



## CoronaCrimeWatch Pakistan

### Weekly Review of Organised Crime and Pandemic

*(Compiled by National Initiative against Organised Crime (NIOC))*

**02 May to 08 May 2020**

The COVID-19 pandemic is not only affecting the economies and societies across the world but also changing the trends of the organized crime and illicit markets. Pakistan is already facing critical economic challenges as well as issues related to governance and internal security. While the coronavirus pandemic has complicated these challenges, it can also bring to fore new challenges related to organized crime and non-state actors in the country. There is a need for institutional vigilance to monitor the changing trends for better understanding and preparedness to cope with future challenges. The National Initiative against Organized Crime (NIOC) is initiating a weekly monitor on Organized Crime as a civil society initiative to support the institutional and community responses. The weekly brief is a result of information collected from open sources, mainly the mainstream media reports, both Urdu and English as well as information collected from various experts associated with the Project.

## 1. General Trends

### *1.1 Rise in Street Crime:*

A review of data for last four months suggests that incidents of street crime have significantly increased in Karachi.<sup>1</sup> A media report claimed that over these four months, there were 5,951 cases of mobile phone snatching, and 547 and 315 cases of cars and other vehicles theft, respectively; thousands of motorcycles were also stolen in the city. These are alarming figures as the trend is still going upward especially the incidents of the street crime have increased in first week of the Ramadan, as claimed in the report. On the other side policing during

<sup>1</sup> Geo TV report, May 5, 2020 <https://urdu.geo.tv/latest/220610->

COVID19 pandemic is becoming a challenge as another policeman died because of coronavirus in Karachi during the week under review and this is the second Covid-19 related fatality of a police personnel within a month.<sup>2</sup>

### **1.2 Terrorism Watch:**

Federal Interior Ministry has decided to include three more organizations in its list of banned organizations under the Ant-Terrorism Act 1997. All these three organizations are based in the Sindh province and were found involved in different acts of sabotage.<sup>3</sup> These organizations include Jeay Sindh Qaumi Mahaz, Sindhu Desh Inqilabi Army and Sindhu Desh Liberation Army. According to a media report, government had taken this decision last month but because of emphasis on coronavirus pandemic the government delayed the action.

Two acts of terrorism also happened during the week under review. First, explosives planted at the wall of an Imambargah in the Shorko area of Lower Kurram near the Afghan border went off badly damaging the building of the Imambargah. The blast critically injured the caretaker who died few days after.<sup>4</sup> Separately, two soldiers were martyred when a rocket, fired from an unknown direction, slammed into a checkpoint in Edek village, near Mirali town of North Waziristan. The martyred soldiers were identified as Hawaldar Zafar and Sepoy Asif.<sup>5</sup>

## **2. Terror Financing**

Pakistan's efforts to curb the terror financing are picking the pace as banned organizations have failed to mobilize their fund collection mechanism during the fasting month of Ramadan. The month is very important for religious groups and institutions for collecting religious levies including Zakat.

However a major development was reported from Karachi where Federal Investigative Agency (FIA) has taken control of Afghan Taliban chief Mullah Akhtar Mansour's five properties, worth over Rs32 for auction. According to a report published in daily *Dawn*, the FIA had booked Mullah Mansour in a case lodged under Section 11H (pertaining to fundraising and money laundering) of the Anti-Terrorism Act, 1997, in addition to Pakistan Penal Code sections on cheating and forgery. Mullah Mansour, who was killed in a drone strike along the Pakistan-Iran border on May 21, 2016, had purchased five properties, including plots and houses, in Karachi.<sup>6</sup>

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<sup>2</sup> Geo TV report, May 5, 2020 <https://urdu.geo.tv/latest/220610->

<sup>3</sup> Azaz Syed, daily *Jang*, May 08, 2020, <https://e.jang.com.pk/05-08-2020/pindi/pic.asp?picname=510.png>

<sup>4</sup> *Dawn*, May 7, 2020, <https://www.dawn.com/news/1555173/five-die-in-north-waziristan-targeted-attacks>

