



## CoronaCrimeWatch Pakistan

### Weekly Review of Organised Crime and Pandemic

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

#### 09 May to 15 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.

#### ***Corona Cases in Pakistan:***

As of May 16, the number of confirmed COVID-19 cases in Pakistan rose to 38,799, and deaths stood at 834. The province-wise break up of the total number of cases and deaths is as follows:<sup>1</sup>

Total confirmed cases: 38,799

- Sindh: 14,916
- Punjab: 14,201
- Khyber Pakhtunkhwa: 5,678

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<sup>1</sup> <http://covid.gov.pk/stats/pakistan>

- Balochistan: 2,457
- Islamabad Capital Territory: 921
- Gilgit-Baltistan: 518
- AJK: 108

Deaths: 834

- AJK: 1
- Balochistan: 31
- GB: 4
- Islamabad: 7
- Khyber Pakhtunkhwa: 291
- Sindh: 255
- Punjab: 245

### ***LEA's Fight against Corona Pandemic:***

- During the week under review, the fifth Covid-19 related fatality of a police personnel within a month was reported from Karachi.<sup>2</sup> In Punjab, 33 police personnel have been tested positive for coronavirus in different districts of Punjab.<sup>3</sup>
- A Pakistan Army officer deployed at the Torkham border terminal succumbed to the novel coronavirus.<sup>4</sup>
- The Federal Ombudsman has informed the Supreme Court on May 10<sup>th</sup> that so far 47 inmates in different jails of Punjab have been tested positive for contagious coronavirus disease.<sup>5</sup> Those who were infected by coronavirus also include the 5 staff members of the jail.
- The Lahore High Court banned the entry of police officers/officials and government officials in the premises of the court without law officer on May 15, 2020.<sup>6</sup>

## **1. General Trends**

### ***1.1 The Trend in Street Crime:***

During the week under review, Criminal Investigation Agency (CIA) of Islamabad police has arrested four members of notorious 'Kashi gang' involved in robberies as well as street crime and recovered six snatched mobile phones, motorbikes and weapons from their possession.<sup>7</sup> These arrests were part of the police campaign to address the growing complaints about the increasing street crime in the federal capital.

<sup>2</sup> Geo TV, May 12, 2020, <https://urdu.geo.tv/latest/221248->

<sup>3</sup> Dawn, May 10, 2020, [https://epaper.dawn.com/DetailNews.php?StoryText=10\\_05\\_2020\\_178\\_005](https://epaper.dawn.com/DetailNews.php?StoryText=10_05_2020_178_005)

<sup>4</sup> The Express Tribune, May 11, 2020, <https://tribune.com.pk/story/2218615/1-army-major-falls-prey-covid-19-line-duty-torkham-border/>

<sup>5</sup> The Express Tribune, May 10, 2020 <https://tribune.com.pk/story/2218000/1-47-prisoners-punjab-infected-covid-19-sc-told/>

<sup>6</sup> The News, May 15, 2020, <https://www.thenews.com.pk/print/658861-cops-entry-into-lhc-premises-banned>

<sup>7</sup> The Nation, May 15, 2020, <https://nation.com.pk/15-May-2020/notorious-gang-of-dacoits-busted>

## ***1.2 Terrorism Watch:***

Balochistan Liberation Army (BLA), a separatist group in Balochistan attacked the security forces on routine patrolling in Buleda, District Kech, 14 km from Pakistan-Iran border, killing one Army Major and five soldiers.<sup>8</sup> In Balochistan, the terrorism incidents have been on decline for the last some months, which is a positive sign. However, the continuing attacks, although sporadic and less frequent, indicate that the separatist militants still pose a potent threat. To their operational advantage, they have also established networks in the areas closer to the Pak-Iran border. Army Chief General Qamar Bajwa had spoken to the Iranian Chief of Armed Forces Major General Mohammad Bagheri to show his concern over the attack. Both countries are in regular contact to address border security and common terrorist threats, but no conclusive outcome has been seen yet. The nature of the Baloch insurgency is very different and insurgents take time to perpetrate a major attack. During these intervals between relatively big attacks, they continue to engage security forces through low-intensity attacks. The security in Balochistan is also crucial for the CPEC and the government will have to expand its options of restoring peace there beyond the traditional use of force.

In another attack reported from Balochistan, an eight-year-old boy was killed and his father was seriously injured when their motorcycle hit a landmine planted by terrorists in Dasht-i-Goran area of Kalat district.<sup>9</sup>

Separately, in Peshawar, an explosion on Ashraf Road left five persons injured including two traffic constables. The blast was caused by a remote controlled IED planted near an electric pole. The TTP was reportedly involved in the attack.<sup>10</sup>

## **2. Drug Trafficking**

In a major operation, Balochistan Levies recovered 100KG hashish from a vehicle, while Anti-Narcotics Forces (ANF) has foiled a bid of smuggling 655KG opium and 10KG hashish from Taftan to interior of the province.<sup>11</sup> Separately, in a major operation against drug smugglers in Pasni, Balochistan Pakistan Navy and ANF recovered 100 KG crystal drug, worth of 3 billion

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<sup>8</sup> *Dawn*, May 9, 2020, <https://www.dawn.com/news/1555706>

