



CoronaCrimeWatch Pakistan

Weekly Review of Organised Crime and Pandemic

Compiled by National Initiative against Organised Crime (NIOC)

4 to 10 July 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.

Coronavirus Cases in Pakistan:

According to the official statistics provided at the covid.gov.pk, there were a total of **246,351** confirmed Covid-19 cases in Pakistan, as of July 11th morning. Of these, there were 88,094 active cases. Meanwhile, as many as 153,134 people have recovered so far across the country.

The detail on the regional distribution of the confirmed cases and coronavirus-related deaths is as under:

- AJK: 1,532
- Balochistan: 11,128
- Gilgit Baltistan: 1,630

- Islamabad: 13,927
- KP: 29,775
- Punjab: 85,991
- Sindh: 102,368

Total deaths: 5,123

- Sindh: 1,713
- Punjab: 1,985
- KP: 1,074
- Islamabad: 147
- Balochistan: 126
- GB: 36
- AJK: 42

1. General Trends

1.1. Terrorism watch

Two terrorist attacks took place during the week, one in Bajaur and another in Karachi. On July 7th, a rocket was fired on the residence of ruling Pakistan Tahreek-i-Insaf MNA Gul Dad Khan. However, no casualty was reported in the incident. The rocket hit the main gate of the Insaf House, partially damaging it. Hizbul Ahrar was reportedly involved in the attack.¹ One day later, a bakery owner Ashiq Hussain was killed in a suspected terror attack in the Sachal area of Karachi. The victim was a retired sub-inspector of Pakistan Rangers, Sindh.²

Separately, security forces conducted anti-militant operation in a far-flung area of Khuzdar in Balochistan and killed one commander of a banned Baloch insurgent group along with his two aides. Those killed were identified as Muhammad Anwar, commander Abdul Hameed and Sabir. One militant was also injured, who managed to escape.³

1.2. Crime watch

Islamabad police has claimed that there has been a considerable decrease in overall crime in the federal capital during the first six months of the year. The incidents of robbery and street crime have decreased by 52 percent and 30 percent, respectively, while the overall crime rate had plummeted by 25 percent. However no evidence is available to link this decrease to Covid-19 situation. The police spokesman described effective policing measures, hard work of the police

¹ Dawn, July 8, 2020, <https://www.dawn.com/news/1567710/mna-family-unhurt-as-rocket-fired-at-his-bajaur-house>

² Dawn, July 9, 2020, <https://www.dawn.com/news/1567825/ex-rangers-officer-killed-in-grenade-attack>

³ Daily Jang (Urdu), July 7, 2020, <https://e.jang.com.pk/07-07-2020/pindi/pic.asp?picname=638.png>

personnel, timely action against criminals and unique initiatives for improvement in performance as the key contributing factors.⁴

2. Terror Financing

Senator Rehman Malik, who heads the Senate Standing Committee on Interior, has reportedly written a letter to the president of FATF, Marshall Billingslea, requesting him to "either permanently remove the name of Pakistan from the grey list of Financial Action Task Force, or extend further grace period of one year in [the] wake of Coronavirus outbreak."⁵ While the Senator thanked the FATF chief for the virus-related relief the international watchdog had already provided to Pakistan in form of a grace period of five months for the submission of compliance report, he asserted that an extended relief would enable Pakistan to exercise its full potential against the pandemic. Senator Malik also referred to one of his previous letters to the FATF president in which he had highlighted that the as the COVID-19 had begun to inflict its horrible effects upon the world, Pakistan's name may be removed from the Grey list of FATF. Secondly, he had also highlighted that "money laundering was a transnational crime and hence only Pakistan could not be blamed whereas India despite of international reports had not been reprimanded for their crimes against FATF and UN Charters." Mr Senator also underscored Pakistan's contribution and sacrifices, including economic losses, in the 'War on Terror' as a front-line ally of the US and the UN. Rehman Malik also explained in the letter that at present the Parliament was almost dysfunctional because of intense wave of Coronavirus, hence whatever further measures were required by FATF to be taken in terms of legislation regarding money laundering will not be possible in the given situation.⁶

2. Drug Trafficking

Pakistan Rangers foiled a bid to smuggle 21kg of heroine to India at Talwar Post in Kasur and arrested three suspects who were also carrying weapons. A case has been registered by Anti-Narcotics' Lahore office.⁷

In Kalanch area of Gwadar, the Coast Guards achieved a huge success by unearthing and seizing 1,275 kilograms of hashish, which was reportedly hidden underground and was meant to be smuggled abroad. Patrolling teams of 28 Guards, led by four officers, had been monitoring the

⁴ *The Express Tribune*, July 5, 2020,

https://epaper.tribune.com.pk/DisplayDetails.aspx?ENI_ID=11202007050263&EN_ID=11202007050078&EMID=11202007050042

⁵ "Rehman Malik urges FATF chief to remove Pakistan from grey list," *The Nation*, July 10, 2020,

<https://nation.com.pk/E-Paper/islamabad/2020-07-10/page-4/detail-3>

⁶ Ibid.

⁷ *Roznama 92 News*, July 4, 2020,

https://www.roznama92news.com/efrontend/web/index.php/?station_id=6&page_id=5&is_common=&xdate=2020-07-04&n=n55

suspected regions on the intelligence that huge quantity of drugs could be smuggled from Gwadar.⁸

In Nowshera (KP), the police reportedly arrested 100 suspected drug smugglers and recovered 148 kilograms of hashish, 15 kilogram of opium and 2kg ice from them.⁹

According to a media report, the Anti-narcotics Force, in a countrywide operation of 23 search operations, seized 2 metric ton of drugs of worth 74 million USD and arrested 32 suspects including 4 women. The ANF also seized 17 vehicles using in drug smuggling.¹⁰

- In Swabi (KP), the police seized over 10 kilograms of charas, or hashish, and arrested four suspects.¹¹
- Faisalabad police (Punjab) arrested four suspected drug smugglers and seized huge quantities of multiple types of drugs from their possession.¹²
- Dera Ismail Khan (KP) police recovered 24 kilograms of hashish from a car on a check-post and arrested a suspect. The car had travelled through South Waziristan, probably from Afghanistan.¹³
- Gujranwala (Punjab) police registered a case against a Canadian national who tried to send abroad one kilogram of heroine through a “nut bolts” postal parcel.¹⁴

⁸ Daily *Dunya*, July 5, 2020, https://e.dunya.com.pk/detail.php?date=2020-07-05&edition=Guj&id=5247461_29928319

⁹ *Dawn*, July 8, 2020, https://epaper.dawn.com/DetailNews.php?StoryText=08_07_2020_182_011

¹⁰ Daily *Jang*, July 10, 2020, https://e.jang.com.pk/07-10-2020/pindi/pic.asp?picname=02_07.png

¹¹ *Dawn*, July 6, 2020, https://epaper.dawn.com/DetailNews.php?StoryText=06_07_2020_183_004

¹² Daily *Dunya*, July 6, 2020, https://e.dunya.com.pk/detail.php?date=2020-07-06&edition=Guj&id=5248985_90556202

¹³ *Roznama 92 News*, July 7, 2020,

https://www.roznama92news.com/efrontend/web/index.php/?station_id=4&page_id=5&is_common=&xdate=2020-07-07&n=n13

¹⁴ Daily *Dunya*, July 10, 2020, https://e.dunya.com.pk/detail.php?date=2020-07-10&edition=Guj&id=5254272_94740892

.....

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.

Website: <https://nioc.pk>

Email: info@nioc.pk