

Tehrik-i-Taliban Pakistan (TTP)

Name: Tehrik-i-Taliban Pakistan (TTP)

Type of Organization:

- Insurgent
- non-state actor
- regional
- terrorist
- violent

Ideologies and Affiliations:

- Deobandi
- Islamist
- jihadist
- Salafi
- Sunni

Place of Origin:

Pakistan

Year of Origin:

December 2007

Founder(s):

Baitullah Mehsud

Places of Operation:

Pakistan and Afghanistan

Overview

Executive Summary:

Tehrik-i-Taliban Pakistan (TTP) is a conglomerate of around 40 tribal and non-tribal Pakistani militant groups fighting against the state of [Pakistan](#); the local ISIS affiliate, Islamic State Khorasan Province (ISIS-K); and U.S.-led coalition forces.¹ As an ally of the Afghan Taliban, the TTP also fought the U.S.-backed Afghan government prior to the latter's defeat in August 2021.² The TTP was founded in late 2007 by a group of Pakistani militants who had previously fought in [Afghanistan](#) alongside both the [Taliban](#) and [al-Qaeda](#), and the group has maintained close ties to both organizations since.³

TTP militants regularly conduct attacks against civilians, security forces, and political leaders in both Pakistan and Afghanistan, using everything from small arms to IEDs to suicide bombers. Among their most high-profile attacks was the December 16, 2014, attack on an army-run school in Peshawar, Pakistan, in which nine militants killed 145 people, including 132 children, using grenades, guns, and suicide vests.⁴ Under its first two commanders, the TTP also claimed responsibility for an attack on a U.S. immigration center in New York that killed 13 in April 2009 and an attempted car bombing in New York City's Times Square in May 2010.⁵

While U.S.-led coalition forces in Afghanistan regularly conducted drone strikes on TTP commanders and fighters since the group was formed, TTP capabilities grew throughout the late 2000s and early 2010s.⁶ It was not until the TTP's second emir was killed in October 2013 that the group faced its first real crisis.⁷ The appointment of the unpopular [Maulana Fazlullah](#) as the new commander by the TTP's divided Shura Council led to major internal divisions and defections in 2013, 2014, and 2015.⁸ This internal crises coincided with a major military operation launched by Pakistan from 2014 through 2017 that killed more than 3,000 TTP fighters, according to the Pakistani military, and led to the dispersion of TTP cells

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across Pakistan and major relocations into Afghanistan.⁹ These developments played a significant role in the emergence of a new **ISIS** affiliate, **ISIS-K**, in South and Central Asia in June 2015, headed by a recently defected TTP commander.¹⁰

The TTP remained weak during Fazlullah's tenure, but his death in 2018 and succession by **Noor Wali Mehsud** led the group to regain much of its previous prestige and strength.¹¹ Mehsud's efforts culminated in a string of mergers announced in July 2020 with eight rival militant groups, including three which had defected from the TTP in 2014.¹² The merger negotiations were reportedly moderated by officials from either al-Qaeda or the Haqqani network.¹³ Two of the merging groups were Pakistan-based al-Qaeda affiliates and two others were powerful local North Waziristan factions.¹⁴

These unifications significantly strengthened the TTP, ended inter-factional fighting that had occurred since 2013, and led to a steep rise in TTP attacks.¹⁵ In 2020, for the first time, the TTP began participating heavily in Taliban offensives in eastern and southeastern Afghanistan.¹⁶ The Taliban's victories in Afghanistan throughout 2020 and 2021, culminating in their capture of Kabul on August 15, 2021, have further bolstered the TTP's position.¹⁷ The Taliban freed at least 800 TTP prisoners from Kabul, including the TTP's founding deputy emir.¹⁸ According to TTP expert Abdul Sayyed, credible reports suggest that the group's emir, Noor Wali Mehsud, moved to Kabul following the Taliban's victory.¹⁹

The TTP carried out at least 149 attacks in 2020 and more than 100 in the first eight months of 2021, compared to just 30 in 2019.²⁰ In January 2022, media sources reported that the group carried out more than 45 attacks in December 2021, the highest in any month of 2021.²¹ Just four days after the Taliban captured Kabul in August, Mehsud renewed his pledge of loyalty to them and congratulated them on their victory.²² Meanwhile, TTP's leadership have reportedly relocated from eastern Afghanistan to the al-Qaeda-aligned **Haqqani network** strongholds in the southeast of the country.²³

Given the TTP's ongoing attacks against Pakistan, on November 8, 2021, Pakistan's government agreed to a one-month ceasefire with the TTP while the parties conducted peace negotiations in Afghanistan facilitated by the Afghan Taliban.²⁴ Although the two sides agreed to a month-long ceasefire, on December 9, the TTP unilaterally ended the ceasefire, claiming that the Pakistani government never released TTP detainees and never sent a second negotiation team to continue the meetings.²⁵

In an attempt to revive peace efforts between Pakistan and the TTP, on January 9, 2022, Pakistan sent a delegation to Afghanistan to hold talks with the TTP. The talks between the Pakistani delegation and the TTP's leadership council—including Mehsud—took place in Paktika, southeastern Pakistan and were mediated by the Afghan Taliban. The TTP allegedly demanded the release of 100 fighters in Pakistani prisons as well as the implementation of sharia law in Pakistan's tribal belt. The Pakistani government demanded a nationwide truce and offered to release half of the 100 prisoners. The TTP did not agree to the conditions.²⁶

However, the TTP and the Pakistani government restarted peace talks in May 2022. The two sides originally agreed on an Eid ceasefire that would last for 10 days and would begin on May 10. On May 18, TTP members agreed to extend the ceasefire until May 30. The peace talks were hosted by Afghan Taliban leaders in Kabul, Afghanistan. According to media sources, Islamabad demanded that the Afghan Taliban prevent TTP militants from using Afghan territory to launch attacks against Pakistan.²⁷

Doctrine:

The TTP's main adversaries since its formation have been the state of Pakistan and its security forces. This animosity is rooted in the group's claim that Pakistan's stance towards the United States changed following the September 11, 2001, attacks, with Pakistan beginning to support the U.S. operations against al-Qaeda and the Afghan Taliban.²⁸ The TTP's founding leadership and rank and file had spent the decade preceding the group's formation fighting alongside both al-Qaeda and the Afghan Taliban in Afghanistan, and the tribal militants who would later form the TTP harbored al-Qaeda members in Pakistan following the 2001 invasion of Afghanistan.²⁹

The TTP's stated goals upon its creation included enforcing sharia; creating a united front against NATO forces in Afghanistan while performing "defensive jihad against the Pakistan army;" reacting militarily if Pakistan does not end operations in Swat District and North Waziristan; removing all Pakistani military checkpoints in the Federally Administered Tribal Areas (FATA); demanding the release of the Red Mosque Imam Abdul Aziz, whom the Pakistani government arrested in July 2007; and refusing to take part in future peace deals with Pakistan's government.³⁰

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In a July 2021 interview, Noor Wali Mehsud stated that the TTP's enemy is the Pakistan security forces and that the group's goal is to "take control of the Pakistani tribal border regions and make them independent."³¹ This was the first time the TTP has publicly asserted this goal, and reflects changes Mehsud has implemented since his appointment as emir in 2018.³² This change in aims also coincides with new attempts by Mehsud to court other anti-state nationalist armed groups in Pakistan, particularly the Pashtun Tahafuz (Rights) Movement and Baloch insurgents.³³

Organizational Structure:

The TTP consists of around 40 tribal and non-tribal factions operating in both Pakistan and Afghanistan.³⁴ In its early years, the TTP operated as a very loose conglomeration of generally like-minded insurgent groups based in the FATA in western Pakistan.³⁵ The main three factions were led by Baitullah Mehsud, founder of the TTP, and Hafiz Gul Bahadur and Mullah Nazir, who formed their own sub-group merger called Muqami Tehrik-e-Taliban (Local Taliban Movement) in 2008.³⁶ Both Nazir and Bahadur opposed Mehsud's support for attacking Pakistani security forces.³⁷ Each faction conducted attacks independently from one another and relied on their own logistical lines to supply their fighters.³⁸ However, in February 2009, the three commanders formed a new alliance and redoubled the TTP's efforts in Afghanistan, as well as increasing attacks in Pakistan, despite Bahadur's objections to the latter.

