

# 3.2.9. Hafiz Gul Bahadur (HGB)

Hafiz Gul Bahadur (HGB) is a militant umbrella organisation named after its founder[412] and current commander Hafiz Gul Bahadur,[413] a former leader of the North Waziristan Taliban.[414] HGB has a strong presence in the same district[415] and has ties with AQ, the Haqqani Network, and TTP.[416] While some sources referred to HGB as being affiliated[417] or aligned with TTP,[418] PICSS emphasised that HGB is an independent group that has distinct command structures and follows its own agenda.[419] 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,[420] 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.[421] At the same time, it lost one of its key commanders to TTP.[422] HGB allied with the group Lashkar-e Islam (LeI)[423] and is now at the helm of TTP's emerging rival, Ittehad-ul-Mujahideen Pakistan (IMP),[424] a military alliance[425] which includes the groups LeI and Harkat Inqilab-e Islami Pakistan (HIIP).[426] Safdar Sial, an expert at PIPS, was quoted as saying that HGB has been perceived as a growing security threat [427] 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.[428] While a number of HGB members were killed in counterterrorism operations,[429] they did not destroy its operational capabilities. Rumours that emerged in October 2025 of the killing of Hafiz Gul Bahadur remained unverified.[430]

- [412]

  Valle, R., Jabhat Ansar al-Mahdi Khorasan Emerges as Prominent Faction of Hafiz Gul Bahadur in Pakistan, The Jamestown Foundation, 22 March 2024, url

- [413]

  PICSS, Pakistan's Comprehensive National Security Profile – Annual Report 2025, 7 January 2026, url, p. 26

- [414]

  Sulaiman, S., Hafiz Gul Bahadur: A Profile of the Leader of the North Waziristan Taliban, The Jamestown Foundation, 10 April 2009, url

- [415]

ACLED, The battle for the borderlands: The Tehreek-i-Taliban Pakistan challenges the state’s control, 6 October 2025, url

- 416

  Bhattacharya, S., Hafiz Gul Bahadur: Pashtun Militant Fostering Jihadist Factional Unity Along Pakistan’s Durand Line, The Jamestown Foundation, 6 March 2025, url

- 417

  Arab News, Pakistani, Afghan negotiators hold talks in Doha after fierce clashes, airstrikes, 18 October 2025, url; Rehman, Z., Taliban regime deepens Pakistan's internal security woes, DW, 14 August 2025, url

- 418

  Bhattacharya, S., Hafiz Gul Bahadur: Pashtun Militant Fostering Jihadist Factional Unity Along Pakistan’s Durand Line, The Jamestown Foundation, 6 March 2025, url

- 419

  PICSS, Pakistan's Comprehensive National Security Profile – Annual Report 2025, 7 January 2026, url, p. 26

- 420

  Basit, A., Implications of TTP-Hafiz Gul Bahadur Group Competition for Pakistan’s Internal Security, The Diplomat, 25 February 2025, url

- 421

  PICSS, Pakistan's Comprehensive National Security Profile – Annual Report 2025, 7 January 2026, url, p. 27

- 422

  PICSS, Pakistan's Comprehensive National Security Profile – Annual Report 2025, 7 January 2026, url, p. 27; Basit, A., Implications of TTP-Hafiz Gul Bahadur Group Competition for Pakistan’s Internal Security, The Diplomat, 25 February 2025, url

- 423

  Basit, A., Implications of TTP-Hafiz Gul Bahadur Group Competition for Pakistan’s Internal Security, The Diplomat, 25 February 2025, url

- 424

  Abbas, M.I., Fractures and Realignments Among Pakistan’s Jihadist Groups, The Diplomat, 30 October 2025, url

- 425

PICSS, Emergence of ‘Ittehad-ul-Mujahideen Pakistan’: A New Militant Alliance Challenges TTP’s Monopoly. Weekly Report 11-17 April, 2025, 18 April 2025, url

- 426

Abbas, M.I., Fractures and Realignments Among Pakistan’s Jihadist Groups, The Diplomat, 30 October 2025, url; PICSS, Emergence of ‘Ittehad-ul-Mujahideen Pakistan’: A New Militant Alliance Challenges TTP’s Monopoly. Weekly Report 11-17 April, 2025, 18 April 2025, url

- 427

Rehman, Z., Taliban regime deepens Pakistan's internal security woes, DW, 14 August 2025, url

- 428

PICSS, Pakistan's Comprehensive National Security Profile – Annual Report 2025, 7 January 2026, url, p. 27

- 429

PICSS, Pakistan's Comprehensive National Security Profile – Annual Report 2025, 7 January 2026, url, pp. 28-29; SATP, Detail of Terrorism Update, 19 October 2025, url

- 430

PICSS, Pakistan's Comprehensive National Security Profile – Annual Report 2025, 7 January 2026, url, p. 26; KT, Reports Conflict Over Death of Pakistani Taliban Commander Hafiz Gul Bahadur, 23 October 2025, url

© European Union Agency for Asylum 2026 | Email: info@euaa.europa.eu