



Organized Crime Watch Pakistan-26

Weekly Review of Organised Crime in Pakistan

Compiled by National Initiative against Organised Crime (NIOC)

28 September to 04 October 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 314, 907 as of October 5, 2020, while 298,968 of them have recovered so far in the country. The death toll reached 6,514. 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	2862	76	2.65
Balochistan	15399	146	0.95

Gilgit Baltistan	3852	89	2.31
Islamabad	16789	183	1.09
KP	38076	1262	3.30
Punjab	99941	2240	2.24
Sindh	138341	2521	1.82

1. General Trends

1.1. Street Crime

The street crime is reportedly on the rise in district Rawalpindi, adjoining the federal capital Islamabad, which has increased the sense of insecurity among the citizens.¹ During the week under review, 11 bikes and 4 cars were snatched in the city apart from the dozens incidents of dacoity and robberies. A similar trend has been witnessed in districts of south Punjab during last few weeks, making the travel on Indus highway relatively unsafe. Last week, robbers opened fire on police rescue teams and in three different incidents injured two constables and a citizen.²

1.2. Terrorism Watch

A single terrorist attack was recorded during the week under review, from South Waziristan tribal district. A patrolling team of security forces was attacked by militants in Shakai area of the district around midnight. An army officer, Captain Abdullah Zafar, was martyred during the ensuing exchange of fire between security forces and terrorists.³

Meanwhile, security forces conducted three anti-militant operations in Kech (Balochistan), Karachi (Sindh), and North Waziristan (Khyber Pakhtunkhwa), in which a total of five militants were killed; four security personnel were injured in the operation in North Waziristan.⁴

2. Terror Financing

Federal Board of Revenue (FBR) has issued a notification to regulate the profession/business of accountants, jewelers, real estate agents in ongoing efforts against money laundering and countering finance of terrorism. The regulations have been issued through SRO 924(I)/2020 dated September 30, 2020 to comply with the conditions under Finance Action Task Force

¹ Daily *Jang*, September 30, 2020, <https://e.jang.com.pk/09-30-2020/Pindi/pic.asp?picname=1020.png>

² *Dawn*, September 28, 2020, https://epaper.dawn.com/DetailNews.php?StoryText=28_09_2020_008_005

³ Daily *Dunya* (Urdu), September 29, 2020, https://e.dunya.com.pk/detail.php?date=2020-09-29&edition=ISL&id=5347574_50376391

⁴ Statistics are drawn from PIPS database on security.

(FATF), which is scheduled to meet October 2020 to evaluate Pakistan's performance.⁵ Meanwhile, Pakistan has sped up the process of confiscating the properties of the leaders of the banned organizations to fulfill the UNSC obligation. Pakistan will submit its compliance report during this month.⁶

3. Drug Trafficking

National Assembly body on Federal Education and Professional Training (FE&PT) has stressed to formulate a comprehensive policy to prevent drugs use among students in educational institutions. This was recommended in 1st meeting of the sub-committee on FE&PT discussing the bill of "The Prevention of Drugs Usage in Educational Institutions Bill 2020" the Higher Education Commission (HEC) officials said that the regulatory body is working since 2015 to control the drugs usage in educational institutions.⁷

The Anti-Narcotics Force (ANF) has recovered 6 kilograms of heroin, 113kg of hashish and 7.7kg of opium and arrested five suspects during separate operations in Sindh province.⁸ ANF has also dismantled an international drug racket in federal capital Islamabad, which was operating under supervision of local drug dealers, and has recovered the narcotics worth 300 million rupees.⁹ Separately, the ANF foiled an attempt to smuggle 14kg ice drug to Saudi Arabia in Karachi.¹⁰

Pakistan Customs foiled an attempt to smuggle 176 heroin from Balochistan to Karachi.¹¹ Meanwhile in district Noskhi, Customs officials foiled an attempt to smuggle the narcotics worth 50 million rupees to outside the country.¹²

While, the police in KP, Sindh and Punjab provinces also conducted multiple operations as described below:

⁵ Daily *Jang*, October 2, 2020, <https://e.jang.com.pk/10-02-2020/pindi/pic.asp?picname=529.png>

⁶ Daily *Dunya*, October 1, 2020, https://e.dunya.com.pk/detail.php?date=2020-10-01&edition=ISL&id=5349743_60816376

