



# TERROR TRACKER

*Newsletter by Counter Terrorism Centre*



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



## ISIS SUICIDE BLAST **KILLS 54** IN PAKISTAN

*Saudi Chief of Muslim World League Visits India, Condemns Terrorism*

## TERROR MODULE HEADED **BY PHD SCHOLAR** BUSTED

*Three J&K Government Employees Sacked over Terror Links*

## '**MOST-WANTED**' **AL-QAEDA** RECRUITER NABBED

*NIA Attaches PFI's Arms Training Centre in Kerala*

**+ MORE NEWS & ANALYSES**

# ISIS BEHIND SUICIDE BLAST IN PAKISTAN: 54 KILLED

EXPLOSION AT PRO-TALIBAN JUI (F) RALLY IN KHYBER PAKHTUNKHWAH



Relatives and mourners attend the funeral prayer of victims who were killed in Sunday's suicide bomber attack in the Baiur district of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. — AP

On 30 July 2023, Jamiat Ulema-e-Islam-Fazl's (JUIF) political rally organised in Pakistan's Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province was struck by a bomb blast. It is reported that 54 people killed and over one hundred wounded in this attack.

Maulana Ziaullah Jan, the party's local leader, was one of the people killed. Islamic State in Khorasan Province (ISKP) claimed responsibility for this attack on 31 July. It is notable that the JUIF is a supporter of the Hanafi-Deobandi regime of Taliban in Afghanistan, which is opposed by the Salafi-jihadist ISKP.

More than 500 people were attending JUIF's convention when the blast occurred, considered to be one of the worst in recent years. About 12 kilograms worth of explosives were used to target the rally.

There is fear that casualty figures may continue to increase.

While JUI-F's Chief, Maulana Fazlur Rahman, called on the federal government to investigate this matter, Prime Minister Shahbaz Sharif called the terrorists' victims as advocates of Islam, Pakistan, and the Quran.

Therefore, the perpetrators 'will be eliminated.' Another JUI-F leader, Hafiz Hamdullah, who condemned the deadly attack and pointed out that attacks against his group were not an anomaly, added that 'this is not jihad but terrorism.' — [The Hindu](#), [The Indian Express](#), [Onmanorama](#), [AP News](#)

SAUDI CHIEF OF  
MUSLIM WORLD  
LEAGUE SAYS  
TERRORISTS DO  
NOT FOLLOW  
RELIGION



Mohammad Bin Abdulkarim Al-Issa, Saudi politician and Muslim World League's Chief, condemned the actions of terrorist organisations who misinterpret religions for their purposes during his visit to India recently.

He added that groups such as ISIS and al-Qaeda undermine global stability, peace, and security and 'have no religion or country.'

He added that 'these ideas (propagated by terrorist groups) and these movements that take up arms are based on distorting images of these religions. And that is why religious leaders must take up their roles to confront them.' He added that terrorism has nothing to do with Islam. — [The Print](#)

## THREE J&K GOVT EMPLOYEES SACKED OVER TERROR LINKS



FAHEEM ASLAM

Jammu and Kashmir's administration has sacked three employees – Faheem Aslam (Public Relations Officer, Kashmir University), Arshid Ahmad Thoker (a Police Constable), and Murawath Hussain Mir (a Revenue Officer) – from the services under Article 211 (2) (c). Termination from service under the abovementioned special provisions does not warrant any departmental enquiry.

These provisions were introduced in 2021, two years following the 2019 constitutional reforms. As per officials familiar with investigations, these individuals were 'actively working with Pakistani terror outfits, providing logistics to terrorists, propagating terrorist ideology, raising terror finances, and furthering a secessionist agenda.' – [The Hindu](#)

# TERRORIST MODULE HEADED BY PH.D. SCHOLAR BUSTED IN J&K

HUGE CACHE OF WEAPONS SEIZED FROM 'HYBRID MILITANTS'



The arrested terrorists were associated with Jamaat-ul-Tulbha (student wing of Jamat Jamat-e-Islami. — [Brighter Kashmir](#)

On 26 July 2023, Jammu and Kashmir's police dismantled a terrorist module following the arrest of a Ph.D. scholar in Kulgam district, associated with the Central University of Kashmir.

Dr. Rubani Bashir alias Dr. Sabeel, the abovementioned scholar, has been accused of providing logistical support, identifying, financing, and motivating the impressionable youth in the district to join terrorist organisations. Furthermore, he had been affiliated with banned terrorist groups like Jaish-e-Mohammed and Hizbul Mujahideen.

It was also discovered during interrogation that he had been associated with Jamat-e-Islami's for fourteen years through its student wing, Jamat-ul-Tulbha. His associates, Tariq Ahmed Naikoo and Fazil Ahmed Parrey, were also arrested. Additionally, an Alto car used for transporting terrorists was seized by the police officers.

Through detailed disclosures made by these arrested individuals, a Chinese pistol, 09 9mm rounds, and one pistol magazine were recovered from Bashir, an AK-47 magazine and 19 AK-47 rounds were recovered from Parrey. Moreover, the officers also seized a Chinese grenade and an additional 10 AK-47 rounds.

These perpetrators are hybrid militants who 'do not figure on police records as ultras, but are clandestinely involved in militant activities on an occasional basis while maintaining a job of a business as a cover.' – [Greater Kashmir](#), [The Indian Express](#)

# INDIA, MALDIVES HOLD JWG MEET TO COUNTER TERROR

INTELLIGENCE-SHARING, CAPACITY BUILDING, BEST PRACTICES DISCUSSED



India and Maldives in their joint working group meeting pledged to combat terrorism. — Photo courtesy: Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Maldives

On 24 July 2023, India and the Maldives co-chaired the second meeting of their Joint Working Group on Counter-Terrorism, Countering Violent Extremism, and De-Radicalisation. Some of the key themes discussed included countering terrorism and thwarting the use of cyberspace and the internet for the purpose of violent extremism and terrorism. On the one hand, the Indian delegation was spearheaded by Mr. Sanjay Verma (Ministry of External Affairs, West), and on the other, the Maldivian delegation was led by Mr. M.V. Ahmed Latheef (the Foreign Secretary).

