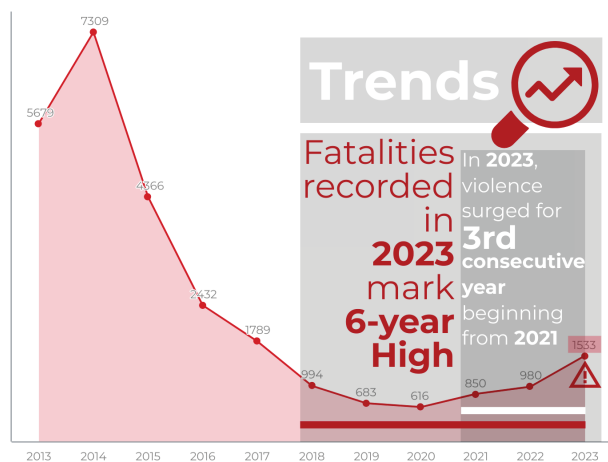
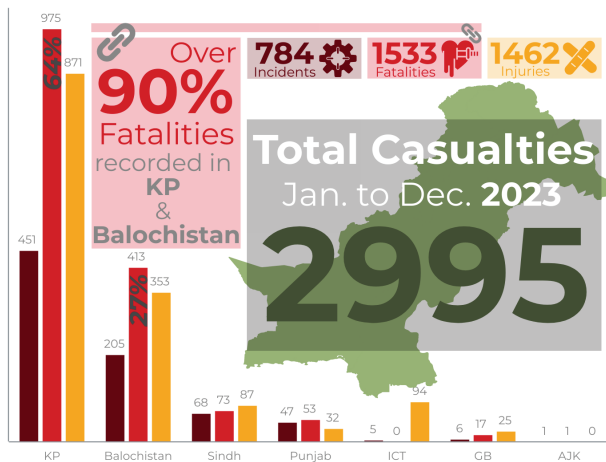


# ANNUAL SECURITY REPORT

## 2023 | Pakistan



**Center for  
Research &  
Security  
Studies**

*Rule of Law - Security - Governance*



## **ACKNOWLEDGMENTS**

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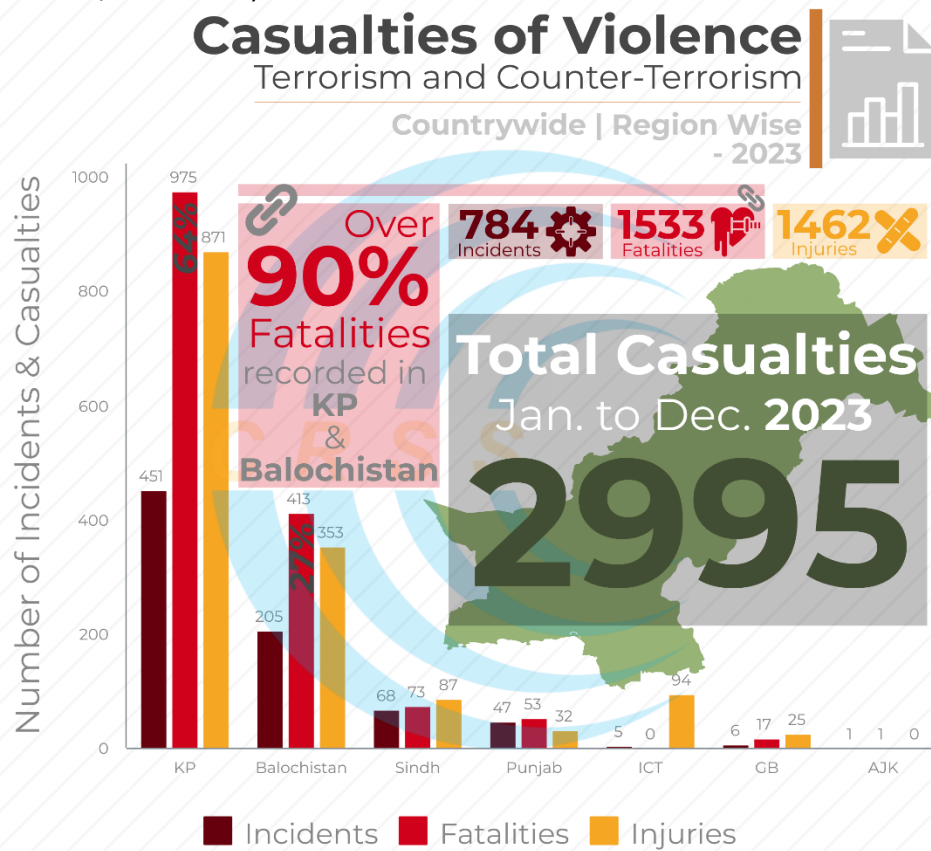
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# CASUALTIES OF TERRORISM & COUNTER-TERRORISM: BY REGION & YEAR

In 2023, Pakistan witnessed 1533 violence-linked fatalities and 1462 injuries from as many as 789 incidents of terror attacks and counter-terror operations. This includes nearly 1000 fatalities among civilians and security forces personnel. The overall fatalities recorded this year - including those of outlaws - mark a record 6-year high, exceeding the 2018 level and highest since 2017.

The year under review underlined a continued escalation of violence that had begun in 2021 - after six years of decline in violence-related fatalities - with upsurge recorded for the third consecutive year.

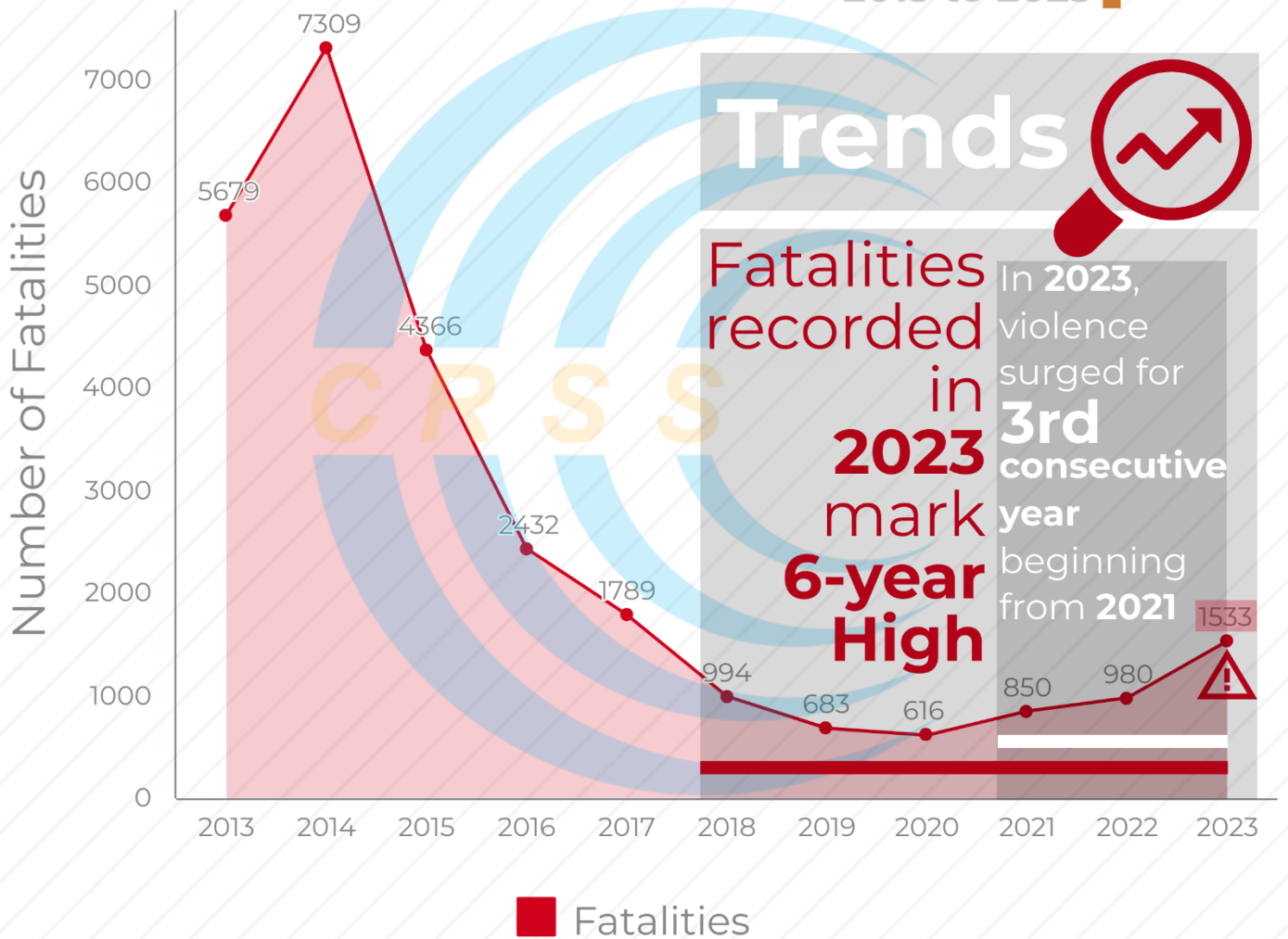
The northwestern Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP) and the southwestern Balochistan provinces – both bordering Afghanistan, accounted for over 90% of all fatalities and 84% of attacks (including incidents of terrorism and security forces operations) during this period. The southern Sindh province recorded the third highest number of casualties (73 fatalities and 87 injuries), followed by Punjab, Gilgit-Baltistan (GB), and Azad Jammu and Kashmir (AJK). No fatality was reported from the Islamabad Capital Territory (ICT), except for 94 injuries. The data indicates that Punjab and Sindh were relatively peaceful as together, both these provinces suffered only 8% of all fatalities in 2023. (Table 01-A, Table 01-B)



# Comparative Fatalities of Violence

## Terrorism and Counter-Terrorism

Countrywide | Year Wise  
- 2013 to 2023



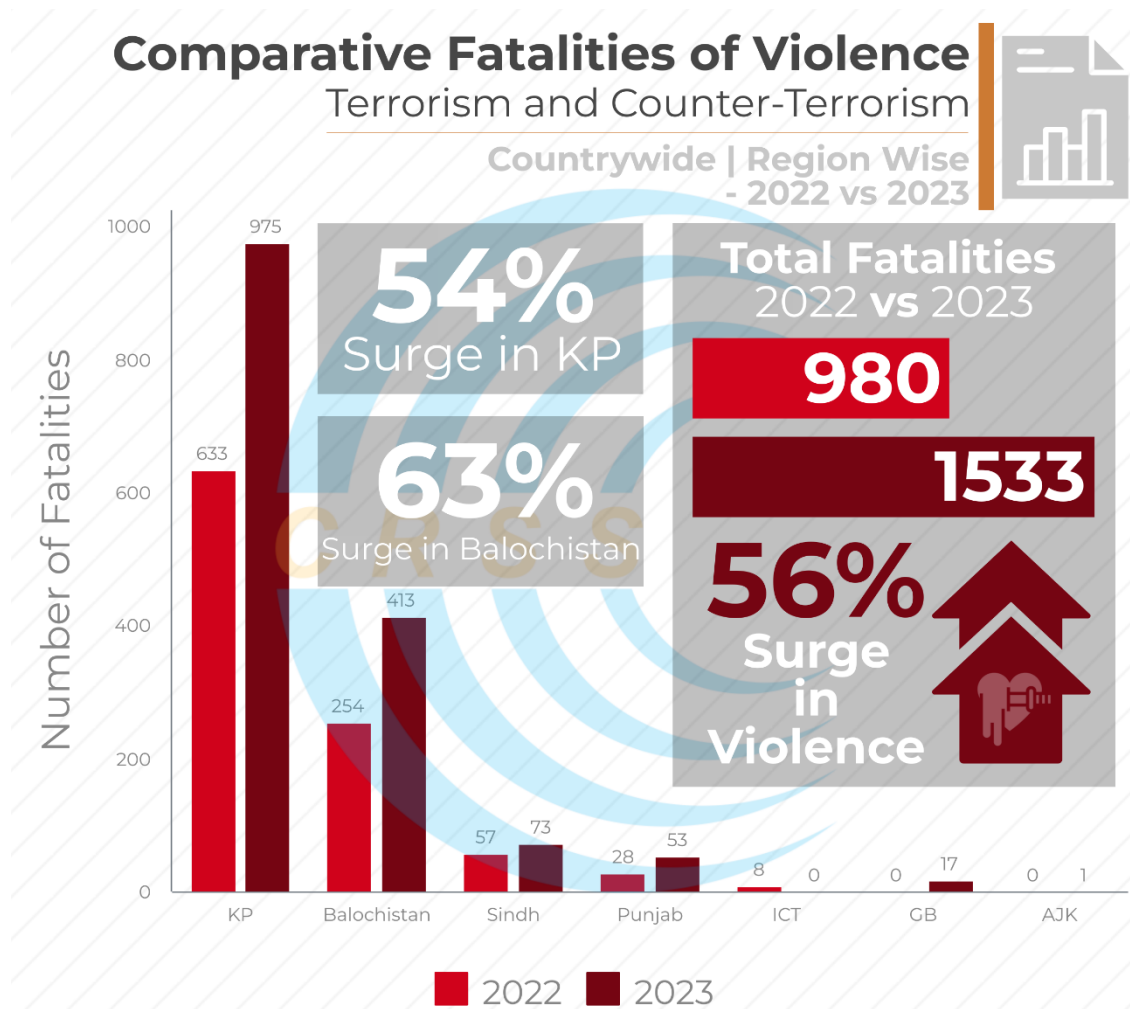
<b>Table 01-A</b>					
<b>Casualties of Violence   Terrorism and Counter-Terrorism   By Region   2023</b>					
<b>Regions</b>	<b>Incidents</b>	<b>Fatalities</b>	<b>Injuries</b>	<b>Casualties</b>	<b>Percentage of Fatalities</b>
<b>KP</b>	451	975	871	1846	<b>63.60</b>
<b>Balochistan</b>	205	413	353	766	<b>26.94</b>
<b>Sindh</b>	68	73	87	160	<b>4.76</b>
<b>Punjab</b>	47	53	32	85	<b>3.46</b>
<b>ICT</b>	5	0	94	94	<b>0.00</b>
<b>GB</b>	6	17	25	42	<b>1.11</b>
<b>AJK</b>	1	1	0	1	<b>0.07</b>
<b>Unidentified Location</b>	1	1	0	1	<b>0.07</b>
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>784</b>	<b>1533</b>	<b>1462</b>	<b>2995</b>	

