

Update on cross-border civilian casualties in Afghanistan

1 APRIL – 30 JUNE 2026



United Nations
Assistance Mission in Afghanistan

About this paper

In October 2025, cross-border armed violence between Afghanistan's *de facto* security forces and Pakistani security forces escalated significantly. UNAMA Human Rights Service documented 499 civilians killed and 1,216 injured as a result of the hostilities between 1 October 2025 and 30 June 2026.¹

The United Nations Assistance Mission in Afghanistan's (UNAMA) Human Rights Service prepared this paper pursuant to the UNAMA mandate to: "monitor, document, report and provide analysis on...the situation for civilians".²

In accordance with the UNAMA mandate from the United Nations Security Council, UNAMA's Human Rights Service is mandated only to monitor incidents which occurred in Afghanistan. UNAMA is not mandated to monitor incidents which may have occurred in Pakistan.

For information on the methodology and legal framework applied by UNAMA Human Rights Service, please see the paper: "Cross-border civilian casualties in Afghanistan: January – March 2026".³

All civilian casualties in Afghanistan documented by UNAMA and contained in this paper have been presented to Afghanistan's *de facto* authorities and to the government of Pakistan and their comments are annexed.

Breakdown of civilian casualties from 1 April to 30 June 2026

Between 1 April and 30 June 2026, UNAMA Human Rights Service documented 399 civilian casualties (57 killed, 342 injured) in Afghanistan, as a result of cross-border armed violence.

Among the casualties were 40 women (six killed, 34 injured) and 112 children (26 killed, 86 injured).

The leading causes of civilian harm were airstrikes and ground engagement.

All cross-border civilian casualties documented in Afghanistan during the period were attributed to Pakistani security forces.

The largest number of civilian casualties were caused by airstrikes carried out by Pakistani security forces in Paktya, Paktika and Kunar provinces on 28 June, followed by shelling in Kunar province between 27 and 29 April.

Shelling in Kunar province, 27-29 April

Between 27 and 29 April, cross-border shelling by Pakistani security forces resulted in 99 civilian casualties (eight killed, 91 injured) in Kunar province:

- On 27 April 2026, at approximately 1.30pm, in Kunar province, Dangam district, Wara Goriga area, shelling by Pakistani security forces impacted an area near a residential house, injuring two civilians (a 26-year-old woman and a 14-year-old boy).
- On 27 April 2026, at approximately 2pm, in Kunar province, Asadabad city, Sagai area, shelling by Pakistani security forces struck civilian houses. As a result, one civilian man was killed, and

[1] See (1) UNAMA, *Cross-border civilian casualties in Afghanistan: January – March 2026*, 12 May 2026, at https://unama.unmissions.org/sites/default/files/2026-05/English%20-%20UNAMA%20HRS%20paper%20on%20cross-border%20civilian%20casualties%20-%20Jan-Mar%202026_Updated_11.05.26.pdf; (2) UNAMA, *Cross-border civilian casualties in Afghanistan: October - December 2026*, 8 February 2026 (updated 11 May 2026), at <https://unama.unmissions.org/sites/default/files/2026-05/ENGLISH%20-%20UNAMA%20HRS%20paper%20on%20cross-border%20civilian%20casualties%20updated.pdf>.

[2] From 15 June 2026: UN Security Council Resolution 2822 (2026); Previously: UN Security Council Resolution 2626 (2022) mandate to "monitor, report and advocate with regard to the situation for civilians".

[3] See UNAMA, *Cross-border civilian casualties in Afghanistan: January – March 2026*, 12 May 2026, p.2, at https://unama.unmissions.org/sites/default/files/2026-05/English - UNAMA HRS paper on cross-border civilian casualties - Jan-Mar 2026_Updated_11.05.26.pdf.

seven civilians were injured (two men, three women, one boy and one girl).

- On 27 April 2026, at approximately 2pm, in Kunar province, Asadabad city, Yargul area, shelling by Pakistani security forces struck civilian homes and the campus of Sayed Jamaluddin Afghani University (impacting the Faculty of Education building and a student dormitory). Three civilians were killed (two men and one girl) and 46 other civilians were injured (22 men, six women, ten boys, eight girls).

