

3.3.1. Tehreek-e Taliban Pakistan (TTP) and affiliated groups

COMMON ANALYSIS
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Tehreek-e Taliban Pakistan (TTP) is an umbrella organisation of militant groups established with the approbation of Taliban leaders from the former FATA, that aim to overthrow the Pakistani government and establish a state based on Islamic rule. The group is considered the most lethal insurgent group in Pakistan, incorporating over 70 militant factions into its coalition, and an estimated number of 6 000 fighters. It benefits from significant operational and logistical support from Afghanistan's Taliban *de facto* authorities.

It operates mainly in KP near the Afghan border. Its core operational areas remained the former tribal districts of KP and adjacent border districts. TTP also expanded its activities to north-western and southern districts of KP, particularly Bannu, Dera Ismail Khan, and Lakki Marwat, maintaining persistent operational intensity. Some operations further extended into South Punjab and parts of Balochistan. Although TTP has not yet established a strong operational presence outside KP, it has strengthened its footprint through alliances with local militant factions in Punjab and Karachi. It additionally attempted to establish quasi-governance systems and shadow administrations across the former tribal districts, southern KP, parts of Punjab, and Balochistan.

TTP shifted away from indiscriminate attacks on civilians, perpetrating attacks on security forces, infrastructure, and individuals perceived to be linked to the state, such as 'military-owned businesses', individuals working in the legal and judicial sectors, schools and teachers (see Education personnel), and Pashtun individuals involved in tribal assemblies or local peacebuilding. TTP has also killed many leaders of the Awami National Party (see Pashtuns). The group has been highly active. Some attacks caused large numbers of casualties and involved the use of sniper rifles, night-vision goggles, and drones.

In areas under its influence, the establishment of checkpoints, and shadow governance structures contributed to intimidation and weakening of state authority.

TTP maintains links with several allied and associated militant groups, including Jamaat-ul Ahrar (JuA), factions associated with the so-called Punjabi Taliban (such as Jaish-e Muhammad (JeM) and Harakat-ul-Mujahideen (HuM), the Haqqani Network, the Balochistan Liberation Army (BLA), and at the tactical level, ISKP. Although many Punjabi Taliban factions became dormant or merged with Al-Qaeda in the Indian Subcontinent (AQIS) after 2014, TTP reportedly sought to revive these structures in Punjab and Karachi in support of a broader nationwide insurgency

strategy. At the same time, while TTP and Hafiz Gul Bahadur (HGB) are ideologically affiliated, TTP faces growing rivalry from HGB because of their tribal difference and geographical origin, HGB being mainly based in North Waziristan. For more information on HGB, see Other armed groups.

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