



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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INTERIM AFGHAN GOVERNMENT: OF, BY AND FOR THE TERRORISTS

HAND OF PAKISTAN'S ISI VISIBLE IN THE TALIBAN-CENTRIC CABINET



Taliban fighters with guns inside presidential palace after seizing control of Kabul last month - AP

The interim government announced by the Taliban is said to bear the unmistakable stamp of Pakistan's Inter-Services Intelligence (ISI). Mullah Mohammad Hasan Akhund — whose name is on a UN sanctions list and is known for authorising the destruction of Bamiyan's giant cliff statues of Lord Buddha in 2001 — has been named as prime minister of this new interim government.

Formed after over three weeks of Taliban's takeover of Kabul, formation of the new cabinet led to serious internal dissensions until Pakistan's ISI chief General Faiz Hamid visited the Afghan capital on 4th of September 2021. Three days later, the announcement over the formation of the new government was made. Thus, the ISI hand in the new dispensation is evident.

It is reported that the new cabinet comprises of 33 ministers from the Kandahar-based Taliban leaders, including members of the notorious Haqqani network. This power bloc appears to have replaced the faction of Mullah Abdul Ghani Baradar (now deputy prime minister along with Mullah Abdul Salam) that took part in the Doha negotiations and had made conciliatory overtures towards India.

The most shocking news has been the appointment of the dreaded FBI-wanted terrorist Sirajuddin Haqqani, as the new Afghan interior minister. It is reported that he has also been given the charge of appointing governors for all 34 provinces of Afghanistan.

The Taliban had previously stated they wanted to form an inclusive government. However, all the new ministers are established Taliban leaders, and no woman finds a place in the cabinet. — [BBC](#), [Al Jazeera](#), [Business Standard](#)

WANTED INTERIOR MINISTER



SIRAJUDDIN HAQQANI:
REWARD \$5 MILLION

Leader of the Haqqani network and now Interior Minister of Afghanistan, Sirajuddin Haqqani is accused of having carried out numerous deadly terrorist attacks over the last 20 years. Having close links with Al-Qaeda, his group is on the US list of terrorist organizations.

According to the FBI website, the US Department of State will reward up to \$5 million for information leading directly to his arrest. The elusive figure was until recently thought to be living in Pakistan, specifically the Miram Shah area in North Waziristan. His network is held responsible for attacking Indian embassy in July 2008 that killed 58 people. — [The Times of India](#)

TALIBAN LAUNCH HOUSE-TO-HOUSE MANHUNT IN PANJSHIR



Tomb of Ahmad Shah Massoud desecrated by Taliban fighters

Even as the Taliban claim to have gained "full control" of Afghanistan by capturing Panjshir, the Resistance fighters have denied Taliban's claim. The National Resistance Front (NRF) includes former Afghan Vice-President Amrullah Saleh, Ahmad Massoud (the son of legendary fighter Ahmad Shah Massoud), soldiers of former Afghan security forces and local militias. The fighting in Panjshir valley - north to the city of Kabul and having a population of around 150,000 to 200,000 people - has already left hundreds dead.

Meanwhile, there are allegations that Taliban is carrying out door-to-door manhunt and killing people in Panjshir. According to reports, the Taliban fighters have vandalized the tomb of legendary Afghan commander Ahmad Shah Massoud, which has sparked outrage among sections of the Afghan population.

Nicknamed the 'lion of Panjshir', Massoud was a 'mujahideen' fighter against the Soviets and an enemy of the first Taliban regime. He was reportedly killed by an Al-Qaeda suicide bomber, a day before the 9/11 attacks.

— [IANS](#), [India Today](#)

TERRORISM BEGINS TO LURK ON LAUNCHPADS ACROSS LoC

10 HURT, CHILD KILLED IN TWO J& K GRENADE ATTACKS



Infiltration of terrorists from Pakistan may increase in months ahead. – Photo DNA

Pakistan-based terrorist groups, Lashkar-i-Taiba (LeT) and Jaish-e-Mohammad (JeM) have begun pushing their cadres into Jammu and Kashmir following the Taliban's takeover of Kabul and US' complete withdrawal of troops from Afghanistan.

