



3.2.9. Hafiz Gul Bahadur (HGB)

Hafiz Gul Bahadur (HGB) is a militant umbrella organisation named after its founder⁴¹² and current commander Hafiz Gul Bahadur,⁴¹³ a former leader of the North Waziristan Taliban.⁴¹⁴ HGB has a strong presence in the same district⁴¹⁵ and has ties with AQ, the Haqqani Network, and TTP.⁴¹⁶ While some sources referred to HGB as being affiliated⁴¹⁷ or aligned with TTP,⁴¹⁸ PICSS emphasised that HGB is an independent group that has distinct command structures and follows its own agenda.⁴¹⁹ As it sought to counter the TTP's rising influence in its own 'backyard', the group, mainly rooted in North Waziristan's Wazir and Dawar tribes, and TTP, dominated by South Waziristan's Mehsud tribe,⁴²⁰ engaged in intense tribal rivalries during the reference period, competing over resources, authority, and territorial control. During the reference period, the group recruited several TTP commanders and claimed that multiple local faction commanders had joined its coalition.⁴²¹ At the same time, it lost one of its key commanders to TTP.⁴²² HGB allied with the group Lashkar-e Islam (LeI)⁴²³ and is now at the helm of TTP's emerging rival, Ittehad-ul-Mujahideen Pakistan (IMP),⁴²⁴ a military alliance⁴²⁵ which includes the groups LeI and Harkat Inqilab-e Islami Pakistan (HIIP).⁴²⁶ Safdar Sial, an expert at PIPS, was quoted as saying that HGB has been perceived as a growing security threat⁴²⁷ as it carried out large numbers of attacks over the reference period, targeting security forces in ambushes, IED attacks and suicide bombings, mainly in North Waziristan. Attacks were claimed by HGB proxy groups.⁴²⁸ While a number of HGB members were killed in counterterrorism operations,⁴²⁹ they did not destroy its operational capabilities. Rumours that emerged in October 2025 of the killing of Hafiz Gul Bahadur remained unverified.⁴³⁰

- ⁴¹²

Valle, R., Jabhat Ansar al-Mahdi Khorasan Emerges as Prominent Faction of Hafiz Gul Bahadur in Pakistan, The Jamestown Foundation, 22 March 2024, [url](#)

- ⁴¹³

PICSS, Pakistan's Comprehensive National Security Profile – Annual Report 2025, 7 January 2026, [url](#), p. 26

- ⁴¹⁴

Sulaiman, S., Hafiz Gul Bahadur: A Profile of the Leader of the North Waziristan Taliban, The Jamestown Foundation, 10 April 2009, [url](#)

- ⁴¹⁵

ACLED, The battle for the borderlands: The Tehreek-i-Taliban Pakistan challenges the state's control, 6 October 2025, [url](#)

- [416](#)

Bhattacharya, S., Hafiz Gul Bahadur: Pashtun Militant Fostering Jihadist Factional Unity Along Pakistan's Durand Line, The Jamestown Foundation, 6 March 2025, [url](#)

- [417](#)

Arab News, Pakistani, Afghan negotiators hold talks in Doha after fierce clashes, airstrikes, 18 October 2025, [url](#); Rehman, Z., Taliban regime deepens Pakistan's internal security woes, DW, 14 August 2025, [url](#)

- [418](#)

Bhattacharya, S., Hafiz Gul Bahadur: Pashtun Militant Fostering Jihadist Factional Unity Along Pakistan's Durand Line, The Jamestown Foundation, 6 March 2025, [url](#)

- [419](#)

PICSS, Pakistan's Comprehensive National Security Profile – Annual Report 2025, 7 January 2026, [url](#), p. 26

- [420](#)

Basit, A., Implications of TTP-Hafiz Gul Bahadur Group Competition for Pakistan's Internal Security, The Diplomat, 25 February 2025, [url](#)

- [421](#)

PICSS, Pakistan's Comprehensive National Security Profile – Annual Report 2025, 7 January 2026, [url](#), p. 27

- [422](#)

PICSS, Pakistan's Comprehensive National Security Profile – Annual Report 2025, 7 January 2026, [url](#), p. 27; Basit, A., Implications of TTP-Hafiz Gul Bahadur Group Competition for Pakistan's Internal Security, The Diplomat, 25 February 2025, [url](#)

- [423](#)

Basit, A., Implications of TTP-Hafiz Gul Bahadur Group Competition for Pakistan's Internal Security, The Diplomat, 25 February 2025, [url](#)

- [424](#)

Abbas, M.I., Fractures and Realignments Among Pakistan's Jihadist Groups, The Diplomat, 30 October 2025, [url](#)

- [425](#)

PICSS, Emergence of 'Ittehad-ul-Mujahideen Pakistan': A New Militant Alliance Challenges TTP's Monopoly. Weekly Report 11-17 April, 2025, 18 April 2025, [url](#)

- [426](#)

Abbas, M.I., Fractures and Realignment Among Pakistan's Jihadist Groups, The Diplomat, 30 October 2025, [url](#); PICSS, Emergence of 'Ittehad-ul-Mujahideen Pakistan': A New Militant Alliance Challenges TTP's Monopoly. Weekly Report 11-17 April, 2025, 18 April 2025, [url](#)

- [427](#)

Rehman, Z., Taliban regime deepens Pakistan's internal security woes, DW, 14 August 2025, [url](#)

- [428](#)

PICSS, Pakistan's Comprehensive National Security Profile – Annual Report 2025, 7 January 2026, [url](#), p. 27

- [429](#)

PICSS, Pakistan's Comprehensive National Security Profile – Annual Report 2025, 7 January 2026, [url](#), pp. 28-29; SATP, Detail of Terrorism Update, 19 October 2025, [url](#)

- [430](#)

PICSS, Pakistan's Comprehensive National Security Profile – Annual Report 2025, 7 January 2026, [url](#), p. 26; KT, Reports Conflict Over Death of Pakistani Taliban Commander Hafiz Gul Bahadur, 23 October 2025, [url](#)