



CoronaCrimeWatch Pakistan

Weekly Review of Organised Crime and Pandemic

Compiled by National Initiative against Organised Crime (NIOC)

20 June to 27 June 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:

According to the National Command and Operation Centre statistics, a total of 107,942 active cases of COVID-19 exist in Pakistan. As many as 86,906 people have recovered so far across the country.

The NCOC counted the number of total detected cases at 198,883, as on June 27:

- AJK 1003
- Balochistan 10116
- GB 1417
- ICT 12206
- KP 24943

- Punjab 72880
- Sindh 76318

Total deaths: 4,035

- Sindh: 1205
- Punjab: 1656
- KP: 890
- ICT: 120
- Balochistan: 113
- GB: 23
- AJK: 28

1. General Trends

1.1. Terrorism watch

During the week under review, four terrorist attacks happened, all in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. On June 21, terrorists opened fire at a security forces patrolling party near Ghariom, a secluded area in North Waziristan adjacent to the South Waziristan tribal district. Pakistan Army Captain Sabih and Sepoy Naveed were martyred, while two soldiers received injuries during the ensuing encounter. One terrorist was also killed.¹ Two more attacks were reported from KP on the same day against security forces, including one each from North Waziristan and Kohat. While the attack in North Waziristan did not cause any casualty, the one reported from Kohat caused the death of a policeman.²

Separately, on June 26, two soldiers, Anwar and Javed, suffered injuries when a patrolling party of the security forces was attacked by militants with a remote-controlled bomb in Khadi area of North Waziristan.³

2. Terror Financing

The Foreign Office on June 26th said that Pakistan will remain on the grey list of Financial Action Task Force (FATF) till October as its case was not taken up at the FATF last meeting, which was held in Paris on June 24, 2020. Therefore, the decisions taken at the FATF's plenary held in February would remain in effect, it said. Pakistan was given a six-month extension (till June 2020) on the grey list for meeting the remaining requirements of its action plan with a warning that action would be taken against it if it did not show "significant and sustainable progress."⁴

¹ Dawn, June 22, 2020, <https://dawn.com/news/3000959/captain-soldier-martyred-in-north-waziristan-attack>

² *The News*, June 22, 2020, <https://www.thenews.com.pk/print/676202-ctd-official-martyred-in-kohat>

³ *Dawn*, June 27, 2020, <https://www.dawn.com/news/1565454/waziristan-blast-injures-two-security-men>

⁴ *Dawn*, June 27, 2020, <https://www.dawn.com/news/1565473/pakistans-case-not-taken-up-at-fatf-meeting-fo>

On the other side, Pakistan is making efforts to get out of the FATF's grey list. Inspector General of Police, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Dr Sanaullah Abbasi has claimed that the incidents of terror financing and extortion had decreased by 75 per cent, target killings by 80 per cent and kidnappings for ransom by 100 per cent in the year compared to 2019 in KP province.⁵ The claim cannot be verified as no details have been shared in this regard. However, the Anti-Terrorism Courts continued taking up the terror financing related cases on priority basis. The Gujranwala District Anti-Terrorism Court (ATC) handed down on Thursday 16 year imprisonment each to five Al Qaeda militants for terror financing and keeping explosives. Each convict was handed down five years in prison for terrorism financing, seven years for keeping explosives, three years for supporting proscribed Al Qaeda and one year imprisonment for keeping literature of Al Qaeda. Convicted terrorists were running a media cell of the AQIS in Gujranwala. The cell was also involved in financing terrorist operations of the AQIS.⁶

3. Drug Trafficking

The Anti-Narcotics Force (ANF) Balochistan's regional directorate issued a statement during the week under review in which it claimed that during last few months ANF had arrested 11 drug smugglers and recovered 50 tons of drugs from them, worth of millions rupees.⁷ The Coastal Guards in Balochistan also continued its campaign against drug trafficking and arrested two international drug smugglers with huge quantity of hashish, which they were smuggling to Karachi. The worth of the hashish estimated 3.2 million Pakistan rupees.⁸ Sindh Excise Department has also foiled an attempt to smuggle large quantity of hashish from Balochistan to Karachi. In a successful operation, recovered 660 kg of hashish hidden in a vehicle.⁹

Islamabad police in its periodical progress report claimed that during last five months capital police had arrested 811 drug peddlers and recovered cache of narcotics from them. According to the details, Islamabad police launched special crackdown against drug-pushers and bootleggers and recovered a total of 236.431 kilogram hashish, 41.440 kilogram heroin, 4.510 kilogram

⁵ *Dawn*, June 20, 2020 https://epaper.dawn.com/DetailNews.php?StoryText=20_06_2020_183_006

⁶ *Dawn*, June 26, 2020 <https://www.dawn.com/news/1565242>

⁷ *Daily 92*, June 26, 2020,

https://www.roznama92news.com/efrontend/web/index.php/?station_id=7&page_id=5&is_common=&xdate=2020-06-26&n=n11

