur and Dir districts. On July 17, three civilians were killed and seven others were injured, including two army soldiers, in firing from across the Afghan-Pakistani border in bordering areas of Bajaur tribal district.¹²⁶ Later, on July 29, Pakistani Taliban terrorists from Afghanistan targeted a security post situated in a Pakistani-Afghan border area. According to the Inter-Services Public Relations (ISPR), Lance Naik Samiullah was martyred in the attack. He belonged to Upper Dir district.¹²⁷

From August to December 2020, at least one attack from across the Pak-Afghan border happened in each of the five months. Details are listed below:

- In August, Afghan border security forces opened fire on security check-posts in an area of Dir killing one FC soldier and injuring two others.¹²⁸
- In September, the TTP terrorists from Afghanistan side attacked the post of security personnel located in the border area in Bajaur. As a result a soldier, Sabir Shah, 24, was martyred.¹²⁹
- In October, Pakistani Taliban militants sheltered in Afghanistan opened fire on an army post at the border in Bajaur tribal district. As a result, *havaladar* Tanveer embraced martyrdom while one soldier got injured.¹³⁰
- In November, a Frontier Corps soldier embraced martyrdom while two others suffered injuries when terrorists fired on a security forces' post from across the border with Afghanistan in Manzaikai sector in the Zhob area of Balochistan.¹³¹
- In December, militants from Afghanistan fired mortar shells in Laittay Bando area of Bajaur district. As a result, a shell hit two shepherds who were grazing their sheep in the mountainous area. Sherin Khan was killed on the spot and Kashmir Khan got injuries.¹³²

Toward the end of November, the situation at the Chaman border remained tense amid reports of protests and clashes between protestor and security forces. For one, on November 29, a man was killed and six others were injured in a clash between traders and security personnel at the Friendship Gate. One child who was injured in the clash died next day.¹³³

According to a December 2020 report by the Voice of America, Pakistan's military has said it will have fenced off the country's 2,600 kilometer border with Afghanistan within next

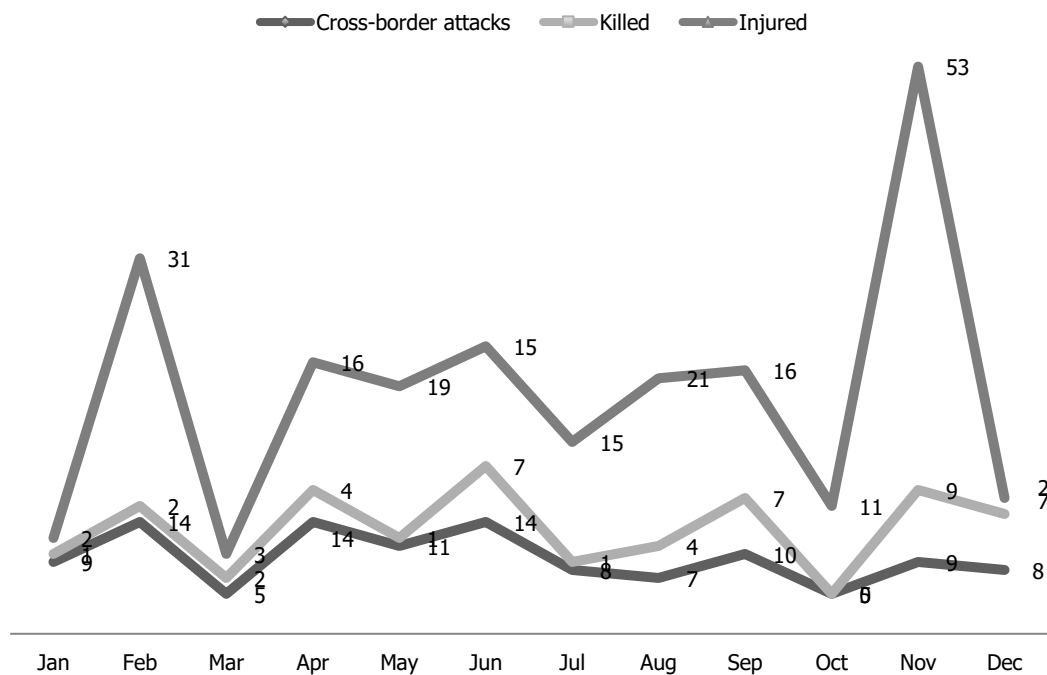
two months. The fencing was launched in 2017 to block militant infiltration from either side as well as smuggling and other illegal crossings on the Pak-Afghan border, and according to ISPR, as quoted by the VoA report, about 83 percent of the border has been fenced. Similarly, the report claimed, Pakistan army has already fenced off about 30 percent of the country's frontier with Iran and the project is expected to be finished by the end of 2021.¹³⁴

2.8.2 Pak-India

On the whole, 114 cross-border attacks by Indian BSF claimed 45 lives besides inflicting injuries on another 204 people. Over 76 percent of these attacks concentrated in four AJK districts of Kotli, Bhimber, Poonch and Haveli.

Among those 45 Pakistani citizens killed in cross-border violence from India, 30 were civilians and 15 Pakistan army soldiers.

Chart 4: Trends of Cross-border Attacks from India in 2020



In January, nine cross-border attacks happened from India, claiming one life and wounding two others. These attacks concentrated in three districts of AJK including Kotli, Poonch and Haveli. On January 11, a 24-year-old man, Chaudhry Ishtiaq, lost his life in cross-border firing by Indian BSF at Nidhi Sohana village of Khuiratta subdivision in Kotli district. He was

killed after a shell landed in their courtyard and its splinters pierced through the wooden door of his room and hit him in the abdomen.¹³⁵

In February, 14 cross-border attacks from India were recorded that spread across 5 districts of AJK including Kotli (6 attacks), Haveli (3), Hattian (2), Poonch (2), and Neelum (one attack). On February 8, one civilian Mir Muhammad was killed and a woman was injured in Indian shelling in Kakuta village of Chirikot sector.¹³⁶ Three days later, Indian troops fired at a motor rally, which was heading towards Dhar Bazaar to participate in a function held to mark the 36th death anniversary of Maqbool Butt, a pioneer Kashmiri guerrilla leader.¹³⁷

Down by about 64 percent from the previous month, five attacks happened in March 2020 in AJK from across the LoC, claiming 2 lives and wounding 3 others. The reported cross-border attacks from India spread across 4 districts with 2 attacks reported from Kotli and one attack from each of Bhimber, Neelum and Poonch districts. During an armed border clash on March 11, a Pakistani army soldier Abdul Basit was martyred in Abbaspur (Poonch district) when a bullet fired from across the LoC hit him on the chest.¹³⁸ About a week later, another soldier of Pakistan Army, Wajid Ali, aged 20 years, embraced martyrdom in the firing of Indian forces in Shahkot Sector.¹³⁹

The situation at the Pakistan's border with India remained tense throughout the month of April, when 13 cross-border attacks from India claimed four lives (including a four-year-old boy Hussain Mir; a 2-year-old boy Muhammad Haseeb; a woman Tasmeen Bibi; and a soldier) and injured 16 others. Pakistani security forces also downed an Indian spy drone along the Line of Control on April 9. It was apparently due to India's growing cross-border violations that Chief of the Army Staff (COAS) General Qamar Javed Bajwa visited the forward locations along the restive LoC on April 29 and termed India's provocative actions a threat to regional peace and stability.¹⁴⁰ Earlier, on April 13th, Pakistan had condemned the latest Indian ceasefire violations along the LoC as "senseless acts" aimed at distracting attention from the aggravating humanitarian situation in occupied Jammu and Kashmir. Indian Charge d'Affaires Gaurav Ahluwalia was summoned by Director General (South Asia & Saarc) Zahid Hafeez Chaudhri to lodge protest over the ceasefire breaches.¹⁴¹

The situation at the LoC remained tense in May and Pakistani security forces downed another two Indian spy drones. On the whole, 11 cross-border attacks were reported in Pakistan from across Pak-Indian border that claimed one life and injured 19 others. Most attacks along the LoC happened in Kotli district of Azad Jammu and Kashmir (4 attacks), followed by two attacks each in Bhimber and Haveli districts. On May 10, Indian troops shelled Abbaspur sector, using light and heavy arms and targeting civilian population. One of the shells landed in the kitchen of a house in Polas Kakota village killing Shazia Bibi, a

schoolteacher by profession, who was preparing meals for Iftar, or end of the fasting day.¹⁴²

In June, Pakistani security forces downed another two Indian spy drones along the Line of Control, which took the number to five since the start of April. On the whole, situation at the LoC remained tense, where 14 cross-border attacks by Indian border security forces claimed seven lives and injured 15 others. Half of the reported attacks from India concentrated in two AJK districts Kotli and Bhimber. Another two attacks each happened in Hattian and Haveli districts, while one attack was reported from each of Neelum, Poonch and an unspecified district along the LoC. June 17 was the worst day of the month when at least three people died in Indian shelling in different areas.

Down by 43 percent from June, eight cross-border attacks were recorded along the LoC in July 2020 in five districts of Azad Jammu and Kashmir that killed one and injured 15 people: two attacks happened in each of Bhimber, Haveli and Kotli districts; and one attack each took place in Hattian Bala and Poonch districts. On July 26, Pakistan Army shot down an Indian spying quadcopter in Pandu sector along the LoC. The ISPR stated the quadcopter had intruded 200 metres on Pakistani side of the LoC in Hattian Bala district. It further said it was 10th Indian drone shot down this year.¹⁴³

Posting a further slight decline, seven cross-border attacks happened along the LoC in August that concentrated in four districts of Azad Jammu and Kashmir including Bhimber, Poonch, Kotli and Hattian Bala. Indian troops resorted to extensive shelling in different villages of Leepa valley, using mortars and medium-range artillery. The shelling also hit Reshian, a village considered safe as it is situated 25 kilometres away from vulnerable Leepa valley. The shelling left one woman Attiqah Bibi dead and two others wounded. Disaster management authority sources said they had unofficially also received names of five wounded persons belonging to different villages of Leepa valley. Meanwhile two civilians were injured in Kai Ban in Indian shelling.

Taking again an upward turn, 10 cross-border attacks took place from across the LoC in September, which spread over five districts of AJK; four attacks happened in Bhimber alone. On September 23, two soldiers of the Pakistan Army, Noor ul Hassan and Waseem Ali, embraced martyrdom during intense exchange of fire with Indian BSF in Dewa sector (Bhimber) along the LoC. Pakistan army reportedly also targeted Indian posts destroying three of them.¹⁴⁴ Earlier, on September 11, a young girl was killed and her elder sibling and grandmother and another civilian were injured in Battal sector in Hajira tehsil of Poonch district in firing and shelling by the Indian army from across the Line of Control.¹⁴⁵ Later, on September 29, Indian troops opened fire across the de facto border in the disputed Himalayan region of Kashmir, killing a soldier Sepoy Shafique and a 15-year-old boy, and wounding four others.¹⁴⁶

In October, five attacks were perpetrated by the Indian BSF in three districts of AJK including Bhimber, Haveli and Kotli. These attacks killed one person and injured 12 others.

In November, once again the situation at the LoC became relatively more tense and volatile adding to insecurity among the people living along the border. The reported nine attacks from across the LoC in the month represented an 80 percent increase from such attacks in previous month. These attacks from Indian side happened in six districts of AJK with most of the casualties being reported from Neelum district. On November 13, Indian BSF resorted to firing and shelling in at least four districts along the LoC, killing in all six and injuring 37 people. Earlier, on November 1, Indian army resorted to ceasefire violations using small and heavy arms in Rakhchikri sector in Haveli district for three hours. Mohammad Sarwar, 55, and his wife Gulab Jan, 47, were hit by the splinters of a mortar shell; the former died on the spot.¹⁴⁷ At least 10 cattle heads were also hit. On November 22, several participants of a wedding ceremony, mostly women and children, were injured after one of the mortar shells fired by Indian army from across the Line of Control landed in a house in Kotli district of Azad Jammu and Kashmir.¹⁴⁸ Three days after this incident, a villager Chaudhry Ansar Mahmood, in his mid-thirties, lost his life after an Indian BSF sniper shot at him from across the Line of Control while he was heading home on a motorbike in Gohra Mehri hamlet in Bhimber district.¹⁴⁹

During the last month of the year 2020, eight cross-border attacks from India killed seven people – including six Pakistan army soldiers – and injured another two in Kotli, Bhimber and Poonch districts. On December 9, Two Pakistan army soldiers, Lance Naik Tariq and Sepoy Zaroof, were martyred in Indian BSF firing in Khuratta sector of Kotli district.¹⁵⁰ About a week later, two more Pakistani soldiers embraced martyrdom as Indian troops violated ceasefire in the Bagsar Sector along the Line of Control in Bhimber district. According to ISPR, during the intense exchange of fire, Naik Shahjahan, 35, and Sepoy Hameed, 21, embraced martyrdom.¹⁵¹

On December 22, Chief of the Army Staff (COAS) Gen Qamar Javed Bajwa warned the Indian army that it would always get a befitting response to any “misadventure or aggression” from across the divide. The “note of caution” by Gen Bajwa came during his visit to the army positions in unspecified snowbound forward areas along the LoC hours after a woman was killed and two other civilians, including a minor boy, were injured as a result of ceasefire violations by the Indian army.¹⁵² Earlier, Indian BSF troops had reportedly targeted a vehicle of the UN Military Observer Group in India and Pakistan along the LoC, and Pakistan had taken up the “reprehensible attack on the UNMOGIP with the UN, urging it to initiate a transparent investigation into the incident.”¹⁵³

2.8.3 Pak-Iran

No cross-border attack took place from Iranian side in the year 2020.

Officials from Pakistan and Iran discussed border matters during a stand-up meeting at the Taftan crossing of the Pakistani-Iranian border on April 11. Called on the request of Iran, the meeting took up the issue of bamboo poles that the Iranian authorities said were placed very close to the zero line near the Taftan town on the border. Pakistani officials apprised their Iranian counterparts that the bamboo poles were temporarily placed so that the laborers working on permanent fencing of the border between the two countries could not go beyond it.¹⁵⁴ Pakistan is conducting border fencing to check cross-border movements of militants from either side. Later, on April 20, the IG FC South Maj Gen Sarfaraz Ali paid a visit to the Pak-Iran bordering town of Mand and stated that the FC was taking all possible measures to maintain peace in the area with the help and cooperation of local people. He further said that once the fencing is completed, a mechanism will be developed to ensure the business safety. "The security forces have eliminated all terrorists' networks in Balochistan but still we need local support in order to fully wipe out people spoiling peace in the province," he reiterated.¹⁵⁵

Table 8: Regional Distribution of Cross-border Attacks

Border	District	Attacks	Killed	Injured
Pak - Afghan	Bajaur (KP)	8	15	14
	Khyber (KP)	1	0	0
	Upper Dir (KP)	1	1	2
	Zhob (Balochistn)	1	1	2
	<i>Total</i>	<i>11</i>	<i>17</i>	<i>18</i>
Pak - India	Bagh (LoC)	1	0	1
	Bhimber (LoC)	21	9	30
	Hattian (LoC)	9	3	15
	Haveli (LoC)	13	4	21
	Kotli (LoC)	36	11	66
	LoC (Unspecified)	6	5	9
	Muzaffarabad (LoC)	1	0	5
	Neelum (LoC)	8	8	38

Border	District	Attacks	Killed	Injured
	Poonch (LoC)	16	3	18
	Sialkot (WB)	1	0	1
	<i>Total</i>	<i>112</i>	<i>43</i>	<i>204</i>
Total from 2 borders		123	60	222

CHAPTER 3

Militant Landscape of Pakistan in 2020

Safdar Sial*

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While Pakistani security forces' anti-militant operations continued to weaken the militants, some important Pakistani Taliban leaders were also killed in Afghanistan. Similarly, few key Al-Qaeda leaders were killed in Afghanistan including Husam Abd al-Rauf, also known as Abu Muhsin al-Masri. Al-Qaeda has been striving to improve its relevance and alliances in the region including through the establishment of its franchise, Al-Qaeda in the Indian Subcontinent (AQIS), in 2014. While it has cemented its ties with the Afghan Taliban, according to some accounts, it has also helped the Tehreek-e-Taliban Pakistan (TTP) in recovering and regrouping in recent years; some AQ-aligned Pakistani groups even joined the TTP.¹⁵⁶ The Islamic State (IS) group in Afghanistan has also suffered serious losses in recent years, including on the hands of the Afghan government as well as the Afghan Taliban, and has undergone fragmentations including in its main ally the Islamic Movement of Uzbekistan. Yet, its surviving cells are engaging in large attacks, and analysts warn against underestimating the IS threat in the region, mainly due to its ability to exploit the conflicts such as in Afghanistan, Kashmir or elsewhere.¹⁵⁷

In February 2020, media reported that some key TTP leaders had been killed in Afghanistan including TTP deputy leader Sheikh Khalid Haqqani, and Qari Saif Younis, a military commander within the group,¹⁵⁸ and Shehryar Mehsud, leader of a breakaway faction of the TTP.¹⁵⁹ Later in August, Assadullah Orakzai, a former Pakistani Taliban leader who later joined IS and became the head of intelligence for its Khorasan chapter, was reportedly killed in an operation by Afghan security forces. A BBC report in April claimed the Pakistani Taliban militants who are sheltered across the border may want to relocate to their native towns in tribal districts. The report quoted the defense analyst Brigadier (Retd.) Mehmood Shah to claim that about 9,000 such Taliban militants wanted to come back to their native towns in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa after seeking a forgiveness and promising to quit violence.¹⁶⁰ Similarly, a UN report estimated "[t]he total number of Pakistani foreign terrorist fighters in Afghanistan, posing a threat to both countries" to be between 6,000 and 6,500, most of them with the TTP.¹⁶¹ While the UN report termed the TTP as the largest Pakistani group in Afghanistan and the main threat for Pakistan, it noted that that many former TTP members had already joined the Islamic State's Khorasan Province or chapter, also called ISKP.¹⁶²

In 2020, the TTP and its affiliates continued their effort to regroup in parts of Pakistan, which was visible from their growing presence and activities in North Waziristan, Bajaur and other tribal districts; they also claimed some attacks in Karachi (Sindh), Balochistan and Punjab's Rawalpindi district.

