

**Disinformation and Propaganda
Campaign to Sabotage Afghan Peace
Process**

August 2021

Disinformation and Propaganda Campaign to Sabotage Afghan Peace Process

Overview:

G5iO undertook extensive data analytics to deconstruct coordinated disinformation and info-ops being undertaken by both India and Afghanistan to derail Afghan Peace Process and target Pakistan.

Evidence indicates extensive use of bots, coordinated network behavior and fake news pushed across multiple SM platforms.

Frequency and intensity of these campaigns increased dramatically over the last 3 months once:

- US announced a final withdrawal date
- The Taliban gained military victories

Methodology:

- Twitter data was scraped from May 2020 – Aug 2021
- The data indicated key narratives, networks and user accounts running disinformation operations
- Insights were developed using comparative analysis of online hashtag activity with offline political and regional security events
- Artificial activity was defined as any activity from accounts that were engaging in platform manipulation, were recently created and pushing inorganic content

Key Narratives:

Key narratives in the coordinated disinformation campaign led by India and Afghanistan are as follows:

G5iO
Data | Analytics | Insights

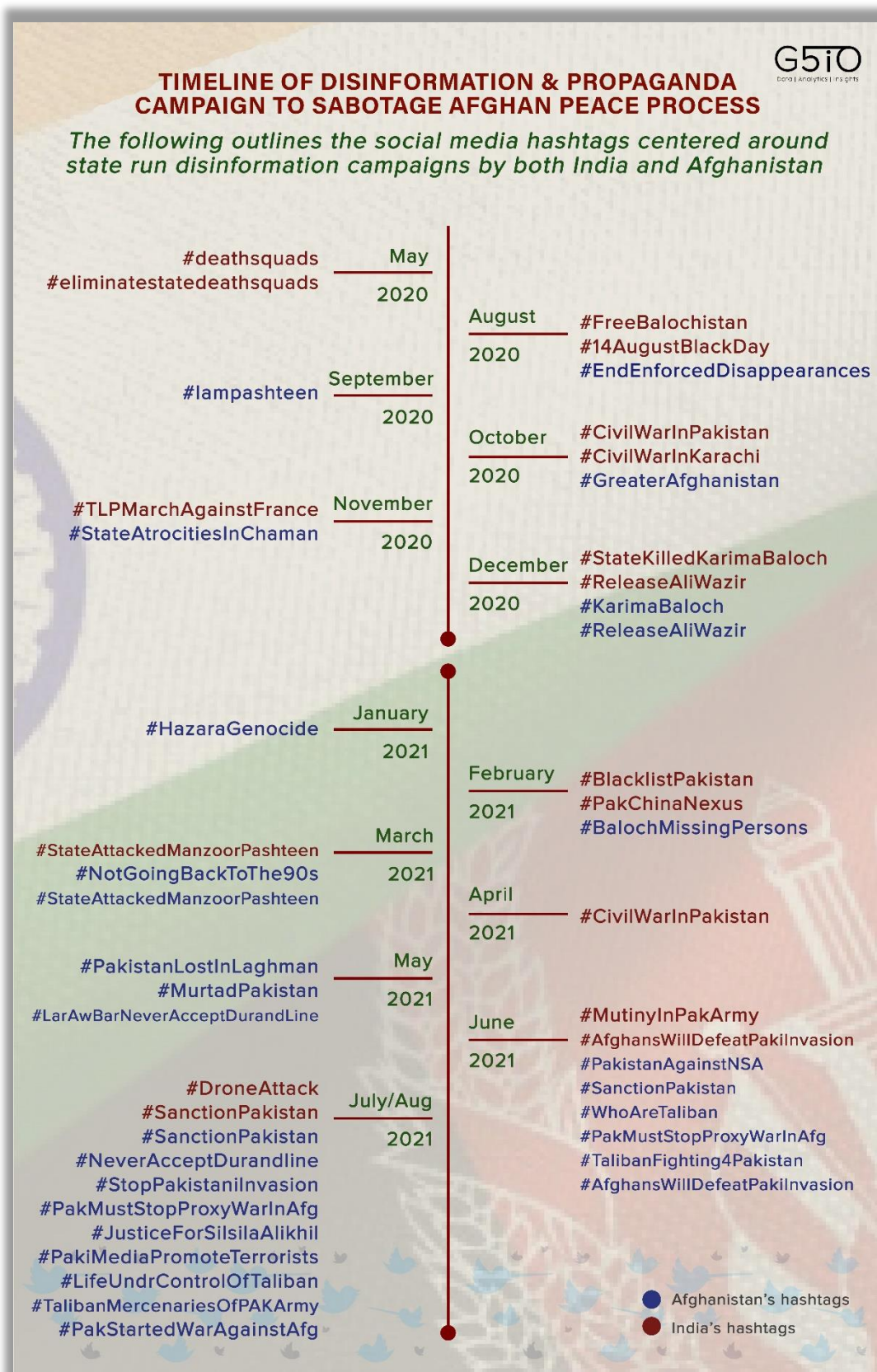
KEY NARRATIVES

Both India and Afghanistan have employed overlapping narratives in their state led propaganda campaigns against Pakistan

	
Target Pakistan's security institutions for its role in the Afghan peace process	Blame Pakistan's security institutions for spreading chaos in Afghanistan
Fan Baloch and Pashtun separatism in Pakistan to play a spoiler role in Afghanistan	Leverage a Pan-Pashtun culture and identity to politicize and securitize the Pak-Afghan border
