



TERROR TRACKER

Newsletter by Counter Terrorism Centre



MANOHAR PARRIKAR INSTITUTE FOR
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TERROR CHARGES AGAINST KHALISTAN VANDALS IN UK

DELHI POLICE FILES CASE AGAINST PROTESTS OUTSIDE INDIAN MISSION



A bigger national flag than previous ones has been raised on Indian High Commission's building in London after protests by Khalistan supporters. — NDTV

The Delhi Police's Special Cell, after being instructed by the Union Ministry of Home Affairs, has filed a terrorism case, among other charges, against numerous Khalistani separatists.

These individuals were involved in a violent protest and lowering of the Indian flag at the Indian High Commission in London on 19 March 2023. The suspected individuals waved Khalistan flags and chanted pro-separatist slogans. Furthermore, Avtar Singh Khanda, the son of a Khalistan Liberation Force terrorist and an ISI-linked terrorist himself, and an asylum seeker in the country, has been arrested in connection with the violence.

Christina Scott, the United Kingdom's Deputy High Commissioner, was summoned to the Indian Ministry of External Affairs (MEA), where the latter expressed displeasure over the security lapse and demanded explanations about the chain of events. The events on 19 March occurred on the heels of a statewide manhunt to arrest Amritpal Singh, leader of the separatist pro-Khalistan organisation, Waris Punjab De, and his followers. Singh has been named in eight FIRs for instigating violence and undermining social harmony.

Despite condemnation of the violence by several British officials and assurances to enhance security measures, Arindam Bagchi, the MEA spokesperson, asserted, "We are not interested in just assurances. I think we would like to see action...We would hope host governments provide full and adequate protection to our missions as well as to the personnel working there." – [Hindustan Times](#), [Business Standard](#), [Firstpost](#), [Organiser](#)

FUGITIVE KHALISTAN LEADER REFUSES TO SURRENDER



AMRITPAL SINGH

In his new video, self-styled fugitive preacher Amritpal Singh has claimed he was not a fugitive or in police custody. Instead, he declared himself a rebel and debunked rumours that he was willing to surrender but said he would soon appear before the world. The head of Waris Punjab De added, "...Even today I am with my community and supporters. I am not going to run away from the country." A Twitter page, Khalsa, shared the video.

Meanwhile, Punjab Deputy Commissioner of Police Law and Order Parminder Singh Bhandal said: "If Khalistani sympathiser Amritpal Singh wants to surrender, then we will do our bit more according to law." – [Hindustan Times](#), [Mint](#)

US COURT SENTENCES ISIS RADICAL TO 18 YEARS IN PRISON



ABDULLAH EL-FAISAL

On 23 March 2023, the State Supreme Court in Manhattan (New York) sentenced Abdullah el-Faisal, a Jamaican-origin radical Islamist, to 18 years in prison.

He was convicted after a successful undercover operation, where he shared the number of an ISIS fighter in Syria with a police officer. The investigation into him had been initiated in 2016.

El-Faisal is a Jamaican-origin pro-ISIS preacher who has also operated as a 'marriage broker' for ISIS members and sympathisers, since the organisation's emergence.

While sentencing the culprit to prison, Justice Maxwell Wiley, explained that the radical preacher had "continually advocated for murder, kidnapping, and other violent crimes." – [The New York Times](#)

ISKP CLAIMS HAND IN BLASTS AT COIMBATORE, MANGALURU

TERROR GROUP HAILS BANNED ISLAMIST GROUPS PFI AND SIMI



File pictures of the botched Mangaluru blast attempted by Sharique (right), who cooked a bomb in a pressure cooker that exploded in his auto rickshaw before time. Sharique used the Dark Web to connect with ISKP trainers. — One India

Islamic State in Khorasan Province (ISKP) claimed responsibility for Coimbatore and Mangaluru blasts on 23 October and 19 November 2022, respectively. This statement was released by its Al-Azaim Media Foundation in the 68-page issue of its 'Voice of Khorasan' e-magazine.

One of the articles titled 'A message to the inhabitants in the land occupied by cow and mice worshipping filths' included a section where the group assumed responsibility for the attacks. "Know that the spark (of war) has already been lit. Do you not consider our attacks in Coimbatore (Tamil Nadu) and Karnataka (Bangalore), where our brothers took revenge ... Thus we promise you that this is just the beginning."

The National Investigation Agency has carried out multiple raids and arrests in the aftermath of these attacks, and probes are underway to find a common link between the two events. Additionally, ISKP has also praised the banned Popular Front of India (PFI) and the Students' Islamic Movement of India. In an earlier issue of its e-magazine, it even called on PFI members to join ISKP ranks and lauded some of its followers for having fought with it in various war theatres worldwide. "We have seen many PFI supporters join the banner of Tawheed in different parts of the world and many have attained Shahadah. So don't be discouraged," ISKP stated. – [The New Indian](#), [OpIndia](#), [Hindustan Times](#), [The Hindu](#)

TWO PAKISTANIS ARRESTED IN PLOT TO ATTACK JEWS

GREEK POLICE FOIL PLOT TO TARGET HIGH-PROFILE JEWISH-ISRAELI SITES



On 28 March 2023, Greek police officers arrested two Iranian-born Pakistani nationals who had entered the country illegally through Turkey to target a kosher restaurant in Athens operated by the Chabad House and other high-profile Jewish and Israeli sites.

According to the Greek police's official statement, "Their (terrorists) aim was not only to cause the loss of life of innocent citizens but also to undermine the sense of security in the country while hurting public institutions and threatening Greece's international relations."

