

# Pakistan arrests dozens in Mumbai attacks probe

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[CBC News](#)

More than 70 people have been arrested in Pakistan as part of a month-long crackdown on groups accused of having connections to last year's attacks in Mumbai, a Pakistani official said Thursday.



*Pakistani police officers escort men arrested in Karachi on Thursday morning. (Fareed Khan/Associated Press)*

Most of those arrested are alleged members of Lashkar-e-Taiba, the militant organization suspected of being behind the deadly attacks.

On Thursday, the Interior Ministry said 71 leaders people had been arrested since December, after the United Nations Security Council declared that Jamaat-ud-Dawa, a Pakistani charity, was acting as a front for the banned militant group.

Another 124 have been placed under surveillance and must register their every move with police.

Ministry chief Rehman Malik initially said that 124 people had been detained. His deputy, Kamal Shah, later told the Associated Press that Malik had misspoken.

Pakistani authorities have also closed several suspected militant training camps run by Lashkar-e-Taiba, and taken steps against 20 offices, 87 schools, two libraries, seven religious schools and a handful of other organizations and websites linked to the charity.

Among those in detention or under house arrest are Hafiz Mohammed Saeed, the head of the charity, who helped establish the militant group, and Zaki-ur-Rehman Lakhvi and Zarrar Shah, two men India alleges planned the Mumbai attacks.

Intelligence officials, cited in Indian media, have said Shah is Lashkar's communications chief and created a system that allowed the group's leaders to stay in touch with the gunmen during the siege on India's financial capital last November, which killed 171 people, including two Canadians.

U.S. officials have said Lakhvi has also directed Lashkar-e-Taiba operations in Chechnya, Bosnia and Southeast Asia, where he allegedly trained members to carry out suicide bombings.

Saeed has denied his organization was involved in terrorist activity and decried the accusation as an attack on religious groups.

### **More evidence needed for prosecution**

While Pakistan has received some information from India, Malik said, authorities will need to obtain more evidence if Pakistan hopes to prosecute any of those arrested.

Investigators in Pakistan will "have to inquire into this information to try to transform it to evidence — evidence which can stand the test of any court in the world and, of course, our own court of law," Malik said.

He did not provide details, and avoided a question as to whether the Pakistani government was admitting the attack was staged by militants from its own country.

"We have to prove to the world that India and Pakistan stand together against terrorists because they are the common enemies," Malik said.

The Mumbai attacks have increased tensions between the two nuclear rivals, as India has demanded that Pakistan take action against the militants.

Indian Prime Minister Manmohan Singh earlier this month said evidence suggested the attack must have had the support of some official agencies in Pakistan.

India has called on Pakistan to hand over any suspects to New Delhi, but the country has said it will try any people involved in the attacks in its own courts.

Malik also appeared to rule out the possibility of extradition on Thursday, saying Pakistani laws allowed for the prosecution of citizens who committed crimes elsewhere.

India suggested Thursday that position could be acceptable.

"It would be ideal if they [Pakistan's government] can hand over the fugitives," Foreign Minister Pranab Mukherjee told Indian news channel Aaj Tak on Wednesday.

"If that is not possible, there should at least be a fair trial of these fugitives in Pakistan."

*With files from the Associated Press*

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