

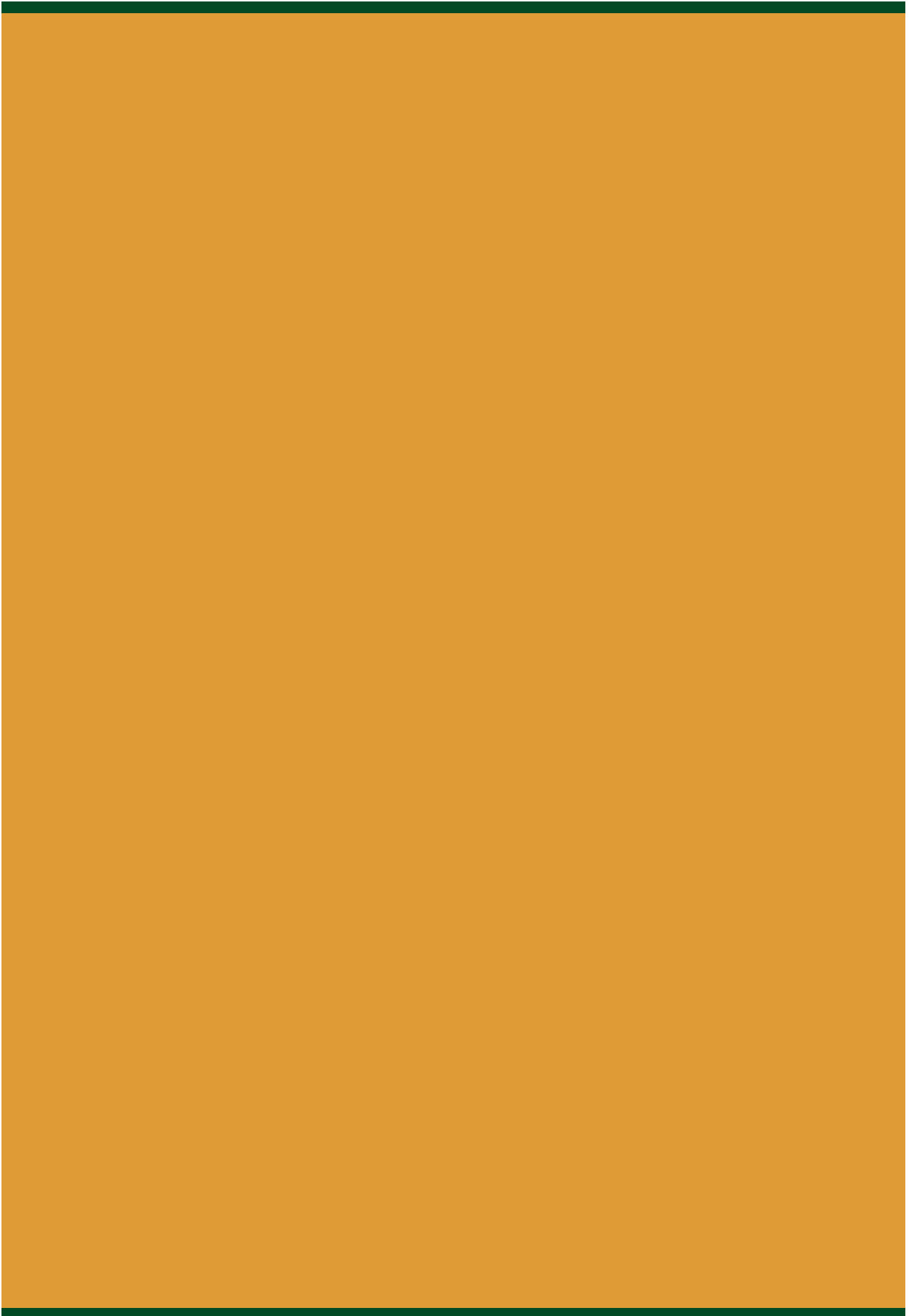


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DIALOGUE
PAKISTAN»»2020

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ADVISORY BOARD

Tariq Parvez

President Advisory Board, NIOC:
Former Director General Federal
Investigation Agency

Fiaz Khan Toru

Member NIOC AB:
Former Inspector General of Police

Zahid Hussain

Member NIOC AB:
Eminent journalist particularly
specializing in countering terrorism

Fasi Zaka

Member NIOC AB:
Communications expert. To steer the
advocacy campaign.

