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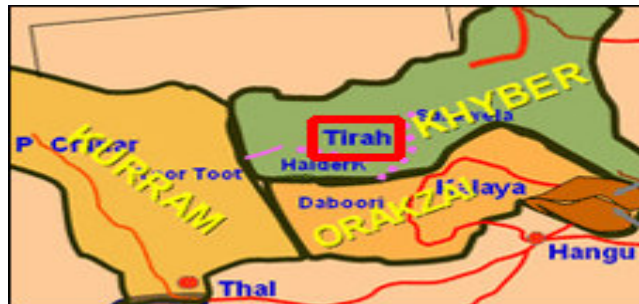
Antiwar.com

At Least 70 Civilians Killed as Pakistani Jets Bomb Khyber

Posted By [Jason Ditz](#)

April 11, 2010

In what may well be the deadliest single incident of violence against civilians in the Tirah Valley in nearly 400 years, Pakistani military jets bombed a village in the Jamrud Tehsil of the Khyber Agency portion of the valley, [killing at least 70 civilians and wounding some 50 others](#).



Pakistani military officials were quick to deny the toll, and [claimed in the state media that they were targeting “militants” who were massing to attack a military checkpoint.](#)

But local officials said the real story, as it so often is in Pakistan’s tribal areas, was quite different. They reported that the jets bombed a home in the village, [killing three children and two women who were inside, and laborers working on a nearby water channel massed in an attempt to rescue anyone who might be trapped inside.](#)

This was when the bulk of the casualties occurred, including one of the tribal elders of the region, as the jets came back and bombarded the rescuers, killing and injuring a large number of them. The house that was initially attacked belonged to a member of the Pakistani Army, who expressed “surprise” to learn that his house had been bombed and then dismissed as a “militant hideout.”