<sup>5</sup> *Dawn*, May 8, 2020, <https://www.dawn.com/news/1555429/two-soldiers-martyred-in-n-waziristan>

<sup>6</sup> Naeem Sahoutra, "Court seizes slain Taliban chief's properties for auction," *Dawn*, May 08, 2020, <https://www.dawn.com/news/1555423/court-seizes-slain-taliban-chiefs-properties-for-auction>

### 3. Drug Trafficking

In a major operation, Pakistan Maritime Security Agency and Pakistan Customs seized two fishing boats carrying narcotics and apprehended the accused in Karachi. The cache of narcotics included 2410 KGs of hashish, 133 KGs of brown crystal and 181 KGs of ICE crystal.<sup>7</sup> Anti-Narcotics Force in Lahore also confiscated large quantity of heroin during a raid on a store of a courier company at the international airport.<sup>8</sup>

During the week under review, Punjab police continued its campaign against the drugs trafficking and dealers. They arrested two dozens of drug peddlers and recovered sizable amounts of drugs across the province. Some operations are listed below:

- District Rawalpindi police recovered 8 KG hashish and 2.3 KG heroin during different operations and arrested 4 drug peddlers.<sup>9</sup>
- District Sargodha police arrested two nacro-dealers and recovered 75 KG hashish and 2.8 KG heroin from them during raids at dens of the drug traffickers.<sup>10</sup>
- District Muzaffargarh police arrested 7 narco-dealers and recovered 30 KG hashish from them<sup>11</sup>
- According to multiple media sources: Hazro and Attock police arrested 12 drug peddlers and recovered 16 KG hashish; district Sargodha police arrested a drug trafficker, while smuggling heroin from North Waziristan and Chiniot police also recovered around 3 KG hashish in operations against drug paddlers, while Keller Sayedian police recovered 1.3 KG hashish during a raid against a drug peddler.

In Balochistan, Levies in district Loralai foiled an attempt to smuggle 120KG hashish to Punjab.<sup>12</sup>

In KP province, Peshawar police arrested drug peddlers and recovered several kilograms of hashish and other drugs.<sup>13</sup>

In Sindh province, Karachi police arrested two drug traffickers while smuggling 27 KG of hashish from Karachi to Jacobabad district.<sup>14</sup>

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<sup>7</sup> *The Nation*, May 2, 2020 <https://nation.com.pk/E-Paper/islamabad/2020-05-02/page-4/detail-3>

<sup>8</sup> *Daily Dunya*, May 7, 2002.

<sup>9</sup> *Daily Jang*, May 8, 2020.

<sup>10</sup> *Daily 92*, May 07, 2020.

<sup>11</sup> *Daily Jang* 4 May, 2020.

<sup>12</sup> *Daily 92*, May 3, 2020.

<sup>13</sup> *The Express Tribune*, May 3, 2020.

<sup>14</sup> *Daily 92*, May 3, 2002.

#### **4. Human Trafficking**

The pandemic-linked economic slide has increased people's vulnerabilities, which can be exploited by the human traffickers in Pakistan. A local media outlet quoted Mr Riaz Janjua from the Anti-Human Trafficking cell of the Federal Investigation Agency in Sindh as saying that the traffickers are skilled in luring young men by promising them better prospects of employment outside the country. Women are usually coerced into forced marriages, prostitution or sexual slavery.<sup>15</sup> The report also quoted that this year the FIA arrested thousands of human traffickers and registered more than 4,500 cases of human trafficking in Pakistan. Most of the victims were women and girls, aged between two to 50 years.

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#### **About NIOC:**

National Initiative against Organized Crime (NIOC), in collaboration with the Global Initiative Resilience Fund is the first-ever initiative in Pakistan launched by a group of committed professionals and experts with law enforcement, media and other public service backgrounds. NIOC aims to build community resilience and influence public policy to combat organized crime.

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<sup>15</sup> Pireh Amar, "During the pandemic, more people can be vulnerable to human traffickers, experts warn," Geo TV report, May 4, 2020, <https://www.geo.tv/latest/286305-during-the-pandemic-more-people-can-be-vulnerable-to-human-traffickers-experts-warn>