On the whole, as compared to the nationalist insurgents and violent sectarian groups, the militant groups such as TTP and its ilk committed more terrorist violence in the country in the year 2020. On the whole, the TTP, its splinter groups Hizbul Ahrar and Jamaatul Ahrar – which rejoined it in August – as well as other militant groups with similar objectives such

as local Taliban groups, Lashkar-e-Islam and ISIS-affiliates, etc., carried out 95 attacks in Pakistan killing 140 people and injuring 344 others. Most of these attacks (75, or about 79 percent) concentrated in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa with 31 in North Waziristan alone; another nine attacks happened in Bajaur and six each in in South Waziristan and Peshawar districts. Similarly, the TTP and similar groups perpetrated 10 attacks in Balochistan, including four attacks in each of Quetta and Qilla Abdullah districts, and carried out another four attacks in Karachi. Meanwhile, the TTP and its former splinters were believed to be involved in six attacks in Rawalpindi, the twin city of the federal capital Islamabad.

Meanwhile Baloch and Sindhi nationalist insurgent groups carried out 43 attacks – as compared to 57 such attacks in 2019 – which claimed 71 lives and wounded another 174 people. Different Baloch insurgent groups perpetrated 33 attacks in 2020 including 31 in Balochistan (while 9 and 5 of such attacks, respectively, took place in Kech and Quetta, Baloch insurgents also launched few major attacks in Gwadar and Harnai districts) and one attack each in Karachi and Rahim Yar Khan (south Punjab) districts. On the whole, Sindhi nationalist groups perpetrated 10 terrorist attacks in Sindh in 2020, including seven in Karachi, two in Larkana and one in Ghotki.

Similarly, seven reported terrorist attacks in 2020 were sectarian-related – half from the year before – which killed nine people and inflicted injuries on 14 others. While four of these attacks happened in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, another three took place in Karachi.

This section of the report will examine some significant developments, which shaped Pakistan's militant landscape in 2020. It will also focus on changing targets and tactics of the groups and changing dynamics of the militancy in Pakistan.

1. Major Actors of Instability in 2020

1.1. Religiously-inspired Militant Groups

1.1.1 Tehreek-e-Taliban Pakistan (TTP)

As in past several years, despite its waning strength, the TTP remained the major actor of instability in 2020. The group was found involved in 46 terrorist attacks, including 40 in KP province alone, three in Punjab, two in Balochistan, and one in Karachi. These attacks by the TTP claimed 56 lives and left 123 others injured. (*See Tables 1 & 2*) In 2019, the group had carried out 82 attacks that killed 150 people.

Apart from these terrorist attacks, most of the cross-border attacks reported from Afghanistan were also perpetrated by the TTP; in 2020, 11 such attacks from across the Pak-Afghan border claimed 17 lives. (*Details are provided in Section 2.8 of Chapter 2*)

Geographical spread and statistics of the attacks perpetrated by the TTP in 2020 indicate that while the group had made considerable inroads into the tribal districts or former FATA, it was also successful in showing its presence in northern Balochistan, Karachi, and Rawalpindi that lies adjacent to Islamabad.

However, the TTP's efforts to regroup in Pakistan only partially succeeded due to the security forces' continued search and hunt operations, most of which targeted TTP and other Taliban leaders and militants. (*See Section 4 for details*)

Meanwhile, the TTP was successful in bringing back some of its breakaway factions as well as some other small groups and commanders into its fold in 2020. For one, two key TTP splinters, Jamaatul Ahrar and Hizbul Ahrar, declared a return to their parent group, i.e. TTP, in August 2020. Mohammad Khurasani, the main spokesman for the TTP, in his post announced that Umar Khalid Khurasani, head of Jamaatul Ahrar, and Umar Khurasani, head of his own splinter faction of Hizbul Ahrar, dissolved their groups and took the oath of allegiance to TTP chief Mufti Noor Wali Mehsud, aka Abu Asim Mansoor.¹⁶³ All these groups of Pakistan Taliban are believed to be based in Nangarhar, Kunar and Khost provinces of Afghanistan. The unification of Taliban groups has happened mainly due to efforts of the TTP chief Noor Wali Mehsud, who took lead in resolving all contentious issues. He had previously been associated with the Afghan Taliban but later joined the TTP. Therefore, some analysts are linking the development to the emerging situation in Afghanistan, where the Afghan Taliban are gaining ground since they have made a deal with the US. A BBC Urdu report quoted a former TTP spokesperson Ehsanullah Ehsan to claim that Jamaatul Ahrar had parted its ways, in 2015, from the TTP due to some administrative differences including on the TTP's organizational structure, which it believed should have been on the pattern of the Afghan Taliban where a *shura* or council would make key decisions and associated groups would operate with more freedom.¹⁶⁴ Apparently, the Pakistani Taliban militants are realizing that factionalism has only weakened them and they would gain little even if their Afghan counterparts reach the power corridors in Afghanistan. They are apparently trying to restore the TTP as an alliance of Pakistani Taliban and trying to bring back all the annoyed groups.

According to another account, the militants of the Hakimullah Mehsud Group headed by commander Mukhlis Yar were the first to come back to the TTP fold in July. Also in July, the TTP had announced the inclusion of Al-Qaeda-affiliated Amjad Farouqi group of the so-called Punjab Taliban in its fold, which was followed, as claimed by the TTP media cell, the inclusion of a Lashkar-e-Jhangvi faction headed by Maulvi Khush Muhammad Sindhi into the TTP in early August. Reportedly, Noor Wali Mehsud is also working to persuade Mangal Bagh and his Lashkar-e-Islam to join the TTP.¹⁶⁵

1.1.2 Jamaatul Ahrar and Hizbul Ahrar

As cited earlier, both groups reunited with the TTP in August 2020. Before that they perpetrated a combined total of seven attacks in the year, including three in Rawalpindi, two in Bajaur and one attack each in Orakzai and Quetta. These attacks claimed nine lives and injured 38 others. Four of these attacks were targeted against security forces, another two attacks hit civilians and one attack apparently targeted political leaders. The groups however could not perpetrate some major attack in the country in the year 2020, which also hinted at their weakened operational capabilities. A small cell of Hizbul Ahrar launched the attacks in Rawalpindi, whose members were arrested in December.¹⁶⁶

1.1.3 Local Taliban

The small militant groups in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa including its tribal districts, described as the local Taliban, carried out 14 terrorist attacks in 2020, which claimed 10 lives. In 2019, the local Taliban groups had claimed 29 attacks. Continuing attacks by them suggests that small radical groups in KP province are still active and have attraction in their cause as most of such attacks are religiously motivated and targeted against polio workers, security forces, CD/DVD shops, and tribesmen. In 2020, attacks by these local Taliban groups were reported from 11 districts of KP including three in Bajaur, two in North Waziristan and one attack in each of Buner, DI Khan, Kohat, Lakki Marwat, Lower Dir, Mohmand, Nowshera, Orakzai and Swabi districts.

1.1.4 Lashkar-e-Islam

Lashkar-e-Islam (LI) is a Khyber district-based militant group, which was a key ally of the TTP until 2014 when military operations started in North Waziristan and Khyber. Later, the groups became an important ally of Islamic State Khorasan chapter in Afghanistan. But it has lost its strength in recent years. The group was found involved in a single terrorist attack in 2020, compared to two in 2019, in Khyber district. Reportedly the TTP is trying to bring the group back into its fold.

Table 1: Terrorist Attacks Claimed/Perpetrated by Terrorist Groups

Organization	Balochistan	KP	Punjab	Sindh (excluding Karachi)	Karachi	Total
Tehreek-e-Taliban Pakistan (TTP)	2	40	3	-	1	46
Jamaatul Ahrar	-	2	1	-	-	3

Organization	Balochistan	KP	Punjab	Sindh (excluding Karachi)	Karachi	Total
Hizbul Ahrar	1	1	2	-	-	4
Lashkar-e-Islam	-	1	-	-	-	1
Local Taliban	-	14	-	-	-	14
Lashkar-e-Jhangvi (LeJ)	-	-	-	-	1	1
Balochistan Liberation Army (BLA)	17	-	1	-	1	19
Balochistan Liberation Front (BLF)	5	-	-	-	-	5
Balochistan Republican Army (BRA)	3	-	-	-	-	3
United Baloch Army (UBA)	2	-	-	-	-	2
Lashkar-e-Balochistan	1	-	-	-	-	1
Sindhu Desh Liberation Front (SDLF)	-	-	-	1	-	1
Sindhu Desh Revolutionary Army	-	-	-	2	6	8
Sipah-e-Muhammad Pakistan	-	-	-	-	1	1
Rival Sectarian group	-	4	-	-	-	4
Nationalist insurgents	3	-	-	-	1	4
Unknown militants	6	16	-	-	4	26
BRAS (an alliance of BLA, BLF and BRG)	1	-	-	-	-	1
ISIS affiliates/supporters	1	1	-	-	-	2
Total	42	79	7	3	15	146

1.1.5 Islamic State of Iraq and Syria

The Islamic State affiliates in Pakistan perpetrated two major attacks in 2020 in Quetta and Peshawar. In Quetta, a suicide bombing inside a mosque adjacent to a madrassa claimed 15 lives, including that of a deputy superintendent of police; the blast was

apparently targeted against prayer leader Sheikh Hakimullah, who was seriously injured in the attack but survived. In Peshawar too, a mosque-madrassa complex was targeted in an IED blast with a view to hit a senior teacher Rahimullah Haqqani, who is reportedly close to the Afghan Taliban.

As cited in the beginning of this section, Assadullah Orakzai, the head of intelligence for Islamic State Khorasan chapter, was reportedly killed in an operation by Afghan security forces. In Pakistan, too, security forces conducted multiple operations against the IS-affiliates. For one, the CTD and other agencies conducted an operation in Mastung in September and killed an alleged commander of the IS, identified as Mohammad Nawaz alias Sindhi, who was allegedly involved in a suicide attack on an election rally of Nawabzada Siraj Raisani and several other terrorist activities.¹⁶⁷ Later, on November 23, security forces claimed to have neutralised a network of terrorists by killing two senior militant commanders and arresting several others in an intelligence-based operation in Salarzai tehsil of Bajaur. The killed militant commanders, identified as Zubair and Azizur Rahman alias Fida, reportedly belonged to the militant Islamic State group. Fida was the Karachi chief of IS group; his wife, in-charge of women wing of IS in Karachi, was arrested and handed over to local police.¹⁶⁸ Bajaur was among few districts where in 2014 local Taliban leaders had pledged allegiance and support to the Islamic State. Later these commanders relocated to Afghanistan. According to ISPR, the busted network was coordinating terrorist activities in various areas of Pakistan and receiving direct orders from their RAW-sponsored leadership from across the border in Afghanistan.¹⁶⁹

Similarly, four suspected terrorists of the Islamic State group, or Daesh, were killed during an intelligence-based operation conducted by the CTD in Bahawalpur district in south Punjab; 3 militants reportedly escaped. Those killed included Amanullah, Abdul Jabbar, Rehman Ali, and Aleem, and wanted to attack a worship place of a religious minority.¹⁷⁰

Security forces also conducted three search operations against IS-affiliates and arrested five suspected militants from Sialkot and Gujranwala districts in Punjab, and Karachi in Sindh province.

1.1.6 Al-Qaeda in the Indian Subcontinent

As in the previous few years, the Al-Qaeda in the Indian Subcontinent (AQIS) did not perpetrate any terrorist attacks in Pakistan in 2020. But law enforcement departments consider it a potent threat. On November 6, two suspected terrorists belonging to Al-Qaeda were reportedly killed in an encounter with the police in DG Khan. Two others managed to escape.¹⁷¹

1.1.7 Lashkar-e-Jhangvi

Lashkar-e-Jhangvi (LeJ), a major Sunni sectarian terrorist group, was believed to be involved in a single terrorist attack in 2020, in Karachi, comparing eight attacks in 2019. However, the security forces arrested suspected LeJ leaders and members in multiple search operations. On August 26, Charsadda police claimed to have arrested three suspected LeJ terrorists and recovered explosives from their possession in Shabqadar area. They were planning attacks during Muharram.¹⁷² In December, the Steel Town police (Karachi) arrested Muqem alias Shah who was reportedly involved in sectarian targeted killings in the city. Police said, Muqem was a brother of LeJ militant Sheikh Mumtaz alias Firun who had escaped from the Karachi central prisons some years ago and later was killed with security forces during an encounter in Balochistan when he was reportedly returning from Afghanistan.¹⁷³

1.1.8 Sipah-e-Muhammad Pakistan

The group was found involved in one terrorist attack in Karachi in 2020. However, law enforcers arrested multiple associates of the group during three search operations conducted in the city. First, on February 10, the CTD of the Sindh Police claimed to have arrested an alleged militant, Saleem Haider Zaidi alias Saleem Bhai alias Rehman alias Rajab, who is affiliated with a banned sectarian outfit, Sipah-e-Muhammad Pakistan.¹⁷⁴ In December, the Sindh police claimed to have arrested two suspected militants belonging to banned Sipah-e-Mohammad Pakistan for their alleged involvement in multiple terrorist activities and sectarian killings.¹⁷⁵ The arrested terrorists were associated with the Agha Hasan group of the Sipah-e-Mohammad and were actively involved in killings mainly on sectarian grounds for the past 20 years. During the last two decades, it said, the suspects targeted workers of the banned Sipah-i-Sahaba Pakistan, Jamaat-i-Islami, clerics, students of seminaries and a businessman. Later in the month, police's Counter-Terrorism Department claimed to have arrested a suspected militant of the outfit for his alleged involvement in targeted killings of seven members of a sectarian group.¹⁷⁶

Table 2: Casualties in Terrorist Attacks by Different Groups

Group Responsible	Killed	Injured
TTP	Balochistan: 2 KP: 52 Karachi: 1 Punjab: 1 <i>Total: 56</i>	Balochistan: 10 KP: 76 Punjab: 37 <i>Total: 123</i>

Group Responsible	Killed	Injured
Jamaatul Ahrar	KP: 3 Punjab: 3 <i>Total: 6</i>	KP: 2 Punjab: 3 <i>Total: 5</i>
Lashkar-e-Islam	KP: 1 <i>Total: 1</i>	KP: 8 <i>Total: 8</i>
Local Taliban	KP: 10 <i>Total: 10</i>	KP: 9 <i>Total: 9</i>
LeJ	Karachi: 1 <i>Total: 1</i>	-
BLA	Balochistan: 23 Karachi: 8 <i>Total: 31</i>	Balochistan: 84 Karachi: 7 <i>Total: 91</i>
BLF	Balochistan: 10 <i>Total: 10</i>	Balochistan: 16 <i>Total: 16</i>
BRA	Balochistan: 1 <i>Total: 1</i>	Balochistan: 5 <i>Total: 5</i>
United Baloch Army (UBA)	Balochistan: 7 <i>Total: 7</i>	-
Lashkar-e-Balochistan	Balochistan: 1 <i>Total: 1</i>	-
Sindhudesh Liberation Front (SDLF)	-	-
Sindhudesh Revolutionary Army (SDRA)	Sindh: 4 <i>Total: 4</i>	Sindh: 54 <i>Total: 54</i>
Sipah-e-Muhammad Pakistan	Karachi: 1 <i>Total: 1</i>	-
Rival sectarian group	KP: 5 <i>Total: 5</i>	KP: 14 <i>Total: 14</i>
Nationalist insurgents [unspecified]	Balochistan: 2 Karachi: 1 <i>Total: 3</i>	Balochistan: 18 Karachi: 5 <i>Total: 23</i>
Hizbul Ahrar	Balochistan: 2 Punjab: 1 <i>Total: 3</i>	Balochistan: 14 Punjab: 19 <i>Total: 33</i>
Unknown militants	Balochistan: 16 KP: 21 Sindh: 5 <i>Total: 42</i>	Balochistan: 50 KP: 7 <i>Total: 57</i>
BRAS (an alliance of BLA, BLF and BRG)	Balochistan: 14 <i>Total: 14</i>	-

Group Responsible	Killed	Injured
ISIS affiliates/supporters	Balochistan: 16 KP: 8 <i>Total: 24</i>	Balochistan: 19 KP: 90 <i>Total: 109</i>
Total	220 Killed	547 Injured

1.2 Nationalist Insurgent Groups

1.2.1 Baloch Insurgent Groups

Six Baloch insurgent groups were found active in Balochistan in 2020 but the Balochistan Liberation Army (BLA) and Baloch Liberation Front (BLF) were the two major groups which carried out most of the reported attacks from the province. The BLA even carried out two attacks outside Balochistan including the coordinated attack against Pakistan Stock Exchange, Karachi.

The BLA and BLF perpetrated 24 terrorist attacks in 2020 – 22 in Balochistan and one each in Karachi and south Punjab’s Rahim Yar Khan district. On the whole, Baloch insurgents carried out 34 attacks – including the attacks by BLA and BLF cited earlier.

Although in 2020 attacks by Baloch insurgents were though less frequent compared to previous year but they included more high-impact attacks. Secondly, Baloch insurgents were apparently also trying to expand their areas of operations. Thirdly, they have been placing focus more focus on south and southwestern Balochistan besides continuing showing presence in the provincial capital Quetta.

The **BLA** carried out 19 terrorist attacks in 2020 – including 17 in Balochistan, and one each in southern Punjab and Karachi. These attacks killed 31 people – including 10 army officials, 8 FC men, one policeman and 8 civilians; 4 militants were also killed – and injuring 91 people. (*See Table 1 and 2*) These included at least five such attacks in which three or more people were killed. Half of these attacks by BLA targeted security forces.

Attacks by BLA spread over seven districts of Balochistan, with more frequent attacks reported from Quetta (5 attacks), Harnai (3), Mastung (3), and Kech (2 attacks), as well as, as cited earlier, Karachi and southern Punjab.

After a coordinated *fidayee* assault on on Pear Continental Hotel in Gwadar on May 11, 2019, the BLA carried out at a similar attack in 2020 targeting Karachi Stock Exchange in June 2020. Earlier in May, Major Nadeem and five other army officials lost their lives in BLA-orchestrated blast in Buleda area of Kech. Again in December, seven security

personnel were martyred and six others injured in an attack by BLA terrorists on a Frontier Corps check post in the areas of Sharag coal mines in Balochistan's Harnai district.

The **BLF** carried out five terrorist attacks in 2020, all in Balochistan's Kech district, compared to 11 attacks in 2019. In these attacks 10 people were killed including nine security officials and one civilian, and 16 got injured. All attacks by BLF targeted security forces. Worst of these attacks happened in February in which the BLF militants used heavy weapons in their assault on a security post in the Balangor area of Turbat, about 30 kilometers from the Iranian border on a key highway. Five FC soldiers were martyred and three injured in the assault; three militants were also killed in retaliatory fire by security forces.¹⁷⁷

Baloch Republican Army (BRA), also known as Bugti Militia, was found involved in three terrorist attacks in 2020 comparing six terrorist attacks in 2019. These were low-intensity landmine blasts reported from Dera Bugti and Nasirabad areas, which claimed one life and injured five others. Similarly, **Lashkar-e-Balochistan** carried out one low-intensity terrorist attack in 2020. The group is mainly active in Makran coastal belt and neighboring districts.

