



Australian Government
Refugee Review Tribunal

Country Advice

Pakistan

Pakistan – PAK38384 – Tehrik-e-Taliban –
Khyber-Pakhtunkhwa – Presence &
Operations – Punjab – Karachi – Haripur

11 March 2011

1. How active is the Taliban, and the Tehrik-e-Taliban in particular, in Khyber-Pakhtunkhwa?

The term ‘Taliban’ is frequently employed as a shorthand term for a variety of violent Deobandi and Salafist jihadi groups operating in both Afghanistan and Pakistan. While there is strong evidence to support the view that Afghani Taliban organisations such as the Quetta Shura and the Haqqani Network frequently seek shelter in Balochistan, Karachi and Kurram Agency, no sources argue that they conduct anti-state activities on Pakistani soil.^{1 2 3 4} There are, however, a number of indigenous Deobandi and Salafist extremist groups that operate throughout Pakistan, most of which carry out attacks on non-Deobandis and commit acts of terrorism against the state of Pakistan (the exception being Laskar-e-Toiba). Many of these groups communicate and cooperate with one another under the umbrella of Tehrik-e-Taliban Pakistan (TTP).

A number of TTP and non-TTP extremist groups have conducted attacks on minorities and state targets in the province of Khyber-Pakhtunkhwa (formerly known as North West Frontier Province) over the past decade. The New Delhi-based South Asian Terrorism Portal (SATP) reports that 2010 was the bloodiest year since 2001 throughout Pakistan, and this includes Khyber-Pakhtunkhwa (KP). SATP adds, however, that “while almost all the 24 Districts of the Province remain terrorism affected, it was the Swat and Peshawar Districts which bore the brunt of attacks.”⁵

¹ ‘Siraj Haqqani sheltering in Kurram, near area of US helicopter strikes’ 2010, *The Long War Journal*, 22 October http://www.longwarjournal.org/archives/2010/10/siraj_haqqani_shelte.php – Accessed 11 November 2010 – Attachment 1

² ‘U.S. concerns grow as militants move bases along Pakistan border’ 2010, *The Los Angeles Times*, 7 November <http://www.latimes.com/news/nationworld/world/la-fg-pakistan-haqqani-20101108.0.7180350.story> Accessed 9 November 2010 – Attachment 2

³ Waldman, M. 2010, *The Sun In The Sky: The Relationship Between Pakistan’s ISI and Afghan Insurgents*, Crisis States Research Centre, Discussion Paper 18, June, p.3 <http://www.crisisstates.com/download/dp/DP%2018.pdf> – Accessed 13 January 2011 – Attachment 3

⁴ ‘Kurram Agency and the U.S. and Pakistan’s Divergent Interests’ 2010, Stratfor Global Intelligence, 2 November http://www.stratfor.com/analysis/20101101_kurram_agency_and_us_and_pakistans_divergent_interests – Accessed 11 January 2010 – Attachment 4

⁵ South Asia Terrorism Portal 2011, ‘Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Assessment – 2011’, SATP website <http://www.satp.org/satporgtp/countries/pakistan/nwfp/index.html> – Accessed 10 March 2011 – Attachment 5

Attacks in the province in recent years are too numerous to tabulate in this document. However, in the first two months of 2011 militants have committed at least eighteen attacks on various targets in KP. Many of these attacked have been tabulated in Table 1.

For the purposes of illustrating common targets of TTP affiliates, as well as the distribution of attacks throughout the province, what follows is a brief description of recent activity in various districts of KP. For locations of these districts, see the attached map.

Peshawar

Peshawar has witnessed a large number of attacks by Deobandi extremist groups in recent years. Common targets include federal and provincial buildings⁶, foreign consulates^{7 8}, provincial politicians (particularly members of the Awami National Party), police officers⁹, Sufi shrines, Shi'ites¹⁰, and internally displaced persons (IDPs)^{11 12}. Some attacks have no specific target and appear designed to create mass panic, such as the October 2009 bombing of a market that killed over fifty people.¹³

The first few months of 2011 have witnessed more deadly attacks in the city. On 9 March 2011 at least 36 people were killed and a further 40 injured by a suicide bomber at the funeral of the wife of a pro-government ethnic Pashtun tribal elder in Adezai village, 15 kilometres from Peshawar. *BBC News* reported that the funeral was being attended by “many anti-Taliban militiamen in the region... Several anti-Taliban tribal groups are based in the area and they are often targeted by the insurgents.”¹⁴ In late February 2011 four people were killed when militants blew up at least 15 tankers carrying fuel for NATO troops in neighbouring Afghanistan on Peshawar’s main ring road. In January 2011 at least 10 people were killed and 26 others were wounded when a car bomb was detonated in a market in the Peshawar district of Badhaber.¹⁵