Zubair Habib

**Chairman CPLC Karachi, Member
NIOC AB:**
For community outreach.



NIOC DIRECTORATE

Tariq Khosa

Director

Muhammad Amir Rana

Secretary

Muhammad Ali Nekokara

Deputy Director

Hassan Sardar

Admin & Finance Manager

Minutes of 3rd NIOC AB Meeting and Consultation Session

The National Initiative against Organized Crimes (NIOC) held its 3rd Advisory Board (AB) meeting followed by a Consultation Session with stakeholders on organized crimes at Islamabad Club on Friday, January 17, 2020.

The meeting started after a formal luncheon at 1 pm in which a special guest of honor Mr Afzal Shigri, former IG Police Sindh participated. NIOC team was pleased to welcome Mr Asad Raza, District Police Officer, Kashmore of Sindh Police to the meeting who participated on the special invitation of Director NIOC. Mr. Raza has undertaken to write a Paper on Human Trafficking in Interior Sindh, especially in the context of exploitation of women and children. NIOC declared him as a Champion of Change in its mission against organized crime. The Advisory Board meeting was chaired by President NIOC, Mr Tariq Parvez, and attended by members Mr Fiaz Khan Toru, Mr Zahid Hussain and Mr Zubair Habib. Mr Fasih Zaka could not attend due to his prior commitments at Lahore. Director NIOC Tariq Khosa, Secretary Amir Rana, Deputy Director Ali Nekokara and Manager Administration and Finance Hassan Sardar participated in the AB Meeting.

The Minutes of 2nd AB Meeting held on December 19, 2019 were formally approved. Director Khosa briefed the meeting about the Dubai Moot against transnational organized crime held on 8-11 December 2019 under the aegis of Near East and South Asia Institute of the National Defense University of Washington DC USA. He had presented a Paper on Drug Trafficking in Pakistan in the moot on behalf of NIOC.

Director NIOC also informed the meeting that NIOC would like to conduct a 2-day international workshop on Organized Crime in Islamabad in March 2020. He informed that he is in contact with Director NESAs for getting some international experts to speak on terror financing, drug trafficking, human trafficking and cybercrimes. He also apprised that he will get in touch with the GI-TOC to invite some relevant experts for the international conference proposed to take place in March.

Director NIOC also briefed the meeting about GI-TOC consultation meeting on organized crime in Bangkok on December 13, 2019. A very useful day-long meeting would result in a Paper that GI-TOC is preparing for the UN. Mr Ian Tennant, Manager GI Resilience Fund apprised the meeting of recent projects launched globally. NIOC Pakistan was specially mentioned and Director Khosa was given an opportunity to talk about the National Initiative against Organized Crime launched in Pakistan with effect from November 01, 2019.

The meeting also noted that NIOC has issued Newsletters for November and December 2019. Secretary NIOC was asked to prepare a mailing list for dissemination of the monthly Newsletters from the platform of Pak Institute for Peace Studies (PIPS). The Newsletter may also contain updates, alerts and excerpts of relevant articles in the four categories of organized crime that NIOC is addressing.

It was also noted that NIOC website had been launched. It was discussed that the website requires improvements from international best practice perspective. GI-TOC Website is worth emulation in this regard and can be adapted from Pakistan's standpoint.

NIOC Directorate is working on an Introductory Brochure for wider circulation among the community and relevant stakeholders. Mr. Amir Rana, Mr. Ali Nekokara, Mr. Kashif Noon and Mr. Hassan Sardar are soon expected to come up with a quality draft brochure.

NIOC has come up with an Analysis Paper on Drug Trafficking in Pakistan. The final draft was shared with the Ministry of Narcotics Control for any views and feedback on January 01, 2020. The Paper would be finally disseminated before end of January 2020. The analysis paper on Terror Financing is work in progress. Being a complex issue, NIOC hopes to come up with a draft by mid-February, 2020.

The AB was also apprised that contact has been established with FIA for collaboration on Human Trafficking and Cyber Crimes Analysis Papers. Meanwhile Mr. Asad Raza, SSP of District Kashmore has undertaken to write a paper on human trafficking in interior Sindh, particularly in the context of exploitation of women and children.

Moreover, the meeting noted that Mr. Farrukh Raza, District Police Officer Dadu, Sindh has undertaken to promote drug awareness campaign among youth and students in his district. For that purpose, he will soon organize a debate and speech contest. Mr Zubair Habib of CPLC will coordinate with ANF and ensure that this community outreach initiative is successfully launched as a pilot in interior Sindh.

