



CoronaCrimeWatch Pakistan-18

Weekly Review of Organised Crime and Pandemic

Compiled by National Initiative against Organised Crime (NIOC)

02 August to 09 August 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.

Nationwide confirmed COVID-19 cases in Pakistan were 284,660 as of August 9, 2020, while 260,764 of them have recovered so far in the country. The death toll reached 6,097. The distribution of the total detected cases is given below:

Area	Number	of	Number	of	Deaths as % of
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	Confirmed Cases	Deaths	Cases
AJK	2141	57	2.66
Balochistan	11906	138	1.15
Gilgit Baltistan	2334	57	2.44
Islamabad	15261	171	1.12
KP	34692	1231	3.54
Punjab	94477	2170	2.30
Sindh	123849	2272	1.83

1. General Trends

1.1. Terrorism watch

On August 5, at least 39 people were injured in a grenade attack on a Jamaat-i-Islami (JI) rally held to condemn Indian atrocities and show solidarity with the people of Kashmir in Gulshan-i-Iqbal, Karachi. The banned Sindhudesh Revolutionary Army claimed responsibility for the attack.¹ On the same day, in Gwadar, a soldier of the paramilitary Levies Force lost his life in an attack by militants in Kech district of Makran division. The attackers escaped after the incident.²

Separately in Bajaur tribal district of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, militants shot dead a policeman and wounded his brother in Mamond tehsil of Bajaur tribal district. Constable Jahangir Khan and his brother Sadiq Khan were on way to their home in Umary area after attending a wedding ceremony in Badan area when unidentified persons attacked them with automatic rifles.³

Meanwhile, Dera Ismail Khan Police has foiled a terrorist attack on its check post in an counter offensive. No serious casualties are reported.⁴

¹ Dawn, August 6, 2020, <https://www.dawn.com/news/1572785/39-hurt-in-grenade-attack-on-ji-kashmir-rally-in-city>

² Dawn, August 6, 2020, <https://www.dawn.com/news/1572850/levies-force-soldier-martyred-in-kech-attack>

³ Dawn, August 10, 2020, <https://www.dawn.com/news/1573515/policeman-shot-dead-in-bajaur>

⁴ Daily Jang, August 4, 2020 <file:///C:/Users/DELL/Desktop/NIOC-18.webp>

2. Terror Financing

During the week under review, the Parliament of Pakistan has passed three more bills related to counter terrorism financing. These bills include a Limited Liability Partnership (Amendment) Bill 2020, Limited Liability Partnership and the Companies Bills and Mutual Legal Assistance (Criminal Matter) Bill, 2020. These bills will help Pakistan to get relief from the FATF, whose meeting will be held during next week.⁵

3. Drug Trafficking

A member of the Anti-Narcotics Force (ANF) was killed in an operation in outskirts of Murree, in Rawalpindi district of Punjab. The ANF official was allegedly shot by a drug dealer. Eight alleged drug dealers were arrested during the operation and around 150 kilograms of hashish, illegal firearms and ammunition were seized from them. There had been reports of drugs being sold in the area for a long time, allegedly by an associate of a political party as well as others, but local police did not act against them.⁶

While in Punjab and Balochistan provinces:

- Hub police arrested two smuggler and recovered 3 kg hashish from their possession.⁷
- In Kuchlak near Quetta, police arrested a drug smuggler and recovered 30 kg hashish from his possession.⁸
- Lahore police recovered 18 kg heroin and arrested one drug peddler.⁹
- Sargodha district police arrested two drug smugglers belonging to Quetta and recovered 100 kg hashish from their possession.¹⁰ While in a separate operation, Sargodha police also arrested 11 drug peddlers and recovered big quantity of drugs from them.¹¹

⁵ *Dawn*, August 8, 2020 <https://www.dawn.com/news/1573208/na-body-clears-two-fatf-related-bills-as-hafeez-shows-up>

⁶ *Dawn*, August 9, 2020 https://epaper.dawn.com/DetailNews.php?StoryText=09_08_2020_152_002

⁷ *Daily 92*, August 4, 2020

https://www.roznama92news.com/efrontend/web/index.php/?station_id=7&page_id=1&is_common=&xdate=2020-8-4&n=n13

⁸ *Daily 92*, August 5, 2020

https://www.roznama92news.com/efrontend/web/index.php/?station_id=7&page_id=5&is_common=&xdate=2020-08-05&n=n6

⁹ *The Express Tribune*, August 4, 2020 <https://tribune.com.pk/epaper/news/Islamabad/2020-08-04/NDViZTM4YWMyYWJjMjViY2U2NTgxNjQzYTlkNGUxM2YuanBIZw%3D%3D>

¹⁰ *Daily Dunya* August 6, 2020 https://e.dunya.com.pk/detail.php?date=2020-08-06&edition=GUJ&id=5285471_29946040

¹¹ *The Express Tribune* August 8, 2020 <https://tribune.com.pk/epaper/news/Islamabad/2020-08-08/MTU4Zjc4MWIwYjhhM2Q5NDhOWM2ZTliMTgwOTNkMzAuanBIZw%3D%3D>

4. Cyber Security

Pakistan's Minister for Information Technology is working on a national cybersecurity and personal data protection policy, which will be implemented by December this year once it is passed by the parliament. According to a media report, a bus-sharing service Swvl claimed that it had suffered a major security breach that comprised user data of over half of its customers. In April this year, Dubai based information Security Company Rewterz claimed the private data of 115 million Pakistani mobile users was up for sale on the dark web. In the latest breach, Egyptian bus-sharing app Swvl has said the data of more than 50 percent of the company's user base had been breached, according to Shahzeb Memon, In light of such incidents, a bill related to personal data protection will pass from the parliament very soon, a media report claimed while quoting the Minister for Information Technology.¹² While, the Egyptian embassy in Islamabad has shown interest in strengthening cooperation between Pakistan and Egypt in areas of cyber security, science, technology and innovation (STI), and education through the Commission on Science and Technology for Sustainable Development in the South (Comsats).¹³

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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 in November, 2019 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

¹² *Arab News*, August 7, 2020 <https://www.arabnews.pk/node/1715981/pakistan>

¹³ *Dawn*, August 4, 2020 <https://www.dawn.com/news/1572448>