⁶ US Department of State 2010, *Country Reports on Terrorism – Pakistan*, 5 August – Attachment 6

⁷ ‘Blasts near US Consulate in Pakistan kill 3’ 2010, Google News, source: *Associated Press*, 6 April – Attachment 7

⁸ ‘TTP claims responsibility for Peshawar blasts’ 2010, *Dawn*, 5 April

<http://www.dawn.com/wps/wcm/connect/dawn-content-library/dawn/news/pakistan/metropolitan/03-blast-in-saddar-area-of-peshawar-ss-03> – Accessed 6 April 2010 – Attachment 8

⁹ Tavernise, S. 2010, ‘Bomber Strikes Near Pakistan Rally; Police Officer Seen as Target’, *The New York Times*, 19 April <http://www.nytimes.com/2010/04/20/world/asia/20pstan.html> – Accessed 20 April 2010 – Attachment 9

¹⁰ ‘Peshawar grenade attack on Shia parade kills toddler’ 2010, *Dawn*, source: *AFP*, 16 December

<http://www.dawn.com/2010/12/16/low-intensity-explosion-at-yadgar-chowk-peshawar.html> – Accessed 11 January 2011 – Attachment 10

¹¹ Ali, L. 2010, ‘Burqa bombers kill 41 at Pakistan camp’, Google News, source: *AFP*, 18 April – Attachment 11

¹² Internal Displacement Monitoring Centre 2010, *Pakistan: Flooding worsens situation for people displaced by conflict in north-west*, 6 September [http://www.internal-displacement.org/8025708F004BE3B1/\(httpInfoFiles\)/719B7634A7238264C12577960032832C/\\$file/Pakistan+-September+2010.pdf](http://www.internal-displacement.org/8025708F004BE3B1/(httpInfoFiles)/719B7634A7238264C12577960032832C/$file/Pakistan+-September+2010.pdf) – Accessed 23 November 2010 – Attachment 12

¹³ UK Home Office 2010, *Country Of Origin Information Report – Pakistan*, 18 January, Section 8.17 – Attachment 13

¹⁴ ‘Deadly attack at Pakistan funeral procession’ 2011, *BBC News*, 9 March <http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-south-asia-12684954> – Accessed 10 March 2011 – Attachment 14

¹⁵ ‘Major incidents of Terrorism-related violence in Pakistan’ 2011, South Asia Terrorism Portal, 26 February <http://www.satp.org/satporgtp/countries/pakistan/database/majorincidents.htm> – Accessed 9 March 2011 – Attachment 15

Hazara/Haripur

The city of Haripur is in Haripur District, within the Hazara Division of Khyber-Pakhtunkhwa, close to the border with northern Punjab. The Hazara Division (not to be confused with the ethnic Hazaras of Afghanistan), has not witnessed the same level of violence as KP districts closer to the Federally Administered Tribal Areas (FATA) and the Afghanistan border. Nevertheless, the Jamestown Foundation's *Terrorism Monitor* reports that the division has been used by "several Kashmiri militant groups" as a location for training camps. *Terrorism Monitor* reports that at one stage there were approximately eight training camps run by different Kashmiri militant organisations, some of which were briefly shut down after 9/11, however reportedly reopened by mid-2005.¹⁶

One Deobandi extremist group believed to be operating in the division is Jaish-e Mohammed (JeM). The United States Treasury argues that JEM has been using the al Rehmat Trust as a front for its operations, providing "support for militant activities in Afghanistan and Pakistan, including financial and logistical support to foreign fighters operating in both countries." The Al Rehmat Trust has an office located on Rajana Road in the Srah-Salah area of Haripur.¹⁷

Terrorism Monitor also reports that militants continue to attack foreign NGOs working in the Hazara/Haripur region, including World Vision and Plan International. *Terrorism Monitor* suggests that the region is "vulnerable to Talibanization" due to the fact that it has been a traditional "stronghold of right-wing conservative political parties who have either a soft spot for the Taliban or openly support them."¹⁸

In September 2010 a Christian lawyer, his wife and five children were murdered in Haripur, allegedly by Muslim extremists.¹⁹ In March 2011, a local activist in the Pakistan Muslim League – Nawaz (PML-N) was shot dead in the city. However, it is not known who the assassins were, or their motive.²⁰

Hangu & Kohat

The neighbouring KP districts of Hangu and Kohat have witnessed a number of attacks by TTP affiliated groups such as Laskar-e-Jhangvi (LeJ) and JeM.²¹ Many of these attacks have been aimed at Shia IDPs from the neighbouring Kurram and Orakzai agencies, as well as the police.