Conflate Pakistan with Terrorism - push for sanctions such as under FATF	Legitimize own rule via portraying Pakistan as a security threat
Discredit Taliban as a Pakistan sponsored proxy to derail inter-Afghan	Discredit Taliban as a foreign proxy unworthy of peace dialogue
Criticize the Biden government for abandoning the Afghan government	Criticize the US government for providing political legitimacy to the Taliban

Timeline:

The following outlines the social media hashtags centered on state run disinformation campaigns by both India and Afghanistan:



Details of Coordinated Network Activity

The following highlights how most of these campaigns:

- were built on common narratives being propagated by both countries
- comprised of known state linked accounts
- comprised of a considerable level of artificial activity

DETAILS OF COORDINATED NETWORK ACTIVITY BY INDIA & AFGHANISTAN

Hashtag	Started On (UTC +5)	Started By	Bot Activity	Key Accounts
#PakistanLostInLaghman	2021-05-27	 @ata_afghanistan	33.8%	@ata_afghanistan, @kabul_voice
#PakistanAgainstNSA	2021-06-07	@lufvmwecdwsrw6r	36.1%	@t0bhdhkursjx5zw, @anisfrotan
#PakMustStopProxyWarInAfg	2021-06-15	@I_Jabarkhai	22.2%	@sohailnoorkhan, @I_Jabarkhail
#EndPakProxyWarInAfg	2021-07-09	@afghan_youths	45.4%	@pashtonnaseer, @achakzai__raziq
#StopPakistanInvasion	2021-07-10	@habibkhant	26.6%	@mursalghani @shpoon1919
#SanctionPakistan	2021-07-30	@jason_c_howk	65%	@MitraHabibzad, @abani40, @calexanderaf, @jason_c_howk
#MutinyInPakArmy	2019-08-1	 @veteranjeev	21.81%	@veteranjeev @dramjadmira
#PakChinaNexus	2017-07-2	@roypp22	37.68%	@roypp22 @tahassiddiqui
#BlacklistPakistan	2015-03-1	@meenadasnarayan	24.4%	@shilpa__p @kakar_harsha
#CivilWarInPakistan	2013-01-11	@theedge37	40.26%	@himansh52521723 @meghupdates

