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Pakistani Terror Groups Openly Involved in Bajaur Protests

By BILL ROGGIO November 1, 2006 12:13 PM

Tehrik-e-Nifaz-e-Shariat-e-Mohammed and Jamaat-ud-Dawa openly protest the Bajaur madrassa strike

As further details emerge on [the airstrike on the al Qaeda and Taliban training camp in Bajaur](#), Pakistan, the Pakistani military has [sealed off the tribal agency](#) to prevent travel into and out of the region. Qazi Hussain Ahmad, the emir of the al Qaeda and Taliban supporting Muttahida Majlis-e-Amal (MMA) political party, along with other leaders of the MMA, [were denied access to Bajaur](#). Qazi slipped through and was intercepted by Pakistani officials. By denying access to Qazi and others, Pakistan is preventing the jihadi political leadership such as Qazi from coordinating with al Qaeda on a political message.

Pakistan maintains [the strike was "preemptive,"](#) designed to "prevent the militants being trained there from conducting terrorist activities." The government claims the Pakistani military carried out the strike, only with the assistance of U.S. intelligence (oddly this claim was later denied). Pakistan maintains the 80 killed in the air raid were Taliban.

Ayman al-Zawahiri, al Qaeda's second in command, and Abu Ubaidah al-Masri, al Qaeda's operational commander in Afghanistan's eastern Kunar province and Bajaur, [have been guests at the Chingai madrassa in the past](#). Al-Masri "was identified as the mastermind of a plot to blow up U.S.-bound airliners flying from London's Heathrow airport that was foiled earlier this year." He coordinated with [Rashid Rauf](#), who is currently in Pakistani custody. All roads to international jihad seem to eventually point back to Pakistan.

Further protests are expected throughout Wednesday. Tuesday's protests included 15,000 in Bajaur, 5,000 in Khyber, 1,500 in Peshawar, and 500 in Karachi. Protests were also reported in Islamabad and Lahore. The *Gulf Daily News* provides [further details on the nature of the protests](#). "The gathering also verbally approved a resolution to stone to death any spies for the Pakistan government or US forces in Afghanistan," according to the *Gulf Daily News*.

Protests in Bajaur were "ringed by masked men brandishing Kalashnikovs and ammunition belts. No government security forces could be seen in the area, and most of the protesters wore black armbands." An American intelligence source informs us the security detail is in fact made up of Faqir Mohammed's Tehrik-e-Nifaz-e-Shariat-e-Mohammed (TNSM, the Movement for the Enforcement of Islamic Sharia). [Faqir Muhammad called Musharraf](#) an "American agent, killing innocent people at the US behest" and said the "Elimination of Musharraf is a must to restore peace."



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Today In

September 8, 2007
Thailand

Thirteen Muslim insurgents suspected of manufacturing explosives [were detained](#) in a raid in Narathiwat province. Muslim insurgents [killed two civilians](#) in attacks in Yala and Songkhla provinces. The *Asia Times* [looks at the groups](#) involved in the Muslim insurgency.

al-Qaeda

German police are [investigating seven more suspects](#) in a foiled al Qaeda bombing plot. The cell may be as big as 50 operatives. The German al Qaeda cell [may have had a deadline](#) of September 15 to conduct the attacks.

Palestinian Territories

Israeli commandos [captured Mohawah al-Qadi](#), a senior member of Hamas' armed wing and a commander in the Executive Force, during a raid in Rafah in the Gaza Strip. Seventy people [were wounded](#) in clashes between Hamas and Fatah in Gaza.

Pakistan

A car bomb attack in Peshawar [wounded 18](#). Two women [were beheaded](#) in Bannu for "immoral activity." Bajaur peace jirga members said [there are no foreign fighters](#) in the agency. Two soldiers [were](#)

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Jamaat-ud-Dawa also made an appearance at the protests. "The only way of survival now is jihad,' Inamullah, the district chief of the Jamaat-ud-Dawa charity, told supporters."

That Tehrik-e-Nifaz-e-Shariat-e-Mohammed and Jamaat-ud-Dawa (JuD) can openly operate inside Pakistan speaks volumes on the nature of the situation inside Pakistan. [TNSM has been outlawed by the Pakistani government](#), as has Jamaat-ud-Dawa's predecessor, Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT). Jamaat-ud-Dawa is currently on the U.S. Department of State's list of [Specially Designated Global Terrorist entities](#). JuD, along with Idara Khidmat-e-Khalq (IKK) were created as "aliases" after Pakistan banned the LeT.

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[wounded](#) in attacks on checkpoints in Bajaur. Former Lal Masjid leader Abdul Aziz said the government ban on his mosque [cause a revolution](#). Rengzeib Ahmed, a British al Qaeda suspect, has been [transferred to British custody](#).

Algeria

A car bomb targeting a naval barracks in the coastal town of Dellys in eastern Algeria [killed upwards of 16](#). This is the second major bombing in Algeria in three days, with an attempted suicide attack against Algeria's president in Batna on September 6.

September 7, 2007

Afghanistan

Afghan border police near Herat [seized a 10-ton weapons cache](#) from Iran, China, and Russia. Afghan and ISAF forces [killed over 20 Taliban](#) in the Meian Nashin district of Kandahar province. Afghan forces [killed a local Taliban commander](#) and several fighters in Hyderabad in Helmand province. Afghan Army forces [beat off a Taliban attack](#) on a tribal meeting in the Upper Gereshek Valley of Helmand province.

Somalia

Islamic Courts leaders, including al Qaeda operative Sheikh Hassan Aweys, [are meeting in Eritrea](#) for a 10-day meeting to discuss ways "to strengthen the insurgency against the Somalia government." The Prime Minister [met with Haji Abukar](#), the chief financier of the Islamic Court, and encouraged him to return to Somalia. Somali security forces withdrew from a district in northern Mogadishu.

Malaysia

Authorities denied [earlier reports](#) that Jemaah Islamiyah bombing mastermind Dulmatin is [sheltering on an island](#) off Sabah in East Malaysia. Dulmatin was believed to have slipped the military cordon in Mindanao.

Sabah state officials, however, say he is either in the Philippines or on Indonesia's Sulawesi island.

Pakistan

President Musharraf said all Taliban are not "militants" and said the military can withdraw from the tribal agencies if violence reduces. The government continues to negotiate with the Taliban to secure the release of its kidnapped soldiers in South Waziristan. Six "miscreants" and civilians were killed in a helicopter strike in North Waziristan. Two bombings destroyed 40 shops in a video market in Swat; a tailor shop was bombed in Bajaur.

September 6, 2007

Algeria

A suicide bomber struck in the town of Batna just prior to the arrival of President Abdelaziz Bouteflika. Fifteen were killed and 70 wounded in the attack. The suicide bomber detonated his vest after being detected by members of the crowd awaiting to see the president.

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