⁷ *The Nation*, October 1, 2020, <https://nation.com.pk/E-Paper/islamabad/2020-10-01/page-13/detail-1>

⁸ *The Express Tribune*, October 2, 2020, [https://tribune.com.pk/story/2266731/anf-arrests-five-suspects-seizes-drugs#:~:text=October%202020-10-02,As%20much%20as%200.6%20kilogrammes%20of%20heroin%2C%20113kg%20of%20hashish,Force%20\(ANF\)%20on%20Friday](https://tribune.com.pk/story/2266731/anf-arrests-five-suspects-seizes-drugs#:~:text=October%202020-10-02,As%20much%20as%200.6%20kilogrammes%20of%20heroin%2C%20113kg%20of%20hashish,Force%20(ANF)%20on%20Friday)

⁹ Geo News, October 4, 2020, https://jang.com.pk/news/827702?_ga=2.113027396.1980366586.1601753557-1279310720.1600370579

¹⁰ Daily *Express*, September 29, 2020, https://www.express.com.pk/epaper/PoPupwindow.aspx?newsID=1107768605&Issue=NP_KHI&Date=20200928

¹¹ *The Express Tribune*, October 1, 2020, <https://tribune.com.pk/epaper/news/Islamabad/2020-10-03/ODhlYjI4Nzg5MGFIMTQ0YWJjNzc2MTg1YmIxYWVhNTEuanBIZw%3D%3D>

¹² Daily *92*, October 1, 2020, <https://www.roznama92news.com/backend/web/uploads/epaper/7/2020/10/03102020/p2-qta-013.jpg>

- Lahore police arrested two inter-provincial drug smugglers and recovered 10 kilograms heroin from them.¹³ In a separate case, Lahore police also arrested two drug smugglers and recovered 10 kg of heroin from their possession.¹⁴
- Sargodha police arrested five drug peddlers and recovered narcotics from their possession.¹⁵
- Peshawar police arrested three drug peddlers and recovered 3 KG hashish from their possession¹⁶

4. Cyber Security

- Many men have been arrested by the Islamabad Police for terrorizing residents and spreading fear by uploading pictures and videos of heavy weapons on social media. During the week under review, police launched a crackdown and arrested these young men who put up videos with guns and rifles while adding songs in the background suggesting they are gangsters.¹⁷
- Disclosing that it was subjected to a ransomware attack in the first week of September, K-Electric (KE) said in a statement that its internal forensic investigation suggested customer data remained safe and was not leaked. “KE’s internal information technology (IT) teams responded quickly to the incident and initiated consultations with international IT security experts and also collaborated with local authorities in line with prevalent cybersecurity protocols,” the statement said.¹⁸
- An officer of the Federal Investigation Agency (FIA) cybercrime wing, who registered an FIR against singer Meesha Shafi and eight others for their alleged involvement in a smear campaign against singer-actor Ali Zafar was suspended from the service last week. Service of Muhammad Asif Iqbal, assistant director/senior investigator (BPS-17) cybercrime reporting centre Lahore is hereby placed under suspension with immediate effect till further orders,” says an order issued by FIA Director (cybercrime wing) Amir Farooqi.¹⁹

¹³ *The Nation*, September 28, 2020, <https://nation.com.pk/E-Paper/lahore/2020-09-28/page-13/detail-4>

¹⁴ *Daily Express*, September 28, 2020,

https://www.express.com.pk/epaper/PoPupwindow.aspx?newsID=1107770278&Issue=NP_LHE&Date=20200928

¹⁵ *The Express Tribune*, September 30, 2020, <https://tribune.com.pk/epaper/news/Islamabad/2020-09-30/NGNiNjM4ZWEyYTE3YWM2N2NINDc4MjNiODQ4MzgZjIuanBIZw%3D%3D>

¹⁶ *Daily 92*, October 2, 2020

<https://www.roznama92news.com/backend/web/uploads/epaper/4/2020/10/02102020/P06-PEW-040.jpg>

¹⁷ *The Express Tribune*, October 3, 2020, <https://tribune.com.pk/story/2266771/several-social-media-gangsters-held>

¹⁸ *The Express Tribune*, October 2, 2020, <https://tribune.com.pk/story/2266581/customer-data-safe-in-cyber-attack-ke>

¹⁹ *Dawn*, October 2, 2020, <https://www.dawn.com/news/1582729/fia-officer-suspended-from-service-over-social-media-post>

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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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