This union continued following Baitullah Mehsud's death and the appointment of Hakimullah Mehsud as the new TTP emir.³⁹ Hakimullah also increased the TTP's ties to al-Qaeda, which supported the group with training and financing.⁴⁰ Hakimullah's death in 2013 and his replacement by Mullah Fazlullah meant that for the first time, the TTP was not led by a member of the powerful Mehsud tribe.⁴¹ Fazlullah's appointment weakened tribal support for the group, led to fractionalization and defections of powerful sub-groups, and coincided with increasingly violent attacks against civilians and non-Sunnis, including the 2014 Cadet School attack which killed and wounded hundreds of children and was condemned by the Taliban.⁴² Following Fazlullah's appointment, the TTP split into the Shahryar Mehsud, Khalid Sajna, and Asmat Muawiya factions.⁴³ Meanwhile, TTP fighters continued to disperse into urban areas, a process that began in late 2009 under the group's second emir, Hakimullah.⁴⁴

Most significantly, Fazlullah's appointment and subsequent internal division led to the TTP commanders of the Orakzai Tribal District, Shaikh Maqbool and Hafiz Saeed Khan, defecting from the group and forming a new ISIS affiliate, ISIS-K, in January 2015.⁴⁵ In total, three TTP factions defected to ISIS-K: the Bajaur Faction, the Orakzai Faction, and the Jundullah Faction.⁴⁶ The defection of these geographically-concentrated factions resulted in the immediate weakening of the TTP (and strengthening of ISIS-K) in Nangahar, Afghanistan, and North Waziristan, Pakistan.⁴⁷

The TTP returned to Mehsud tribal control following Fazlullah's death in June 2018 and the appointment of Mufti Noor Wali Mehsud.⁴⁸ Once in power, Mehsud worked to reunify the TTP's base, centralize its command structure, and refocus TTP operations on security forces and political parties rather than the civilian targets of previous years.⁴⁹ These reforms were listed in a December 2018 "Code of Conduct," which, among its 67 points, reiterated that fighters of each TTP faction must obey their factional emir, who in turn must obey the TTP's emir (Mehtud).⁵⁰ The document focuses heavily on how to avoid and address inter- and intra-factional conflict, including each faction establishing a "corrective center" for its members and a six-person shura council that maintains contact with the central shura and helps advise and guide the faction.⁵¹

Further, the "Code of Conduct" sought to fix the damage caused by Fazlullah's rule by codifying what is and is not a permissible target. Mehsud explicitly banned attacks on educational institutions, religious seminaries, public gatherings, and markets—all heavily targeted during Fazlullah's tenure—while specifically labeling NGOs and "obscene" institutions as legitimate targets, along with Pakistani military, state, and political affiliates.⁵² Mehsud further stated that only he and his deputy are allowed to choose targets, and that any TTP commander or fighter who acts independently will be punished.⁵³

These efforts culminated in a string of major mergers announced in July 2020 in which eight rival factions, including three which had defected from the TTP in 2014, agreed to join the group under Mehsud's command.⁵⁴ The unification negotiations were reportedly moderated by officials from either al-Qaeda or the Haqqani network.⁵⁵ Two of the merging groups were Pakistan-based al-Qaeda affiliates and two others were powerful North Waziristan factions.⁵⁶ The mergers significantly strengthened the group, put an end to the inter-factional fighting that had occurred since 2013, and led to a steep rise in TTP attacks.⁵⁷ Furthermore, in December 2020 the TTP claimed its first attack in the Orakzai Tribal District since its branch there broke away to form ISIS-K in 2015.⁵⁸ The location and brutality of the attacks has led some analysts to suspect that parts of ISIS-K have rejoined the TTP.⁵⁹

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Estimates on the TTP's size vary. In 2009, shortly after the group officially formed, local journalists assessed its strength at 12,000 local fighters and 4,000 foreign fighters, mostly from the Middle East and Central Asia.⁶⁰ A 2012 Military Balance report on non-state armed groups listed the TTP's strength at 20,000 to 25,000 fighters, while a 2015 report by International Relations Insight and Analysis put the group at anywhere from 1,000 to 10,000.⁶¹ A late 2019 U.S. Defense Department report put the group at 3,000 to 5,000 fighters, while a February 2021 U.N. Security Council report noted that the TTP has a troop size in the range of 2,500 to 6,000 fighters.⁶²

Financing:

The TTP's financial networks during its early years were difficult to track, but locals believed the group relied on taxing trucks that passed through its territory, ransoming captured western journalists, and funds from al-Qaeda.⁶³ According to a private security analyst in Pakistan in 2009, the TTP also relied heavily on the trade of counterfeit cigarettes, which may have accounted for 20 percent of their funding at the time.⁶⁴

In 2010, a GlobalPost report alleged that the TTP also imposed jizya (a sharia-mandated tax on non-Muslims living in Muslim lands) on the Sikh minority in areas under their control.⁶⁵

In recent years, TTP financing has come from four main sources: kidnappings, natural resources, extortion and taxation of locals, and donations and gifts.⁶⁶

Recruitment:

The TTP originated as a Pashtun-centric organization but gradually expanded its recruitment base so that it now includes ethnic groups from across Pakistan and publishes much of its official material in Urdu, Pakistan's national language.⁶⁷ The group has always employed women as fighters but has made increased efforts to recruit women into operational roles in recent years.⁶⁸ In August 2017, the TTP published an English-language magazine calling on Pakistani women to take on new roles within the group outside of their traditional jobs running propaganda, recruitment, finance, and logistical networks.⁶⁹ According to TTP and ISIS-K expert Dr. Amira Jadoon, this shift was likely prompted by recruitment difficulties the TTP faced following the formation of ISIS-K in 2015.⁷⁰

In its early years, many local tribesmen and non-tribal youth were driven to the organization thanks to the heavy-handed tactics of the Pakistani security forces in Pakistan's tribal areas, such as the July 2007 "Red Mosque Operation" that spurred the formation of the TTP later that year.⁷¹ The security forces' attack on the mosque and subsequent promotion of the attack by al-Qaeda and tribal leaders, including Osama Bin Laden, also pushed many non-tribal and non-Pashtun students living in cities to join the TTP.⁷²

By 2008, the TTP had fighters from all seven tribal agencies in the FATA region, as well as members from the North-West Frontier Province (NWFP) districts of Swat, Bannu, Tank, Lakki Marwat, Dera Ismail Khan, Kohistan, Buner, and Malakand.⁷³

Training:

The TTP operates training camps throughout its strongholds in Pakistan's tribal region, particularly in South and North Waziristan.⁷⁴ Many of the TTP's founders had trained in al-Qaeda training camps in Afghanistan prior to 2007, and this relationship continued after the TTP's creation, with al-Qaeda providing both direct and indirect support to TTP training camps.⁷⁵ As recently as 2017, third party factions allied to both al-Qaeda and the TTP worked as interlocutors, facilitating attack planning and shared training between the two groups.⁷⁶

Also Known As:

- Tehrik-e-Taliban Pakistan⁷⁷
- Tehrik-e-Taliban⁷⁸
- Pakistani Taliban⁷⁹
- Tehreek-e-Taliban⁸⁰
- Tehrik Taliban-I-Pakistan⁸¹
- Tehreek-e-Taliban Pakistan⁸²
- Tehrik-E Taliban Pakistan⁸³

