

## Pakistani troops kill 23 militants

*by UPI*

ISLAMABAD, Pakistan - Pakistani troops killed 23 suspected militants in clashes in the northwest region of the country, GEO TV reported Monday. The incident occurred in Ghallanai, the main town of the Mohmand tribal region, near the border with Afghanistan. The area is reportedly a stronghold of pro-Taliban fighters. The GEO TV report said the fighting began after militants attacked a paramilitary convoy and killed seven security forces. The 23 militants were killed in a retaliatory attack by the Pakistani forces, the report said. Pakistan's northwest has been wracked by militant violence in the past several months and the Pakistani military has sent reinforcements to regain control of the region. Much of the recent fighting has centered around the scenic Swat Valley where a fiery cleric and his followers have inflicted heavy casualties on the troops.

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