



TERROR TRACKER

Newsletter by Counter Terrorism Centre



MANOHAR PARRIKAR INSTITUTE FOR
DEFENCE STUDIES AND ANALYSES
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Canada Targets Khalistan-Linked Extremism

On 25 March 2026, Canada's House of Commons has passed the **Combatting Hate Act (Bill C-9)**, marking a significant step toward regulating the **public display of symbols associated with designated terrorist organisations**.

Approved by a vote of **186–137**, the bill now proceeds to the **Senate** for further review before it can become law.

The legislation introduces a new offence under Canada's **Criminal Code**, targeting the **wilful promotion of hatred** against identifiable groups through the **public display of symbols** tied to **listed terrorist entities**.

This includes flags linked to organisations such as **Babbar Khalsa International (BKI)** and the **International Sikh Youth Federation (ISYF)**.

The bill also **strengthens penalties for hate crimes** and creates new offences related to **intimidating or obstructing access to religious, cultural, and educational spaces**.

Supporters, including **Indo-Canadian, Jewish, and Hindu community groups**, have welcomed the move as a **long-overdue response to harassment and vandalism** linked to extremist elements.

However, critics—including **Conservative and NDP members**, along with **civil liberties organisations**—have raised concerns about **potential overreach** and implications for **freedom of expression**.

The law requires **clear intent to promote hatred**, and it does not automatically prohibit **private or historical displays**.

The bill comes amid **improving India–Canada relations** under **Prime Minister Mark Carney**.

If passed by the Senate and granted **Royal Assent**, it would signal a **notable shift in Canada's approach to countering hate** and restricting the **public glorification of terrorism**, with enforcement hinging on **judicial interpretation in specific cases**. – [*The Tribune*](#)

Delhi Police Busts LeT Terror Module

The Special Cell of Delhi Police has arrested **Shabbir Ahmed Lone**, a suspected **Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT) handler**, from Delhi's Ghazipur area in a major counter-terrorism operation.

The arrest, made on **29 March, 2026**, followed investigations into **anti-India and pro-Pakistan posters** that appeared across Delhi Metro stations in February. Officials described Lone as a **“hardcore and highly-trained terrorist”** with links to handlers allegedly operating on behalf of **Pakistan's Inter-Services Intelligence (ISI)**.

The operation led to the **dismantling of a Bangladeshi module** linked to LeT, with **eight individuals arrested** across Delhi, Kolkata, and Tamil Nadu.

Most of the accused were **Bangladeshi nationals using fake Indian identity documents**. Investigations revealed that Lone had **radicalised recruits**, tasked them with **reconnaissance of key locations**, and instructed them to **arrange weapons and expand the network** within India.

Key accused **Umar Farooq** admitted to pasting posters at multiple locations in Delhi and recording videos to send to Lone, who encouraged further operations. Police recovered **mobile phones, financial cards, POS machines, passports, and incriminating material** from the suspects.

Lone had reportedly **entered India via the Nepal border after operating from Bangladesh**, from where he coordinated activities and maintained contact with senior LeT figures, including **Abu Huzaifa, Sumama Babar, and Abdul Rahman**.

Authorities noted that Lone had a **long history of terror involvement**, including a 2007 arrest linked to arms recovery and connections with LeT leaders **Hafiz Saeed and Zaki-ur-Rehman Lakhvi**.

His broader objective, according to investigators, was to **build sleeper cells using infiltrated operatives** and execute attacks at an opportune moment. A Delhi court has remanded him to **five days of police custody**. – [*The Hindu*](#), [*NDTV*](#)

Pak PM Aide Meets LeT Leader's Son

Pakistan Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif's Political Affairs Advisor, **Rana Sanaullah**, was seen publicly greeting **Hafiz Talha Saeed**, son of **26/11 Mumbai attacks** mastermind **Hafiz Saeed**, at a high-profile wedding in Faisalabad.

The interaction reportedly took place openly on stage, with images showing the presence of several senior political figures alongside individuals linked to the banned **Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT)**.

According to intelligence sources, the episode has raised fresh concerns over **Pakistan's commitment to counter-terrorism** – "Such events raise serious questions about Pakistan's repeated claims of cracking down on terror groups while its ruling establishment maintains cozy relations with them," a source said.