<sup>9</sup> *Dawn*, May 13, 2020, <https://www.dawn.com/news/1556721/son-killed-father-injured-in-blast>

<sup>10</sup> *Dawn*, May 12, 2020, <https://www.dawn.com/news/1556482/two-traffic-policemen-among-five-injured-in-peshawar-blast>

<sup>11</sup> *Daily 92*, May 13, 2020, [https://e.dunya.com.pk/detail.php?date=2020-05-13&edition=MUL&id=5178895\\_65433687](https://e.dunya.com.pk/detail.php?date=2020-05-13&edition=MUL&id=5178895_65433687)

rupees from a boat.<sup>12</sup> Also, Balochistan Levies in district Khuzdar foiled an attempt to smuggle 32KG hashish and 2 KG heroin to Karachi and arrested two drug smugglers.<sup>13</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 Lahore police recovered 1.5 KG hashish and arrested drug peddlers.<sup>14</sup>
- Mian Chanu police in Punjab arrested two macro-dealers and recovered large quantity of hashish from them during raids at dens of the drug traffickers.<sup>15</sup>
- District Rawalpindi police arrested 5 narco-dealers and recovered 23KG hashish and other drugs from them during several raids on drug-dens.<sup>16</sup>
- District Faisalabad police arrested 4 narco-dealers and recovered 6 KG hashish from them<sup>17</sup>
- According to multiple media sources: district Sargodha police arrested 17 drug peddlers and in another raid on a drug den arrested 6 drug-paddlers and recovered 1.6KG heroin and 1.5 KG hashish, Rawalpindi police arrested 10 drug paddlers

In KP province, Peshawar police arrested drug peddlers and recovered several kilograms of hashish and other drugs.<sup>18</sup>

In Sindh province, Karachi a SHO, ASI, two officials of a sensitive LEA department and five constables arrested while possessing 13 KG hashish. They were arrested in suspicion of their

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<sup>12</sup> Daily 92, May 9, 2020,

[https://www.roznama92news.com/efrontend/web/index.php/?station\\_id=3&page\\_id=5&is\\_common=&xdate=2020-05-09&n=n18](https://www.roznama92news.com/efrontend/web/index.php/?station_id=3&page_id=5&is_common=&xdate=2020-05-09&n=n18)

<sup>13</sup> Daily 92, May 14, 2020,

[https://www.roznama92news.com/efrontend/web/index.php/?station\\_id=1&page\\_id=5&is\\_common=&xdate=2020-05-14&n=n1](https://www.roznama92news.com/efrontend/web/index.php/?station_id=1&page_id=5&is_common=&xdate=2020-05-14&n=n1)

<sup>14</sup> *The Express Tribune*, May 15, 2020,

[https://epaper.tribune.com.pk/DisplayDetails.aspx?ENI\\_ID=11202005150315&EN\\_ID=11202005150096&EMID=11202005150039](https://epaper.tribune.com.pk/DisplayDetails.aspx?ENI_ID=11202005150315&EN_ID=11202005150096&EMID=11202005150039)

<sup>15</sup> Daily *Dunya*, May 13, 2020,

[https://www.roznama92news.com/efrontend/web/index.php/?station\\_id=7&page\\_id=5&is\\_common=&xdate=2020-05-13&n=n12](https://www.roznama92news.com/efrontend/web/index.php/?station_id=7&page_id=5&is_common=&xdate=2020-05-13&n=n12)

<sup>16</sup> Daily *Jang*, May 9, 2020, <https://e.jang.com.pk/05-09-2020/pindi/pic.asp?picname=813.png>

<sup>17</sup> Daily 92, May 14, 2020,

[https://www.roznama92news.com/efrontend/web/index.php/?station\\_id=5&page\\_id=1&is\\_common=&xdate=2020-05-14&n=n36](https://www.roznama92news.com/efrontend/web/index.php/?station_id=5&page_id=1&is_common=&xdate=2020-05-14&n=n36)

<sup>18</sup> Daily 92, May 10, 2020,

[https://www.roznama92news.com/efrontend/web/index.php/?station\\_id=4&page\\_id=1&is\\_common=&xdate=2020-05-10&n=n23](https://www.roznama92news.com/efrontend/web/index.php/?station_id=4&page_id=1&is_common=&xdate=2020-05-10&n=n23)

involvement in drug trafficking.<sup>19</sup> In Karachi, Anti-Narcotics Force (ANF) has recovered 122 KG of opium during a raid on drug den.<sup>20</sup>

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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>19</sup> Daily 92, May 14, 2020

[https://www.roznama92news.com/efrontend/web/index.php/?station\\_id=7&page\\_id=5&is\\_common=&xdate=2020-05-14&n=n5](https://www.roznama92news.com/efrontend/web/index.php/?station_id=7&page_id=5&is_common=&xdate=2020-05-14&n=n5)

<sup>20</sup> *The Express Tribune*, May 14, 2020,

[https://epaper.tribune.com.pk/DisplayDetails.aspx?ENI\\_ID=11202005140316&EN\\_ID=11202005140102&EMID=11202005140041](https://epaper.tribune.com.pk/DisplayDetails.aspx?ENI_ID=11202005140316&EN_ID=11202005140102&EMID=11202005140041)