



## 3.2.10. Sipah-e Sahaba Pakistan (SSP)

Sipah-e-Sahaba Pakistan (SSP) is a Sunni Deobandi<sup>431</sup> anti-Shia sectarian group<sup>432</sup> founded in Punjab's Jhang district in 1985.<sup>433</sup> Following its official ban by the Pakistani government in 2002, SSP continued to act overtly under the name of Ahle Sunnat Wal Jamaat (ASWJ),<sup>434</sup> its political party,<sup>435</sup> while claiming militant acts using the name SSP and that of Lashkar-e-Jhangvi,<sup>436</sup> its purportedly separate armed wing.<sup>437</sup> According to an author specialising in counterterrorism interviewed by Canada's Immigration and Refugee Board (IRB) in November 2024, SSP/ASWJ had a 'clear organization[al] structure with central leadership, with assigned people who are responsible [for] media and finances'.<sup>438</sup> The group had between 3 000 and 6 000 members mainly operating in Punjab, Karachi, and the former FATA, according to a late 2023 estimate presented by the CRS.<sup>439</sup>

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International Crisis Group, A New Era of Sectarian Violence in Pakistan, 5 September 2022, [url](#), p. i

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ABP Live, ABP Exclusive: Terror Outfit Sipah-e-Sahaba Held Anti-Shia Event Just 1 Km From Islamabad Mosque During Blast, 7 February 2026, [url](#)

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International Crisis Group, A New Era of Sectarian Violence in Pakistan, 5 September 2022, [url](#), p. 2

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ABP Live, ABP Exclusive: Terror Outfit Sipah-e-Sahaba Held Anti-Shia Event Just 1 Km From Islamabad Mosque During Blast, 7 February 2026, [url](#)

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Canada, IRB, Pakistan: Sipah-e-Sahaba Pakistan [Sipah-i-Sahaba Pakistan] (SSP) / Ahle Sunnat Wal Jamaat [Ahl-e-Sunnat-wal-Jamaat] (ASWJ) [Rah-e-Haq, Rah-i-Haq party (PRHP)], Lashkar-e-Jhangvi [Lashkar-i-Jhangvi, Army of Jhangvi] (Lej), and Tehrik-i-Taliban [Tehrik-e Taliban Pakistan, Tehrik-e-Taliban, Pakistani Taliban, Tehreek-e-Taliban] (TTP) militant groups [...] (2022–December 2024), 2 January 2025, [url](#)

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- [438](#)

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- [439](#)

US, CRS, Terrorist and Other Militant Groups in Pakistan, last updated 1 December 2023, [url](#), p. 2