¹⁶ Shah, T.A. 2010, 'The Hazara Division Of Pakistan – Growing Talibanization Amidst Political Instability' in *Terrorism Monitor*, Jamestown Foundation, Volume VIII, Issue 17, 29 April, p.7

http://www.jamestown.org/uploads/media/TM_008_26.pdf – Accessed 9 March 2010 – Attachment 16

¹⁷ 'Treasury's role in fighting terrorism – the frontline' 2010, Now Public.com, 4 November

<http://www.nowpublic.com/world/treasury-s-role-fighting-terrorism-frontline> – Accessed 9 March 2011 – Attachment 17

¹⁸ Shah, T.A. 2010, 'The Hazara Division Of Pakistan – Growing Talibanization Amidst Political Instability' in *Terrorism Monitor*, Jamestown Foundation, Volume VIII, Issue 17, 29 April, p.7

http://www.jamestown.org/uploads/media/TM_008_26.pdf – Accessed 9 March 2010 – Attachment 16

¹⁹ 'Islamists kill Christian family in Pakistan' 2010, Pakistan Christian Post, 3 October

<http://www.pakistanchristianpost.com/viewnews.php?newsid=1665> – Accessed 9 March 2011 – Attachment 18

²⁰ Ahmed, Z. 2011, 'PML-N activist among two shot dead in Haripur', Pakistan Criminal Records blog site, 2 March <http://pakistancriminalrecords.com/2011/03/02/pml-n-activist-among-two-shot-dead-in-haripur/> – Accessed 9 March 2011 – Attachment 19

²¹ 'PAKISTAN: Shia IDPs fearful of being targeted' 2010, Relief Web, 11 February

<http://www.reliefweb.int/rw/rwb.nsf/db900SID/AMMF-82KMC8?OpenDocument> – Accessed 12 January 2011 – Attachment 20

On 3 March 2011 a car bomb attack on a police checkpoint in Hangu claimed nine lives, including four policemen.²² In December 2010 ten people were killed and at least fifteen were wounded when a car bomb was detonated outside a Shia-built Al-Zahra Hospital in Hangu. Seven of the ten killed were reportedly Shiites.²³ Also in December 2010, rockets were fired on Shia neighbourhoods in Hangu city during Ashura, killing nine people.²⁴ In March 2010, 12 people, 7 of whom were believed to be Shi'ite, were killed by a suicide bomber in Hangu, while en route to Parachinar in Upper Kurram.²⁵

In September 2009, at least 35 people died in an attack on Shia villages in Kohat.²⁶ In April 2010 two burqa-clad suicide bombers targeted IDPs waiting to register and receive relief aid at the Kacha Pakka camp in Kohat, killing at least 44 and injuring more than 70.²⁷

Swat

The main TTP affiliate in Swat is the Tehrik-e-Nifaz-e-Shariah-Mohammadi (TNSM). In 2007, clashes between the TNSM and the army in the valley claimed over 400 lives, destroyed over a 1000 houses and led to over 800,000 valley residents fleeing.²⁸

In 2008 the TNSM committed a number of “atrocities”, including “the killing of women who decline to stop work and public beheadings of those accused of spying”. A suicide bombing at the funeral of a policeman in Mingora in February 2008 killed over forty and in December 2008 the TNSM leader Fazalullah announced a ban on girls’ education.²⁹

In April 2009 President Asif Ali Zadari signed an agreement with the TNSM, allowing them to establish Sharia law in the Swat Valley. Human Rights Watch argued at the time that the agreement was tantamount to handing over the valley to the ‘Taliban’ and states that “the Taliban and their affiliates are not only violating international human rights standards, but also acting in contravention of fundamental rights as enshrined in Pakistan’s constitution.”³⁰ However, within days of signing the peace deal with the TNSM, Asif Ali Zadari responded to national outrage and international pressure by ordering the Pakistan Army to retake the Swat Valley in April 2009. Popularly referred to

²² ‘Four policemen among nine killed in Hangu suicide blast’ 2011, *PakTribune*, 3 March <http://www.paktribune.com/news/index.shtml?236889> – Accessed 10 March 2011 – Attachment 21

²³ ‘Suicide attack on Al- Zahra Hospital Hangu Pass Kalay’ 2010, FATA Research Center <http://www.frc.com.pk/Suicide%20attack%C2%A0on%20Al-%20Zahra%20Hospital%C2%A0Hangu%20Pass%C2%A0Kalay.htm> – Accessed 11 January 2011 – Attachment 22

