



TERROR TRACKER

Newsletter by Counter Terrorism Centre



MANOHAR PARRIKAR INSTITUTE FOR
DEFENCE STUDIES AND ANALYSES
मनोहर पर्रिकर रक्षा अध्ययन एवं विश्लेषण संस्थान



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DELHI HOSTS BIMSTEC COUNTER-TERROR MEET

JOINT WORKING GROUP REVIEWS LAW ENFORCEMENT, INTELLIGENCE SHARING, COMBATING NARCO-TERROR AND TERROR FUNDING



Representatives from India, Sri Lanka, Bhutan, Myanmar, Bangladesh, Nepal, and Thailand attending the 10th meeting of BIMSTEC Joint Working Group (JWG) on Counter Terrorism and Transnational Crime on 12 January 2023. — Livemint

New Delhi hosted the tenth meeting of the BIMSTEC Joint Working Group (JWG) on Counter Terrorism and Transnational Crime on 12 January 2023. The JWG supervises the work carried out by its six-sub groups, such as legal and law enforcement; human trafficking; narcotic drugs, psychotropic substances, and precursor chemicals; intelligence sharing, and anti-money laundering and combating the financing of terrorism.

During the event, representatives from India, Sri Lanka, Bhutan, Myanmar, Bangladesh, Nepal, and Thailand recommended several measures to deepen ties to counter transnational crimes, illicit narcotics trafficking, and terrorism occurring in the broader region. They underlined the need to implement the BIMSTEC convention on the abovementioned issues. Furthermore, they deliberated on institutional mechanisms regarding capacity building and information-sharing systems. The broad themes of their discussions centred around current non-traditional and traditional security threats confronting regional actors.

Mr. Sanjay Verma, Secretary (West), Ministry of External Affairs (MEA), underlined the need for BIMSTEC member states to jointly counter transnational crimes and terrorism using bolstered cooperation in fields, including extradition, legal aid, capacity building, and information exchange. He addressed the inaugural session of JWG while Mr. Mahaveer Singhvi, Joint Secretary for Counter Terrorism (MEA), was the Chair. — [The Print](#)

UN DESIGNATES ABDUL REHMAN MAKKI 'GLOBAL TERRORIST'



On 16 January 2023, United Nations Security Council designated Abdul Rehman Makki, Lahkar-e-Taiba's Chief, Hafiz Saeed's brother-in-law, as a global terrorist under the ISIL (Da'esh) and Al-Qaida Sanctions Committee. Makki was one of the key masterminds of the 26/11 attacks in Mumbai and is LeT's, Deputy Chief.

The council has imposed arms and trade embargoes and frozen Makki's assets after China did not renew its "technical hold" on India and the United States joint proposal to list him under the sanction's regime.

China had initially placed a hold on his designation in June 2022.

After this move by the council, India reaffirmed its commitment to pursue a "zero-tolerance" policy towards terrorism. — [Deccan Herald](#)

INDIA EXTENDS CONDOLENCES TO BEREAVED FAMILIES



Indian Ministry of External Affairs
Spokesperson Arindam Bagchi

India condemned the terror attack in Pakistan's Peshawar that killed over 100 people.

In a tweet, Spokesperson of the Ministry of External Affairs Arindam Bagchi said, "India extends its deep condolences to the families of the victims of the terror attack in Peshawar yesterday. We strongly condemn this attack, which has taken the lives of so many people".

Meanwhile, Pakistani security officials reported on 5 January 2023, that they conducted a counter terrorism raid in South Waziristan, which neutralized approximately 11 TTP terrorists.

The raid occurred in a remote region near the border with Afghanistan. Those taken out by the military included a commander and prospective suicide bombers. – [India TV](#), [VOA News](#)

100 KILLED IN PESHAWAR MOSQUE SUICIDE BLAST

MANY POLICE OFFICERS KILLED, TTP REPUTEDLY ACCEPTS RESPONSIBILITY



Rescue workers surveying the damage at the mosque in Peshawar Cantt. - AFP

On 30 January 2023, a suicide bomber detonated explosives inside a mosque, which is located inside Peshawar Cantt's most sensitive area, Police Lines. At least 100 individuals were killed and no less than 150 injured during this deadly attack.

The bomber was wearing a uniform and helmet when he staged the attack, a police chief said. Hundreds of policemen were attending afternoon prayers in what should have been a tightly controlled compound in the northwest city of Peshawar.

The attack has raised critical questions about the security measures in one of the most secured areas in the city, where numerous security personnel are constantly on patrol.

There are some, like Mozzam Jan Ansari, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa's Inspector General of Police, who suspect that the perpetrator may have been residing within the secured area before the attack occurred. Security measures have also been bolstered, and snipers deployed at all entry and exit points as investigations are underway.

Pakistan Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif has said that the federal government would facilitate provinces' capacity building to counter terrorism in the restive Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province. The outlawed Tehreek-e-Taliban Pakistan (TTP) is said to have taken responsibility for the bombing.

The TTP was negotiating with the Pakistani government until recently but it walked out of talks and declared an offensive against the Pakistani state.

– [The Siasat Daily](#), [NDTV](#), [Outlook](#)

EXTREMIST RIOTERS ATTACK BRAZIL STATE INSTITUTIONS

3,000 HARDLINERS PREVENT NEW PRESIDENT LULA FROM ASSUMING OFFICE



Supporters of Brazil's former President Jair Bolsonaro demonstrate against President Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva as security forces operate, outside Brazil's National Congress in Brasilia. - Reuters

Around 1,500 individuals were arrested from protest camps in Brasilia on 9 January 2023 after a mob of far-right extremists and supporters of former Brazilian President Jair Bolsonaro stormed and attacked the Supreme Court, Presidential Palace, and Congress a day before for more than four hours. Wreckage of artworks, offices, windows, doors, furniture, and glasses was strewn across the sites of mob violence.

