



Organized Crime Watch-37

Pakistan's Organized Crime Weekly Review

Compiled by National Initiative against Organised Crime (NIOC)

14 December to 20 December 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 458,968 as of December 20, 2020, while 409,085 of them have recovered so far in the country. The death toll has reached 9,392. The detail on regional distribution of the total detected cases across Pakistan as well as consequent deaths is given in the table below.¹

Area	Number of Confirmed Cases	Number of Deaths	Deaths as % of Cases
AJK	8,002	206	2.57
Balochistan	17,926	179	0.99

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

Gilgit Baltistan	4, 827	99	2.05
Islamabad	36, 257	391	1.07
KP	55, 183	1546	2.80
Punjab	131, 933	3638	2.75
Sindh	204, 840	3333	1.62

1. Terrorism Watch

Four terrorist attacks took place in the country during the week under review, including two in the provincial capital of Sindh, i.e. Karachi, and one attack each in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP) and Balochistan. The two reported attacks from Karachi took place on the same day (December 15th). In one of the attacks, four people, including two paramilitary soldiers, were wounded in a cracker blast on a moving Rangers mobile van near the Sheikh Zayed Islamic Centre on University Road. Two men on a motorcycle hurled the explosive substance in the vehicle and sped away. In the other attack, a Chinese man escaped a blast when a remote-controlled bomb planted on his vehicle failed to detonate. Police recovered the device, a magnet bomb, attached to his car and defused it. Sindhudesh Revolutionary Army claimed the attacks.²

In Lakki Marwat district of KP, the police posted at the Wanda Mir Alam checkpost on Darra Tang-Chashma road, were attacked when they returned from patrolling in the border area. Constable Mohammad Rafiq, who was in the police patrol car, received bullets and died instantly. A private cook was also wounded in the attack.³

Separately, an IED weighing around seven kilogrammes was buried along the roadside in Brewery Road area Quetta. It went off when two FC vehicles were passing through the area. However FC soldiers remained unhurt in the IED blast.⁴

Security forces also conducted a search and clearance operation in Jatt Bazaar near Awaran (Balochistan) on receipt of information about the presence of terrorists and their facilitators in the area. In exchange of fire with terrorists during operation, Lance Naik Muhammad Iqbal lost his life.⁵

² Dawn, December 16, 2020, <https://www.dawn.com/news/1595986/two-personnel-among-four-hurt-in-cracker-attack-on-rangers-vehicle>

³ Dawn, December 17, 2020, <https://www.dawn.com/news/1596178/police-constable-killed-in-lakki-attack>

⁴ Daily Jang (Urdu), December 19, 2020, <https://e.jang.com.pk/12-19-2020/pindi/pic.asp?picname=539.png>

⁵ Dawn, December 21, 2020, <https://www.dawn.com/news/1596967/soldier-martyred-in-awaran-operation>

2. Drug Trafficking

Federal Minister for Narcotics Control Brig (R) Ijaz Ahmad Shah directed the Anti-Narcotics Force (ANF) to adopt 'zero tolerance policy against drug peddlers.' While lauding the role of ANF, the minister assured complete support to the ANF for addressing the inadequacies of the force to tackle the menace more robustly.⁶

Governor Punjab, Chaudhry Sarwar, has said collective efforts are required to make educational institutions free of drugs. The Governor further ensured that the government would collaborate with the ANF to eliminate drugs from the society.⁷

Deputy Commissioner Lasbella, Dr. Hassan, presided over a meeting to review measures for elimination of drugs from society. The meeting stressed to expedite the arrest of drug pushers and rehabilitation of drug addicts.⁸

Meanwhile, Deputy Commissioner Quetta, Aurangzaib Badini lauded the role of rehabilitation centre and stressed that provincial administration is taking every possible measure against drug pushers.⁹

The special court (Control of Narcotics Substances) fined and awarded prison to a drug peddler.¹⁰ The district and sessions judge, Saryab division Quetta fined and awarded prison term to two drug peddlers.¹¹

According to a media report, the investigation against poor performance of anti-narcotics officers from Rawalpindi, Attack, Chakwal and Jhelum could not be proceeded under PEEDA Act.¹²

Pakistan Customs officials destroyed smuggled goods and burnt down 3,542 kilograms hashish.¹³ The police in the four provinces also conducted multiple anti-drug operations as mentioned below:

⁶ *The Nation*, December 18, 2020, <https://nation.com.pk/18-Dec-2020/zero-tolerance-policy-to-be-adopted-against-drug-dealers-brig-retd-ijaz-shah>

⁷ *Dawn*, December 18, 2020, <https://www.dawn.com/news/1596366>

⁸ *Daily Express*, December 17, 2020,

https://www.express.com.pk/epaper/PoPupwindow.aspx?newsID=1107968017&Issue=NP_QTA&Date=20201217

⁹ *Daily Express*, December 18, 2020,

https://www.express.com.pk/epaper/PoPupwindow.aspx?newsID=1107970374&Issue=NP_QTA&Date=20201218

¹⁰ *Daily Jang*, December 18, 2020,

¹¹ *Daily Express*, December 16, 2020,

https://www.express.com.pk/epaper/PoPupwindow.aspx?newsID=1107964419&Issue=NP_QTA&Date=20201216

¹² *Daily Dunya*, December 15, 2020, [https://e.dunya.com.pk/detail.php?date=2020-12-](https://e.dunya.com.pk/detail.php?date=2020-12-15&edition=ISL&id=5438178_71341436)

