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Karachi airport attack claims 23 dead

6/9/2014

The Pakistani Taliban on Monday claimed responsibility for an attack on Karachi airport that left at least 23 people dead, reportedly including 10 attackers. The group said the act was in revenge for their late leader Hakimullah Mehsud, who was killed in US drone strike in November.

The airport was chosen for the attack "because it serves as the biggest air logistics centre supplying goods for the Crusaders' war in Afghanistan and Pakistan", Umar Media, the official media wing of the Pakistani Taliban, said on its Facebook page.

Pakistani officials said a military operation against the militants, who attacked the country's busiest airport late on Sunday, ended shortly before dawn on June 9. However, security forces later announced that the military operation had been relaunched after gunfire at the airport resumed.

For more, see here and here for a report on Pakistan's Dawn news site.

In an apparently unrelated attack, at least 23 Shia pilgrims returning from Iran were killed when militants attacked their buses in Pakistan's troubled Balochistan province, officials said.

The attack took place on Sunday when 10 buses carrying the Shia pilgrims stopped at a hotel in Taftan near the Iranian border, Indian Express reported.