Example: #SanctionPakistan

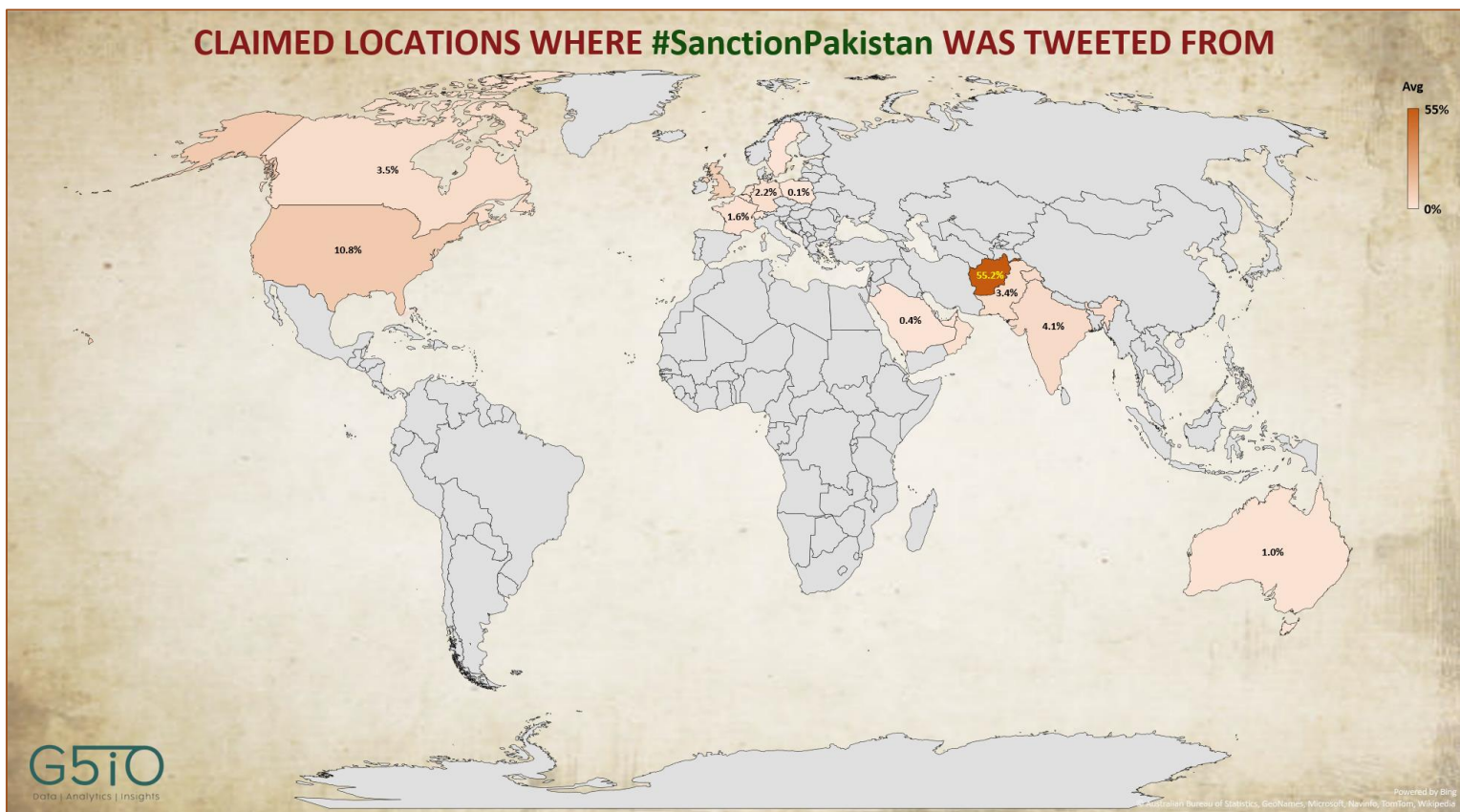
The hashtag #SanctionPakistan presents a good example of the analysis above

- It was used intermittently since June 2016 by Indian backed propaganda accounts.
- This changed in June 2021, when it was pushed mostly by Afghan backed accounts