<b>Table 01-B</b>		
<b>Fatalities of Violence   Terrorism and Counter-Terrorism   By Year   2013 - 2023</b>		
<b>Years</b>	<b>Fatalities</b>	<b>Percentage Increase/ Decrease in Fatalities</b>
<b>2013</b>	5679	
<b>2014</b>	7309	<b>28.70</b>
<b>2015</b>	4366	<b>-40.27</b>
<b>2016</b>	2432	<b>-44.30</b>
<b>2017</b>	1789	<b>-26.44</b>
<b>2018</b>	994	<b>-44.44</b>
<b>2019</b>	683	<b>-31.29</b>
<b>2020</b>	616	<b>-9.81</b>
<b>2021</b>	850	<b>37.99</b>
<b>2022</b>	980	<b>15.29</b>
<b>2023</b>	1533	<b>56.43</b>
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>27231</b>	

# COMPARATIVE FATALITIES OF TERRORISM & COUNTER-TERRORISM: BY REGION | 2022 vs 2023

The year 2023 recorded an alarming spike in violence by about 56% - an unprecedented escalation in the last ten years, with the overall number of fatalities jumping from three-digits (980) in 2022 to four (1533) in 2023. This includes a staggering 63% uptick recorded in Balochistan and 54% in KP. Punjab saw an 89% rise in violence though the number of fatalities was very low, followed by Sindh where the fatalities increased by 28%.

Data suggests that the security situation remains volatile with the potential of spilling over into otherwise peaceful Gilgit-Baltistan (GB) and Kashmir. The loss of 17 lives in GB was the highest number since 2014, while AJK witnessed an incident of violence after four years. (Table 02)





<b>Regions</b>	<b>Fatalities in 2022</b>	<b>Fatalities in 2023</b>	<b>Percentage Increase/ Decrease in Fatalities</b>
<b>KP</b>	633	975	<b>54.03</b>
<b>Balochistan</b>	254	413	<b>62.60</b>
<b>Sindh</b>	57	73	<b>28.07</b>
<b>Punjab</b>	28	53	<b>89.29</b>
<b>ICT</b>	8	0	<b>-100.00</b>
<b>GB</b>	0	17	<b>1700.00</b>
<b>AJK</b>	0	1	<b>100.00</b>
<b>Unidentified Location</b>	0	1	<b>100.00</b>
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>980</b>	<b>1533</b>	<b>56.43</b>

## **CASUALTIES OF TERRORISM & COUNTER-TERRORISM: BY INCIDENTS TYPE**

Over 64% of all violence-related fatalities recorded in 2023 resulted from terrorism, while 35% from the security forces operations against the outlaws.

The year 2023 registered a 72% increase in casualties resulting from security forces' operations against the outlaws (650 casualties recorded this year compared to around 379 in 2022).

The security forces conducted around 200 operations against outlaws, killing about 544 in direct encounters or intelligence-based operations. On the other hand, the country suffered as many as 585 terror attacks this year.

The number of terror attacks recorded this year (585) was almost three times the number of security operations against outlaws, resulting in about 3.6 times the number of casualties among both civilians and security personnel compared to the casualties among outlaws.

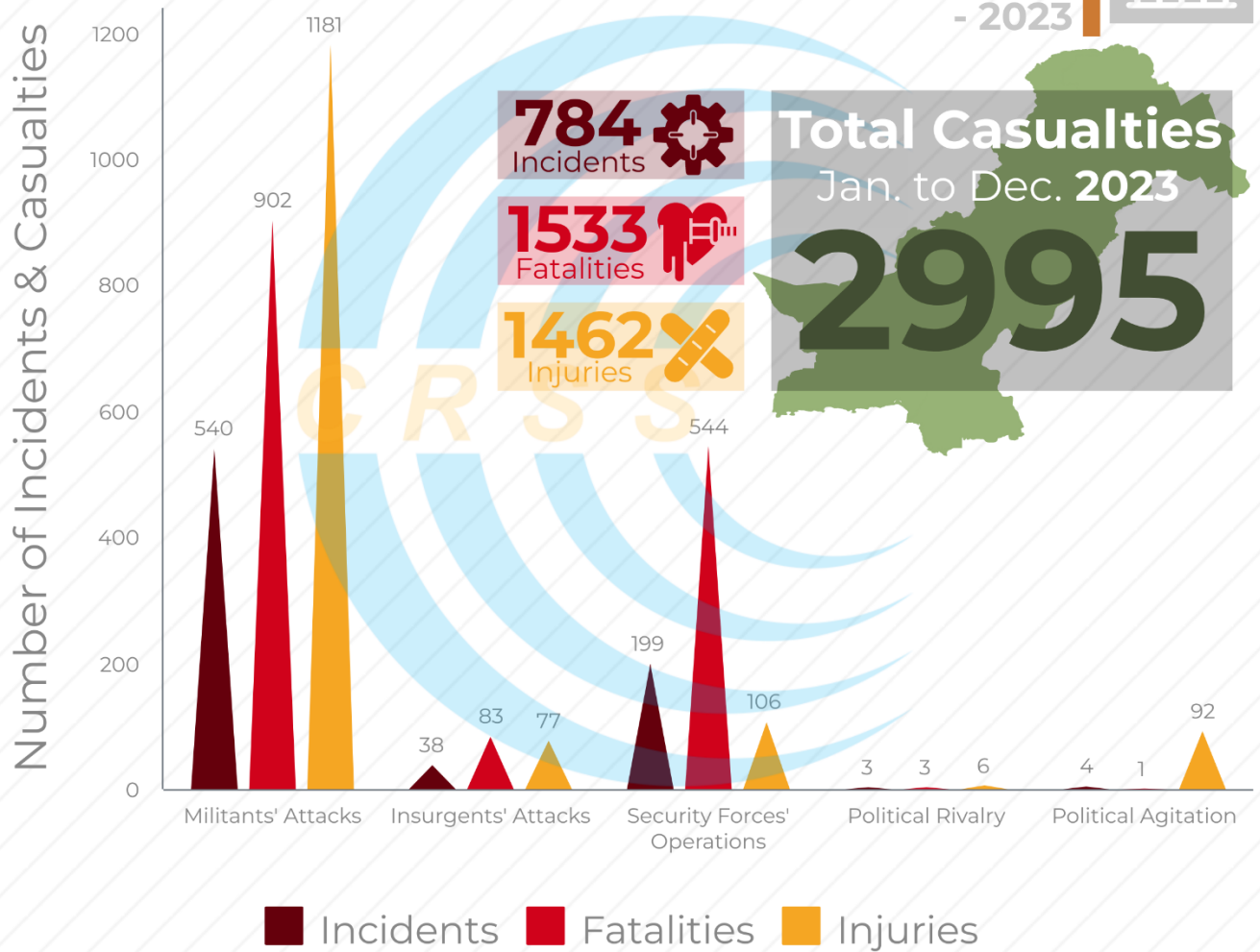
In addition to three major types of violence - security operations, terror attacks, and insurgency - two other manifestations of violence stemming from political turmoil in the country have also contributed to casualties. (Table 03)

# Casualties of Violence

## Terrorism and Counter-Terrorism



Types of Incidents  
- 2023



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<b>Table 03</b>					
<b>Casualties of Violence   Terrorism and Counter-Terrorism   By Incidents Type   2023</b>					
<b>Types of Incidents</b>	<b>Incidents</b>	<b>Fatalities</b>	<b>Injuries</b>	<b>Casualties</b>	<b>Percentage of Casualties</b>
<b>Terrorism</b>					
<b>Militancy</b>	540	902	1181	2083	<b>69.55</b>
<b>Insurgency</b>	38	83	77	160	<b>5.34</b>
<b>Political Agitation</b>	4	1	92	93	<b>3.11</b>
<b>Political Rivalry</b>	3	3	6	9	<b>0.30</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>585</b>	<b>989</b>	<b>1356</b>	<b>2345</b>	<b>78.30</b>
<b>Counter-Terrorism</b>					
<b>Security Forces' Operations</b>	199	544	106	650	<b>21.70</b>
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>784</b>	<b>1533</b>	<b>1462</b>	<b>2995</b>	

## **CASUALTIES OF TERRORISM & COUNTER-TERRORISM: BY VICTIMS TYPE**

Although the fatalities among outlaws were the highest when separately compared to those of security officials and civilians, the combined fatalities of security officials and civilians were nearly double the number of outlaws' fatalities. Furthermore, the attacks on security officials and civilians outnumbered the security operations conducted against the outlaws, by more than double. (Table 04-A)

