



CoronaCrimeWatch Pakistan-19

Weekly Review of Organised Crime and Pandemic

Compiled by National Initiative against Organised Crime (NIOC)

10 August to 16 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 289,214 as of August 17, 2020, while 269,087 of them have recovered so far in the country. The death toll reached 6,175. The detail on regional distribution of the total detected cases across Pakistan as well as consequent deaths is given in the table below:

Area	Number of Confirmed Cases	Number of Deaths	Deaths as % of Cases
AJK	2184	61	2.83
Balochistan	12295	138	1.12
Gilgit Baltistan	2502	61	2.44

Islamabad	15390	173	1.12
KP	35215	1239	3.51
Punjab	95447	2182	2.29
Sindh	126182	2322	1.84

1. General Trends

1.1. Terrorism Watch

Militants stepped up terrorist attacks during the week under review, perpetrating seven attacks that claimed in all nine lives and injured 39 others.

Most of these attacks happened in Balochistan (5 attacks), which killed eight people and injured 35 others in Kech, Mastung, Nushki, Qilla Abdullah and Quetta districts. In Qilla Abdullah's Chaman area bordering on Afghanistan, at least six people were killed and 21 others, including three soldiers of the Anti-Narcotics Force (ANF), injured in a bomb blast in the border town of Chaman. The blast happened when IED planted in a parked motorcycle exploded, targeting a vehicle of ANF.¹ In Quetta, on August 12, two militants on a motorcycle hurled hand grenade into a shop at the Brewery Road, Quetta, where people were purchasing the national flag, badges and other items in connection with Independence Day. A seven-year-old boy was killed and six other people were injured in the blast.² Similarly, in Kech, a young student from Turbat was killed and three FC men suffered injuries in a remote controlled roadside blast targeting FC convoy in Turbat area of Kech district. The brother of the deceased student claimed his brother was killed when FC opened fire after the blast. BBC Urdu quoted SSP Turbat to claim that the police had taken the FC official into custody who reportedly opened fire in haste on the student working in a nearby garden.³ The attacks in Mastung and Nushki did not cause any death but injured five people.

In South Waziristan tribal district of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, an army brigadier, the officer of 24 Mechanised Brigade, was going to Wana when a suicide bomber blew himself up close to his vehicle near Badar bridge, Ladham leaving the brigadier and three soldiers wounded.⁴ Separately, in Karachi, a police Head Constable Syed Muhammad Ali Rizvi was shot dead on what police suspected to be sectarian grounds in Karimabad area of Karachi. Majlis Wahdatul

¹ Daily Jang (Urdu), August 11, 2020, <https://e.jang.com.pk/08-11-2020/pindi/pic.asp?picname=519.png>

² Dawn, August 13, 2020, <https://www.dawn.com/news/1574109/boy-killed-in-grenade-blast>

³ Dawn, August 14, 2020, <https://www.dawn.com/news/1574291/student-killed-three-fc-men-injured-in-turbat-blast>; BBC Urdu, August 14, 2020, <https://www.bbc.com/urdu/pakistan-53773860>

⁴ Dawn, August 12, 2020, <https://www.dawn.com/news/1573981/brigadier-three-soldiers-injured-in-suicide-attack>

Muslimeem secretary general Allama Sadiq Jaffary condemned the target killing adding weight to police's suspicion.⁵

2. Terror Financing

The National Assembly of Pakistan has approved three more bills related to terror financing in compliance with the action plan Pakistan has agreed with the Financial Action Task Force (FATF). Now the number of terror financing bills passed by the parliament during last two weeks have reached to seven.⁶ However the Upper House of Parliament has referred five government bills to the concerned committees for further deliberation.⁷ The new bills, which were passed by the National Assembly during the week under review, are meant to bar the banks and financial institutions from providing loan facility, financial support or credit cards to proscribed persons. Another bill, the Limited Liability Partnership (Amendment) Bill, suggests various amendments to Limited Liability Partnership Act 2017 to ensure compliance with the recommendations on anti-money laundering and countering the financing of terrorism issued by the FATF. The Companies (Amendment) Bill is aimed at removing deficiencies, including lack of explicit prohibition on issuance of bearer shares or bearer share warrants, lack of obligations for companies to hold beneficial ownership in formation etc. The Control of Narcotics Substances (Amendment) Bill is aimed at removing a minor deficiency in Section 12 of CNS Act 1997 and restricts the acts of concealment or disguise by making false declaration.⁸

Pakistan Post has also been linked with national banking digital system in compliance with the FATF conditions. According to a media report, 31,000 post offices have been linked with State Bank's online system and now they can provide online banking services to their consumers.⁹

Meanwhile, anti-Terrorism Courts continued proceeding the terror financing related cases and an ATC court has sentenced a man to five years in prison for collecting funds for the militant Islamic State group in Karachi. The man, Saleem Ahmed, was found guilty of having links with IS and raising funds for its terrorist activities in the country.¹⁰