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Tehrik-i-Taliban Pakistan (TTP)

Key Leaders



Mufti Noor Wali Mehsud
Emir of Tehrik-i-Taliban Pakistan
(TTP)



Baitullah Mehsud
Founder, deceased



Hakimullah Mehsud
Emir, successor of Baitullah
Mehsud, deceased



Maulana Fazlullah
Emir of Tehrik e-Taliban Pakistan
(deceased)



Mufti Muzahim
Deputy emir



Mulawi Faqir Muhammad
Founding deputy emir



Waliur Rehman
Deputy emir, deceased



Qari Shakeel
Founding member, senior
commander

Tehrik-i-Taliban Pakistan (TTP)



Mohammad Khorasani

Tehrik-e-Taliban Pakistan
spokesman



Usman Mansoor Hafizullah

Commander of the Darra Adam
Khel and Peshawar regions



Omar Khalid Khorasani

Senior commander, commander of
former splinter group Jamaat-ul-
Ahrar



“Hilal”

Emir of the Lal Masjid (Red
Mosque) battalion



Mulawi Aleem Khan Ustad

Senior commander



Omar Azzam

Senior commander



Khushi Muhammad

Commander of the Saif Ullah Kurd
faction



Adnan Rashid

Senior TTP commander,
commander of joint TTP-IMU
group Ansar-ul-Aseer, head of AQ-
TTP joint media operations

Tehrik-i-Taliban Pakistan (TTP)



Waheed Gul

Senior commander in the TTP's
Jumaat-ul-Ahrar



Noor Gul

Senior commander in the TTP's
Jumaat-ul-Ahrar, deceased



Rasheed Mama

Senior commander in the TTP's
Jumaat-ul-Ahrar, deceased



Omar Mansour

Commander of the Darra Adam
Khel and Peshawar regions,
deceased



Qari Saifullah

Senior commander in charge of
suicide bombing operations,
deceased



Jehanzeb Khan

Field commander, deceased

Tehrik-i-Taliban Pakistan (TTP)

History:

- **August 8, 2022:** A roadside bomb detonates in Paktika province, eastern Afghanistan, killing four TTP members. The explosion kills senior TTP leader Omar Khalid Khurasani, and three other militants, including Hassan Ali, Mufti Hassan, and Hafiz Daulat. The TTP claim Pakistani intelligence agents are responsible for the explosion. Prior to his death, Khurasani had been part of the TTP's negotiators who were holding ceasefire talks with Pakistani officials since May. Sources: Pamela Constable, "Top Pakistani Taliban leader killed in Afghanistan; Shiites targeted in Kabul," *Washington Post*, August 8, 2022, <https://www.washingtonpost.com/world/2022/08/08/pakistan-taliban-leader-strike-afghanistan-shiite/>; Munir Ahmed, "Officials: Pakistani militant leader killed in Afghanistan," ABC News, August 8, 2022, <https://abcnews.go.com/International/wireStory/officials-pakistani-militant-leader-killed-afghanistan-88091274>.
- **June 2, 2022:** After two days of talks with a delegation of Pakistani tribal elders, the TTP announces that they will indefinitely extend a ceasefire with the Pakistani government. Although the two sides have paved the way for peace, they have not come to a permanent solution. Overall, the TTP wants Pakistani government forces to pull out of former tribal regions of the northwestern Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province, seeks the release of TTP fighters in government custody, and wants the revocation of all legal cases against the terror group. However, in the long run, the government in Islamabad wants the TTP to disband and to sever its ties with ISIS's cells in Afghanistan and Pakistan. Source: Munir Ahmed, "Pakistani Taliban extend truce with government in Islamabad," Associated Press, June 2, 2022, <https://apnews.com/article/afghanistan-taliban-pakistan-islamabad-government-and-politics-77f59fd12ebfd242cb0d48d114469906>.
- **May 18, 2022:** Members of the TTP agree to extend a ceasefire with the Pakistani government until May 30. The peace talks are hosted by Afghan Taliban leaders in Kabul, Afghanistan. The two sides originally agreed to an Eid ceasefire that began on May 10 and would last for 10 days. According to media sources, during the May 18 peace talks, Islamabad demands that the Afghan Taliban prevent TTP militants from using Afghan territory to launch attacks against Pakistan. Sources: Mohammad Yunus Yawar and Saud Mehsud, "Afghanistan's Taliban mediate ceasefire between Pakistan, local militants," Reuters, May 18, 2022, <https://www.reuters.com/world/asia-pacific/afghanistans-taliban-mediate-ceasefire-between-pakistan-local-militants-2022-05-18/>; Munir Ahmed, "Pakistan Taliban extend truce for more talks with government," Associated Press, May 18, 2022, https://www.washingtonpost.com/world/pakistan-taliban-extend-truce-for-more-talks-with-government/2022/05/18/415135b8-d697-11ec-be17-286164974c54_story.html; "TTP extends ceasefire for another five days," Tribune, May 10, 2022, <https://tribune.com.pk/story/2355953/ttp-extends-ceasefire-for-another-five-days>.
- **May 17, 2022:** Pakistani security forces engage in a shootout with the Pakistani Taliban in North Waziristan, near the Afghanistan border. The security forces kill two TTP commanders. Source: "Military says shootout kills 2 Pakistani Taliban commanders," Associated Press, May 17, 2022, https://www.washingtonpost.com/world/pakistani-military-says-shootout-kills-2-taliban-commanders/2022/05/17/0b42492a-d5c6-11ec-be17-286164974c54_story.html.
- **January 11, 2022:** Khalid Balti, a.k.a. Mohammad Khorasani, is killed by gunmen in Nangarhar province, Afghanistan. Balti served as the spokesman of the TTP from 2011 to 2015. The TTP's current spokesman, also named Mohammad Khorasani, confirms Balti's death on January 13 and states the TTP is vowing to avenge the slaying. Source: "Pakistan Taliban confirm ex-spokesman's death in Afghanistan," Associated Press, January 13, 2022, <https://abcnews.go.com/International/wireStory/pakistan-taliban-confirm-spokesmans-death-afghanistan-82240923>.
- **January 9, 2022 - January 10, 2022:** Pakistan sends a delegation to Afghanistan to hold talks with the TTP in an attempt to revive peace efforts with the group. The talks between the Pakistani delegation and the TTP's leadership council—including chief Noor Wali Mehsud—take place in Paktika, southeastern Pakistan. Media sources report there were either three or four rounds of discussions that last for two days. The talks, which are mediated by the Afghan Taliban, center around reviving the expired December 9, 2021 truce. The TTP allegedly demands the release of 100 fighters in Pakistani prisons as well as the implementation of sharia law in Pakistan's tribal belt. The Pakistani government—which is likely to reject the enforcement of sharia law—demands a nationwide truce and offers to release half of the 100 prisoners. The TTP does not agree to the conditions. Source: Daud Khattak, "Pakistan Sends Secret Delegation To Afghanistan In Bid To Revive Peace Talks With TTP," Gandhara, January 24, 2022, <https://gandhara.rferl.org/a/pakistan-secret-delegation-ttp-talks/31669120.html>.
- **December 9, 2021:** The TTP unilaterally ends its ceasefire agreement with the Pakistan government. Source: Asad Hashim, "Pakistani Taliban ends ceasefire, future of peace talks uncertain," Al Jazeera, December 10, 2021, <https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2021/12/10/pakistan-taliban-ceasefire-peace-talks-tp>.
- **November 8, 2021:** Following peace talks with the Pakistani government that were mediated by the Afghan Taliban, the TTP agrees to a month-long ceasefire that will begin on November 9. Additionally, the TTP agrees to further negotiations with the Pakistani government that will also be mediated by the Afghan Taliban. Sources: Asad Hashim, "Pakistani Taliban ends ceasefire, future of peace talks uncertain," Al Jazeera, December 10, 2021, <https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2021/12/10/pakistan-taliban-ceasefire-peace-talks-tp>; "Pakistan government, banned TTP group reach ceasefire agreement," Al Jazeera, November 8, 2021, <https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2021/11/8/pakistan-government-banned-group-tp-reach-ceasefire-agreement>.
- **September 21, 2021:** Pakistani security forces kill a local TTP commander in North Waziristan accused of orchestrating two recent attacks on NGO workers and government engineers. Source: "TTP Commander Killed in Mirali Operation," Dawn (Karachi), September 21, 2021, <https://www.Dawn.com/news/1647538/ttp-commander-killed-in-mirali-operation>.
- TTP emir Noor Wali Mehsud reportedly moves to Kabul following the Taliban's takeover of Afghanistan on August 15. Source: Abdul Sayed, Twitter post, August 25, 2021, 4:22 p.m., <https://twitter.com/abdsayed/status/1430520983195160576>.
- Following the Taliban's takeover of Afghanistan on August 15, the Afghan Taliban free at least 800 TTP prisoners from Kabul, including TTP's original deputy emir. TTP leadership meets the freed prisoners in Kunar, Afghanistan, with a parade featuring vehicles and weapons captured from Afghan security forces and praise for the Taliban's role in freeing the militants. Sources: Tim Lister, "Kabul Airport Attack Shows Afghanistan Is Still a Terror Hotbed that the Taliban Will Struggle to Control," CNN, August 27, 2021, <https://edition.cnn.com/2021/08/26/asia/taliban-afghanistan-al-qaeda-intl-cmd/index.html>; Abdul Sayed, Twitter post, August 20, 2021, 3:56 p.m., <https://twitter.com/abdsayed/status/1428702510366306312>; Abdul Sayed, Twitter post, August 20, 2021, 3:56 p.m., <https://twitter.com/abdsayed/status/142870252090655394>.
- **August 23, 2021:** Pakistan's interior minister states that the Afghan Taliban have "assured" Pakistan that they will not allow the TTP to conduct attacks out of Afghanistan.

