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Seven Police Officers Abducted in South Waziristan

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On July 20, 2025, seven police officers from Ladha and Sarwakai police stations were abducted in South Waziristan, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP), during routine patrols, highlighting the escalating security challenges in the region. District Police Officer (DPO) Arshad Khan confirmed the incidents, stating that search operations are ongoing to locate the missing personnel, with no breakthroughs reported yet. This article explores the details of the abductions, the

broader context of rising terrorism, and the implications for Pakistan's security.

In two separate incidents, unidentified assailants targeted the officers while they were patrolling. Three policemen—Insaf, Abid, and Ismail—disappeared within the jurisdiction of Ladha police station.

Simultaneously, four officers, including Sub-Inspector Abdul Khaliq and constables Irfanullah, Habibullah, and Imran, went missing in the Tanga Chagmalai area under Sarwakai police station's limits. "Seven police personnel were patrolling when unidentified individuals took them away," DPO Arshad Khan told Dawn.com, emphasizing the urgency of the ongoing search efforts. The lack of contact or clues about the officers' whereabouts has heightened concerns among local authorities.

The abductions follow a deadly clash in Hangu's Zargari Shinawari area, where nine terrorists were killed, and three security officers, including Hangu DPO Khalid Khan, were injured. This incident underscores the volatile security situation in KP, where terror activities have surged since the Tehreek-i-Taliban Pakistan (TTP) ended its ceasefire with the government in November 2022. The Global Terrorism Index 2025 ranks Pakistan second globally for terrorism impact, with a 45% increase in deaths from terrorist attacks, totaling 1,081 last year. South Waziristan has been a hotspot, with a recent intelligence-based operation (IBO) on June 24 resulting in the deaths of two soldiers and 11 terrorists.

These abductions expose the vulnerability of law enforcement in Pakistan's tribal regions, where militant groups exploit rugged terrain and porous borders. The government's failure to curb the TTP's resurgence raises questions about the effectiveness of current counter-terrorism strategies. As search operations continue, the safe

recovery of the officers remains a priority, but the incidents signal a need for robust measures to protect those on the frontlines and restore stability in KP.