²⁴ Dempsey, E. 2010, ‘Rockets Fired in Hangu, 9 People Killed’, *Digital Journal*, 17 December <http://www.digitaljournal.com/article/301509> – Accessed 12 January 2011 – Attachment 23

²⁵ ‘Four women among 12 killed in Hangu suicide bombing’ 2010, *Daily Times*, 6 March http://www.dailytimes.com.pk/default.asp?page=2010\03\06\story_6-3-2010_pg1_5 – Accessed 15 September 2010 – Attachment 24

²⁶ ‘Pakistan: Shia IDPs fearful of being targeted’ 2010, UNHCR Refworld, source: *IRIN News*, 11 February <http://www.unhcr.org/refworld/docid/4b7ba8db1a.html> – Accessed 4 January 2011 – Attachment 20

²⁷ South Asia Terrorism Portal 2011, ‘Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Assessment – 2011’, SATP website <http://www.satp.org/satporgt/p/countries/pakistan/nwfp/index.html> – Accessed 10 March 2011 – Attachment 5

²⁸ ‘Pakistan: Origins of the violence in Swat Valley’ 2009, *IRIN*, 26 February <http://www.irinnews.org/Report.aspx?ReportId=83105> – Accessed 30 May 2009 – Attachment 25

²⁹ ‘Pakistan: Timeline on Swat Valley turbulence’ 2009, *IRIN*, 11 February <http://www.irinnews.org/Report.aspx?ReportId=82864> – Accessed 30 May 2009 – Attachment 26

³⁰ Human Rights Watch 2009, *Pakistan: Swat Deal Grave Threat to Rights*, HRW website, 15 April <http://www.hrw.org/en/news/2009/04/15/pakistan-swat-deal-grave-threat-rights> – Accessed 30 May 2009 – Attachment 27

in the media as the April Offensive, the military operation lasted for many months and in 2011 the Army continues to conduct operations against militants in the more remote parts of the valley.

Despite the government 'victory' in the valley in 2009, 2010 witnessed a number of attacks and assassinations by the TNSM/TTP in the valley; a July 2010 Human Rights Commission of Pakistan report on Swat states that "[a]s many as nine pro-government individuals have been killed in Swat district... since February 2010, which demonstrates that Swat is yet to be purged of terrorists despite the three-month operation by the security forces in 2009 and despite heavy military presence in the area."³¹ In October 2010, Dr Mohammad Farooq Khan, religious scholar, vice-chancellor of Swat Islamic University, and public critic of the Taliban, was shot and killed in Mardan, Swat Valley.³² In April 2010, Sajjad Ali Khan, a former mayor and member of the Awami National Party, was killed in his clothing shop in Mingora, Swat. According to *The New York Times*, Khan had organised a village lashkar, to defend against the Taliban.³³ Also in April 2010, two members of Kuza Bandai village peace committee, Behr-e-Kharam and Aqil Shah, were killed by suspected TNSM/TTP gunmen.³⁴

Dera Ismail Khan

The city of Dera Ismail Khan (DIK) in southern Khyber-Pakhtunkhwa has witnessed a number of assassinations and terrorist attacks by Islamic militants in recent years. As is the case in Hangu and Kohat, the most common target of militants in DIK has been the Shia population of the city. Some of these attacks include the February 2009 attack on a Shia procession that killed 15 people and injured dozens of others. In the same month approximately 25 people were killed and over 150 injured by a bomb at the funeral of a local Shia leader who had been killed by militants the previous day.³⁵ In 2009 a total of 55 Shia were killed and 196 were injured in attacks in DIK.³⁶ According to Relief Web, the Shia of DIK are seen by TTP affiliated organisations such as Laskar-e-Jhangvi (LeJ) and Jaish-e-Mohammad (JEM) as allies of the Americans.³⁷ It is also likely that these attacks are due to their violent opposition to Shia Islam.

³¹ Human Rights Commission of Pakistan 2010, Swat: Paradise Regained? HRCP website, July, p.10 <http://www.hrcp-web.org/pdf/Swat-Paradise-Regained.pdf> – Accessed 15 October 2010 – Attachment 28

³² Guerin, O. 2010, 'Pakistan's youth taken back from the Taliban', *BBC News*, 8 October <http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-south-asia-11506006> – Accessed 13 October 2010 – Attachment 29

³³ Tavernise, S. and Shah, P. Z. 2010, 'Killings Rattle Pakistan's Swat Valley', *The New York Times*, 22 April http://www.nytimes.com/2010/04/23/world/asia/23pstan.html?ref=swat_valley – Accessed 27 August 2010 – Attachment 30