United Baloch Army (UBA) perpetrated two attacks in Bolan and Nushki targeting security forces. In May, six FC soldiers including a Junior Commissioned Officer (JCO) and a civilian driver embraced martyrdom in an IED attack in Pir Ghaib, Mach, on FC vehicle returning to base camp after routine patrolling duty. The UBA claimed responsibility saying it targeted the soldiers assigned to protect engineers of an oil and gas facility.¹⁷⁸ Apparently, the group has resurfaced in 2020 after going into hiding for few years.

BRAS, an alliance of BLA, BLF and Baloch Republican Guard) perpetrated a major attack in 2020 on security forces escorting an OGDCL convoy near Ormara (Gwadar) killing 14 people including seven FC men.

1.2.2 Sindhi Nationalist Insurgent Groups

Sindhi nationalist groups perpetrated 10 terrorist attacks in Sindh in 2020, including seven in Karachi, two in Larkana and one in Ghotki. In the month of June, the Sindhudesh Revolutionary Army (SDRA) and Sindhudesh Liberation Army (SDLA) carried out five attacks in Karachi, Larkana and Ghotki targeting Rangers and an office of Ehsaas Programme. The spree of attacks happened a month after the Interior Ministry banned the Jeay Sindh Qaumi Mahaz-Aresar (JSQM-A) group, Sindhudesh Liberation Army (SDLA), and Sindhudesh Revolutionary Army (SDRA) under the Ant-Terrorism Act 1997, arguing that "there are reasonable grounds to believe that the organisations are engaged in terrorism" in Sindh province.¹⁷⁹

Sindhi insurgent groups have a history of perpetrating sporadic low-intensity, low-impact attacks. But in 2020 they managed to create some impact both in terms of number and intensity of the attacks they launched. Half of the attacks by Sindhi insurgents targeted security forces.

1.3 'Unidentified' Militants

The religiously motivated militants, whose group identities and organizational affiliations were not defined or reported by media and law enforcement and security officials, were involved in 26 terrorist attacks across the country.

1.4 Targets and Attack Tactics of Militants

In 2020, over 57 percent of the total recorded attacks in the country targeted personnel, vehicles and posts of security forces and law enforcement agencies. That represented an increase of six percent in such attacks from the year before indicating militants' increasing focus on hitting security forces. While security forces remained the primary target of the militants in all regions of Pakistan, tribal elders, political leaders and Shia community also faced significant attacks in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province, in particular.

Meanwhile the terrorists mainly employed improvised explosive devices (IEDs) of various types in 67 attacks and firing or direct shootout in another 56 attacks. Militants increasingly used vehicle-borne (motorcycle/bicycle etc.) IED blasts; around 20 attacks employed this particular attack tactic in Sindh, Balochistan and Rawalpindi. Few years back that was a pertinent attack tactic employed by the Baloch insurgents. But now it seems some other groups including the Taliban are tending to rely on the tactic, which is apparently easy to perpetrate and involves less reliance on suicide bombers though it could have a similar impact. However most vehicle-born bombings in 2020 were of relatively low intensity; the worst of these attacks happened in Chaman killing six and injuring 21 people. But the threat is there that militants could improvise such attacks causing significant impact in terms of casualties.

Meanwhile, Baloch insurgents are also striving to increase the impact of their attacks, mainly to attract the international attention among other reasons, including through the selection of high value targets and employing coordinated *fidayeen* attacks.

State Responses

Safdar Sial*

4.1 Operational Front

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4.1 Operational Front

Security forces and law enforcement agencies intensified anti-militant kinetic actions in the year 2020. On the whole, they killed as many as 158 militants in military/security operations as well as armed clashes and encounters with the militants – compared to 119 militants killed in such actions in 2019. These operations and clashes/encounters were not confined to a particular area or region but were reported from across all regions of Pakistan, as given at Tables 1 & 2, respectively.

Security and law enforcement agencies arrested 132 suspected terrorists and members of militant groups in as many as 49 search and combing operations conducted all over the country. These search operations do not include several other similar actions in which suspects were arrested and mostly released after preliminary investigation.

Furthermore, security forces foiled at least 14 major terror bids or plots, either independently or in collaboration with Bomb Disposal Squads, mainly by recovering and defusing IEDs planted by militants.

4.1.1 Military/Security Operations

As cited earlier, security forces apparently stepped up anti-militant operations in 2020. Compared to 28 in the year before, security forces and law enforcement agencies conducted 47 anti-militant operational strikes in 2020 in 22 districts and regions of Pakistan. These actions killed a total of 146 people, as compared to 81 in 2019 and injured 22 others. Those 146 killed included 129 militants and 17 Pakistan Army soldiers.

Out of the total 47 operational strikes reported in 2020, as many as 28 were conducted in KP, 15 in Balochistan, and two each in Punjab and Sindh. There were only seven (7) districts where more than one anti-militant operation happened including North Waziristan (11 operational strikes), DI Khan (5), and Bajaur and Tank (3 strikes each) in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa provinces, as well as Kech and Awaran (4 strikes each), and Harnai (2) in Balochistan.

However, North Waziristan drew prime attention of security forces where they killed 49 militants (14 soldiers were also martyred) in 11 operations they conducted.

Table 1: Operational Attacks by Security Forces, against Militants and Insurgents

Region	District	Attacks	Killed	Injured
Balochistan	Awaran	4	17	0
	Harnai	2	3	0
	Kech	4	9	0

Region	District	Attacks	Killed	Injured
	Khuzdar	1	3	1
	Mastung	1	1	0
	Panjgur	1	4	0
	Pishin	1	2	1
	Quetta	1	2	0
	<i>Total</i>	<i>15</i>	<i>41</i>	<i>2</i>
Khyber Pakhtunkhwa	Bajaur	3	4	2
	Bannu	1	1	0
	Buner	1	3	0
	DI Khan	5	7	3
	Kohat	1	3	0
	Lakki Marwat	1	2	0
	Mohmand	1	3	0
	North Waziristan	11	63	15
	Swat	1	2	0
	Tank	3	4	0
	<i>Total</i>	<i>28</i>	<i>92</i>	<i>20</i>
Punjab	Bahawalpur	1	4	0
	Rajanpur	1	5	0
	<i>Total</i>	<i>2</i>	<i>9</i>	<i>0</i>
Sindh	Karachi	1	2	0
	Sukkur	1	2	0
	<i>Total</i>	<i>2</i>	<i>4</i>	<i>0</i>
Total Pakistan		47	146 (129 militants) ¹⁸⁰	22 (2 militants) ¹⁸¹

Some major security or counterterrorism operations, or in which some important militants were killed, are listed below:

- January 29: Five members of a banned group were allegedly killed in a targeted operation by security forces in mountainous area of Buleda in **Kech** district. Security forces also seized weapons, grenades and explosives in the operation.¹⁸²

- January 30: Security forces conducted an anti-militant operation in Dattakhel area of **North Waziristan** killing 6 suspected militants. Two army soldiers also lost their lives in firing by the militants, who were identified as Sepoy Muhammad Shamim and Sepoy Asad Khan.¹⁸³
- February 21: Two militants, including a senior commander of the banned Tehreek-i-Taliban Pakistan's Sajna group were killed in an intelligence-based operation in the Raghzai Manjhi area on the outskirts of **Tank** district. The dead were identified as Anas Munir and Bakhtullah, both belonging to Sajna group of outlawed TTP.¹⁸⁴
- March 9: A senior officer of Pakistan Army, Col. Mujeebur Rehman, was martyred while leading an Intelligence Based Operation (IBO) in **Dera Ismail Khan**. Two terrorists who were high value targets were also killed in an exchange of fire while a large cache of arms and ammunition recovered from miscreants' hideout.¹⁸⁵
- March 18: On confirmed intelligence reports about presence of militants in a hideout, security forces conducted an intelligence based operation in Mama Ziarat area in Dattakhel tehsil of **North Waziristan**. Seven terrorists were killed and four security personnel martyred, including an officer Lieutenant Agha Muqadas Ali Khan, in the ensuing clash.¹⁸⁶
- April 8: Security forces cordoned off **North Waziristan's** Idel Khel village after being tipped off about the presence of alleged terrorists. Four of the suspects were shot dead when they tried to escape the cordon, stated the Inter Services Public Relations.¹⁸⁷ Separately, on the same day, security forces killed three terror suspects during a raid in **Mohmand** tribal district, according to ISPR. They recovered IEDs, night vision goggles, hate material and Indian medicines from the hideout.¹⁸⁸
- April 25: Security forces conducted anti-militant operations in Khaisura and Dossali areas of **North Waziristan** district. In the actions, nine militants were killed and another one was arrested. In the exchange of fire, two army soldiers, Abdul Waheed and Sakum Dad, were also martyred and 5 others were injured.¹⁸⁹
- May 17: Four suspected terrorists of the Islamic State group, or Daesh, were killed during an intelligence-based operation conducted by the CTD in **Bahawalpur**, near Azam Chowk; 3 militants reportedly escaped. Those killed included Amanullah, Abdul Jabbar, Rehman Ali, and Aleem, and wanted to attack a worship place of a religious minority.¹⁹⁰
- June: **Bannu** police eliminated a high-profile terrorist Amin Shah, the alleged kidnapper and killer of a woman Canadian journalist, in a raid on his house in Bannu district. The terrorist was also wanted for the murder of Havaid police station SHO Imam Hussain.
- July 7: Security forces conducted anti-militant operation in a far flung area of **Khuzdar** and killed one commander of the banned Baloch insurgent group BLA along with his two aides. Those killed were identified as Muhammad Anwar, commander Abdul Hameed and and Sabir. One militant was also injured, who managed to

escape.¹⁹¹ On the same day, security forces raided a house in a periphery of **Harnai**, on the intelligence that a militant was hiding there. In the ensuing exchange of fire, BLA commander Kaisar Chalgari was killed.¹⁹²

- July 12: Security forces conducted intelligence-based operation in Vezhda Sar, some eight kilometres southwest of the Boya area in Miranshah (**North Waziristan**), and killed four terrorists. Four officials of Pakistan Army also embraced martyrdom in the exchange of fire and another three were injured.¹⁹³
- July 31: The counter-terrorism department (CTD) of Punjab police reportedly foiled a major terror bid by killing five suspected terrorists in **Rajanpur** in southern Punjab. The police also recovered a 15kg heavy IED and weapons from the terrorists, who reportedly belonged to the Baloch Republican Army.¹⁹⁴
- August 31: The CTD and other agencies conducted an operation in **Mastung** and killed an alleged commander of ISIS, identified as Mohammad Nawaz alias Sindhi. According to police, he was involved in a suicide attack on an election rally of Nawabzada Siraj Raisani and several other terrorist activities.¹⁹⁵
- September 6: The Inter-Services Public Relations (ISPR) said that a wanted terrorist commander Waseem Zakeria along with four accomplices had been killed during an intelligence operation in **North Waziristan** tribal district. He was mastermind of at least 30 terrorist attacks including on military convoys, and was also believed to be involved in the assassination of Zubaidullah Khan, a CSP officer of the Federal Information Group.¹⁹⁶
- September 19: Security forces conducted intelligence-based operations on the confirmation of presence of terrorists in the central Makran region in **Awaran** district. Four suspected militants belonging to a banned outfit were killed and their hideout was destroyed.¹⁹⁷
- November 22: Security forces raided a compound of suspected militants in **North Waziristan** killing four alleged militants; an army soldier was martyred and two others were injured in the exchange of fire with the militants.¹⁹⁸
- November 23: Security forces claimed to have neutralised a network of terrorists by killing two senior militant commanders and arresting several others in an intelligence based operation in Salarzai tehsil of **Bajaur**. The killed militant commanders, identified as Zubair and Azizur Rahman alias Fida, reportedly belonged to the militant Islamic State group. Fida was the Karachi chief of IS group; his wife, in-charge of women wing the of IS in Karachi, was arrested and handed over to local police.¹⁹⁹
- December 22: At least 10 suspected terrorists have been killed in an intelligence-based operation against a terrorist hideout in Gwargo area in the **Awaran** district. According to the ISPR, these terrorists were involved in firing on security forces, which had resulted in martyrdom of Lance Naik Mohammad Iqbal on December 20.²⁰⁰

4.1.2 Security Forces' Clashes and Encounters with Militants

Security and law enforcement agencies also entered into in a total of 15 armed clashes and encounters with militants – a decrease of 40 percent from such incidents in previous year – across 11 districts of the country. These armed clashes and encounters claimed 38 lives (29 militants, 7 security personnel and 2 civilians).

As many as nine of these clashes and encounters (or 60 percent) took place in various districts of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (including 5 in twin Waziristan districts alone), another three (3) happened in Balochistan, while two (2) such incidents took place in Sindh and one in Punjab.

Table 2: Clashes and Encounters between Security Forces and Militants

Regions	District	Attacks	Killed	Injured
Balochistan	Kech	1	3	0
	Nasirabad	1	1	0
	Sibi	1	1	0
	<i>Total</i>	<i>3</i>	<i>5</i>	<i>0</i>
Khyber Pakhtunkhwa	Bannu	1	1	0
	Lower Dir	1	2	0
	North Waziristan	4	16	6
	Peshawar	1	5	0
	South Waziristan	1	3	0
	Tank	1	2	0
	<i>Total</i>	<i>9</i>	<i>29</i>	<i>6</i>
Punjab	DG Khan	1	2	0
	<i>Total</i>	<i>1</i>	<i>2</i>	<i>0</i>
Sindh	Karachi	2	2	0
	<i>Total</i>	<i>2</i>	<i>2</i>	<i>0</i>
Pakistan Total		15	38 (29 militants) ²⁰¹	6 (4 militants) ²⁰²

Some of the reported clashes and encounters between security, law enforcement agencies and militants are described below.

- January 27: Two alleged terrorists were killed in an encounter with security forces in **Tank** district. They were identified as Jehanzeb alias Jhangi of Abakhel and Awal Khan belonging to Bittani tribe. Awal Khan was carrying Rs 500,000 head money for his involvement in different acts of terrorism.²⁰³
- February 21: Five suspected terrorists were killed in an encounter with the CTD in the Zagi Ghar area of **Peshawar**. Police said the killed militants were trying to enter Peshawar from Khyber to carry out attacks in Peshawar and other parts of the province. Officials recovered three suicide jackets, three sub-machine guns, and other weapons.²⁰⁴
- April 10: Two security personnel were martyred in an exchange of fire with militants near Mirali in **North Waziristan** tribal district; seven militants were also killed in the encounter, which happened in the Zekerkhel area of the district.²⁰⁵
- September 5: Three suspected terrorists from the banned TTP were killed in a gun battle with members of security forces in **South Waziristan** tribal district. According to police, TTP militants attacked a military convoy, which triggered the exchange of fire between the two sides.²⁰⁶ Later, on September 19, the Inter-Services Public Relations said two security personnel lost their lives during an intelligence-based operation near Spelga village in **North Waziristan**. Those martyred were identified as Havaladar Tajbar Ali and Sepoy Abdur Rashid.²⁰⁷
- November 6: Two suspected terrorists belonging to Al-Qaeda were reportedly killed in an encounter with the police in **DG Khan**. Two others managed to escape.²⁰⁸
- November 17: A suspected terrorist Mullah Omer, wanted by the Iranian government for a long time, and his two sons were killed in an exchange of fire with police in Turbat town of **Kech** district. Mullah Omer belonged to banned Iranian outfit Jashul Adal, a splinter of Jundullah.²⁰⁹

4.1.3 Terrorists Arrested

Security and law enforcement agencies arrested 132 suspected terrorists and members of militant groups in as many as 49 search and combing operations conducted all over the country. These search operations do not include several other similar actions in which suspects were arrested and mostly released after preliminary investigation.

Highest arrests for any one militant group were made of the TTP and local Taliban militants (51); 12 militants of TTP-linked Lashkar-e-Islam were also detained in Khyber district. In all, 17 members of different unspecified banned groups were also detained. Others among those arrested included 23 suspected militants linked to different Baloch nationalist groups including 12 BLA militants. As many as 5 among those detained were reportedly affiliated with ISIS, three with Lashkar-e-Jhangvi and another four with Sipah-e-Muhammad. Four militants of Sindhudesh Revolutionary Army were also detained. (See Table 3)

Table 3 lists organizational association and number of different brands of suspected militants arrested across Pakistan by law enforcers in 2020.

Table 3: Suspected Terrorists Arrested in 2020

Militant Organization	Operations	Terrorist Arrested
Afghan national	1	3
Afghan Taliban	1	1
Banned militant outfits (inclusive of all)	3	8
Banned sectarian group	1	2
BLA	3	12
BRAS	1	6
Indian Intelligence Agency (RAW)	1	2
ISIS	3	5
Lashkar-e-Islam	2	12
Lashkar-e-Jhangvi	2	3
Local Taliban / TTP	21	51
MQM-L	2	7
Nationalist insurgents (NI)	2	5
Sindhudesh Revolution Army	1	4
Sipah-e-Muhammad	3	4
Unknown Militants	2	7
Total	49	132

4.1.4 Failed/Foiled Terror Bids

Two more than in the previous year, security forces foiled at least 14 major terror bids or plots, either independently or in collaboration with Bomb Disposal Squads, mainly by recovering and defusing IEDs planted by militants. These also included a few incidents where militants could not reach their targets and their suicide vests or IEDs they planted exploded by accident. (See Table 4)

Table 4: Failed/Foiled Terror Bids in 2020

District	Attacks	Killed	Injured
Bajaur	7	0	0
Bannu	1	0	0
Lahore	1	1	0
Lakki Marwat	1	0	0
Loralai	1	0	0
Lower Dir	1	0	0
Qilla Abdullah	1	0	0
Rajanpur	1	0	0
Total	14	1	0

CPEC Security in 2020

Anam Fatima*

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The China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), the flagship project of China's Belt and Road Initiative, is moving forward in the face of multiple internal and regional security and political challenges. Since its initiation, Pakistan and China have displayed a strong commitment to pursue a smooth and secure implementation of this mega project. CPEC security has gradually improved following a visible decline in trends of militants' attacks and fatalities this year. Compared to two such attacks in 2019, a single terrorist attack targeted CPEC related projects and its workers in 2020. Reportedly, a Chinese man escaped an attack on his life when a remote-controlled bomb planted on his vehicle failed to detonate. Police recovered the device, a magnet bomb, attached to his car and defused it.²¹⁰ In 2019, Pakistani law enforcement agencies and security forces had repulsed a terrorist attack targeting Chinese and other foreign workers staying at the Pearl Continental (PC) hotel in Gwadar.

