

Country Weekly Report of International Centre for Political Violence and Terrorism Research

PAKISTAN

Balochistan

Harnai:

On 24 January, the paramilitary Frontier Corps (FC) arrested three militants from the banned militant group, Tehreek-i-Taliban Pakistan (TTP, Movement of the Pakistani Taliban) during a raid in Harnai. The FC members zeroed in on a house based on a tip-off, where a gun battle ensued, but no one was injured. A large cache of weapons were also seized during the raid.¹

Nasirabad:

On 23 January, Baloch separatist militants detonated explosives with a time device placed on the main gas pipeline originating from the Uch Power Plant. The resulting blast and damaged to a large part of the pipeline, which was 18 inches in diameter, resulted in a suspended supply to the power plant. The lack of gas supply resulted in a temporary country-wide electricity shutdown. No specific separatist group has taken responsibility for the attack.²

On 24 January, after the attack on the gas pipeline connected to the Uch Power Plant, another major pipeline was attacked by Baloch separatist militants in the Dera Allahyar area. The pipeline damaged in a remote controlled bomb blast was an alternative to be used only in case of emergencies.³

Mastung:

On 23 January, Baloch separatist militants bombed the Jaffer Express, a Rawalpindi bound passenger train, which caused damage to the vehicle, but did not result in any casualties. The militants detonated the Improvised Explosive Device (IED) placed on the train attacks, once the train was in the vicinity. After the attack, train service to and from the city was temporarily halted. No specific group has yet taken responsibility for the attack.⁴

¹ Three Taliban militants held in Harnai. *Express Tribune*, Pakistan. 25 January 2015. Available from: <http://tribune.com.pk/story/827199/three-taliban-militants-held-in-harnai/>.

² Mangi A. J. Supply to powerhouse cut as gas pipeline blown up. *Dawn*, Pakistan. 24 January 2015. Available from: <http://www.dawn.com/news/1159122/supply-to-powerhouse-cut-as-gas-pipeline-blown-up>.
Gas pipeline blown up in Jaffarabad district. *Pakistan Today*. 24 January 2015. Available from: <http://www.pakistantoday.com.pk/2015/01/24/national/gas-pipeline-blown-up-in-jaffarabad-district/>.

³ Another gas pipeline blown up. *Dawn*, Pakistan. 25 January 2015. Available from: <http://www.dawn.com/news/1159340/another-gas-pipeline-blown-up>.

⁴ Baloch S. Unrest in Balochistan: Train bombed in Mastung; engine damaged. *Express Tribune*, Pakistan. 24 January 2015. Available from: <http://tribune.com.pk/story/826766/unrest-in-balochistan-train-bombed-in-mastung-engine-damaged/>.

Punjab

Wah (Grand Trunk Road):

On 20 January, a suicide bomber blew himself up near a police force check-point after being intercepted on the GT road near Wah, injuring three people. During a routine checking of vehicles passing through the check-point, the police noticed a man sneaking out from a passenger van. As the police went forward to stop the man, he threw a hand grenade at them, which missed the target and injured three people. When the police closed in on him, he blew himself up with another hand grenade. His motives and original plans are not yet clear to the authorities.⁵

Sindh

Karachi:

On 24 January, in a wave of target killings, two Shia shopkeepers were killed in back-to-back attacks in the Korangi area. Firstly, armed men on a motorbike targeted a shop selling spare parts, killing its owner. Secondly, five minutes after the first incident, a roadside stall was attacked, where the owner was shot dead.⁶

⁵ Iqbal A. Three injured in suicide blast near Wah picket. *Dawn*, Pakistan. 21 January 2015. Available from: <http://www.dawn.com/news/1158443/three-injured-in-suicide-blast-near-wah-picket>.

⁶ Two killed in sectarian attacks. *Dawn*, Pakistan. 25 January 2015. Available from: <http://www.dawn.com/news/1159341/two-killed-in-sectarian-attacks>.