



[Pakistani Mosque Attacked Killing More Than 100 people and Calling into Question Security Practices](#)

Over the weekend a mosque in a police compound in Pakistan was bombed. The local hospital reported that at least 100 people were killed, and 157 others were wounded from the blast. While worshippers were just beginning to pray, police official Siddique Khan, said that the perpetrator was a suicide bomber. Witnesses describe a truly terrifying scene. A policeman that survived these attacks saw the black smoke rising and commented, “The screams of the people are still echoing in my mind,” he added. “People were screaming for help.” The mosque was inside a highly fortified police compound that was also the headquarters of the provincial police force and counterterrorism department. Some of the mosque crumbled and fell on top of worshippers leaving people submerged in the rubble. The building was almost at capacity with 300 people worshipping inside when the bomb exploded. The attack has caused many in Pakistan to question the ability of the Pakistani military and police to maintain security.

There has been an increase in attacks in Peshawar, the capital of the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province that borders Afghanistan. The Tehrik-e Taliban Pakistan (TTP), a Pakistani wing of the Afghani Taliban, initially claimed responsibility for the attack, but has since begun to downplay their role, saying that places of worship should not be attacked. ISIS has also been active in Pakistan and claimed responsibility for an attack that happened in Peshawar last March that killed 64 people. This surge in violence in recent times has been devastating to Pakistani people losing family, friends, and particularly their law enforcement officials. With the persistent attacks on Pakistan, they must devise a strategy to combat the threat to their internal security. These recent attacks will also surely influence the upcoming election. Pakistan has been active in multiple anti-terrorism operations in the past 20+ years. They had negotiated a fragile cease-fire with the group. Pakistan’s targeting of TTP leaders led the terrorist organization to officially end its cease-fire with Pakistan in November, though there had been multiple attacks before that. Just in 2022, Pakistan’s monitoring agencies reported 150 attacks that stemmed from the TTP that killed dozens of Pakistani people. The resurgence of the Afghani Taliban has likely contributed to this uptick in activity and is a danger to the people of Pakistan and their security.

Pakistan is starting to destabilize. The country has faced many problems recently, including terrible environmental disasters that are devastating for the country of Pakistan. Climate change has contributed to ⅓ of the country being under water from flooding in 2002 from increased precipitation and melting of the ice glaciers. This has been an extraordinary humanitarian disaster the world has seen. Families have been displaced, villages decimated, infectious diseases killing people, and a young democracy is in need to figure out a solution while dealing with so many other problems as well. Damages and overall help were just raised by the UN from \$116 million to \$800 million. Currently, they are requesting more help to deal with the atrocities. Here lies an underlying problem with Pakistan as well. These consistent problems are contributing to a crippling Pakistani economy, not allowing them the opportunity to put resources into the things that can protect and help grow their democracy. Unfortunately, it doesn't seem like the TTP will cease its attacks. They are also demanding the release of their members from the Pakistani government and a reversal of the Pakistani tribal areas merging with the Khyber province. The destabilizing effect puts the country's fragile democracy at more risk. Worsen conditions often open the door for bad actors with false promises to enter the political arena. Once in power, these actors often strip citizens of their civil and human rights to maintain and consolidate power.