



3.2.6. Punjabi Taliban

The term ‘Punjabi Taliban’ is an unofficial term referring to militants from non-Pashtun backgrounds who joined the TTP^{[382](#)} or allied with them in 2007, hailing from Punjab and Karachi.^{[383](#)} Their proclaimed aim was to implement Sharia.^{[384](#)} Within this broad category of militants, there was a distinct group led by Asmatullah Muawiya, a former commander of Jaish-e Muhammad (JeM). Many militants in this Punjabi group came from militant groups such as JeM and HuM which were primarily focused on anti-India operations in Kashmir.^{[385](#)} However, Punjabi Taliban figures disappeared from the TTP leadership after 2014.^{[386](#)} While the group continued to exist in name, its activities in Pakistan ceased,^{[387](#)} with some Punjabi Taliban factions becoming dormant, while others merged with AQIS.^{[388](#)} More recently, however, TTP was reported to have reactivated its networks in Punjab and Karachi, reviving the ‘Punjabi Taliban’ as part of its new ambition to wage a nationwide insurgency.^{[389](#)} A senior ethnic Punjabi TTP commander, Chaudhry Muneeb-ur-Rehman Jatt,^{[390](#)} played a key role in TTP’s recent attempts to re-expand its networks in these areas. At the same time, as of mid-2025, he remained the only known high-ranking ethnic Punjabi commander within TTP.^{[391](#)}

- [382](#)

Khan, Abdullah, Managing Director of PICSS, online interview with EUAA, 26 March 2026; Sayed, A., TTP Projecting Power Outside Pakistan’s Northwest, The Jamestown Foundation, 6 November 2025, [url](#)

- [383](#)

Sayed, A., TTP Projecting Power Outside Pakistan’s Northwest, The Jamestown Foundation, 6 November 2025, [url](#)

- [384](#)

Dawn, Punjabi Taliban give up ‘armed struggle’, 14 September 2014, [url](#)

- [385](#)

Khan, Abdullah, Managing Director of PICSS, online interview with EUAA, 26 March 2026

- [386](#)

Sayed, A., TTP Projecting Power Outside Pakistan’s Northwest, The Jamestown Foundation, 6 November 2025, [url](#)

- [387](#)

Khan, Abdullah, Managing Director of PICSS, online interview with EUAA, 26 March 2026

- [388](#)

Basit, A., Tehreek-e-Taliban Pakistan Ingress Into Punjab: Prospects and Challenges, The Diplomat, 28 May 2024, [url](#)

- [389](#)

Sayed, A., TTP Projecting Power Outside Pakistan's Northwest, The Jamestown Foundation, 6 November 2025, [url](#)

- [390](#)

Ahmad, O., Commander Muneeb: The Mind Behind the TTP's Media Transformation, The Jamestown Foundation, 24 January 2025, [url](#)

- [391](#)

Sayed, A., TTP Projecting Power Outside Pakistan's Northwest, The Jamestown Foundation, 6 November 2025, [url](#)