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Source: "Taliban Have Reassured Won't Allow TTP to Use Afghan Land against Pakistan: Sheikh Rashid," *Dawn* (Karachi), August 23, 2021, <https://www.Dawn.com/news/1642195>.

- **August 19, 2021:** TTP emir Noor Wali Mehsud renews his pledge of loyalty to the Taliban and congratulates them on their victory in Afghanistan.
Source: Thomas Joscelyn, "Pakistani Taliban's Emir Renews Allegiance to Afghan Taliban," *Long War Journal*, August 19, 2021, <https://www.longwarjournal.org/archives/2021/08/pakistani-talibans-emir-renews-allegiance-to-afghan-taliban.php>.
- **August 15, 2021:** The Afghan Taliban capture Afghanistan's capital, Kabul.
Source: Visual Journalism Team, "Mapping the Advance of the Taliban in Afghanistan," BBC, August 16, 2021, <https://www.bbc.com/news/world-asia-57933979>.
- **January 16, 2021:** The TTP accuses Pakistani security forces of killing two senior commanders within the group's Jamaat-ul-Ahrar faction and wounding a third.
Source: Abdul Sayed, Twitter post, January 19, 2021, 9:28 a.m., <https://twitter.com/abdsayed/status/1351416199125618688>.
- **November 27, 2020:** Two militant groups, the Mulawi Aleem Khan Ustad and Commander Omar Azzam, formally join the TTP.
The Mulawi Aleem Khan Ustad group had defected from an al-Qaeda faction in North Waziristan in 2014. Source: Abdul Sayed, "Waziristan Militant Leader Aleem Khan Ustad Joins Tehreek-e-Taliban," *Jamestown Militant Leadership Monitor* 11, no. 12 (January 5, 2021): <https://jamestown.org/brief/waziristan-militant-leader-aleem-khan-ustad-joins-tehreek-e-taliban/>.
- Omar Khalid Khorasani, a former TTP senior commander who defected in 2014, merges his group Jamaat-ul-Ahrar with the TTP following a series of negotiations brokered by al-Qaeda.
Sources: Abdul Sayed, Twitter post, July 21, 2020, 11:28 p.m., <https://twitter.com/abdsayed/status/1417944629203382275>; Abdul Sayed and Tore Hamming, "The Revival of the Pakistani Taliban," *Combating Terrorism Center Sentinel* 14, no. 4 (April/May 2021): 33, <https://ctc.usma.edu/wp-content/uploads/2021/04/CTC-SENTINEL-042021.pdf>.
- - : The TTP announces a string of mergers with other Pakistani militant groups, including two al-Qaeda affiliates and three former TTP factions that left the group in 2013 and 2014.
Source: Abdul Sayed and Tore Hamming, "The Revival of the Pakistani Taliban," *Combating Terrorism Center Sentinel* 14, no. 4 (April/May 2021): 33, <https://ctc.usma.edu/wp-content/uploads/2021/04/CTC-SENTINEL-042021.pdf>.
- **September 10, 2019:** The U.S. State Department designates TTP emir Noor Wali Mehsud as a Specially Designated Global Terrorist (SDGT).
Source: "Terrorist Designations under Amended Executive Order to Modernize Sanctions to Combat Terrorism," U.S. Department of State, September 10, 2019, <https://2017-2021.state.gov/terrorist-designations-under-amended-executive-order-to-modernize-sanctions-to-combat-terrorism/>.
- Mufti Noor Wali Mehsud is appointed as the TTP's new emir.
Source: Amira Jadoon and Sara Mahmood, "Fixing the Cracks in the Pakistani Taliban's Foundation: TTP's Leadership Returns to the Mehsud Tribe," *Combating Terrorism Center Sentinel* 11, no. 11 (December 2018), 21, <https://ctc.usma.edu/fixing-cracks-pakistani-talibans-foundation-ttps-leadership-returns-mehsud-tribe>.
- TTP leader Maulana Fazlullah is killed in a U.S. drone strike in Kunar province, Afghanistan.
Source: Mushtaq Yusufzai, Francis Whittaker, and Ahmed Mengli, "Leader of Pakistani Taliban Killed by U.S. Drone Strike, Afghanistan Says," NBC News, June 15, 2018, <https://www.nbcnews.com/news/world/leader-pakistani-taliban-killed-u-s-drone-strike-afghanistan-say-n883446>.
- **October 18, 2017:** The TTP appoints Usman Mansoor Hafizullah as commander of the Darra Adam Khel and Peshawar regions, succeeding former commander Omar Mansoor, who was killed in a U.S. drone strike a year prior.
Source: Ali Akbar, "TTP Names Successor to APS Mastermind Omar Mansoor," *Dawn* (Karachi), October 18, 2017, <https://www.Dawn.com/news/1364620>.
- **July 9, 2016:** A U.S. drone strike kills two senior TTP commanders in Afghanistan's Nangarhar province, Omar Mansour and Qari Saifullah.
Source: Ismail Khan, "APS Massacre Mastermind Killed in US Drone Strike," *Dawn* (Karachi), July 12, 2016, <https://www.Dawn.com/news/1270210/aps-massacre-mastermind-killed-in-us-drone-strike>.
- ISIS appoints former TTP commander Hafiz Said Khan as leader of ISIS-K.
Source: Islamuddin Sajid, "Hafiz Saeed Khan: The Former Taliban Warlord Taking Isis to India and Pakistan," *International Business Times*, last updated January 19, 2015, <https://www.ibtimes.co.uk/hafiz-saeed-khan-former-taliban-warlord-taking-isis-india-pakistan-1484135>.
- TTP senior commander Omar Khalid Khorasani, one of the group's most radical commanders, defects from the group and forms Jamaat-ul-Ahrar.
Source: Abdul Sayed, Twitter post, July 21, 2020, 11:28 p.m., <https://twitter.com/abdsayed/status/1417944629203382275>.
- Six TTP commanders join nine al-Qaeda defectors and pledge allegiance to ISIS leader Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi.
Source: Amira Jadoon, *Allied & Lethal: Islamic State Khorasan's Network and Organizational Capacity in Afghanistan and Pakistan* (West Point, NY: Countering Terrorism Center, 2018), 1, <https://ctc.usma.edu/wp-content/uploads/2018/12/Allied-Lethal-final.pdf>.
- Pakistani forces launch "Operation Zarb-e-Azb," targeting TTP, Islamic Movement of Uzbekistan (IMU), and al-Qaeda militants in North Waziristan.
The three-year operation significantly weakens the TTP, forces many factions to relocate to Afghanistan, and results in a large drop in TTP attacks. Sources: Amira Jadoon, *The Evolution and Potential Resurgence of the Tehrik-i-Taliban Pakistan* (Washington, DC: United States Institute of Peace, 2021), 11, https://www.usip.org/sites/default/files/2021-05/sr_494-the_evolution_and_potential_resurgence_of_the_tehrik_i_taliban_pakistan.pdf; Amira Jadoon, *Allied & Lethal: Islamic State Khorasan's Network and Organizational Capacity in Afghanistan and Pakistan* (West Point, NY: Countering Terrorism Center, 2018), 35–36, <https://ctc.usma.edu/wp-content/uploads/2018/12/Allied-Lethal-final.pdf>.