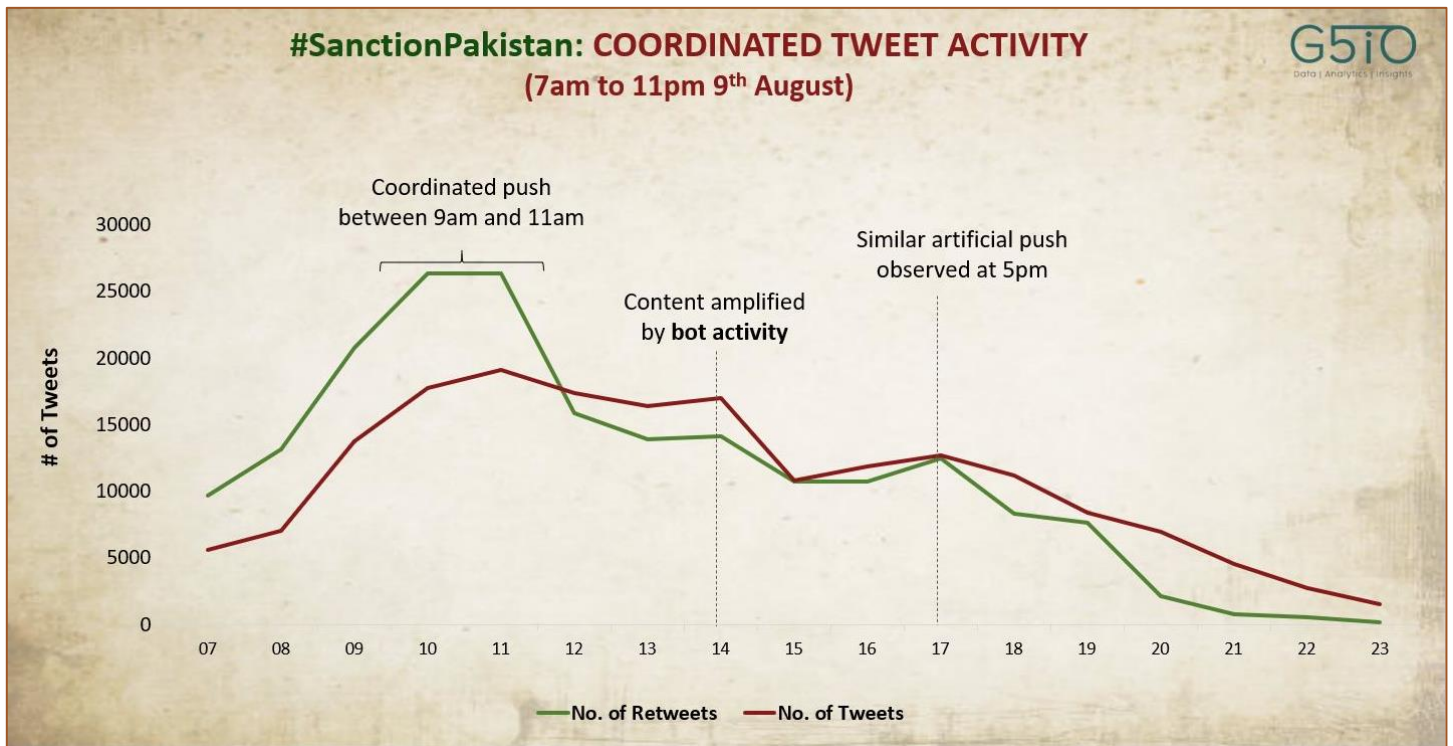


- Even now, more than half of the content linked to this propaganda campaign is emanating from Afghanistan

CLAIMED LOCATIONS WHERE #SanctionPakistan WAS TWEETED FROM



- The same hashtag was artificially pushed on 9th and 10th August by mostly Indian and Afghan sponsored accounts to around 500k+ tweets; out of which 65% of the activity was artificially generated. The graphs below show clear spikes in such artificial activity during the mentioned times



Sample of #SanctionPakistan content pushed on 10th August from Afghan, Indian and domestic hostile networks.


Amrullah Saleh
@AmrullahSaleh2

We call on UN & other international organizations to work with us in providing any type of assistance to massive number of people who have sought refuge in Kabul due to brutality, revenge killing, loot & rape by the Talibs. Painful scenes in streets of Kabul. #SanctionPakista

2:53 PM · Aug 9, 2021 · Twitter Web App

Sher Mohammad Bugti
@SherM_BRP

10 dead bodies were buried in Dasht area of Mastung #Balochistan. The seen bodies were claimed unknown and when asked to the paramedics, they had no urge to respond. The lands of Balochistan turned into a graveyard. Wherever one goes, one sees dead bodies buried.#SanctionPakistan



0:21 9.3K views

10:57 PM · Aug 9, 2021 · Twitter for iPhone

Habib Khan
@HabibKhanT

People from all over the world are calling on the @UN and international community to sanction Pakistan for the proxy war in Afghanistan.