On the whole, since January 1, 2017, at least nine (9) terrorist attacks have targeted CPEC-related projects and workers as well as Chinese nationals and interests in Pakistan. Four of these attacks happened in Balochistan, another four in Sindh (three in Karachi including the one on Chinese consulate and one in Ghotki district), and one attack in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. These attacks claimed in all 11 lives, including four Chinese nationals, and injured as many others.²¹¹

Despite the outbreak of COVID-19 pandemic, both the Pakistani and Chinese governments ensured that CPEC is moving forward in full swing. The Primary Joint Working Group (PJWG) on Chinese Security held a meeting in July to discuss various measures to enhance the security of Chinese nationals working on CPEC and other projects. The meeting decided that the Chinese consulate would promote maximum cooperation between Chinese nationals and law enforcement agencies.²¹²

The government of Pakistan has prioritized a foolproof security for the CPEC. It has strengthened the paramilitary forces to ensure smooth execution of the projects.²¹³ Deeming the increased industrial activities in Rashakai Special Economic Zones (SEZ), Peshawar police have developed a unique strategy to safeguard the workers of CPEC related projects.²¹⁴ Likewise, the Pakistani armed forces have demonstrated their commitment to the peaceful execution of CPEC. Chief of the Naval Staff, Admiral Zafar Mahmood Abbasi, while stressing upon the maritime security of CPEC, had reiterated, in January 2020, the resolve to protect naval frontiers including the Gwadar Port.²¹⁵ During his visit to Naval Headquarters Islamabad later in the year, Prime Minister Imran Khan lauded the efforts to protect CPEC and assured full support and cooperation in this regard.²¹⁶

Gwadar is termed as the '*Crown Jewel*' of the CPEC because this port city is the lynchpin of the mega project. With the development of Gwadar port, Pakistan has strengthened its

maritime security. In addition, the government has also started fencing certain areas of Gwadar under the *Gwadar Smart Port City Master Plan 2017-2050*.²¹⁷ The move has stirred some controversy and faced local resistance but the authorities maintain that the fencing is meant to ensure free and secure movement of people, mainly Chinese nationals. The Gwadar master plan reportedly comprises urban security mechanisms including urban video and alarm networks, vehicle management, and police management programs.²¹⁸ However, the lack of connectivity in the port city has raised security concerns. The Chinese authorities have expressed concerns over the lack of access to telecommunication services in Gwadar. Mobile phone connectivity and coverage has been very poor in the city, and the government has paid little attention in this regard.²¹⁹

The success of the CPEC is largely hinged on the Pakistani state's ability to address complex security issues both at internal and external fronts. To a great extent, the government has shown the will and capacity to tackle the internal challenges. However, the project is also impacted by geopolitical developments in the region. It is heartening that regional powers like Russia, Saudi Arabia, and Iran have welcomed the CPEC and expressed willingness to join this megaproject. On the other hand, the US has been expressing reservations about the project, and criticizing it intermittently. The reason is probably the United States' suspicions and concerns about China's growing influence in the region including in the Indian and Pacific Oceans that it believes threatens the interests of the US and its allies in the region.

However, among the CPEC opponents, India sits on the top. It considers the Chinese-led project as an encroachment on its sovereignty. Pakistan has repeatedly stated that India is attempting to disrupt the CPEC through various means. As the project moves forward, the accompanying security challenges are becoming graver. The Pakistani military has claimed that India is trying to damage Pakistan's image by targeting the CPEC. However, Western actors such as the European Strategic Intelligence and Security Centre (ESISC)²²⁰ has noted that Pakistan could not prove its claim of Indian attempts to sabotage CPEC. Pakistan presented a dossier to the UN secretary-general evincing Indian support of terrorist activities inside Pakistan and targeting CPEC projects. The dossier claimed that Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi was directly running an anti-CPEC terror cell. With initial funding of \$500 million, this cell had been operating since 2015 from headquarters of the Research and Analysis Wing (RAW) to dent the peaceful execution of CPEC.²²¹

Following the US-India Basic Exchange and Cooperation Agreement on Geospatial Cooperation (BECA),²²² China and Pakistan have increased bilateral military cooperation by signing an MoU to promote peace in the region.²²³ The MoU was preceded by Pak-China discussion on CPEC security. Considering the increased Chinese interest in Kashmir because of CPEC, China is likely to reinforce Pakistan's strategic position in the region

through a defence pact and help it counterbalance Indian belligerence in Kashmir. Meanwhile, China and Pakistan have declared that any attempt to sabotage CPEC would not succeed. Chinese Minister of Public Security, Zhao Kezhi, underlined strengthening bilateral cooperation on CPEC security.²²⁴ On the other hand, the Pakistan army has also enhanced and strengthened the CPEC security infrastructure.²²⁵

While addressing the traditional security threats facing CPEC, it is equally important to tackle non-traditional security issues via investment in human development, better health care, and climate change. China and Pakistan have taken steps to address non-traditional security challenges to CPEC. It is pertinent to note that CPEC projects remained unaffected amid the epidemic. Chief of China Overseas Ports Holding Company, Zhang Baozhong informed that neither any Pakistani employee in any CPEC project has been dismissed, nor has anyone suffered a salary cut during the COVID-19. However, differences and conflicts in the workplace are inevitable. For instance, workers at the Suki Kanari Hydropower Project had quit,²²⁶ lamenting the breach of labour policy. To allay the grievances of local workers, the government has formed a committee to solve the issue amicably.²²⁷ Besides, the local people's involvement in decision making is important. Ignoring the locals' concerns can instigate resentment and threaten security. Therefore, the government must take all local stakeholders on board on matters like fencing areas in Gwadar.

The geopolitical developments and security dynamics of the region have further reinforced the importance of Pak-China defence cooperation and regional integration under CPEC. Reports claim that the *Five Eyes* – an intelligence alliance of Britain, Australia, Canada, New Zealand, and the US – has been exchanging classified intelligence on China's foreign activities.²²⁸ On the other hand, Russia and Iran's strategic interest in CPEC would offer Pakistan an opportunity to strengthen regional security through the CPEC. In fact, Russia, China, Iran, and Pakistan could form an alliance to promote regional integration and security under the CPEC. India's exit from Chabahar²²⁹ and China's growing relations with Iran would bring China, Pakistan and Iran closer, enhancing the regional security. Thus, it is palpable that the security of CPEC linked projects and workers will not be compromised at any cost.

CHAPTER 6

Islamic State or Daesh in Pakistan in 2020

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Having established a proto-state in the territory it held across Iraq and Syria, Daesh (also known as Islamic State) announced the formation of a new chapter in South and Central Asia in 2015. Going by Islamic State-Khorasan Province (ISKP), ISKP emerged with a centre-of-gravity focused in Afghanistan, north-western Pakistan and Balochistan, and claimed 22 attacks between 2015 and 2019 in places ranging from Mastung and Quetta to Jhal Magsi, to name a few.²³⁰ In 2020, ISKP was responsible for only two attacks: a suicide bombing at a mosque in Quetta in January,²³¹ and the Peshawar Madrassa bombing in October.²³² A total of 24 people were killed in both attacks, including the Deputy Superintendent of Police from Quetta in the January attack. Despite killing a total of 270 people during their time in Pakistan, they were targeted in operations by Pakistani security forces and neutralised. ISKP's Pakistani leaders, Abdullah and Hafeez Barohi, were killed in 2019,²³³ and Aslam Farooqi, their successor, was arrested in Afghanistan in April 2020.²³⁴ The organisation had effectively been knee-capped in Pakistan.

However, the year 2020 saw the ISKP shifting its focus onto consolidation within Afghanistan. Weakened by the death or capture of its leadership and personnel in Pakistan, they moved north-west, in an effort to regroup. ISKP is also aiming to exploit the volatile political climate surrounding the Afghan Peace Talks to accrue power. The Pakistani chapter of ISIS still has yet to emerge, despite being announced in 2018, and in 2019 the group only claimed one attack in Quetta that killed 20 people.²³⁵ There has been a definite decline in the group's momentum in Pakistan, and pursuit by the country's security forces has forced them over the border.

For the purposes of this section, the focus will be on ISKP's position in Afghanistan, because their gaining power there will have significant implications across the Durand Line.

ISKP Presence in Pakistan

ISKP's presence in Pakistan was minimal in 2020 as the group could orchestrate only two deadly attacks this year. The state conducted several security operations, which neutralized ISKP militants and commanders either through killings or arrests. These operations, though sporadic, aided greatly in reducing ISKP's operations in Pakistan, through eliminating manpower, leadership decapitation and seizing arms and assets. Four ISKP members were killed in a security operation in Bahawalpur on May 17th. The four were part of a cell intending to attack a mosque on sectarian grounds, and the operation to neutralize them was conducted by the Counter-Terrorism Department. Later on August 31st, an ISKP commander was killed in a security operation in Mastung. This commander, Mohammad Nawaz (alias Sindhi), was behind the 2018 bombing on Nawabzada Siraj Rasiani's election rally in Mastung, which killed 128 people.²³⁶ In November, security forces managed to kill Azizur Rehman (alias Fida), the chief of ISKP operations in Karachi.²³⁷ He was killed in Bajaur alongside three other ISKP militants. His wife, who was in charge of female ISKP

operatives, was arrested. Following security operations, both in 2020 and prior, it is clear that ISKP fled to Afghanistan to seek a more conducive environment for their operations. Afghanistan lacks the response posed by Pakistani security forces, and the near-constant state of violence and political instability offers a suitable environment for the group to gain recruits and equipment, and consolidate for a potential return to Pakistan.

Capabilities and Personnel

ISKP has grown extremely weak in Pakistan. According to the Global Terrorism Database, this reflects the global decline of Daesh as a terrorist organization. In 2019, Daesh-perpetrated attacks dropped by 37%.²³⁸ Leadership decapitation, such as death of Daesh Caliph Abu-Bakr al-Baghdadi in 2019, coupled with the loss of territory held in Iraq and Syria has contributed to severely weakening the organisation and its global chapters, particularly their ability to capture and hold territory. However, despite eliminating terrorist leaders, ISKP's ability to conduct guerilla attacks has not been significantly hampered. According to Colin Clarke, a senior fellow at the Soufan Centre, ISKP has "cycled through so many tough leaders already that [he] I have little faith it is going to make a lasting difference".²³⁹ Having lost its base of power in Nangarhar and been driven underground, the group is utilising its cell-based structure and insurgency tactics to wage its conflict against the Afghan government. Despite this, Daesh and its global chapters hold a great deal of prestige and attract numerous recruits. Given the reaction to the Afghan Deal by some Jihadists operating in Afghanistan, ISKP's manpower can greatly increase. As of September 2020, ISKP is aiming to gain control of the northeastern Badakhshan Province in Afghanistan.²⁴⁰ Badakhshan borders Pakistan, China and Tajikistan, which makes the area strategically significant with regards to cross-border operations as well as recruiting. Additionally, around 2,200 ISKP fighters are active in Afghanistan.²⁴¹

ISKP has no shortage of recruits in their present situation. Militants outraged by the Afghan Taliban's decision to engage in peace talks will add to ISKP's ranks, as will the repatriation of Afghan refugees from Pakistan. About 4.4 million Afghan refugees have been repatriated since 2002.²⁴² ISKP can recruit multiple discontented, unskilled Afghan refugees for its operations, leading to a potential resurgence. According to a United Nations Security Council report, ISKP promises potential fighters high wages for their service;²⁴³ such promises have proven unsurprisingly hollow. In a similar vein, bribery, corruption and repression by the government in Kabul disincentivizes participation in Afghan society for the youth, acting as a push factor for their engagement with terrorist organisations like ISKP.²⁴⁴ The group also maintains links with insurgents from other Jihadist networks, such as Lashkar-e-Islam and the Islamic Movement of Uzbekistan, and has welcomed defectors from Jamaat-ud-Dawa, Lashkar-e-Taiba and the Haqqani Network, to name a few.²⁴⁵ Abu

Khalid al-Hindi, who attacked a Sikh Gurdwara in Kabul in March 2020, was recruited from the Southern Indian state of Kerala.²⁴⁶

The Impact of the Afghan Peace Process

The Afghan Peace Deal has presented a shift in the dynamics of the region from that of the Global War on Terror (GWOt) context. With the withdrawal of US forces and the disengagement of the Afghan Taliban, an opportunity has arisen for ISKP to regroup and regain power in Afghanistan.²⁴⁷ The Afghan Taliban's involvement in the negotiations and disengagement has resulted in a power vacuum, with the drawdown of US troops and Taliban disengagement presenting a freer and more open environment to operate in. This could result in the emergence of ISKP as the sole, "defiant terrorist organisation" in Afghanistan, according to a UN report.²⁴⁸ Despite being weak at the time of writing, ISKP holds good relations with other regional Jihadist networks so they can still gain multiple recruits both from Afghanistan and abroad, and they are still able to fundraise and receive funding from core Daesh. With the exception of the already established al-Qaeda, ISKP can operate without competition, and without US troops in country, there is little deterring ISKP from conducting more frequent operations in Afghanistan. With a buildup of funding and manpower, and empowerment through the Afghan Deal, a return to Pakistan is very possible.

A potential alternative outcome could be through newly elected US President, Joe Biden's involvement in the Afghan Deal. Outgoing President, Donald Trump's focus was a complete drawdown of US forces in Afghanistan, seemingly in an effort to secure re-election this year. President Biden on the other hand is expected to leave a small contingent of Special Operations troops behind as a counter-terrorism force,²⁴⁹ likely in order to counter ISKP and other insurgent or terrorist groups in Afghanistan, though his overall plan of a drawdown is not expected to deviate greatly from President Trump's. According to Arian Sharifi, a former Afghan government advisor, a co-operative counter-terrorism framework with NATO and regional powers will help bring peace to Afghanistan, and that without foreign powers involved in the counter-terrorism process, ISKP could "endure, evolve and export terrorism to the region for years to come".²⁵⁰ It is clear then that the presence of experienced, battle-proven foreign troops in Afghanistan acts as a bulwark against ISKP activity in the region.

Conclusion

Pakistan was initially very successful in dealing with ISKP, having decapitated its leadership and dismantled its cells in the country, forcing ISKP to retreat across the Durand Line. But the threat still remains in Afghanistan. ISKP's presence in Afghanistan is the equivalent of

it licking its wounds and slowly regaining its strength. There is potential for adding more recruits to their ranks, both from within Afghanistan and beyond its borders. Their desire for a Caliphate is not dead. Jihadists continue to recognize and revere them, either out of respect for their brazenness or out of fear of their methods. The Afghan Peace Process, if rushed or poorly negotiated, could empower ISKP and allow them a conducive environment to freely operate in. In any case it would behoove Pakistan to observe and monitor ISKP's activity in Afghanistan, because what happens over there will matter over here.

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Timelines

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Security response

Government/law-enforcement agencies

Date	Progress/News update	Source
January 21, 2020	Security forces raided a compound in a vicinity of Quetta on the intelligence of militants hiding there. Two militants were killed in exchange of firing with security forces. The latter also recovered explosives and weapons.	Daily Dunya, January 21, 2020 https://e.dunya.com.pk/detail.php?date=2020-01-21&edition=ISL&id=5008251_58719132
January 22, 2020	Security forces and police conducted a joint operation in tehsil Kulachi of DI Khan and reportedly killed one suspected terrorist Anwaar alias Anwaari. Security forces also recovered 4 grenades, one SSMG and a wireless set from the site of operation.	Daily 92, January 22, 2020 https://www.roznama92news.com/efrontend/web/index.php/?station_id=3&page_id=7&is_common=&xdate=2020-01-22&n=n18
January 26, 2020	Acting on a tip-off, the security forces launched an operation in the Buland area of the gun-manufacturing Darra Adamkhel town in Kohat district. Three militants were killed while four facilitators were rounded up.	The News, January 26, 2020 https://www.thenews.com.pk/print/604351-three-militants-killed-in-darra-adamkhel
January 28, 2020	The CTD and intelligence officials conducted a joint operation in Surkhab Camp area of Pishin and killed two terrorists reportedly belonging to the TTP. One security official was also injured in the operation.	Daily Dunya, January 28, 2020 https://e.dunya.com.pk/detail.php?date=2020-01-28&edition=ISL&id=5019968_80406143
January 30, 2020	Five members of a banned group were allegedly killed in a targeted operation by security forces in mountainous area of Buleda in Kech district. Security forces also seized weapons, grenades and explosives in the operation.	Daily Jang, January 30, 2020 https://e.jang.com.pk/01-30-2020/pindi/pic.asp?picname=47.png
January 31, 2020	Security forces conducted an anti-militant operation in Dattakhel area of North Waziristan killing 6 suspected militants. Two army soldiers also lost their lives in firing by the militants.	Daily Jang, January 31, 2020 https://e.jang.com.pk/01-31-2020/pindi/pic.asp?picname=01_02.png
February 9, 2020	Khyber Pakhtunkhwa police, while lauding the role of Levies and Khassadar personnel in fight against militancy and terrorism, decided to merge them into regular police of the province.	The News, February 9, 2020 https://www.thenews.com.pk/print/611330-levies-khassadars-to-be-merged-into-regular-police-soon-kp-igp
February 10, 2020	The Islamabad Capital Territory (ICT) administration negotiated directly with the cleric of Lal Masjid, Maulana Abdul Aziz and reached a settlement with latter agreeing to allot 20-kanal land for building Jamia Hafsa.	Dawn, February 10, 2020 https://www.dawn.com/news/1533563
February 12, 2020	The security forces foiled a terror bid by killing a suspected militant during an operation in Bajaur. Two security personnel were wounded in the action. Explosives, detonators, hand grenades and a pistol were recovered from the hideout of the suspected terrorist.	Dawn, February 12, 2020 https://www.dawn.com/news/1533906/terrorist-killed-in-bajaur-operation
February 13, 2020	Two members of the TTP-Khiara group were killed in a raid conducted by the CTD officials in Bagwani village of DI Khan. Police also seized wireless sets, guns, grenades and explosives from the house where militants were hiding.	<i>Daily Roznama</i> , February 13, 2020 https://www.roznama92news.com/efrontend/web/index.php/?station_id=3&page_id=7&is_common=&xdate=2020-02-13&n=n40