³⁴ Tavernise, S. and Shah, P. Z. 2010, 'Killings Rattle Pakistan's Swat Valley', *The New York Times*, 22 April http://www.nytimes.com/2010/04/23/world/asia/23pstan.html?ref=swat_valley – Accessed 27 August 2010 – Attachment 30

³⁵ Minority Rights Group International 2010, *State of the World's Minorities and Indigenous Peoples – Pakistan*, UNHCR Refworld, 1 July <http://www.unhcr.org/refworld/docid/4c33310c.html> – Accessed 12 January 2011 – Attachment 31

³⁶ 'Internal Security Situation; Presentation to the Prime Minister of Islamic Republic of Pakistan' 2010, Government Of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Provincial Disaster Management Authority website, 4 March, p.16 http://www.pdma.gov.pk/PaRRSA/documents/Internal_Security_Situation.pdf – Accessed 12 January 2011 – Attachment 32

³⁷ 'PAKISTAN: Shia IDPs fearful of being targeted' 2010, Relief Web, 11 February <http://www.reliefweb.int/rw/rwb.nsf/db900SID/AMMF-82KMC8?OpenDocument> – Accessed 12 January 2011 – Attachment 20

Table 1: Attacks by Militants in Khyber-Pakhtunkhwa (January – February 2011)	
25 February	Four persons were killed when unidentified militants blew up at least 15 tankers carrying fuel for NATO troops in neighbouring Afghanistan at Ring Road of Peshawar.
14 February	Four bullet-riddled dead bodies of unidentified persons were found at a deserted place near Shanawa Hindukash area on Sabirabad-Shakardarra Road in Karak District of KP.
12 February	10 terrorists, including a suicide bomber were killed in Swat District. Five terrorists were killed in a clash with SFs in an area between Swat and Dir Districts of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa.
11 February	Five bullet-ridden dead bodies were recovered from Salim Khan area of Mardan District in KP.
10 February	A suicide blast at an Army recruitment centre in Mardan District in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa killed 31, injuring 42 others.
2 February	At least 10 people, including a woman and four children, were killed and 26 others, including a woman and five children, were wounded in a car bomb blast in a crowded market of Badhaber area of Peshawar in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa.
31 January	Six people, including a DSP, Rasheed Khan, were killed with his two guards along with 19 others injured in a suicide attack on Kohat road in Kohat District in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa.
28 January	At least four people including two women were killed and 19 others wounded in twin truck bombings that targeted a key Kohat tunnel in Kohat town in Kohat District of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. An explosive-laden truck entered the tunnel and blew up, damaging another truck behind it, wounding five people. An oil tanker packed with explosives hit a joint paramilitary Frontier Corps and army checkpoint outside the tunnel in Darra Adam Khel area of Kohat District in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. The checkpoint was empty but four civilians, including two women who were travelling in a passenger van behind the tanker, were killed and 14 others wounded in the attack.
23 January	At least three people were killed and four others injured in an ambush on the vehicle of former Nazim, Pir Ameer Faisal, in Hangu town of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa.
20 January	Five FC personnel, one foreign oil and gas exploration company's driver and a security guard were killed in an attack by unidentified militants in a bid to abduct two engineers of the foreign company in Kohat District of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa.
19-20 January	A bomb planted in a horse cart exploded near a school in Peshawar, killing three persons and injuring 10 others in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa.
18 January	The TTP killed four members of an alleged 'dacoit group' in Sarkadana area of Hangu District in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. *
17 January	The death toll in the bomb explosion inside a minibus at Jawarza in Hangu District of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa rose with eight people succumbing to injuries.
14 January	TTP militants armed with rockets and rifles attacked the house of a woman Police constable, Shamshad Begum (50), early in the morning, killing her and five of her relatives in Tootkas town of the Hangu District in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa.
13 January	Unidentified militants ambushed a Police mobile van with a remote control bomb, killing four Policemen and injuring five others in Sardikhel town in Bannu District of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa.
12 January	At least 20 persons were killed and another 16 injured when a suicide bomber rammed his explosives-laden car into Miryan Police Station in the Bannu town of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa.
11 January	A tribal elder along with his driver and security man were shot dead by unidentified militants in Gulshan Abad area of Hangu District in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. ³⁸
* Dacoit is a common South Asian term meaning 'bandit'.	

³⁸ 'Major incidents of Terrorism-related violence in Pakistan' 2011, South Asia Terrorism Portal, 26 February <http://www.satp.org/satporgtp/countries/pakistan/database/majorincidents.htm> – Accessed 9 March 2011 – Attachment 15

2. How active is the Taliban in other parts of Pakistan, particularly in major cities like Karachi?

As stated previously, the term Taliban is often employed as a shorthand term for a variety of militant Deobandi and Salafist groups operating in both Afghanistan and Pakistan. As stated in the response to question 1, there is no evidence that the Afghan Taliban target the Pakistan state or sectarian institutions and individuals in Pakistan. This response will therefore only examine recent activity by Tehrik-e-Taliban (TTP) affiliated groups in Pakistan.

