



TERROR TRACKER

Newsletter by Counter Terrorism Centre



MANOHAR PARRIKAR INSTITUTE FOR
DEFENCE STUDIES AND ANALYSES
मनोहर पर्रिकर रक्षा अध्ययन एवं विश्लेषण संस्थान



AI-QAEDA CHIEF KILLED IN US DRONE ATTACK

Ayman Al-Zawahiri Hid in Safehouse of Haqqani's Aide in Kabul

TERROR MODULE RUN BY RETIRED COP BUSTED

Parents' Plea Persuades Two Kashmiri Terrorists to Surrender

GRENADE BLAST DURING T20 CRICKET MATCH

Ex-Soldier of Germany Posed as Refugee to Strike Terror

+ MORE NEWS & ANALYSES

‘GOTCHA’: US DRONE STRIKE TAKES OUT AL-QAEDA CHIEF

AYMAN AL ZAWAHIRI KILLED IN SAFEHOUSE OF HAQQANI’S AIDE IN KABUL



The Kabul safe, where Zawahiri was hiding, photographed after the drone strike. (Inset picture of Al-Zawahiri)

On 31 July 2022, Ayman al-Zawahiri, the leader of al-Qaeda, was killed by a US drone in a “precise tailored airstrike” using two Hellfire missiles. President Joe Biden announced this crucial milestone in American counter-terrorism operations on 1 August 2022. As per reports, al-Zawahiri was residing in a safe house in Kabul, owned by an aide of Afghanistan’s Interior Minister Sirajuddin Haqqani.

Americans did not inform the Taliban officials about the strike before it occurred and claims have been made that senior Haqqani Network members previously restricted access to the house where al-Zawahiri had taken refuge and they relocated his family elsewhere

While addressing the strike from the White House, President Biden reminded the world about the former al-Qaeda leader’s role in 9/11 attacks and planning numerous other attacks against his fellow Americans. He also spoke about the deliverance of justice with this operation and asserted that “We make it clear tonight, that no matter how long it takes, no matter where you hide, if you are a threat to our people, the United States will find you and take you out.”

The Taliban spokesperson, Zabiullah Mujahid, while condemning the U.S. strike in what he referred to as “a residential house in Sherpur area of Kabul city,” called strike to “a clear violation of international principles and the Doha Agreement– [CNN News](#), [Politico](#), [BBC News](#)

BIN LADEN’S DOCTOR OF DEATH



Ayman al-Zawahiri stands behind bars in an Egyptian court in 1982

Ayman al-Zawahiri was believed to be the true architect behind the Sept. 11 attacks and was present at the founding of Al-Qaeda with Bin Laden in 1988. In the early 90s, Zawahiri became head of a militant organization named the Egyptian Islamic Jihad (EIJ). The EIJ had been responsible for the assassination of President Anwar Sadat in 1981. Al-Zawahiri later merged EIJ with Al-Qaeda in 1998 to form the World Islamic Front for the Jihad against the Jews and the Crusaders.

Al Zawahiri masterminded the 1998 bombings of American embassies in Tanzania and Kenya. He also engineered the attack on USS Cole in 2000. Before his death, he was one of F.B.I.’s most wanted terrorists. He also had a \$25 million bounty on head. – [CNN News](#), [NPR](#)

GRENADE BLAST ROCKS KABUL CRICKET STADIUM: 2 KILLED

EXPLOSION SHOOK HUNDREDS OF SPECTATORS WATCHING T-20 MATCH



Two pictures taken at the scene of the blast and spectators panicking on the other side of the Kabul International Cricket Stadium on 29 July 2022.

A grenade explosion during a match at Afghanistan's main cricket stadium injured four spectators and briefly halted the game on 29 July 2022, officials and police said. The explosion happened at a match between Pamir Zalmi and Band-e-Amir Dragons in the country's domestic T20 league, held at the Kabul International Cricket Stadium.

Hundreds of people were at the match on a Friday, the weekly holiday in Afghanistan.

Kabul police spokesman Khalid Zadran said the explosion was caused by a grenade, adding that the game was stopped for a few minutes.

It injured four spectators, said the Afghanistan Cricket Board's chief executive Naseeb Khan.

"The players, staff members and foreigners are all safe," he said on Twitter, without offering details.

This year's edition of the Shpageeza Cricket League — its eighth season — is the first such tournament since the Taliban came to power in August last year.

Its eight teams have many players from the country's national team.

Cricket is a popular game in Afghanistan, with many of its players gaining international recognition.