Terrorist launch-pads on the Pakistani-side of the Indo-Pak border have become active again. Intelligence inputs have reported 21 sightings of terrorists at these sites near the Line of Control (LoC).

"This is in contrast with the almost nil infiltration seen in the initial months after the India-Pakistan ceasefire pact in February this year," a source reportedly told *Times of India* in late August.

Although fewer than last year, 87 youths from Jammu and Kashmir are officially estimated to have joined terrorist outfits so far this year, according to intelligence sources. In addition, counter-terrorism forces neutralised 102 terrorists this year till August 28, 2021. Although four Indian Army personnel have been killed this year, down from 17-18 last year, police casualties have risen to 10-11.

Meanwhile, terrorists threw a grenade at a Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) bunker in Sopore town of Baramulla district of Jammu and Kashmir on 13 August 2021, injuring a jawan and two civilians. The grenade blast took place at a busy main crossing, near the SBI bank in Sopore of north Kashmir. The night before the incident, a three-year-old child succumbed to injuries after terrorists lobbed a grenade on the residence of a BJP leader in Rajouri town of Jammu and Kashmir. The child was among the seven members of BJP leader Jasbir Singh's family who were injured in the attack on his house in Khandli area of Rajouri. — [Times of India](#), [India Today](#)

ISI, TALIBAN COULD USE IS-K TERRORISTS AGAINST INDIA

IS-K TAKES RESPONSIBILITY FOR KABUL AIRPORT BLAST, 170 KILLED



Picture of IS-K fighters training in Afghanistan released to the media. - Khaama press

Indian intelligence agencies have reportedly suggested that Pakistan's Inter-Intelligence Services (ISI) may employ Islamic State Khorasan (IS-K) terrorists, who were released from Afghanistan jails against India.

Indian intelligence agencies fear that the ISI may provide IS-K terrorists arms received from the Taliban to deflect the blame away from any Pakistani involvement in future attacks against India. Thus, IS-K could give both Pakistan and Taliban the convenience of deniability, even if they facilitate the dreaded terror group in carrying out the attacks.

According to reports published in India Today and India.com news outlets, IS-K can send some of its terrorists to Pakistan Occupied Kashmir (POK) from where they can carry out attacks in Jammu and Kashmir or in other parts of the country.

The National Investigation Agency (NIA) has reported that an IS-K commander by the name of Munsib, who is believed to be functioning from the Afghanistan-Pakistan border, has been radicalising youngsters in the area to join IS-K. He has reportedly been very active on social media over the past months.

Although the IS-K cadres have been reportedly defeated by Taliban forces in Nangarhar province of Afghanistan, it is believed IS-K may still have around 1000-1500 fighters spread out across Afghanistan. At its peak, the group is said to have as many as 3,000 fighters.

It is noteworthy that IS-K took responsibility for the Kabul airport suicide blast on 27 August 2021, which killed 170 people, including 13 US troops. – [India Today](#), [India.com](#), [BBC](#)

MASOOD AZHAR MEETS TALIBAN LEADERSHIP, SAY REPORTS



JeM CHIEF MASOOD AZHAR

Pakistan-based Jaish-e-Mohammed (JeM) chief Masood Azhar is reported to have been in Qandahar in the third week of August to seek support from Taliban in fomenting terrorism in Jammu and Kashmir.

It is said that Masood Azhar met important Taliban leaders, including Mullah Abdul Ghani Baradar, between 17 to 19 August 2021.

Earlier, Masood Azhar expressed happiness over the Taliban's "victory" after the movement captured Kabul on August 15, praising the terror group for enforcing the collapse of "US-backed Afghanistan government".

In his write-up titled 'Manzil Ki Taraf' (towards the destination) on August 16, the JeM chief applauded the "success of mujahideen" in Afghanistan. – [The Times of India](#)

BRICS SUPPORTS PM'S TERROR CONCERNS OVER AFGHANISTAN

Leaders of BRICS (Brazil-Russia-India-China-South Africa) called for settling the ongoing situation in Afghanistan by "peaceful means", during the 13th BRICS Summit chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi on 9 September 2021. Attended by Russian President Vladimir Putin, Chinese President Xi Jinping, South African President Cyril Ramaphosa and Brazil's Jair Bolsonaro.

