

2.2.3. Clashes and airstrikes involving Pakistan

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Most incidents involving crossfire between the Afghan de facto security forces and Pakistan have taken place along the shared eastern and southeastern border,[619] and both sides have significantly increased ‘troop presence along the border’, as reported by the UN Secretary–General.[620] In October 2025, Pakistan carried out airstrikes further into Afghanistan, targeting Kabul City.[621]

In the period 1 August 2024–31 July 2025, the UN recorded more than 48 armed incidents involving the Afghan de facto security forces and Pakistani security forces.[622] This figure is incomplete as no number was provided for the reporting period covering 1 February–30 April 2025, although the UN Secretary-General noted reports of ‘multiple’ armed incidents.[623] Similarly, the UN Secretary-General noted ‘multiple’ border incidents and Pakistani airstrikes in Afghanistan in the period 1 August–31 October 2025, but did not provide any figures.[624] Meanwhile, within the reference period of this report, ACLED recorded 107 events involving Pakistani and Afghan de facto security forces; 48 events took place in October 2025.[625]

Most Pakistani airstrikes have been carried out in border areas.[626] Most incidents recorded by the UN have been taking place in border districts of the provinces of Nangarhar, Kunar and Khost,[627] notably the districts of Goshtah, Naziyan, Lal Pur and Mohmand Darah (Nangarhar), Khas Kunar, Dur Baba (Kunar), and Tere Zayi, Gurbuz, Jaji Maidan[628] and Ali Sher (Khost).[629] Single incidents were however also recorded in the provinces of Kandahar (Shorabak),[630] Patkya (Dand Patan), Paktika (Barmal District),[631] as well as in Helmand (Dishu).[632] ACLED data indicated that the provinces affected by this conflict included Nangarhar (21 events), Kunar (20), Paktika (13), Kandahar (11), Khost (8), Helmand (4), Nuristan (4), Paktya (4) and Kabul (2).[633]

On 9 October 2025, Pakistan carried out an airstrike against Kabul City[634] with unclear damage, as well as against a civilian market in Paktika Province damaging ‘a number of shops’.[635] Fighting thereafter escalated[636] as Afghan de facto security forces retaliated on 11 October 2025 by attacking Pakistani military posts along the shared border.[637] Security forces on both sides clashed on 11–12 October 2025, in what was reported as the deadliest clashes since the Taliban takeover in 2021, killing dozens of fighters,[638] and injuring and killing many civilians.[639] Heavy fighting between the Afghan de facto security forces and the Pakistani military forces was also reported in the district of Spin Boldak (Kandahar Province) on 15 October 2025.[640] On

this day, Pakistan also conducted airstrikes against Kabul City641 and Spin Boldak City.642 According to UN data, clashes between Afghan de facto and Pakistani security forces caused at least 503 civilian casualties, with 50 killed and 453 injured, mainly by air strikes and cross-border shelling, in the period 10–17 October 2025.643 As per UNAMA's preliminary records, 17 civilians were killed and 346 injured in the district of Spin Boldak alone.644 After reaching a temporary ceasefire agreement on 19 October 2025,645 sporadic airstrikes and clashes have continued to be reported in border areas.646

According to UCDP data, events involving Pakistan caused 37 civilian deaths within the reference period of this report. Notably, 32 civilian deaths were recorded in the district of Spin Boldak in Kandahar Province.647 Civilians have also been displaced due to clashes in border areas.648 More information is available in section 2.3.1. Displacement and return.

Following clashes, Pakistan closed all border crossings with Afghanistan on 12 October 2025,649 including for trade.650 The border remained closed as of 30 November 2025,651 except for some border crossings that have been temporarily or partially reopened for migrant movements,652 mainly for Afghan returnees.653 The crossing had already been closed on 22 February 2025 due to clashes for about a month, and civilians and humanitarian actors were instructed to evacuate on the Afghan side.654

While Pakistan has claimed that they conduct airstrikes against TTP targets,655 the Afghan de facto authorities and media have reported on civilians being victims of such attacks.656 Civilian homes have reportedly been damaged or destroyed in airstrikes, including in the provinces of Kunar657 and Khost.658 According to TOLOnews 80 civilian houses were destroyed in Spin Boldak, following airstrikes in October 2025, as well as 50 shops and 10 car dealerships.659

Pakistan has also carried out airstrikes against Kabul City, including on 9 October 2025.660 According to a social media post by a Taliban spokesperson published the subsequent day, no injuries or harm had been reported.661 On 15 October 2025, two additional explosions reportedly hit Kabul City's Police District 15 and another unspecified area, according to Khaama Press,662 while the UN Secretary-General reported on the explosions taking place in police district 4.663 While Pakistan claimed to have carried out an airstrike against the capital,664 the de facto authorities attributed the explosions to a fuel tanker fire.665 There were reportedly electricity blackouts in some areas during the night and at least until the next morning, as some cables had been damaged.666

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