Member AB Zubair Habib, in collaboration with ANF, was requested to get a survey carried out about the extent of drug abuse among the students of Karachi. This would be an important project for which UNODC's support would be enlisted.

Another important point discussed at the meeting was NIOC's initiative to establish Network of committed individuals working against organized crime all over the country. On the lines of GI-TOC, whose network number has increased to 427 world-wide, NIOC would aim to

have 50 committed individuals as part of the professional and community stalwarts who can make a difference against organized crime in Pakistan. Convener Police Reforms Group and President AB of NIOC Mr Tariq Parvez has already helped enlist six former IGs as pioneers of the Network. Their profiles with photos would soon be placed at NIOC website. Similarly, more names would be suggested in the next AB Meeting in February, 2020.

For better visibility on Social Media space, Secretary NIOC Mr. Amir Rana was requested to launch NIOC on PIPS Facebook as well as Twitter handle.

A media/press release would be drafted by Secretary Mr. Amir Rana for recap of NIOC activities from November 01, 2019 to January 31, 2020. The press release would be ready to be shared with the Director as soon as possible.

Director NIOC requested Mr Zahid Hussain, Mr. Amir Rana and Mr Tariq Parvez to write an op-ed for Dawn on NIOC initiatives and the categories of organized crimes like terror financing, drug trafficking, human trafficking and cybercrimes. It was also decided that an effort will be made to hire the services of another researcher for data collection.

Amir Rana and Kashif Noon would soon meet with DG NPB for collection of data from both federal and provincial stakeholders in the four categories of organized crimes.

Consultation Session with Stakeholders

NIOC Director welcomed senior officers who attended the Consultation Session after the AB Meeting. DG CTF Mr. Muhammad Iqbal and Mr Israr Abbasi from NACTA; ADGs Ahmed Mukarram and Mr. Ehsan Sadiq from FIA; and DDG ANF Mr. Ghulam Qadir Thebo made a significant contribution to the discussions during the consultation session.

Decisions:

The following decisions were taken after NIOC presentations on Terror Financing (TF) and Drug Trafficking by Consultant Mr. Kashif Noon:

1. NACTA will arrange a special briefing/presentation for NIOC on TF. Modalities will be worked out soon between NC NACTA and Director NIOC.
2. DDG ANF undertook a feedback by MNC and ANF on NIOC Drug Trafficking Paper.
3. TF Presentation will be fine-tuned and shared with NACTA soon.
4. Mr. Kashif Noon and Mr. Ali Nekokara will get in touch with FIA focal persons on Human Trafficking and Cyber Crimes to start work on analysis papers in the two categories of organized crimes.

Attendance:

The following attended the board meeting:

1. Mr. Tariq Parvez (President AB)
2. Mr Fiaz Khan Toru (Member AB)
3. Mr Zahid Hussain (Member AB)
4. Mr Zubiar Habib (Member AB)
5. Mr Tariq Khosa (Director NIOC)
6. Mr. Muhammad Amir Rana (Secretary NIOC)
7. Ali Nekokara (Deputy Director NIOC)
8. Mr. Ali Asghar (Deputy Secretary, MNC)
9. Mr. Qadir Thebo (DDG, ANF)
10. Mr. Ehsan Sadiq (Additional DG, FIA)
11. Mr. Ahmed Mukarram (Additional DG, FIA)

12. Mr. Muhammad Iqbal (DG, NACTA)
13. Mr. Syed Asad Raza (SSP Kashmore, Sindh Police)
14. Mr. Israr Ahmed Abbasi (Director, NACTA)
15. Mr. Kashif Noon (Consultant, NIOC)
16. Mr. Hassan Sardar (Admin and Finance Manager, NIOC)

NIOC Leadership Participated in Dialogue Pakistan, 2020

Speaking in the panel *Have We Won the War Against Terrorism?* at Dialogue Pakistan, 2020 - a national level event organized by PIPS to discuss the critical social and policy issues of Pakistan - Director National Initiative Against Organized Crimes (NIOC), Mr. Tariq Khosa expressed his fear over the prevailing religious extremism in Pakistani society. He opined that War Against Terrorism is an ill-conceived term that remains undefined. Terrorism is an ideological issue and the state should deal with it in that manner, he asserted. Mr. Khosa also discussed the four focus areas of organized crimes during his talk, with special reference to NIOC's objective of addressing them. Former FG FIA, Mr. Tariq Parvez, opined that number of terrorist incidents have nosedived sharply during the past few years but this doesn't mean that we can claim victory over terrorism. We still need to fight this war at the ideological level coupled with choking the financing of terrorism inside Pakistan. Senior Security Analyst and AB member of NIOC, Mr. Zahid Hussain termed the relationship between state and society as the key to a peaceful and prosperous Pakistan. He said that Pakistan has suffered humungous losses due to terrorism.