# Casualties of Violence

## Terrorism and Counter-Terrorism



Types of Victims  
- 2023

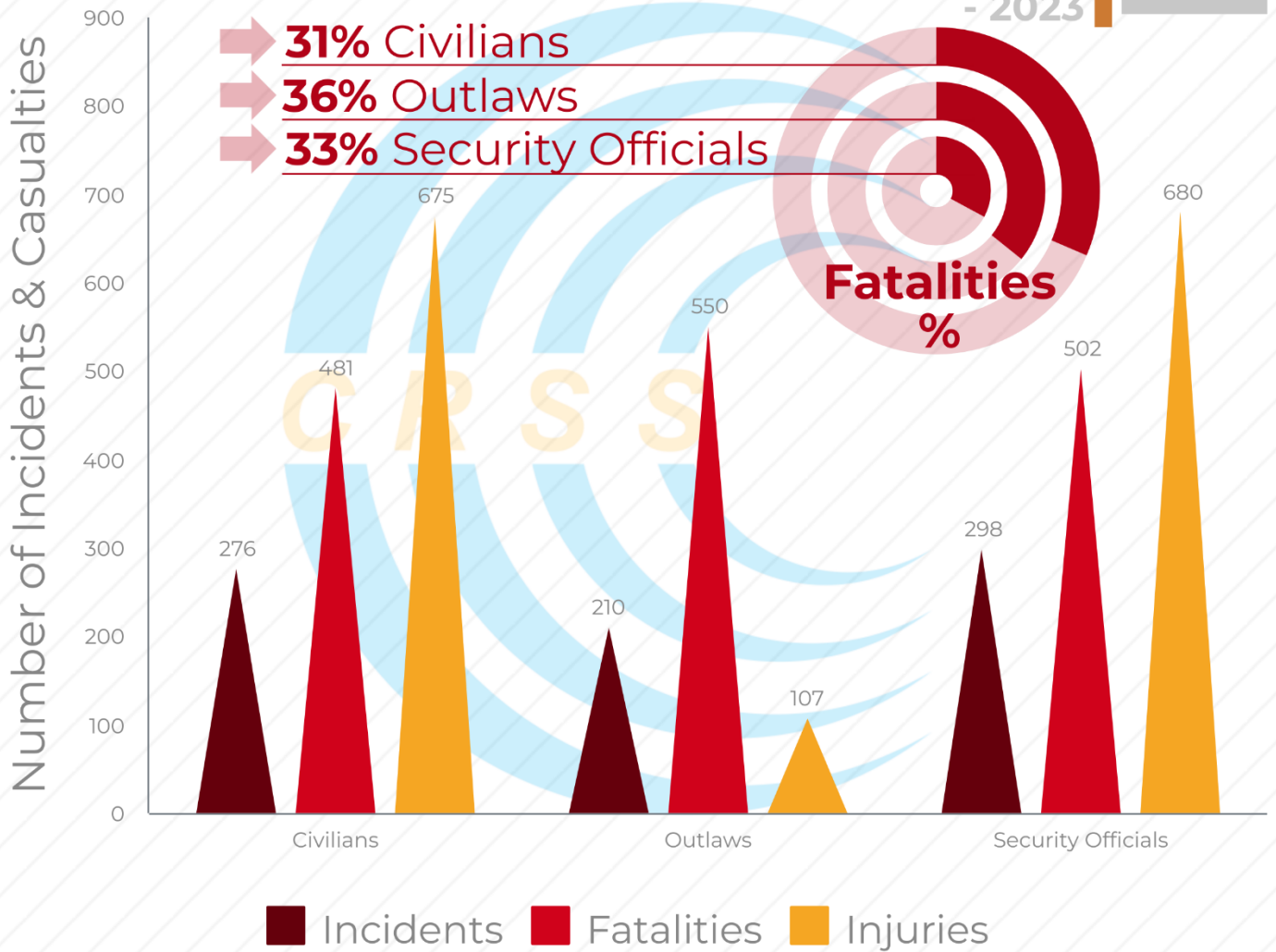
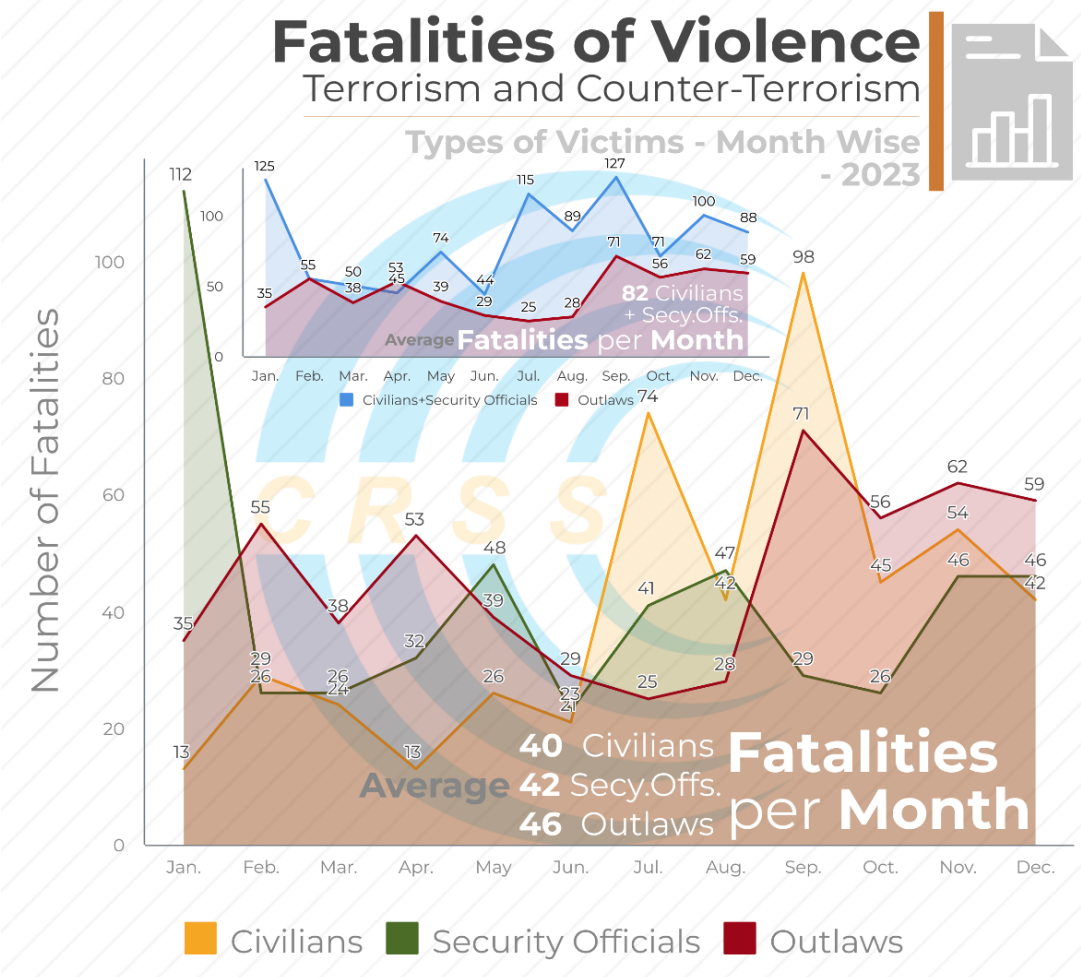


Table 04-A					
Casualties of Violence   Terrorism and Counter-Terrorism   By Victims Type   2023					
Types of Victims	Incidents	Fatalities	Injuries	Casualties	Percentage of Fatalities
Civilians	276	481	675	1156	31.38
Outlaws	210	550	107	657	35.88
Security Officials	298	502	680	1182	32.75
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>784</b>	<b>1533</b>	<b>1462</b>	<b>2995</b>	

Monthly violence and counter-violence data points to a consistent disparity in fatalities between outlaws, civilians, and security personnel. On average, around 82 individuals (comprising civilians and security personnel) were targeted each month by outlaws, while only around 46 outlaws could be eliminated through security operations. This monthly gap varied, with the month of February showing equal levels and July displaying the highest disparity which can be seen persisting throughout the year. (Table 04-B)



<b>Table 04-B</b>					
<b>Fatalities of Violence   Terrorism and Counter-Terrorism   By Victims Type - Month Wise   2023</b>					
<b>Month Wise Data</b>	<b>Civilians</b>	<b>Security Officials</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>Outlaws</b>	<b>Grand Total</b>
<b>Jan.</b>	13	112	<b>125</b>	35	<b>160</b>
<b>Feb.</b>	29	26	<b>55</b>	55	<b>110</b>
<b>Mar.</b>	24	26	<b>50</b>	38	<b>88</b>
<b>Apr.</b>	13	32	<b>45</b>	53	<b>98</b>
<b>May</b>	26	48	<b>74</b>	39	<b>113</b>
<b>Jun.</b>	21	23	<b>44</b>	29	<b>73</b>
<b>Jul.</b>	74	41	<b>115</b>	25	<b>140</b>
<b>Aug.</b>	42	47	<b>89</b>	28	<b>117</b>
<b>Sep.</b>	98	29	<b>127</b>	71	<b>198</b>
<b>Oct.</b>	45	26	<b>71</b>	56	<b>127</b>
<b>Nov.</b>	54	46	<b>100</b>	62	<b>162</b>
<b>Dec.</b>	42	46	<b>88</b>	59	<b>147</b>
<b>Fatalities Per Month - Average</b>	<b>40.08</b>	<b>41.83</b>	<b>81.92</b>	<b>45.83</b>	<b>127.75</b>
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>481</b>	<b>502</b>	<b>983</b>	<b>550</b>	<b>1533</b>

With over 500 fatalities and nearly 300 terror attacks suffered, 2023 was the deadliest year for security forces in nearly a decade, exceeding the 2015 level and highest since 2014. Moreover, this year, their fatalities surged, and an uptick was recorded in the terror attacks they suffered for the third consecutive year beginning from 2021.

Contrary to the declining trend that had persisted since 2015, an alarming reversal occurred in 2021, which was coincidentally the year when the Afghan Taliban had regained their control in Afghanistan.

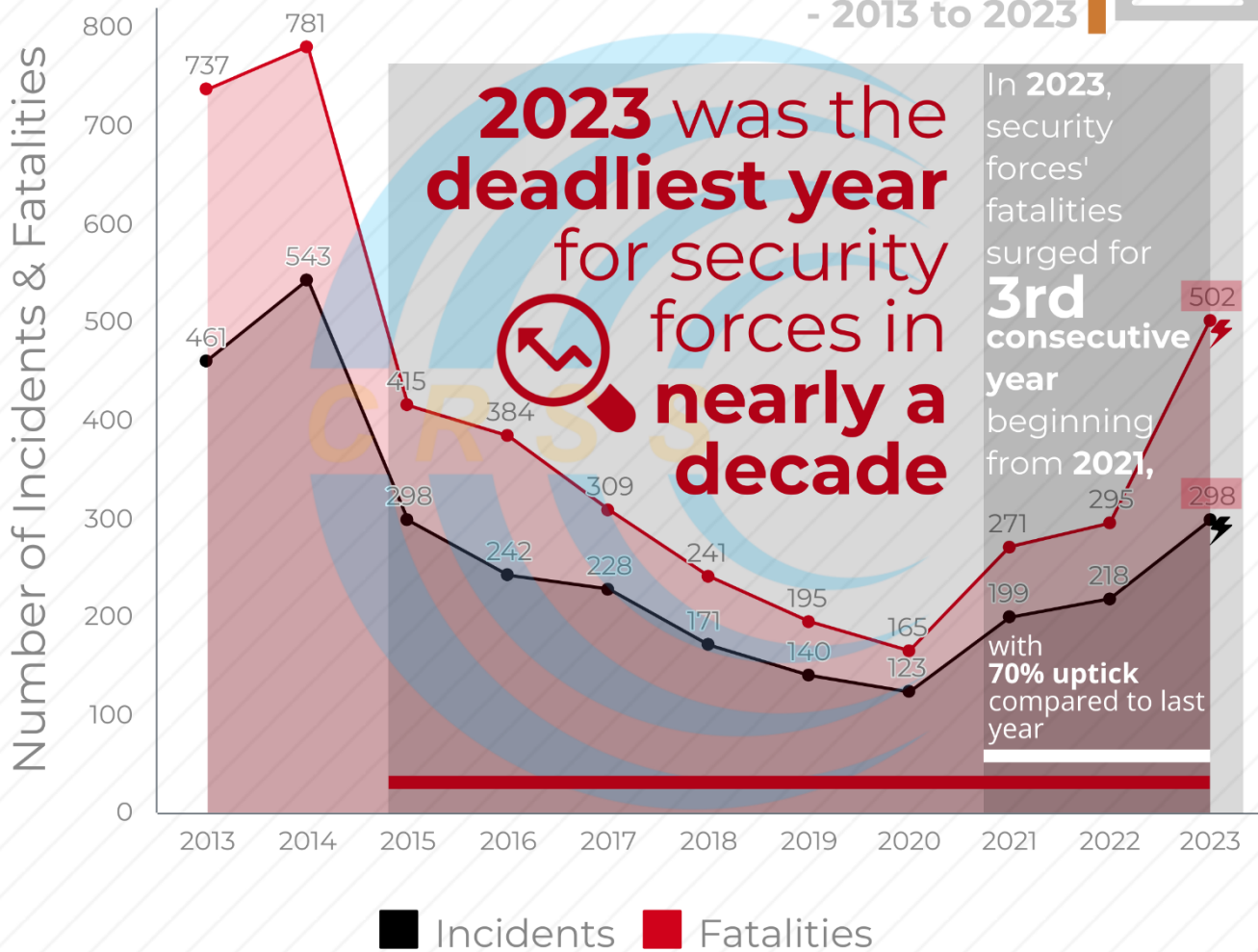
The data shows a consistent decline in their fatalities from 2015 to 2020. However, the resurge in militancy in 2021 resulting in the increased number of attacks on security forces marked a 64% uptick in their fatalities. Following a significantly less uptick in 2022, a staggering 70% surge was seen in the fatalities of security personnel in 2023, reaching the highest level in the whole decade. (Table 04-C)

# Comparative Fatalities of Violence

## Terrorism



Victims Type | Security Personnel  
- 2013 to 2023



<b>Table 04-C</b>			
<b>Fatalities of Violence   Terrorism   By Victims Type - Security Personnel   Year Wise   2013 - 2023</b>			
<b>Years</b>	<b>Incidents</b>	<b>Fatalities</b>	<b>Percentage Increase/ Decrease in Fatalities</b>
<b>2013</b>	461	737	
<b>2014</b>	543	781	<b>5.97</b>
<b>2015</b>	298	415	<b>-46.86</b>
<b>2016</b>	242	384	<b>-7.47</b>
<b>2017</b>	228	309	<b>-19.53</b>
<b>2018</b>	171	241	<b>-22.01</b>
<b>2019</b>	140	195	<b>-19.09</b>
<b>2020</b>	123	165	<b>-15.38</b>
<b>2021</b>	199	271	<b>64.24</b>
<b>2022</b>	218	295	<b>8.86</b>
<b>2023</b>	298	502	<b>70.17</b>
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>2921</b>	<b>4295</b>	

## **NON-FATAL TERROR ATTACKS**

### **BY REGION**

The gap between security measures and terror attacks widens further when non-fatal terror attacks are also added to the fatal acts of violence. The year witnessed a total of 105 incidents of non-fatal attacks, alongside instances of kidnappings for ransom and threats from extortionists, which are not covered in this report. Nearly 135 properties suffered damage as a consequence of these non-fatal attacks. (Table 05-A)

<b>Table 05-A</b>		
<b>Non-Fatal Terror Attacks   By Region   2023</b>		
<b>Regions</b>	<b>Incidents</b>	<b>Properties Damaged</b>
<b>KP</b>	64	<b>68</b>
<b>Balochistan</b>	26	<b>49</b>
<b>Punjab</b>	6	<b>8</b>
<b>Sindh</b>	9	<b>10</b>
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>105</b>	<b>135</b>



Most of the non-fatal attacks this year were recorded in Balochistan and KP, while a limited number of such incidents were also reported from Punjab and Sindh.