In August 2010 the US Department of State reported that while the greatest frequency of violent attacks in Pakistan occur in the Federally Administered Tribal Areas (FATA) and North West Frontier Province (Khyber-Pakhtunkhwa or KP), “[a]ttacks targeting the country’s major urban centres, including Lahore, Islamabad, Peshawar, Karachi, and Rawalpindi, continued to increase.” Such is the frequency and growing sophistication of these attacks (mostly car bombings and suicide attacks) that incidents in the cities of Islamabad, Lahore, Peshawar and Rawalpindi alone now account for at least 50 percent of all terrorism-related casualties in Pakistan. The Department adds, however, that such attacks are overwhelmingly made against “high-value targets”. The Department also argues that many of these groups now enjoy the assistance of Al-Qaeda, which is now largely headquartered in western Pakistan.³⁹

Despite the Al Qaeda assistance and a common association through the TTP, the International Crisis Group (ICG) argues that the TTP actually lacks any real unity.⁴⁰ It is therefore inappropriate to view the TTP or the ‘Taliban’ in Pakistan as a monolith. In October 2010 *IRIN News* reported that there are now “at least nine major militant groups in northern Pakistan and the Punjab”.⁴¹

Disunity aside, in 2010 these nine groups collectively claimed the lives of 597 civilians and 94 security forces personnel. The South Asia Terrorism Portal (SATP) states that these people were killed during some 213 incidents in 2010. SATP also claims that some 511 militants were killed by security forces in 2010 during anti-Taliban operations.⁴²

Given the size and population of Pakistan, it is neither possible nor useful to tabulate all recent attacks by TTP/Al Qaeda affiliated groups in Pakistan. Rather, below are some recent high profile incidents in major metropolitan areas of Pakistan.

On 8 March 2011 a car bomb in the Punjab city of Faisalabad killed at least 32 people and wounded 125 others. According to *PakTribune*, Taliban spokesman Ahsanullah Ahsan claimed that the local office of the Inter-Services Intelligence (ISI) was the primary target of the attack.⁴³

On 28 May 2010 the Ahmadi community in Lahore was targeted by a TTP affiliated group (most likely Sipah-i-Sahaba) when two Ahmadi mosques in the Lahore suburbs of

³⁹ US Department of State 2010, *Country Reports on Terrorism 2009*, August, p.157 - Attachment 6

⁴⁰ International Crisis Group 2009, *Pakistan: The Militant Jihadi Challenge*, Asia Report N°164, 13 March, p.12 – Attachment 33

⁴¹ ‘PAKISTAN: A guide to main militant groups’ 2010, *IRIN News*, 13 October

<http://www.irinnews.org/report.aspx?ReportID=90760> – Accessed 14 October 2010 – Attachment 34

⁴² South Asia Terrorism Portal 2011, ‘Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Assessment – 2011’, SATP website

<http://www.satp.org/satporgtp/countries/pakistan/nwfp/index.html> - Accessed 10 March 2011 - Attachment 5

⁴³ ‘Faisalabad: 32 dead in Civil Lines blast’ 2011, *PakTribune*, 8 March

<http://www.paktribune.com/news/index.shtml?236977> – Accessed 10 March - Attachment 35

Model Town and Garhi Shahu were attacked during Friday prayers, resulting in at least eighty Ahmadi deaths.⁴⁴ Some of the attackers were captured and injured by the congregation. On 31 May 2010 militants stormed the hospital where the attackers were being treated under armed guard, in an apparent attempt to rescue the captives. Six people were subsequently killed during this failed operation.⁴⁵

The twin cities of Islamabad and Rawalpindi have witnessed a significant number of attacks by Islamic extremists in recent years. Many of these attacks are aimed at state institutions; Islamabad is the national capital and Rawalpindi is home to the national headquarters of the Pakistan armed forces.

