



Organized Crime Watch-31

Pakistan's Organized Crime Weekly Review

Compiled by National Initiative against Organised Crime (NIOC)

02 November to 08 November 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.

The nationwide confirmed cases of Covid-19 were 344,839 as of November 8, 2020, while 318,881 of them have recovered so far in the country. The death toll reached 6,977. The detail on regional distribution of the total detected cases across Pakistan as well as consequent deaths is given in the table below¹:

Area	Number of Confirmed Cases	Number of Deaths	Deaths as % of Cases
AJK	4,758	109	2.29
Balochistan	16,106	154	0.95

¹ <http://covid.gov.pk/stats/pakistan>

Gilgit Baltistan	4,366	93	2.13
Islamabad	21,861	241	1.10
KP	40,657	1,288	3.16
Punjab	106,922	2,408	2.25
Sindh	150,169	2,684	1.78

1. General Trends

1.1. Terrorism Watch

In a cross-border terrorist attack from Afghanistan, a Frontier Corps soldier embraced martyrdom while two others suffered injuries. Reportedly, Pakistani Taliban terrorists sheltered in Afghanistan fired on a security forces' post from across the border in Manzaikai sector in the Zhob area of Balochistan.²

Security forces foiled a possible terrorist activity in southern Balochistan by killing a suspected terrorist and seizing a huge quantity of arms and ammunition in an operation in the Buleda area of Kech district.³

Separately in DG Khan district of Punjab, two suspected terrorists belonging to Al-Qaeda were reportedly killed in an encounter with the police in DG Khan. Two others managed to escape.⁴

2. Terror Financing

According to a media report, an anti-terrorism court has convicted three leaders of Jamaatud Dawa (JuD) in two cases of terror financing registered by the Counter Terrorism Department (CTD). Hafiz Abdul Rehman Makki, Zafar Iqbal and Muhammad Ashraf were present in the court as Presiding Judge Ijaz Ahmad Buttar announced the sentence in the FIRs registered last year. Iqbal and Ashraf had been awarded a collective imprisonment of 16 years in each FIR under different sections of Anti-Terrorism Act 1997 while Makki had been sentenced to one year imprisonment in an FIR with a fine of Rs170,000.⁵ JuD chief Hafiz Muhammad Saeed had also been convicted for jail terms in two of the FIRs. The CTD had registered 23 FIRs against the JuD leaders in various cities of Punjab. The trial in several cases was transferred to Lahore following an order passed by

² Dawn, November 4, 2020, <https://www.dawn.com/news/1588514/fc-soldier-martyred-in-terrorist-firing-ispr>

³ November 2, 2020, <https://www.dawn.com/news/1588131/security-forces-kill-terrorist-seize-arms-in-buleda>

⁴ Daily Dunya (Urdu), November 7, 2020, https://e.dunya.com.pk/detail.php?date=2020-11-07&edition=ISL&id=5390909_71029161

⁵ "Three JuD leaders convicted of terror financing," Dawn, November 6, 2020, <https://www.dawn.com/news/1588874/three-jud-leaders-convicted-of-terror-financing>

the high court on the petitions of the suspects.⁶

3. Drug Trafficking

Federal government has decided to present anti-drug trafficking bill in the National Assembly. The bill aims to combat the usage, manufacturing and trafficking of crystal methamphetamine, a highly addictive drug.⁷ Federal Minister for Narcotics Control, Azam Khan Swati, has underlined government's commitment against the menace of drug trafficking and informed that awareness campaigns were also being carried out at universities level against drug use.⁸

The Anti-Narcotics Force (ANF) in Hub foiled an attempt to smuggle 42 kilograms of drugs from Gwadar to Karachi and arrested two drug peddlers involved in this case.⁹ In another operation, ANF arrested two drug peddlers in Hyderabad and seized 9 Kgs of hashish from them.¹⁰ Similarly, the ANF seized 42 Kgs of hashish being smuggled from Chaman to Karachi and apprehended two suspects. In a separate operation at the National Highway, the ANF seized 88 Kgs of hashish and arrested one suspect.¹¹

Secretary, Ministry of Narcotics Control, Mr. Shoaib Dastgir lauded the ANF's achievements and its role as a specialized force in combating trafficking of illicit drugs at national, regional and global level. He further assured his support to ANF for addressing the inadequacies.¹²

Meanwhile, the leader of civil society network against drug trafficking Fazal Norzai has informed that 5th anti-drug trafficking conference will be held on November 19-20, in Quetta.¹³ On the other hand, Commissioner Quetta Division Asfandyar Khan presided over a meeting to review measures for elimination of menace of narcotics from educational institutions and other areas of Quetta. The meeting was informed that in the current year, drugs worth more than PKR 940 million have been seized so far.¹⁴

⁶ Ibid.