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- TTP's central shura council appoints prominent ideologue Maulana Fazlullah as the group's new leader.
Source: "Tehrik-i-Taliban Pakistan," Mapping Militant Organizations, Center for International Security and Cooperation, Stanford University, last modified July 2018, 5, <https://stanford.app.box.com/s/38mt4uo1u67qwf8rd3gm9tgy7bc5bai>.
- **November 1, 2013:** TTP leader Hakimullah Mehsud is killed by a U.S. drone strike.
Sources: "Profile: Hakimullah Mehsud," Al Jazeera, November 2, 2013, <https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2013/11/2/profile-hakimullah-mehsud>; Declan Walsh, "Hakimullah Mehsud Obituary," *Guardian* (London), November 3, 2013, <https://www.theguardian.com/world/2013/nov/03/hakimullah-mehsud>.
- TTP leader Hakimullah Mehsud tells the BBC that he is open to peace talks with the Pakistani government if the United States ends its drone strikes in the region.
Source: Declan Walsh, "Hakimullah Mehsud Obituary," *Guardian* (London), November 3, 2013, <https://www.theguardian.com/world/2013/nov/03/hakimullah-mehsud>.
- **May 29, 2013:** The TTP's second in command, Waliur Rehman, and five other fighters are killed by a U.S. drone strike in North Waziristan, Pakistan.
Sources: "Profile: Hakimullah Mehsud," Al Jazeera, November 2, 2013, <https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2013/11/2/profile-hakimullah-mehsud>; "Pakistani Taliban's No. 2 Killed in Drone Strike," *France 24*, May 29, 2013, <https://www.france24.com/en/20130529-pakistani-taliban-deputy-killed-drone-strike-rehman>.
- Pakistani forces launch an operation against TTP strongholds in South Waziristan, displacing many locals and fueling resentment against the government.
Source: Amira Jadoon, *The Evolution and Potential Resurgence of the Tehrik-i-Taliban Pakistan* (Washington, DC: United States Institute of Peace, 2021), 11, https://www.usip.org/sites/default/files/2021-05/sr_494-the_evolution_and_potential_resurgence_of_the_tehrik_i_taliban_pakistan.pdf.
- **August 5, 2009:** TTP founder and leader Baitullah Mehsud is killed by a U.S. drone strike in South Waziristan, Pakistan. Mehsud's deputy commander, Hakimullah Mehsud, is appointed overall commander. Sources: Declan Walsh, "Air Strike Kills Taliban Leader Baitullah Mehsud," *Guardian* (London), August 7, 2009, <https://www.theguardian.com/world/2009/aug/07/baitullah-mehsud-dead-taliban-pakistan>; "Profile: Hakimullah Mehsud," Al Jazeera, November 2, 2013, <https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2013/11/2/profile-hakimullah-mehsud>.
- **December 14, 2007:** Forty senior Taliban leaders establish the TTP as an umbrella organization for its Pakistani supporters and appoint Baitullah Mehsud as the group's military commander and emir.
Sources: Abdul Sayed and Tore Hamming, "The Revival of the Pakistani Taliban," *Combating Terrorism Center Sentinel* 14, no. 4 (April/May 2021): 28, <https://ctc.usma.edu/wp-content/uploads/2021/04/CTC-SENTINEL-042021.pdf>; Hassan Abbas, "A Profile of Tehrik-i-Taliban Pakistan," *Combating Terrorism Center Sentinel* 1, no. 2 (January 2008): 2, <https://www.belfercenter.org/sites/default/files/files/publication/CTC%20Sentinel%20-%20Profile%20of%20Tehrik-i-Taliban%20Pakistan.pdf>.

Tehrik-i-Taliban Pakistan (TTP)

Violent history:

- **July 2022:** According to the Pakistan Institute for Conflict and Security Studies, in July, the TTP carried out 33 attacks which killed 34 people and injured 46 others.⁸⁴
- **June 2022:** According to the Pakistan Institute for Conflict and Security Studies, although the TTP announced an indefinite ceasefire in early June, the terror group continued to carry out attacks throughout the month. Throughout June, TTP militants carried out 26 attacks killing 36 people and injuring 26 others.⁸⁵
- **April 14, 2022:** Militants ambush a Pakistani military convoy in North Waziristan, near the border of Afghanistan. The assailants open fire, killing seven soldiers. No group claims immediate responsibility, but Pakistani security officials believe that TTP militants are behind the attack.⁸⁶
- **February 6, 2022:** Militants inside Afghanistan open fire at a Pakistani border post in Pakistan's Kurram district, killing at least five soldiers. The TTP claims responsibility. The Afghan government denies the attack came from within Afghan territory.⁸⁷
- **January 17, 2022:** TTP militants ambush a security checkpoint in Islamabad. The attack kills one officer and injures two others. That same day, TTP fighters attack the districts of Dir and North Waziristan in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province, which borders Afghanistan. The attack kills two policemen.⁸⁸
- **January 14, 2022:** TTP militants attack an army post in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province, northwestern Pakistan. The attack kills one soldier.⁸⁹
- **December 31, 2021:** Pakistani troops raid a TTP hideout in Mir Ali, a town in the North Waziristan border district. The raid leads to a gun battle between the troops and the insurgents, leading to the death of four soldiers.⁹⁰
- **>December 11, 2021:** TTP claims responsibility for an attack that left one policeman dead and one soldier wounded in Chadrar, Pakistan. It is the first TTP attack since the group unilaterally ended a month-long ceasefire between the Pakistani government and the TTP that began on November 9.⁹¹
- **September 15, 2021:** Seven Pakistani soldiers and five militants are killed during an anti-TTP operation in South Waziristan.⁹²
- **September 5, 2021:** A TTP suicide bomber kills three members of Pakistan's Frontier Constabulary and wounds 20 at a checkpoint in Quetta.⁹³
- **August 2021:** The TTP claims to have conducted 32 attacks in Pakistan in August, the most attacks in a month in 2021.⁹⁴
- **July 2021:** The TTP claims to have conducted 26 attacks in Pakistan in July.⁹⁵
- **May 2021 – August 2021:** TTP carries out at least 100 attacks against Pakistani security forces in a four-month period, significantly increasing their rate of attacks each month compared to the previous six years.⁹⁶
- **April 21, 2021:** The TTP conducts a suicide bombing of a luxury hotel in Quetta, targeting senior military officials and the Chinese ambassador. The attack kills four but misses the ambassador.⁹⁷
- **March 2021:** The TTP conducts at least 29 attacks in Pakistan.⁹⁸
- **February 2021:** The TTP conducts at least 15 attacks in Pakistan.⁹⁹
- **January 2021:** The TTP conducts at least 17 attacks in Pakistan.¹⁰⁰
- **2020:** The TTP conducts at least 149 attacks in Pakistan during 2020, with 16 attacks targeting civilians killing 14 and the remaining attacks killing at least 204 members of security forces.¹⁰¹
- **December 2020:** The TTP conducts at least 10 attacks in Pakistan.¹⁰²
- **November 2020:** The TTP conducts at least 17 attacks in Pakistan.¹⁰³
- **October 2020:** The TTP conducts at least 21 attacks in Pakistan.¹⁰⁴
- **September 2020:** The TTP conducts at least 25 attacks in Pakistan.¹⁰⁵
- **August 2020:** The TTP conducts at least 14 attacks in Pakistan.¹⁰⁶

