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Pakistan Thwarts Border Infiltration, Captures Five Alleged Suicide Bombers

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On July 17, 2025, Pakistani security forces successfully foiled an infiltration attempt along the Pakistan-Afghanistan border, arresting five suspected suicide bombers, all Afghan nationals aged 15 to 18, according to state-run Pakistan Television (PTV) News. The operation in North Waziristan highlights Pakistan's ongoing battle against cross-border terrorism amid rising regional tensions.

The incident unfolded when security forces detected suspicious movement near the border at 5:00 PM, identifying a group linked to the

banned militant outfit Fitna Al Khawarij, also known as Tehreek-e-Taliban Pakistan (TTP). By 6:25 PM, the infiltrators had crossed into Pakistan, advancing toward Azizkhel and Mandikhel villages in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP) province. Acting on intelligence, security teams established checkpoints at five strategic locations, forcing the suspects to seek refuge in a mosque in Besi Khel. “After a brief standoff, the terrorists surrendered without resistance,” security sources told PTV, noting the operation’s precision in avoiding civilian casualties.

All five detainees, three carrying Afghan identity cards, were moved to an undisclosed location for interrogation. The arrests underscore Pakistan’s persistent security challenges, with KP and Balochistan provinces bearing the brunt of a terrorism surge since the Taliban’s 2021 return to power in Afghanistan. The Pakistan Institute for Conflict and Security Studies (PICSS) reported 85 militant attacks in May 2025, resulting in 113 fatalities, including 52 security personnel. Security sources allege Indian backing for TTP, a claim India denies, accusing Pakistan of deflecting blame for its internal security failures.

This operation follows a pattern of successful counterterrorism efforts. In July alone, Pakistani forces killed 30 militants in North Waziristan and eight in Bajaur, thwarting similar infiltration attempts. “Our troops are committed to securing the border and eliminating terrorism,” said an Inter-Services Public Relations (ISPR) spokesperson, emphasizing Pakistan’s resolve. Local analyst Ayesha Siddiqa noted, “These young recruits signal a worrying trend of radicalization across the border.” The incident raises questions about Afghanistan’s ability to curb militant safe havens, a point of contention as Pakistan pushes for regional cooperation to counter terrorism.