The nature of these attacks highlights their severity, with armed assaults, firing incidents, rocket launchers, arson, and the use of explosives such as bombs, hand grenades, improvised explosive devices (IEDs), and landmines being frequently documented throughout the year. (Table 05-B)

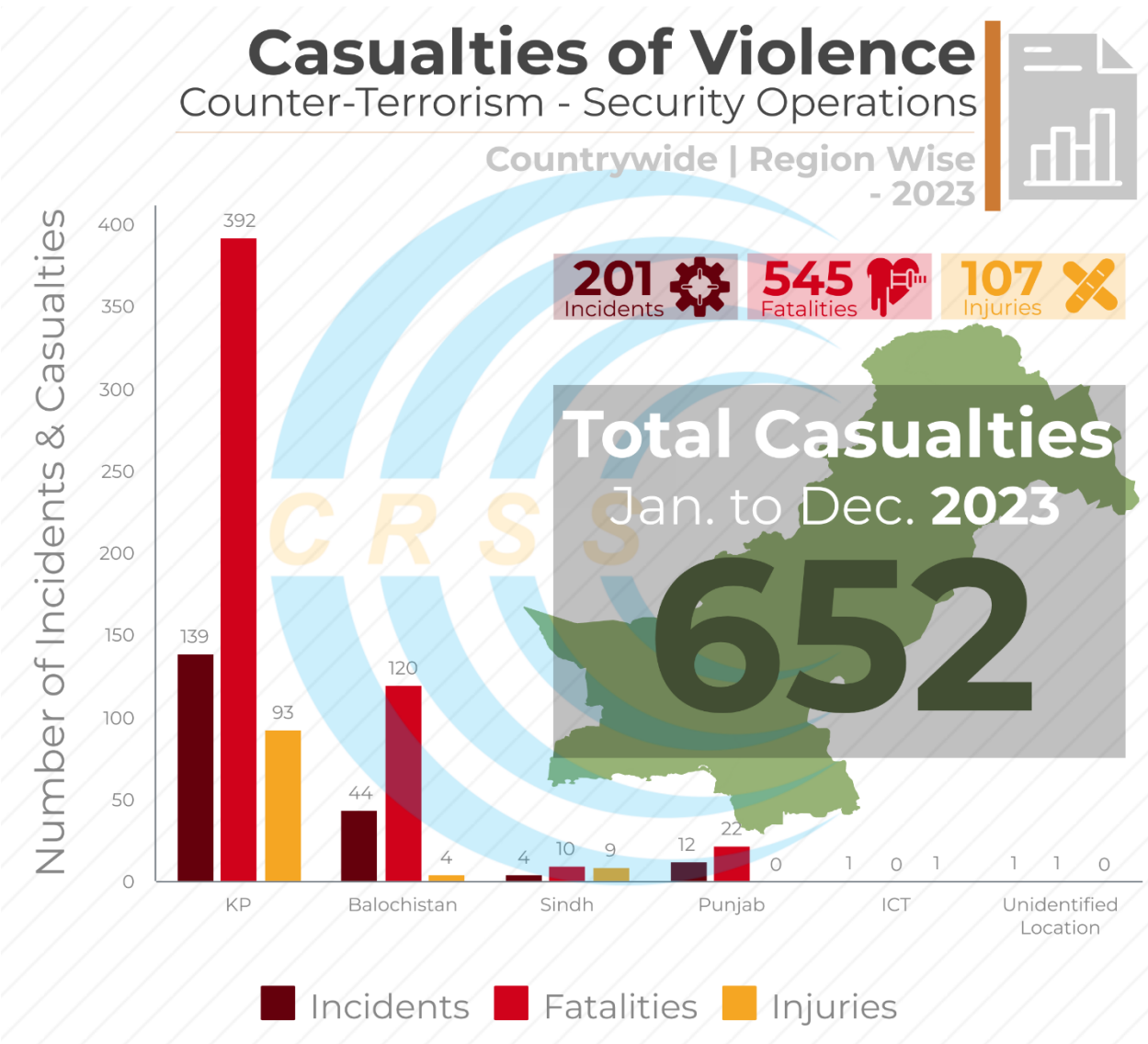
<b>Table 05-B</b>					
<b>Non-Fatal Terror Attacks   By Nature of Attacks   2023</b>					
<b>Nature of Attacks</b>	<b>KP</b>	<b>Balochistan</b>	<b>Punjab</b>	<b>Sindh</b>	<b>Grand Total</b>
<b>Armed Attack</b>	30	6	4	0	<b>40</b>
<b>Bomb</b>	4	4	1	6	<b>15</b>
<b>Bullet &amp; Rocket</b>	1	0	0	0	<b>1</b>
<b>Explosive Defused</b>	0	0	1	0	<b>1</b>
<b>Firing</b>	3	2	1	1	<b>7</b>
<b>Hand Grenade</b>	17	7	0	3	<b>27</b>
<b>IED</b>	8	1	0	0	<b>9</b>
<b>Landmine</b>	1	1	0	0	<b>2</b>
<b>Mortar Shell Defused</b>	0	0	1	0	<b>1</b>
<b>Rocket</b>	3	2	0	0	<b>5</b>
<b>Set on Fire</b>	1	26	0	0	<b>27</b>
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>68</b>	<b>49</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>135</b>

The majority, around 75%, of the non-fatal attacks in 2023 were aimed at targets such as government properties, security installations (such as railway tracks, gas pipelines, police check posts, police stations, and army check posts), and private properties. Additionally, specific individuals, including civilians, politicians, security officials, and members of religious parties, were not spared from these attacks either. (Table 05-C)

<b>Table 05-C</b>		
<b>Non-Fatal Terror Attacks   By Targets Type   2023</b>		
<b>Targets</b>	<b>Incidents</b>	<b>Properties Damaged</b>
<b>Civilians</b>	1	<b>1</b>
<b>Politicians</b>	1	<b>1</b>
<b>Religious Party</b>	1	<b>1</b>
<b>Security Officials</b>	2	<b>2</b>
<b>Private Property</b>	16	<b>39</b>
<b>Public Place</b>	1	<b>1</b>
<b>Politician's Property</b>	6	<b>6</b>
<b>Govt. Property</b>	19	<b>23</b>
<b>Security Property</b>	58	<b>61</b>
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>105</b>	<b>135</b>

# CASUALTIES OF SECURITY OPERATIONS: BY REGION & VICTIMS

The security forces carried out around 200 counter-terrorism operations this year, compared to 128 in the previous year. Balochistan and KP were the main focus of these operations due to the upsurge in violence in these provinces. Sindh remained relatively peaceful compared to all other regions. However, for the first time in the last three years, security officials in Punjab had to encounter multiple terror attacks in the Mianwali district of the province, one of which targeted the PAF Training Camp, further details of which will be discussed in the chapter on Punjab below (Table 06-A).



<b>Table 06-A</b>				
<b>Casualties of Violence   Counter-Terrorism - Security Operations   By Region   2023</b>				
<b>Regions</b>	<b>Incidents</b>	<b>Fatalities</b>	<b>Injuries</b>	<b>Casualties</b>
<b>KP</b>	139	392	93	<b>485</b>
<b>Balochistan</b>	44	120	4	<b>124</b>
<b>Sindh</b>	4	10	9	<b>19</b>
<b>Punjab</b>	12	22	0	<b>22</b>
<b>ICT</b>	1	0	1	<b>1</b>
<b>Unidentified Location</b>	1	1	0	<b>1</b>
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>201</b>	<b>545</b>	<b>107</b>	<b>652</b>

In the ongoing efforts to counter militant activities, security forces achieved notable success in the year 2023. A total of 121 militants affiliated with Tehreek-e-Taliban Pakistan (TTP) were eliminated during various security operations this year which is a substantial increase compared to the preceding year, where 63 TTP militants were neutralized.

One of the key developments this year was the emergence of Tehreek-e-Jihad Pakistan (TJP), a new militant group believed to be linked to TTP. TJP lost 36 militants associated with this group during security operations. Additionally, six splinter groups of TTP collectively lost eight militants.

Daish (Islamic State) also faced setbacks, losing eight of its members in security operations while Lashkar-e-Islami (LI) which has been inactive since 2015, reappeared on the security radar, and lost five of its militants. This resurgence highlights a concerning trend, suggesting a revival of LI's activities within the country.

Another newly identified group, Ansar al-Jihad (AaJ), made its appearance in 2023 and lost two of its militants in a security operation.

In a noteworthy incident, a commander belonging to the Baloch Liberation Army (BLA) was neutralized along with five TJP militants at the Frontier Corps Compound in Muslim Bagh, Killa Saifullah district, Balochistan. This was the first instance in the last eleven years where a member of a Baloch insurgent group was found operating alongside Jihadi militants. This event underscores the complex and evolving dynamics of terrorist networks. They operate with different names but their ostensible objective is to inflict harm on Pakistan and create a sense of insecurity in the country.

Throughout the current year, a total of 55 insurgents were eliminated as a result of various security operations. Among them, 12 individuals were affiliated with the Baloch Liberation Army (BLA), and two with the Baloch Liberation Front (BLF). Additionally, in a security operation conducted in the Sakrand district of Sindh, four individuals, reportedly associated with the Sindhudesh Revolutionary Army (SRA), were reported as having been killed. This particular

security operation stirred controversy, as the family members of the deceased individuals vehemently rejected the official claim and staged protests against the incident.

Two religious persons also became subjects of security operations due to their involvement in illicit activities. Among them was the renowned Khateeb of Lal Masjid, Maulana Abdul Aziz, who sustained injuries while resisting an arrest attempt by the police. Subsequently, in a video message, Maulana's wife, Umme Hasaan, claimed that the Maulana had fired multiple rounds at the Counter-Terrorism Department (CTD) team, leading to a crossfire. She even appealed for assistance from the proscribed TTP, urging them not to remain silent.

Another religious figure, Maulana Jawad, who was a wanted militant, was killed in a police encounter at a mosque in the Seri Behlol area of Mardan district in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP).

In a separate development, security forces successfully eliminated at least five militants from Afghanistan. The country has witnessed a sudden surge in the involvement of Afghan militants in terrorist activities. Former Interior Minister Sarfaraz Bugti asserted this year that at least 14 suicide attacks were orchestrated by Afghan nationals. (Table 06-B)

<b>Table 06-B</b>				
<b>Casualties of Violence   Counter-Terrorism - Security Operations   By Victims Type   2023</b>				
<b>Types of Victims</b>	<b>Incidents</b>	<b>Fatalities</b>	<b>Injuries</b>	<b>Casualties</b>
<b>Civilians</b>				
<b>Children</b>	1	2	0	<b>2</b>
<b>Civilians - Caught in Between</b>	1	3	0	<b>3</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>Criminals</b>				
<b>ASI Killer</b>	1	2	0	<b>2</b>
<b>Murderer</b>	1	1	0	<b>1</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>Foreign Militants</b>				
<b>Afghan Militant</b>	1	1	0	<b>1</b>
<b>Extortionist - Afghan</b>	1	1	0	<b>1</b>
<b>Afghan - Killer of Sikhs, Christians</b>	1	1	0	<b>1</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>Insurgents</b>				
<b>BLA</b>	7	12	0	<b>12</b>
<b>BLF</b>	1	2	2	<b>4</b>

<b>Insurgents - Unknown</b>	12	37	0	<b>37</b>
<b>SRA</b>	1	4	9	<b>13</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>55</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>66</b>
<b>Militants</b>				
<b>Afghan Militants</b>	1	5	0	<b>5</b>
<b>Ali Masjid Blast Facilitator</b>	1	1	0	<b>1</b>
<b>Ansar al-Jihad (AaJ)</b>	1	2	0	<b>2</b>
<b>Cop Killer</b>	1	2	0	<b>2</b>
<b>Daish</b>	4	8	0	<b>8</b>
<b>Ex TTP</b>	1	1	0	<b>1</b>
<b>JI Chief's Attackers</b>	1	3	0	<b>3</b>
<b>Kidnappers</b>	1	2	2	<b>4</b>
<b>Lashkar-e-Islami (LI)</b>	2	5	3	<b>8</b>
<b>Prisoners</b>	1	1	1	<b>2</b>
<b>Shina Group</b>	1	1	2	<b>3</b>
<b>Suicide Bomber</b>	1	2	0	<b>2</b>
<b>Tehreek-e-Jihad Pakistan (TJP )</b>	8	36	0	<b>36</b>
<b>BLA &amp; TJP</b>	1	1	0	<b>1</b>
<b>TTP</b>	42	121	48	<b>169</b>
<b>TTP - Gul Bahadur</b>	1	1	0	<b>1</b>
<b>TTP - JuA</b>	1	1	0	<b>1</b>
<b>TTP - Khayara Group</b>	1	2	0	<b>2</b>
<b>TTP - Tipu Group</b>	1	2	0	<b>2</b>
<b>TTP Gandapur</b>	2	2	0	<b>2</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>73</b>	<b>199</b>	<b>56</b>	<b>255</b>
<b>Religious Militants</b>				
<b>Lal Masjid Imam</b>	1	0	1	<b>1</b>
<b>Militant Maulana</b>	1	1	0	<b>1</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>Militants - Unknown   Total</b>	<b>96</b>	<b>278</b>	<b>38</b>	<b>316</b>
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>199</b>	<b>544</b>	<b>106</b>	<b>650</b>

# MILITANTS & INSURGENTS ARRESTED: BY AFFILIATION

As part of security operations, a significant number of outlaws, including militants and insurgents, were apprehended during the year. Surprisingly, over 80% of militants were arrested in the Punjab and Sindh regions, where the casualties from violence were comparatively low i.e. just over 8%, as per Table 01.

As many as 142 TTP terrorists were arrested, the highest among the terrorist and militant groups.

