

Incident Update

Suicide Bomber Attacks Judges in Peshawar

February 15, 2017

Factual Updates

On the Wednesday afternoon, a suicide bomber, riding a motorcycle, detonated his explosive vest while bumping his bike into a vehicle carrying civil judges in Phase 5 of Hayatabad locality in Peshawar. As a result of the explosion, the driver of the vehicle was killed on the spot, while the judges, including three female judges, sustained injuries. Apart from those, about seven bystanders were also wounded in the blast. The injured were shifted to Hayatabad Medical Complex. The police has cordoned off the area and emergency has been imposed in the hospital. Following the incident, Tehrik-e-Taliban Pakistan (TTP) claimed responsibility for the attack.

Situational Background

The blast occurred as Out Patient Department (OPD) at Hayatabad Medical Complex was due to be inaugurated by Pakistan Tehreek-i-Insaf (PTI) Chairman Imran Khan.

Analysis

The suicide attack was carried out at a sensitive place as the offices of Peshawar Development Authority, the Shaukat Khanum Hospital, several educational institutions and a number of private and government offices are located in the area. This is the third suicide attack within the span of three days, fifth militant attack within this week and second attack on Wednesday. These statistics highlight that the militant outfits have escalated their maneuverings in the recent past. While claiming responsibility of previous two suicide attacks in Lahore and Mohamad Agency, the militant organizations had vowed to further target the security installations and government officials in the days to come.

Although the persistent military operations resulted in ousting the militant groups operating in the country during the past, the recent surge in militant attacks highlight that the milits have reorganized their cadres during the preceding period of relative peace. Following their expulsion from their sanctuaries in the tribal areas as a result of continual military operations, they have established their safe havens in the adjoining militancy infested provinces of Afghanistan. These reorganized militant outfits have

intensified their infiltration in Pakistan and are targeting the government installations and officials in their bid to challenge the state authority.

Implications

The growing militant attacks targeting the government installations and security officials not only highlight that the militants have revived their operational capacity but put a question mark on the affirmations propelled by governmental authorities regarding defeating the militant outfits. In spite of these attacks, the government along with military authorities are determined to curb the growing militancy. Keeping in view the growing operational capacity of militant outfits and government's resolve to curtail terrorism, further militant attacks and heightened security measures at government installations are likely.

Location Map



Photo Gallery



The vehicle targeted in blast. The Express Tribune, February 15, 2017.



The security forces inspecting the blast scene. Dawn, February 15, 2017.