



## CoronaCrimeWatch Pakistan-22

### Weekly Review of Organised Crime and Pandemic

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

**31 August to 06 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 298,679 as of September 7, 2020, while 285,898 of them have recovered so far in the country. The death toll reached 6,343. 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	2331	65	2.78
Balochistan	13292	145	1.09

Gilgit Baltistan	3008	71	2.36
Islamabad	15750	176	1.12
KP	36625	1255	3.43
Punjab	97226	2210	2.27
Sindh	130671	2423	1.85

## 1. General Trends

### 1.1. Terrorism Watch

Four terrorist attacks took place during the week under review, including three in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and one in Balochistan. The terrorist attacks in KP were reported from Lower Dir and North Waziristan and claimed in all the lives of four soldiers and injured 10 personnel of security and law enforcement agencies. Worst of these attacks happened on September 3rd, when the terrorists detonated a roadside IED near a convoy of troops providing protection to road construction teams working on Ghariom section of Shaga-Nishpa road in North Waziristan. As a result, Lieutenant Nasir Hussain Khalid and two other soldiers embraced martyrdom. Four soldiers were injured.<sup>1</sup> Meanwhile in Quetta, provincial capital of Balochistan, three people were injured in a remote controlled bomb blast outside a mosque in the Sariab Road area of Quetta. Unknown attackers had planted the bomb in a motorcycle and parked it in front of the mosque.<sup>2</sup>

Separately, three suspected terrorists from the banned Tehreek-i-Taliban Pakistan (TTP) were killed in a gun battle with members of security forces in South Waziristan tribal district. According to police, TTP militants attacked a military convoy which triggered the exchange of fire between the two sides.<sup>3</sup>

## 2. Terror Financing

President of Pakistan, Dr Arif Alvi has summoned the National Assembly session on September 7<sup>th</sup>, in which two FATF-related bills would be referred to the joint sitting of the parliament. The President summoned the 26th National Assembly session in exercise of powers conferred by clause (1) of Article 54 of the Constitution of Pakistan. The government is constitutionally bound to refer the FATF-related bills, recently rejected in the upper house of the Parliament,

<sup>1</sup> Dawn, September 4, 2020, <https://www.dawn.com/news/1577821/officer-two-soldiers-martyred-in-north-waziristan-attack>

<sup>2</sup> Daily Dunya (Urdu), September 5, 2020, [https://e.dunya.com.pk/detail.php?date=2020-09-05&edition=ISL&id=5319932\\_56500851](https://e.dunya.com.pk/detail.php?date=2020-09-05&edition=ISL&id=5319932_56500851)

<sup>3</sup> Dawn, September 6, 2020, <https://www.dawn.com/news/1578171/three-ttp-men-killed-in-clash-with-security-forces-in-south-waziristan>

from the National Assembly to the joint session of the Parliament to get these bills passed.<sup>4</sup> Meanwhile a Jamaat-e-Islami leader claimed that 80 percent members of upper and lower houses have no understanding of the FATF and its related legislation and all bills have been passed in haste.<sup>5</sup> Prime Minister of Pakistan Imran Khan has nonetheless accused the opposition parties of being on the same page with India with regard to the issue of Financial Action Task Force (FATF) and said both wanted Pakistan to get blacklisted.<sup>6</sup> The politicization of the FATF-related affairs in Pakistan reflects a non-sensitive approach at the part of the treasury and opposition benches.

Meanwhile, Peshawar High Court bench has granted bail to three people charged by the counter terrorism department with financing terrorism following the alleged recovery of a large quantity of foreign currency notes last month. During the proceedings it was observed that the case didn't fall under the Anti-Terrorism Act and the government had been referring every case of possession of foreign currency to the CTD despite the fact that these cases got nothing to do with terror financing. The recovery of foreign currency from an individual beyond prohibited limit was an offence under the Foreign Exchange Regulation Act, 1947, and not under the ATA.<sup>7</sup>