Pakistan and the FATF

By Khawaja Khalid Farooq (NIOC Network Member)

The recent pronouncements by the Asia Pacific Group which regulates the FATF regime for Pakistan portray a number of regional money laundering and terrorism financing threats that confront Pakistan.

According to the APG, these threats pertain to the porous borders with Afghanistan, exposing Pakistan to incoming illicit proceeds from drug trafficking and funds to support terrorist groups operating within Pakistan and along its vulnerable borders.

Even though there is some acknowledgment of the fact, it is glossed over to some degree that Pakistan has had huge success in curbing terrorism. All the official and non-official figures show a sharp decline in terrorism, with terrorism on its lowest scale in the country when compared against data from previous years. However, this does not seem to translate into significant dividends when it comes to the FATF.

In fact, as with other previous assertions, the APG cites a significant number of UN-listed terrorist organizations operating in these border regions as a risk for outbound funds supporting terrorist activity in neighbouring countries, with the terror threats relating to the border regions with Afghanistan. Also, Pakistan's significant diaspora of citizens working in other high terrorism financing regions in the Middle East and remitting funds creates an additional risk.

While the Punjab government has started taking over all the moveable and immovable assets of the Jamaatud Daawa (JuD) and the Falah-e-Insaniat Foundation (FIF) operating in the province, and amended the Anti-Terrorism Act of 1997 earlier in February 2018, allowing the state to deal with the proscribed organizations on the United Nations list, this does not get much traction at the FATF. Pakistan has also clamped down upon the groups' networks, arrested their top leadership including Hafiz Saeed, and forfeited all their funds and seized their assets. The recent indictment of Hafiz Saeed by courts made headlines in the country; the APG, however, does not seem to have noticed much.

What the FATF does not indicate is the fact that, pragmatically speaking, it's not an easy task to dismantle such long established networks. Kinetic operations have broken the back of terrorist outfits, and there will definitely be some time lag before these deeply entrenched groups in society can be weeded out. But, time is not on Pakistan's side where the FATF is concerned.

This is not the only issue; capital flight associated with illicit proceeds from corruption and other high-risk predicate crimes, including tax evasion, are said to be continuing concerns, with the recovery of illicit funds mentioned as improvement but still not enough. In September 2018 Pakistan and the UK launched a 'UK-Pakistan Partnership on Justice and Accountability' to address money laundering issues and recover stolen assets held in the UK.

However, the FATF does not really recommend pragmatic ways to address the problems of porous borders, recovery of stolen assets, and the movement of funds. What it does not seem to, or want to, recognize is that much of Pakistan's economy is undocumented, which is typical of an agrarian based economy which gets inputs from remittances abroad, sent by many low scale workers who don't want to send money through banking channels because it costs more, and exposes them to higher taxation in the remitting country and increased stringency in Pakistan.

In response, the FMU Unit has brought down many illegal transfers with the coordination of the Federal Investigation Agency and Provincial Counter Terrorism Departments of Police, with 777 cases against Hawala/ Hundi , 1060 arrests made against these cases, and recovery of Rs1320.705 million in this regard.

Counter-Financial Terrorism investigative units have been established in Police Counter Terrorism Departments, and a Countering Financial Terrorism Directorate established in Nacta for a unified response on the feedback coming from the provinces. This is an evolving regime, and nothing of the kind existed a few years ago. It seems pertinent to point out that such regimes have taken much longer to be established even in much more developed countries.

There is a lot of pressure on Pakistan to implement an effective international cooperation management-framework on mutual legal assistance. Even though Pakistan has a formal extradition law, the FATF cites Pakistan for lacking a formal mutual legal assistive framework, especially for informal cooperation. It seems worthwhile to mention that in extradition cases in the West – such as the famous Pinochet case in the UK – MLA frameworks did not spring up any quicker.

