



TERROR TRACKER

Newsletter by Counter Terrorism Centre



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



LIFE IMPRISONMENT FOR **SEPARATIST YASIN MALIK**

Kashmiri Actress Killed by Terrorists for Singing

UN SAYS **TALIBAN NEXUS** WITH **TERROR GROUPS** GROWING

NSA Ajit Doval Pushes for 'Terror-Free' Afghanistan

10 BLACK AMERICANS GUNNED DOWN IN **BUFFALO SHOOTING**

Republicans Block Bill on Domestic Terrorism, Gun Reforms

+ MORE NEWS & ANALYSES

LIFE IMPRISONMENT FOR SEPARATIST YASIN MALIK

N.I.A. SOUGHT DEATH SENTENCE FOR ROLE IN EXODUS OF KASHMIRI PANDITS



File Picture of Yasin Malik who has been awarded life sentence in a terror funding case.

Yasin Malik, the founder of the proscribed Jammu and Kashmir Liberation Front (JKLF) and a separatist leader was convicted by a special court in New Delhi on 25th May 2022.

He was awarded a life imprisonment sentence for his role in a terror funding case under section 17 of the UAPA. In addition to ordering the life sentence, Special Judge Praveen Singh also imposed a fine worth Rs. 10 lakh under section 120B and Rs. 10,000 under other sections of the UAPA and IPC.

However, the National Investigation Agency had sought death sentence for Malik from the court, holding him culpable for the exodus of Kashmiri Pandits from Jammu and Kashmir. Justice Singh decided to adhere to his initial decision, underlining that the facts of the case had already been deliberated on and a sentence deemed fit by the court had been pronounced.

Along with terror financing, he had pleaded guilty to spreading secessionist activities and terrorism in Kashmir in 2017, prior to his conviction by the court. According to reports, Yasin Malik can appeal against Justice Singh's decision in the Delhi High Court.

His unlawful activities spanned a detailed mechanism and structure globally to raise funds for carrying out anti-India and terrorist activities in J&K in the name of "freedom struggle." – [NDTV](#), [Live Mint](#), [The Economic Times](#), [Hindustan Times](#), [AP News](#)

KASHMIRI ACTRESS KILLED BY TERRORISTS FOR SINGING



AMREEN BHATT

On 27 May 2022, Jammu and Kashmir police gunned down two Lashkar-e-Taiba gunmen, who had killed Kashmiri actress and singer Amreen Bhatt outside her home in Budgam's Chadoora area in Jammu and Kashmir on 25 May.

Radical Islamists had been posting abusive comments against the actress, some called the 'Tick Tok' girl for her reels and music videos, which they considered un-Islamic.

The killing has drawn criticism from various quarters, including from former J&K chief minister Umar Abdullah. — [India TV News](#), [OpIndia](#)

NSA AJIT DOVAL PUSHES FOR 'TERROR-FREE' AFGHANISTAN



National Security Adviser (NSA)
Shri Ajit Doval

In a strong pitch for the need to ensure peace and stability in Afghanistan, National Security Adviser Ajit Doval called for combating terrorism emanating from the region.

Speaking at the 4th Regional Security Dialogue on Afghanistan — attended by NSAs from Tajikistan, India, Russia, Kazakhstan, Uzbekistan, Iran, Kyrgyzstan and China — Mr Doval stressed that India continues to stand with the Afghan people and since August 2021 has contributed 17,000 metric tonnes of wheat, 500,000 doses of Covaxin, 13 tonnes of life-saving medication, winter clothes and 60 million doses of polio vaccines.

Mr. Doval stressed that all states should come together to ensure that Afghanistan does not become a terror hub. — [The Print](#)

UN SAYS TALIBAN NEXUS WITH TERROR GROUPS GROWING

27-PAGE REPORT SAYS AQIS, JeM, LeT HAVE TRAINING CAMPS IN AFGHANISTAN



File pic of Jaish-e-Mohammed head Masood Azhar with Pakistan security forces and militants

The UN Monitoring Team under the Taliban Sanctions Committee has recently released a 27-page report, which covers the period since the time of Taliban's takeover of Afghanistan in August 2021.

It reports three disturbing developments. First is the increased presence of anti-India terrorist outfits in Afghanistan after Taliban's capture of power, including Al Qaeda in Indian Subcontinent (AQIS), Jaish-e-Mohammed (JeM) and Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT). The report also raises concern over the rising outflow of narcotics from Afghanistan to the adjoining region and states that smuggling of "Afghan-origin drugs have increased significantly in the second half of 2021" - increasing by up to 50 percent.

The third major disconcerting trend is the encouragement Taliban's coming to power has "inspired terrorists around the world". It is reported that the JeM is being reorganized and is receiving patronage of the Taliban. The new head of the Afghanistan outfit is Qari Ramzan. There are eight training camps in Nangarhar, three of which are directly under Taliban control.

Regarding Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT), the report states: "The group was said to maintain three camps in Kunar and Nangarhar. Previous LeT members have included Aslam Farooqi and Ejaz Ahmad Ahangar (a.k.a. Abu Usman al-Kashmiri), both of whom joined ISIL-K".

Meanwhile, Islamic State-Khorasan (IS-K) has members of the Pakistani Taliban, Afghan Taliban, Lashkar-e-Taiba, Jammāt-ud-Dawa, the Haqqani network and the Islamic Movement of Uzbekistan. Regarding Al-Qaeda, the report says that its chief Ayman al-Zawahiri in the "eastern region from Zabul Province north towards Kunar and along the border with Pakistan". — [Times of India](#), [The Hindu](#)

10 BLACK AMERICANS GUNNED DOWN IN BUFFALO SHOOTING

ATTACK REPORTEDLY INSPIRED BY FAR-RIGHT CONSPIRACY THEORY



A picture grab from Facebook shows police apprehending suspected teenage shooter

On 14th May 2022, an 18-year-old teenager Payton Gendron live-streamed a mass shooting he committed in Buffalo, in the US State of New York. The area of attack was inside and around the Tops Friendly Market, which is a predominantly black neighbourhood, with Black residents being the target of attack. Gendron is reported to have used an AR-15-style rifle to carry out the act of violence.