The critics have pointed to the **visible proximity between political leadership and proscribed outfits**.

Officials noted that such public engagements contradict Islamabad's repeated claims of taking action against extremist networks.

Indian intelligence sources said the incident reinforces long-standing

allegations of **state patronage to terror groups**.

They also argued that the presence of a senior aide to the Prime Minister alongside a LeT-linked figure suggests **continued access of such networks to Pakistan's political establishment**.

The sources added that "The world must take note that the 26/11 perpetrators family and network are not isolated... They are very much embedded within Pakistan's political ecosystem including the Prime Minister's Office," the source added.

The development has been framed as evidence of a broader pattern of **institutional tolerance or complicity**.

Hafiz Saeed, one of India's most wanted terrorists, is accused of orchestrating the **2008 Mumbai attacks**.

He has also been linked to terror-related investigations including the **Pulwama attack** and terror financing in Jammu and Kashmir.

Indian agencies maintain that despite international sanctions, figures associated with LeT continue to **operate and retain influence**.

[News18](#)

JeM Chief Masood Azhar's Brother Dies in Pakistan

Mohammad Tahir Anwar, a key figure linked to Jaish-e-Mohammed (JeM) and brother of its chief Masood Azhar, has died in Pakistan under unclear circumstances. His death was confirmed through the group's official channel, which announced that his funeral would be held in Bahawalpur. No official cause of death has been disclosed, and there has been no reference to illness or any specific incident, leaving questions surrounding the circumstances.

Anwar had longstanding links with JeM, a Pakistan-based terror organisation responsible for several major terror attacks in India, including the 2001 Parliament attack, Pathankot (2016), Uri (2016), and Pulwama (2019). The development comes amid continued scrutiny of the group's presence in Pakistan and past Indian counter-terror operations targeting its infrastructure, including strikes on its Bahawalpur headquarters. – [Firstpost](#)

Multi-State Arrests in Vijayawada Terror Probe

The alleged terror links case in Vijayawada, Andhra Pradesh, has led to the arrest of nine individuals, including three local youths, by the Counter Intelligence Cell and Vijayawada Task Force. The accused were detained for allegedly promoting extremist activities through social media platforms and maintaining links with suspected terror networks. A court has remanded them to judicial custody, while one minor was produced before the Juvenile Court. The arrests followed a coordinated multi-state operation, with additional suspects apprehended from Delhi, Rajasthan, West Bengal, and Maharashtra.

Investigations indicate the case involves online radicalisation, suspicious financial transactions, and communication with Pakistan-based handlers. The accused reportedly used platforms like Instagram and Telegram to spread extremist ideology, recruit individuals, and coordinate activities, with a mosque in Vijayawada serving as a meeting point. Authorities also recovered digital evidence, including searches related to explosives, prompting concerns over potential escalation. A case has been registered under the UAPA, IT Act, and BNS, with agencies continuing to probe the wider network and possible sleeper cells. – [ETV Bharat](#), [The New Indian Express](#)

Benin and Nigeria Ramp Up Counter-Terror Cooperation

Coastal West African countries are strengthening counterterrorism cooperation following the collapse of regional security frameworks like the G5 Sahel Joint Force. Benin and Nigeria have initiated plans for a joint military operation along their border with Niger, a region increasingly affected by spillover violence from extremist groups such as Jama'at Nusrat al-Islam wal-Muslimin (JNIM) and Islamic State Sahel Province (ISSP). According to ACLED data, attacks in the region surged by 86% between 2024 and 2025, while civilian fatalities rose by over 260%, highlighting the growing intensity of the threat.

The expansion of extremist groups has been facilitated by porous borders, weak state presence, and the use of forested areas like the W-Arly-Pendjari complex as operational bases. Terror outfits are also exploiting local grievances, recruiting from border communities, and leveraging transit routes to expand their influence. In response, Benin and Nigeria aim to enhance intelligence sharing, coordinated patrols, and border monitoring. Analysts note that such partnerships reflect a growing recognition of cross-border threats, though regional efforts remain constrained by fractured cooperation and escalating violence in Sahelian states. – [*ADF*](#)