



## CoronaCrimeWatch Pakistan-23

### Weekly Review of Organised Crime and Pandemic

*Compiled by National Initiative against Organised Crime (NIOC)*

#### **07 September to 13 September 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 301,685 as of September 14, 2020, while 289,429 of them have recovered so far in the country. The death toll reached 6,381. 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	2400	65	2.70
Balochistan	13483	145	1.07

Gilgit Baltistan	3196	76	2.38
Islamabad	15901	178	1.12
KP	36942	1257	3.40
Punjab	97679	2217	2.27
Sindh	132084	2445	1.85

## 1. General Trends

### 1.1. Terrorism Watch

Two terrorist attacks happened in the week under review including one sectarian-related, which claimed a total of two lives. First, on September 7th, A Shia Muslim Qaisar Abbas was shot dead at his shop in Kohat (Khyber Pakhtunkhwa), according to the spokesman of Shia political-religious organization Tehreek-e-Nifaz Fiqqa Jaafria.<sup>1</sup> Later, on September 12th, a soldier was martyred in a roadside bomb blast near the Afghan border in Land Momadkhel area of Datakkel tehsil, in KP. The martyred soldier identified as Sajid was patrolling the area when the bomb went off.<sup>2</sup>

Separately, a wanted terrorist Commander Ihsan Ullah alias Ihsan Sanray was killed along with his three accomplices during an army operation in Ghariom, near the boundary of North and South Waziristan tribal districts. Sanray was reportedly involved in recent attacks in Shaktu area that martyred several soldiers and officers including Lt Nasir and Capt Sabih.<sup>3</sup>

## 2. Terror Financing

During the week under review, a joint session of the parliament was expected to get clear the Financial Action Task Force (FATF) related bills, but at the last moment the government has suddenly changed the schedules of both the sessions of National Assembly and Senate to once again enter into dialogue with the joint Opposition to bring an end to a stalemate on the legislations.<sup>4</sup> “Now the government has decided to table the bills in the National Assembly on Sept 14 and on Sept 15 in Senate”.<sup>5</sup> Meanwhile, a joint committee comprising on government and opposition members of parliaments will review the bills on September 14.<sup>6</sup> However, a crucial meeting of the Asia-Pacific Joint Group of the Financial Action Task Force (FATF) is

<sup>1</sup> Daily *Jang* (Urdu), September 8, 2020, <https://e.jang.com.pk/09-08-2020/pindi/pic.asp?picname=912.png>

<sup>2</sup> *Dawn*, September 13, 2020, <https://www.dawn.com/news/1579385/soldier-martyred-in-waziristan-blast>

<sup>3</sup> Daily *Mashriq* (Urdu), Peshawar, September 13, 2020; *Dawn*, September 14, 2020, <https://www.dawn.com/news/1579483/terrorist-leader-three-accomplices-killed-ispr>

<sup>4</sup> *The Nation*, September 8, 2020 <https://nation.com.pk/08-Sep-2020/talks-underway-with-opposition-over-fatf-related-legislation>

<sup>5</sup> *Dawn*, September 8, 2020 <https://www.dawn.com/news/1578478>

<sup>6</sup> *Dawn*, September 12, 2020 [https://epaper.dawn.com/DetailNews.php?StoryText=12\\_09\\_2020\\_012\\_006](https://epaper.dawn.com/DetailNews.php?StoryText=12_09_2020_012_006)

also scheduled for September 15 and 16, which will review Pakistan's measures against money laundering. The Asia-Pacific Joint Group will hold a virtual meeting in which Pakistan's 27-point action plan will be reviewed. Pakistan, America, Britain, France and Germany would be in attendance. China, India, New Zealand and Australia will also attend the meeting. The recommendations will be put before the FATF on October 16.<sup>7</sup>

The Federal Board of Revenue (FBR) has registered 115 complaints about the suspicious transaction of 50 billion rupees until the August 2020, which needed to be sorted out. According to a media report, FBR has demanded establishment of a separate prosecution wing to investigate the complaints.<sup>8</sup>

Meanwhile, tightening the anti-money laundering regime Pakistan has signed an agreement with UAE to combat money laundering and terror financing. Under the memorandum of understanding (MoU), Pakistan's Financial Monitoring Unit and the UAE's Financial Intelligence Unit (FIU) would enhance cooperation by exchanging information. It is expected that the sharing of data between the two countries would help them curb money laundering and other financial crimes.<sup>9</sup>

Separately, Lahore High Court convicted four leaders of the banned Jamaatud Daawa in a terror financing case. The leaders include Yahya Mujahid, Prof. Abdul Salam, Prof. Zafar Iqbal and Muhammad Ashraf.<sup>10</sup> The Counter Terrorism Department Punjab also claimed arrest of two terrorists in Minwali district, while collecting the donations.<sup>11</sup>

### **3. Drug Trafficking**

An anti-drug committee organized a big rally in district Turbat of Balochistan on September 10 against drug barons and their business. Hundreds of people belonging to political parties and civil society marched on the roads of Turbat town, the district headquarters of Kech, carrying placards and banners inscribed with anti-drug slogans. Many other processions, which reached Turbat from Buleda, Tump, Mand and Dasht, also joined the main rally at Buleda Jozzak crossing where a large number of people welcomed them. The participants of the rally on

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<sup>7</sup> *The Express Tribune*, September 13, 2020 <https://tribune.com.pk/story/2263790/asia-pacific-joint-group-meeting-on-sept-15>

<sup>8</sup> *Daily Jang*, September 12, 2020 <https://tribune.com.pk/story/2263790/asia-pacific-joint-group-meeting-on-sept-15>  
<https://e.jang.com.pk/09-12-2020/pindi/pic.asp?picname=524.png>

