



COI QUERY

Country of Origin	PAKISTAN
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Reference period	December 2025 to 12 March 2026
Topic(s)	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Conflict background and armed actors2. Recent security trends3. Impact on the civilian population
Date of completion	13 March 2026
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Cite as: EUAA, Country of Origin Information Query, Pakistan, Security situation in Khyber district, 13 March 2026, [url](#)



COI QUERY RESPONSE – Pakistan

Security situation in Khyber district

1. Conflict background and armed actors

In 2025, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP) was described as one of the provinces most affected by insecurity in Pakistan.¹ On 14 December 2025, KP police released a report detailing that 502 persons, including civilians, were killed in ‘terrorism incidents’ in that year, in 137 attacks.² Security situation in KP has been described as deteriorated in 2025 compared to 2024, with higher levels of recorded militant violence.³

In October 2025, a wave of cross-border attacks between Afghanistan and Pakistan erupted, described by the BBC as ‘the worst fighting since the [Afghan] Taliban returned to power in 2021’.⁴ Pakistan reportedly launched attacks on Kabul accusing Afghanistan of providing a safe haven for armed groups attacking Pakistan.⁵ Afghanistan retaliated in the following days, attacking targets in Pakistan in the border area.⁶ Both parties agreed on a ceasefire negotiated by Qatar and Türkiye on 19 October 2025,⁷ which largely held towards the end of the year.⁸

Additional information on security situation in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP) can be found in the EUAA COI report [Pakistan, Country Focus](#), published in December 2024, as well as in the EUAA COI query response number Q48-2025: [Security situation in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa](#), published in December 2025.

2. Recent security trends

¹ ACAPS, Pakistan, Key crises to watch, 12 June 2025, [url](#), pp. 3-4; Afghanistan International, The Indus Waters Treaty at Crossroads: Implications For Regional Peace & The Path Forward, 20 February 2026, [url](#); CRSS, CRSS Security Report – Jan. to Nov., 2025, [url](#)

² Eurasia Review, Pakistan: Persistent Peril In Khyber Pakhtunkhwa – Analysis, 10 March 2026, [url](#)

³ ACLED, Pakistan battles rising militancy that risks spreading beyond the frontiers, 11 December 2025, [url](#)

⁴ BBC, Taliban and Pakistan agree to ceasefire after days of deadly clashes, 19 October 2025, [url](#)

⁵ BBC, Taliban and Pakistan agree to ceasefire after days of deadly clashes, 19 October 2025, [url](#)

⁶ BBC, Taliban and Pakistan agree to ceasefire after days of deadly clashes, 19 October 2025, [url](#)

⁷ BBC, Taliban and Pakistan agree to ceasefire after days of deadly clashes, 19 October 2025, [url](#)

⁸ ACLED, Pakistan battles rising militancy that risks spreading beyond the frontiers, 11 December 2025, [url](#)



In the reference period, operations by Pakistani security forces continued in the KP province, affecting various of its districts including Bajaur,⁹ Khyber,¹⁰ Orakzai,¹¹ Bannu, Dera Ismail Khan, and South Waziristan.¹² Violent incidents were also reported in other KP districts such as Lakki Marwat,¹³ North Waziristan,¹⁴ Shangla,¹⁵ and Bannu.¹⁶ The Pakistan Institute for Conflict and Security Studies (PICSS) indicated that KP remained the province most affected by militant violence in Pakistan as of February 2026.¹⁷ In the period of 1 January - 8 March 2026, South Asia Terrorism Portal (SATP) recorded 13 incidents specifically in the Khyber district.¹⁸

Some of the recorded events and incidents include:

- On 6 February 2026, security forces conducted operations in KP, Orakzai and Khyber districts, killing 24 militants^{19, 20}
- On 22 February 2026, Pakistani army conducted airstrikes on 'militant camps and hideouts' inside Afghan territory, as a retaliation for 'recent suicide bombings in Pakistan'.²¹
- On 24 February 2026, Khyber district was hit by a mortar and rocket attack from Afghanistan, causing a retaliatory attack from Pakistan and a crossfire alongside the border.²²
- On the night of 26-27 February 2026, Afghanistan launched an attack on Pakistani military bases across the border, to which Pakistan responded with bombing targets in Kabul, and on the provinces of Kandahar and Paktika,²³ marking the most intense