Black fatalities rose to 10 as authorities counted the lives lost during this rampage. On the other hand, three people were also wounded during this incident. The perpetrator is believed to have driven over 320 kilometres to the site of attack. A man purchasing cupcakes for his son's birthday and an elderly lady shopping for groceries after visiting her husband in a nursing home were among the dead.

According to reports, the shooter had conducted reconnaissance of the store several times to assess the demographics of shoppers (particularly to understand when the maximum number of African-American customers would be making their way inside the store). He mapped out the interiors and all the available exits. The warning signs of his upcoming attack included a 180-page manifesto detailing his chilling beliefs that culminated in the racially-motivated attack, inspired by the Great Replacement Theory (a conspiracy theory by French author Renaud Camus that speaks of a plot to replace White population with non-Whites). It was reportedly posted on social media platform Discord before the attack, but has been removed. – [BBC News](#), [CNN News](#), [AP News](#)

REPUBLICANS
BLOCK BILL
ON DOMESTIC
TERRORISM,
GUN REFORMS



Sen. Chris Murphy pleading for gun control reforms in the US Senate

On May 26 2022, US Senators from the Republican Party blocked a terrorism bill, which the US House of Representatives had passed earlier in response to the Buffalo shooting.

Republican Party members contended that plenty of laws already existed to fight domestic terrorism and opposed giving more power to federal law enforcement agencies.

The bill got stuck in a 47-47 vote, short of the 60 votes necessary to break a filibuster in the chamber. Senators of the Democratic Party unsuccessfully pleaded for the bill to be passed in the wake of a second mass shooting in Uvalde Texas, in which 19 children and two teachers were killed, but it seems unlikely that the bill would now become a law. — [CNBC](#)

HOME MINISTER INAUGURATES 'NATGRID' CAMPUS IN BENGALURU

During the opening of NATGRID in Bengaluru on 4 May 2022, Union Home Minister Amit Shah said that the central government will be developing database to monitor terror funding, 'hawala' transactions, counterfeit currency, illegal arms smuggling, bomb threats and other terrorist activities soon.

In a government statement, Mr. Amit Shah is quoted to have said that "The government has entrusted the task of developing and operating a state-of-the-art and innovative information technology platform for accessing information from data collection organizations to NATGRID".

He reportedly added that intelligence and legal agencies should now be able to make full use of intelligence coming from various sources with the barriers to critical data being removed. "With the help of data analytics and information technology, there should be a paradigm shift in the current way of working of agencies." — *Hindustan Times, Business Standard*

44 kilos of heroin seized in J&K

The Indian army seized around 44 kilograms of heroin on 29th May 2022, which was smuggled across the Line of Control.

The drugs were seized in a joint operation conducted by the military and the J&K police from Bagyaldra village, Poonch district.

The recovered consignment is worth more than Rs. 50 crore in the international market.

A three-day operation was undertaken to achieve this victory based on vital inputs. — *Times of India*

JeM Terrorist Caught Near RSS Headquarters

The Maharashtra Anti-Terrorism (ATS) Squad took the custody on 16 May 2022 of an alleged Jaish-e-Mohammad (JeM) terrorist for reportedly conducting a recce of the RSS headquarters in Nagpur in July 2021.

An officer said that Raees Shaikh (26) had allegedly conducted a recce of Hedgewar Smriti Bhavan in Nagpur's Reshimbaug area and sent a video of the same to his handler in Pakistan.

Raees Sheikh is a resident of Awantipora in J&K's Pulwama district and was arrested by J&K Police in December after a grenade was found on him. — *The Indian Express*

Iran Puts Former US Officials on its Terror List

Israel witnessed a deadly terrorist attack in Elad on 5th May 2022.

Palestinians hacked three people to death with axes, while four others were injured.

A knife was also used for injuring people.

Israeli forces arrested the perpetrators – As'ad Yousef As'ad al-Rifa'i and Subhi Emad Sbeihat – on 8 May, 2022 in a forested area near Elad. — *Times of Israel, CNN News*

UK Police Arrests Three on Terror Charges

The Metropolitan Police (Met Police) in the UK has arrested three teenagers in London and Essex – aged 13, 17, and 18 – within a week on terrorism-related charges.

While one of the offenders is accused of distributing material related to violent Islamist extremism, others have been charged with the charge of inciting acts of terrorism.

These crackdowns are a part of the Met Police's broader counter-terrorism initiatives.

Commander Richard Smith said the arrests are "further indication of a concerning upward trend in police action against younger people for terrorism-related matters." — *BBC News, The Hindu*

ISIS Returnee Lisa Smith Found Guilty

On 30th May 2022, the Special Criminal Court in Dublin found Lisa Smith, a former Irish Defence Forces soldier guilty of being a member of the ISIS from 28 October 2015 to 1 December 2019. After ISIS' collapse, her return to Ireland resulted in her arrest at the Dublin airport.

She will be sentenced on 1 July 2022 for her crime. — *Sky News, BBC News*

Six Khalistan Operatives Arrested

On 13th May 2022, the Punjab police arrested six ISI-backed Khalistani operatives for their role in the rocket-propelled grenade attack on its intelligence headquarters on 9th May.

Among those arrested was Lakhbir Singh Landa, who was the primary conspirator.

He is a close associate of Harvinder Singh Rinda, a man in cahoots with the ISI. — *The Times of India, The Indian Express*