3. Drug Trafficking

During the week under review, the Anti-Narcotics Force (ANF) foiled a major bid in Lahore to smuggle a huge quantity of heroin to the Britain. The ANF conducted an operation at the Cargo Complex of Allama Iqbal International Airport of Lahore and seized 32 kilograms of heroin

⁵ Daily *Jang* (Urdu), August 15, 2020,

https://jang.com.pk/news/808904?_ga=2.165923646.1429431243.1597482968-1987975163.1597309845

⁶ *Dawn*, August 13, 2020, <https://www.dawn.com/news/1574104/opposition-again-helps-govt-pass-fatf-related-laws>

⁷ *The Nation*, August 14, 2020, <https://nation.com.pk/14-Aug-2020/five-fatf-related-bills-referred-to-senate-bodies>

⁸ *Dawn*, August 13, 2020, <https://www.dawn.com/news/1574104/opposition-again-helps-govt-pass-fatf-related-laws>

⁹ *Daily Express*, August, 14, 2020, https://epaper.dawn.com/DetailNews.php?StoryText=13_08_2020_113_007

¹⁰ *Dawn*, August 13, 2020, https://epaper.dawn.com/DetailNews.php?StoryText=13_08_2020_113_007

hidden in 32 cricket bats from the DHL courier service company's cargo shade. In another operation at the Lahore Airport, the ANF has arrested a passenger on way to Istanbul possessing 2.5 kg of heroin.¹¹ The heroin is said to be worth Rs. 400 million.¹² In Peshawar, the ANF has recovered 26 kg heroin from a vehicle on way to Punjab and arrested a smuggler.¹³ The ANF has also conducted an operation at Port Qasim in Karachi and recovered over 15 kg heroin hidden in a container bound to Sharja, UAE.¹⁴ In Rawalpindi district, Taxila police also foiled an attempt of smuggling 10 kg heroin from KP to Punjab and arrested a drug smuggler.¹⁵

4. Cyber Security

- The country's intelligence apparatus has identified a major cyber-attack by Indian intelligence agencies and various targets of the attack are being investigated, the Inter-Services Public Relations has claimed in a statement. The statement said that an advisory is being sent to all government departments and institutions in order to identify lapses and enhance cyber-security measures in place.¹⁶
- National University of Science and Technology (NUST) Rector retired Lt Gen Naweed Zaman has registered a defamation case in the Federal Investigation Agency (FIA) against 20 people under the cybercrime act for their alleged involvement in "mudslinging".¹⁷
- The Federal Investigation Agency (FIA) has reportedly demanded more powers to curb cybercrime, especially the "hate speech" on social media requesting the parliament to make amendments in the existing law against "online crime". Director Cyber Crime Wing (CCW) of FIA Waqar Ahmed Chauhan made this demand during a proceeding of the Senate Special Committee on Child Protection that the present Prevention of Electronic Crimes Act (PECA) 2016.¹⁸

5. Human Smuggling

During the week under review, the Anti-Human Trafficking Cell of the FIA arrested a suspected human trafficker, and another person travelling to Canada on a fake visa. The arrests came about when the immigration process of passengers travelling on flight EK-781 was underway at

¹¹ *Daily Express*, August 15, 2020,

https://www.express.com.pk/epaper/PoPupwindow.aspx?newsID=1107654008&Issue=NP_ISB&Date=20200812

¹² *The Nation*, August 16, 2020, <https://nation.com.pk/16-Aug-2020/anf-foils-bid-to-smuggle-32kg-heroin-in-32-cricket-bats-to-uk>

¹³ *Daily Express*, August 16, 2020,

https://www.express.com.pk/epaper/PoPupwindow.aspx?newsID=1107658891&Issue=NP_ISB&Date=20200814

¹⁴ *The Express*, August 15, 2020,

https://www.express.com.pk/epaper/PoPupwindow.aspx?newsID=1107651757&Issue=NP_ISB&Date=20200811

¹⁵ *Daily Dunya*, August 16, 2020, [https://e.dunya.com.pk/detail.php?date=2020-08-](https://e.dunya.com.pk/detail.php?date=2020-08-15&edition=ISL&id=5295588_84154670)

[15&edition=ISL&id=5295588_84154670](https://e.dunya.com.pk/detail.php?date=2020-08-15&edition=ISL&id=5295588_84154670)

¹⁶ *The Express Tribune*, August 12, 2020 <https://tribune.com.pk/story/2259193/major-cyber-attack-by-indian-intelligence-identified-ispr>

¹⁷ *Dawn*, August 10, 2020, <https://www.dawn.com/news/1573509>

¹⁸ *The Nation*, August 12, 2020 <https://nation.com.pk/12-Aug-2020/fia-seeks-more-powers-to-curb-cyber-crimes>

Islamabad International Airport. During scrutiny of documents, the immigration staff found the Canadian visa of a passenger fake. During interrogation, the passenger disclosed that he had obtained the visa from a travel agent after paying him Rs 3.5 million. According to the media report the travel agent was present outside the airport, who was also arrested.¹⁹

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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.

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¹⁹ *Dawn*, August 10, 2020, <https://www.dawn.com/news/1573508>