The grouping condemned the terrorist attacks near Kabul Airport in late August that resulted in many deaths and injuries.

"We underscore the priority of fighting terrorism, including preventing attempts by terrorist organisations to use Afghan territory as a terrorist sanctuary and to carry out attacks against other countries, as well as drug trade within Afghanistan. We emphasise the need to address the humanitarian situation and to uphold human rights, including those of women, children and minorities," the BRICS said.

The BRICS reiterated its commitment to combating terrorism in all its forms and manifestations, including the cross-border movement of terrorists. – [India TV](#), [Hindustan Times](#)

US Issues Africa Terror Blacklist

The US State Department has added five senior members of Islamist groups in Africa to its terror blacklist, blocking access to any property or interests they may have in the United States.

One of them is Bonomade Machude Omar, the senior commander of ISIS-Mozambique. Among others on the list are Sidan ag Hitta and Salem ould Breihmatt, senior leaders of the Mali-based Al-Qaeda branch Jama'at Nasr al-Islam wal Muslimin (JNIM). — [AFP](#)

Mozambique, Rwanda take on ISIS

In their cooperation with the Mozambican defence and security forces, fighting ISIS terrorists in the northern province of Cabo Delgado, the Rwandan contingent took control of the Mbau area, in the northern province of Cabo Delgado, on 20 August 2021, according to a report in Saturday's issue of the Rwandan daily '*New Times*'.

The two countries are seizing territory and hunting down ISIS leader Bonomar Machude Omar. Ali Mohamad Rage, a spokesman of Al Shabab group, and Abdikader Mohamed of the same group are also named. — [All Africa](#), [AFP](#)

Neo-Nazi asked to read literary classics

The British attorney general's office has been asked to review whether an unduly lenient sentence was handed to a neo-Nazi who was ordered to read classic literature such as Jane Austen's *Pride and Prejudice*.

Ben John, who was convicted of a terror offence after downloading almost 70,000 white supremacist documents and bomb-making instructions, received a suspended prison term.

The judge told the 21-year old not to research any more rightwing material but return every four months to be 'tested' on Dickens, Shakespeare, Hardy and Austen. — [The Guardian](#)

China wants US to ban ETIM

On 17 August 2021, China asked the US to lower tension in their relations and reimpose the ban on Xinjiang's Uyghur group – the East Turkeministan Islamic Movement (ETIM) – in return for collaboration on stabilising the situation in Afghanistan.

Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi told US Secretary of State Antony Blinken by phone that the Trump administration's decision to remove the ban on ETIM smacked of double standards. – [PTI](#)

Turkey wants Iraq to fight PKK terror

The presence of Kurdish militant group, the PKK in northern Iraq is a threat that must be put to an end, Turkey's ambassador to Iraq has said.

Speaking at a forum held in Baghdad, Turkey's ambassador Ali Rıza Güney said "I get the impression from Iraq that while Deash is a real terrorist organization, the PKK is 'a kind of' terrorist organization. The PKK is a threat not only to Turkey but also to Iraq's security and stability." However, he thanked the Iraqi prime minister for the cooperation extended by Iraq against the PKK so far. – [The Daily Sabah](#)

Maoist leader with Rs8 lakh bounty surrenders

A Maoist leader, carrying a Rs 8 lakh reward and wanted in over 20 criminal cases, surrendered before security forces in Chhattisgarh's Sukma district early in September. A secretary of the Kerlapal area committee of the CPI (Maoist), Sodi Muya, was 'involved' in many strikes against security forces during his 15 years with the terrorist group.

According to officials, he surrendered before the Sukma superintendent of police and senior CRPF officers. He was involved in the December 2014 Chintagufa ambush, in which 14 security personnel were killed, and the March 2017 Bheji attack in which 12 personnel died. – [Times Now](#)