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- **July 2020:** The TTP conducts at least 16 attacks in Pakistan.¹⁰⁷
 - **June 2020:** The TTP conducts at least 13 attacks in Pakistan.¹⁰⁸
 - **May 2020:** The TTP conducts at least seven attacks in Pakistan.¹⁰⁹
 - **April 2020:** The TTP conducts at least 15 attacks in Pakistan.¹¹⁰
 - **March 2020:** The TTP conducts at least four attacks in Pakistan.¹¹¹
 - **February 2020:** The TTP conducts at least two attacks in Pakistan.¹¹²
 - **January 2020:** The TTP conducts at least five attacks in Pakistan.¹¹³
 - **2019:** The TTP conducts between 30 and 37 attacks in Pakistan during 2019, depending on counting methodology. Four attacks target civilians, killing six.¹¹⁴
 - **2018:** The TTP conducts between 21 and 71 attacks in Pakistan during 2018, depending on counting methodology.¹¹⁵
 - **July 22, 2018:** The TTP targets Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) candidate Ikrah ullah Gandapur in a suicide attack in Dera Ismail Khan, killing Gandapur and his driver and wounding four others.¹¹⁶
 - **July 10, 2018:** A TTP suicide bomber targets Awami National Party (ANP) leader Haroon Bilour with a bomb in Peshawar, killing Bilour and 12 others and wounding at least 45.¹¹⁷
 - **June 4, 2018:** A TTP militant kills 10 and wounds 30 when he attacks a Pashtun Protection Movement gathering led by activist Ali Wazir.¹¹⁸
 - **February 2018:** The TTP claims responsibility for a suicide bombing of a Pakistani military base, killing 11 soldiers and wounding 13.¹¹⁹
 - **2017:** The TTP carries out at least 87 attacks in Pakistan in 2017, including 13 attacks targeting civilians that leave 60 dead, with the remaining attacks killing at least 243 members of the security forces.¹²⁰
 - **December 1, 2017:** TTP militants attack the Peshawar Directorate of Agriculture University, killing nine students and wounding 34 others, while security forces kill five attackers.¹²¹
 - **November 2017:** TTP militants, alongside members of the Balochistan Liberation Army, kill senior police official Abdul Razzaq Cheema and Police Inspector General Mohammad Ashraf Noor with suicide bombs in Quetta and Peshawar, respectively.¹²²
 - **August 8, 2016:** TTP militants attack the emergency ward of Quetta's Civil Hospital with a suicide bomb, killing 74 and wounding 100. The attacker appeared to targeted mourners who had gathered following the killing of Balochistan Bar president Bilal Anwar Kasi the day before.¹²³
 - **March 27, 2016:** A TTP militant from the Jamaat-ul-Ahrar faction conducts a suicide bombing targeting Christians at an Easter celebration in a park in Lahore, Pakistan, killing 74 and wounding 300.¹²⁴
 - **2015:** TTP conducts at least 96 attacks in Pakistan during 2015.¹²⁵
 - **2014:** TTP conducts at least 210 attacks in Pakistan during 2014.¹²⁶
 - **December 16, 2014:** TTP militants attack a Pakistan Army-run school in Peshawar, killing 150 and wounding 114. Most of those killed are children.¹²⁷
 - **June 8, 2014:** A joint TTP-Islamic Movement of Uzbekistan siege of the Jinnah International Airport in Karachi, Pakistan, leaves 18 dead and 26 wounded.¹²⁸
 - **2013:** TTP conducts at least 301 attacks in Pakistan during 2013.¹²⁹
 - **September 22, 2013:** TTP militants conduct a dual suicide bombing of a church service in Peshawar, Pakistan, killing 81 and wounding 145. The group claims the attack is in response to western drone strikes against Muslims, and that such attacks would continue against foreigners and non-Muslims until drone strikes ended.¹³⁰
 - **September 15, 2013:** Pakistani General Sanaullah Khan Niazi dies in a roadside bomb attack in northwest Pakistan. The TTP claims responsibility.¹³¹
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- **July 26, 2013:** TTP militants conduct a dual suicide bombing of a Shiite community market in northwest Pakistan, killing 60 and wounding 180. The group claims the attack is revenge for Shiite attacks on Sunni civilians in Iraq and Syria.¹³²
- **June 15, 2013:** A female TTP suicide bomber attacks a bus carrying students from a women’s university in Quetta, killing at least 25, including the Quetta deputy commissioner and 14 students.¹³³
- **2012:** TTP conducts at least 392 attacks in Pakistan during 2012.¹³⁴
- **October 9, 2012:** A TTP militant attempts to kill Malala Yousafzai, a young Pakistani female education activist. Yousafzai survives and the attack garners international attention and support for children’s and women’s rights.¹³⁵
- **August 16, 2012:** TTP militants stop three buses in a remote mountain pass in northern Pakistan and pull 22 Shiites off board, executing them all.¹³⁶
- **April 2012:** Around 150 IMU and TTP fighters attack the Bannu Prison in Pakistan, freeing as many as 400 prisoners.¹³⁷
- **2011:** TTP conducts at least 202 attacks in Pakistan during 2011.¹³⁸
- **September 14, 2011:** The TTP ambush a school bus in Peshawar, Pakistan, killing four boys and the driver, and wounding two seven-year-old girls.¹³⁹
- **May 13, 2011:** Two TTP suicide bombers attack a police cadet training center in Charsadda, Pakistan, killing 98 and wounding 115. TTP spokesman Ehsanullah Ehsan claims the attacks were revenge for the killing of Osama bin Laden.¹⁴⁰
- **April 3, 2011:** Two TTP suicide bombers kill 50 worshippers and injure 120 when they attack a religious gathering at a Sufi shrine in Dera Ghazi Khan, Pakistan.¹⁴¹
- **February 10, 2011:** A young suicide bomber attacks an army compound in Pakistan, killing at least 31. The TTP claims responsibility.¹⁴²
- **2010:** TTP conducts at least 402 attacks in Pakistan during 2010.¹⁴³
- **December 25, 2010:** A female TTP suicide bomber attacks a World Food Program distribution center in the Bajur Tribal Region, killing 45 and wounding 80.¹⁴⁴
- **May 1, 2010:** Authorities discover a car bomb parked near New York City’s Times Square and dismantle it before it detonates. TTP commander Hakimullah Mehsud releases a video statement shortly afterwards claiming “full responsibility” for the attempted attack.¹⁴⁵
- **January 1, 2010:** A TTP suicide car bomb detonates at a volleyball match in the district of Lakki Marwat, Pakistan, killing at least 88 and wounding more than 40.¹⁴⁶
- **2007 – 2009:** The Global Terrorism Database documents 269 TTP attacks between the group’s founding and the end of 2009, mostly in Pakistan’s FATA and Khyber regions.¹⁴⁷
- **December 30, 2009:** TTP militants attack a U.S. base in Afghanistan with a suicide bomber, killing seven CIA officers and wounding six. The group claims the attack is revenge for the U.S. killing of TTP founder Baitullah Mehsud.¹⁴⁸
- **October 9, 2009:** A car bomb explodes in a market in Peshawar, Pakistan, killing 125 and wounding more than 100 people. No group takes credit, though the Pakistani government believes the attack is part of an ongoing TTP campaign in retaliation for a military offensive against TTP strongholds in South Waziristan.¹⁴⁹
- **June 10, 2009:** TTP militants attack the Peshawar Pearl Continental luxury hotel in Peshawar, Pakistan, using small arms and a car bomb, killing 11 and wounding 70.¹⁵⁰
- **April 4, 2009:** A man armed with two handguns opens fire at an immigration service center in Binghamton, New York. The assailant kills 13 people before killing himself. TTP leader Baitullah Mehsud claims responsibility for the attack, stating, “I accept responsibility. They were my men. I gave them orders in reaction to U.S. drone attacks.”¹⁵¹
- **March 30, 2009:** TTP militants attack a police training academy in Lahore, Pakistan, claiming it is in retaliation for the Pakistani government’s cooperation in U.S. drone strikes. The attackers kill 20 and wound 95.¹⁵²
- **March 3, 2009:** TTP militants attack a bus carrying Sri Lanka’s national cricket team in Lahore, Pakistan. No one is killed.¹⁵³
- **October 10, 2008:** TTP militants attack an Ali Zai tribal meeting with a suicide bomb, killing 85 and wounding 200. More than 500 tribe members had met to discuss forming an anti-Taliban militia to secure their region.¹⁵⁴

