

Pakistan: 25 killed as Taliban militants storm Bacha Khan university

20/01/2016 21:47 by admin

Peshawar: In yet another horrible attack on students, Taliban militants today stormed Bacha Khan University in Pakistan which resulted in the death of at least 25 people majority of whom were students of the university.

The exact number of casualties, however, are yet to be announced officially.

At least 25 people were killed and about 50 others injured today after heavily-armed Taliban militants stormed a prestigious university and opened indiscriminate fire on students and teachers in Pakistan's restive northwest Khyber-Pakhtunkhwa province.

The gunmen entered the Bacha Khan University in Charsadda district of the province, some 50 kms southwest of Peshawar, and opened fire on students and teachers in classrooms and hostels, media reports said.

Blasts and heavy gunfire were heard from inside the University campus.

Pakistan Tehrik-e-Insaf Party leader and provincial lawmaker Shaukat Yousafzai said that 25 people, including a professor, were killed and around 50 others injured in the terrorist attack on the University this morning.

The injured were shifted to hospital. An emergency has been declared in all hospitals in the town. All schools have been closed in the area.

Yousafzai said between four to 10 attackers were involved in attack. "Such cowardice attack could not shake the resolve of the Government in the fight against terrorism," he said.

Soon after the attack, a large contingent of security forces rushed to the site and started evacuating students.

Pakistan Army troops also rushed to the University from Peshawar and started operation.

Army spokesman Lt Gen Asim Salim Bajwa tweeted that four terrorists were killed during operation launched by security forces to clear the University.

"Snipers killed 2 more terrorists on roof top, total Terrorist killed so far 4. All buildings & roof top taken over by Army...", he tweeted. "Clearance of university block by block continues by Army troops."

Earlier, two terrorists who were firing from inside the university block were shot and killed by the army. The terrorists were contained in two blocks within the university and troops, commandos are participating in the operation.

Surveillance operation has been completed.

Tehreek-e-Taliban Pakistan claimed the responsibility for the attack, the Express Tribune reported.

Citing intelligence sources, media reports said the terrorists are between 18 and 25 years old.

University Chancellor Dr Fazal Rahim said there are over 3,000 students present inside the university along with an additional 600 guests who are present for a poetic symposium to mark the death anniversary of Khudai Khidmatgar Khan Abdul Ghaffar Khan alias Baacha Khan who died on January 20, 1988.

Rahim said four guards of university and one policeman were killed in attack.

Geo TV reported that Professor Hamid Hussain of chemistry department was also among dead.

"A teacher of the varsity after evacuation said Chairman Chemistry Department Hamid has been martyred by the firing of the militants," it said, adding the terrorists barged into Hamid's room and fired at his head, killing him instantly.

- (With PTI inputs)