#SanctionPakistan

1:39 AM · Aug 10, 2021 · Twitter for iPhone

Ariana News @ArianaNews_ · 1h

'Sanction Pakistan' hashtag campaign gathers momentum as Afghans speak out

bit.ly/3xxY43

On August 2 Chris Alexander said: "There will be no permanent ceasefire in AFG without sanctions against Pakistan. #EndProxyWar #SanctionPakistan"



17 11 39

OpIndia.com
@OpIndia_com

#SanctionPakistan trends as Afghans demand sanctions against Pakistan for supporting Taliban



#SanctionPakistan: Afghans demand sanctions for supporting Taliban
Afghans on social media websites are demanding sanctions against Pakistan for its role in encouraging and supporting Taliban. | OpIndia News
opindia.com

4:20 PM · Aug 9, 2021 · TweetDeck

Sanna Ejaz (سياله) @sanaejaz2 · 16h
Free Ali Wazir , Haneef Pashteen , Awes Abdul and other Political activists
[#SanctionPakistan](#)
[#FreeAliWazir](#)
[#الله_أكبر](#)



239 372 943

Waheed Omer @Waheed_Omer
Hundreds of TB killed and injured daily. No TB patients in our hospitals. No funerals for them in our villages. No one knows their family, relatives, village. Bodies transferred to Pak for mass funerals. Injured taken to Pak hospitals for treatment. It's PAK. [#SanctionPakistan](#)

3:12 PM · Aug 9, 2021 · Twitter for iPhone

Chris Alexander @calxandr
The most successful military alliance in history cannot afford to let Pakistan's invasion go unanswered.
[#SanctionPakistan](#)

12:23 AM · Aug 10, 2021 · Twitter for iPhone

Madam Frogh @FroghWazhma · 2h
Shameless Qureshi continues as [#SanctionPakistan](#) is looming on his head. Afghan soldiers are fighting day & night, but tens of thousands of foreign fighters from Pakistan & region are providing support to Taliban, also Taliban keep using civilians as shields-making of hard

Ariana News @ArianaNews_ · 2h
Pakistan urges look into 'meltdown' of Afghan forces as Taliban advances
bit.ly/37wErAg

"The capacity-building, the training, the equipment ... where is it?" Qureshi asked at a news conference, referring to resources spent by other countries, particularly the US.
[Show this thread](#)

Waheed Omer @Waheed_Omer
Together on Facebook and Twitter; about 400K calls so far from Afghan people to the world. This is not a government or a political party asking. It's actual people calling on the world to stop a catastrophe from happening in Afghanistan. [#SanctionPakistan](#) [#Afghan_lives_matter](#)

8:59 PM · Aug 9, 2021 · Twitter for iPhone

Habib Khan @HabibKhanT · 16h
Afghanistan is at the frontline now, but the Pakistani terror will go beyond Afghan borders. The world must act before it's too late. Pakistan is a genuine threat to the global security.
[#SanctionPakistan](#)

76 280 529

Habib Khan @HabibKhanT · 15h
If Pakistan isn't sanctioned for sponsoring terror, other rouge states will also adopt the same policy. Sanction Pakistan to protect the world from terrorism.
[#SanctionPakistan](#)


77 273 474

Sample of Content propagated

The following hashtags & tweets present just a glimpse of the kind of content & narratives being pushed by both Indian & Afghan sponsored content mills.

Pushed by India

#CivilWarInPakistan

 **Nexoft Alam**
@Nexoft034

#CivilWarInPakistan


Mutinies are really happening in Paxtan Army, in 1000s. The Deep State nurtured these lunatic extremist ideology for their thirst over #Kashmir & expected the tamed ones to be loyal 🇵🇰 foot soldiers. But now some of these tamed ones have started revolting.

10:44 PM · Apr 18, 2021 · Twitter for Android

 **Frontalforce**
@FrontalForce

Safety of nukes in Pak at stake as #CivilWarInPakistan takes an ugly turn, global agencies shud take appropriate action

10:28 PM · Apr 14, 2021 · Twitter for Android

 **Abhishek Singhvi** ✓
@DrAMSinghvi

Imran Khan and Pak Army after creating & using radical Islamist #TehreekELabaik for gaining political mileage are now facing d #Frankenstein's monster leading to a #CivilWarInPakistan.Reap what you sow!
Kudos to the brave fight of #AsiyaBibi and other victims of #TehreekELabaik.

