



CoronaCrimeWatch Pakistan

Weekly Review of Organised Crime and Pandemic

Compiled by National Initiative against Organised Crime (NIOC)

28 July to 02 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 jumped past 280,029, while 248,873 patients have recovered so far in the country. The death toll crossed 5,984 on the morning of August 3. The distribution of the total detected cases is given below:

Area	Number of Confirmed Cases	Number of Deaths	Deaths as % of Cases
AJK	2093	54	2.58
Balochistan	11774	136	1.15
Gilgit Baltistan	2180	55	2.52
Islamabad	15076	165	1.09
KP	34223	1202	3.51
Punjab	93197	2148	2.30
Sindh	121486	2224	1.83

1. General Trends

1.1. Terrorism watch

- Pakistani Taliban terrorists from Afghanistan targeted a security post situated in a Pakistani-Afghan border area on July 29th. According the Inter-Services Public Relations (ISPR), Lance Naik Samiullah was martyred in the attack. He belonged to Upper Dir district.¹
- In Karachi, another police official was shot dead by unknown assailants on July 30th. He was the fourth official to be gunned down in a spate of targeted killings of police personnel in July.²
- At least five suspected terrorists of the Balochistan Republican Army (BRA) were killed during an intelligence-based operation (IBO) jointly conducted by the Inter-Services Intelligence (ISI) and Punjab's Counter-Terrorism Department (CTD) in an area of Rajanpur district on July 31st. According to a CTD spokesperson, a major terrorism bid was thus averted through the operation and killing of terrorists.³
- In Peshawar, on July 29th, an under-trial prisoner arrested over two years ago on a charge of committing blasphemy was shot dead by a teenage boy inside a courtroom at the Peshawar

¹ Dawn, July 30, 2020, <https://www.dawn.com/news/1571923/soldier-martyred-in-attack-from-across-border>

² The Express Tribune, July 31, 2020, <https://tribune.com.pk/story/2257614/another-police-official-gunned-down>

³ The Express Tribune, July 31, 2020, <https://tribune.com.pk/story/2257530/at-least-five-terrorists-killed-in-rajanpur-raid>

Judicial Complex. The deceased, Tahir Ahmad Naseem, 57, was seated in the court of an additional sessions judge after arguments in his case, awaiting to be shifted to prison, when he was shot dead at point-blank range by 19-year-old Faisal, who was arrested on the spot.⁴

2. Terror Financing

Pakistan will submit its compliance report to the Financial Action Task Force on August 6, 2020, which will be reviewed in FATF'S upcoming meeting.⁵

Meanwhile lower and upper houses of Pakistani parliament unanimously approved the United Nations Security Council (UNSC) Amendment Bill, 2020 and the Anti-Terrorism Act Amendment Bill, 2020, in an effort to fulfill the FATF requirements.⁶ After these legislations Pakistan is expecting relief from the FATF to get out its name from the grey list.

3. Drug Trafficking

During the week under review, Punjab made further successes in dismantling drugs trafficking rackets. Border military police in the southern Dera Ghazi Khan district of the province foiled two attempts to smuggle 315 kg hashish into Punjab and arrested two smugglers.⁷ District Sargodha police arrested a sister and brother involved in narcotics smuggling and confiscated 16 kg heroin from their possession.⁸ District Sialkot Police also foiled an attempt to smuggle a large quantity of narcotics from Afghanistan to Silakot and confiscated 14 kg heroin and 2 kg opium from a vehicle and arrested a drug dealer.⁹ Similarly, Faisalabad police launched a crackdown against the narcotics rackets in the city and recovered 31 kg of narcotics including 2 kg heroin.¹⁰

While in KP and Balochistan provinces:

- Hangu police arrested a smuggler and recovered 1 kg hashish from his possession¹¹
- Jamrud police recover 3 kg heroin and arrested two Afghan and a local drug peddlers.¹²
- District Dera Ismail Khan police seized 10 kg hashish and arrested a drug peddler.¹³

⁴ *Dawn*, July 30, 2020, <https://www.dawn.com/news/1571907/blasphemy-accused-shot-dead-in-courtroom>

⁵ *The Express Tribune*, July 29, 2020 <https://tribune.com.pk/story/2257208/pakistan-compliant-on-14-fatf-action-points>

⁶ *The Express Tribune*, July 30, 2020 <https://tribune.com.pk/story/2257377/senate-unanimously-approves-unscc-ata-amendment-bills>

⁷ *Daily 92*, July 30, 2020,

https://www.roznama92news.com/efrontend/web/index.php/?station_id=8&page_id=5&is_common=&xdate=2020-07-30&n=n49

⁸ *Daily Dunya*, July 31, 2020, https://e.dunya.com.pk/detail.php?date=2020-07-31&edition=GUJ&id=5280372_87338812

⁹ *Dawn*, July 30, 2020, https://epaper.dawn.com/DetailNews.php?StoryText=30_07_2020_178_009

¹⁰ *Daily 92*, July 29, 2020,

https://www.roznama92news.com/efrontend/web/index.php/?station_id=7&page_id=5&is_common=&xdate=2020-07-29&n=n25

¹¹ *Daily 92*, July 30, 2020,

https://www.roznama92news.com/efrontend/web/index.php/?station_id=5&page_id=5&is_common=&xdate=2020-07-30&n=n31

¹² *Daily Dunya*, July 30, 2020, https://e.dunya.com.pk/detail.php?date=2020-07-30&edition=ISL&id=5278892_39712926

- In District Hub of Balochistan, Coastal Guards foiled an attempt to smuggle 37 kg hashish into Karachi and arrested five lady smugglers.¹⁴

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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 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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¹³ *Daily 92*, July 28, 2020,

https://www.roznama92news.com/efrontend/web/index.php/?station_id=4&page_id=5&is_common=&xdate=2020-7-28&n=n4

¹⁴ *Daily 92*, July 29, 2020,

https://www.roznama92news.com/efrontend/web/index.php/?station_id=2&page_id=5&is_common=&xdate=2020-07-29&n=n57