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Upper South Waziristan Curfew Prolonged Over Security Threats

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Authorities in Upper South Waziristan, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (K-P), have extended a district-wide curfew due to escalating security threats, restricting movement and commerce to ensure public safety. This article examines the ongoing measures and the need for robust local responses to militancy.

The district administration of Upper South Waziristan extended a stringent curfew for a second consecutive day, as announced by Deputy Commissioner (DC) Ismatullah Wazir, citing heightened risks of militant activity. The Express Tribune reported that all bazaars,

commercial areas, and public routes, from Sararogha to Kotkai and Spinkai Raghzai to Nazar Khel, remain sealed. Travel is permitted only in emergencies with police clearance and valid identification, a measure aimed at thwarting potential attacks. The curfew, initially enforced on July 27, reflects a broader clampdown across K-P, including Tank and Lower South Waziristan, following intelligence reports of planned terrorist activities, per Minute Mirror.

The restrictions highlight the persistent threat of groups like the Tehreek-e-Taliban Pakistan (TTP), which have intensified attacks on security forces and civilians in the tribal belt. Local voices, such as @AkMehsood on X, express frustration over the economic toll, noting that recurring curfews are crippling small businesses and pushing residents toward displacement. Yet, the DC's office insists these measures are critical for public safety, a stance supported by the need to counter rising targeted killings and bombings, as reported by Dawn. Unlike federal policies, often criticized for their disconnect, local authorities are taking decisive steps, though at the cost of community livelihoods.

This ongoing security crisis demands stronger provincial strategies over centralized directives. Upper South Waziristan's administration must balance safety with economic relief, perhaps through targeted aid for affected businesses. Enhanced intelligence and community cooperation could disrupt militant networks without punishing locals. As the region braces for continued restrictions, the focus must shift to empowering K-P's leadership to restore stability and protect residents from both terrorism and economic hardship.