8:08 PM · Apr 14, 2021 · Twitter for iPhone

#BlacklistPakistan

 **Maj Gen Harsha Kakar**
@kakar_harsha

#BlacklistPakistan FATF plenary is on. Pakistan continues festering terrorism in its neighbouring countries, Afghanistan, Iran and India. Unless Blacklisted it will never learn. It must be taken to task. Retweet with the hashtag

8:32 AM · Sep 19, 2020 · Twitter for Android

 **Arif Aajakia**
@arifaajakia

Aziz Doston!
FATF is meeting to review Pakistan.
#BlacklistPakistan
Kindly promote the Hashtag
#BlacklistPakistan
Thanks..

Joint Protest and Conference organized by the Baloch, Pashtun, Uyghur, Tibetan and Hong Konger communities living in exile in France.
EXPOSE PAKISTAN-CHINA NEXUS AT FATF MEETING
As the FATF members meet from 22nd to 25th February 2021 to review Pakistan, we will protest in front of the FATF Headquarters to remind the international monitoring body of its commitments to stop terror financing, money laundering and financial corruption. The FATF must hold Pakistan accountable and not give it a free pass because of China's pressure and economic blackmail of the West. Following the protest, the community organizers will hold a conference at the DISSIDENT club to decide on a joint future plan of action.
PROTEST LOCATION: 2 Rue André Pascal, 75016 Paris | DATE: 20th February, 2021 | TIME: 1 pm to 3 pm | CONFERENCE LOCATION: THE DISSIDENT 38 Rue du Fau 75001 Paris | DATE: 22nd Feb 12 pm to 7 pm | CONTACT: +3368267334
PAKISTAN!!! STOP PAKISTAN GENOCIDE PAKISTAN NATION WANTS JUSTICE PAKISTAN NATION WANTS JUSTICE PAKISTAN NATION WANTS JUSTICE
Free Tibet
CHINA BUY IN
ON CHINA
FREE HONG KONG

9:41 AM · Feb 20, 2021 · Twitter for iPhone


 **ANCA** ✓
@ANCA_DC

Demand international sanctions against #Pakistan for backing #Azerbaijan's war crimes against indigenous #Armenian|s and cross-border aggression against #India.

Call on the US Treasury Department to #BlacklistPakistan.

Take action at:
anca.org/blacklist

#14AugustBlackDay

Major Gaurav Arya (Retd)  [@majorgauravarya](#)

Baloch brothers and sisters, this night of tyranny will end. We stand with you in your hour of struggle. The day is not far when Gen Bajwa & Imran Khan will have to apply for a visa to visit Balochistan, just like Bangladesh.

[#FreeBalochistan](#) [#14AugustBlackDay](#)
[#KatoraKhan](#)

4:56 PM · Aug 14, 2020 · Twitter for iPhone

Asim Khan  [@AsimKhanTweets](#)

Funeral procession of [@JmuKmrPolice](#) Cop Ashfaq ahmad who was killed by Pakistan Sponsored Terrorists in an attack.

[#14AugustBlackDay](#) for Kashmir, Balochistan and PoK. Pakistan has killed thousands of people in these three regions and are continuously suppressing their voices.



5:23 PM · Aug 14, 2020 · Twitter Web App

Voice Of India  [@ExposedPakistan](#)

Photos from Sindh, protest held on August 14th Pakistani Independence Day
Minorities are unsafe in Pakistan, atrocities against minorities continue in Pakistan.

[#14AugustBlackDay](#) [#14August](#) [#14August1947](#) [#Pakistan](#)
[#PakistanIndependenceDay](#) [#PakExposed](#) [#SindhGovt](#)
[#Sindhi](#)



10:49 AM · Aug 15, 2020 · Twitter Web App

Fazila Baloch  [@IFazilaBaloch](#)

The Tootak operation was carried out on February 18, 2011 in a town in Khuzdar, Balochistan. During the raid, the Army, with the help of Shafiq Mengal's local death squad raided the houses and abducted 17 people.


