



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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