



## 3.2.6. Punjabi Taliban

The term ‘Punjabi Taliban’ is an unofficial term referring to militants from non-Pashtun backgrounds who joined the TTP<sup>382</sup> or allied with them in 2007, hailing from Punjab and Karachi.<sup>383</sup> Their proclaimed aim was to implement Sharia.<sup>384</sup> Within this broad category of militants, there was a distinct group led by Asmatullah Muawiya, a former commander of Jaish-e Muhammad (JeM). Many militants in this Punjabi group came from militant groups such as JeM and HuM which were primarily focused on anti-India operations in Kashmir.<sup>385</sup> However, Punjabi Taliban figures disappeared from the TTP leadership after 2014.<sup>386</sup> While the group continued to exist in name, its activities in Pakistan ceased,<sup>387</sup> with some Punjabi Taliban factions becoming dormant, while others merged with AQIS.<sup>388</sup> More recently, however, TTP was reported to have reactivated its networks in Punjab and Karachi, reviving the ‘Punjabi Taliban’ as part of its new ambition to wage a nationwide insurgency.<sup>389</sup> A senior ethnic Punjabi TTP commander, Chaudhry Muneeb-ur-Rehman Jatt,<sup>390</sup> played a key role in TTP’s recent attempts to re-expand its networks in these areas. At the same time, as of mid-2025, he remained the only known high-ranking ethnic Punjabi commander within TTP.<sup>391</sup>

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