

CONFLICTS | PAKISTAN

Pakistan: Car bomb attack at checkpoint kills 15

Mahima Kapoor with AFP and Reuters

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The attack occurred in Bannu district of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province, where militants drove an explosives-laden vehicle into a police checkpoint.



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This is the latest attack in a rising wave of militancy in Pakistan

Image: Ehsan Khattak/REUTERS

Militants detonated a car bomb at a police checkpoint in Bannu, northwestern **Pakistan**, and opened fire on officers, killing at least 15 people, authorities said Sunday.

The attack took place late Saturday in the Fateh Khel area. Images from the scene showed the checkpoint reduced to rubble, with bricks, charred debris, and mangled vehicles scattered across the area.

"Last night in the Fateh Khel area of Bannu, a suicide bomber rammed an explosives-laden vehicle into a police checkpoint, after which multiple militants entered the post," Bannu police official Muhammad Sajjad Khan said.

He added more than 100 militants took part in the attack.



Officials said the car was filled with explosives when militants rammed it into the post

Image: Ehsan Khattak/REUTERS

Deadly checkpoint assault

An officer, speaking on condition of anonymity, said that other law enforcement personnel had been sent to help the police but that the terrorists had ambushed them, causing some of the casualties.

"During the assault, the militants used quadcopters along with heavy weaponry," a senior administrative official in Bannu told AFP.

"In addition, while retreating, the attackers took police personnel and weapons from the station with them," he added.

Rising militancy and regional tensions

The attack was the latest in the border province of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, amid a [wave of militancy](#) that has [strained ties](#) between Islamabad and Kabul. Bannu, has been gripped by militant activity due to its [proximity to the border](#) with [Afghanistan](#).

Afghanistan's Taliban government has denied Pakistani accusations that it provides safe haven to militant groups.

In recent months, the strained diplomatic ties have spiraled into [armed conflict](#), including [Pakistani airstrikes](#) on Afghan cities.

Editors note: This story was updated when authorities announced the death rose from 12 to 15 people.

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