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## Pakistan Downs India's Rafale with Chinese J-10C Jets

August 3, 2025

– Categories: Defence & Security



Pakistan's Air Force reportedly engaged Indian Air Force Rafale jets in a contested aerial clash on May 7, 2025, raising questions about air dominance and the growing role of Chinese military systems in regional defense.

According to a report by ARY News, citing unnamed sources and referencing a Reuters briefing, the Pakistan Air Force (PAF) allegedly downed at least one Indian Rafale fighter jet using a Chinese-made J-10C aircraft. The confrontation was reportedly triggered by Indian airstrikes on what New Delhi claimed were terrorist targets in Pakistan following a deadly

attack in Indian-administered Kashmir. Pakistan has denied harboring militants and described the airstrikes as unprovoked aggression.

While ARY News attributes the outcome to the J-10C's long-range PL-15 missile and real-time support from ZDK-03 airborne early warning aircraft, these claims remain unverified by international sources. The Pakistani Ministry of Defence has not issued a formal public statement confirming the reported kills, and Indian Defence Minister Rajnath Singh has firmly denied any aircraft losses.

Analysts cited by ARY suggest that Pakistan's successful deployment of integrated air-defense systems may have contributed to its performance in the clash. The report mentions comments from Michael Dahm of the Mitchell Institute for Aerospace Studies on the importance of system integration in modern air combat, although there is no direct quote or public attribution of these remarks to this incident.

The article further notes that Pakistan claimed to have downed five Indian aircraft in total—including three Rafales—but these assertions remain disputed and are not corroborated by third-party defense sources. Indian authorities stated that their strikes were confined to designated targets and denied any aircraft losses.

While the reported incident continues to generate media attention, no independently verified battlefield damage assessment has been made public. International military analysts are reportedly reviewing radar logs and engagement data to assess the claims, particularly in the context of Chinese vs. Western aircraft capabilities.

As the region grapples with heightened tensions, the event underscores the risks of escalation and the critical role of credible military communication. Until conclusive evidence emerges, claims surrounding aircraft losses remain unverified and highly disputed.