



# TERROR TRACKER

*Newsletter by Counter Terrorism Centre*



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



## **ASSAM ARRESTS** INDICATE AL-QAEDA SPREAD IN INDIA

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# ASSAM ARRESTS INDICATE AL-QAEDA SPREAD IN INDIA

PROBE INTO BANGLADESHI SUSPECTS MAY COVER SEVERAL STATES



Arrested Bangladeshi nationals captured by the Assam Police— Courtesy Guwahati Plus

The Assam Police arrested five terrorists from the jihadist group Ansarullah Bangla Team, an affiliate of Al-Qaeda, in the Barpeta district of Assam on 5<sup>th</sup> March 2022. Among those arrested was Saiful Islam alias Harun Rashid, an illegal immigrant from Bangladesh who taught at a mosque in Dhakalipara and is said to have radicalised, recruited and converted several people of Barpeta, which is situated 100km from Guwahati.

The names of other terrorists in custody are Khairul Islam, Badshah Suleiman Khan, Naushad Ali and Taimur Rahman Khan, all believed to have links with to Ansarullah Bangla Team. It is said that the group had formed a front company to camouflage their travel to different states of the country and to Bangladesh.

The National Investigation Agency (NIA) has reportedly asked the Ministry of Home Affairs for permission to launch a probe into this case that covers several states of the country. It has also put out the following statement – “The members of the group advocate that people should sacrifice themselves for Islam and Koran and not for their country or their society. They, however, have not succeeded much in Assam as Muslims living in the state do not respond to or encourage such ideas or messages. In fact, it has been with the help and cooperation of the Muslims in the state that they could be apprehended and I thank them for this.” – [The Diplomat](#), [India Today](#), [NDTV](#)

## GOVT IMPOSES 5-YEAR BAN ON ZAKIR NAIK'S FOUNDATION



ZAKIR NAIK

On 30<sup>th</sup> March 2022, the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) issued a notification to ban radical preacher, Zakir Naik's organization – Islamic Research Foundation for five years.

A tribunal formed as per the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act, had, on 9<sup>th</sup> March 2022, announced a similar decision, upholding a previous decision of the government.

This organization was initially banned for five years, by the central government, on 17<sup>th</sup> November 2016. MHA's notification declared that “The speeches of Zakir Naik, founder of the IRF, are objectionable as he has been extolling known terrorists... promoting forcible conversion of the youth to Islam, justifying the suicide bombings...” – [OpIndia](#), [The Print](#), [Daily Pioneer](#)

## BRAZEN ISIS MESSAGE CLAIMS IT IS RESPONSIBLE FOR ATTACK



Local residents gather outside the Kucha Risaldar mosque, the site of the suicide bombing claimed by ISIS. \_ AP

Amaq, the Islamic State's propaganda website, claimed responsibility for the deadly bomb blast, killing a large Shia congregation. The statement declared that "Today Friday, an Islamic State fighter succeeded in assaulting a Shiite mosque in Peshawar."

According to Pakistani police officers, the suicide bomber was an Afghan exile, with links to the Islamic State in Khorasan Province. He also received training in Afghanistan. According to official statements, three people suspected in the planning of the attacks, including the main handler, were killed in a security operation conducted near the Khyber tribal district, the gateway to Afghanistan. This was one of the most biggest attacks carried out by this group in Pakistan – [Al Jazeera](#), [India Today](#), [News 18](#)

# 62 KILLED IN PESHAWAR SHIA MOSQUE BOMBING

SUICIDE BOMBER TARGETS FRIDAY CONGREGATION: OVER 200 INJURED



Bereaved friends and relatives at the funeral prayers of the slain worshippers. - AP

The old city of Peshawar was rocked by a deadly lethal suicide bomb blast, where the target of attack was Pakistan's Shiite community, who had congregated at the Kucha Risaldar mosque for the Friday prayers on 4<sup>th</sup> March 2022.

The Shiite form at least 20 percent of the total Pakistani population. At least 62 people were killed while 200 were injured due to this targeted attack. The mosque is believed to be the only place of worship for this community in the old city.