### **3. Drug Trafficking**

During the week under review, the Anti-Narcotics Force (ANF) launched countrywide operation against drug mafias and arrested 14 suspected smugglers and recovered 216.3 kg narcotics from their possession. The force also impounded seven vehicles being used by the smugglers for transportation of drugs. The value of recovered drugs is said to be 12.60 million US dollars.<sup>8</sup> ANF Punjab has also recovered 58 kg opium, 126 kg hashish and 6 kg heroin in different raids across the province and arrested 3 drug dealers.<sup>9</sup> District Rawalpindi police has arrested two drug smugglers and recovered 10 kg heroin from their possession while they were on their way to Lahore.<sup>10</sup> Dera Ismail Khan Police also recovered one kg hashish and arrested two drug peddlers.<sup>11</sup>

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<sup>4</sup> *The Nation*, September 6, 2020 <https://nation.com.pk/06-Sep-2020/na-meets-tomorrow-to-send-fatf-related-bills-to-joint-session>

<sup>5</sup> *Dawn*, September 5, 2020 [https://epaper.dawn.com/DetailNews.php?StoryText=05\\_09\\_2020\\_183\\_009](https://epaper.dawn.com/DetailNews.php?StoryText=05_09_2020_183_009)

<sup>6</sup> *The Nation*, September 3, 2020 <https://nation.com.pk/03-Sep-2020/opposition-india-on-same-page-on-fatf-legislation-pm>

<sup>7</sup> *Dawn*, September 1, 2020 <https://www.dawn.com/news/1577252?ocid=uxbndlbing>

<sup>8</sup> *The Nation*, September 4, 2020 <https://nation.com.pk/04-Sep-2020/anf-seizes-drugs-arrest-smugglers>

<sup>9</sup> *Daily Express*, September 3, 2020

[https://www.express.com.pk/epaper/PoPupwindow.aspx?newsID=1107702252&Issue=NP\\_LHE&Date=20200901](https://www.express.com.pk/epaper/PoPupwindow.aspx?newsID=1107702252&Issue=NP_LHE&Date=20200901)

<sup>10</sup> *Daily Express*, September 3, 2020

[https://www.express.com.pk/epaper/PoPupwindow.aspx?newsID=1107706619&Issue=NP\\_ISB&Date=20200903](https://www.express.com.pk/epaper/PoPupwindow.aspx?newsID=1107706619&Issue=NP_ISB&Date=20200903)

<sup>11</sup> *The Express*, September 6, 2020

[https://www.express.com.pk/epaper/PoPupwindow.aspx?newsID=1107714627&Issue=NP\\_PEW&Date=20200906](https://www.express.com.pk/epaper/PoPupwindow.aspx?newsID=1107714627&Issue=NP_PEW&Date=20200906)

### 3. Cyber Security

According to a media report Federal Investigation Agency's (FIA) Cyber Crime Wing has received 12,000 complaints during last 8 months but the department was able to take up only 400 complaints because of persisting capacity constraints.<sup>12</sup>

During the week under review, Facebook has removed 453 Facebook accounts, 103 Pages, 78 groups and 107 Instagram accounts being operated from Pakistan over "coordinated inauthentic behaviour". Facebook removes content for coordinated behaviour when it finds domestic, non-governmental campaigns that include groups of accounts and pages seeking to mislead people about who they are and what they are doing while relying on fake accounts.<sup>13</sup> Meanwhile Pakistan Telecommunication Authority (PTA) has blocked five dating and live streaming applications including the popular Tinder app citing "immoral content".<sup>14</sup>

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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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<sup>12</sup> Daily *Jang*, September 3, 2020 [https://jang.com.pk/news/815921?\\_ga=2.127157005.1084025573.1599411838-1976075825.1588973730](https://jang.com.pk/news/815921?_ga=2.127157005.1084025573.1599411838-1976075825.1588973730)

<sup>13</sup> *Dawn*, September 2, 2020 <https://www.dawn.com/news/1577452/facebook-removes-network-of-accounts-pages-operated-from-pakistan>

<sup>14</sup> *Dawn*, September 2, 2020 <https://www.dawn.com/news/1577392/pta-bans-five-dating-apps-including-tinder-citing-immoral-content>