



# TEHRIK-E-TALIBAN PAKISTAN



## Background

- Formed in 2007, Tehrik-e-Taliban Pakistan (TTP), a subset of the Pakistan Taliban, aims to remove the Pakistan government's influence in the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KPK) province region, which merged with the Federally Administered Tribal Areas (FATA) in 2018 in Pakistan; implement strict Sharia law; and expel US forces from Afghanistan. Additionally, TTP leadership has expressed its goal of establishing an Islamic caliphate in Pakistan.
- TTP is an umbrella organization made up of over 40 separate tribal factions located within the KPK region, with several other factions having a loose affiliation with the group. In 2007, the 40 separate tribes united under the new TTP banner as a way of strengthening their defensive capabilities against the Pakistan government.
- TTP maintains a close relationship with al-Qa'ida, as both groups share resources and territory. Historically, al-Qa'ida has provided TTP with ideological guidance, while TTP has supplied al-Qa'ida with safe havens in Pakistan along the border with Afghanistan.



Abu Muhammad Khaliq Haqqani in a video from 2013

## Threat to New Jersey: Low

*TTP poses a low threat to New Jersey due to its regional focus, the United States targeting its leaders, and internal conflicts placing constraints on the group, despite prior plots against the United States and targeting of American personnel.* TTP has never succeeded in conducting an attack in the United States; however, the group continues to entice Americans to provide monetary and material support.

- In July 2019, authorities arrested Delowar Hossain at John F. Kennedy (JFK) International Airport in New York. Hossain attempted to travel to Afghanistan to join the Taliban to “kill US Soldiers.” According to the criminal complaint, Hossain purchased equipment to use overseas and instructed an FBI informant to save money to purchase weapons. Hossain bought an airline ticket and was arrested prior to boarding his flight.
- In 2017, TTP began releasing a magazine in English titled, *Sunnat E Khaulaa*, which targets female Muslims. Its goal is to “provoke women of Islam to come forward and join the ranks of mujahideen e Islam.” The first edition featured an interview with the wife of TTP’s leader and articles calling for Muslim women to embrace Islamic principles and reject the Western perception of women. TTP only published two editions in 2017, initially released on its Telegram channel.
- In May 2010, Faisal Shahzad attempted to detonate a vehicle-borne improvised explosive device in New York City after traveling to Pakistan in July 2009 to receive explosives training from TTP. Following the attempted attack, authorities arrested Shahzad at JFK Airport, and he received a sentence of life in prison without the possibility of parole in October 2010. Following the incident, a TTP spokesperson claimed responsibility for the plot.

## US Nexus

*As the United States continues to conduct military operations in the region, TTP still poses a threat to US personnel and interests abroad.*

- In February 2019, TTP announced the death of Abu Muhammad Khaliq Haqqani, a deputy leader of the group. According to the announcement, Haqqani was killed in a clash with “slaves of America.” TTP claimed Haqqani was crucial to strengthening the group.
- In September 2019, TTP leader Mufti Abu Mansour Assim, also known as Noor Wali Mehsud, criticized his terrorist designation by the United States, claiming that the United States is the actual terrorist. Assim was appointed leader of TTP after the United States killed the former leader, Fazlullah Khorasani, in June 2018 in a drone strike. Following Khorasani’s death, al-Qa’ida leader Ayman al-Zawahiri released a eulogy supporting the deceased fighter.
- In February 2018, the US military killed TTP deputy leader Khan Said Mehsud in a drone strike, according to a TTP press release. The United States has targeted TTP with drone strikes, limiting the group’s ability to function in the region and eliminating its safe haven. Additionally, US forces killed the group’s founder and his successor in two separate strikes.
- In August 2013, Hafiz Khan of Miami received a sentence of 25 years in prison for sending approximately \$50,000 to Pakistan to support TTP.
- In January 2012, court officials sentenced Irfan UI Haq to 50 months in prison for conspiracy to provide material support to TTP. Additionally, in December 2011, court officials sentenced Qasim Ali to 40 months in prison and Zahid Yousaf to 36 months in prison for the same offense. The three individuals attempted to smuggle someone they believed was a member of TTP into the United States.

## Additional Resources

[2020 Terrorism Threat Assessment](#)

[Undeterred: International Terror Groups Encourage Attacks Amid Losses](#)