



# TERROR TRACKER

*Newsletter by Counter Terrorism Centre*



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



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# Pakistan Airstrikes in Afghanistan against TTP, Claim 46 Lives

On 24 December 2024, airstrikes carried out by Pakistan's armed forces in Paktika Province (Eastern Afghanistan) killed approximately 46 Afghans (mostly women and children) and wounded around 6 others due to the aerial bombardment carried out across 4 different locations.

The neighbours have a strained relationship, with Pakistan saying that several TTP attacks that have occurred in its country have been launched from Afghan soil — a charge the Afghan Taliban denies.

Afghanistan's interim defence ministry identified those killed in Pakistan's bombardment as "mostly Waziristani refugees" - indicating that they were from Pakistan's Waziristan territory.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Pakistan confirmed on Thursday that the country carried out airstrikes inside Afghanistan, describing it as an "intelligence-based operation"

that killed "terrorists." Zahma Mumtaz Baloch, the ministry's spokesperson, said that "Our security and law enforcement personnel conduct operation in border areas to protect the people of Pakistan from terrorist groups," Baloch said, emphasizing that the operation was carried out based on "solid evidence." However, she dismissed claims that women and children were killed as a result of the operation.

As per Pakistani officials, these targeted strikes were carried out to neutralise the escalating threat posed by Tehreek-e-Taliban Pakistan (TTP).

While this is not the first time Pakistan has adopted these measures to counter the surging security threat posed by TTP, it is possible that the latest event was carried out in response to the TTP-led attack in South Waziristan region, killing at least 16 Pakistani security personnel on 21 December 2024. – [Reuters](#), [Kabul Now](#)

# India Cracks Down on Al-Qaeda 'Sleeper Cells' in W. Bengal, Assam

Indian authorities have remained steadfast in their efforts to eradicate the menace of terrorism from the country. This is evident by the recent crackdown and arrests of members of Al-Qaeda affiliates in Assam and West Bengal.

On 24 December 2024, Special Task Force (STF), along with Kokrajhar District Police carried out an operation in Namapara area and arrested two individuals who were sleeper cell' members of a network, having links with the Bangladesh-based Ansarullah Bangla Team (ABT), which is an affiliate of the Al-Qaeda in Indian Subcontinent (AQIS).

Addressing a press conference here, Special Director General of Police Harmeet Singh said, "The team, led by STF Inspector General Parthasarathi Mahanta, achieved a huge success in averting a possible major terror act by the Jihadi elements of a global terrorist organisation. We seized huge war-like stores from them." He said that

the operation was part of the ongoing multi-state exercise — Operation Praghat.

In the lead-up to the above-mentioned arrest in Assam, on the intervening night of December 17-18, the Assam Police arrested eight suspected terrorists, including one Bangladeshi, in coordinated inter-state operations and busted an attempt to set up 'sleeper cells' to carry subversive activities across the country.

Furthermore, a suspected terrorist of the Tehreek-ul-Mujahideen (TuM) was arrested from South 24 Parganas in West Bengal in a joint raid carried out by the Jammu and Kashmir police and the Special Task Force (STF) of West Bengal. "A 58-year-old man identified as Javed Ahmed Mushi was arrested from a house at Canning in South 24 Parganas on Sunday. He is a resident of Srinagar and is suspected of having close links with the TuM," said a senior IPS officer in West Bengal. — [\*Deccan Herald\*](#), [\*Hindustan Times\*](#)

# French Court Convicts 8 of Involvement in Teacher's Beheading

A French anti-terrorism court convicted eight individuals on 20 December 2024 for their involvement in the beheading of Samuel Paty, a schoolteacher, 4 years ago.

Paty was killed outside his school near Paris on Oct. 16, 2020, days after showing his class cartoons of the Prophet Muhammad during a debate on free expression. The assailant, Abdoullakh Anzorov, had been shot to death by the police in the aftermath of the attack in 2020.

The attack occurred against a backdrop of protests in many Muslim countries and calls online for violence targeting France and the satirical French newspaper Charlie Hebdo.

The newspaper had republished its caricatures of Prophet Muhammad a few weeks before Paty's death to mark the opening of the trial over deadly 2015 attacks on its newsroom by Islamic extremists.

Those who have been on trial on terrorism charges at a special court in Paris since the end of November are accused, in some cases, of providing assistance to the perpetrator and, in others, of organizing a hate campaign online before the murder took place.

Prosecutors requested sentences ranging from 18 months suspended imprisonment to 16 years in prison against the defendants. Much attention at the trial focused on Brahim Chnina, the Muslim father of a teenager who was 13 at the time and claimed that she had been excluded from Paty's class when he showed the caricatures on Oct. 5, 2020.

Chnina, 52, sent a series of messages to his contacts denouncing Paty, saying that "this sick man" needed to be fired, along with the address of the school in the Paris suburb of Conflans Saint-Honorine. In reality, Chnina's daughter had lied to him and had never attended the lesson in question. - [ABC News](#)

## **Hizb ut-Tahrir's Radical Plans Exposed: Sleeper Cells in India**

The NIA has uncovered a Hizb ut-Tahrir conspiracy in India to promote violent jihad and establish an Islamic caliphate, targeting Tamil Nadu and other states. Accused members Abdul Rahman and Mujibur Rahman were arrested in June for their role in recruiting students for secret classes and producing anti-India content, including short films. They sought to implement the Sharia-based constitution of Hizb ut-Tahrir's founder, Taqi al-Din al-Nabhani. The group's sleeper cells have been identified in multiple Indian states, including Uttar Pradesh, Tamil Nadu, Madhya Pradesh, Telangana, and Andhra Pradesh. Hizb ut-Tahrir, banned globally after supporting Hamas and engaging in anti-India activities, continues to operate through covert recruitment and ideological sessions. – [India.com](http://India.com)

## **Bengaluru Court Convicts Terrorists Planning Attack during Obama's 2015 Visit**

A special NIA court in Bengaluru has convicted three men, Syed Ismail Afak, Abdul Saboor, and Saddam Hussein, for plotting bombings during US President Obama's 2015 visit to India. The accused, linked to terror groups and trained in Pakistan, were found guilty under UAPA and Explosives Act sections. The two other accused, Ahmed and Zainulbuddin, were acquitted under UAPA Sections 13 and 23, and Sections 4 and 5 of the Explosives Act. However, a pending case remains against Zainulbuddin in Mumbai. Both the acquitted individuals will be released from prison shortly. The investigation into the case was initially led by ACP Omkarayya and Thammaiah of the CCB. The National Investigation Agency (NIA) later took over the case and filed a 2,000-page charge sheet, and presented it in court. The convicted suspects have been held in Parappana Agrahara Central Jail since 2015. – [India Today](http://India Today)

## **Anti-Terror Units Arrest 4 ISIS Members in Syria**

The Internal Security Forces of North and East Syria and the General Security Directorate, in coordination with the International Coalition, arrested four ISIS members on December 25 in the town of al-Jeneina, west of Deir ez-Zor. The operation, carried out by the Anti-Terror Units and the General Security Agency, followed surveillance of the suspects' movements. The detainees were found with weapons and equipment, and investigations are ongoing. The forces emphasised their commitment to continued operations against terrorist and criminal groups to ensure the region's safety and stability. – [ANHA Hawar News Agency](http://ANHA Hawar News Agency)