⁹ Xinhua, 13 terrorists killed in intelligence-based operations in NW Pakistan: military, 8 March 2026, [url](#); The Hindu, Pakistan security forces kill three TTP terrorists in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, 14 December 2025, [url](#)

¹⁰ AA, Pakistani security forces kill 24 militants near Afghan border, 6 February 2026, [url](#); Xinhua, 13 terrorists killed in intelligence-based operations in NW Pakistan: military, 8 March 2026, [url](#); Xinhua, 13 terrorists killed in intelligence-based operations in NW Pakistan: military, 8 March 2026, [url](#); Xinhua, 24 terrorists killed in separate operations in NW Pakistan, 6 February 2026, [url](#)

¹¹ AA, Pakistani security forces kill 24 militants near Afghan border, 6 February 2026, [url](#); Xinhua, 24 terrorists killed in separate operations in NW Pakistan, 6 February 2026, [url](#)

¹² Xinhua, 13 terrorists killed in intelligence-based operations in NW Pakistan: military, 8 March 2026, [url](#)

¹³ Eurasia Review, Pakistan: Persistent Peril In Khyber Pakhtunkhwa – Analysis, 10 March 2026, [url](#)

¹⁴ Eurasia Review, Pakistan: Persistent Peril In Khyber Pakhtunkhwa – Analysis, 10 March 2026, [url](#)

¹⁵ Al Jazeera, More than a dozen killed in bomb blasts, gunfire in Pakistan's northwest, 17 February 2026, [url](#); AA, Child, 14 security personnel, 18 militants killed across Pakistan, 17 February 2026, [url](#)

¹⁶ AA, Child, 14 security personnel, 18 militants killed across Pakistan, 17 February 2026, [url](#)

¹⁷ PICSS, Escalating Militancy, Regional Tensions, and Strategic Uncertainty: Pakistan's Monthly Security and Policy Outlook – February 2026, 6 March 2026, [url](#); PICSS, Operation Ghazab lil-Haq and Regional Ripples: Pakistan's Expanding Security Theatre, 28 February 2026, [url](#)

¹⁸ SATP, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa: Timeline (Terrorist Activities)-2026, January 2026, 8 March 2026, [url](#)

SATP, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa: Timeline (Terrorist Activities)-2026, February 2026, 8 March 2026, [url](#)

SATP, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa: Timeline (Terrorist Activities)-2026, March 2026, 8 March 2026, [url](#)

¹⁹ It should be noted that the Pakistani security forces commonly refer to the members of armed groups as 'khwarij'. See: AA, Child, 14 security personnel, 18 militants killed across Pakistan, 17 February 2026, [url](#)

²⁰ AA, Pakistani security forces kill 24 militants near Afghan border, 6 February 2026, [url](#); Xinhua, 24 terrorists killed in separate operations in NW Pakistan, 6 February 2026, [url](#)

²¹ BBC, Pakistan launches deadly strikes on Afghanistan, 22 February 2026, [url](#)

²² SATP, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa: Timeline (Terrorist Activities)-2026, February 2026, 8 March 2026, [url](#)

²³ BBC, What we know after latest escalation in Pakistan-Afghanistan tensions, 27 February 2026, [url](#)



fighting since the October 2025 ceasefire,²⁴ and thus effectively ending it.²⁵ Pakistani army allegedly targeted locations of Tehrik-i-Taliban Pakistan (TTP) and Islamic State groups.²⁶