Perhaps the most high profile security incident in Rawalpindi in recent years was the assassination of former Prime Minister, Benazir Bhutto on the 27th of December 2007. According to reports, the attack also killed at least 21 other people.⁴⁶

In February 2008 the Surgeon General of the Medical Corps and several other people were killed by a suicide bomber in Rawalpindi.⁴⁷ In September 2007, two bombs were detonated in public market places in Rawalpindi within fifteen minutes of each other, killing at least 24 people. The first blast was aimed at military personnel; however the second blast appears to have been specifically aimed at civilians.⁴⁸ On 4 December 2009 an attack was made on a Sunni mosque in Rawalpindi that is frequented by officers of the Pakistan army, claiming 35 lives.⁴⁹

Neighbouring Islamabad has also witnessed high profile, large scale attacks; the most well known in recent times being the bombing of the Marriott Hotel in September 2008. According to *Reuters* at least 53 people were killed in the blast, including the Czech Ambassador and other senior diplomatic staff.⁵⁰

Karachi

For the past several years political violence perpetrated by militia members of rival political parties, the Awami National Party (ANP) and the Muhajir Quami Movement (MQM) has contributed more to instability and danger in Karachi than sectarian violence perpetrated by Deobandi militants. *Foreign Affairs* reports that due to this rivalry, in 2010

⁴⁴ Ali, F. 2010, 'Ahmadis claim 95 killed in Lahore attack', *Dawn*, 30 May <http://www.dawn.com/wps/wcm/connect/dawn-content-library/dawn/the-newspaper/front-page/19-95-killed-in-lahore,-claim-ahmadis-050-hh-08> – Accessed 31 May 2010 – Attachment 36

⁴⁵ Gillani, W. & Ellick, A.B. 2010, 'Four Dead in Attack on Hospital in Pakistan', *The New York Times*, 31 May <http://www.nytimes.com/2010/06/01/world/asia/01lahore.html?ref=world> – Accessed 1 June 2010 – Attachment 37

⁴⁶ International Crisis Group 2008, 'After Bhutto's Murder: A Way Forward for Pakistan', Briefing N^o74, 2 January, ICG website <http://www.crisisgroup.org/home/getfile.cfm?id=3262&tid=5246&l=1> – Accessed 3 January 2008 – Attachment 38

⁴⁷ Surgeon Gen among 8 dead in Rawalpindi suicide attack' 2008, *Pak Tribune* website, 25 February <http://www.paktribune.com/news/index.shtml?197750> – Accessed 4 September 2009 – Attachment 39

⁴⁸ '24 killed, 66 injured in twin bomb blasts in Rawalpindi' 2007, *PakTribune* website, 4 September <http://www.paktribune.com/news/index.shtml?188494> – Accessed 15 September 2009 – Attachment 40

⁴⁹ 'Pakistan mosque attack 'kills 35'' 2009, *BBC News*, 4 December http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/south_asia/8394694.stm – Accessed 13 January 2011 – Attachment 41

⁵⁰ Cameron-Moore, S. et al 2008, 'Al Qaeda suspected of Pakistan's Marriott bombing', *Reuters*, 21 September, <http://www.reuters.com/article/topNews/idUSLK18396120080921> – Accessed 8 September 2009 – Attachment 42

approximately 1,400 Muhajirs and Pashtuns were killed in Karachi in targeted killings by MQM and ANP militia members.⁵¹

Nevertheless, Islamic militants continue to perpetrate violence acts against minorities and the state in the city. On 9 March 2010 Sindh police arrested four alleged members of the TTP in Karachi. During the arrest the police reportedly seized a suicide jacket, explosives, hand grenades and other weapons. The *Daily Times* reported that the terrorists, apparently from Waziristan, were planning to attack “offices of intelligence agencies and also high ranking police officials.”⁵²

Members of Karachi’s large Shi’ite population have been one of the main victims of sectarian violence perpetrated by Islamic extremists. In December 2009 a suicide bomber, possibly linked to Lashkar-e-Jhangvi (LeJ), attacked a Shi’a religious procession in Karachi, killing 25 and injuring more than 50.⁵³

Karachi has also witnessed a campaign of targeted assassinations of Shi’ite professionals; Jamestown Foundation’s *Terrorism Monitor* states that in the first six months of 2010, most targeted killings in Karachi were of Shia professionals.⁵⁴ According to *IRIN News*, these are part of a wider campaign of such killings across Pakistan, including the murder of at least 85 Shi’ite doctors.⁵⁵ Other Shia technocrats have also been targeted according to respected author Ahmed Rashid, writing in *The National Interest*; “politicians, doctors, architects, bureaucrats and judges—have been singled out for assassination in all major cities”.⁵⁶

In Karachi at least 26 Shi’ite doctors have been assassinated according to a 2010 report on violence in the city.⁵⁷ The authors of *The Open City: Social Networks And Violence In Karachi* argue that these assassinations are part of “a systematic campaign to target educated professionals within the Shia community – presumably in the expectation that this would lower the community’s morale and encourage its members to seek emigration.”⁵⁸

These targeted killings of Shi’ites are likely to be linked to the large number of TTP affiliated Deobandi extremists from FATA and Swat who have reportedly found refuge in