Two armed attackers, one of whom died in a gunfire exchange with police officers stationed outside the mosque, had arrived on a motorcycle together. A police officer had also lost his life during this process.

The second attacker, according to eyewitnesses, fired bullets at some of the individuals present and then closed his eyes before detonating his vest. According to the bomb disposal unit, 5 kilograms worth of explosives were used to stage this attack. The United Nations Security Council's President, Lana Zaki, on behalf of all of its member-states, had condemned this "heinous and cowardly terrorist attack" on 6<sup>th</sup> March 2022.

Pakistan had last witnessed an attack on a similar scale when a political rally came under attack in Quetta, Balochistan. In that instance, at least 149, including Nawabzada Siraj Raisani (a political candidate) were killed. Furthermore, no less than 186 people were wounded during that attack. –

[Business Standard](#), [CNN](#), [The Hindu](#), [Reliefweb](#)



# TURKEY SENDING JIHADISTS INTO UKRAINE, SAYS RUSSIA

PUTIN'S ALLY KADYROV MARSHALS CHECHEN JIHADISTS AGAINST UKRAINE



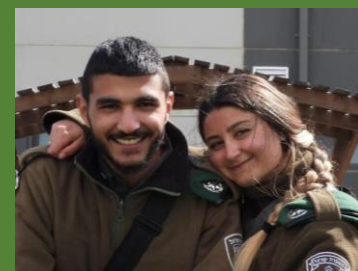
Chechen jihadists fighting for Russia can be seen praying inside Ukraine. – East2west News

Russian state-controlled RIA Novosti news agency claims that Turkey has reportedly deployed between 2,000 to 2,500 foreign fighters from Syria, who had earlier fought for Azerbaijan in the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict, to aid the Ukrainians in their fight against Russia. Hundreds of fighters, affiliated with the Tahrir al-Sham group in Idlib, Syria, have allegedly been provided safe passage into Ukraine via Turkey to participate in the ongoing armed conflict.

Reportedly, the Syrian jihadists who have travelled to support the Ukrainian war efforts have done so because they perceive the Russian support as having proved instrumental in turning the tide in favour of President Bashar al-Assad, and want to seek retribution. An unnamed Syrian politician has claimed that the foreign mercenaries aided and abetted by Turkey have arrived in Ukraine, having received average salaries of US\$ 1,500. Several of these fighters, affiliated with the Free Syrian Army, were earlier deployed to Libya as well.

Meanwhile, Russia has allowed Chechen strongman Ramzan Kadyrov to send in a unit of his Muslim volunteer fighters into Ukraine, whose operations have gone viral on social media. Kadyrov has also assured Russian President Vladimir Putin that his 70,000- strong Chechen volunteer force is ready “to become heroes and sacrifice their lives for the security of both countries (Russia and Chechnya).” – [Newsweek](#), [Asbarez](#), [Morning Star](#)

## ISIS GUNMEN KILLS TWO ISRAELI BORDER OFFICERS



The two slain Border Police officers Yazan Fallah, 19, from Kasra Samia, and Shirel Aboukaret, 19, from Netanya. — *Times of Israel*

Two Arab-Israeli terrorists who swore allegiance to ISIS shot and killed two Border Police officers and injured twelve others in Hadera on 27 March 2022.

The two officers killed in the attack were Yazan Fallah, 19, from Kasra Samia, and Shirel Aboukaret, 19, from Netanya. It has been reported that Fallah was Samia's relative.

The two terrorists, both residents of Umm el-Fahm, posted a video on Facebook before the attack swearing allegiance to ISIS.

The terrorist movement's news agency published a statement on 27 March taking responsibility for the attack in Hadera, as well as for the deadly terrorist attack conducted by an ISIS-supporting Bedouin-Israeli in Beersheba last week. — [The Jerusalem Post](#)

## INDIA, AUSTRALIA CONDEMN CROSS-BORDER TERRORISM

On 21<sup>st</sup> March 2022, Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Australian premier Scott Morrison condemned terrorism in all its manifestations, including use of proxy actors for instigating cross-border terror during the course of their wide-ranging India-Australia Virtual Summit. They also agreed to bolster efforts in information sharing and coordination at the bilateral, QUAD, and at other multi-lateral levels.

