



CoronaCrimeWatch Pakistan

Weekly Review of Organised Crime and Pandemic

Compiled by National Initiative against Organised Crime (NIOC)

July 11 to 19, 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 in 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 covid.gov.pk, there were a total of 265,083 confirmed cases as of July 20th morning. The number of active cases, however, has been declining and stood at 53,555 after a total of 205,929 recoveries thus far. There have been 5,599 Covid-19 related deaths so far in Pakistan.

The regional distribution of the total number of detected cases (i.e. 265,083) is given below:

- AJK: 1915
- Balochistan: 11436
- GB: 1849
- ICT: 14599
- KP: 32086
- Punjab: 90191
- Sindh: 113007

Total deaths: 5599

- Sindh: 1993
- Punjab: 2083
- KP: 1142
- ICT: 159
- Balochistan: 132
- GB: 43
- AJK: 47

1. General Trends

1.1. Street Crime

During last six months, street crime in the federal capital reduced by 32 percent, Islamabad police claimed recently. The police report though did not mention if the COVID-19 outbreak had played any role in the reduction.¹

Contrarily, in Karachi an upward trend has been witnessed in the street crime during last six months. According to a media report, 9,224 mobiles and 763 cars and over 1000 motorbikes were stolen or snatched in the metropolitan city during the first six months of the year.²

1. Terrorism Watch

Three terrorist attacks happened during the week including in Mastung, and Panjgur in Balochistan and in Karachi in Sindh. The attacks in Balochistan were reportedly perpetrated by

¹ Dawn, July 5, 2020, https://epaper.dawn.com/DetailNews.php?StoryText=05_07_2020_151_002

² Geo TV reported: <https://urdu.geo.tv/latest/226676-https://e.jang.com.pk/07-16-2020/pindi/pic.asp?picname=521.png>

the Baloch Liberation Army including a major one in Panjgur. As reported in media, on July 14, the terrorists opened fire on a patrolling party of security personnel near Gichak valley of Panjgur. According to the ISPR statement, three soldiers were martyred and eight others, including an officer, received injuries in the attack.³ In Karachi, a police head constable was shot at and wounded critically in a suspected terror attack in Korangi, Karachi. The attackers were on a motorcycle and managed to escape after the attack. The injured policeman later died, on July 13th.⁴

In North Waziristan, security forces conducted intelligence-based operation in Vezhda Sar, some eight kilometres southwest of the Boya area in Miranshah, and killed four terrorists. Four officials of Pakistan Army also embraced martyrdom in the exchange of fire and another three were injured.⁵

Separately, Gujranwala CTD arrested three alleged terrorists of banned Lashkar-e-Jhangvi.⁶ In Karachi, the police claimed to have arrested six BRAS militants, who were connected to BLA terrorists who planned the PSX attack. Those detained were plotting a major attack. Weapons and explosives were seized from them.⁷

2. Terror Financing

The National Assembly has initiated a debate on the privatisation policy of the government besides taking up two crucial bills seeking amendments to the anti-terrorism act to fulfill international commitments and certain requirements of the Financial Action Task Force (FATF). Minister for Interior (Retd.) Brig Ijaz Shah has moved the two bills seeking amendments to sections 2, 6, 9A and 11O in the Anti-Terrorism Act (ATA) 1997 and insertion of a new section 11000 in it before the house for passage.⁸

Meanwhile, a media report said that Pakistan has restored the bank accounts of top five leaders of defunct Jamaat-ud-Dawa (JuD) / Lashkar -e-Taiba (LeT) including Hafiz Muhammad Saeed. The restoration of bank accounts has taken place following formal approval of the Sanctions Committee of the United Nations Security Council (UNSC).⁹

³ *Dawn*, July 15, 2020, <https://www.dawn.com/news/1569047/three-soldiers-martyred-in-panjgur-attack>

⁴ *Dawn*, July 12, 2020, <https://www.dawn.com/news/1568384/policeman-shot-at-critically-wounded-in-korangi>;