- On 26 February 2026, Pakistani security forces launched the operation Ghazab-lil-Haq (Righteous Fury), and on 4 March 2026, TTP launched the operation Ghazwa-e-Khyber (Operation Khyber), directing attacks on Pakistani military targets.²⁷ Pakistani defence ministry described the conflict as an ‘open war’.²⁸
- On 4 March 2026, Turkish government offered to negotiate a new ceasefire.²⁹
- As of 6 March 2026, sources indicated that the fighting along the border continued,³⁰ with ‘thousands of civilians living along the border strip from Landi Kotal to Chitral’ being caught in the crossfire.³¹
- Between 6 and 7 March 2026,³² security forces killed 13 militants in operations conducted in various districts across KP.³³ The districts involved in the operation included Bajaur, Bannu, Dera Ismail Khan, Khyber, and South Waziristan.³⁴ Five combatants were killed in the Khyber district alone.³⁵ The authorities stated that the militants killed in the operations belonged to an ‘Indian proxy’ group called Fitna Al Khwari,³⁶ and the Pakistani government pledged to not stop the operations ‘until terrorism is completely eradicated from the country’.³⁷ Security forces stated that they were committed to eliminate ‘foreign-sponsored terrorism’.³⁸ Pakistan has previously accused India of sponsoring armed groups conducting attacks in its territory,³⁹ including cross-border attacks from Afghanistan.⁴⁰

3. Impact on the civilian population

²⁴ BBC, What we know after latest escalation in Pakistan-Afghanistan tensions, 27 February 2026, [url](#)

²⁵ International Crisis Group, Crisis Watch, Pakistan, 1 December 2025-31 February 2026, [url](#)

²⁶ International Crisis Group, Crisis Watch, Pakistan, 1 December 2025-31 February 2026, [url](#)

²⁷ Eurasia Review, Pakistan: Persistent Peril In Khyber Pakhtunkhwa – Analysis, 10 March 2026, [url](#)

²⁸ CFR, Why Are the Afghan Taliban and Pakistan in an ‘Open War’?, 5 March 2026, [url](#)

²⁹ AP News, Turkey’s Erdogan offers to try to revive a truce as Pakistan-Afghan border clashes enter sixth day, 4 March 2026, [url](#); Türkiye, The Republic of, Directorate of Communications, President Erdoğan, Prime Minister Sharif of Pakistan talk over phone, 3 March 2026, [url](#)

³⁰ Arab News, UN rights chief says 56 Afghan civilians killed since Pakistan conflict escalates, 6 March 2026, [url](#);

Voicepk, Pak-Afghan border conflict forces thousands to shelter in British-era railway tunnel, 6 March 2026, [url](#)

³¹ Voicepk, Pak-Afghan border conflict forces thousands to shelter in British-era railway tunnel, 6 March 2026, [url](#)

³² Pakistan, DG ISPR, posted on X, 10 March 2026, [url](#)

³³ Samaa TV, posted on Facebook, 8 March 2026, [url](#); Xinhua, 13 terrorists killed in intelligence-based operations in NW Pakistan: military, 8 March 2026, [url](#)

³⁴ Xinhua, 13 terrorists killed in intelligence-based operations in NW Pakistan: military, 8 March 2026, [url](#)

³⁵ Xinhua, 13 terrorists killed in intelligence-based operations in NW Pakistan: military, 8 March 2026, [url](#)

³⁶ FDD indicates that Fitna Al Khwari is a name that Pakistani authorities started using in 2024 when referring to TTP, while linking the group to India. See: FDD, Terror attacks intensify in Pakistan as the TTP continues to operate from Afghanistan, 12 November 2025, [url](#)

³⁷ Radio Pakistan, Security forces kill 13 Khwarij in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, 8 March 2026, [url](#)

³⁸ Samaa TV, posted on Facebook, 8 March 2026, [url](#)

³⁹ FDD, Terror attacks intensify in Pakistan as the TTP continues to operate from Afghanistan, 12 November 2025, [url](#); Pakistan Today, Pakistan presents evidence of India’s support for terrorism in UNSC, [url](#)

⁴⁰ Pakistan Today, Pakistan presents evidence of India’s support for terrorism in UNSC, [url](#)