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- **August 21, 2008:** TTP militants conduct twin suicide bombings at Pakistan’s largest weapons factory, killing 66 and wounding 70.¹⁵⁵
- **January 7, 2008:** TTP militants kill nine tribesmen associated with a local pro-government leader in South Waziristan.¹⁵⁶
- **December 27, 2007:** Former prime minister of Pakistan Benazir Bhutto is assassinated while leaving a campaign rally. The attacker shoots her before detonating a suicide vest. The Pakistani government accuses the TTP. However, the group repeatedly denies responsibility.¹⁵⁷
- **December 23, 2007:** TTP fighters conduct a suicide attack on a military convoy in Mingora, Pakistan, killing 13 soldiers and wounding 25.¹⁵⁸
- **August 2007:** Hakimullah Mehsud, who later becomes TTP commander in August 2009, leads an operation to capture between 200 and 300 Pakistani soldiers. Shia prisoners were beheaded, and the remaining soldiers were exchanged for Taliban prisoners held by the government.¹⁵⁹

⁸⁴ “Militant attacks increased in July despite TTP ceasefire: report,” Dawn, August 2, 2022, <https://www.dawn.com/news/1702729>.

⁸⁵ “Militant attacks increased in July despite TTP ceasefire: report,” Dawn, August 2, 2022, <https://www.dawn.com/news/1702729>.

⁸⁶ “Militants ambush Pakistani troops in northwest, killing 7,” Associated Press, April 15, 2022, <https://abcnews.go.com/International/wireStory/militants-ambush-pakistani-troops-northwest-killing-84106021>.

⁸⁷ Saud Mehsud, “Five Pakistan soldiers killed in attack from Afghanistan, military says,” Reuters, February 6, 2022, <https://www.reuters.com/world/asia-pacific/five-pakistan-soldiers-killed-attack-afghanistan-military-says-2022-02-06/>.

⁸⁸ “Pakistani Taliban claim multiple overnight attacks on police,” Associated Press, January 18, 2022, <https://apnews.com/article/afghanistan-taliban-sheikh-rashid-pakistan-islamabad-644d35d0d91cae3bfd9657bd8e0f8874>; Ayaz Gul, “Taliban Militants Claim Responsibility for Rare Attack in Pakistan’s Capital,” Voice of America, January 18, 2022, <https://www.voanews.com/a/taliban-militants-claim-responsibility-for-rare-attack-in-pakistan-s-capital-/6401515.html>.

⁸⁹ “Pakistan says militant attack on army post kills soldier,” Associated Press, January 14, 2022, <https://abcnews.go.com/International/wireStory/pakistan-militant-attack-army-post-kills-soldier-82269284>.

⁹⁰ Ayaz Gul, “Clashes With Militants Kill 4 Pakistani Troops Near Afghan Border,” Voice of America, December 31, 2021, <https://www.voanews.com/a/clashes-with-militants-kill-4-pakistani-troops-near-afghan-border/6376815.html>.

⁹¹ “Second cop on polio duty martyred in as many days in KP’s Tank district,” Dawn, December 12, 2021, <https://www.dawn.com/news/1663402/second-cop-on-polio-duty-martyred-in-as-many-days-in-kps-tank-district>.

⁹² “7 Soldiers Martyred, 5 Terrorists Killed in South Waziristan Operation: ISPR,” Dawn (Karachi), September 15, 2021, <https://www.Dawn.com/news/1646554/7-soldiers-martyred-5-terrorists-killed-in-south-waziristan-operation-ispr>.

⁹³ Gul Yousafzai, “Three Soldiers Killed in Suicide Attack in Southwest Pakistan,” Reuters, September 5, 2021, <https://www.reuters.com/world/asia-pacific/three-soldiers-killed-suicide-attack-southwest-pakistan-2021-09-05/>.

⁹⁴ Michael Kugelman, “Pakistan’s Friendship with the Taliban Is Changing,” *Foreign Policy*, September 13, 2021, <https://foreignpolicy.com/2021/09/13/pakistan-taliban-ties-afghanistan/>.

⁹⁵ Antonio Giustozzi, “The Resurgence of the Tehrik-i-Taliban Pakistan,” Royal United Services Institute, August 12, 2021, <https://rusi.org/explore-our-research/publications/commentary/resurgence-tehrik-i-taliban-pakistan>.

⁹⁶ Umair Jamal, “The TTP Has Redefined Its Goals: Should Pakistan Be Worried?,” *Diplomat* (Arlington), August 11, 2021, <https://thediplomat.com/2021/08/the-ttp-has-redefined-its-goals-should-pakistan-be-worried/>.

⁹⁷ Abdul Sayed and Tore Hamming, “The Revival of the Pakistani Taliban,” *Combating Terrorism Center Sentinel* 14, no. 4 (April/May 2021): 36, <https://ctc.usma.edu/wp-content/uploads/2021/04/CTC-SENTINEL-042021.pdf>.

⁹⁸ Abdul Sayed and Tore Hamming, “The Revival of the Pakistani Taliban,” *Combating Terrorism Center Sentinel* 14, no. 4 (April/May 2021): 35, <https://ctc.usma.edu/wp-content/uploads/2021/04/CTC-SENTINEL-042021.pdf>.