⁷ Daily *Dunya*, November 06, 2020 https://e.dunya.com.pk/detail.php?date=2020-11-06&edition=ISL&id=5389785_88823223

⁸ *The Nation*, November 07, 2020 <https://nation.com.pk/07-Nov-2020/govt-determined-to-make-country-drug-free-swati>

⁹ Daily *Jang*, November 03, 2020 https://jang.com.pk/news/839819?_ga=2.99667742.1465032246.1604294360-445604765.1600348003

¹⁰ *The Express Tribune*, November 05, 2020 <https://tribune.com.pk/epaper/news/Karachi/2020-11-05/OTVkJZDQzYmZjZTE5NzI0ZDE3ZWVhODJiZDM4ZTkzYWEuanBIZw%3D%3D>

¹¹ *The Express Tribune*, November 07, 2020 <https://tribune.com.pk/epaper/news/Karachi/2020-11-07/ZDYxYzljYWw0NjgzNjkyZDQ2YTJiMjczMDdlZjFjOGYuanBIZw%3D%3D>

¹² Daily *Dunya*, November 05, 2020 https://e.dunya.com.pk/detail.php?date=2020-11-05&edition=ISL&id=5388344_56284591

¹³ *Daily 92*, November 04, 2020

https://www.roznama92news.com/efrontend/web/index.php/?station_id=7&page_id=1&is_common=&xdate=2020-11-04&n=n27

¹⁴ *Daily 92*, November 04, 2020

https://www.roznama92news.com/efrontend/web/index.php/?station_id=7&page_id=1&is_common=&xdate=2020-11-04&n=n13

On the other hand, a study has found that Karachi is only second to New York in terms of consuming cannabis including hashish.¹⁵ The report claims that an estimated 42 tons of hashish is consumed annually in Karachi.

The Excise and Narcotics Control personnel seized 45 Kgs of crystal meth (ice) and 24 Kgs of heroin in Dera Ismail Khan (DIK) and arrested one drug peddler.¹⁶ In another operation, the Excise and Narcotics team in Quetta seized 25 Kgs of hashish.¹⁷

Meanwhile, the police in the four provinces also conducted multiple anti-drug operations as mentioned below:

- Islamabad police foiled an attempt to smuggle narcotics from KP to the other parts of country, arrested two drug peddlers, and confiscated 6.3 Kgs of hashish from their possession.¹⁸ In a separate operation, the Islamabad police arrested a suspected drug dealer and recovered over 5 Kgs of heroin from his possession.¹⁹ In a similar action, Islamabad police arrested 5 drug pushers from various areas of the city and recovered hashish from them.²⁰
- Kohsar police arrested two drug pushers and recovered 2.260 Kgs of hashish from them.²¹ In another operation, the Rawalpindi police arrested 36 suspected drug peddlers and seized over 26 kilo of hashish from them.²² Furthermore, in anti-drugs crackdown, Rawalpindi police nabbed 50 suspected drug peddlers and seized over 50 Kgs of Hashsih from them.²³ In another operation, Rawalpindi police arrested two drug peddlers and seized over 3 Kgs of hashish from them.²⁴
- Hub police arrested a drug peddler and seized 2 Kgs of hashish from his possession.²⁵ The Balochistan Levies force also arrested three drug peddlers from Chagai and recovered drugs from their possession.²⁶ Similarly, Levies in Khuzdar arrested one drug peddler and seized 89 Kgs of hashish from his possession.²⁷
- In another operation, the Frontier Corps (FC) in Chagai confiscated 300 Kgs of opium worth PKR 18 million.²⁸ In a similar action, the FC seized 290 Kgs of opium worth PKR 17 million.²⁹

¹⁵ Daily Jang, November 08, 2020 https://jang.com.pk/news/842010?_ga=2.267224269.2140211962.1604775658-1279310720.1600370579

¹⁶ The Nation, November 06 2020 <https://nation.com.pk/E-Paper/islamabad/2020-11-06/page-3/detail-2>

¹⁷ Daily Jang, November 07, 2020 <https://e.jang.com.pk/11-07-2020/Quetta/page2.asp>

¹⁸ Dawn, November 02, 2020 https://epaper.dawn.com/DetailNews.php?StoryText=02_11_2020_004_007

¹⁹ The Express Tribune, November 04, 2020 <https://tribune.com.pk/story/2270976/drug-dealer-arrested-with-53-kilos-of-heroin>

²⁰ The Nation, November 06, 2020 <https://nation.com.pk/06-Nov-2020/police-arrest-11-outlaws>

²¹ The Nation, November 03, 2020 <https://nation.com.pk/03-Nov-2020/police-arrest-street-criminals-drug-peddlers>

²² Daily Jang, November 03, 2020 <https://e.jang.com.pk/11-03-2020/Pindi/pic.asp?picname=911.png>

²³ Daily Express, November 04, 2020

https://www.express.com.pk/epaper/PoPupwindow.aspx?newsID=1107858865&Issue=NP_ISB&Date=20201104

²⁴ Daily Dunya, November 08, 2020 https://e.dunya.com.pk/detail.php?date=2020-11-08&edition=ISL&id=5391938_50461133

²⁵ Daily Jang, November 02, 2020 <https://e.jang.com.pk/11-02-2020/Quetta/page2.asp>