In FATF compliance, Pakistan conducted a national risk assessment exercise in 2015-2017 through its financial monitoring unit, using the World Bank template, which resulted in the document called 'National Risk Assessment on Money Laundering and Terrorist Financing 2017'. The FATF concluded that Pakistan did not rate its national threats cogently, and did not explain how it categorized both threats from money laundering and terrorism financing as medium level threats.

The FATF noted that Pakistani statements of the current scenario were fuzzy, and there was some confusion regarding corruption, investment by shady persons in real estate and other businesses and from drug and fraud offences. The Counter terrorism Department of the Punjab Police was stated to be better than the FIA in understanding these threats, while NAB ranked higher on the scale of agencies able to respond to threats from their areas of responsibility and understanding of risk with regard to corruption as a predicate offence.

We keep hearing that crime generates money for terrorism in Pakistan, and indeed this has been the subject of much media hype and debate. However, the FATF noted that absence of cogent national crime statistics and tabulation according to the impact of such crime on civil society, or some other justification or combination thereof, was not explained by officials. The FATF also noted that Pakistan could not identify particular terrorism-crime risks associated with, or having, foreign elements within Pakistan.

Even more tellingly, the FATF opined that there was no clear understanding among officials of the risks associated with terrorism financing crimes., and indeed the linkages of terrorism financing and money laundering in Pakistan were said not be expressed clearly by Pakistan.

What does the FATF want from Pakistan? It wants Pakistan to swiftly complete its full National Action Plan by February 2020, notwithstanding that the NAP was a hastily contrived wish-list of aspirations, some of which seemed impossible to achieve in the short term, but work could be done to curb terrorism by kinetic operations, and then medium to long-term plans could be implemented.

There are clear dichotomies on how Pakistan is treated at forums such as the FATF, with action expected to miraculously occur almost overnight. While there is much truth in what the FATF wants, it does not seem to care that Pakistan – as an evolving counter-terrorism regime which was facing almost a few hundred percent more terrorist incidents than today, only a decade ago – has to grapple with deep structural impediments to achieving full compliance.

On the other hand, Pakistani policymakers would be well advised to remember that when a country hastily draws up wish-lists such as the National Action Plan without much thinking going into it about realistic and achievable goals within stipulated longer term timelines, such documents become the rope with which entities like the FATF can try to strangle the country.

The writer is a retired inspector general of police and ex head of Pakistan's National Counter Terrorism Authority (Nacta).

FIA cyber crime cell registers over 15,000 cases

January 6, 2020

The Federal Investigation Agency (FIA) has issued a report for the year 2019 in which 15,038 cases of crime were registered at the FIA Cyber Crime Cell in 2019.

According to the report, cases of absconders, illegally operating telephone exchanges, gangs involved in buying and selling via fake credit cards and harassment of housewives and girls in Punjab's educational institutes via Facebook and WhatsApp were registered.

Other cases include blackmailing and threatening a member of Malaysian High Commission on Whatsapp and Facebook, case of singer Rabi Peerzada, case of singers Meesha Shafi and singer Ali Zafar.

Out of the total cases, 6,208 cases have been closed while 8,830 cases are pending. As per details, the crime cell, this year, took action and closed important cases against those involved in blackmailing and threatening people on social media.

Saad, who had created a fake social media account near Ravi Road, to blackmail member of Islamabad Malaysian High Commission Venk Tessori Jandar, was arrested. The suspect was allegedly blackmailing the Malaysian High Commission member with her edited photo.

In the case of Rabi Peerzada, the renowned singer registered a complaint on the uploading of her compromised images and videos. The cell launched a probe into the matter. Similarly, an investigation was started after a complaint was filed by singer Meesha Shafi against singer Ali Zafar.

Moreover, the crime cell registered 3,414 inquiries of various fields, out of which 2,857 are still pending. A total of 110 inquiries have turned into cases and 447 inquiries have been wrapped up.

From a total of 428 registered cases, 14 cases have been wrapped up and 382 were pending. The number of cases of wanted absconders stood at 107 while only one absconder was

arrested. The remaining 106 cases are still pending. Out of a total of 229 court cases pertaining to the crime cell, 222 still remain pending.

The number of suspects who had appeared in court hearing for the cases filed by the Cyber Crime Cell stood at 75. A total of 10,891 cases were registered for probe. The investigation of 5,188 cases is still pending while 3,895 are hit with delay. The investigation of only 1,808 cases is being launched.