The Islamic State (Daish) followed, with 42 of its militants arrested. Twelve militants affiliated with Al-Qaeda (AQ) and Al-Qaeda Indian Subcontinent (AQIS) were also apprehended,

Despite LeJ's inactivity in the country since 2017 and no claims of terror attacks in the last six years, 19 of its members were arrested from Punjab and Sindh this year.

Eight insurgents affiliated with Baloch Liberation Army (BLA), Baloch Liberation Front (BLF), and Baloch Republican Army (BRA) were arrested in Sindh. Additionally, one BLA insurgent was apprehended in Punjab.

In Balochistan, ten insurgents - including five females, hailing from Seistan, Iran but residing in Balochistan - were arrested in retaliation to a terror attack on a Chinese convoy in Gwadar. BLA claimed responsibility for this attack.

Notably, Mahil Baloch, a female allegedly affiliated with BLF, was arrested in February 2023 on charges of planning a suicide attack on security forces in Quetta. This arrest sparked public reactions and protests in the Mand area and other parts of the country. A couple of months later, security agencies announced a significant victory when they succeeded in apprehending Gulzar Imam, also known as Shambay, the founder of the banned Baloch National Army (BNA), in May 2023. They believed that these two arrests would send a strong message to the insurgent groups such as BLA and BLF.

However, subsequent events defied expectations as nearly 22 attacks claimed by insurgent groups like BLA, BLF, and BLT took place in the country from May until the year's end, including a suicide attack recorded in Turbat, carried out by a BLA-affiliated female, Sumaiya Qalandrani Baloch, in August, which was claimed by BLA. This marked a new dimension in the severity of the Baloch insurgency, exemplified by a female suicide bomber targeting Chinese citizens at Karachi University the previous year.

Sindh Police intensified efforts to apprehend insurgents associated with the Sindhudesh Revolutionary Army (SRA) after the group claimed responsibility for the assassination of an educationist Syed Khalid Raza in Karachi on February 27, 2023. The slain educationist was a former

activist of Islami Jamiat-i-Talaba and also had ties with Al-Badr, the group involved in armed struggle in India-held Kashmir.

From February till May, a total of ten SRA-affiliated insurgents were arrested, primarily in Karachi, with a few apprehended in Tando Mohammad and Jamshoro.

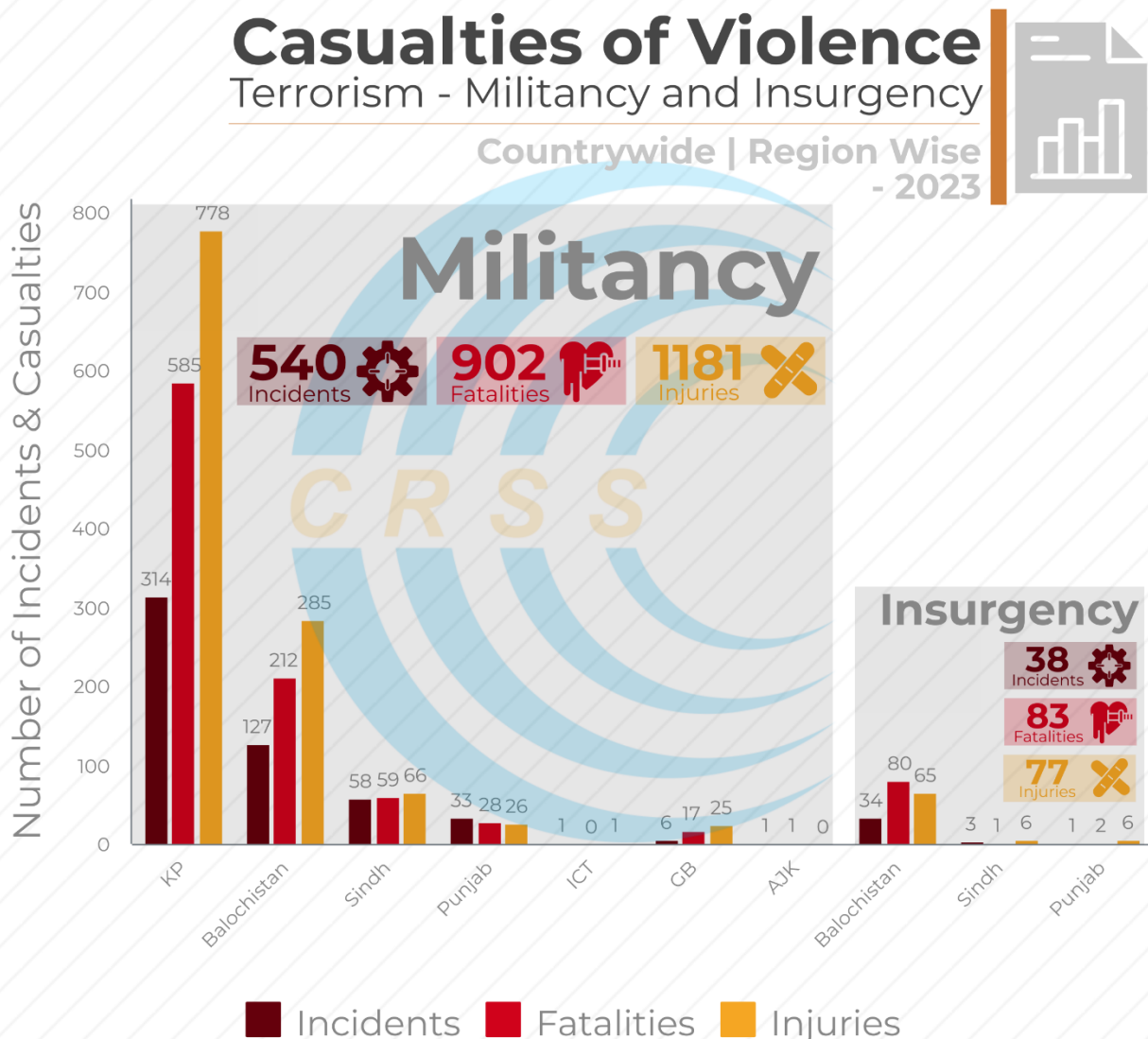
Three of the arrested individuals, Imam Bux alias Raja, Hanif alias Babu Badshah and Muneer Abro, were reported to have received training in Afghanistan and India. (Table 07)

<b>Table 07</b>						
<b>Militants and Insurgents Arrested - By Affiliation   2023</b>						
<b>Affiliations</b>	<b>Balochistan</b>	<b>ICT</b>	<b>KP</b>	<b>Punjab</b>	<b>Sindh</b>	<b>Grand Total</b>
<b>Militants</b>						
<b>AQ &amp; AQIS</b>	0	0	0	12	0	<b>12</b>
<b>Daish</b>	1	0	5	27	9	<b>42</b>
<b>Daish &amp; Others</b>	0	0	0	75	0	<b>75</b>
<b>LeJ</b>	0	0	0	12	7	<b>19</b>
<b>SSP</b>	0	0	0	5	0	<b>5</b>
<b>TTP</b>	4	1	51	69	17	<b>142</b>
<b>TTP &amp; Daish</b>	0	0	0	14	0	<b>14</b>
<b>TTP &amp; AQ</b>	0	0	0	27	0	<b>27</b>
<b>TTP &amp; Others</b>	0	0	0	51	0	<b>51</b>
<b>Ali Mosque Suicide Attack</b>	0	0	3	0	0	<b>3</b>
<b>Armed Attackers</b>	0	0	0	0	44	<b>44</b>
<b>Eid Miladun Nabi Procession Case</b>	8	0	0	0	0	<b>8</b>
<b>Fund Raiser - Militants</b>	0	0	0	0	4	<b>4</b>
<b>KPO Attackers</b>	0	0	0	0	4	<b>4</b>
<b>Maulana Ziaur Rehman Killers</b>	0	0	0	0	4	<b>4</b>
<b>Militants - Unknown</b>	0	2	11	40	7	<b>60</b>
<b>Peshawar Mosque Attacker</b>	0	0	1	0	0	<b>1</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>71</b>	<b>332</b>	<b>96</b>	<b>515</b>
<b>Insurgents</b>						
<b>BLA</b>	0	0	0	1	1	<b>2</b>
<b>BLA Females - Chinese Convoy Attacker</b>	5	0	0	0	0	<b>5</b>
<b>BLF</b>	1	0	0	0	6	<b>7</b>
<b>BLF - Mahil Baloch</b>	1	0	0	0	0	<b>1</b>
<b>BNA Leader</b>	3	0	0	0	0	<b>3</b>
<b>BRA</b>	0	0	0	0	1	<b>1</b>
<b>SRA</b>	0	0	0	0	10	<b>10</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>29</b>

# CASUALTIES OF MILITANCY & INSURGENCY: BY REGION, YEAR, VICTIMS & METHODS

Because of the nature and escalation of violence, the incidents of terrorism are split into two categories – militancy and insurgency – with the intent to provide a comprehensive picture of the situation in its proper perspective and context. Table 08 below shows that 902 persons lost their lives to militancy and 83 to the insurgency. The number of wounded persons was 1181 as a result of militancy and 77 from insurgent attacks. KP and Balochistan were the main targets of militancy while insurgency mainly focused on Balochistan and also carried out three attacks in Sindh and one in Punjab.

All insurgent attacks with the exception of two in Balochistan were claimed by BLA, BLF, and BLT. Two insurgent attacks were not claimed by any insurgent group. The insurgent attack in Punjab was claimed by BNA and three attacks in Sindh were claimed by SRA. (Table 08)





<b>Table 08</b>				
<b>Casualties of Violence   Terrorism - Militancy and Insurgency   By Region   2023</b>				
<b>Regions</b>	<b>Incidents</b>	<b>Fatalities</b>	<b>Injuries</b>	<b>Casualties</b>
<b>Militancy</b>				
<b>KP</b>	314	585	778	<b>1363</b>
<b>Balochistan</b>	127	212	285	<b>497</b>
<b>Sindh</b>	58	59	66	<b>125</b>
<b>Punjab</b>	33	28	26	<b>54</b>
<b>ICT</b>	1	0	1	<b>1</b>
<b>GB</b>	6	17	25	<b>42</b>
<b>AJK</b>	1	1	0	<b>1</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>540</b>	<b>902</b>	<b>1181</b>	<b>2083</b>
<b>Insurgency</b>				
<b>Balochistan</b>	34	80	65	<b>145</b>
<b>Sindh</b>	3	1	6	<b>7</b>
<b>Punjab</b>	1	2	6	<b>8</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>38</b>	<b>83</b>	<b>77</b>	<b>160</b>
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>578</b>	<b>985</b>	<b>1258</b>	<b>2243</b>

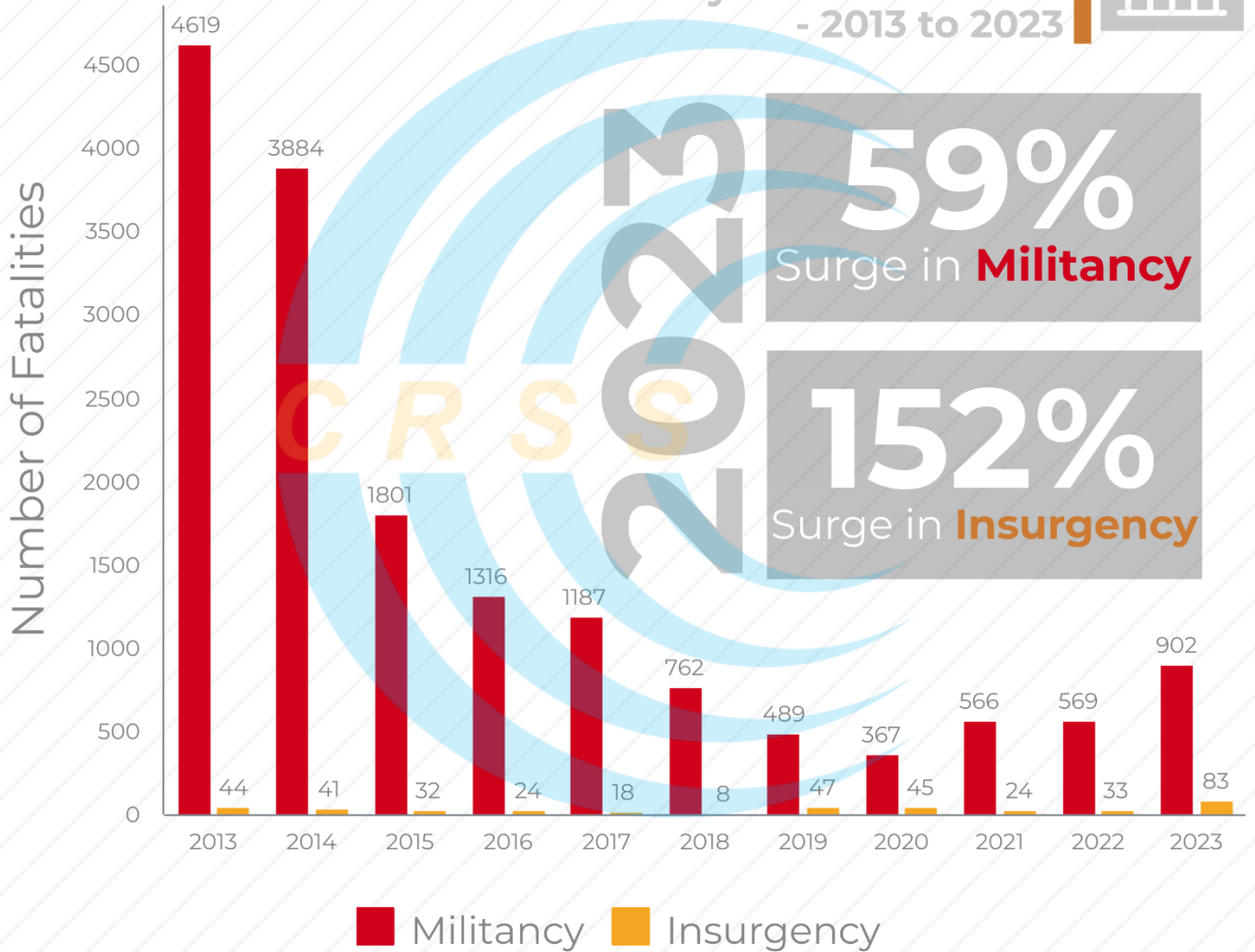
A comparative analysis of terrorism-related fatalities from 2013 to 2023 reveals a significant surge in militancy and insurgency in the country. The percentage increase in militancy-linked fatalities marks a record 11-year high, with a 59% upsurge. While the insurgency-related fatalities spiked by 152% this year, the highest increase since 2019. Moreover, the number of insurgency-related fatalities also reached its highest point since 2013. Despite the initial achievements of operations Zarb-e-Azb and Radd-ul-Fasaad, these successes seem to have faded in the face of resurgence in violence in the last three years. This grim reality necessitates a reassessment of anti-terror strategies and a comprehensive review of the previous operations to identify and address overlooked areas. (Table 09)

