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Militants Use Drones to Target Security Forces in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa

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Militants in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (K-P), Pakistan, have increasingly employed commercially available quadcopter drones to launch attacks on security forces, escalating the security challenges in the region. This development presents a serious threat to the under-resourced K-P police and military personnel tasked with maintaining order along volatile border areas.

The banned Tehreek-i-Taliban Pakistan (TTP) has reportedly used drones equipped with improvised explosive devices to target police stations and security installations, especially in the Bannu and South Waziristan districts. Since early 2025, several drone attacks have been recorded, including an incident causing civilian casualties. Security officials confirm the drones enable militants to carry out strikes remotely, complicating counterterrorism efforts.

K-P Police Chief Sajjad Khan has acknowledged the evolving drone threat, emphasizing that although some attacks lack precision, the danger remains significant. The drones are believed to be sourced from Afghanistan, following the NATO troop withdrawal, enabling militants to exploit the porous border and sophisticated technology.

Civilian casualties from these strikes have increased public concern. An attack in South Waziristan reportedly injured multiple civilians, including children, while previous incidents in North Waziristan have also led to casualties. Authorities have called for stricter measures and accountability to protect civilians while maintaining security operations.

In response, K-P security forces have started deploying anti-drone systems designed to detect and neutralize unmanned aerial threats. Inspector General Zulfiqar Hameed confirmed recent acquisitions aimed at countering drone attacks. Despite these efforts, the security situation remains challenging, with over 300 security personnel reported killed in 2025.

To effectively address the drone threat, Pakistan's government and security agencies must enhance intelligence capabilities, increase funding for advanced technology, and continue addressing underlying

regional grievances that fuel militancy. Without concerted action, the use of drones by militants could further destabilize K-P and threaten civilian and security personnel safety.