A lecturer at the Faculty of Education, who was present at the time of the incident, told UNAMA Human Rights Service:

"Yesterday, I was holding a meeting with students at the university. Suddenly, we heard several loud explosions caused by artillery shelling from Pakistani military forces. At that moment, panic spread among the students, and people began running in all directions.

The buildings of the Faculty of Education and the university dormitory were hit. The meeting was immediately disrupted, and everyone fled the area.

As a result of the incident, several university professors and students were injured. Ambulances arrived and transported the wounded to Asadabad Provincial Hospital.

The Faculty of Education building at Kunar University sustained significant damage. Most of the windows in the dormitory building were shattered, and several doors were broken. Solar panels were also struck by bullets or shrapnel, damaging the glass and rendering them inoperable.

Upon inspecting the classrooms in the Faculty of Education, I found them in a severely disordered condition. Sandals were scattered across the floors, books and notebooks were strewn about, and students' bags and personal belongings had been left behind. The classroom doors were open, and the scene reflected chaos and devastation. Witnessing this situation caused me great distress. I secured the doors and gathered many of the students' belongings."

- On 27 April 2026, at around 3pm, in Kunar province, Marwara district, Lar Kallay area, mortar rounds fired by Pakistani security forces impacted residential areas, injuring 16 civilians (four men, a woman, seven boys, four girls).
- On 27 April 2026, approximately 3pm, in Kunar province, Shiltan district, Sono area, a mortar round fired by Pakistani security forces struck a residential house, injuring two women.
- On 27 April 2026, at approximately 3pm, in Kunar province, Sirkani district, Sirkani central village, mortar rounds fired by Pakistani security forces impacted residential areas in the village, killing three civilians (two adult men and a nine-year-old boy) and injuring eight other civilians (six men, one boy and one girl).
- On 28 April 2026, at around 11.30am, in Kunar province, Khas Kunar district, Kulalano (Zargarano Banda) area, shelling by Pakistani security forces struck a residential area, injuring seven civilians (two boys, one girl, one woman and three men).
- On 29 April 2026, at approximately 5.30pm, in Kunar province, Dangam district, Jaba village, mortar rounds fired by Pakistani security forces landed in the village, killing a 12-year-old boy and injuring three women.

Airstrikes in Paktya, Paktika and Kunar provinces

On 28 June 2026, at around 11.30 pm, Pakistani security forces carried out three airstrikes in Paktya, Paktika and Kunar provinces that killed 28 civilians and injured 189 others.

Paktya province

On 28 June 2026, at around 11.30pm, in Paktya province, Chamkani district, Mandakhil area, an airstrike carried out by Pakistani security forces struck a three-storey civilian residence, trapping a number of residents under the rubble.

After the airstrike, the local mosque called on residents to go and assist people stuck under the partially collapsed building. Many residents – primarily adult men – responded to the call and went to the site to help the victims.

Approximately twenty minutes after the first airstrike, Pakistani security forces carried out a second airstrike while efforts to rescue people trapped under the rubble were underway.

The two airstrikes combined killed 22 civilians (two girls, three boys, two women, 15 men) and injured at least 185 others (five girls, 13 boys, 11 women, 156 men). Most of the civilian deaths and injuries were caused by the second airstrike.

A 16-year-old boy who was injured by the second airstrike told UNAMA Human Rights Service:

"I heard a loud explosion after I had heard the sound of a fighter jet passing overhead in our village. A house was struck by a missile fired from the jet...I ran towards the house that had been hit by the fighter jet.

When I reached there, I heard lots of screaming and shouting – women and children were crying and calling for help. They were buried under the collapsed house...I became very worried, so I ran to the nearby mosque to inform the Imam about what had happened.

The Imam acted quickly and instructed me and other people who went to him to spread the message that we should all try and rescue those people trapped.

The Imam also told me to contact nearby mosques and ask them to make similar announcements through their loudspeakers so that people could come and help the affected family.

As a result of these announcements, a large number of villagers responded quickly.

Approximately 20 minutes after the first strike, a second airstrike took place. The fighter jet returned and struck the same house again. By that time, many more people – numbering hundreds – had gathered to help rescue the survivors and recover bodies.

When the second strike happened, something hit my left leg...When I saw blood coming from my body, I became very weak and could not control myself. After that, I lost consciousness."