Over 3,000 hardline extremists, dubbing themselves 'Bolsonaristas,' had set up bases to prevent the new President from assuming office, denying the legitimacy of his victory. Although Bolsonaro criticised the "pillaging," he denied Lula's claims that he instigated the riots.

President Lula da Silva termed the rioting as "acts of terrorism." On 8 January 2023, he signed a federal order, giving his administration the mandate of exercising special powers over the local police officers to restore normalcy in the capital city.

He has also affirmed to arrest those responsible for instigating and financing the rioting. At the same time, Supreme Court Justice, Alexandre de Moraes, removed the city's Governor and a Bolsonaro ally, Ibaneis Rocha, from his position for three months, for "criminal negligence." He also issued orders for the nationwide removal of other camps.

Moreover, the President, the Supreme Court Justice, and leaders of both of houses of Congress released a joint statement, where they also drew parallels with the January 6 riots at Capitol Hill in Washington D.C. in 2020 – "The three powers of the republic, the defenders of democracy and the constitution, reject the terrorist acts and criminal, coup-mongering vandalism that occurred." The events that transpired were met with global and domestic outrage. – [NDTV](#)

FAR-RIGHT TEEN GETS 11 YEARS IN PRISON



Daniel John Harris

On 27 January 2023, Daniel John Harris, a 19-year-old far-right extremist from Glossop (U.K.), was sentenced to more than 11 years in prison for encouraging terrorism, possessing materials intended to be used for carrying out acts of terror and possessing a 3D printer with intent. In the online material he uploaded between February 2021 and March 2022, he praised the Christchurch Massacre (New Zealand, 2019).

According to investigators, he intended to create a 3D gun using a printer found inside his home. His videos, uploaded to an online channel, were cited by far-right extremists who attacked a supermarket in Buffalo (New York) in May 2022 and an LGBTQ club in Colorado in November 2022. – [Derbyshire Constabulary](#)

7 Killed, Several Injured in Jerusalem Terror Attack

On 27 January 2023, a 21-year-old terrorist named Alqam Khayri from East Jerusalem, killed at least seven and injured several others using a handgun in the city's Neve Yaakov neighbourhood, in proximity to a synagogue. While five people died on the spot, the remaining two were declared dead on arrival at a hospital in Jerusalem. This rampage occurred on the eve of Shabbat. The perpetrator was neutralised shortly after he fled the scene of the crime.

This event was accompanied by another attack the following day outside the Old City in which two people were wounded and the thirteen-year-old perpetrator taken out by the police.

These casualties have resulted in widespread condemnation by the Netanyahu government. Moreover, a counter-terrorism unit has been permanently set up in Jerusalem to respond quickly to "exceptional events."

– [*The Times of Israel*](#), [*BBC News*](#)

Radical Kashmiri Ideologue Designated Terrorist

On 7 January 2023, the Indian Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) issued a notification designating Dr. Asif Maqbool Dar, a member of Hizb-ul-Mujahideen, as a terrorist under the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) or UAPA Act, 1967. He currently resides in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and is accused of "nefariously influencing Kashmiri youth to take up arms against Indian government and Security forces" using social media. He is also part of a wider conspiracy to carry out terror attacks as per orders given by handlers across the Line of Control. – [*Hindustan Times*](#)

Software to Take Down Terror Web Content

Google's research and development unit, Jigsaw, in conjunction with Tech against Terrorism, an UN-supported initiative, is developing a free moderation software. The moderation tool will benefit smaller websites that can use it to take down "illegal content" and "identify and remove terrorist material." This initiative is underway as the Digital Services Act passed by European Union and Online Safety Bill due to become law in the United Kingdom, are promising to crack down on platforms that fail to remove extremist material or face fines and other penalties. – [*Financial Times*](#)

MHA Designates Khalistan Radical 'Terrorist'

On 9 January 2023, MHA designated Arshdeep Singh Gill alias Arsh Dalla, a Khalistan Tiger Force operative based in Canada as a terrorist under the UAPA act. He is closely affiliated with Harshdeep Singh Nijjar, another designated terrorist, running terror modules at his behest. Gill is also accused of "targeted killing, extorting money for terror funding...and creating terror among the people in Punjab." – [*New Indian Express*](#)

TTP Sets Up Parallel Govts in Pak Territory

Tehreek-e-Taliban Pakistan has unquestionably challenged the sovereignty of Pakistan by setting up parallel governments and ministries in areas loosely under its control in two provinces. The Northern Province is divided into Peshawar, Malkand, Mardan, and Gilgit-Baltistan and the Southern Province encompasses Bannu, Dera Ismail Khan, and Kohat. The terrorist outfit has also announced the establishment of ministries of economic and political affairs, education, fatwa, construction, defence, judiciary, and intelligence.

– [*ANI News*](#)

US Forces Neutralise 11 Somali ISIS Members

On 25 January 2023, American special operations forces neutralised eleven ISIS terrorists, including Bilal al-Sudani, a pivotal player in its terror financing operations in a mountainous area in Northern Somalia. According to US Defense Secretary Lloyd Austin, "This action leaves the United States and its partners safer and more secure, and it reflects our steadfast commitment to protecting Americans from the threat of terrorism at home and abroad."

– [*AP News*](#)

British Police Officer Charged With Terrorism

Daniel Abed Khalife, a 21-year-old British armed officer after the Metropolitan Police's Terrorism Command investigated him, has been charged with terrorism. Along with trying or having gathered helpful information to carry out a terrorist attack, he has also been accused of a "bomb hoax." He has been held in custody after his preliminary hearing at the Westminster Magistrate's Court on 28 January this year. –

[*Counter Terror Business*](#)