<sup>9</sup> *The Express Tribune*, September 9, 2020 <https://tribune.com.pk/story/2263279/pakistan-uae-sign-anti-money-laundering-pact>

<sup>10</sup> *Daily Dunya*, September 9, 2020 [https://e.dunya.com.pk/detail.php?date=2020-09-10&edition=LHR&id=5325996\\_12284543](https://e.dunya.com.pk/detail.php?date=2020-09-10&edition=LHR&id=5325996_12284543)

<sup>11</sup> *Daily Dunya*, September 11, 2020 [https://e.dunya.com.pk/detail.php?date=2020-09-11&edition=LHR&id=5327328\\_90947100](https://e.dunya.com.pk/detail.php?date=2020-09-11&edition=LHR&id=5327328_90947100)

motorcycles, cars and other vehicles chanted slogans against the drug barons, elements involved in drug business and local administration.<sup>12</sup>

During the week under review, the Anti-Narcotics Force (ANF) has recovered 39 KG hashish and arrested three drug smugglers in Karachi.<sup>13</sup> In another drive the ANF Karachi recovered 20 KG hashish and 1.5 KG Ice drug on way to be smuggled outside the country.<sup>14</sup> The ANF also raided the Go-downs of different cargo companies at Lahore airport, searched passengers and recovered a big quantity of drugs.<sup>15</sup> Karachi police also arrested a drug peddler who was part of a racket selling drug to college students, and recovered 1.5 KG hashish and Ice drug from his possession<sup>16</sup>. Rawalpindi police arrested four drug dealers and recovered 6 KG of hashish from their possession;<sup>17</sup> in a different drive by the Rawalpindi police, three lady smugglers were arrested and more than 5 kg Hashish seized from their possession.<sup>18</sup> Jhelum police has also arrested two drug paddlers<sup>19</sup>

### 3. Cyber Security

The government has established an anti-cyber-crime wing to secure the poor's welfare program Ihsas from frauds.<sup>20</sup> Foreign Ministry has recommended to the government to set up national center for curbing cybercrime, which is essential for external cyber-attacks on state institutions' digital resources.<sup>21</sup> The Standing Committee of Information Technology of National Assembly has showed serious concerns on rising cybercrimes and stressed for a review of the cyber security legislations.<sup>22</sup>

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<sup>12</sup> *Dawn*, September 10, 2020 <https://www.dawn.com/news/1578899>

<sup>13</sup> *Daily Express*, September 7, 2020

[https://www.express.com.pk/epaper/PoPupwindow.aspx?newsID=1107715749&Issue=NP\\_KHI&Date=20200907](https://www.express.com.pk/epaper/PoPupwindow.aspx?newsID=1107715749&Issue=NP_KHI&Date=20200907)

<sup>14</sup> *Daily Dunya*, September 13, 2020 [https://e.dunya.com.pk/detail.php?date=2020-09-](https://e.dunya.com.pk/detail.php?date=2020-09-13&edition=KCH&id=5329521_89470095)

[13&edition=KCH&id=5329521\\_89470095](https://e.dunya.com.pk/detail.php?date=2020-09-13&edition=KCH&id=5329521_89470095)

<sup>15</sup> *Daily Express*, September 7, 2020

[https://www.express.com.pk/epaper/PoPupwindow.aspx?newsID=1107716738&Issue=NP\\_ISB&Date=20200907](https://www.express.com.pk/epaper/PoPupwindow.aspx?newsID=1107716738&Issue=NP_ISB&Date=20200907)

<sup>16</sup> *Daily Express*, September 10, 2020

[https://www.express.com.pk/epaper/PoPupwindow.aspx?newsID=1107722834&Issue=NP\\_KHI&Date=20200910](https://www.express.com.pk/epaper/PoPupwindow.aspx?newsID=1107722834&Issue=NP_KHI&Date=20200910)

<sup>17</sup> *Daily Dunya*, September 7, 2020 [https://e.dunya.com.pk/detail.php?date=2020-09-](https://e.dunya.com.pk/detail.php?date=2020-09-07&edition=ISL&id=5321722_21260939)

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<sup>18</sup> *The Nation*, September 13, 2020 [https://nation.com.pk/13-Sep-2020/3-murder-accused-3-women-drug-pushers-](https://nation.com.pk/13-Sep-2020/3-murder-accused-3-women-drug-pushers-arrested)

[arrested](https://nation.com.pk/13-Sep-2020/3-murder-accused-3-women-drug-pushers-arrested)

<sup>19</sup> *Daily 92*, September 11, 2020

[https://www.roznama92news.com/efrontend/web/index.php/?station\\_id=3&page\\_id=1&is\\_common=&xdate=2020-](https://www.roznama92news.com/efrontend/web/index.php/?station_id=3&page_id=1&is_common=&xdate=2020-9-11&n=n25)

[9-11&n=n25](https://www.roznama92news.com/efrontend/web/index.php/?station_id=3&page_id=1&is_common=&xdate=2020-9-11&n=n25)

<sup>20</sup> *Daily Jang*, September 9, 2020 <https://e.jang.com.pk/09-09-2020/pindi/pic.asp?picname=521.png>

<sup>21</sup> *Daily Dunya*, September 9, 2020 [https://e.dunya.com.pk/detail.php?date=2020-09-](https://e.dunya.com.pk/detail.php?date=2020-09-08&edition=ISL&id=5322963_90976270)

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<sup>22</sup> *Daily Express*, September 10, 2020

[https://www.express.com.pk/epaper/PoPupwindow.aspx?newsID=1107725387&Issue=NP\\_KHI&Date=20200911](https://www.express.com.pk/epaper/PoPupwindow.aspx?newsID=1107725387&Issue=NP_KHI&Date=20200911)

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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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