

TAL SHIAR



DEFENSE INTELLIGENCE REPORT

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Pakistan Claims Success in Operation Ghazab Lil Haq Against Taliban Regime

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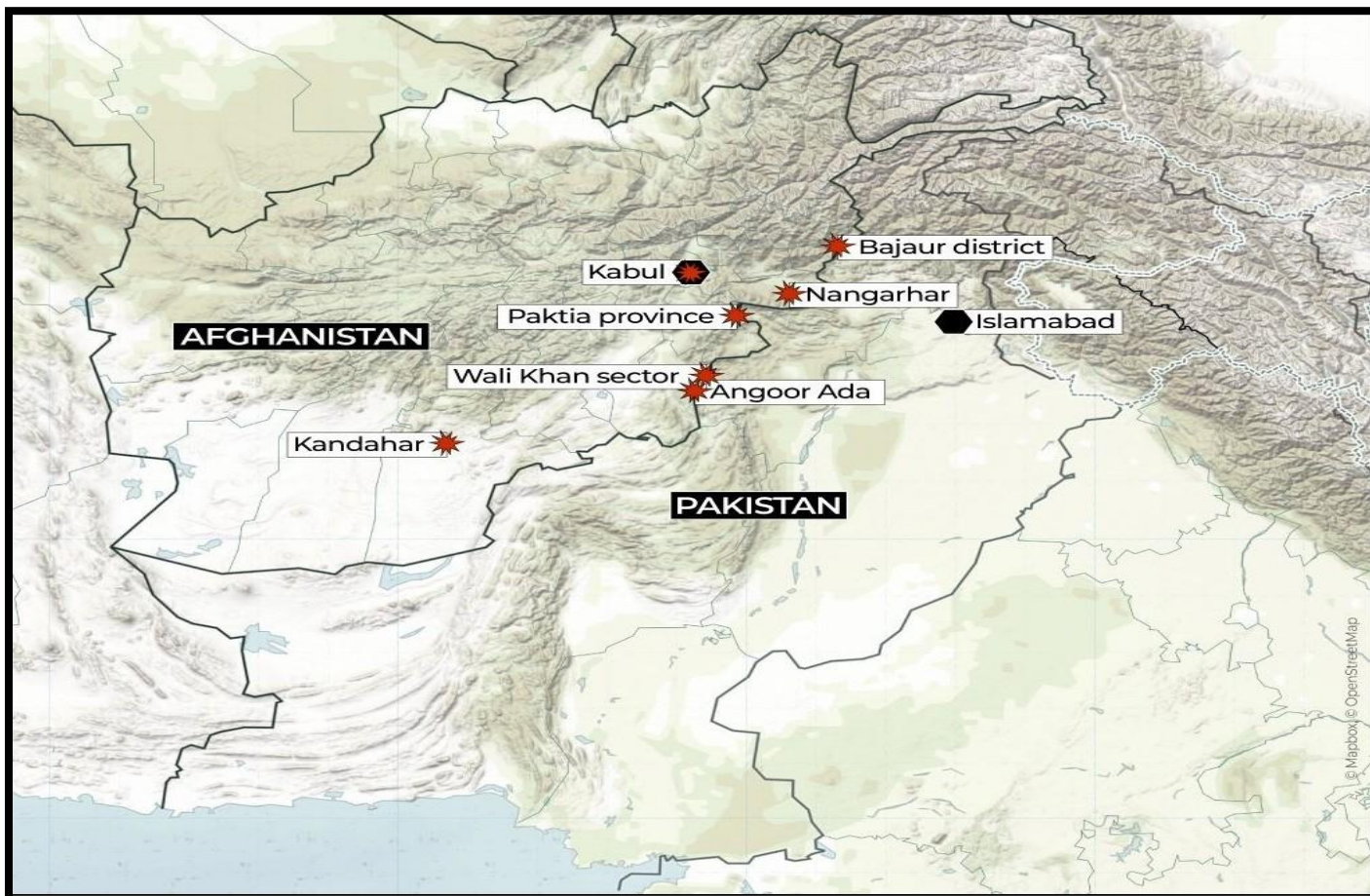
Pakistan's military's Operation Ghazab Lil Haq has shifted momentum against the Taliban regime, with sustained airstrikes and limited ground operations inflicting heavy casualties and dismantling key military assets while incurring minimal losses, prompting the Taliban to seek international mediation for a ceasefire. This assertive response to cross-border terrorism has demonstrated Pakistan's air superiority, political resolve, particularly amongst its own Pashtun population, and has degraded the Taliban's military capabilities. Pakistan Air Force's strikes on high-value individuals have forced leadership relocations, disrupting command and control. Continued operations will give Islamabad the upper hand in potential negotiations amid growing regional calls for de-escalation.