⁸ *Daily 92*, June 20, 2020,

https://www.roznama92news.com/efrontend/web/index.php/?station_id=7&page_id=5&is_common=&xdate=2020-06-26&n=n18

⁹ *The Express Tribune*, June 25, 2020,

https://epaper.tribune.com.pk/DisplayDetails.aspx?ENI_ID=11202006240310&EN_ID=11202006240096&EMID=11202006240039

opium, 212 kilogram ice, and 17 tranquilizing pills.¹⁰ Islamabad Customs has also recovered 28KG hashish from a vehicle on way to Punjab from KP province and arrested two smugglers.¹¹

During the week under review, law enforcement agencies in Punjab and KP provinces made further successes in dismantling the drugs trafficking rackets. Bureywala district police arrested two drug peddlers,¹² Kasur police recovered 5 KG hashish,¹³ Rawalpindi police recovered three KG hashish¹⁴ and Multan police arrested two drug peddlers in Punjab.¹⁵ While in KP province:

- Mardan police arrested six drug peddlers and recovered huge quantity of drugs from their possessions.¹⁶
- DI Khan ANF recovered 13 KG hashish from a car coming from Quetta and arrested two smugglers.¹⁷
- Jamrud police recovered 5 KG heroin, one KG hashish and 2 KG ice drug and arrested four drug peddlers.¹⁸
- Swabi police arrested three drug peddlers and recovered huge quantity of drugs from their possessions.¹⁹

4. Cyber Crime

FIA cybercrime team seized an illegal gateway exchange, laptops and hundreds of cell phone Sims in Silanwali, district Sargodha and arrested three suspects.²⁰ They were running illegal

¹⁰ *The Nation*, June 26, 2020, <https://nation.com.pk/E-Paper/islamabad/2020-06-26/page-13/detail-4>

¹¹ *Daily Dunya*, June 23, 2020, https://e.dunya.com.pk/detail.php?date=2020-06-23&edition=ISL&id=5231088_11333346

¹² *Daily 92*, June 25, 2020, https://www.roznama92news.com/efrontend/web/index.php/?station_id=8&page_id=1&is_common=&xdate=2020-06-25&n=n31

¹³ *Daily Dunya*, June 24, 2020, https://e.dunya.com.pk/detail.php?date=2020-06-24&edition=ISL&id=5232580_15614601

¹⁴ *The Express Tribune*, June 24, 2020, https://epaper.tribune.com.pk/DisplayDetails.aspx?ENI_ID=11202006240224&EN_ID=11202006240066&EMID=11202006240030

¹⁵ *The Express Tribune*, June 20, 2020, https://epaper.tribune.com.pk/DisplayDetails.aspx?ENI_ID=11202006200211&EN_ID=11202006200068&EMID=11202006200031

¹⁶ *Daily 92*, June 25, 2020, https://www.roznama92news.com/efrontend/web/index.php/?station_id=4&page_id=5&is_common=&xdate=2020-06-25&n=n6

¹⁷ *Daily 92*, June 24, 2020, https://www.roznama92news.com/efrontend/web/index.php/?station_id=4&page_id=5&is_common=&xdate=2020-06-24&n=n52

¹⁸ *Daily 92*, June 25, 2020, https://www.roznama92news.com/efrontend/web/index.php/?station_id=4&page_id=5&is_common=&xdate=2020-06-24&n=n9

¹⁹ *Daily 92*, June 21, 2020, https://www.roznama92news.com/efrontend/web/index.php/?station_id=4&page_id=5&is_common=&xdate=2020-06-20&n=n46

international call center and causing million of rupees losses to national treasury. While in two different operations, FIA cybercrime wing has also arrested two blackmailers from District Karak in KP province and Mir Pur Mathillo in Sindh. Both were involved in filming the pregnancy delivery process at maternity clinics and blackmailing the families.²¹

5. Human Trafficking

A politician belonging to Pakistan Muslim League-Quaid (PML-Q) along with two accomplices was arrested last week on charges of involvement in human smuggling. Federal Investigation Agency's Hazara zone acted on complaints that the politician was fraudulently getting money from them in the name of getting their United Kingdom's visas stamped. According to a media report, the accused were produced before the court of senior civil judge, who ordered their two-day physical remand.²²

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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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²⁰ *The Express Tribune*, June 21, 2020, https://epaper.tribune.com.pk/DisplayDetails.aspx?ENI_ID=11202006210189&EN_ID=11202006210061&EMID=11202006210028

²¹ *Daily Jang*, June 20, 2020, https://jang.com.pk/news/785713?_ga=2.156182011.1140030257.1592647137-797194572.1591604257

²² *Dawn*, June 25, 2020, <https://www.dawn.com/news/1565056>