The development built on a high-level diplomatic engagement between the Indian Permanent Representative to the UN, T.S. Tirumurti, the Australian Permanent Representative to the UN, Mitch Fifield, Australian Senators Peter Khalil and James Paterson, and the Officer-in-Charge of the Counter-Terrorism Committee Executive Directorate, David Scharia, on 4<sup>th</sup> March 2022.

The topic of discussion centred on counter-terrorism in India's capacity as Chair of the UN Counter-Terrorism Committee. – *The Print, Times of India*

### **US Lawmaker's Bill Calls Pakistan Terror Sponsor**

Scott Perry, a representative of the state of Pennsylvania, introduced a bill to designate Pakistan as a state sponsor of terrorism, on 8<sup>th</sup> March 2022.

Labelled the "Stopping Pakistani Terror Act," has been referred to the US House Committee on Foreign Affairs for review. If ratified, it will reportedly ban US defence exports and sales and punish those engaging in trade with Pakistan, along with other financial measures.

Furthermore, it would be the fifth country after Cuba, North Korea, Iran, and Syria to be placed on this specific list. – [The Print](#)

### **Sahel, 'Centre of Terror': New GTI Report**

According to the GTI report 2022, the Sub-Saharan African region has overtaken West Asia, North Africa, and South Asia in terms of total number of fatalities due to a terrorist attack.

This trends has been visible since 2017. However, Oman is considered to be the least-exposed to terrorism. Sahel, the "centre of terrorism" in accounts for at least 35 percent of cumulative deaths due to terrorism.

The growth of 'Jama'at Nasr al-Islam wal Muslimin', an al-Qaeda affiliate, a Sahel-based terrorist outfit, is considered to be growing fastest among all terrorist organisations. – [The Economist](#), [Muscat Daily](#)

### **Video Games: Far-Right's Terror Toolkit**

Matt Jukes, the head of the Met Police's counter-terrorism unit, has claimed that online content accessed via video games by middle-class children in Britain, has lured them towards right-wing terrorism.

He underlined the statistics, according to which 19 out of 20 children arrested in 2021, under the age of 18, were taken in by authorities for right-wing terror offenses.

Overall, 41% of arrested individuals last year had affiliation with extremist right-wing ideologies. – [The Guardian](#)

### **Colombo Security Conclave to Counter Terror**

From 9<sup>th</sup> to 10<sup>th</sup> March 2022, the National Security Advisors of India, Sri Lanka, Maldives, and Mauritius met in Male and laid out a mutually acceptable agenda to counter terrorism and radicalisation.

They also identified some of the other critical areas of cooperation to bolster and expand regional cooperation and collaboration in areas of common interest, including trafficking and transnational organised crime, maritime security, and cyber security. – [The Hindustan Times](#)

### **KSA executes 81 for terror and other crimes**

Between 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> March 2022, the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia (KSA) executed 81 individuals, including a Syrian and 7 Yemeni nationals, on charges ranging from "deviant offences" to terrorism.

This was one of the largest mass executions undertaken by its government since 67 people were executed in 2021.

The state news agency announced that these persons were "convicted of murdering innocent men, women, and children... and pledging allegiance to foreign terrorist organisations such as ISIS, al-Qaeda, and the Houthis. – [The Economic Times](#)

### **SNA kills 10 al-Shabaab terrorists in Lower Jubba**

Members of the Somali National Army (SNA) eliminated 10 terrorists affiliated with al-Shabaab on 1<sup>st</sup> March 2022 in the Lower Jubba region, as part of its ongoing special security operations in the country's southern territory.

This counter-terrorism operation came on the heels of the security forces warding off an attack on the military base in the town of Hudur, where 5 terrorists were neutralised. – [dajjiworld.com](#)