Pakistan Air Force Strikes Over Kabul

- Launched on February 26, 2026, following Taliban assaults on over 50 Pakistani border posts, Operation Ghazab Lil Haq targeted Taliban hubs in Kabul, Kandahar, Paktia, and other provinces, destroying 73 outposts, capturing 18, and eliminating 274 fighters while wounding 400, according to the Pakistan military.



- Pakistani forces reported minimal casualties—around 40-55 in initial clashes—while claiming dominance in retaliatory engagements, including the recapture of positions and neutralization of Taliban advances in the provinces of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and Baluchistan. This has bolstered domestic support for the military's actions against TTP sanctuaries in Afghanistan.
- By early March 2026, cumulative Taliban losses exceeded 464 killed, with strikes extending to Bagram Airfield and Laghman province. Strikes on high-value individuals have killed/injured multiple senior Taliban/TTP commanders. These included a targeted Taliban leader Akhundzada who is thought to have survived.



Taliban Appeals for Ceasefire Amid Mounting Losses

As Pakistani operations intensify, the Taliban regime has signaled willingness for dialogue, approaching intermediaries like China, Turkey, and Qatar to broker a ceasefire, reflecting the unsustainable toll on their forces, infrastructure and individual command structure. This shift highlights the effectiveness of Pakistan's strategy in compelling de-escalation while addressing threats from TTP militants harbored in Afghanistan. Pakistan has the resources to sustain military operations but will gauge both domestic and international pressure before agreeing to a ceasefire.

- On March 3, 2026, Taliban Foreign Minister Amir Khan Muttaqi met China's Ambassador, urging de-escalation and emphasizing dialogue, but Beijing reportedly conditioned support on Taliban action against TTP and BLA groups. This follows similar appeals to Turkey and Qatar after October 2025 clashes.
- UN officials and civil society groups have echoed calls for an immediate ceasefire, with the Taliban expressing readiness for more meetings to resolve disputes diplomatically, amid reports of civilian impacts and leadership relocations to safer areas like Bamiyan.
- Pakistani officials have indicated conditional openness to talks, insisting on concrete guarantees against cross-border militancy, while continuing operations to maintain pressure, as rumors of a ceasefire circulate but remain unconfirmed.

Conclusion

Pakistan's Operation Ghazab Lil Haq has effectively placed pressure on the Taliban, inflicting disproportionate losses and forcing the group to pursue ceasefire options through international channels. Sustained pressure could secure long-term border stability, though diplomatic engagement remains essential to prevent humanitarian fallout and broader regional involvement.



Tal Shiar was founded by Nadeem Iqbal, a national security expert who served over 16 years as an intelligence officer for the Department of Defense from 2006-2022. His career began as a counter-insurgency analyst on the Afghanistan-Pakistan Task Force (2006–2013), followed by 9 years as a military analyst in the Syria Branch (2013–2022). He deployed five times in support of combat operations (3× Afghanistan, 2× Iraq), including two rotations with

Special Operations Forces focused on counter-terrorism missions in the CENTCOM theater. Additional roles included rotations to CIA Headquarters as the military analyst for the DNI Middle East Task Force and served as the Syria Country Director for Office of Secretary of Defense Policy (OSDP). He was recognized with Joint Civilian Commendation/Achievement Medals, the NATO Medal(x3), the Secretary of Defense GWOT Medal, DoD Expeditionary Award and the OSD Excellence Award.