[#EliminateStateDeathSquads](#)



0:07 3.8K views


10:25 PM · Apr 29, 2021 · Twitter for Android

#MutinyInPakArmy

 **Soumyadipta** ✓
@Soumyadipta

Pakistan sponsored stone-pelters in Kashmir, they supported fundamentalists in their bid to assume political power, they supplied arms to terrorists to establish Sharia law. They wanted to break Kashmir from India. Exactly that's happening with Pakistan today.
[#CivilWarinPakistan](#)

12:01 PM · Apr 16, 2021 · Twitter for Android

 **Amjad Mirza**
@DrAmjadMirza

[#RadioHimalaya](#)
[#MutinyInPakArmy](#) intensifies
Retired Disgruntled [#PakArmy](#) General leaks passport of serving officers of Pro [#Bajwa](#) camp on dark web. Demands [#Bajwa](#) resignation, or will continue leaking sensitive information.
[@s_deceit](#) [@MuzaffarabadB](#) [@Jvl52](#) [@TangoCharlie108](#)

 **LT GENERAL GURMIT SINGH (Retd)** ✓
@LtGenGurmit

[#Pakistan](#)
[#PakistanArmy](#)
[#ISI](#)

[#MutinyInPakArmy](#)

???

Assassination Plot
???

[#Pakistani](#)

 **Amjad Mirza** @DrAmjadMirza · Jun 21
[#MutinyInPakArmy](#)
14 [#PakArmy](#) officers , 22 [#SSG](#) commandos & 30 [#PakArmy](#) soldiers arrested while plotting to assassinate [#Bajwa](#) during recent tour to forward areas in [#PoK](#). Officers incl 4 Maj Gen, 2 Brig, 3 Col, 3 Lt Col & 4 Maj
[@s_deceit](#) [@MuzaffarabadB](#)
youtu.be/CFHibhFgL6w

 **Amjad Mirza**
@DrAmjadMirza

[#MutinyInPakArmy](#)
14 [#PakArmy](#) officers , 22 [#SSG](#) commandos & 30 [#PakArmy](#) soldiers arrested while plotting to assassinate [#Bajwa](#) during recent tour to forward areas in [#PoK](#). Officers incl 4 Maj Gen, 2 Brig, 3 Col, 3 Lt Col & 4 Maj
[@s_deceit](#) [@MuzaffarabadB](#)

 Plan to kill Bajwa foiled. 14 army officers, 22 SSG commando...
The Hot Issue Episode 207
[youtube.com](https://www.youtube.com)

9:27 PM · Jun 21, 2021 · Twitter for Android

#DroneAttack

 **Minhaz Merchant** ✓
@MinhazMerchant

In interview with [@nytimes](#), Pak PM [@ImranKhanPTI](#) says he wants a "civilised relationship" with US like India has. Adds that relations with India would improve with a different Indian govt. [@RahulGandhi](#) couldn't have asked for a more ringing endorsement [#Terroristan](#)
[#droneattack](#)

4:44 PM · Jun 27, 2021 · Twitter for iPhone

Pushed by Afghanistan

#SanctionPakistan (July 2021)

 **Chris Alexander** ✓
@calxandr

Russia's invasion of Ukraine began in February 2014; within a month, the US, EU & Canada had imposed sanctions on Russia.

Pakistan re-launched its proxy war in Afghanistan in March 2003; the US, EU & NATO allies have yet to impose sanctions on Pakistan.

[#SanctionPakistan](#)

 **anvi**
@Anvika2474

[#SanctionPakistan](#)

Yes, after fall of Soviet Union the Pakistani terrorists attacked Kashmir and therefore Kashmiri Hindus were forced to leave Kashmir.



Taliban may next target Kashmir, Kerala after Kabul, reveals Pakistani journalist
As the Taliban increases its control over Kabul, Kashmir and Kerala stare at possibility of increased radicalisation and Islamist terrorism | OpIndia News
[opindia.com](#)

2:43 PM · Jul 22, 2021 · Twitter for Android

 **Chris Alexander** ✓
@calxandr

The Taliban are a terrorist group now engaged in an all-out offensive to re-take Afghanistan by force.

This marauding is only possible because of comprehensive support, already well-documented, from ISI & other Pakistani agencies.

