

Pakistani academy standoff ends; 30 die

by UPI

LAHORE, Pakistan -- Thirty police cadets and employees were killed in a Pakistani police academy Monday during a standoff between militants and police, officials said.

Military spokesman Gen. Athar Abbas said at least 52 other people were injured during the eight-hour standoff that began when the attackers stormed the Manawan police academy with hand grenades during morning drills, CNN reported.

Pakistani Interior Minister Rehman Malik said four of the 10 to 12 gunmen were killed in the eight-hour confrontation at the facility in Lahore and a fifth was arrested outside of the compound, CNN said. What happened to the remaining gunmen wasn't known immediately.

The attackers holed up on top floor of a three-story building, Malik said. Security forces gained control of the first two floors and began working their way to the third floor, finally taking control and arresting the gunmen.

About 800 officers train at the facility but authorities couldn't say how many there when the assault began, CNN said. The attackers, some dressed in police uniforms, took dozens of hostages, said Asim Rizwan, spokesman for governor of Punjab, the province where Lahore is located.

Lahore is the same city where gunmen fired on a bus carrying members of the Sri Lankan cricket team on its way to a stadium for a match earlier in March, killing a driver and six Pakistani police officers and wounding at least eight team members.

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