Another victim said to UNAMA Human Rights Service that he was on his way to assist the victims of the first airstrike and was around 60 or 70 metres from the site when the second airstrike was carried out. He was injured by shrapnel in his foot and leg.

Paktika province

On 28 June 2026, at around 11.30pm, in Paktika province, Gyan district, Lwast village, an airstrike carried out by Pakistani security forces struck a civilian residence, killing six civilians (two women, one man, three girls) and injuring one woman.

Kunar province

On 28 June 2026, at around 11.30pm, in Kunar province, Marawara district, Barawlo area, an airstrike carried out by Pakistani security forces struck a civilian residence, injuring one boy, one girl and one woman.

A family member of the victims told UNAMA Human Rights Service:

"Pakistani military forces dropped two bombs from fighter jets. The first bomb was dropped at approximately 11:10pm and impacted behind our house. Following the first explosion, my family immediately fled the house to seek safety. Approximately 20 minutes later, a second bomb was dropped, which directly impacted the house.

As a result of the attack, my 16-year-old brother sustained a shrapnel injury to his foot while he was outside the house. My seven-year-old niece and 19-year-old sister-in-law sustained minor injuries from flying debris and pebbles.

The attack also killed 18 goats and four sheep, and completely destroyed our seven-room house."

Unexploded ordnance

UNAMA has documented an increase in civilian casualties caused by unexploded ordnance remaining on the ground in areas close to the border following clashes between Pakistani security forces and *de facto* security forces.

A single incident in Paktika province resulted in 13 civilian casualties. On 8 June 2026, at approximately 6.30pm, in Paktika province, Barmal district, Dangar Ligad area, an unexploded ordnance detonated, killing seven civilians (three girls, two boys and two men) and injuring six others (two girls and four boys). The incident occurred when a scrap metal collector attempted to cut apart an artillery shell. Sources stated that the artillery shell was a remnant of the recent cross-border armed clashes between Pakistani security forces and *de facto* security forces.

Annex A: Comments provided by the *de facto* Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Afghanistan

In the name of God, the Most Compassionate, the Most Merciful.

Regarding The Recent Aggression by the Pakistan's Aggressive Military Against Afghanistan's Paktika, Paktia and Kunar Provinces

29 June 2026

The Pakistan's military, continuing its repeated acts of aggression, once again launched attacks against the territory of Afghanistan during the night of 28–29 June 2026. The airstrikes were carried out against civilian areas in Giyan District of Paktika Province, Chamkani District of Paktia Province, and Manowarai District of Kunar Province, resulting in the martyrdom of approximately 36 civilians, including women and children, and leaving 163 others injured.

Among these attacks, an airstrike targeted the residence of a civilian named Bismillah in Mandokhail Village, Chamkani District of Paktia Province, killing an elderly member of the family and one child, while several other family members got injured. Following the incident, local villagers gathered at the site in an effort to rescue the affected family, subsequently; the area was struck a second time, resulting in the martyrdom of 28 villagers and injuries to 158 others. Likewise, in Walust Village of Giyan District, Paktika Province, an airstrike struck the home of a local resident, killing six civilians, the majority of whom were women and children. In addition, in Barolo Village, Manowarai District of Kunar Province, the residence of a civilian was bombed. Although no casualties were reported, but the house was completely destroyed, causing significant financial damage.

The Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan strongly condemns this act of aggression, crime, and brutality committed by the Pakistani's military, describing it as a cowardly act. It considers these attacks to constitute a clear violation of Afghanistan's territorial integrity and a provocative action. The Islamic Emirate categorically rejects Pakistan's allegations that armed militants were targeted or killed during these attacks, describing such claims as groundless and mere propaganda.

The Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan also firmly rejects the baseless allegations made in connection with the recent attack in the city of Karachi, whereby attempts have been made to attribute the incident to Afghanistan. It is noteworthy that, for approximately the past nine months, all crossing points along the so-called Durand Line between Afghanistan and Pakistan have remained closed, with strict restrictions imposed on overland movement between the two countries. Moreover, the incident in question occurred hundreds of kilometers away from the so-called Durand Line, in the city of Karachi, Pakistan. In the absence of credible evidence and impartial investigations, allegations of Afghanistan's involvement are irresponsible, unfounded, and contrary to the facts. Furthermore, using such baseless accusations as a pretext for carrying out military attacks against Afghan territory is entirely unjustifiable.

