

3.2.3. Jamaat-ul Ahrar (JuA)

Jamaat-ul Ahrar (JuA) was created in 2014 as a TTP splinter group360 and maintains close ties to al-Qaeda.361 The group has claimed suicide attacks targeting Pakistani security forces362 and civilians in recent years.363 In 2020, the group rejoined the TTP. However, following the death of JuA leader Omar Khalid Khorasani in a 2022 roadside bombing in Afghanistan,364 which prominent JuA figures blamed on the TTP leadership,365 disputes between JuA adherents and TTP reemerged. In 2025, there were signs that these rifts were growing, as Muhammad Imad Abbas, a researcher at the digital media outlet The Khorasan Diary, stated.366 Notably, JuA resumed operating its propaganda arm Ghazi Media,367 made efforts to expand its own alliance network, and was alleged to have adopted a 'hedging policy' between the TTP and its new rival, the Ittehad-ul-Mujahideen Pakistan (IMP) group led by the Hafiz Gul Bahadur faction (HGB).368

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