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February 22, 2020	Two militants, including a senior commander of the banned Tehreek-i-Taliban Pakistan, Sajna group, were killed in an intelligence-based operation in Tank district. The dead were identified as Anas Munir and Bakhtullah.	Dawn, February 22, 2020 https://www.dawn.com/news/1535877/two-militants-killed-in-tank-operation
February 26, 2020	Security forces conducted an intelligence-based operation in Harnai and reportedly killed BLA commander Chakar Chalgri and his aide Qadir Chalgri. They were involved in targeted killings and extortion activities.	Daily Dunya, February 26, 2020 https://e.dunya.com.pk/detail.php?date=2020-02-26&edition=ISL&id=5067120_36312806
March 10, 2020	A senior officer of Pakistan Army, Col. Mujeebur Rehman, was martyred while leading an intelligence-based operation in Dera Ismail Khan. Two high-value terrorists were killed in an exchange of fire while a large cache of arms and ammunition recovered from their hideout.	The News, March 10, 2020 https://www.thenews.com.pk/print/626798-colonel-martyred-two-terrorists-killed-in-di-khan-operation
March 11, 2020	Commander of local Taliban group, Abdul Rehman alias Rehmani, was killed in an operation conducted by the CTD officials in Mareez village of Tank.	Daily Roznama, March 11, 2020 https://www.roznama92news.com/efrontend/web/index.php/?station_id=3&page_id=7&is_common=&xdate=2020-03-11&n=n16
March 15, 2020	Security forces conducted an intelligence-based operation in DI Khan and killed an allegedly wanted terrorist Abdul Rehman (alias Lala). Lalacarrried 2 million rupees head money and was wanted in terrorist attacks against security officials.	Daily Nawaiwaqt, March 15, 2020 https://www.nawaiwaqt.com.pk/uploads/epaper/2020-03-14/Islamabad/epaper_images/epaper_img_1584138736.gif
March 18, 2020	On confirmed intelligence reports about presence of a militant hideout, security forces conducted an intelligence based operation in North Waziristan. Seven terrorists were killed and four security personnel martyred, including an officer Lieutenant Agha Muqadas Ali Khan.	The News, March 18, 2020 https://www.thenews.com.pk/print/631332-lieutenant-among-4-troops-martyred-in-nwa
April 8, 2020	Security forces cordoned off North Waziristan's Idel Khel village after a tip about the presence of alleged terrorists. Four suspects were shot dead when they tried to escape the cordon. On the same day, security forces killed three terror suspects during a raid in Mohmand, according to ISPR. They recovered IEDs, night vision goggles, hate material and Indian medicines from the hideout.	Dawn, April 8, 2020 https://www.dawn.com/news/1547329/seven-terror-suspects-killed-in-two-operations-in-kp
April 11, 2020	Two security personnel were martyred in an exchange of fire with militants near Mirali in North Waziristan tribal district; seven militants were also killed in the encounter, which happened in the Zekerkhel area of the district	Dawn, April 11, 2020 https://www.dawn.com/news/1548211/two-security-men-martyred-in-n-waziristan
April 15, 2020	Security forces conducted an intelligence-based operation against a group of militants in Dargai, North Waziristan. The area was cordoned off and terrorists opened fire in a bid to flee. During the exchange of fire, two terrorists were killed. One soldier, Naik Adil Shahzad, was also martyred.	Dawn, April 15, 2020 https://www.dawn.com/news/1549297/soldier-martyred-in-north-waziristan
April 16, 2020	The CTD police killed two militants in a raid when they were trying to enter Swat from Dir. The CTD officials also seized heavy weapons and	Daily Jang, April 16, 2020 https://e.jang.com.pk/04-16-2020/pindi/pic.asp?picname=636.png

	explosives from the killed militants	
April 18, 2020	In a joint operation with the Counter-Terrorism Department, Rangers in Karachi claimed to have arrested two suspected militants, Samiullah alias Arshad and Mohammed Jaffer alias Barkat.	Dawn, April 18, 2020 https://www.dawn.com/news/1550098/two-most-wanted-militants-held-in-rangers-ctd-raid
April 20, 2020	Karachi Police claimed to have arrested four suspected militants associated with outlawed Al Qaeda in Indian Subcontinent (AQIS), identified as Mohammed Omer, Mohammed Bilal, alias Fida, Mohammed Waseem and Mohammed Amir.	Dawn, April 20, 2020 https://www.dawn.com/news/1550602/four-aqis-militants-held-in-karachi-weapons-seized
April 26, 2020	Security forces conducted anti-militant operations in North Waziristan. Nine militants were killed and another was arrested. In the exchange of fire, two army soldiers, Abdul Waheed and Sakum Dad, were also martyred and 5 others were injured.	Daily Jang, April 26, 2020 https://jang.com.pk/news/763818
April 27, 2020	Security forces launched an intelligence-based operation in Panjgur. Militants hiding in the besieged house opened fire on security personnel, triggering a gunfight that resulted in the death of four suspected militants from Kech	Dawn, April 27, 2020 https://www.dawn.com/news/1552578/four-militants-killed-in-panjgur
April 27, 2020	Two soldiers embraced martyrdom while a terrorist was killed in an armed clash, following a search operation by security forces against militants, in the Mirali subdivision of North Waziristan tribal district.	Dawn, April 27, 2020 https://www.dawn.com/news/1552566/two-soldiers-martyred-in-n-waziristan-gunfight
May 16, 2020	The police claimed to have foiled a bid to destroy a newly-established commercial market of a Jamaat-i-Islami MPA by recovering and defusing a powerful bomb planted by unidentified persons.	Dawn, May 16, 2020 https://www.dawn.com/news/1557498/bomb-planted-in-bajaur-market-defused
May 17, 2020	Four suspected terrorists of the Daesh were killed during an intelligence-based operation conducted by the CTD in Bahawalpur, near Azam Chowk. Those killed wanted to attack a worship place of a religious minority.	Daily Jang, May 17, 2020 https://jang.com.pk/news/771949
May 19, 2020	Two suspected terrorists were killed in a joint operation conducted by the Naurang police and the CTD commandos in Lakki Marwat. Reportedly, the terrorists were affiliated with a banned outfit and they were involved in extortion and terrorism-related incidents.	Dawn, May 19, 2020 https://www.dawn.com/news/1558183/two-terrorists-killed-in-naurang
May 28, 2020	Police in collaboration with the Bomb Disposal Squad foiled a sabotage bid by defusing a bomb in Bajaur. The officials said the bomb could have caused huge destruction in the area if the action was not taken immediately.	Dawn, May 28, 2020 https://www.dawn.com/news/1559785/bomb-defused-in-nawagai-subdivision
June 1, 2020	The Malakand CTD killed three alleged terrorists in an action in Buner. The killed terrorists were involved in attacks on security personnel. Suicide jackets and ammunition were recovered from their hideouts.	The News, June 1, 2020 https://www.thenews.com.pk/print/666250-three-alleged-terrorists-killed-in-buner
June 3, 2020	The CTD officials arrested two suspected TTP militants Farid Khan and Kaleemullah from Fateh Jang road Rawalpindi. They carried explosives and were reportedly plotting an attack	Daily Jang, June 3, 2020 https://e.jang.com.pk/06-03-2020/pindi/pic.asp?picname=55.png

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June 4, 2020	The police defused a mortar shell in a remote locality of Khar, the administrative headquarters of Bajaur tribal district. The sabotage bid was foiled in Thanig area.	Dawn, June 4, 2020 https://www.dawn.com/news/1561188/mortar-shell-defused-in-bajaur
June 6, 2020	The CTD arrested a wanted TTP commander Jan Alam from Karachi; he is also expert in making bombs.	Daily Dunya, June 6, 2020 http://e.dunya.com.pk/detail.php?date=2020-06-06&edition=ISL&id=5208956_11194593
June 10, 2020	Bannu police eliminated a high-profile terrorist during the month under review. Reportedly, the CTD killed Amin Shah, the kidnapper and killer of a woman Canadian journalist. The terrorist was also wanted for the murder of Havaid police station SHO Imam Hussain.	The News, June 10, 2020 https://www.thenews.com.pk/print/670395-alleged-terrorist-killed-in-bannu-encounter Medialine, June 10 th 2020 https://themedialine.org/by-region/pakistan-police-kill-islamist-wanted-for-canadians-murder/
June 10, 2020	Police arrested 8 suspected terrorists in Peshawar including 3 from Afghanistan and 5 from Khyber district, who were allegedly in cases of terrorism and extortion of money.	Dawn, June 10, 2020 https://www.dawn.com/news/1562567/eight-terrorists-arrested-in-peshawar
June 11, 2020	CTD conducted an intelligence-based operation in Gujranwala and arrested a terrorist belonging to Daesh from whom explosive material was also recovered. He was allegedly planning to hit a sensitive installation in the city.	The Nation, June 11, 2020 https://nation.com.pk/E-Paper/islamabad/2020-06-11/page-12/detail-4
June 11, 2020	Police claimed to have defused a remote-controlled bomb, four hand grenades and explosives in two separate areas of Bajaur. According to a statement of DPO office, both the terrorism bids were thwarted in Shandi More and Tawheedabad localities of Khar tehsil.	Dawn, June 11, 2020 https://www.dawn.com/news/1562706/explosive-device-defused-in-bajaur
June 11, 2020	According to Lakki Marwat police, an IED was planted by terrorists on the roadside to target the personnel of law-enforcement agencies. The bomb was spotted by the local authorities and defused.	Dawn, June 11, 2020 https://www.dawn.com/news/1562720/ied-defused-in-betanni-area
June 13, 2020	Sameed Mahsud, a militant belonging to the proscribed Tehrik-i-Taliban Pakistan (TTP) Sajna group, was killed in an operation launched by the CTD near Barakhel bridge some eight kilometres from Tank.	The News, June 13, 2020 https://www.thenews.com.pk/print/672089-alleged-terrorist-killed-in-tank
June 13, 2020	Security forces arrested two alleged Indian spies from an area along the Line of Control (LoC) and handed them over to the Gilgit-Baltistan police. They were reportedly on a spying mission.	Dawn, June 13, 2020 https://www.dawn.com/news/1563172/two-indian-spies-arrested-in-gilgit-baltistan-after-crossing-loc
June 21, 2020	The CTD of the Sindh police claimed to have arrested two men Mudassir Ameer and Minhaj Shahid in Karahi, who were involved in target killings including of policemen. They were reportedly members of MQM-London.	The News, June 21, 2020 https://www.thenews.com.pk/print/675601-ctd-arrests-two-alleged-mqm-london-target-killers
June 22, 2020	Security forces entered into an armed clash with the militants in North Waziristan, in which two	The News, June 22, 2020

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	militants were killed. Two soldiers, identified as Mohammad Sharif and Zaheer, were injured.	https://www.thenews.com.pk/print/675851-captain-soldier-martyred-two-terrorists-killed-in-waziristan
July 5, 2020	Pakistan Rangers, Sindh, claimed to have arrested two members of a banned outfit on charges of killing a worker of the Pak Sarzameen Party on sectarian grounds in Liaquatabad, Karachi two days ago	Dawn, July 5, 2020 https://www.dawn.com/news/1566995/rangers-detain-two-members-of-banned-outfit-for-killing-psp-worker
July 7, 2020	Security forces conducted an anti-militant operation in Khuzdar and killed a BLA commander along with his two aides. Those killed were identified as Muhammad Anwar, commander Abdul Hameed and Sabir. One militant was also injured, who managed to escape.	Daily Jang, July 7, 2020 https://e.jang.com.pk/07-07-2020/pindi/pic.asp?picname=638.png
July 7, 2020	Security forces raided a house in Harnai on the intelligence that a militant was hiding there. In the ensuing exchange of fire, BLA commander Kaisar Chalgari was killed.	Daily Jang, July 7, 2020 https://e.jang.com.pk/07-07-2020/pindi/pic.asp?picname=638.png
July 8, 2020	The Counter Terrorism Department (CTD) arrested three suspected members of the banned so-called Islamic State (IS) group in an operation at village Ranjhail of Daska tehsil in Sialkot	Dawn, July 8, 2020 https://www.dawn.com/news/1567672/three-is-militants-arrested-from-daska-village
July 13, 2020	Security forces conducted an intelligence-based operation some eight kilometres southwest of Miranshah, and killed four terrorists. Four officials of Pakistan Army were martyred in the exchange of fire and another three were injured.	Daily Jang, July 13, 2020 https://e.jang.com.pk/07-13-2020/pindi/pic.asp?picname=51.png
July 19, 2020	The Karachi police claimed to have arrested six BRAS militants, who were connected to terrorists who planned the PSX attack. Those detained were plotting a major attack. Weapons and explosives were seized from them.	Daily Jang, July 19, 2020 https://e.jang.com.pk/07-19-2020/pindi/pic.asp?picname=748.png
July 24, 2020	Regional CTD has arrested two terrorists involved in extortion for providing monetary help to anti-state elements from Hangu in separate operations	Dawn, July 24, 2020 https://www.dawn.com/news/1570781/ctd-arrests-two-terrorists-in-hangu-operations
July 25, 2020	Security forces reportedly averted a major terrorist activity by raiding a militant hideout in Buleda tehsil of Kech district, recovering an arms cache and improvised explosive device (IED) material and killing one suspected BLA militant.	Dawn, July 25, 2020 https://www.dawn.com/news/1571073/major-terrorist-activity-averted-as-arms-cache-recovered-bla-militant-killed-in-balochistan-ispr
August 1, 2020	Punjab Police CTD reportedly foiled a major terror bid by killing five suspected terrorists in Rajanpur in southern Punjab. The police also recovered a 15kg IED and weapons from the terrorists, who reportedly belonged to the BLA	Daily Jang, August 1, 2020 https://e.jang.com.pk/08-01-2020/pindi/pic.asp?picname=614.png
August 18, 2020	The Counter Terrorism Department officials arrested a suspected terrorist near the Lahore railways station and recovered a suicide vest from him.	Geo TV, August 18, 2020 https://www.geo.tv/latest/303282-ctd-arrests-banned-organisation-member-from-railway-station-in-lahore
August 20, 2020	Pakistan Rangers Sindh and police jointly carried out an intelligence-based action and killed two suspected TTP militants in Baldia Town, Karachi. The militants were identified as	Dawn, August 20, 2020 https://www.dawn.com/news/1575306/two-extremely-wanted-ttp-militants-killed-in-baldia-encounter

	Mohammed Rafiq, alias Adil, and Adnan Shabbir, alias Qari.	
August 21, 2020	A local Taliban group had planted explosive material along the road in Mamond area of Bajaur tribal district, which the security forces claimed to have defused.	Dawn, August 21, 2020 https://www.dawn.com/news/157555/explosive-devices-defused-in-bajaur
August 26, 2020	The police launched an operation on a tip-off about the presence of terrorists on Tank Road in DI Khan. After seeing the police, the terrorists started firing. During the gunfight, DSP Jalil Khan Wazir and constable Rafiullah were seriously injured.	Dawn, August 26, 2020 https://www.dawn.com/news/1576439/two-policemen-injured-in-di-khan-encounter
August 26, 2020	The regional office of the Counter Terrorism Department in Sahiwal arrested two terrorists planning to attack law-enforcement agencies	Dawn, August 26, 2020 https://www.dawn.com/news/1576447/two-militants-held
August 27, 2020	The police arrested three suspected terrorists and recovered explosives from their possession in Charsadda. The militants, Luqman Khan, Bakht Rayan and Mohammad Taj had links with a banned organization, and were planning attacks during Muharram.	Dawn, August 27, 2020 https://www.dawn.com/news/1576628/three-held-with-explosives-in-charsadda
August 28, 2020	The police conducted search raids in Peshawar and arrested three suspected militants belonging to different banned groups and seized weapons and explosives.	Daily Jang, August 28, 2020 https://jang.com.pk/news/813967
September 1, 2020	The CTD and other agencies conducted an operation in Mastung and killed an alleged commander of ISIS, Mohammad Nawaz alias Sindhi. He was involved in a suicide attack on the election rally of Nawabzada Siraj Raisani.	Dawn, September 1, 2020 https://www.dawn.com/news/1577312/banned-outfits-leader-killed-in-mastung
September 6, 2020	Three suspected terrorists from the banned TTP were killed in a gun battle with members of security forces in South Waziristan. Militants attacked a military convoy, which triggered the exchange of fire between the two sides.	Dawn, September 6, 2020 https://www.dawn.com/news/1578171/three-ttp-men-killed-in-clash-with-security-forces-in-south-waziristan
September 8, 2020	ISPR stated that a wanted terrorist commander, Waseem Zakeria, along with four accomplices had been killed during an intelligence operation in North Waziristan. He was the mastermind of at least 30 terrorist attacks.	Dawn, September 8, 2020 https://www.dawn.com/news/1578454/mastermind-of-militant-attacks-among-five-killed-in-north-waziristan
September 14, 2020	A wanted terrorist commander, alias Ihsan Sanray, was killed along with three accomplices during an army operation near the boundary of North and South Waziristan tribal districts. Sanray was reportedly involved in recent attacks that killed several soldiers and officers.	Dawn, September 14, 2020 https://www.dawn.com/news/1579483/terrorist-leader-three-accomplices-killed-ispr
September 20, 2020	Security forces conducted intelligence-based operations on the confirmation of presence of terrorists in the central Makran region. Four suspected militants belonging to a banned outfit were killed and their hideout was destroyed.	Dawn, September 20, 2020 https://www.dawn.com/news/1580636/four-militants-killed-camps-destroyed-in-awaran
September 20, 2020	ISPR said two security personnel lost their lives during an intelligence-based operation near Spelga village. Those martyred were identified as Havaldar Tajbar Ali and Sepoy Abdur Rashid.	Daily Dunya, September 20, 2020 https://e.dunya.com.pk/detail.php?date=2020-09-

