

Militant Landscape of Pakistan in 2020

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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 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
Sindh Desh Liberation Front (SDLF)	-	-	-	1	-	1
Sindh 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.