The need to address the problem of terrorism effectively through global cooperation and counter-terror cooperation was termed critical to upholding security in the Indian Ocean Region by those present. Furthermore, the representatives underscored how stringent and credible action by all state actors is necessary to disallow their territories from being used to carry out terror attacks and bring the perpetrators to justice as swiftly as possible. Both delegations also discussed issues such as combating organised narcotics and crime and repatriation, rehabilitation, and reintegration of returnees.

Capacity building for all relevant agencies, information sharing, and collaboration about best practices in areas such as countering violent extremism and terrorism were highlighted as other areas of bilateral cooperation. Finally, they reaffirmed their commitment to deepening cooperation and dialogue in regional and multilateral platforms such as the Colombo Security Conclave and the United Nations. — [ANI News](#)

**'MOST WANTED'  
AL-QAEDA  
RECRUITER  
NABBED IN  
BANGLADESH**



IKRAMUL HAQUE

**I**kramul Haque alias Abu Talha, the top leader of Al-Qaeda in the Indian Subcontinent's (AQIS) Dawah wing and one of India's 'most-wanted terrorists' and his wife, Faria Afrin, have been arrested by Bangladesh's Counter-Terrorism and Transnational Crime Unit after a raid conducted in Dhaka. They had been remanded numerous times previously, and India's Anti-Terrorism Squad had been looking for Abu Talha for the past year. As per the abovementioned Bangladeshi unit, Afrin was also involved with women's wing of AQIS. — [ANI News](#)

## NIA ATTACHES PFI'S ARMS TRAINING CENTRE IN KERALA

The National Investigation Agency (NIA) has attached one of the oldest and largest weapons and physical training centres of the banned Popular Front of India (PFI) as “proceeds of terrorism” under the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act.

It is the sixth PFI Arms Training centres and the 18<sup>th</sup> property linked to the banned outfit to be attached by the NIA in Kerala, as part of the agency’s ongoing efforts to crack down on terror activities.

Spread across a vast 10-hectare area in Kerala’s Manjeri, the training centre, known as the Green Valley Academy was managed by the Green Valley Foundation’ (GVF).

NIA probe shows that PFI conducted arms training sessions on the use and testing of explosives for its cadres, specifically for those associated with their ‘Service Wing’. – [Hindustan Times](#)

### UN Report Warns of AQIS-TTP Merger

The recent United Nations (UN) report about al-Qaeda (AQ) and ISIS indicated that AQ and Afghan Taliban share a ‘close and symbiotic relationship.’ Furthermore, led by Osama Mehmood, AQIS, with its 200 fighters, is looking to expand into Myanmar, J&K, and Bangladesh. At the same time, it was underscored that while some elements in AQIS have expressed willingness to defect or collaborate with Islamic State in Khorasan Province, there also exists the possibility of AQIS merging with Tehreek-e-Taliban Pakistan (TTP).

A UN member state has warned that TTP has become ‘emboldened’ due to the Afghan Taliban’s takeover of Afghanistan nearly two years ago. Moreover, AQIS appears ‘to be providing guidance to TTP for conducting attacks within Pakistan.’ –

[Hindustan Times](#)

### UK Teen Held for Right-Wing Extremist Offences

Mason Reynolds, an 18-year-old teenager from Brighton, England, has been charged with eleven counts of terrorism-related offences linked to an ‘extreme right-wing ideology.’

He was initially arrested on 27 June 2023 by the Counter Terrorism Policing South East Unit. –

[BBC News](#)

### US gives Togo \$3m in aid for terror displaced people

The United States of America has extended US\$3 million to Togo to address the challenge posed by the displacement of 60,000 people due to terrorism-related activities.

Since 2021, this North African country has been afflicted by the spillover of terrorism from neighbouring Burkina Faso, compelling numerous people to flee their homes. – [North Africa Post](#)

### 4,600 Terror Killings in West Africa in Six Months

More than 1,800 terrorist attacks have occurred throughout West Africa in the first six months of 2023. This has resulted in approximately 4,600 deaths. Omar Touray is the President of the ECOWAS Commission. He explained that terrorism spanning Benin and Togo, which have coastlines along with the Atlantic Ocean, highlights ‘the expansion of terrorism to littoral states, a situation that poses additional threat to the region.’

Additionally, he mentioned that lack of coordination and willingness among commission’s member states has resulted in a failure to integrate various counter-terror initiatives into a regional plan of action. – [AP News](#)

### German Police Arrests Six Terror Plotters

On 6 July 2023, seven people suspected of establishing a terrorist organisation in June 2022 aimed at carrying out high-profile attacks like ISIS were arrested by the German police. They had also financed terror by raising and transferring funds to ISIS since April 2022. This group comprises of Tajik, Kyrgyz, and Turkmen, who had entered the country following the outbreak of the Ukrainian crisis last year. –

[Reuters](#)

### Six Men Found Guilty of 2016 Brussels Attacks

The Brussels Court of Assizes has found six men guilty for their role in the 2016 Brussels terrorist attacks on charges of murder and attempted murder. At least 32 were killed while more than 300 were wounded when a metro station and the Brussels airport were attacked. – [The Guardian](#)