

theguardian

Printing sponsored by:

Kodak
All-in-One Printers

Drone blitz on Pakistan enters third straight day

Up to 27 people have died in strikes that began on Saturday as US shows no signs of bowing to Pakistani objections

Agencies in Miranshah and Islamabad
guardian.co.uk, Monday 4 June 2012 01.28 EDT



Up to 15 people have been killed in a third straight day of drone strikes in Pakistan by the US. Photograph: Massoud Hossaini/AFP/Getty

Rockets fired from a US drone killed between eight and 15 people in north-west Pakistan on Monday, officials have said in varying accounts. It is the third strike in as many days after attacks on Saturday and Sunday killed a total of 12 people.

The latest strike targeted a militant hideout in the Hesokhel village of the North Waziristan tribal region, officials said.

US drones hit targets in the South Waziristan tribal region on Saturday and Sunday. There have been a total of seven strikes in less than two weeks.

The US and Pakistan are deadlocked in difficult negotiations for the reopening of overland supply routes to Nato forces in Afghanistan. No breakthrough is in sight.



Pakistan drones map

Islamabad blocked the routes in November 2011 after 24 Pakistani soldiers were killed by cross-border "friendly fire" from Nato aircraft. To reopen the roads Islamabad wants an apology and an end to drone strikes but the US president, Barack Obama, is taking a hardline stand.

The latest attack followed closely on the heels of another drone strike on Sunday that killed 10 suspected militants. Two Pakistani intelligence officials said in that attack, four missiles were fired at targets in the village of Mana Raghzai in South Waziristan near the border with Afghanistan.

At the time of the attack, suspected militants were gathered to offer condolences to the brother of a militant commander killed during another drone strike on Saturday. The brother was one of those who died in the Sunday morning strike.

On Sunday, gunmen killed four Shia minority Muslims, a police officer and a bystander in a busy market of south-western Pakistani city of Quetta, said police officer Abdul Wahid, who added that the killings had a sectarian motive.

© 2012 Guardian News and Media Limited or its affiliated companies. All rights reserved.

;