Dawn, July 14, 2020, <https://www.dawn.com/news/1568872/policeman-wounded-in-attack-dies>

⁵ *Daily Jang* (Urdu), July 13, 2020, <https://e.jang.com.pk/07-13-2020/pindi/pic.asp?picname=51.png>

⁶ Geo TV, July 14, 2020, <https://urdu.geo.tv/latest/226572->

⁷ *Daily Jang* (Urdu), July 19, 2020, <https://e.jang.com.pk/07-19-2020/pindi/pic.asp?picname=748.png>

⁸ Amir Waseem, "NA takes up anti-terror financing bill today," *Dawn*, July 13, 2020,

<https://www.dawn.com/news/1568664/na-takes-up-anti-terror-financing-bills-today>

⁹ Azaz Syed, "Bank accounts of Hafiz Saeed and JuD leaders restored.....," *The News*, July 12, 2020,

<https://www.thenews.com.pk/amp/685681-bank-accounts-of-hafiz-saeed-and-jud-leaders-restored>

Separately, during the week under review, FIA arrested two culprits involved in Hawala business in Karachi under obligation of FATF.¹⁰

3. Drug Trafficking

During the week under review, National Anti Narcotic Force has foiled a major attempt to smuggle the huge quantity of the drug from Peshawar airport and recovered 50 kg hashish and 40 kg heroin.¹¹

The Anti Narcotics Force (ANF) claimed that the force has carried out countrywide operation against drug mafia and held 21 suspected smugglers besides seizing 1,045 kg narcotics. The ANF spokesman said it also impounded seven vehicles in use of drug smugglers. The value of seized drugs is said to be 604.62 million US dollars in international market, he said. The seized drugs comprised of 203.400 kg hashish, 549 kg morphine, 7.300 kg opium, 285.460 kg heroine and 20 grams amphetamine Ice, the spokesman informed.¹²

ANF also lost its two personnel, when they were attacked by 40 armed smugglers in Mashkak area of Balochistan.¹³

- Dear Ismail Khan police recovered 5 kg opium and one kg hashish during a raid on drug den.¹⁴
- Attock police has arrested nine accused from different locations and recovered 11.3 kg hashish.¹⁵
- Chiniot police has recovered 63 kg drugs from a smuggler.¹⁶

4. Cyber Crime

The National Curriculum Committee and Federal Investigative Agency (FIA) will design a curriculum to increase the awareness about the cybercrimes in the country. The subject will be

¹⁰ Dawn, July 17, 2020, https://epaper.dawn.com/DetailNews.php?StoryText=17_07_2020_113_005

¹¹ Roznama 92 News, July 19, 2020,

https://www.roznama92news.com/efrontend/web/index.php/?station_id=4&page_id=5&is_common=&xdate=2020-07-19&n=n48

¹² The Nation, July 17, 2020, <https://nation.com.pk/E-Paper/islamabad/2020-07-17/page-14/detail-2>

¹³ Dawn, July 18, 2020, https://epaper.dawn.com/DetailNews.php?StoryText=18_07_2020_178_005

¹⁴ Roznama 92 News, July 18, 2020,

https://www.roznama92news.com/efrontend/web/index.php/?station_id=4&page_id=5&is_common=&xdate=2020-07-18&n=n23

¹⁵ The Nation, July 16, 2020, <https://nation.com.pk/E-Paper/islamabad/2020-07-16/page-14/detail-2>

¹⁶ Dawn, July 18, 2020, https://epaper.dawn.com/DetailNews.php?StoryText=18_07_2020_178_005

included in the initial level of the classes with a purpose that youth would be better aware about the misuse of the cyber spaces.¹⁷

.....

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

¹⁷ Daily *Dunya*, July 12, 2020, https://e.dunya.com.pk/detail.php?date=2020-07-12&edition=ISL&id=5256073_15678892