While levels of violence in Afghanistan have receded since the Taliban's takeover, the jihadist group Islamic State (Khorasan) has carried out several bombings and gun attacks in recent months. The explosion occurred two days after one that went off near the entrance to Kabul's Gurdwara Karte Parwan. There were no reported fatalities in the incident. — [Times of India](#), [Cricketaddictor](#)

EX-SOLDIER POSED AS REFUGEE TO PLOT TERROR ATTACKS



FRANCO A.

On 15 July 2022, a German court sentenced Franco A., a former German soldier, to five and a half years in prison for planning far-right terrorism attacks, including the murder of pro-refugee politicians and for illegally hoarding arms and ammunition.

He has also been accused of deceiving the authorities, having led a double life as a Syrian refugee, David Benjamin.

According to the prosecutors, he hoped to direct the blame of pro-refugee politicians' assassinations in the refugee community's direction. He was also the member of a far-right network, Hannibal, in preparation for the "collapse of the German State on Day X." — [BBC News](#), [NBC News](#)

INDIA AND ASEAN DISCUSS COUNTER-TERROR COOPERATION

On 20 July 2022, India and ASEAN conducted their ninth ASEAN-India Senior Officials Meeting on Transnational Crimes (SOMTC), virtually. The participants engaged in important discussions about ways to deepen cooperation in their collective fight against cybercrime, terrorism, and narco-trafficking, per the blueprint laid down by ASEAN-India Work Plan to Combat Transnational Crimes.

The Indian Ministry of External Affairs released a statement denoting the significant and multifaceted security challenges the two partners face –“Both sides strongly condemn terrorism in all its forms and manifestations and emphasized the need to strengthen international cooperation to combat terrorism and transnational crimes in a comprehensive and sustained manner. Institutional linkages and capacity building programmes between the two sides were also discussed.” – [The Economic Times](#)

Ethiopian police, Al Shabaab clash, 80 killed

On 20 July 2022, Al-Qaeda affiliate Al-Shabaab group attacked two Somali villages –Yeed and Aato (bordering Ethiopia) — in which 17 people were killed.

The dead included civilians and Ethiopian police officers operating inside the Somalian territory. A total of 63 Al-Shabaab terrorists were also killed in the exchange of fire.

According to an Ethiopian commander, these attacks occurred following the death of an Al-Shabaab commander on the Ethiopian side of the border. –

[Reuters](#), [VOA News](#), [Alarabiya News](#)

US Homeland Security shortcomings highlighted

The US Department of Homeland Security’s (DHS) internal audit report authored by its Inspector General, Joseph Cuffari, recently revealed glaring shortcomings in the organization’s efforts to counter domestic terrorism.

The report’s findings underscored how the DHS has struggled to address the security threat that has been reinforced due to the national gun culture, amplifying the fatalities and injuries across age, socio-economic, and racial demographics. – [The](#)

[Crime Report](#)

UK teenager admits to far-right crime

Oliver Riley, an 18-year-old Oxfordshire native, pled guilty to extreme right-wing terror offences on 11 July 2022.

He was arrested in October 2021 after he uploaded numerous neo-Nazi videos, violating UK Terrorism Act Legislation.

The court will announce his sentence on 19 August 2022. Riley is currently out on bail. – [Oxfordshire](#)

[Live](#)

NIA charges 8 Khalistan supporters with murder

On 25 July 2022, the National Investigation Agency charged eight Khalistan Liberation Front members in the murder of Comrade Balwinder Singh Sandhu, a Shaurya Chakra awardee. Sukhraj Singh, alias Sukha, Gurjit Singh, alias Bhaa, Ravinder Singh, alias Ravi Dhillon, Akashdeep Arora, alias Dhaliwal, Jagroop Singh, and Sukhdeep Singh, alias Bura are the accused. Comrade Sandhu was conferred with this honour for his role in fighting terrorism in Punjab.

Two assailants killed him in October 2020. –

[Hindustan Times](#)

TTP terrorist gets 25 years in jail

On 20 July 2022, the Anti-Terrorism Court in Kohat, sentenced a TTP terrorist - Azizullah of the Alikhel tribe of Orakzai – to 25 years in prison, in addition to imposing a fine of 1 million Pakistani rupees.

The convict, affiliated with the Hafiz Daulat group, has been charged with kidnapping 16 labourers from the Kurram district in June 2021, and murdering one of them. – [DAWN](#)

Six Palestinians held on terror charges

As per a statement released on 5 July 2022, six Palestinians were arrested in West Bank, in a joint operation conducted by the IDF, Shin Bet, and Israel Border Police.

The arrested persons are suspected of engaging in terrorist activities.

Illegal weapons were also seized during this overnight operation.

Yair Lapid, the Israeli Prime Minister claimed that “The IDF will continue fighting terror whenever and wherever necessary.” – [i24 News](#)