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'NATO attack in Pakistan pre-planned'

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A senior Pakistani military officer says the NATO cross-border air attack in the country's northwest that killed two dozen soldiers last month was deliberate and pre-planned.

Major General Ashfaq Nadeem, Director General of Pakistan's Military Operations, said on Thursday that NATO aircraft intentionally violated the Pakistani airspace and targeted two military border posts in the tribal Mohmand Agency, irrespective of repeated warnings from the Pakistani soldiers.

He added a lieutenant general deployed to the US Embassy in Islamabad was immediately informed when the attack was initiated. The airstrikes were halted temporarily before the Western military force resumed them with full force.

"The bunkers were specifically targeted and destroyed," Major General Nadeem pointed out.

The senior Pakistani military officer noted that Pakistan would deploy an air defense system along the border with Afghanistan to prevent such NATO attacks in the future.

NATO helicopters and fighter jets attacked two military border posts in northwest Pakistan on November 26, and killed 24 Pakistani troops.

Pakistan, in retaliation, closed the border crossings that US-led forces use on their way into landlocked Afghanistan. It also told the United States to vacate Shamsi Air Base in Balochistan province.

Pakistan's Army Chief General Ashfaq Parvez Kayani said on December 1 that the country's forces had been alerted to potential “irresponsible” NATO attacks on the country's soil, and ordered the army to retaliate against such future offensives with full force.

He called on the military not to wait for any orders from the government to give a crushing response to the aggressors, regardless of potential consequences.