Accordingly, we once again call upon the regional countries and the international community to strongly condemn the ongoing acts of aggression and brutality committed by Pakistan and to play a constructive role in preventing Pakistan's continued efforts to undermine peace and security in the region.

End

Annex B: Comments provided by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Pakistan

Embassy of Pakistan

Kabul

1. The Afghan Taliban Regime continues to maintain a permissive environment for a range of organizations, including the Tehreek-e-Taliban Pakistan (TTP), Baloch Liberation Army (BLA) and their affiliates. The freedom of operation allowed to these terrorist organizations, their access to bases and sanctuaries on Afghan soil, as well as the ability to recruit, finance and execute cross-border attacks constitutes a serious threat.
2. TTP continues to launch terrorist attacks on Pakistani security personnel and citizens using Afghan soil as their base of operations. Thousands of innocent Pakistani citizens have been martyred because of terrorist attacks which have been planned, financed, supported and carried out from Afghan soil, all under the watch, patronage and active facilitation of the Afghan Taliban regime.
3. In Feb 2026, Pakistan launched Operation '*Ghazab Lil Haq*' to neutralize terrorist outfits and their logistical support bases in Afghanistan. The operation was in response to repeated terrorist attacks by TTP and BLA against Pakistan emanating from Afghan soil.
4. Pakistan's actions were undertaken in exercise of its right to self-defense and to ensure the safety and security of its citizens, as well as that of the wider region and beyond.
5. In May-June 2026, Pakistan was the target of multiple attacks by the TTP. These included a terrorist attack on a post of the Federal Constabulary in Peshawar on 9 June 2026 as well as vehicle-borne suicide attacks on a military post in North Waziristan on 2 June 2026 and on a police station in Bannu on 9 May 2026.
6. In the aftermath of these terrorist incidents, Pakistan carried out selective targeting of TTP camps and hideouts along the Pak-Afghan border areas. Targets included a training center, a hideout and ammunition cache, as well as *Marakiz* (centers) belonging to TTP Commanders Aleem Khan Khushali and Akhtar Muhammad Janikhel. In total, 26 TTP terrorists were neutralized during these precision strikes.
7. On 27 June 2026, four TTP terrorists attacked the post of Pakistan Security Forces in Karachi. During the ensuing fire exchange, one terrorist was apprehended by security forces. The terrorist confessed that he belonged to Jalalabad, Afghanistan and that other Afghan nationals were also involved in the attack. Thorough investigation into the incident, evidence collected, and technical intelligence revealed that three out of four perpetrators were Afghan nationals, and the planning for the attack was spearheaded by terrorists residing in Afghanistan. The terrorist attack led to the martyrdom of three Pakistani soldiers while injuring four others.
8. Later, Pakistan carried out intelligence-based precision strikes on terrorist camps and hideouts belonging to Jamaat-ul-Ahrar and TTP in the Pak-Afghan border areas. During these precision strikes, three terrorist sanctuaries in Afghanistan were destroyed, 25 terrorists eliminated, and large quantities of weapons and ammunition stored at these sites were also destroyed.
9. Pakistan's actions adhered to the principle of distinction and proportionality under international law. The military strikes by Pakistan's Armed Forces were directed exclusively at identified terrorist hideouts, sanctuaries, and support infrastructure linked to groups responsible for attacks inside Pakistan.

10. Pakistan reserves the right to take all necessary measures in order to safeguard its sovereignty, territorial integrity, and the safety and security of Pakistani nationals based on the principles of necessity and as a measure of last resort.
11. Despite Pakistan's repeated requests to the Afghan Taliban Regime to dismantle terrorist networks and infrastructure inside Afghanistan, terrorists continue to use Afghan soil to frequently infiltrate Pakistan's territory and attack Pakistani citizens. Moreover, the involvement of Afghan nationals in carrying out acts of terrorism inside Pakistan is an issue of serious concern.
12. Pakistan strongly condemns the facilitation extended to terrorists by the Afghan Taliban Regime and considers it detrimental to our efforts for maintaining peace and stability. Pakistan once again calls upon the Afghan Taliban to act responsibly and honor their counterterrorism commitments to the international community.