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Tehrik-i-Taliban Pakistan (TTP)

Designations:

Designations by the U.S. Government:

- ○ September 1, 2010: The U.S. Secretary of State designates Tehrik-e Taliban Pakistan (TTP) as a Foreign Terrorist Organization (FTO).¹⁶⁰
- September 1, 2010: The U.S. Department of the Treasury designates Tehrik-e Taliban Pakistan (TTP) as a Specially Designated Global Terrorist (SDGT) pursuant to Executive Order 13224.¹⁶¹
- September 1, 2010: The U.S. State Department lists top TTP leaders Hakimullah Mehsud and Wali ur-Rehman as Specially Designated Global Terrorists.¹⁶²
- January 13, 2015: The U.S. State Department lists TTP leader Mualana Fazlullah as a Specially Designated Global Terrorist.¹⁶³

Designations by Foreign Governments and Organizations:

- July 5, 2011: Canada lists the Pakistani Taliban as a terrorist organization.¹⁶⁴
- July 29, 2011: France designates the Pakistani Taliban as a terrorist organization.¹⁶⁵
- November 15, 2014: UAE Cabinet lists TTP as a terrorist organization.¹⁶⁶
- January 2011: The United Kingdom lists the Pakistani Taliban as a terrorist organization.¹⁶⁷
- October 15, 1999: The U.N. Security Council passes resolutions 1267 (1999) and 1989 (2011), also known as the “Al-Qaida Sanctions Committee” on October 15, 1999. The resolutions oversee “the implementation of sanctions measures imposed on Taliban-controlled Afghanistan for its support of Usama bin Laden.”¹⁶⁸ The resolution is later amended and strengthened by the following resolutions: 1333 (2000),¹⁶⁹ 1390 (2002),¹⁷⁰ 1455 (2003),¹⁷¹ 1526 (2004),¹⁷² 1617 (2005),¹⁷³ 1735 (2006),¹⁷⁴ 1822 (2008),¹⁷⁵ 1904 (2009),¹⁷⁶ 2083 (2012),¹⁷⁷ 2161 (2014),¹⁷⁸ 2253 (2015), and resolution 2610 (2021).¹⁷⁹ The United Nations also lists the Pakistani Taliban under the category “Entities and other groups and undertakings associated with Al Qaida” on July 29, 2011.¹⁸⁰

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Tehrik-i-Taliban Pakistan (TTP)

Associations:

Ties to Extremist Entities:

The TTP has been intertwined with several violent extremist groups in Afghanistan and Pakistan since its founding. Prior to his death, TTP founder Mehsud had made an oath of allegiance to the Taliban, al-Qaeda, the Islamic Movement of Uzbekistan (IMU), and the Haqqani network.¹⁸¹ The group also cooperates with other factions under the Pakistan Taliban umbrella, though the TTP and other factions disagree at times over strategy and territorial control.¹⁸²

- **Taliban**

TTP fighters and leadership have pledged allegiance to the Afghan Taliban, using the pledge to boost recruitment among Pakistani Pashtuns who support the Taliban's fight in Afghanistan.¹⁸³ The Taliban uses this loyalty to secure safe areas for its fighters and leadership within Pakistan and to recruit Pakistanis into its force.¹⁸⁴ TTP-Taliban relations date back to the fall of the beginning of the Taliban's insurgency in 2001, when many TTP members assisted the Taliban with recruitment within Pakistan and provided logistical support for the group before the formation of TTP in 2007.¹⁸⁵

Despite this relationship, the Taliban have criticized the TTP over the years, most notably following the 2014 attack on the Pakistan military school in which TTP fighters killed hundreds of school children, which the Taliban condemned as "un-Islamic".¹⁸⁶

Following the Taliban's capture of Kabul, Afghanistan, in August 2021, Pakistan's Interior Minister stated that they "assured" Pakistan that they will not allow the TTP to conduct attacks out of Afghanistan.¹⁸⁷

- **Al-Qaeda**

TTP founder Baitullah Mehsud fostered a close working relationship with al-Qaeda from the TTP's creation and echoed al-Qaeda rhetoric until his death in 2009.¹⁸⁸ Al-Qaeda fighters embedded alongside TTP fighters during operations in both Pakistan and Afghanistan.¹⁸⁹ In exchange, the TTP has allowed al-Qaeda leaders and militants to operate out of territory it controls, particularly in South Waziristan, Pakistan.¹⁹⁰ However, al-Qaeda leadership has on multiple occasions criticized the TTP's targeting of civilians and warned the group to stop, particularly following the appointment of Fazlullah in 2013.¹⁹¹ This has not impeded al-Qaeda and TTP cooperation, however. For example, veteran TTP commander Adnan Rashid runs a joint AQ-TTP English propaganda magazine.¹⁹²

- **Islamic Movement of Uzbekistan**

As with al-Qaeda, TTP has been closely allied to the Islamic Movement of Uzbekistan (IMU) since its founding in 2007.¹⁹³ IMU fighters have embedded alongside TTP militants to conduct joint operations in both Afghanistan and Pakistan, such as the 2012 Bannu Prison break and the 2014 Jinnah International Airport attack.¹⁹⁴ TTP and IMU formed a joint unit commanded by veteran TTP commander Adnan Rashid focused on operations to free imprisoned members of both groups.¹⁹⁵ In exchange, the TTP has given refuge to IMU leadership and fighters in its territory in South Waziristan.¹⁹⁶ The IMU's chief Jurist, Abu Zarr Azzam, taught TTP scholar Qari Hussein in Karachi and maintain close personal ties to the TTP leadership.¹⁹⁷

- **Haqqani Network**

The TTP has had a working relationship with the Haqqani network since the former's founding in 2007, when the two groups agreed to cooperate on hostage taking and ransom demands as a means of raising funds.¹⁹⁸ Haqqani allegedly provides thousands of soldiers to TTP and other Pakistani Taliban factions while also facilitating TTP operations in Afghanistan, while TTP provides room for Haqqani to conduct operations in Pakistan.¹⁹⁹ Despite this, at least one instance of fighting between the two groups has been recorded. In April 2012, clashes between TTP and Haqqani fighters in Pakistan's North Waziristan left at least eight people dead, including a commander from each group.²⁰⁰

¹⁸¹ Imtiaz Ali, "Commander of the Faithful," *Foreign Policy*, July 9, 2009, archived in the Internet Archive, https://web.archive.org/web/20091011041529/http://www.foreignpolicy.com/articles/2009/07/09/pakistans_bin_laden?page=full; "Tehrik-i-Taliban Pakistan," Mapping Militant Organizations, Center for International Security and Cooperation, Stanford University, last modified July 2018, 12, <https://stanford.app.box.com/s/38mt4uo1u67qwf8rd3gm9ty7bc5bai>.

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Tehrik-i-Taliban Pakistan (TTP)

Rhetoric:

Hakimullah Mehsud, then-Emir of TTP, October 9, 2013

“We will stand with the Muslims. We call on both governments and the Muslim people to submit themselves to the Islamic system, which guarantees success in this world as well as in the hereafter. We will stand by the Muslims.”²⁰¹

Hakimullah Mehsud, then-Emir of TTP, October 9, 2013

“Those who have faith in infidels are friends of America and follow the system of the infidels. Praise be to God, we have targeted those who are with the infidels, America, and we will continue to target them.”²⁰²

Noor Wali Mehsud, interview, July 2021

“Our fight is only in Pakistan, and we are at war with the Pakistani security forces...we are hoping to take control of the Pakistani tribal border regions and make them independent.”²⁰³

Noor Wali Mehsud, interview, July 2021

“The Afghan Taliban victory is a victory for the entire Muslim people. Our relations are based on brotherhood, sympathy, and Islamic principles.”²⁰⁴

Noor Wali Mehsud, statement, August 2021

“As a result, for twenty years, praise be to Allah, we defeated the great tyrant of modern times [the U.S.] and his slaves and crowned the entire Islamic Ummah and especially the Mujahid and Ghazi Afghan people.”²⁰⁵

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²⁰² Noor Wali Mehsud, interview by Ahmed Wali Mujeeb, BBC News, October 9, 2013, <http://www.bbc.com/news/world-asia-24466791>.

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