Inaction is complicity.

[#SanctionPakistan](#)

 **Pashtun Tahafuz Movement USA**
@PTMUSA1

The abduction and torture of the daughter of Afghanistan's ambassador to Pakistan is another war crime by the Pakistani ISI. We strongly condemn this heinous act & reiterate our call on the Int'l community to declare ISI a global terrorist organization.

[#SanctionPakistan](#)

#PakistanLostInLaghman


 **Azad Afghans- افغان های آزاد**
@AfghansAzad

Basically, Pakistan's law is for the Taliban to kill every Afghan.

[#PakistanLostInLaghman](#)



10:43 PM · May 27, 2021 · Twitter for Android

 **Umari Commando**
@Alpha144845972

Afghan Armies defeated Pakistan mercenary Forces in Helmand, Laghman, Kandahar & Wardak , where on that time the Punjabi media Exaggerate their mercenary forces (Taliban) victory .

[#ANDSFOurGuardians](#)
[#PakistanLostInLaghman](#)

Annex: Disinformation Campaign Against Pakistan

#PakMustStopProxyWarInAfg

- Total Tweets: 439
- Potential Reach: 273780
- Started On: 2021-06-15 | 09:21:00
- Started By: @I_Jabarkhail
- Bot Activity: 22.19%
- Top Tweeting Location: Afghanistan
- Key People: @sohailnoorkhan, @I_Jabarkhail

#PakistanLostInLaghman

- Total Tweets: 5451
- Potential Reach: 5138530
- Started On: 2021-05-27 | 18:24:56
- Started By: @ata_afghanistan
- Bot Activity: 33.8%
- Top Tweeting Location: Afghanistan
- Key People: @kabul_voice

#PakistanAgainstNSA

- Total Tweets: 9877
- Potential Reach: 10938566
- Started On: 2021-06-07 | 18:17:10
- Started By: @lufvmwecdwsw6r
- Bot Activity: 36.1%
- Top Tweeting Location: Afghanistan
- Key People: @t0bhdhkursjx5zw, @anisfrotan

#EndPakProxyWarInAfg

- Total Tweets: 18593
- Potential Reach: 35917606
- Started On: 2021-07-09 | 20:27:10
- Started By: @afghan_youths
- Bot Activity: 35.4%
- Top Tweeting Location: Afghanistan
- Key People: @pashtonnaseer, @achakzai__raziq

#StopPakistanInvasion

- Total Tweets: 6438
- Potential Reach: 7538662
- Started On: 2021-07-09 | 20:27:10
- Started By: @afghan_youths
- Bot Activity: 35.4%
- Top Tweeting Location: Afghanistan
- Key People: @pashtonnaseer, @achakzai__raziq

#MutinyInPakArmy

- Total Tweets: 375
- Potential Reach: 110635
- Started On: 2019-08-16 | 14:36:48
- Started By: @veteranjeev
- Bot Activity: 21.81%
- Top Tweeting Location: India
- Key People: @veteranjeev, @dramjadmirza

#PakChinaNexus

- Total Tweets: 1000
- Potential Reach: 331922
- Started On: 2017-07-27 | 12:18:16
- Started By: @roypp22
- Bot Activity: 37.68%
- Top Tweeting Location: India
- Key People: @roypp22, @tahassiddiqui

#BlacklistPakistan

- Total Tweets: 24759
- Potential Reach: 99928656
- Started On: 2015-03-15 | 23:03:27
- Started By: @meenadasnarayan
- Bot Activity: 24.4%
- Top Tweeting Location: India
- Key People: @shilpa p, @kakar_harsha

#CivilWarInPakistan

- Total Tweets: 92976
- Potential Reach: 238929358
- Started On: 2013-01-11 | 21:21:18
- Started By: @theedge37
- Bot Activity: 40.26%
- Top Tweeting Location: India
- Key People: @himansh52521723, @meghupdates

#SanctionPakistan

- Total Tweets: 378089
- Potential Reach: 194727016
- Started On: 2021-07-30 | 20:54:22
- Started By: @jason_c_howk
- Bot Activity: 65%
- Top Tweeting Location: Afghanistan
- Key People: @calxandr @HabibkhanT