# Fatalities of Violence

## Terrorism - Militancy and Insurgency



Countrywide - Year Wise  
- 2013 to 2023



Years	Militancy	Percentage Rise/Decline	Insurgency	Percentage Rise/Decline
2013	4619		44	
2014	3884	-15.91	41	-6.82
2015	1801	-53.63	32	-21.95
2016	1316	-26.93	24	-25.00
2017	1187	-9.80	18	-25.00
2018	762	-35.80	8	-55.56
2019	489	-35.83	47	487.50
2020	367	-24.95	45	-4.26
2021	566	54.22	24	-46.67
2022	569	0.53	33	37.50
2023	902	58.52	83	151.52
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>16462</b>		<b>399</b>	

Militant attacks mostly targeted security officials, civilians, and government officials. The security officials suffered the majority of militancy-related fatalities with the loss of 450 lives and 569 injuries. Nearly 65% of security officials' casualties were of the policemen, followed by army officials with 25% and the other security agencies like Frontier Corps (FC), Levies, ANF, ATF, and Coast Guards were nearly 4.5% and the remaining 0.5% were government officials. (Table 10-A)

Types of Victims	Incidents	Fatalities	Injuries	Casualties
<b>Govt. Official</b>				
Addl. Dy. Commissioner	1	0	1	1
Govt. Official	1	1	0	1
Lumberdar	1	1	0	1
Public Service Commission	1	1	0	1
<b>Total</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>Security Officials</b>				
ANF	1	0	1	1
Army	81	177	80	257
ATF	1	1	0	1
Coast Guards	1	1	7	8
FC	11	19	33	52
Levies	13	14	16	30
Levies - Minister's Nephew Target	1	1	0	1
Police	157	235	425	660
Rangers	4	2	7	9
<b>Total</b>	<b>270</b>	<b>450</b>	<b>569</b>	<b>1019</b>
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>274</b>	<b>453</b>	<b>570</b>	<b>1023</b>

Apart from security and government officials, a substantial number of non-combatant, innocent civilians fell victim to militant attacks over the year. Table 10-B categorizes civilians as individuals; ordinary members of society without affiliation to prominent groups, sections, or professions. Those who are associated with political parties, religious groups, media, or holding positions within religious communities are also included in this table. Additionally, foreigners with no criminal background are classified within the civilian section for reference.

A significant portion of the casualties were of non-combatant civilians, accounting for approximately 60% of the total victims. These individuals had no affiliation with any prominent group, section, or profession within society. Tragically, 143 civilians (14% of total civilian victims) were targeted simply because they happened to be in the wrong place at the wrong time. Approximately 10% of the total civilian victims were targeted in sectarian violence incidents.

The year witnessed a concerning increase in violence against poor workers and coal miners, resulting in 34 fatalities and 16 injuries. The causes of these attacks were multiple: laborers were mostly targeted on ethnic identity while the coal miners were targeted as a coercive method for extortion purposes.

Three foreigners, including two Afghans and one Indian Sikh, fell victim to terrorist attacks during the year.

Three media persons were wounded in terror attacks, highlighting the risks faced by journalists in conflict zones.

Mainstream political parties experienced losses among their members, while religious parties, particularly JUIF, suffered significant casualties.

Religious persons, including Pesh Imam, scholars, and worshippers, were frequent targets of attacks. The deadliest incident was a suicide attack on an Eid Milad-un-Nabi procession in Mastung, which resulted in 60 deaths and 93 injuries to the participants of the religious procession. (Table 10-B)

<b>Table 10-B</b>				
<b>Casualties of Violence   Terrorism - Militancy   By Victims Type   2023</b>				
<b>Types of Victims</b>	<b>Incidents</b>	<b>Fatalities</b>	<b>Injuries</b>	<b>Casualties</b>
<b>Civilians</b>				
<b>Workers &amp; Miners</b>	8	34	16	<b>50</b>
<b>Businessmen &amp; Professionals</b>	7	9	2	<b>11</b>
<b>Civilians - Basic Target Security Officials</b>	25	27	116	<b>143</b>
<b>Teachers &amp; Students</b>	5	2	15	<b>17</b>
<b>Civilians - Victims of Sectarian Violence</b>	20	41	63	<b>104</b>
<b>Tribesmen</b>	6	6	2	<b>8</b>
<b>Others</b>	137	162	140	<b>302</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>208</b>	<b>281</b>	<b>354</b>	<b>635</b>
<b>Foreigner</b>				
<b>Afghan - Coal Miner</b>	1	1	0	<b>1</b>
<b>Afghan Car Driver</b>	1	1	0	<b>1</b>
<b>Sikh Community</b>	1	1	0	<b>1</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>Media</b>				
<b>Hakkal Magazine</b>	1	0	1	<b>1</b>
<b>The News &amp; Geo</b>	1	0	2	<b>2</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>Politicians</b>				
<b>ANP</b>	1	1	0	<b>1</b>
<b>Lawyer &amp; Son of PPP Leader</b>	1	0	1	<b>1</b>
<b>MQM-P</b>	1	1	0	<b>1</b>
<b>NDM</b>	1	1	0	<b>1</b>
<b>PMLF</b>	1	1	0	<b>1</b>
<b>PMLN</b>	2	2	0	<b>2</b>
<b>PPP</b>	2	1	1	<b>2</b>
<b>PPP - Driver</b>	1	0	1	<b>1</b>
<b>PTI</b>	1	1	0	<b>1</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>11</b>

<b>Religious Party</b>				
<b>ASWJ</b>	3	2	1	<b>3</b>
<b>JI</b>	1	0	6	<b>6</b>
<b>JUI</b>	1	2	1	<b>3</b>
<b>JUIF</b>	4	65	134	<b>199</b>
<b>Son of JUIF</b>	1	1	0	<b>1</b>
<b>TLP</b>	1	1	0	<b>1</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>71</b>	<b>142</b>	<b>213</b>
<b>Religious Person</b>				
<b>Eid Milad Procession</b>	1	60	93	<b>153</b>
<b>Faqir Ipi's Grand Son</b>	1	1	0	<b>1</b>
<b>Father - Ex. Amir of Ansarul Islam</b>	1	1	3	<b>4</b>
<b>Jamia Abi Bakr</b>	1	1	0	<b>1</b>
<b>JITWS</b>	1	1	0	<b>1</b>
<b>Madressa Teacher</b>	1	1	0	<b>1</b>
<b>Maulana Muhammad Amin</b>	1	0	1	<b>1</b>
<b>Maulana Muhammad Atlas</b>	1	1	0	<b>1</b>
<b>Maulana Naseeb</b>	1	2	0	<b>2</b>
<b>Maulana Raheemullah Tariq</b>	1	1	0	<b>1</b>
<b>Mosque - Doaba Police Line</b>	1	4	12	<b>16</b>
<b>Mufti Ihsanul Haq</b>	1	1	0	<b>1</b>
<b>Mufti Ijaz</b>	1	1	0	<b>1</b>
<b>Noha Khwan Asad Agha</b>	1	0	1	<b>1</b>
<b>Pesh Imam</b>	3	2	1	<b>3</b>
<b>Pesh Imam Mufti Qaiser Farooq</b>	1	1	0	<b>1</b>
<b>Qari Mohammad Qasim</b>	1	1	0	<b>1</b>
<b>Religious Scholar</b>	1	1	0	<b>1</b>
<b>Worshippers</b>	1	3	0	<b>3</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>83</b>	<b>111</b>	<b>194</b>
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>256</b>	<b>446</b>	<b>613</b>	<b>1059</b>

Over 50% of the victims of insurgent attacks were civilians, signifying the indiscriminate nature of the violence. Table 10-C outlines the casualties among civilians, which includes laborers, passengers of Jaffer Express, and individuals caught in between insurgent attacks targeting security personnel.

Laborers suffered the highest number of fatalities (10) among civilians affected by insurgency. Their ethnic identity was the cause of the attack. The combined fatalities of both laborers and coal miners due to militancy and insurgency reached a total of 44, marking the highest figure for their fatalities since 2013.

A total of 30 persons (4 dead and 26 injured) were caught in between the insurgent attacks when they targeted security persons.

Innocent passengers of Jaffer Express and others became victims of the ongoing violence perpetrated by insurgents. Two incidents of bomb explosions on January 20 and February 15 took the lives of two passengers and left 21 of them wounded.

An educationist with past affiliations with militant organizations, Islami Jamiat-e-Talaba and al-Badr, also became a target of insurgent violence, shedding light on the complexity of motivations behind the attack claimed by Sindhudesh Revolutionary Army (SRA).

A significant number of politicians, including UC Chairmen and others, were targeted, resulting in the fatalities of 7 persons from a landmine explosion.

Army personnel bore the highest number of fatalities (33), followed by policemen (12) and Frontier Corps personnel. Insurgents also targeted individuals suspected of working as informers of the security forces. (Table 10-C)

<b>Table 10-C</b>				
<b>Casualties of Violence   Terrorism - Insurgency   By Victims Type   2023</b>				
<b>Types of Victims</b>	<b>Incidents</b>	<b>Fatalities</b>	<b>Injuries</b>	<b>Casualties</b>
<b>Civilians</b>				
<b>Civilians - Security Basic Target</b>	5	4	26	<b>30</b>
<b>Ex Insurgent Suspected</b>	1	1	0	<b>1</b>
<b>FC Fort - Family</b>	1	0	5	<b>5</b>
<b>Jaffer Express Passengers</b>	2	2	21	<b>23</b>
<b>Jhalawan Complex</b>	1	0	2	<b>2</b>
<b>Laborers</b>	1	10	2	<b>12</b>
<b>Missing Person</b>	1	1	0	<b>1</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>56</b>	<b>74</b>

<b>Politicians</b>				
<b>UC Chairman &amp; Others</b>	1	7	0	<b>7</b>
<b>Religious Party</b>				
<b>Darul Arqam, Dy Director - Ex.IJT, Al-Badr</b>	1	1	0	<b>1</b>
<b>Govt Official</b>				
<b>PMDC Officer</b>	1	1	0	<b>1</b>
<b>Security Officials</b>				
<b>Army</b>	10	33	6	<b>39</b>
<b>ATF</b>	1	1	0	<b>1</b>
<b>FC</b>	1	6	5	<b>11</b>
<b>Informer - Army</b>	2	4	0	<b>4</b>
<b>Police</b>	9	12	10	<b>22</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>56</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>77</b>
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>38</b>	<b>83</b>	<b>77</b>	<b>160</b>

The data presented in Table 11 highlights the methods used by the militants and insurgents to inflict deaths and destruction on civilian populations and security forces.

## **Militancy**

The total casualties of militancy amounted to 902 fatalities and 1181 injuries, highlighting the significant toll on human lives.

Terrorist groups used various methods of violence including the use of guns being the most prevalent (193 incidents), resulting in 232 fatalities and 35 injuries. Armed attacks were also frequent (74 incidents), resulting in 115 fatalities and 142 injuries. Suicide attacks were the deadliest method, causing 286 fatalities and 564 injuries from 30 incidents.

The use of explosive weapons like bombs, hand grenades, IEDs, and landmines caused 497 casualties (114 dead and 279 injured) from 104 incidents of explosions. Even weapons like toy bomb and pen bomb were also used that caused casualties of children.

There were at least 26 incidents where intelligence-based operations and police encounters remained unsuccessful due to the retaliations of outlaws.



## Insurgency

The total casualties of insurgency include 83 fatalities and 77 injuries, representing a considerable loss of life and human suffering.

Insurgent activities, though less frequent, still resulted in significant casualties. Armed attacks accounted for 43 fatalities and 9 injuries across 13 incidents, while bombings caused 4 fatalities and 27 injuries in 4 incidents.

