



► **INCIDENT ALERTS**

Extracts from incidents reported on ANVIL's Travel Risk Intelligence Service over recent weeks.

Pakistan: Explosion in Multan
08/12/2009 08:20:08

Police report that a bomb has exploded in Multan. The explosion took place near an intelligence office and reports say at least 12 people have been killed. This is the first time Multan has been hit during the recent surge in violence.

Update - Pakistan: Bombings rock Peshawar and Lahore
07/12/2009 19:04:30

Three bombings in Lahore and Peshawar on Monday have left 25 dead. Two back-to-back bombings ripped through a busy market in Pakistan's eastern city of Lahore on Monday.

Update - Pakistan: 39 dead in Rawalpindi mosque attack
04/12/2009 11:24:10

Today a terrorist bomb attack on a mosque in Rawalpindi killed 39 people and injured over 40 others . . .

Update - Pakistan: Number of wounded more than doubles in Islamabad bomb attack
02/12/2009 13:35:15

The number of casualties from a suicide bombing at a naval headquarters in Islamabad today has risen to eleven dead.

Update - Pakistan: Bomber kills 19 outside Peshawar court
19/11/2009 13:10:43

Nineteen people have died after a suicide bomber blew himself up outside a court . . .

Pakistan: Army accidentally kills 6 civilians in Hangu district
18/11/2009 19:15:08

An army shell was accidentally dropped early and killed six civilians on Wednesday. The shell was about to be dropped on militants . . .

► **BACKGROUND TO CURRENT SITUATION**

Pakistan has a population of 172 million. Power is divided among the army, the intelligence service and two rival political parties.

The country has suffered a wave of bombings since July 2007, and has been rocked by a spike in bloodshed killing more than 450 people since October 2009.

In mid-October, the Pakistani government launched an offensive (operation code named "Rah-e-Nijat") in the South Waziristan tribal region, viewed as the main stronghold in the country of both the Taliban and al-Qaida. The offensive has drawn retaliatory militant attacks across Pakistan.

Around 30,000 troops are pressing a three-pronged offensive against TTP hideouts in South Waziristan, part of the tribal belt on the Afghan border. Backed up by fighter jets and helicopter gunships, the area is a closed military zone.

Pakistan's military and civilian government have blamed recent attacks in cities on TTP militants avenging both the military offensive and the killing of their leader Baitullah Mehsud in a US missile attack in August.

The government also carried out military operations in the Khyber and Orakzai Agencies to destroy the hideouts of TTP and Lashkar-e-Islam (LI) militants.

The United States has put Pakistan on the frontline of its war against Al-Qaeda, increasingly disturbed by deteriorating security in the country where suicide attacks and bombings have killed more than 2,600 people in 28 months.



We continue to receive a stream of credible reports indicating terrorists are in the advanced stages of planning further attacks. These attacks could target Western interests and individuals and places frequented by foreigners, and could occur at any time.

Attacks may be launched anywhere in Pakistan, including major cities. It is likely there will be more attacks on vulnerable soft targets, such as other government agencies, large civilian gatherings or foreign targets, such as aid agencies and hotels.

Suicide attacks and bombings frequently strike the sprawling city of Peshawar (2.5 million people). In the deadliest attack in Pakistan in two years, a massive car bomb killed 118 people in a Peshawar market on October 28.

In November 2009, police shot dead a would-be suicide bomber who approached a checkpoint in the heavily guarded and leafy capital Islamabad, officials said. Police said the man came from South Waziristan.

Recent credible information indicates terrorists are planning attacks against targets in Karachi. An alleged TTP commander and three others were arrested in connection with an unsuccessful attack on the Kemari Oil Terminal in September. Police officials said the suspects also wanted to plant explosives in police installations and other sensitive points in the city.

► **PERSONAL SECURITY ADVICE**

If travel to Pakistan is unavoidable, you should exercise extreme caution. You should follow the developing situation in the news media and consult embassy travel advice regularly.

If you are a British citizen, you are also recommended to register with the British High Commission. You may wish to seek local advice on the latest situation from the Security Section of the British High Commission in Islamabad or the British Deputy High Commission in Karachi.

American citizens are encouraged to register with their nearest embassy or consulate or online at:

<https://travelregistration.state.gov>

Unless essential, you should avoid key Government installations and gatherings of uniformed personnel. Avoid demonstrations or large crowds of people and public events, including religious gatherings.

Exercise caution in public places, such as hotels, airports, markets, restaurants and on public transport. Public places have been targeted by militants, particularly if they are associated with representatives of the Pakistani authorities, Westerners or activities that could be considered un-Islamic. Major international hotels frequented by Westerners have been targeted. We advise, wherever possible, to use hotels that are highly regarded for their security features and procedures.

When travelling in general, keep a low profile and vary your routes and timings if you make any regular journeys between locations, and ensure that travel documents and visas are valid at all times.

► **ANVIL CAN HELP**

Due to the very high threat of terrorist attack, sectarian violence and the unpredictable security situation, The ANVIL Group is strongly advising corporations to consider the need for additional security measures to protect employees who are required to travel to Pakistan at this time.

We understand the need for business continuity, even in challenging conditions, and our own recent experience of assignments in Pakistan has demonstrated that business can still be conducted with minimum disruption. The ANVIL Group is a Security Industry Authority approved contractor with over 22 years experience of operating in volatile environments. We employ only highly experienced individuals from multi-disciplined backgrounds, including law enforcement, intelligence agencies and the military.

On behalf of a number of clients, we are currently retained to provide both fixed period and ongoing security services in Karachi, Lahore and Islamabad. Services include:

- Meet & Greet Service by Security Trained Drivers with Transportation
- Provision of Close Protection Officers (both UK Nationals & Local)
- Armed Escorts
- Sourcing Secure Hotel and Long-Term Accommodation

Please contact us to review your security arrangements.

