



CoronaCrimeWatch Pakistan-20

Weekly Review of Organised Crime and Pandemic

Compiled by National Initiative against Organised Crime (NIOC)

17 August to 23 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.

As of August 24th, nationwide confirmed COVID-19 cases in Pakistan were 293,261, while 276,829 of them have recovered so far in the country. The death toll has reached 6,244. 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	2254	61	2.70
Balochistan	12527	141	1.12
Gilgit Baltistan	2682	64	2.38

Islamabad	15515	175	1.12
KP	35766	1248	3.48
Punjab	96233	2188	2.27
Sindh	128284	2367	1.84

1. General Trends

1.1. Terrorism Watch

Pakistan Rangers, Sindh, and counterterrorism department (CTD) of police killed two alleged terrorists belonging to the proscribed Tehreek-i-Taliban Pakistan (TTP) in a joint operation in Baldia Town, Karachi. The killed militants were reportedly on a terrorist mission and carried weapons and ammunitions, which the police seized.¹ Meanwhile, CTD Punjab has claimed the arrest of an alleged TTP militant with a suicide jacket, hand grenades and explosive material.²

The government has banned another militant outfit last week, taking the number of outlawed organisations in the country to 77. The fresh addition to the list is Khatam-Ul-Ambia, an offshoot of Ansarul Hussain, which was banned in the late 2016 for its alleged involvement in recruiting the youth from the Shia community to fight the militant Islamic State (IS) group commonly known as Daesh.³

Two breakaway militant factions returned to the banned Tehreek-i-Taliban Pakistan (TTP) last week. Mohammad Khurasani, the main spokesman for the TTP announced that Umar Khalid Khurasani, head of Jamaatul Ahrar (JuA), and Umar Khurasani, head of his own splinter faction of Hizbul Ahrar (HuA), dissolved their groups and took the oath of allegiance to TTP chief Mufti Noor Wali Mehsud, aka Abu Asim Mansoor.⁴ Many are depicting the militants' reunion as a cause of concern for national security as it is feared that after the merger the TTP can intensify its terror campaign, specifically in some districts of Punjab and Balochistan provinces, where JuA and HuA already have active networks.

2. Terror Financing

During the week under review, the Senate of Pakistan has cleared all legislative work related to FATF compliance and passed five bills as listed below.⁵

¹ *The Nation*, August 19, 2020, <https://nation.com.pk/19-Aug-2020/two-terrorists-of-banned-organisation-killed-in-police-encounter>

² *Dawn*, August 19, 2020, <https://www.dawn.com/news/1575156>

³ *Dawn*, August 23, 2020, <https://www.dawn.com/news/1576166/another-militant-organisation-banned>

⁴ *Dawn*, August 18, 2020, <https://www.dawn.com/news/1575010>

⁵ *Dawn*, August, 20, 2020, <https://www.dawn.com/news/1575388>

1. The Limited Liability Partnership (Amendment) Bill, 2020, and the Companies (Amendment) Bill, 2020;
2. The Islamabad Capital Territory Trust Bill, 2020;
3. The Control of Narcotic Substances (Amendment) Bill, 2020;
4. The Anti-Terrorism (Amendment) Bill, 2020; and
5. The Companies (Amendment) Bill 2020.

The Sindh Assembly has also unanimously passed five bills in line with the recommendations of the Financial Action Task Force (FATF) to prevent money laundering through trusts, auqaf and cooperative societies last week. The bills were: the Sindh Seized and Freezed Facilities (Hospitals and Dispensaries) Bill, 2020; the Sindh Seized and Freezed Institutions (Madaris and Schools) Bill, 2020; the Sindh Trusts Bill, 2020; the Sindh Co-Operative Societies Bill, 2020; and The Sindh Waqf Properties Bill, 2020.⁶

To accelerate the process of counterterrorism measures, the government has also imposed the sanctions on proscribed 88 leaders and members of terrorist groups, in compliance with the new list issued by the the United Nations Security Council (UNSC) recently. The government issued two notifications on August 18, announcing sanctions on key figures of Jamaat-ud-Dawa (JuD), Jaish-e-Mohammed (JeM), Taliban, Daesh, Haqqani Group of Afghan Taliban, Al-Qaeda, and others. The notifications ordered seizure of all movable and immovable properties of these outfits and individuals, and freezing of their bank accounts. These terrorists have been barred from transferring money through financial institutions, purchasing arms and travelling abroad, etc.⁷ Pakistan has also submitted its compliance reports to the FATF last week, which detailed Pakistan measures taken on the 13 points to improve the mechanisms to stop the terrorism.⁸

Meanwhile, Anti-Terrorism Courts continued processing the terror financing related cases and an ATC court in Karachi has sentenced two more militants involved in terror financing and sentenced 15 years prison to them.⁹

3. Drug Trafficking

During the week under review, Karachi excise police arrested one drug peddler during a major operation and recovered 18kg garda (hashish) from his possession besides impounding a motorcycle used in the crime.¹⁰

⁶ *Dawn*, August 22, 2020, <https://www.dawn.com/news/1575696>

⁷ *The News*, August 22, 2020, <https://www.thenews.com.pk/print/703870-pakistan-imposes-more-restrictions-on-terrorists>

⁸ *Daily Jang*, August 18, 2020 <https://e.jang.com.pk/08-18-2020/pindi/pic.asp?picname=58.png>

⁹ *Geo News*, August 22, 2020, <https://urdu.geo.tv/latest/229233->

¹⁰ *The Nation*, August 17, 2020, <https://nation.com.pk/17-Aug-2020/excise-police-recover-18kg-drug-from-karachi>

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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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