The insurgents also employed explosives such as hand grenades, IEDs, and landmines, resulting in 14 explosive incidents that claimed the lives of 20 individuals and injured 59 others.

Additionally, a suicide attack orchestrated by a female bomber resulted in one fatality and two injuries in Turbat. This was the second instance of a female suicide bomber's attack in the country; the first occurred in Karachi last year, resulting in the deaths of three Chinese nationals and a Pakistani driver.

<b>Table 11</b>				
<b>Casualties of Violence   Terrorism - Militancy and Insurgency   By Methods Type   2023</b>				
<b>Types of Methods</b>	<b>Incidents</b>	<b>Fatalities</b>	<b>Injuries</b>	<b>Casualties</b>
<b>Militancy</b>				
<b>Armed Attack</b>	74	115	142	<b>257</b>
<b>Clash</b>	15	32	31	<b>63</b>
<b>Encounter Failure - Militants' Retaliation</b>	11	15	7	<b>22</b>
<b>Ground Operation Failure - Militants' Retaliation</b>	25	44	11	<b>55</b>
<b>Firing</b>	1	0	3	<b>3</b>
<b>Gunned Down - Target Killings</b>	193	232	35	<b>267</b>
<b>Hand Grenade</b>	34	15	100	<b>115</b>
<b>Bomb</b>	25	30	79	<b>109</b>
<b>Toy Bomb</b>	1	1	2	<b>3</b>
<b>Pen Bomb</b>	2	0	4	<b>4</b>
<b>IED</b>	30	43	71	<b>114</b>

Landmine	12	25	23	<b>48</b>
Mortar	4	7	6	<b>13</b>
Rocket Attack	3	6	3	<b>9</b>
Rocket Explode	1	9	1	<b>10</b>
RPG Attack	1	0	4	<b>4</b>
Dead Body	24	29	1	<b>30</b>
Succumbed to Injury	8	9	0	<b>9</b>
Suicide	30	286	564	<b>850</b>
Other Methods	46	4	94	<b>98</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>540</b>	<b>902</b>	<b>1181</b>	<b>2083</b>
<b>Insurgency</b>				
Armed Attack	13	43	9	<b>52</b>
Dead Body	1	1	0	<b>1</b>
Executed	1	2	0	<b>2</b>
Ground Operation Failure	2	6	0	<b>6</b>
Gunned Down	5	10	2	<b>12</b>
Bomb	4	4	27	<b>31</b>
Hand Grenade	3	2	5	<b>7</b>
IED	6	7	27	<b>34</b>
Landmine	1	7	0	<b>7</b>
Rocket Attack	1	0	5	<b>5</b>
Suicide	1	1	2	<b>3</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>38</b>	<b>83</b>	<b>77</b>	<b>160</b>
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>578</b>	<b>985</b>	<b>1258</b>	<b>2243</b>

# CASUALTIES OF TERRORISM & COUNTER-TERRORISM: BREAKDOWN BY REGIONS & DISTRICTS

## ICT, AJK, and GB

Only one incident of a terror attack was reported in the Muzaffarabad district of AJK, where a former activist of Jamat-ud-Dawa was fatally shot.

Political unrest fueled by activists of the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) led to 92 security personnel (including police and FC personnel) sustaining injuries on two occasions; March 19 and May 09.

In a separate incident, Maulana Abdul Aziz, the Pesh Imam of Lal Masjid, sustained injuries during a scuffle with the police. Additionally, a member of the Dolphin Squad was injured when confronted by two Afghan motorcyclists in the G-12 sector of Islamabad.

The districts of Chilas and Ghizer in Gilgit-Baltistan experienced six terror attacks throughout the year, resulting in the loss of 17 lives and 25 injuries. These figures represent the highest recorded casualties since 2014. (Table 12-I).

<b>Table 12-I</b>				
<b>Casualties of Violence   Terrorism and Counter-Terrorism   AJK, ICT, GB - By Districts   2023</b>				
<b>District Wise Data</b>	<b>Incidents</b>	<b>Fatalities</b>	<b>Injuries</b>	<b>Casualties</b>
<b>AJK</b>				
<b>Muzaffarabad</b>	1	1	0	<b>1</b>
<b>ICT</b>				
<b>Islamabad</b>	5	0	94	<b>94</b>
<b>GB</b>				
<b>Chilas</b>	4	13	25	<b>38</b>
<b>Ghizer</b>	2	4	0	<b>4</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>42</b>
<b>Unidentified Location</b>				
<b>Pakistan</b>	1	1	0	<b>1</b>
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>119</b>	<b>138</b>

## Balochistan

Twelve districts of Balochistan suffered two-digit fatalities with Mastung, Kech, Quetta, and Zhob, suffering the most. In total, 35 districts across the province witnessed acts of terrorism throughout the year. (Table 12-II)

<b>Table 12-II</b>				
<b>Casualties of Violence   Terrorism and Counter-Terrorism   Balochistan - By Districts   2023</b>				
<b>District Wise Data</b>	<b>Incidents</b>	<b>Fatalities</b>	<b>Injuries</b>	<b>Casualties</b>
<b>Balochistan</b>				
<b>Mastung</b>	13	77	106	<b>183</b>
<b>Kech</b>	26	61	9	<b>70</b>
<b>Quetta</b>	42	44	75	<b>119</b>
<b>Zhob</b>	12	43	11	<b>54</b>
<b>Gwadar</b>	7	22	13	<b>35</b>
<b>Panjgur</b>	6	16	6	<b>22</b>
<b>Awaran</b>	6	14	2	<b>16</b>
<b>Kachchi</b>	3	14	14	<b>28</b>
<b>Chaman</b>	7	13	2	<b>15</b>
<b>Killa Saifullah</b>	4	13	6	<b>19</b>
<b>Khuzdar</b>	12	11	17	<b>28</b>
<b>Kuchlak</b>	6	10	4	<b>14</b>
<b>Dera Bugti</b>	5	9	1	<b>10</b>
<b>Kalat</b>	7	8	11	<b>19</b>
<b>Barkhan</b>	2	7	15	<b>22</b>
<b>Pishin</b>	7	7	3	<b>10</b>
<b>Sibi</b>	4	7	2	<b>9</b>
<b>Washuk</b>	3	7	1	<b>8</b>
<b>Bolan</b>	4	5	15	<b>20</b>
<b>Harnai</b>	3	5	9	<b>14</b>
<b>Hoshab</b>	1	4	0	<b>4</b>
<b>Duki</b>	2	3	0	<b>3</b>
<b>Kohlu</b>	2	3	5	<b>8</b>
<b>Musakhel</b>	1	2	1	<b>3</b>
<b>Unk</b>	1	2	0	<b>2</b>
<b>Killa Abdullah</b>	2	1	5	<b>6</b>
<b>Mashkay</b>	2	1	0	<b>1</b>
<b>Nasirabad</b>	1	1	0	<b>1</b>
<b>Nushki</b>	2	2	0	<b>2</b>
<b>Sohbatpur</b>	2	1	3	<b>4</b>
<b>Chaghi</b>	2	0	6	<b>6</b>
<b>Dera Allah Yar</b>	1	0	1	<b>1</b>
<b>Dera Murad Jamali</b>	4	0	4	<b>4</b>
<b>Jaffarabad</b>	1	0	1	<b>1</b>
<b>Others</b>	2	0	5	<b>5</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>205</b>	<b>413</b>	<b>353</b>	<b>766</b>

## Khyber Pakhtunkhwa

The relentless cycle of ongoing violence and reprisals surged dramatically in KP this year, resulting in a staggering toll that surpassed all other regions combined. With 975 fatalities, KP outnumbered the combined toll of 558 recorded across the rest of the country. This grim reality was reflected in the casualty figures as well. The district-level casualties also pointed to a similar trend. Four districts in KP reported fatalities in the triple digits, while eight districts recorded two-digit losses. No district in other parts of the country suffered triple-digit fatalities this year.

The loss of 167 lives in North Waziristan alone exceeded the combined fatalities in the country's two largest provinces, Punjab and Sindh, which stood at 53 and 73 respectively.

Peshawar stands out with the highest number of fatalities (127) and injuries (262), reflecting its status as a major urban center and a focal point for violence.

Table 12-III below illustrates the wide-ranging impact of violence across different regions of KP, with districts like Lakki Marwat, Tank, and Bajaur also experiencing notable casualties.

While some districts have relatively lower incident counts, they still contribute to the overall casualty figures, highlighting the widespread nature of the violence. The Chitral district suffered the loss of 29 persons and 50 injuries resulting from 6 incidents.

<b>Table 12-III</b>				
<b>Casualties of Violence   Terrorism and Counter-Terrorism   KP - By Districts   2023</b>				
<b>District Wise Data</b>	<b>Incidents</b>	<b>Fatalities</b>	<b>Injuries</b>	<b>Casualties</b>
<b>Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP)</b>				
<b>N. Waziristan</b>	86	167	84	<b>251</b>
<b>Peshawar</b>	33	127	262	<b>389</b>
<b>D.I. Khan</b>	47	104	74	<b>178</b>
<b>Bajaur</b>	33	103	138	<b>241</b>
<b>S. Waziristan</b>	38	96	30	<b>126</b>
<b>Lakki Marwat</b>	33	68	26	<b>94</b>
<b>Khyber</b>	51	64	42	<b>106</b>
<b>Tank</b>	28	59	54	<b>113</b>
<b>Bannu</b>	31	52	38	<b>90</b>
<b>Kurram</b>	13	40	25	<b>65</b>
<b>Chitral</b>	6	29	50	<b>79</b>
<b>Hangu</b>	6	15	18	<b>33</b>
<b>Charsadda</b>	5	7	3	<b>10</b>
<b>Swat</b>	8	7	10	<b>17</b>
<b>Kohat</b>	10	6	7	<b>13</b>
<b>Mardan</b>	7	6	2	<b>8</b>
<b>Swabi</b>	5	6	3	<b>9</b>
<b>Buner</b>	2	5	1	<b>6</b>
<b>North, South Waziristan</b>	1	5	0	<b>5</b>

<b>Nowshera</b>	2	3	0	<b>3</b>
<b>Dir</b>	2	2	3	<b>5</b>
<b>Haripur</b>	1	1	0	<b>1</b>
<b>Karak</b>	1	1	0	<b>1</b>
<b>Landikotal</b>	1	1	0	<b>1</b>
<b>Orakzai</b>	1	1	1	<b>2</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>451</b>	<b>975</b>	<b>871</b>	<b>1846</b>

## Punjab

Punjab, in addition to AJK, GB, and ICT, also emerged as a relatively less affected region by violence. Among its districts, only Mianwali recorded double-digit fatalities, while the rest experienced single-digit fatalities this year. Lahore, Punjab's capital, experienced the highest number of incidents, albeit with a lower fatality rate. A significant event was the terrorist attack on a PAF training Air Base in Mianwali, marking the first such incident in the area. Despite damaging three grounded aircraft, no casualties were reported among the base's personnel, except for the nine attackers killed.

Prior to this assault, two fatal attacks targeted Kalabagh and Kundal police stations, resulting in the deaths of three militants and a policeman. TJP, an affiliate of TPP, claimed responsibility for the Air Base attack, while the Tipu group, another TTP affiliate, claimed the assaults on police stations. An unsuccessful attack on Makarwal police station in Mianwali was also attributed to the TTP. These incidents, typically carried out by groups of 10 to 20 militants, raises concerns about their mobilization and transportation strategies.

Moreover, these attacks underscored the expanding reach of TTP beyond KP and Balochistan, targeting high-security locations. (Table 12-IV)

<b>District Wise Data</b>	<b>Incidents</b>	<b>Fatalities</b>	<b>Injuries</b>	<b>Casualties</b>
<b>Punjab</b>				
<b>Mianwali</b>	5	13	0	<b>13</b>
<b>Lahore</b>	12	9	19	<b>28</b>
<b>Rawalpindi</b>	9	7	4	<b>11</b>
<b>D.G. Khan</b>	3	4	0	<b>4</b>
<b>Sialkot</b>	1	3	0	<b>3</b>
<b>Khanewal</b>	2	2	0	<b>2</b>
<b>Lalamusa</b>	1	2	0	<b>2</b>
<b>Okara</b>	2	2	0	<b>2</b>
<b>Sahiwal</b>	1	2	6	<b>8</b>
<b>Attock</b>	1	1	0	<b>1</b>
<b>Chiniot</b>	1	1	0	<b>1</b>
<b>Faisalabad</b>	1	1	0	<b>1</b>

<b>Gujrat</b>	1	1	0	<b>1</b>
<b>Jampur</b>	1	1	0	<b>1</b>
<b>Jhang</b>	1	1	0	<b>1</b>
<b>Kasur</b>	1	1	0	<b>1</b>
<b>Unidentified Location</b>	1	1	0	<b>1</b>
<b>Toba Tek Singh</b>	1	1	0	<b>1</b>
<b>Muzaffargarh</b>	1	0	2	<b>2</b>
<b>Sheikhupura</b>	1	0	1	<b>1</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>47</b>	<b>53</b>	<b>32</b>	<b>85</b>

## Sindh

In Sindh, Karachi suffered both the highest casualties and number of incidents, followed by Kashmore and Sakrand. One particularly alarming event was the assault on the Karachi Police Office along the main Shahrah-e-Faisal by militants affiliated with the TTP on February 18. This attack resulted in the tragic deaths of three policemen and one office cleaner. After a prolonged operation conducted jointly by the police and rangers, the three militants who had seized control of the office building were neutralized. Six rangers and thirteen policemen sustained injuries during the operation. Nearly a month later, the two masterminds behind this attack, identified as 26-year-old Aryadallah and his 23-year-old accomplice Waheed, both residents of Ahsanabad, were also eliminated.