On 10 January 2026, residents of Tirah Valley in Khyber district, including ‘thousands of families’, started evacuating the area following the security forces instructions, in preparation of anti-militant operation in the area⁴¹ which Pakistani authorities described as ‘a stronghold’ of TTP.⁴² The government estimated that this can impact up to 20 000 families, while tribal elders put the figure at 30 000. The authorities offered these families financial support, food and transportation, and compensation for damages to their properties.⁴³ There were disputing accounts on how many people have been evacuated and whether the government and armed forces actually did order the evacuation.⁴⁴ On 24 January, the government denied that any evacuation had been ordered.⁴⁵ On 28 January, Al Jazeera reported that over 70 000 people have left the area.⁴⁶ Planned military operations in the area have been opposed by local groups, including the provincial government, and opposition politicians.⁴⁷⁴⁸ In a report covering the week of 13–19 February 2026, PICSS reported that around 95 % of those displaced had been registered and ‘thousands’ received a monetary compensation.⁴⁹ On 6 March 2026, Voicepk reported that the Pakistani authorities have reportedly not provided aid such as food and shelter for displaced families, and the available aid comes from some political parties as well as civil society organisations.⁵⁰

Many of the displaced people have found a temporary shelter in the Bara town in Khyber district,⁵¹ where authorities have set up a registration center for displaced people.⁵² On 6 March 2026, it was reported that some 3 000 people were newly displaced in the previous week.⁵³ Some 1 500 people were sheltered in an abandoned railway tunnel in the Khyber district.⁵⁴

Sources indicate that the information on the number of casualties as a result of the conflict is difficult to obtain.⁵⁵ AP News reported that the area ‘is not accessible to the media’ and the journalists could not verify any casualty figures.⁵⁶ According to the Armed Conflict Location & Event Data Project (ACLED), TTP operations in KP are aimed against the security forces and

⁴¹ Arab News, Thousands evacuate homes in Pakistan’s northwest ahead of security operation, 10 January 2026, [url](#)

⁴² RFE/RL, Anger And Chaos As Thousands Displaced Ahead Of Pakistani Military Operation, 23 January 2026, [url](#)

⁴³ Arab News, Thousands evacuate homes in Pakistan’s northwest ahead of security operation, 10 January 2026, [url](#)

⁴⁴ NY Times, Thousands Displaced for a Military Push Pakistan Said It Didn’t Order, 5 February 2026, [url](#)

⁴⁵ RFE/RL, Anger And Chaos As Thousands Displaced Ahead Of Pakistani Military Operation, 23 January 2026, [url](#)

⁴⁶ Al Jazeera, Tens of thousands flee northwest Pakistan’s Tirah over fears, 28 January 2026, [url](#)

⁴⁷ RFE/RL, Anger And Chaos As Thousands Displaced Ahead Of Pakistani Military Operation, 23 January 2026, [url](#)

⁴⁸ KP is governed by the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) party of the imprisoned former prime minister Imran Khan. See also: NY Times, Thousands Displaced for a Military Push Pakistan Said It Didn’t Order, 5 February 2026, [url](#)

⁴⁹ PICSS, Security Operations and Strategic Outreach: KP Violence, Afghanistan Frictions, and Expanding Global Engagement, 22 February 2026, [url](#)

⁵⁰ Voicepk, Pak-Afghan border conflict forces thousands to shelter in British-era railway tunnel, 6 March 2026, [url](#)

⁵¹ NY Times, Thousands Displaced for a Military Push Pakistan Said It Didn’t Order, 5 February 2026, [url](#)

⁵² Al Jazeera, Tens of thousands flee northwest Pakistan’s Tirah over fears, 28 January 2026, [url](#)

⁵³ Arab News, UN rights chief says 56 Afghan civilians killed since Pakistan conflict escalates, 6 March 2026, [url](#)

⁵⁴ Voicepk, Pak-Afghan border conflict forces thousands to shelter in British-era railway tunnel, 6 March 2026, [url](#)

