

Report: 90 militants killed in Pakistan

by UPI

ISLAMABAD, Pakistan -- The Pakistan military Friday said government troops killed about 90 militants in two separate clashes in the violence-hit South Waziristan tribal area. The clashes also left four of the security forces wounded, the state-run Associated Press of Pakistan said. In the first clash, a convoy of security forces was hit by small arms fire and rockets from the Chaghmalai area. In the ensuing fight, lasting about an hour, up to 30 militants were estimated to have been killed, the report said. In the other clash, the militants attacked the Ladha Fort with small arms fire and rockets. Security forces used artillery, mortars and small arms fire, killing up to 60 of the attackers, the report said. South Waziristan is said to be a stronghold of Taliban warlord Baitullah Mehsud, who has been named by the Islamabad government as the main suspect in the Dec. 27 assassination of former Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto. CNN said. The Washington Post said U.S. Central Intelligence Agency Director Michael Hayden has concluded fighters allied with Mehsud, with support from al-Qaida terrorist network, were behind Bhutto's death, as well as other violent acts to destabilize Pakistan.

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