



## 3.2.9. Hafiz Gul Bahadur (HGB)

Hafiz Gul Bahadur (HGB) is a militant umbrella organisation named after its founder<sup>412</sup> and current commander Hafiz Gul Bahadur,<sup>413</sup> a former leader of the North Waziristan Taliban.<sup>414</sup> HGB has a strong presence in the same district<sup>415</sup> and has ties with AQ, the Haqqani Network, and TTP.<sup>416</sup> While some sources referred to HGB as being affiliated<sup>417</sup> or aligned with TTP,<sup>418</sup> PICSS emphasised that HGB is an independent group that has distinct command structures and follows its own agenda.<sup>419</sup> As it sought to counter the TTP's rising influence in its own 'backyard', the group, mainly rooted in North Waziristan's Wazir and Dawar tribes, and TTP, dominated by South Waziristan's Mehsud tribe,<sup>420</sup> engaged in intense tribal rivalries during the reference period, competing over resources, authority, and territorial control. During the reference period, the group recruited several TTP commanders and claimed that multiple local faction commanders had joined its coalition.<sup>421</sup> At the same time, it lost one of its key commanders to TTP.<sup>422</sup> HGB allied with the group Lashkar-e Islam (LeI)<sup>423</sup> and is now at the helm of TTP's emerging rival, Ittehad-ul-Mujahideen Pakistan (IMP),<sup>424</sup> a military alliance<sup>425</sup> which includes the groups LeI and Harkat Inqilab-e Islami Pakistan (HIIP).<sup>426</sup> Safdar Sial, an expert at PIPS, was quoted as saying that HGB has been perceived as a growing security threat<sup>427</sup> as it carried out large numbers of attacks over the reference period, targeting security forces in ambushes, IED attacks and suicide bombings, mainly in North Waziristan. Attacks were claimed by HGB proxy groups.<sup>428</sup> While a number of HGB members were killed in counterterrorism operations,<sup>429</sup> they did not destroy its operational capabilities. Rumours that emerged in October 2025 of the killing of Hafiz Gul Bahadur remained unverified.<sup>430</sup>

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