



Pakistan - Researched and compiled by the Refugee Documentation Centre of Ireland on Thursday 10 & Friday 11 May 2018

Information on the Taliban including current terrorist activities

A report issued in August 2017 by *Stanford University* points out that:

“The Tehrik-i-Taliban Pakistan (TTP) is the largest and deadliest militant umbrella organization in Pakistan...The organization formed under Baitullah Mehsud in 2007...It is a subset of the Pakistani Taliban, which includes most, but not all, of the Pakistani Taliban groups...Approximately half of all Pakistani Taliban factions coalesce under the umbrella of the TTP. Of the other half of Pakistani Taliban factions, some are only loosely affiliated with the TTP, while others have little to no association with the organization (Stanford University (6 August 2017) *Tehrik-i-Taliban Pakistan*, p.1).

This report also states that:

“The TTP is headquartered in the South Waziristan Agency of the FATA. The TTP has spread its network into all four provinces of Pakistan by establishing various chapters of the organization” (ibid, p.6).

In September 2017 the *Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade of Australia* states in a report that:

“Militant groups such as Tehreek-e Taliban Pakistan (TTP) and Lashkar-e Jhangvi (LeJ) continue to operate across Pakistan despite government and military operations disrupting their activities. The TTP—effectively an umbrella organisation for predominantly Pashtun Sunni militant groups—splintered into a number of separate groups following the beginning of the crackdown” (Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade of Australia (1 September 2017) *DFAT Country Information Report, Pakistan*, p.10).

A report published in January 2018 commenting on 2017 by the *Pakistan Institute for Conflict and Security Study* states that:

“Tehreek-e-Taliban Pakistan is the major militant group fighting against Pakistan, which was, formed as an umbrella of different groups in 2007 however, it became a single entity, and the groups who had merged into TTP lost their own identity” (Pakistan Institute for Conflict and Security Study (22 January 2018) *Pakistan: Security Assessment 2017*,p.42).

This report also states that:

“It can be safely said that the group has survived the setbacks after 2014 and now it is in phase of regrouping and reintegrating” (ibid, p.42).

In February 2018 the *Centre for Research and Security Studies* issued a report reviewing 2017 which notes that:

“...Tehreek-e-Taliban Pakistan (TTP) lost its sanctuaries in the tribal regions of Pakistan. However, territorial loss does not translate to complete elimination, as they continued sporadic attacks throughout the year” (Centre for Research and Security Studies (February 2018) *CRSS Annual Security Report 2017*, p.6).

A report published in April 2018 by the *Action on Armed Violence* states, commenting on 2017, that:

“The Taliban in Pakistan, based near Afghan border areas, continues to be a threat to stability in the country...” (Action on Armed Violence (April 2018) *The Burden of Harm: Monitoring explosive violence in 2017*, p.13).

In April 2018 the *Human Rights Commission of Pakistan* released a report reviewing events of 2017 including noting on the Taliban and FATA that:

“The reports about the resurgence of such Taliban groups despite the ongoing military operation caused serious concern” (Human Rights Commission of Pakistan (16 April 2018) *State of Human Rights in 2017*, p.271).

A paper released in February 2018 the *European Asylum Support Office* points out in a report that:

“The number of troops deployed in FATA has now been reduced because the Taliban strongholds have mostly been eliminated.” (European Asylum Support Office (27 February 2018) *EASO COI Meeting Report Pakistan October 2017*, p.16).

Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty in February 2018 states:

“Pakistani officials say gunmen have shot dead four paramilitary soldiers in the southwestern city of Quetta in an ambush claimed by the Pakistani Taliban... The banned Tehrik-e Taliban Pakistan (TTP) claimed responsibility for the attack” (Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty (14 February 2018) *Four paramilitary troopers killed in Pakistani Taliban attack*).

A paper released in March 2018 by Mantraya points out that:

“In Pakistan, Al-Qaeda or the TTP have no need to form sleeper cells as they have extensive reach across the country through affiliates and like-minded groups of the militant streams” (Mantraya (12 March 2018) *Pakistan-based militant groups & prospects of their reintegration: A Structural Analysis*, p.14).

A report published in March 2018 by *Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty* notes:

“A bomb has exploded near a police checkpoint killing three police officers and a bystander and wounding 20 others near the eastern city of Lahore, Pakistani police say... The Taliban group Tehrik-e-Taliban Pakistan claimed responsibility, saying it was a suicide attack. Lahore and its surroundings have been targeted by multiple bomb and suicide attacks in recent years” (Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty (14 March 2018) *Bomb Kills Four, Wounds 20 In Pakistan*).

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This response was prepared after researching publicly accessible information currently available to the Refugee Documentation Centre within time constraints. This response is not and does not purport to be conclusive as to the merit of any particular claim to refugee status or asylum. Please read in full all documents referred to.

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