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Nine Terrorists Eliminated, Eight Captured in Four-Day Malakand Joint Operation

July 21, 2025

– Categories: Defence & Security



In a decisive four-day operation from July 16 to 20, 2025, Pakistani security forces, alongside Law Enforcement Agencies (LEAs), neutralized nine terrorists and apprehended eight in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa's Malakand district. This article explores the operation's success, its impact on counterterrorism efforts, and the resolve to combat external threats, emphasizing Pakistan's commitment to national security.

The joint intelligence-based operation, conducted by the Pakistan Army, police, Levies, Counter-Terrorism Department (CTD), and Malakand district administration, targeted militants linked to the banned Tehreek-i-Taliban Pakistan (TTP), labeled as Fitna al-Khawarij. The Inter-Services Public Relations (ISPR) reported that security forces surrounded terrorist hideouts, engaging in intense firefights that resulted in the elimination of nine militants and the capture of eight others. Two hideouts were destroyed, and a significant cache of weapons, ammunition, and explosives was seized, per Dawn.com. Dargai Assistant Commissioner Waheedullah Khan confirmed the operation's success, noting that locals praised the efforts, expressing support for the state's fight against terrorism, as reported by Pakistan Today.

The operation reflects Pakistan's intensified response to a surge in terrorist activities, particularly in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and Balochistan, following the TTP's ceasefire collapse in November 2022. The Global Terrorism Index 2025 ranks Pakistan second, with a 45% rise in terrorism-related deaths, totaling 1,081 last year. The ISPR emphasized the operation's aim to dismantle Indian-sponsored terrorism, a claim echoed by Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif, who praised the "excellent coordination" between agencies, per SUCH TV. President Asif Ali Zardari also lauded the forces, vowing to eradicate terrorism, according to The Frontier Post.

This operation underscores Pakistan's unwavering resolve to confront external threats and restore peace. Ongoing sanitization efforts aim to eliminate remaining militants, with security forces committed to rooting out terrorism. The Malakand operation not only disrupts TTP networks but also signals to adversaries that Pakistan's resolve remains unbreakable in safeguarding its sovereignty.