[15&edition=ISL&id=5438178_71341436](https://e.dunya.com.pk/detail.php?date=2020-12-15&edition=ISL&id=5438178_71341436)

¹³ *Daily Express*, December 16, 2020,

https://www.express.com.pk/epaper/PoPupwindow.aspx?newsID=1107964386&Issue=NP_QTA&Date=20201216

- The Airport Security Force (ASF) foiled an attempt of smuggling ice heroin from Islamabad to Bahrain and seized over 2 kilograms ice heroin from the luggage of a suspected passenger. The ASF arrested the suspect for further investigation.¹⁴
- The Islamabad police arrested two female drug peddlers and recovered over 2 kilograms of narcotics from their possession. The police also arrested four suspects and recovered hashish from them.¹⁵
- Separately, the Islamabad police foiled a drug smuggling bid in Tarnol by netting a drug peddler and seized 40 kilograms of heroin from his possession.¹⁶ During another crackdown, the police arrested 56 drug pushers from various areas of the city and recovered drugs and weapons from their possession.¹⁷
- The Attack police arrested two drug peddlers and recovered over 2 kilograms of narcotics from them.¹⁸
- The Dera Ismail Khan (DIK) Police arrested a drug peddler and seized 8 kilograms of hashish from him.¹⁹
- The Karachi police arrested an alleged drug peddler and seized 35 kilograms of hashish from his possession.²⁰
- The Pabbi police of Nowshera district arrested a drug peddler and recovered 15 kilograms hashish from his possession.²¹
- The Kohlu police arrested a drug pusher and confiscated around 2 kilograms hashish from him.²²
- The Phularwan police in Sargodha district foiled a drug smuggling bid, seized over 17 kilograms opium and arrested a drug pusher.²³ Separately, district police arrested a drug pusher and confiscated around 2 kilograms hashish from him.²⁴
- The Karak police arrested five drug pushers and seized 9,950 kilograms hashish from their possession.²⁵

¹⁴ *Daily Jang*, December 18, 2020, https://e.jang.com.pk/12-18-2020/pindi/pic.asp?picname=02_08.png

¹⁵ *The Express Tribune*, December 14, 2020, <https://tribune.com.pk/epaper/news/Karachi/2020-12-14/YTcxYmVhZjE3NmZM5OTk0MjNiMzQ3MDg0YWlwZTFkZTMuanBIZw%3D%3D>

¹⁶ *The Nation*, December 15, 2020, <https://nation.com.pk/E-Paper/islamabad/2020-12-15/page-14/detail-8>

¹⁷ *The Nation*, December 17, 2020, <https://nation.com.pk/E-Paper/islamabad/2020-12-17/page-14/detail-9>

¹⁸ *The Nation*, December 15, 2020, <https://nation.com.pk/E-Paper/islamabad/2020-12-15/page-14/detail-3>

¹⁹ *Daily 92*, December 15, 2020,

<https://www.roznama92news.com/backend/web/uploads/epaper/4/2020/12/15122020/p2-pew-011.jpg>

²⁰ *The Express Tribune*, December 15, 2020, <https://tribune.com.pk/epaper/news/Karachi/2020-12-15/YTEyZWnkNGUyNjgzN2Y2YjExNGNiOWRiZDZmOThmNDkuanBIZw%3D%3D>

²¹ *Daily Express*, December 15, 2020,

https://www.express.com.pk/epaper/PoPupwindow.aspx?newsID=1107962540&Issue=NP_PEW&Date=20201215

²² *Daily 92*, December 19, 2020,

https://www.roznama92news.com/efrontend/web/index.php/?station_id=7&page_id=1&is_common=&xdate=2020-12-19&n=n8

²³ *Daily Express*, December 19, 2020,

https://www.express.com.pk/epaper/PoPupwindow.aspx?newsID=1107973531&Issue=NP_SGD&Date=20201219

²⁴ *Daily Express*, December 19, 2020,

https://www.express.com.pk/epaper/PoPupwindow.aspx?newsID=1107972385&Issue=NP_SGD&Date=20201219

²⁵ *Dawn*, December 20, 2020, https://epaper.dawn.com/DetailNews.php?StoryText=20_12_2020_182_009

- The Karachi police arrested five drug peddlers and seized over 33 kilograms of narcotics from their possession.²⁶

3. Cyber Crime

During the week under review, Chief Justice of the Islamabad High Court (IHC) admitted the Pakistan Federal Union of Journalists (PFUJ) petition for regular hearing against the recently enforced social media rules. While the counsel for Pakistan Telecommunication Authority (PTA) Ahmar Bilal Soofi received the court notice after the very first hearing inside the courtroom, the deputy attorney general informed the court that the attorney general Khalid Jawed Khan will argue the case on the next date of hearing. According to the petition, the information secretary is responsible, under various provisions of the Pakistan Telecommunication (Re-organisation) Act, 1996, (PTRA) and the Prevention of Electronic Crimes Act, 2016 (PECA), for issuing policy directives and directions as well as granting approvals to the PTA in relation to exercise of powers under PTRA 1996 and PECA 2016.²⁷

.....

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

²⁶ Daily *Jang*, December 20, 2020, https://jang.com.pk/news/860666?_ga=2.57114666.1866210852.1608405940-1279310720.1600370579

²⁷ *Dawn*, December 19, 2020 <https://www.dawn.com/news/1596533>