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		20&edition=ISL&id=5338139_20597290
October 1, 2020	The security forces conducted a search operation after reports about presence of militants in Kech district. Two terrorists were killed in a heavy exchange of fire.	Dawn, October 1, 2020 https://www.dawn.com/news/1582601/two-terrorists-killed
October 1, 2020	A suspected militant was gunned down in an encounter with police in Musharraf Colony. The deceased was identified as Saeed, alias Loha.	Dawn, October 1, 2020 https://www.dawn.com/news/1582515/militant-killed-in-encounter
October 3, 2020	Two suspected terrorists were killed and another was captured in an intelligence-based operation launched by security forces in Dattakhel, North Waziristan. An army captain and three soldiers were also wounded in the gunfight.	Daily Jang, October 3, 2020 https://e.jang.com.pk/10-03-2020/pindi/pic.asp?picname=534.png
October 3, 2020	In an intelligence-based operation, security forces killed two suspected terrorists and arrested another in Dattakhel area of North Waziristan.	Daily Jang, October 3, 2020 https://e.jang.com.pk/10-03-2020/pindi/pic.asp?picname=534.png
October 5, 2020	Two days later, security forces killed another two terrorists and arrested another during an operation near Mirali in North Waziristan tribal district. According to ISPR, the operation was conducted on the intelligence about the presence of militants in the area	Daily Dunya, October 5, 2020 https://e.dunya.com.pk/detail.php?date=2020-10-05&edition=ISL&id=5353134_84356871
October 5, 2020	Security forces conducted an operation in North Waziristan and killed two suspected terrorists and arrested one.	Daily Dunya, October 5, 2020 https://e.dunya.com.pk/detail.php?date=2020-10-05&edition=ISL&id=5353134_84356871
October 5, 2020	Rawalpindi Police in its crackdown against illegal weapons nabbed four persons from different areas and recovered weapons from their possession.	Daily Dunya, October 5, 2020 https://e.dunya.com.pk/detail.php?date=2020-10-05&edition=ISL&id=5353330_16968454
October 7, 2020	The mainstream religious leaders have signed a 'code of conduct', issued by the Council of Islamic Ideology (CII), to promote inter-sect harmony in the society.	Dawn, October 7, 2020 https://www.dawn.com/news/1583605
October 8, 2020	Security forces conducted an operation in Mirali where they killed two militants and arrested one.	Daily Dunya, October 8, 2020 https://e.dunya.com.pk/detail.php?date=2020-10-05&edition=ISL&id=5353134_84356871
October 7, 2020	In Charsadda, police recovered weapons and explosives packed in cement bags, including 17 mortar shells, 20 safety fuses and 200 cartridges of different bores	Dawn, October 7, 2020 https://www.dawn.com/news/1583699/mortar-shells-recovered-in-charsadda
October 22, 2020	The National Commission for Minorities has presented a draft law to address the issue of forced conversions. Provinces and the mainstream religious leaders will hold consultations to finalize this law.	Dawn, October 22, 2020 https://www.dawn.com/news/1586405
October 22, 2020	CTD officials arrested two TTP terrorists in Layyah. Those arrested were identified as Muhammad Saqib and Fahad Akbar, who carried	Dawn, October 22, 2020 https://www.dawn.com/news/1586367/two-ttp-men-held-in-layyah

	ammunition, two hand grenades, a pistol and explosive material to make an IED.	
October 22, 2020	The National Commission for Minorities has presented a draft law to address the issue of forced conversions. Provinces and the mainstream religious leaders will hold consultations to finalize this law.	Dawn, October 22, 2020 https://www.dawn.com/news/1586405
October 26, 2020	The CTD personnel raided an area in Sukkur on intelligence about the presence of militants. Two TTP terrorists on a motorcycle opened fire on CTD officials, but were killed by police.	Daily Dunya, October 26, 2020 https://e.dunya.com.pk/detail.php?date=2020-10-26&edition=ISL&id=5377371_69950039
November 2, 2020	Security forces foiled a possible terrorist activity in southern Balochistan by killing a suspected terrorist and seizing a huge quantity of arms and ammunition in an operation in the Buleda area of Kech district.	Dawn, November 2, 2020, https://www.dawn.com/news/1588131/security-forces-kill-terrorist-seize-arms-in-buleda
November 4, 2020	Pakistan Army reaffirmed to ensure protection and security of civilians along the Line of Control (LoC) amid unprovoked aggression by the Indian troops.	The Express Tribune, November 4, 2020 https://tribune.com.pk/story/2271035/military-to-ensure-security-of-civilian-population-along-loc-gen-qamar
November 7, 2020	Two suspected terrorists belonging to Al-Qaeda were reportedly killed in an encounter with the police in DG Khan. Two others managed to escape.	Daily Dunya (Urdu), November 7, 2020 https://e.dunya.com.pk/detail.php?date=2020-11-07&edition=ISL&id=5390909_71029161
November 19, 2020	An armed man on a motorcycle tried to enter the office of an intelligence agency in Charsadda, adjacent to the office of the deputy commissioner, and opened indiscriminate fire. As a result, an FC official Muslim Khan was critically injured and later succumbed to his injuries. Security forces killed the attacker.	Daily Jang, November 19, 2020 https://e.jang.com.pk/11-19-2020/pindi/pic.asp?picname=520.png
November 20, 2020	The CTD claimed to have arrested four suspects linked with SDRA allegedly involved in recent grenade and cracker attacks on Rangers in Karachi and Ghotki.	Dawn, November 20, 2020 https://www.dawn.com/news/1591305/four-activists-of-banned-sindh-revolution-army-held
November 23, 2020	Security forces raided a compound of suspected militants in North Waziristan killing four alleged militants; an army soldier was martyred and two others were injured in the exchange of fire with the militants.	Daily Jang, November 23, 2020 https://e.jang.com.pk/11-23-2020/pindi/pic.asp?picname=01_02.png
November 23, 2020	The Rangers and police in a joint operation arrested three suspected terrorists Yaeen alias Abu Hanzla, Ikramullah alias Faisal and Khalid alias Mansoor, who had allegedly come from Afghanistan.	Daily Jang, November 23, 2020 https://e.jang.com.pk/11-23-2020/pindi/pic.asp?picname=56.png
November 24, 2020	Security forces claimed to have neutralised a network of terrorists by killing two senior militant commanders, reportedly belonged to the militant Islamic State group, and arresting several others in an intelligence based operation in Salarzai tehsil of Bajaur.	Daily Dunya, November 24, 2020 https://e.dunya.com.pk/detail.php?date=2020-11-24&edition=ISL&id=5410531_37060878

November 25, 2020	Prime Minister Imran Khan has approved the setting up of the National Intelligence Coordination Committee (NICC), headed by the director general of the Inter-Services Intelligence (ISI). The NICC would promote coordination among the intelligence organizations in the country. NACTA would also be a part of the NICC.	Daily Jang, November 25, 2020 https://e.jang.com.pk/11-25-2020/pindi/pic.asp?picname=57.png
November 26, 2020	The CTD of police claimed to have arrested five suspects linked with the Muttahida Qaumi Movement-London who were allegedly involved or wanted in targeted killing cases.	Dawn, November 26, 2020 https://www.dawn.com/news/1592351/five-mqm-l-hitmen-held
November 28, 2020	The CTD has arrested three suspected terrorists of a banned outfit in Khuzdar and seized explosive material and other prohibited items from their possession.	Daily Dunya, November 28, 2020 https://e.dunya.com.pk/detail.php?date=2020-11-28&edition=ISL&id=5416006_71334660
November 29, 2020	The CTD arrested three suspected terrorists belonging to BLA in an operation conducted in the outskirts of Khuzda.	Dawn, November 29, 2020 https://www.dawn.com/news/1593005/three-terrorists-arrested-in-khuzdar
November 24, 2020	Security forces foiled a terror plan by defusing a 10 kg Improvised Explosive Device (IED in Balochistan). It is reported that unknown terrorists had fixed two IEDS in a motor cycle and parked it a flour mill.	The Express Tribune, November 24, 2020 https://tribune.com.pk/epaper/news/Karachi/2020-11-24/Mzk4ZmU3Y2E1NjllMjRmNzgMjY4ZWU1YTUwZjA3ZGMuanBIZw%3D%3D
December 3, 2020	The district police and CTD nabbed a local militant commander in Mohmand and recovered weapons from his possession.	The Express Tribune, December 3, 2020 https://tribune.com.pk/epaper/news/Karachi/2020-12-03/ZmVIYTNiYmYwMTNlNGJlNzVlNjg3NWU4ZTRhM2E4NGMuanBIZw%3D%3D
December 9, 2020	The CTD arrested two suspected militants reportedly associated with banned outfit Sipah-e-Mohammad's Agha Hassan group. The CTD claimed that the suspects were trained in neighboring country.	The Express Tribune, December 9, 2020 https://tribune.com.pk/epaper/news/Karachi/2020-12-09/ODIyYmMzMmYwN2Q4MWE4Njg0MzFIMWIyMDMyMTE4NmQuanBIZw%3D%3D
December 14, 2020	The steel town police arrested a terrorist associated with a banned outfit. The suspect has been involved in the targeted killings of cops, extortion, terrorism, and other crimes.	The Express Tribune, December 14, 2020 https://tribune.com.pk/story/2275841/cops-arrest-terrorist-of-a-banned-outfit
December 15, 2020	The CTD arrested three terrorists involved in the Rawalpindi bomb blast. The militants carried out four terrorist attacks in the country and planned to bomb the Islamabad Stock Exchange (ISE). It is reported that the militants had financial links to terrorist organizations operating from Afghanistan.	Daily Dunya, December 15, 2020 https://e.dunya.com.pk/detail.php?date=2020-12-15&edition=ISL&id=5438011_30230006

Courts

Date	Progress/News update	Source
January 17, 2020	An anti-terrorism court in Rawalpindi awarded 86 workers and supporters of the Tehreek-i-Labbaik Pakistan (TLP) with a prison sentence of 55 years each. The court ordered the convicts to collectively submit Rs12, 925,000. The convicted include TLP chief Khadim Hussain Rizvi's brother and Nephew.	Daily Jang, January 17, 2020 https://e.jang.com.pk/01-17-2020/pindi/pic.asp?picname=515.png
January 26, 2020	Trials in various terrorism-related cases suffered delays as witnesses for the prosecution remained hesitant to come forward to testify against criminals in courts of law due to the authorities' failure to implement the witness protection law enacted in 2017.	Dawn, January 26, 2020 https://www.dawn.com/news/1530503
February 15, 2020	The Sindh High Court awarded the death sentence to nine militants of banned outfit Jundullah.	Dawn, February 15, 2020 https://www.dawn.com/news/1534483
February 16, 2020	An antiterrorism court charged a suspect, belonging to Islamic State (IS), for attacking the Imambargah in Karachi in 2014.	Dawn, February 16, 2020 https://www.dawn.com/news/1534668
February 20, 2020	An anti-terrorism court handed down death penalty on five counts to three terrorists for involvement in 2014-Wagah Border suicide attack that had killed 60 innocent people.	Daily 92, February 20, 2020 https://www.roznama92news.com/efrontend/web/index.php/?station_id=2&page_id=0&is_common=N&xdate=2020-2-20&n=n47
May 19, 2020	An antiterrorism court sentenced two militants, claimed to be affiliated with the Islamic State group, to death in a case pertaining to the 2017 suicide blast at the shrine of Lal Shahbaz Qalandar in Sehwan that calimed the life of 70 innocent people.	Dawn, May 19, 2020 https://www.dawn.com/news/1558088
November 11, 2020	An anti-terrorism court handed over three accused, associated with banned outfit Tehreek-e-Taliban Pakistan (TTP), to the police on physical remand for their alleged involvement in terrorist activities in country.	The Express Tribune, November 11, 2020 https://tribune.com.pk/epaper/news/Karachi/2020-11-24/ZGI1MWFInM2YTnhYmFhZWU3ZTdhdOTMxMTE0N2ZjYzIuanBlZw%3D%3D
November 19, 2020	The anti-terrorism court later confiscated property of the Chief of JuD Hafiz Saeed. The court handed down 10 years and six-month imprisonment and imposed a fine of Rs110, 000 on him.	Dawn, November 19, 2020 https://tribune.com.pk/story/2272819/jud-chief-hafiz-saeed-sentenced-to-life

Amendments

Date	Progress/News update	Source
January 14, 2020	Prime Minister Imran Khan has revamped the National Security Committee (NSC). The committee will now comprised of 12 members and Prime Minister will be its chairman.	Daily Jang, January 14, 2020 https://jang.com.pk/news/721705?_ga=2.186964200.1136851577.1608540723-2039814662.1604552106

February 4, 2020	The Standing Committee of the National Assembly on Interior approved the "The Anti-Terrorism (Amendment) Bill, 2019" with majority vote. Two members of the committee argued that the bill would probably not address the issue of political victimization.	Daily Jang, February 4, 2020 https://e.jang.com.pk/02-04-2020/pindi/pic.asp?picname=89.png
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External front

Date	Progress/News update	Source
January 02, 2020	To comply with the Agreement (Article-11) on Prohibition of Attacks against Nuclear Installations and Facilities between India and Pakistan, both sides have exchanged lists of their nuclear installations and facilities.	The News, January 02, 2020 https://www.thenews.com.pk/print/592306-pakistan-india-exchange-lists-of-nuclear-installations-prisoners
January 06, 2020	Amid recent developments in Middle East, Pakistan's Foreign Minister Shah Mahmood Qureshi has expressed willingness to play a constructive role in maintaining the regional peace and stability.	Dawn, January 06, 2020 https://www.dawn.com/news/1526556
January 9, 2020	Pakistan's Foreign Minister Shah Mahmood Qureshi said the escalation of conflict in Middle East, mainly rising tension between Iran and the US, is not favorable for regional peace. FM called the United Nations Security Council (UNSC) and international community to play a role in this regards.	The News, January 9, 2020 https://www.thenews.com.pk/print/595809-pakistan-urges-unscc-world-capitals-to-help-reduce-us-iran-tension
January 18, 2020	The US Department of Justice has accused five businessmen for operating a network that exported US origin goods to Pakistan for its nuclear program.	The News, January 18, 2020 https://www.thenews.com.pk/print/600504-smuggling-goods-for-n-programme-us-justice-department-indicts-five-pakistanis
April 10, 2020	Pakistan requested Afghanistan to immediately hand it over ISIS-K leader, Aslam Farooqi, for his involvement in anti-Pakistan activities in Afghanistan, to carry further investigation.	Dawn, April 10, 2020 https://www.dawn.com/news/1547839
June 8, 2020	Pakistan and the United States appraised the Afghan reconciliation process and agreed to continue working together towards regional security, mainly in Afghanistan.	Dawn, June 8, 2020 https://www.dawn.com/news/1562002
November 8, 2020	Police in Turbat killed the suspected terrorist and his two sons, sought by the Iranian government for their involvement in subversive activities.	Dawn, November 8, 2020 https://www.dawn.com/news/1590939/terrorist-wanted-by-iran-two-sons-killed-in-clash-with-police
November 17, 2020	Pakistan's Permanent Representative to the United Nations (UN) Munir Akram presented a dossier containing evidence of India's sponsorship of terrorism in the country and urged the UN to take note of it.	Daily Dunya, November 17, 2020 https://e.dunya.com.pk/detail.php?date=2020-11-17&edition=ISL&id=5401940_29949337
November 24, 2020	The Inter-Services Public Relation busted a major terrorist network in Bajaur district. According to ISPR, the network was coordinating terrorist activities in various areas of Pakistan and receiving direct orders from their RAW-sponsored leadership from across the border in Afghanistan.	Dawn, November 24, 2020 https://www.dawn.com/news/1592033

November 30, 2020	Pakistan and China a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to enhance the defense cooperation for peace and stability in the region.	The Express Tribune, November 30, 2020 https://tribune.com.pk/story/2274130/pakistan-china-ink-pact-on-defence-cooperation
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National Action Plan (NAP)

NACTA

Date	Progress/News update	Source
	Prime Minister Imran Khan has approved the setting up of the National Intelligence Coordination Committee (NICC). The committee would address the persisting gap or weak link of effective intelligence coordination and collective strategizing in countering terrorism. NACTA would also be part of this committee.	Dawn, November 24, 2020 https://www.dawn.com/news/1592030/pm-okays-creation-of-liaison-body-for-spy-agencies

Banned Outfits

Date	Progress/News update	Source
April 23, 2020	The Punjab Home Department appealed to the people not to give Charity and donations to the 79 proscribed organizations and parties during the holy month of Ramazan. The government warned of strict action against those who donate to them.	Daily 92, April 23, 2020 https://www.roznama92news.com/efrontend/web/index.php?station_id=2&page_id=1&is_common=&xdate=2020-4-23&n=n8
May 8, 2020	The federal government has decided to ban three Sindhi separatist groups under the Anti-Terrorism Act of 1997. The Sindhi militant groups include Jeay Sindh Qaumi Mahaz, the SindhuDesh Revolutionary Army (SRA) and SindhuDesh Liberation Army (SLA).	Dawn, May 8, 2020 https://www.thenews.com.pk/print/655774-sindhi-militant-separatist-groups-approved-for-ban
November 27, 2020	Four suspected terrorists, including a member of a banned outfit, were arrested during a raid on their hideout in Naseerabad.	Dawn, November 27, 2020 https://www.dawn.com/news/1592636/four-terrorists-arrested-in-naseerabad
November 6, 2020	An anti-terrorism court has convicted Jamaatud Dawa (JuD) chief Hafiz Muhammad Saeed and three others in two separate cases of terror financing registered by the Counter Terrorism Department (CTD).	Dawn, November 6, 2020 https://www.dawn.com/news/1588874/three-jud-leaders-convicted-of-terror-financing

Madrassahs

Date	Progress/News update	Source
October 5, 2020	The Ittehad-e-Tanzeemat-e-Madaris tends to consult the Ministry of Education for resolution of some reservation. After that, the registration of religious seminaries across the country would begin.	The Express Tribune, October 5, 2020 https://tribune.com.pk/story/2267080/registration-of-religious-seminaries-begins

December 1, 202	The Ministry of Federal Education and Ittehad-e-Tanzeemat-e-Madaris Pakistan held a meeting and decided that religious seminaries and 'Jamiat' within in their educational framework would follow the government decisions.	The Nation, December 1, 202 https://nation.com.pk/01-Dec-2020/deeni-madaris-to-follow-government-decisions
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Financial Action Task Force (FATF) - Curbing Terror Financing