In cases of harassment, the Cyber Crime Cell has arrested more than 14 accused involved in blackmailing and harassing housewives and girls in colleges and universities in Punjab via Whatsapp and Facebook.

The FIA seized cellphones, SIM cards and several other items and registered cases against the accused. On a complaint moved by Rizwan Tufail, the father of a female victim, FIA Inspector Sabahat Noor and Maqbool Ahmed, led by FIA Cyber Crime Cell Deputy Director Sarfaraz, raided a town and arrested the suspect Abdul Rauf. The team also seized cellphones, SIM cards and several other items from the accused.

Separately, FIA Sub-Inspector Uzma Aslam and other staff members launched another raid, on a complaint moved by Zafar Hussain, and arrested the accused Haris Imran and seized all relevant items from him.

In a third case, the FIA arrested Talha Zaheer over a complaint moved by Saima Syed, the mother of a female victim, for blackmailing and harassing her daughter via videos and seized mobile phones, SIM cards and several other items.

The Cyber Crime Cell arrested Fakhruddin over a complaint moved by Unaiza Imran, the mother of a female victim. The accused have been booked in a case as per the cyber crime act and further investigations have been initiated.

FIA Director Dr Rizwan said that directives for launching a province-wide crackdown against those involved in threatening and blackmailing girls on social media has been issued. It is due to this reason that in the last few weeks, the Cyber Crime Cell launched a crackdown against accused, involved in the harassment of women and young girls, he maintained. "Action will be taken against those found breaking the law," he further said.

Source: The Express Tribune

NIOC Pakistan Featured on GI-TOC Website

Global Initiative Against Transnational Organized Crime (GI-TOC) have published a special report on its website and appreciated the work of NIOC against organized crime in Pakistan. Building resilience through policy in Pakistan: The Resilience Fund is supporting a group of experienced individuals in Pakistan in the development of a national strategy on combating transnational organized crime, the headlines says. NIOC Pakistan feels greatly honored that its work has been recognized by GI-TOC and featured on its website. The following are the main points of the report:

- The National Initiative against Organized Crime Pakistan (NIOC), supported by the Global Initiative's Resilience Fund, is the first-ever independent entity in Pakistan to tackle the challenge of organized crime.
- Launched by a group of committed professionals and experts with backgrounds in law enforcement, media and other public-service fields, the NIOC aims at building community resilience and influencing public policy in the drive to combat organized crime in Pakistan.
- The NIOC has recognized that, in Pakistan, better coordination and technical assistance are needed in the policymaking process in the spheres of criminal justice and law enforcement sectors - interventions that are required because of Pakistan's complex governance structure and overlapping groups of stakeholders. This is precisely where the NIOC comes in as it endeavours to identify the gaps and suggest improvements in the systems.
- The pilot phase of six months aspires to catalyze a discussion around transnational organized crime in Pakistan, and to facilitate the government's work by developing a set of recommendations based on research, policy briefs and action plans. During this phase, the NIOC will also build partnerships with the community to help them face up to the challenges of organized crime in the country through advocacy and awareness campaigns.
- Since the launch of the project, the advisory board of the NIOC has met twice, agreeing that there is a need for a crime- mapping exercise in Pakistan.

- It was also decided that the initiative should focus on developing strategies for countering particular organized-crime markets, namely terror financing, drug trafficking, human trafficking and cybercrime. Tariq Khosa, the director of the NIOC, has also actively promoted the work of the group in national and international settings, presenting the NIOC's activities at high-level conferences in Washington DC and Dubai.
- Ian Tennant, manager of the Resilience Fund, said: “We are proud to be supporting the NIOC in Pakistan, which is working to increase resilience to organized crime among the country's communities. Not only does the network engage with experiences of organized crime at the community level, but also brings a wealth of expertise from policy and operational experts, and is already engaging to drive policy change at the national and international levels. The global Resilience Fund community will gain from such expertise and experience”.
- “The National Initiative against Organized Crime is a meaningful endeavor on behalf of a small group of professionals to try and make a big difference in promoting advocacy and spearheading policymaking input in collaboration with different stakeholders all across the country, above all to forge partnership with the communities directly affected by organized crime” says Tariq Khosa, director of the pilot project and former head of the Federal Investigation Agency, and adds this initiative would not have been possible without the support of the Global Initiative’s Resilience Fund.