⁵¹ Khan, T. 2011, ‘Letter From Karachi: The Violent Fallout of Pakistan’s Urban Bridge’, *Foreign Affairs*, 6 January <http://www.foreignaffairs.com/node/67173> – Accessed 11 January 2011 – Attachment 42

⁵² ‘4 Taliban arrested in Karachi 2011’, *Daily Times*, 10 March http://www.dailytimes.com.pk/default.asp?page=2011\03\10\story_10-3-2011_pg7_3 – Accessed 10 March 2011 – Attachment 44

⁵³ US Department of State 2010, *International Religious Freedom Report – Pakistan*, 17 November – Attachment 45

⁵⁴ Shah, T.A. 2010 ‘Karachi Emerges as Pakistan’s New Tinderbox of Violence and Extremism’, *Jamestown Foundation Terrorism Monitor*, Volume VIII, Issue 26, 1 July, pp.5-6 – Attachment 46

⁵⁵ ‘Sectarianism infects hospital wards’ 2010, UNHCR Refworld, source: *IRIN News*, 24 October <http://www.unhcr.org/refworld/docid/4cc673001e.html> – Accessed 11 January 2011 – Attachment 47

⁵⁶ Rashid, A. 2010, ‘The Anarchic Republic of Pakistan’, *The National Interest*, 24 August <http://nationalinterest.org/article/anarchic-republic-pakistan-3917?page=show> – Accessed 7 January 2011 – Attachment 48

⁵⁷ Budhani, A.A. et al 2010, *The Open City: Social Networks And Violence In Karachi*, Crisis States Research Centre, Working Paper no. 70, March, p.4 <http://www.crisisstates.com/download/wp/wpSeries2/WP70.2.pdf> – Accessed 7 January 2011 – Attachment 49

⁵⁸ Budhani, A.A. et al 2010, *The Open City: Social Networks And Violence In Karachi*, Crisis States Research Centre, Working Paper no. 70, March, p.7 <http://www.crisisstates.com/download/wp/wpSeries2/WP70.2.pdf> – Accessed 7 January 2011 – Attachment 49

the city.⁵⁹ The International Crisis Group (ICG) reports that since 2007 three violently anti-Shia organisations, Sipah-e-Sahaba Pakistan (SSP) Lashkar-e-Jhangvi (LeJ), and Lashkar-e-Tayyaba (LeT) have all openly held public meetings in Karachi. Another, Jaish-e-Mohammed (JeM), runs a large madrasa in the Karachi suburb of Ehsanabad. It was at this madrasa that executed US journalist Daniel Pearl's kidnappers were arrested. The ICG reports that due to threats against Shia Imam Bara made by Sunni Imams in nearby mosques, the former president of the mosque turned it "into a fortress, with armed guards on the rooftop during Friday prayers".⁶⁰

As stated in the introduction to the response to question 1, Karachi is now considered to be the primary place of hiding for senior members of the Afghanistan Taliban. The US Congressional Research Service states that there is a genuine possibility that the Afghan Taliban leader Mullah Omar is hiding in the city, with the support of Pakistan's Inter-Services Intelligence (ISI) agency. The Service argues that the megacity's sprawl and large Pashtun suburbs "provide ideal hideouts for both Afghan and Pakistani Taliban fighters. Such militants are said to have established 'mafia-like' criminal syndicates in Karachi to raise millions of dollars to sustain their insurgencies through kidnapping, bank robberies, and extortion."⁶¹ A November 2010 report in *Foreign Policy* states that the so-called Quetta Shura, the ruling council of the Afghanistan Taliban, has actually been based in Karachi for over three years, with the cooperation of the ISI.⁶²

A 2009 article published by *Bloomberg* states that while Karachi is home to working women, entrepreneurs in million-dollar homes, shopping malls, cafes and "jeans-clad teenagers", districts of the city such as Sohrab Goth and Baldia Town openly display signs stating "Welcome welcome Taliban" and "Long live Taliban." Fateh Muhammad Burfat, head of criminology at Karachi University, is quoted by *Bloomberg* arguing that "Karachi has more bombs, dynamite and Kalashnikovs than any other city in Pakistan." Urban planner and author of 'Understanding Karachi', Arif Hasan, states that "[t]he unmapped slums are perfect hiding places for Taliban seeking respite from the fighting... In a city as large as Karachi, anyone can hide."⁶³

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⁶⁰ International Crisis Group 2009, *Pakistan: The Militant Jihadi Challenge*, Asia Report N°164, 13 March, p.15 – Attachment 33

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⁶² Chishti, A.K. 2010, 'The Karachi Project', *Foreign Policy*, 3 November

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