Two incidents of accidental explosions in Karachi and Kashmore resulted in nine fatalities and injuries to three individuals. At a scrap warehouse in the Sher Shah locality, a man and a woman were injured when a Rocket-Propelled Grenade accidentally detonated. The presence of such a weapon in a scrap warehouse raises questions about its origin and distribution.

Another mysterious explosion occurred at a house in Zangi Subzwai Goth in the Mehwal Shah area of Kashmore district. This tragic incident claimed the lives of nine people, including four children, while a woman sustained injuries. These incidents underscore the growing presence of TTP militancy in Sindh province and highlight the alarming accessibility of highly dangerous and lethal weapons among the general populace. (Table 12-V)

<b>Table 12-V</b>				
<b>Casualties of Violence   Terrorism and Counter-Terrorism   Sindh - By Districts   2023</b>				
<b>District Wise Data</b>	<b>Incidents</b>	<b>Fatalities</b>	<b>Injuries</b>	<b>Casualties</b>
<b>Sindh</b>				
<b>Karachi</b>	63	58	68	<b>126</b>
<b>Kashmore</b>	1	9	1	<b>10</b>
<b>Sakrand</b>	1	4	9	<b>13</b>
<b>Ghotki</b>	1	1	1	<b>2</b>
<b>Hyderabad</b>	1	1	0	<b>1</b>
<b>Sanghar</b>	1	0	8	<b>8</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>68</b>	<b>73</b>	<b>87</b>	<b>160</b>

# CASUALTIES OF SECTARIAN VIOLENCE: BY REGION & VICTIMS TYPE

Throughout this year, sectarian violence has surged alarmingly across Pakistan, affecting every province except for AJK and ICT. The provinces hardest hit by this form of violence have been KP and Balochistan, where the toll of casualties has been particularly severe. (Table 13-A).

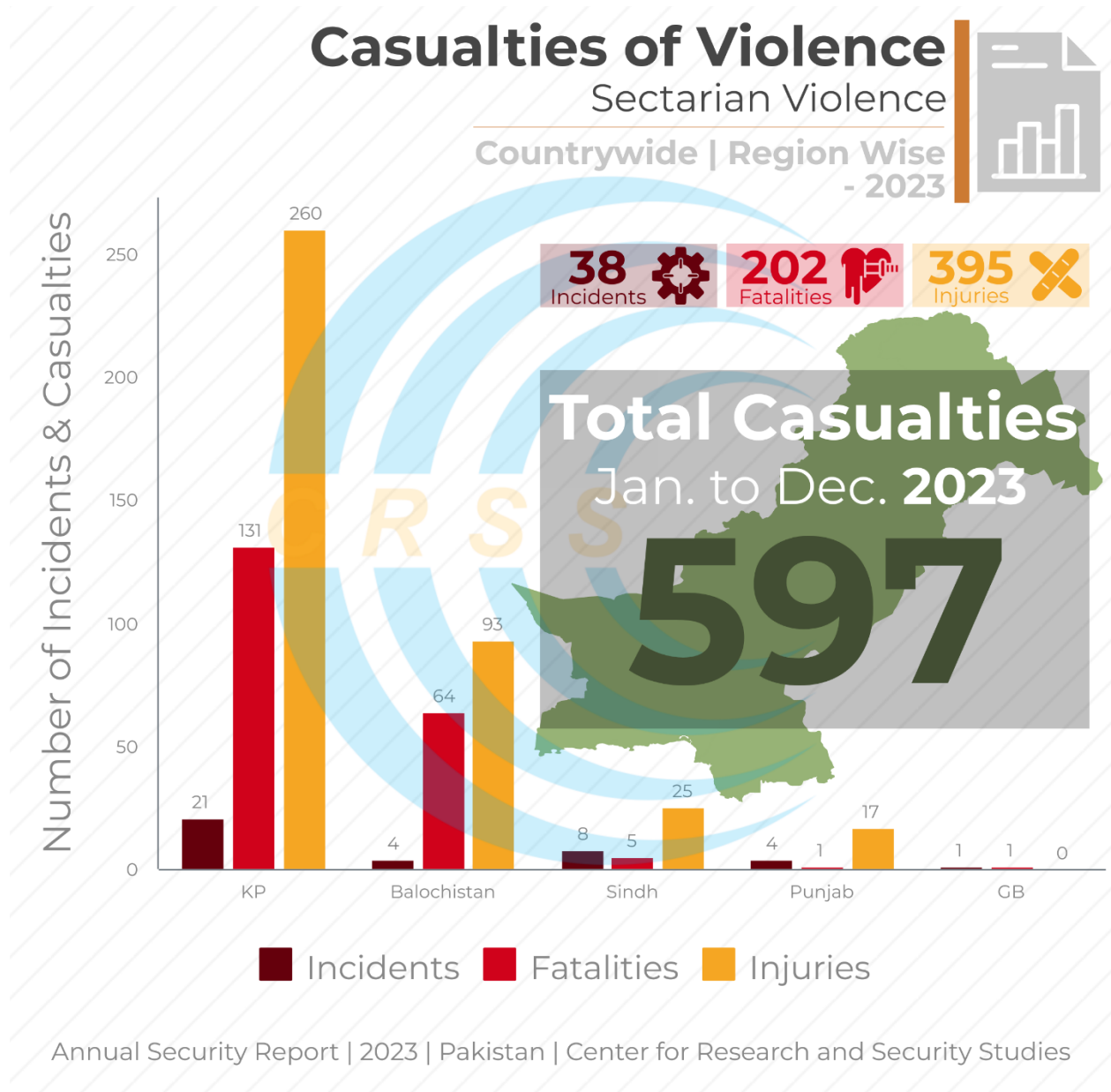




Table 13-A					
Casualties of Sectarian Violence   By Region   2023					
Region	Incidents	Fatalities	Injuries	Casualties	Percentage of Casualties
KP	21	131	260	391	65.49
Balochistan	4	64	93	157	26.30
Sindh	8	5	25	30	5.03
Punjab	4	1	17	18	3.02
GB	1	1	0	1	0.17
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>38</b>	<b>202</b>	<b>395</b>	<b>597</b>	

These attacks have predominantly targeted security personnel affiliated with specific religious sects. The total number of casualties, reaching 597, represents the highest incidence of sectarian violence since 2013.

Among the notable incidents is the devastating suicide bombing at a mosque in Peshawar, claiming the lives of 84 Sunni police officials, a responsibility claimed by TTP. Furthermore, unidentified attackers targeted three Shia policemen in Quetta in a separate incident.

During religious observances, such as Eid Milad-un-Nabi, the violence intensified, with suicide attacks occurring amidst religious gatherings. One such attack in Hangu resulted in the loss of five lives, including a policeman, while another near a procession in Mastung claimed the lives of 60 individuals from the Sunni sect, including a deputy superintendent of police (DSP).

Despite being labeled as acts of terrorism, the locations of these attacks, as well as the religious identities of the victims, categorize them as offenses of sectarian and blasphemous nature falling under PPC295 for the desecration of a religious place, 295A outraging the feelings of any class, and PPC296 for disturbing religious gatherings. (Table 13-B).

Table 13-B				
Casualties of Sectarian Violence   By Victims Type   2023				
Victims	Incidents	Fatalities	Injuries	Casualties
<b>Civilians</b>				
Christian	5	3	9	12
Hindu	4	2	31	33
Ismaili	1	1	0	1

Shia	3	9	5	<b>14</b>
Shia Hazara	1	1	0	<b>1</b>
Shia/Sunni	7	24	27	<b>51</b>
Sikh	4	3	1	<b>4</b>
Sunni	10	72	105	<b>177</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>35</b>	<b>115</b>	<b>178</b>	<b>293</b>
<b>Security</b>				
Shia Hazara	2	3	0	<b>3</b>
Sunni (Policemen at Police Line Mosque)	1	84	217	<b>301</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>87</b>	<b>217</b>	<b>304</b>
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>38</b>	<b>202</b>	<b>395</b>	<b>597</b>

## NON-FATAL INCIDENTS AGAINST NON-MUSLIM

Other than the fatal attacks targeting people from various religious backgrounds, there has been a significant increase this year in non-fatal violence against non-Muslims and their religious places. A total of 193 such incidents have been reported from four regions of the country. Alarming, the provinces of Punjab and Sindh, where terrorism incidents were previously lower compared to other provinces, have witnessed the highest number of incidents against minority communities. (Table 14-A).

I.D.	AJK	KP	Punjab	Sindh	Grand Total
Ahmadi	3	0	29	10	<b>42</b>
Christian	0	0	113	0	<b>113</b>
Hindu	0	1	0	36	<b>37</b>
Sikh	0	0	0	1	<b>1</b>
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>142</b>	<b>47</b>	<b>193</b>

More than 60 religious places of the non-Muslim communities were targeted including 36 Ahmadi worship places, 22 Churches, 2 Hindu Temples, and one Gurdwara of Sikh community were desecrated across the country. Beyond the desecration of religious places, the non-Muslim communities endured other forms of religiously motivated hatred. Only one act of blasphemy allegedly committed by two Christian youths in Jaranwala on August 16, 2023 served an easy source for the Muslim extremists to commit 22 acts of blasphemy against the Christian churches and resort to torching at least 91 houses of the Christian residents in the area.

Furthermore, on June 23, 2023, the head of the Hindu community, along with his son and driver, was kidnapped by dacoits from the Kutcha area, with the intention of extorting ransom due to their vulnerable situation. A month later, Umar Shar, a notorious dacoit from the Kutcha area in Sindh, issued a warning that he would initiate attacks on Hindu temples if Seema Haider, a Sindhi woman who had illegally migrated to India and married a Hindu man, was not repatriated to the country. Fearing for their safety, the Hindu community refrained from visiting their temples. Additionally, dacoits held 30 members of the Hindu community, including women and children, hostage following the Seema Haider case. The desecration of two Hindu temples was also reported, one of which turned out disputed later on.

Despite a 2022 judgment of the Supreme Court, ruling that obstructing non-Muslims from practicing their religion within the confines of their place of worship was against the Constitution, at least five cases were registered against the Ahmadi community for performing animal sacrifices on Eid day within their houses. A religious gathering at a Sikh Gurdwara in Sukkur was disrupted by some individuals and they were forced to halt their prayers. Sikh Human Rights Commission (SHRC) condemned the incident declaring it a violation of article 20 of the Constitution but no official action was ever reported on this blasphemous act of the Muslims against the religious activity of the Sikh community that falls under the blasphemy act PPC296.

A day after some people attacked a place of worship of the Ahmadiyya community in Karachi's Martin Road area, the Jamshed Quarters police registered a case but no arrest was ever reported. (Table 14-B)

<b>Table 14-B</b>					
<b>Crimes Against Non-Muslims   2023</b>					
<b>I.D.</b>	<b>AJK</b>	<b>KP</b>	<b>Punjab</b>	<b>Sindh</b>	<b>Grand Total</b>
<b>Civilians</b>					
<b>Ahmadi (Animal sacrifices)</b>	0	0	6	0	<b>6</b>
<b>Hindu (kidnapping)</b>	0	1	0	33	<b>34</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>33</b>	<b>40</b>
<b>Public Property</b>					
<b>Christian Houses</b>	0	0	91	0	<b>91</b>

<b>Hindu House</b>	0	0	0	1	<b>1</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>91</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>92</b>
<b>Religious Place</b>					
<b>Ahmadi Worship places</b>	3	0	23	10	<b>36</b>
<b>Christian Churches</b>	0	0	22	0	<b>22</b>
<b>Hindu Temple</b>	0	0	0	2	<b>2</b>
<b>Sikh Gurdwara</b>	0	0	0	1	<b>1</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>45</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>61</b>
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>142</b>	<b>47</b>	<b>193</b>



# The Center

## CRSS Background

The Center for Research and Security Studies (CRSS) is a think tank/advocacy center launched in September, 2007. Founded by noted security expert and media personality Imtiaz Gul, it is committed to the cause of independent research, nonpartisan analysis, and informed advocacy.

As an advocacy center, CRSS is dedicated to trigger critical thinking through discourse anchored in global democratic values such as socio-political diversity, rule of law, equal citizenry, and acceptance of diversity, fundamental human rights, all at the intersection of empirical research in security studies.

## Core Values

CRSS strives to embed the national conversation in constitutionalism, and rationalize it over extremism and sectarianism. CRSS believes the path to peace is through embodying fundamental human rights, specifically:

- strict adherence to the rule of law, and stringent implementation
- informing the public on civic education, especially good governance and public accountability
- promoting equal rights for all citizens of Pakistan
- championing women empowerment
- providing training and opportunities to youth to veer them away from radicalization through critical thinking

CRSS' programming reflects its core values, which CRSS believes can, along with time-tested methodologies in strategic communications, impactful message development, research and advocacy result in a more tolerant and cohesive Pakistan.

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