



**Lemkin Institute**  
for Genocide Prevention  
and Human Security

## **Statement on the Recent Pakistani Airstrike in Afghanistan**

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The Lemkin Institute expresses its profound concern and condemnation regarding the recent airstrikes undertaken by Pakistan in Afghanistan's Paktika province. The December 25 strikes, which reportedly resulted in the deaths of at least 46 individuals, including women and children, constitute a grave violation of international humanitarian and human rights law.

Targeting civilian areas under the guise of counterterrorism undermines the fundamental principles of human security and exacerbates an already fragile regional situation. This tragedy not only highlights the indiscriminate nature of such actions but also underscores the broader risks of escalating violence and retaliatory attacks, which endanger countless lives and regional stability.

We recognize the serious threat posed by extremist groups such as the Tehrik-i-Taliban Pakistan (TTP). However, states must adhere to international law in addressing these threats. Cross-border operations that fail to differentiate between combatants and civilians can constitute collective punishment and violate fundamental human rights.

The civilian toll of these strikes demands immediate accountability and a thorough independent investigation. Furthermore, we call on all parties to prioritize dialogue and diplomacy over violence, ensuring that security operations do not perpetuate cycles of suffering or contribute to the erosion of trust between nations.

We urge the international community, including the United Nations and regional bodies, to take concrete steps to mediate and ensure adherence to the principles of sovereignty, human security, and the rule of law. Preventing further loss of life requires a coordinated response that upholds justice and human dignity above all else.

Finally, our thoughts are with the families of the victims. We reaffirm our commitment to amplifying their voices and advocating for measures that protect all civilians from the horrors of war and violence.