Date	Progress/News update	Source
February 01, 2020	The National Executive Committee (NEC) has decided to amend about 12-13 laws and subordinate legislations by June 2020 this year in order to comply with the requirements of the Financial Action Task Force (FATF).	Dawn, February 01, 2020 https://www.dawn.com/news/1531832
	The Security and Exchange Commission of Pakistan (SECP), to comply with the recommendations of FATF, has approved legal changes to tackle the misuse of companies and limited liability partnership for money laundering and terrorist financing.	The News, March 14, 2020 https://www.thenews.com.pk/print/628671-secp-policy-board-approves-new-legal-changes-to-prevent-money-laundering
April 20, 2020	The FATF gave Pakistan an extension in submitting its compliance report for three months due to the outbreak of coronavirus. The Federal Interior ministry has set up a single template database to curb money laundering and terror financing and established a cell to implement FATF recommendations has been reactivated.	Express Tribune, April 20, 2020 https://epaper.tribune.com.pk/DisplayDetails.aspx?ENI_ID=11202004190414&EN_ID=11202004190135&EMID=11202004190052
April 20, 2020	At the beginning of the holy month of Ramadan, the provincial governments had also issued formal alert to the security institutions about stopping the banned militant groups from fund collection.	Express Tribune, April 20, 2020 https://epaper.tribune.com.pk/DisplayDetails.aspx?ENI_ID=11202004190414&EN_ID=11202004190135&EMID=11202004190052
April 28, 2020	To expedite the process of the terrorism-financing related ceases, the Sindh Home Department has notified two more antiterrorism courts (ATCs). A total of four such ATCs now exist to try cases related to fundraising, money laundering and financing terrorism.	Dawn, April 28, 2020 https://www.dawn.com/news/1552730/two-more-atcs-notified-for-deciding-terror-financing-cases
May 8, 2020	In Karachi, the Federal Investigative Agency (FIA) took control of five properties of Afghan Taliban chief Mullah Mansour. The FIA booked Mansour in a case lodged under Section 11H (pertaining to fundraising and money laundering) of the Anti-Terrorism Act 1997.	Dawn, May 8, 2020 https://www.dawn.com/news/1555423/court-seizes-slain-taliban-chiefs-properties-for-auction
May 10, 2020	The government took effective measures to deter banned organizations from fundraising during the holy month of Ramadan; religious groups have a tradition of collecting religious levies including Zakat during Ramadan.	Pakistan Forward, May 10, 2020 https://pakistan.asia-news.com/en_GB/articles/cnmi_pf/features/2019/05/10/feature-03
June 10, 2020	In a briefing to the Prime Minister, Interior Minister Ijaz Shah claimed that Pakistan has met most of the conditions set by the FATF. The	Express Tribune, June 10, 2020 https://tribune.com.pk/story/2240041/1-pakistan-meets-major-fatf-conditions-shah

	ministry froze assets and seized 976 properties owned by proscribed organizations.	
June 19, 2020	An ATC convicted four leaders of Jamaat-ud-Dawa (JuD). Senior JuD leader, Abdul Rehman Makki, along with Hafiz Abdul Salam were sentenced to at least one-year imprisonment, while Professor Zafar Iqbal and Yahya Mujahid were sentenced to five years imprisonment. Around mid-June, Pakistan has also submitted another compliance report to FATF.	Dawn, June 19, 2020 https://www.dawn.com/news/1564431
June 19, 2020	The Government aims to introduce an amendment to the Customs Act 1969 to increase the punishment of smuggling goods fivefold. The Punjab government has also taken the control of religious seminaries, or madrassahs, run by banned militant organizations.	Daily Dunya, June 19, 2020 https://e.dunya.com.pk/detail.php?date=2020-06-19&edition=LHR&id=5226863_30445907
June 26, 2020	Gujranwala District Anti-Terrorism Court (ATC) handed down 16-year imprisonments to five Al Qaeda militants for terror financing and keeping explosives. Convicted terrorists were running a media cell of the AQIS in Gujranwala.	Dawn, June 26, 2020 https://www.dawn.com/news/1565242
July 10, 2020	Senator Rehman Malik had reportedly written a letter to the FATF President, Marshall Billingslea, requesting him to "either permanently remove Pakistan from the grey list of FATF, or extend a further grace period of one year in [the] wake of Coronavirus outbreak."	The Nation, July 10, 2020 https://nation.com.pk/E-Paper/islamabad/2020-07-10/page-4/detail-3
July 13, 2020	After thorough deliberations, Parliament approved the UNSC Amendment Bill 2020 and the ATA Amendment Bill 2020 in an effort to fulfill FATF requirements. Pakistan will submit its compliance report to the FATF on August 6th 2020, which will be reviewed in FATF'S upcoming meeting.	Dawn, July 13, 2020 https://www.dawn.com/news/1568664/na-takes-up-anti-terror-financing-bills-today Express Tribune, July 29 th 2020 https://tribune.com.pk/story/2257208/pakistan-compliant-on-14-fatf-action-points Express Tribune, July 30 th 2020 https://tribune.com.pk/story/2257377/senate-unanimously-approves-uns-c-ata-amendment-bills
July 23, 2020	The Punjab government restricted the ability of 48 banned organizations to collect animal hides on the eve of Eid-ul-Adha; many believe that part of the money gathered from animal hides is used in financing militants and their operations.	Daily Dunya, July 23, 2020 https://e.dunya.com.pk/detail.php?date=2020-07-24&edition=GUJ&id=5271864_87389720
August 13, 2020	The National Assembly approved three more bills related to terror financing in compliance with FATF requirements.	Dawn, August 13, 2020 https://www.dawn.com/news/1574104/opposition-again-helps-govt-pass-fatf-related-laws
August 20, 2020	The Senate of Pakistan cleared five Financial Action Task Force (FATF) related bills as listed below:	Dawn, August 20, 2020 https://www.dawn.com/news/1575388

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Limited Liability Partnership (Amendment) Bill 2020 • the Companies (Amendment) Bill 2020 • The Islamabad Capital Territory Trust Bill 2020 • The Control of Narcotic Substances (Amendment) Bill 2020 • The Anti-Terrorism (Amendment) Bill 2020 • The Companies (Amendment) Bill 2020. 	
August 22, 2020	The Sindh Assembly unanimously passed five bills in line with FATF requirements to prevent money laundering through trusts, auqaf and cooperative societies.	Dawn, August 22, 2020 https://www.dawn.com/news/1575696
August 26, 2020	The Senate rejected the Anti-Money Laundering (Second Amendment) Bill and the Islamabad Capital Territory (ICT) Waqf Properties Bills, citing malicious intentions of the government to use these laws for settling political vendettas.	Dawn, August 26, 2020 https://www.dawn.com/news/1576499/opposition-ruled-senate-rejects-two-fatf-bills
September 9, 2020	Pakistan signed an agreement with the UAE to combat money laundering and terror financing. It is expected that the sharing of data between the two countries would help them curb money laundering and other financial crimes	Express Tribune, September 9, 2020 https://tribune.com.pk/story/2263279/pakistan-uae-sign-anti-money-laundering-pact
September 17, 2020	Three more bills related to CFT were passed. These bills included the Islamabad Capital Territory Waqf Properties Bill; the Anti-Money Laundering (Second Amendment) Bill 2020; and, the Anti-Terrorism (Third Amendment) Bill 2020.	The Nation, September 17, 2020 https://nation.com.pk/17-Sep-2020/legislation-passed-to-get-out-of-fatf-grey-list
September 28, 2020	According to the recent amendments in the Anti-Money Laundering (AML) Act, there will be self-regulatory bodies (SRBs) for AML/CFT regulatory authorities.	The News, September 28, 2020 https://www.thenews.com.pk/print/721057-
October 24, 2020	The FATF announced that Pakistan will remain on its grey list until February 2021. The country will have to implement the remaining six targets on the 27-point action plan. The statement added that Pakistan needed to work on several areas to "address its strategic deficiencies".	Dawn, October 24, 2020 https://www.dawn.com/news/1586726/pakistan-to-stay-on-fatf-grey-list-till-february
October 26, 2020	Minister for Industries and Production, Hammad Azhar said that Pakistan was already working on the remaining targets. He however noted that one of the two action plans given to Pakistan by the FATF was the "most challenging and comprehensive ever given to any country".	Dawn, October 26, 2020 https://www.dawn.com/news/1586968/fatf-says-good-but-not-good-enough
November 19, 2020	The FATF decided to keep Pakistan in grey list nothing that the country has complied with 21 out of the 27-points of action. It urged to complete its full action plan by February 2021.	Dawn, November 19, 2020 https://www.dawn.com/news/1586624

Annexures

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Annex 1: Suicide Attacks in Pakistan in 2020

Date	District	Target	Injured	Killed	Claim of Responsibility
10 Jan, 2020	Quetta	Worship places/shrines/madrassas	Civ (19)	Mil (1) Pol (1) Civ (14)	ISIS affiliates/supporters
17 Feb, 2020	Quetta	Sunni religious leaders/community	Civ (20)	Civ (5) Mil (1) Lvs (1) Pol (2)	Unknown/unknown militants
11 Aug, 2020	South Waziristan	Security forces/law enforcement	Arm (4)	Mil (1)	TTP
3 attacks			43 injured	26 killed	

Annex 2: Cross Border Attacks and Clashes in 2020**Pak-Afghan Border**

Date	Location	Target	Injured	Killed	Perpetrators
29 Jan, 2020	Khyber	Unknown			Afghan security forces
02 Feb, 2020	Bajaur	Civilians		Civ (7)	Unknown/unknown militants
27 May, 2020	Bajaur	Civilians	Civ (1)	Civ (1)	Afghan security forces
25 Jun, 2020	Bajaur	Civilians	Civ (4)		Jamatul Ahrar
17 Jul, 2020	Bajaur	Civilians	Arm (2) Civ (5)	Civ (3)	Jamatul Ahrar
29 Jul, 2020	Bajaur	Security forces/law enforcement		Arm (1)	Jamatul Ahrar
05 Aug, 2020	Upper Dir	Security forces/law enforcement	FC (2)	FC (1)	TTP
22 Sep, 2020	Bajaur	Security forces/law enforcement		Arm (1)	TTP
14 Oct, 2020	Bajaur	Security forces/law enforcement	Arm (1)	Arm (1)	TTP
03 Nov, 2020	Zhob	Security forces/law enforcement	FC (2)	FC (1)	TTP
01 Dec, 2020	Bajaur	Civilians	Civ (1)	Civ (1)	TTP
11 attacks			18 injured	17 killed	

Pak-India Border

Date	District	Target	Injured	Killed	Responsibility
01 Jan, 2020	Kotli	Civilians			Indian BSF

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Date	District	Target	Injured	Killed	Responsibility
04 Jan, 2020	Poonch	Civilians			Indian BSF
11 Jan, 2020	Kotli	Civilians		Civ (1)	Indian BSF
15 Jan, 2020	Kotli	Civilians			Indian BSF
18 Jan, 2020	Kotli	Civilians	Civ (1)		Indian BSF
22 Jan, 2020	Kotli	Civilians			Indian BSF
25 Jan, 2020	Haveli	Civilians	Civ (1)		Indian BSF
26 Jan, 2020	Kotli	Civilians			Indian BSF
29 Jan, 2020	Poonch	Civilians			Indian BSF
01 Feb, 2020	Poonch	Civilians	Civ (1)		Indian BSF
04 Feb, 2020	Hattian Bala	Civilians	Civ (4)		Indian BSF
07 Feb, 2020	Kotli	Civilians			Indian BSF
08 Feb, 2020	Haveli	Civilians	Civ (4)	Civ (1)	Indian BSF
09 Feb, 2020	Kotli	Civilians	Civ (4)		Indian BSF
09 Feb, 2020	Kotli	Civilians	Civ (3)		Indian BSF
10 Feb, 2020	Kotli	Civilians	Civ (10)		Indian BSF
11 Feb, 2020	Poonch	Civilians	Civ (3)		Indian BSF
14 Feb, 2020	Haveli	Civilians	Civ (1)		Indian BSF
20 Feb, 2020	Hattian Bala	Security forces/law enforcement		Arm (1)	Indian BSF
21 Feb, 2020	Kotli	Civilians			Indian BSF
23 Feb, 2020	Neelum	Civilians			Indian BSF
26 Feb, 2020	Haveli	Civilians	Civ (1)		Indian BSF
27 Feb, 2020	Kotli	Civilians			Indian BSF
11 Mar, 2020	Poonch	Security forces/law enforcement		Arm (1)	Indian BSF
13 Mar, 2020	Kotli	Civilians	Civ (1)		Indian BSF
17 Mar, 2020	Neelum	Security forces/law enforcement		Arm (1)	Indian BSF
22 Mar, 2020	Kotli	Civilians			Indian BSF
30 Mar, 2020	Bhimber	Civilians	Civ (2)		Indian BSF
03 Apr, 2020	Poonch	Civilians	Civ (2)		Indian BSF
08 Apr, 2020	Kotli	Civilians			Indian BSF
09 Apr, 2020	Haveli	Unknown			Indian BSF
10 Apr, 2020	Neelum	Civilians			Indian BSF
11 Apr, 2020	Kotli	Civilians	Civ (2)		Indian BSF
11 Apr, 2020	Neelum	Civilians	Civ (4)		Indian BSF
12 Apr, 2020	Neelum	Civilians		Civ (1)	Indian BSF
12 Apr, 2020	Sialkot	Civilians	Civ (1)		Indian BSF

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Date	District	Target	Injured	Killed	Responsibility
13 Apr, 2020	Loc	Civilians	Civ (4)	Civ (1)	Indian BSF
17 Apr, 2020	Bhimber	Civilians	Civ (1)		Indian BSF
21 Apr, 2020	Poonch	Civilians			Indian BSF
27 Apr, 2020	Kotli	Civilians	Civ (1)	Civ (1)	Indian BSF
27 Apr, 2020	Poonch	Civilians	Civ (1)		Indian BSF
30 Apr, 2020	Loc	Security forces/law enforcement		Arm (1)	Indian BSF
02 May, 2020	Bagh	Civilians	Civ (1)		Indian BSF
03 May, 2020	Kotli	Civilians	Civ (1)		Indian BSF
05 May, 2020	Bhimber	Civilians	Civ (6)		Indian BSF
08 May, 2020	Haveli	Civilians	Civ (6)		Indian BSF
10 May, 2020	Poonch	Civilians		Civ (1)	Indian BSF
13 May, 2020	Bhimber	Civilians	Civ (1)		Indian BSF
15 May, 2020	Kotli	Civilians			Indian BSF
18 May, 2020	Kotli	Civilians	Civ (1)		Indian BSF
20 May, 2020	Kotli	Civilians	Civ (3)		Indian BSF
27 May, 2020	Haveli	Unknown			Indian BSF
29 May, 2020	Loc	Unknown			Indian BSF
04 Jun, 2020	Bhimber	Unknown			Indian BSF
09 Jun, 2020	Poonch	Civilians	Civ (2)		Indian BSF
09 Jun, 2020	Kotli	Civilians	Civ (2)		Indian BSF
12 Jun, 2020	Haveli	Civilians		Civ (1)	Indian BSF
12 Jun, 2020	Kotli	Civilians	Civ (2)		Indian BSF
16 Jun, 2020	Bhimber	Civilians	Civ (1)		Indian BSF
17 Jun, 2020	Kotli	Civilians		Civ (3)	Indian BSF
17 Jun, 2020	Bhimber	Civilians	Civ (1)	Civ (1)	Indian BSF
20 Jun, 2020	Haveli	Civilians	Civ (2)	Civ (1)	Indian BSF
25 Jun, 2020	Loc	Civilians	Civ (1)		Indian BSF
28 Jun, 2020	Kotli	Unknown			Indian BSF
29 Jun, 2020	Hattian Bala	Civilians	Civ (1)		Indian BSF
29 Jun, 2020	Neelum	Civilians	Civ (3)		Indian BSF
30 Jun, 2020	Hattian Bala	Civilians		Civ (1)	Indian BSF
05 Jul, 2020	Poonch	Civilians	Civ (1)		Indian BSF
06 Jul, 2020	Kotli	Civilians	Civ (5)		Indian BSF
12 Jul, 2020	Haveli	Civilians	Civ (1)		Indian BSF
12 Jul, 2020	Kotli	Civilians	Civ (5)		Indian BSF

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Date	District	Target	Injured	Killed	Responsibility
17 Jul, 2020	Haveli	Civilians	Civ (2)		Indian BSF
20 Jul, 2020	Bhimber	Civilians	Civ (1)		Indian BSF
26 Jul, 2020	Hattian Bala	Unknown			Indian BSF
27 Jul, 2020	Bhimber	Civilians		Civ (1)	Unknown/unknown militants
04 Aug, 2020	Kotli	Civilians	Civ (8)	Civ (1)	Indian BSF
07 Aug, 2020	Hattian Bala	Civilians	Civ (2)	Civ (1)	Indian BSF
07 Aug, 2020	Hattian Bala	Civilians	Civ (7)		Indian BSF
14 Aug, 2020	Kotli	Civilians		Civ (1)	Indian BSF
16 Aug, 2020	Bhimber	Civilians	Civ (3)		Indian BSF
19 Aug, 2020	Bhimber	Civilians		Civ (1)	Indian BSF
26 Aug, 2020	Poonch	Civilians	Civ (1)		Indian BSF
09 Sep, 2020	Hattian Bala	Unknown			Nil
11 Sep, 2020	Poonch	Civilians	Civ (3)	Civ (1)	Indian BSF
13 Sep, 2020	Poonch	Civilians	Civ (3)		Indian BSF
13 Sep, 2020	Bhimber	Civilians	Civ (1)		Indian BSF
17 Sep, 2020	Kotli	Civilians	Civ (3)		Indian BSF
23 Sep, 2020	Bhimber	Security forces/law enforcement		Arm (2)	Indian BSF
25 Sep, 2020	Bhimber	Civilians	Civ (2)		Indian BSF
26 Sep, 2020	Loc	Security forces/law enforcement		Arm (1)	Indian BSF
28 Sep, 2020	Bhimber	Civilians		Civ (1)	Indian BSF
29 Sep, 2020	Loc	Security forces/law enforcement	Civ (4)	Arm (1) Civ (1)	Indian BSF
01 Oct, 2020	Bhimber	Civilians	Civ (4)		Indian BSF
01 Oct, 2020	Kotli	Civilians	Civ (1)		Indian BSF
14 Oct, 2020	Kotli	Civilians	Civ (2)		Indian BSF
28 Oct, 2020	Bhimber	Civilians	Civ (2)		Indian BSF
29 Oct, 2020	Haveli	Civilians	Civ (2)		Indian BSF
01 Nov, 2020	Haveli	Civilians	Civ (1)	Civ (1)	Indian BSF
03 Nov, 2020	Bhimber	Civilians	Civ (1)		Indian BSF
12 Nov, 2020	Bhimber	Civilians	Civ (4)		Indian BSF
13 Nov, 2020	Neelum	Civilians	Civ (26)	Civ (5)	Indian BSF
13 Nov, 2020	Muzaffarabad	Civilians	Civ (5)		Indian BSF
13 Nov, 2020	Hattian Bala	Civilians	Civ (1)		Indian BSF
13 Nov, 2020	Neelum	Security forces/law enforcement	Arm (5)	Arm (1)	Indian BSF
22 Nov, 2020	Kotli	Civilians	Civ (10)	Civ (1)	Indian BSF