²⁶ Daily Jang, November 04, 2020 <https://e.jang.com.pk/11-04-2020/Quetta/page2.asp>

²⁷ Daily Jang, November 06, 2020 <https://e.jang.com.pk/11-06-2020/Quetta/page2.asp>

²⁸ Dawn, November 05, 2020 <https://www.dawn.com/news/1588724/fc-seizes-300kg-opium-in-mashkel>

²⁹ Dawn, November 06, 2020 <https://www.dawn.com/news/1588884/290kg-opium-gun-seized-in-washuk>

- The Swabi police arrested one drug peddler and seized over 5 Kgs of hashish from his possession.³⁰ In another operation, Swabi police seized 5 Kgs of Hashish from different drug peddlers during anti-criminal crackdown in the district.³¹ Reportedly, in October, Swabi police have arrested 62 drug peddlers and seized 93 Kgs of hashish from them.³²
- The Sargodha police arrested two drug peddlers and seized over 2 kilograms of hashish from their possession.³³
- The Muzaffargarh police arrested five drug peddlers during separate raids across the district and seized over 9 Kgs of hashish from them.³⁴
- The Lalian police nabbed two drug peddlers and seized over 2 Kgs of heroin from them.³⁵
- Abdul Hakeem city police (District Kabirwala) arrested one drug peddler and seized over 2 Kgs of hashish from his possession.³⁶
- The Rakni police seized over 2 Kgs of hashish from an oil tanker.³⁷

4. Human Trafficking

The EU Ambassador to Pakistan, Androulla Kaminara, during a six-day training session (Nov 2 to 6) for female police officers of the FIA and Punjab police said that women play a significant role in policing to curb the menace of human trafficking and the smuggling of migrants in Asia and Middle East as well.³⁸

Interior Minister, Ijaz Shah, noted a continuous decline in number of cases pertaining to human trafficking. Minister hailed the effective measures taken for controlling human smuggling by establishing numerous new check posts by law enforcement agencies. He said economic problems have aggravated the issue of human smuggling. He further underlined that government is determined to curb the illegal immigration by accelerating economic opportunities.³⁹

³⁰ Daily Express, November 03, 2020

https://www.roznama92news.com/efrontend/web/index.php/?station_id=4&page_id=1&is_common=&xdate=2020-11-03&n=n2

³¹ Daily Express, November 06, 2020

https://www.express.com.pk/epaper/PoPupwindow.aspx?newsID=1107864170&Issue=NP_PEW&Date=20201106

³² Daily Roznama, November 04, 2020

https://www.express.com.pk/epaper/PoPupwindow.aspx?newsID=1107858598&Issue=NP_PEW&Date=20201104

³³ The Express Tribune, November 04, 2020 <https://tribune.com.pk/epaper/news/Karachi/2020-11-04/OT11ZjMxMDQzZDQyYTdjOTU5N2M2MjY1MTBkNmFlODcuanBIZw%3D%3D>

³⁴ The Express Tribune, November 08, 2020 <https://tribune.com.pk/epaper/news/Karachi/2020-11-08/YmRhYzk1Yzk2OWE5ODBjNDNIYzE5Y2MzMzAwZGRlNDYuanBIZw%3D%3D>

³⁵ Daily Express, November 04, 2020

https://www.express.com.pk/epaper/PoPupwindow.aspx?newsID=1107859444&Issue=NP_FSB&Date=20201104

³⁶ Daily Dunya, November 06, 2020 https://e.dunya.com.pk/detail.php?date=2020-11-06&edition=MUL&id=5389381_13533895

³⁷ Daily Express, November 08, 2020

https://www.express.com.pk/epaper/PoPupwindow.aspx?newsID=1107869677&Issue=NP_QTA&Date=20201108

³⁸ The Nation, November 03, 2020 <https://nation.com.pk/E-Paper/islamabad/2020-11-03/page-14/detail-0>

³⁹ The Nation, November 06, 2020 <https://nation.com.pk/E-Paper/islamabad/2020-11-06/page-12/detail-7>

5. Cyber Crime

- It is reported that women in Pakistan especially the women journalists are vulnerable to cyber harassment and violence. The UNESCO country director, Patricia McPhillips, has warned that increasing gender-based violence on online platforms will sabotage the democratic values of a country.⁴⁰
- Federal Minister for Information Technology and Telecommunications, Syed Aminul Haq, asserted that government is committed to bring the social media apps within rules and regulations of the country.⁴¹
- The 'Cyber Security of Pakistan' organized seminars at public and private educational institutes to raise cybercrime awareness among students. A seminar on cyber security was held at a private school in Bahawalpur to promote awareness about cybercrimes among students.

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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.

Website: <https://nioc.pk>

Email: info@nioc.pk

⁴⁰ *The Express Tribune*, November 04, 2020 <https://tribune.com.pk/story/2270970/women-journalists-at-higher-risk-of-online-hate-abuse>

⁴¹ *Dawn*, November 06, 2020 <https://www.dawn.com/news/1588890>