⁵⁵ AP News, Turkey’s Erdogan offers to try to revive a truce as Pakistan-Afghan border clashes enter sixth day, 4 March 2026, [url](#); Arab News, UN rights chief says 56 Afghan civilians killed since Pakistan conflict escalates, 6 March 2026, [url](#)

⁵⁶ AP News, Turkey’s Erdogan offers to try to revive a truce as Pakistan-Afghan border clashes enter sixth day, 4 March 2026, [url](#)



the group 'largely avoids indiscriminate attacks against civilians.'⁵⁷ On the other hand, Pakistani authorities denied killing any civilians in the conflict,⁵⁸ even though local sources indicate that civilians were among those killed.⁵⁹ In some cases, sources indicated that also Chinese workers were targeted by militants.⁶⁰

Some of the indicative incidents involving civilians are:

- On 5 January 2026, the house of the Khyber district president of the Awami National Party (ANP) 'was blown up with explosives' by 'terrorists'.⁶¹
- On 21 February 2026, five civilians were reported killed and seven injured in the Chapri area of Tirah Valley, Khyber district, by mortar shells.⁶²
- On 17 February 2026, eight civilians were injured, and one child was killed during an attack by a suicide bomber on a checkpoint in the Bajaur district.⁶³ International Crisis Group indicated that TTP was behind the attack.⁶⁴
- On 25 February 2026, a child and his father, a police officer, were shot dead by unidentified attackers in the Landikotal area of Khyber district.⁶⁵
- On 2 March 2026, at least four people were injured by mortar shells in a residential area in the Khyber district.⁶⁶
- On 11 March 2026, five people were killed and one child injured in the Khyber's Tirah valley after a mortar shell fell on their house.⁶⁷

The ongoing situation resulted in state-run schools to be closed indefinitely, including in the districts of Bajaur, Khyber, and Kurram.⁶⁸ In Landi Kotal area of the Kyber District, the authorities declared an emergency situation, as reported on 9 March 2026.⁶⁹

⁵⁷ ACLED, Pakistan battles rising militancy that risks spreading beyond the frontiers, 11 December 2025, [url](#)

⁵⁸ Arab News, UN rights chief says 56 Afghan civilians killed since Pakistan conflict escalates, 6 March 2026, [url](#)

⁵⁹ Al Jazeera, Tens of thousands flee northwest Pakistan's Tirah over fears, 28 January 2026, [url](#)

⁶⁰ Al Jazeera, More than a dozen killed in bomb blasts, gunfire in Pakistan's northwest, 17 February 2026, [url](#);

France 24, At least 14 killed in spate of attacks in northwest Pakistan, 17 February 2026, [url](#)

⁶¹ SATP, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa: Timeline (Terrorist Activities)-2026, January 2026, 8 March 2026, [url](#)

⁶² SATP, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa: Timeline (Terrorist Activities)-2026, February 2026, 8 March 2026, [url](#)

⁶³ AA, Child, 14 security personnel, 18 militants killed across Pakistan, 17 February 2026, [url](#)

⁶⁴ International Crisis Group, Crisis Watch, Pakistan, 1 December 2025-31 February 2026, [url](#)

⁶⁵ SATP, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa: Timeline (Terrorist Activities)-2026, February 2026, 8 March 2026, [url](#)

⁶⁶ SATP, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa: Timeline (Terrorist Activities)-2026, March 2026, 8 March 2026, [url](#)

⁶⁷ TNN, Khyber: Four Killed, One Injured as Mortar Shell Hits House in Tirah Valley, 11 March 2026, [url](#)

⁶⁸ Voicepk, Pak-Afghan border conflict forces thousands to shelter in British-era railway tunnel, 6 March 2026, [url](#) ;

TNN, Echoes of Shelling Drive Thousands From Homes Along the Pakistan–Afghanistan Border, 9 March 2026, [url](#)

⁶⁹ TNN, Echoes of Shelling Drive Thousands From Homes Along the Pakistan–Afghanistan Border, 9 March 2026, [url](#)



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