Date	District	Target	Injured	Killed	Responsibility
25 Nov, 2020	Bhimber	Civilians		Civ (1)	Indian BSF
09 Dec, 2020	Kotli	Security forces/law enforcement		Arm (2)	Indian BSF
15 Dec, 2020	Bhimber	Security forces/law enforcement		Arm (2)	Indian BSF
18 Dec, 2020	Poonch	Foreign interests/Diplomats/Foreigners			Indian BSF
20 Dec, 2020	Kotli	Civilians			Indian BSF
22 Dec, 2020	Kotli	Civilians	Civ (1)	Civ (1)	Indian BSF
22 Dec, 2020	Poonch	Civilians	Civ (1)		Indian BSF
22 Dec, 2020	Poonch	Security forces/law enforcement		Arm (1)	Indian BSF
30 Dec, 2020	Kotli/Khuiratta	Security forces/law enforcement		Arm (1)	
Total	114		204	45	

Annex 3: Terrorist attacks on Security and Law Enforcement Agencies in 2020

Date	Location	Injured	Killed	Responsibility
01 Jan, 2020	North Waziristan	Arm (1)	Pol (1)	TTP
07 Jan, 2020	Rawalpindi	Civ (2) Pol (1)	Mil (1) Pol (2)	Jamatul Ahrar
07 Jan, 2020	Quetta	Civ (12) FC (2)	Civ (2)	Hizbul Ahrar
14 Jan, 2020	Peshawar	Pol (2) Civ (6)	Civ (1)	Lashkar-e-Islam
15 Jan, 2020	Lakki Marwat	Pol (1)	Pol (1)	Local Taliban
17 Jan, 2020	D.I Khan		Lvs (1)	Local Taliban
26 Jan, 2020	Bajaur	Arm (2)	Pol (1)	Jamatul Ahrar
27 Jan, 2020	D.I Khan			TTP
05 Feb, 2020	Harnai	Civ (1)	Pol (1)	Unknown/unknown militants
09 Feb, 2020	Harnai	FC (5)	FC (1)	BLA
12 Feb, 2020	D.I Khan			TTP
18 Feb, 2020	D.I Khan	Pol (2)	Pol (1)	TTP
18 Feb, 2020	Kech	Mil (3) FC (3)	FC (5)	BLF
28 Feb, 2020	Karachi	Pol (1)		Sindhudesh Revolutionary Army
07 Mar, 2020	Qilla Abdullah	Lvs (3) Civ (5)		TTP
19 Mar, 2020	Orakzai		Pol (2)	Jamatul Ahrar
25 Mar, 2020	Kech	FC (4)	FC (2)	BLF

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Date	Location	Injured	Killed	Responsibility
28 Mar, 2020	North Waziristan	Arm (2)		TTP
30 Mar, 2020	North Waziristan	Pol (1)		TTP
10 Apr, 2020	North Waziristan			TTP
10 Apr, 2020	Qilla Abdullah	Arm (2)	Arm (2)	TTP
13 Apr, 2020	North Waziristan	FC (1)	FC (1)	TTP
17 Apr, 2020	Buner	Arm (1)	Pol (1)	Local Taliban
19 Apr, 2020	North Waziristan	Arm (3)	Arm (1) Mil (5)	TTP
07 May, 2020	North Waziristan		Arm (2)	TTP
08 May, 2020	Kech		Arm (6)	BLA
11 May, 2020	Peshawar	Pol (2) Civ (3)		TTP
18 May, 2020	North Waziristan	Arm (3)	Arm (1)	TTP
19 May, 2020	Bolan		FC (6) Civ (1)	UBA
19 May, 2020	Kech		FC (1)	Lashkar-e-Balochistan
10 Jun, 2020	North Waziristan	Arm (4)	Arm (2)	TTP
10 Jun, 2020	Karachi	Rng (1)		Sindhudesh Revolutionary Army
12 Jun, 2020	North Waziristan		Arm (1)	TTP
19 Jun, 2020	Ghotki		Civ (1) Rng (2)	Sindhudesh Revolutionary Army
19 Jun, 2020	Larkana	Rng (1)		Sindhudesh Revolutionary Army
21 Jun, 2020	North Waziristan	Arm (2)	Mil (1) Arm (2)	TTP
21 Jun, 2020	North Waziristan			TTP
21 Jun, 2020	Kohat		Pol (1)	Local Taliban
26 Jun, 2020	North Waziristan	Arm (2)		TTP
29 Jun, 2020	South Waziristan			TTP
11 Jul, 2020	Mastung	-	Pol (2) Mil (1)	
11 Jul, 2020	Karachi	-		Pol (1)
14 Jul, 2020	Panjgur	-	Arm (8)	Arm (3)
24 Jul, 2020	North Waziristan	-	Arm (3)	Arm (1)
24 Jul, 2020	Peshawar	-		Civ (2) FC (1)
25 Jul, 2020	Kech	-	Arm (3)	Arm (1)
25 Jul, 2020	Kurram	-	FC (3)	
30 Jul, 2020	Karachi	-		Pol (1)

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Date	Location	Injured	Killed	Responsibility
05 Aug, 2020	Kech	-		Lvs (1)
09 Aug, 2020	Bajaur	Pol (1)	Pol (1)	TTP
10 Aug, 2020	Qilla Abdullah	Civ (21)	Civ (6)	Unknown/unknown militants
11 Aug, 2020	South Waziristan	Arm (4)	Mil (1)	TTP
13 Aug, 2020	Kech	FC (3)	Civ (1)	BLF
14 Aug, 2020	Nushki			UBA
14 Aug, 2020	Karachi		Pol (1)	LeJ
30 Aug, 2020	South Waziristan	Arm (4)	Arm (3)	TTP
31 Aug, 2020	Lower Dir	Pol (3)		TTP
03 Sep, 2020	North Waziristan	Arm (4)	Arm (3)	TTP
05 Sep, 2020	North Waziristan	Arm (3)	Arm (1)	TTP
06 Sep, 2020	North Waziristan	Arm (2)		TTP
12 Sep, 2020	North Waziristan		Arm (1)	TTP
18 Sep, 2020	Karachi		Pol (1)	TTP
28 Sep, 2020	South Waziristan		Arm (1)	TTP
10 Oct, 2020	North Waziristan	Arm (3)	Arm (2)	TTP
12 Oct, 2020	North Waziristan	Arm (1)		TTP
15 Oct, 2020	North Waziristan		Arm (6)	TTP
15 Oct, 2020	Gwadar		Civ (7) FC (7)	BRAS (an alliance of BLA, BLF and BRG)
17 Oct, 2020	Kech	Arm (3)	Arm (1)	BLF
18 Oct, 2020	Shangla		Pol (1)	Unknown/unknown militants
20 Oct, 2020	Khyber		Pol (1)	Unknown/unknown militants
28 Oct, 2020	North Waziristan	Arm (2)		TTP
29 Oct, 2020	North Waziristan		Pol (1)	TTP
13 Nov, 2020	Quetta	Pol (3) Civ (2)		BLA
17 Nov, 2020	Khyber	Pol (1)	Pol (1)	TTP
18 Nov, 2020	South Waziristan	Arm (1)	Arm (2)	TTP
18 Nov, 2020	Charsadda		Mil (1) FC (1)	Unknown/unknown militants
26 Nov, 2020	Nowshera		Pol (1)	Local Taliban
15 Dec 2020	Karachi	Civ (2) Rng (2)		Sindhudesh Revolutionary Army
16 Dec 2020	Lakki Marwat	Civ (1)	Pol (1)	TTP
18 Dec 2020	Quetta			BLA
24 Dec 2020	North Waziristan	17	3	TTP
27 Dec 2020	Harnai	6	7	BLA
27 Dec 2020	Harnai	7		BLA

Date	Location	Injured	Killed	Responsibility
29 Dec, 2020	Kalat	15		
Total	84 attacks	215 injured	133 killed	

Annex 4: Attacks on Political Leaders in 2020

Date	District	Injured	Killed	Responsibility
01 Jan, 2020	Bajaur			Unknown/unknown militants
01 Mar, 2020	Peshawar			TTP
07 Jul, 2020	Bajaur			Hizbul Ahrar
05 Aug, 2020	Karachi	Civ (39)		Sindhudesh Revolutionary Army
Total	4 Attacks	39 Injured	0 Killed	

Annex 5: Attacks on Tribal Elders

Date	Location	Injured	Killed	Responsibility
18 Jan, 2020	North Waziristan		Civ (2)	TTP
09 Mar, 2020	Qilla Abdullah	Civ (2)		Unknown/unknown militants
19 Apr, 2020	Bajaur			Local Taliban
30 Nov, 2020	North Waziristan		Civ (4)	Unknown/unknown militants
01 Dec, 2020	North Waziristan		Civ (1)	Unknown/unknown militants
02 Dec, 2020	Bajaur		Civ (2)	Unknown/unknown militants
Total	6 Attacks	2 Injured	9 Killed	

Annex 6: Terrorist Attacks on Civilians

S#	Date	Location	Injured	Killed	Responsibility
1	11 Jan, 2020	Rawalpindi	Civ (4)		Hizbul Ahrar
2	17 Jan, 2020	Dera Bugti		Civ (1)	BRA
3	20 Jan, 2020	Sibi	Civ (3)		Unknown/unknown militants
4	22 Jan, 2020	Orakzai	Civ (2)		Local Taliban
5	30 Jan, 2020	Lower Dir	Civ (3)		Local Taliban
6	01 Feb, 2020	North Waziristan		Civ (1)	Local Taliban
7	01 Mar, 2020	Nasirabad	Civ (1)		BRA
8	12 Mar, 2020	Rawalpindi	Civ (5)		TTP
9	28 Mar, 2020	North Waziristan	Civ (1)		Local Taliban
10	05 Apr, 2020	South Waziristan	Civ (4)		Unknown/unknown militants
11	06 Apr, 2020	Sohbatpur	Civ (3)		Nationalist insurgents

S#	Date	Location	Injured	Killed	Responsibility
12	12 May, 2020	Kalat	Civ (1)	Civ (1)	BLA
13	21 May, 2020	Bajaur	Civ (1)	Civ (1)	Local Taliban
14	24 May, 2020	North Waziristan		Civ (3)	Unknown/unknown militants
15	01 Jun, 2020	Larkana			SDLF/SDLA
16	12 Jun, 2020	Rawalpindi	Civ (15)	Civ (1)	Hizbul Ahrar
17	19 Jun, 2020	Karachi	Rng (1) Civ (7)	Civ (1)	Sindhudesh Revolutionary Army
18	02 Jul, 2020	Bajaur		Civ (1)	Local Taliban
19	08 Jul, 2020	Karachi		Civ (1)	Unknown/unknown militants
20	21 Jul, 2020	Kech	Civ (7)	Civ (1)	Nationalist insurgents
21	26 Jul, 2020	Dera Bugti	Civ (4)		BRA
22	12 Aug, 2020	Quetta	Civ (6)	Civ (1)	BLA
23	14 Aug, 2020	Mastung	Civ (5)		BLA
24	14 Oct, 2020	Quetta	Civ (10)		BLA
25	20 Oct, 2020	Karachi	Civ (5)		Nationalist insurgents
26	25 Oct, 2020	Quetta	Civ (10)	Civ (3)	BLA
27	04 Dec, 2020	Rawalpindi	Civ (7)	Civ (1)	TTP
28	13 Dec 2020	Rawalpindi	Civ (25)		TTP
29	26 Dec 2020	Panjgur	Civ (8)	Civ (2)	
Total	29 attacks		138 Injured	19 killed	

Annex 7: Breakdown of Attacks by Province

Balochistan

Month	Frequency	Killed	Injuries
January	4	19	36
February	4	16	32
March	4	2	15
April	2	2	5
May	4	15	1
June	0	0	0
July	5	5	25
August	6	9	35
September	1	0	3
October	4	18	23
November	2	0	5

Month	Frequency	Killed	Injuries
December	6	9	36
Total	42 Attacks	95	216

Khyber-Pakhtunkhwa

Month	Frequency	Killed	Injuries
January	13	10	17
February	5	4	2
March	5	2	4
April	6	8	9
May	7	9	9
June	7	7	8
July	6	6	20
August	4	5	12
September	7	9	9
October	9	19	96
November	6	14	2
December	4	7	18
Total	79 Attacks	100	206

Punjab

Month	Frequency	Killed	Injuries
January	3	3	7
February	0	0	0
March	1	0	5
April	0	0	0
May	0	0	0
June	1	1	15
July	0	0	0
August	0	0	0
September	0	0	0
October	0	0	0
November	0	0	0
December	2	1	32
Total	7 attacks	5	59

Sindh (excluding Karachi)

Month	Frequency	Killed	Injuries
January	0	0	0
February	0	0	0
March	0	0	0
April	0	0	0
May	0	0	0
June	3	3	1
July	0	0	0
August	0	0	0
September	0	0	0
October	0	0	0
November	0	0	0
December	0	0	0
Total	3 attacks	3	1

Karachi

Month	Frequency	Killed	Injuries
January	1	1	0
February	1	0	1
March	0	0	0
April	0	0	0
May	0	0	0
June	3	9	16
July	3	3	0
August	2	1	39
September	1	1	0
October	2	2	5
November	0	0	0
December	2	0	4
Total	15 attacks	17	65

Annex 8: Incidents of Ethnic and Political Violence in 2020

Region	Location	Attacks	Killed	Injured
Sindh	Naushahro Firoze	1	0	5
Total		1	0	5

Annex 9: Target of Terrorists attack 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	1	0	0
Railway tracks / trains	2	0	0
Development, exploration projects, companies, workers	1	4	0
NATO/US supply vehicles	1	0	0
Total	146	220	547

Annex 10: Terrorist Attacks' Tactics in 2020

Tactics	Attacks
HG	12
IED	68
Suicide Attack	3
RA	4
Gun and bomb attack	1
FR	56
SAB	2
Total	146

Annex 11: Operational Attacks by Security Forces 2020

District/regional report				
Province	District	Attacks	Killed	Injured
Punjab	Bahawalpur	1	4	0
	Rajanpur	1	5	0
Balochistan	Panjgur	1	4	0
	Pishin	1	2	1

District/regional report				
	Quetta	1	2	0
	Harnai	2	3	0
	Kech	4	9	0
	Khuzdar	1	3	1
	Mastung	1	1	0
Sindh	Karachi	1	2	0
	Sukkur	1	2	0
KP	Awaran	4	17	0
	Bajaur	3	4	2
	Bannu	1	1	0
	Buner	1	3	0
	D.I Khan	5	7	3
	Kohat	1	3	0
	Lakki Marwat	1	2	0
	Mohmand	1	3	0
	North Waziristan	11	63	15
	Swat	1	2	0
	Tank	3	4	0
Total		47	146	22

Annex 12: Sectarian Related Terrorist attacks in 2020

Date	Location	Killed	Injured	Responsibility
15 Jan, 2020	Karachi	Civ (1)		Sipah-e-Muhammad Pakistan
04 May, 2020	Kurram	Civ (1)		Rival sectarian group
23 Jul, 2020	Kurram	Civ (1)	Civ (14)	Rival sectarian group
14 Aug, 2020	Karachi	Pol (1)		LeJ
07 Sep, 2020	Kohat	Civ (1)		Rival sectarian group
15 Sep, 2020	Kohat	Civ (2)		Rival sectarian group
10 Oct, 2020	Karachi	Civ (2)		Unknown/unknown militants
Total	7 attacks	9 Killed	14 Injured	

Annex 13: Clashes and Encounter Between Militants and Security Forces in 2020

Date	Location	Injured	Killed	Responsibility
01 Jan, 2020	Lower Dir		Mil (2)	Nil
15 Jan, 2020	Karachi		Pol (1)	Unknown/unknown militants
27 Jan, 2020	Tank		Mil (2)	Nil
29 Jan, 2020	Sibi		Mil (1)	Nil
21 Feb, 2020	Peshawar		Mil (5)	Nil
25 Feb, 2020	Nasirabad		Mil (1)	Nil
25 Mar, 2020	Bannu		Mil (1)	TTP

Date	Location	Injured	Killed	Responsibility
10 Apr, 2020	North Waziristan	Mil (4)	Arm (2) Mil (7)	TTP
26 Apr, 2020	North Waziristan		Arm (2) Mil (1)	TTP
21 Jun, 2020	North Waziristan	Arm (2)	Mil (2)	TTP
05 Sep, 2020	South Waziristan		Mil (3)	TTP
19 Sep, 2020	North Waziristan		Arm (2)	TTP
30 Sep, 2020	Karachi		Mil (1)	Nil
06 Nov, 2020	Dera Ghazi Khan		Mil (2)	Nil
17 Nov, 2020	Kech		Civ (2) Mil (1)	Nil
Total	15 Clashes and Encounters	6 Injured	38 Killed	

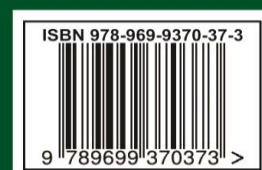
Annex-14: Incidents of faith-based violence in 2020

Date	District	Injured	Killed
29 Jul, 2020	Peshawar		Civ (1)
13 Aug, 2020	Peshawar		Civ (1)
10 Sep, 2020	Peshawar		
05 Oct, 2020	Peshawar		Civ (1)
04 Nov, 2020	Khushab		Civ (1)
08 Nov, 2020	Peshawar		Civ (1)
20 Nov, 2020	Nankana Sahib	Civ (3)	Civ (1)
30 Dec, 2020	Karak	-	-
Total	8 Attacks	3 Injured	6 Killed

Established in 2006, Pak Institute for Peace Studies (PIPS) is an Islamabad-based research and advocacy organisation. The Institute offers a range of consultancy services through a combination of independent research and analysis, innovative academic programmes, and hands-on training and support that serve the following basic themes: ***Conflict analysis and peace-building; dialogue; prevent/counter violent extremism (P/CVE); internal and regional security; and media for peace and democracy.*** It also conducts frequent structured dialogues, focus group discussions, and national and international seminars to understand the issues listed earlier and also strengthen partnerships. The outcomes of PIPS research and planned events have frequently and extensively been reported on media that adds to its credibility as an active, effective and well networked civil society organizations. Also, many of PIPS policy reports and recommendations have been credited and also included in the state policy documents and discourses mainly those on security and CVE.



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