A third suspect has been charged in absentia. Greece's National Intelligence Service and anti-terrorism police were involved in the investigations leading up to the arrests.

Mossad, Israel's spy agency, also assisted Greek authorities regarding the infrastructural intelligence, operational methods, and connection between Iran and the wider network which the arrested terrorists were members. According to the statement, the suspects are involved with a "wide Iranian network that operates from Iran and out of many countries."

The investigations into the terrorist network had been initiated in 2021 after two more Pakistani nationals, reportedly involved in planning attacks against Israelis, were arrested.

Israel's Foreign Minister, Eli Cohen, expressed his gratitude to the Greek officials for preventing the occurrence of terrorist attacks. – [The Times of Israel](#), [Reuters](#), [The Jewish Chronicle](#)

HOUSE OF KASHMIRI TERRORIST ATTACHED



Mushtaq Ahmad Zargar

On 2 March 2023, Jammu and Kashmir's officials attached the house of Mushtaq Ahmad Zargar alias Latram in Srinagar. It is located on a 540 square feet plot, and its seizure occurred after the Union Home Ministry issued an order under the guidelines of the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act. He is a fugitive terrorist based in Pakistan-occupied Kashmir and became notorious for his role in abducting Rubaiya Sayeed in 1989, the daughter of former Union Home Minister Mufti Mohammad Sayeed.

Zargar, Masood Azhar (Jaish-e-Mohammed's Chief), and Omar Saeed Sheikh (Harakat-ul-Mujahideen's Chief) were released in exchange for an Indian Airlines flight in Kandahar that terrorists had taken hostage. – [Deccan Herald](#)

QUAD FORMS JOINT WORKING GROUP ON COUNTER-TERRORISM

On 3 March 2023, the Foreign Ministers of Quad member states announced the formation of a Joint Working Group (JWG) on Counter-Terrorism. In addition, they condemned past terrorist attacks such as 26/11. This announcement came after their recent meeting, during which they reiterated their commitment towards a free and open Indo-Pacific.

In their joint statement, they laid out their vision for the JWG – “We are pleased to announce the establishment of the Quad working group on counter-terrorism, which will explore cooperation amongst the Quad, and with Indo-Pacific partners, to counter new and emerging forms of terrorism, radicalisation to violence, and violent extremism.” They also highlighted the adaptability of terrorists to emerging technologies and expressed their concern about politicising the United Nations Security Council Sanctions Committees. – [NDTV](#)

India highlights terror links to crypto-currency

On 1 March 2023, India’s Foreign Secretary, Mr. Vinay Kwatra, addressed the special briefing on G20 Foreign Ministers’ Meeting, where he highlighted how cryptocurrency is increasingly being used in terror financing activities. He added, “When you talk of countering terrorism, there are many sub-verticals that you need to deal with. Money laundering is one of them, and narco-financing is another old issue when you talk of terrorism in the early 90s. Now, crypto is relatively new in that sense because it is essentially a product which is centred in technology pretty much.” – [The Print](#)

NIA files charges against Kashmiri OGW

On 20 March 2023, the National Investigation Agency filed its first supplementary chargesheet against Mohd. Rafi Najar, Hizbul Mujahideen’s overground worker on terror charges. An agency spokesperson issued a statement, having filed this charge – “Najar is a handicrafts dealer and based out of Pokara, Nepal. He was found to be channelising funds for proscribed terrorist organisations in the garb of legitimate trade in Kashmiri handicrafts.” – [The Print](#)

ISIS claims responsibility for killing 35 in Congo

On 12 March 2023, ISIS issued a statement through its media agency, Aamaq, about the carnage carried out by the Allied Democratic Forces, an allied militia, in Mukondi village in North Kivu province (Eastern Congo). It claimed responsibility for murdering more than 35 Christians, causing injuries to dozens of individuals, and destroying their homes. The militia has been accused of gross human rights violations, and the United States has offered a bounty worth 5 million USD, leading to the capture of Seka Musa Baluku, its leader. – [ABC News](#)

ISIS radical gets two-year term in New Zealand

A 21-year-old radicalised New Zealander has recently been sentenced to more than two years in prison for intending to commit mass violence against non-Muslims in Auckland. He was arrested in 2021. He had become immersed in ISIS ideology five years ago and had pledged allegiance to the organisation and declared jihad against New Zealand and the wider western world, as per evidence recovered from his Google Cloud. Furthermore, he conducted reconnaissance of potential attack sites, expressed a desire to travel to Syria, accessed instruction on making bombs, and put together a tactical gear kit. – [NZ Herald](#)

US aid worth \$150m to terror-afflicted Sahel

Antony Blinken, the US Secretary of State, announced a 150 million USD humanitarian aid package for the Sahel region on 16 March 2023 during his visit to Niger. This African country is a key American partner in countering Islamist insurgencies. He stressed that the aid “will provide life-saving support to refugees, asylum seekers, and others impacted by conflict and food insecurity in the region.” – [Reuters](#)

170 most wanted ‘terrorists’ held in Pak Punjab

Punjab’s Counter-Terrorism Department in Pakistan has arrested more than 170 most-wanted terrorists through operations conducted throughout the province for at least 11 months. The terrorists in question are affiliated with various organisations, such as ISKP, Tehreek-e-Taliban Pakistan, and al-Qaeda. Many other members of these outfits were neutralised during the months-long covert counter-terror operations. – [Samaa](#)