



## Organized Crime Watch-35

### Pakistan's Organized Crime Weekly Review

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

#### **30 November to 06 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 416,499 as of December 06, 2020, while 355,012 of them have recovered so far in the country. The death toll has reached 8,361. The detail on regional distribution of the total detected cases across Pakistan as well as consequent deaths is given in the table below<sup>1</sup>:

| Area        | Number of Confirmed Cases | Number of Deaths | Deaths as % of Cases |
|-------------|---------------------------|------------------|----------------------|
| AJK         | 7,278                     | 177              | 2.43                 |
| Balochistan | 17,440                    | 169              | 0.96                 |

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

|                  |         |        |      |
|------------------|---------|--------|------|
| Gilgit Baltistan | 4,719   | 98     | 2.07 |
| Islamabad        | 32,414  | 340    | 1.04 |
| KP               | 49,220  | 1, 404 | 2.85 |
| Punjab           | 122,955 | 3, 162 | 2.57 |
| Sindh            | 182,473 | 3,011  | 1.65 |

## 1. Terrorism Watch

Four terrorist attacks took place in Pakistan during the week under review, including three in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa targeting tribal elders, and one in Rawalpindi district of Punjab. Details are given below:

- November 30: Four tribal elders were assassinated by assailants in a vehicle of tinted glass in North Waziristan tribal district. According to police, the elders were victims of targeted killing because they had no family feud.<sup>2</sup>
- December 1: Another elder, Malik Maulla Khan, was shot dead in a targeted attack in broad daylight in Miramshah area of the North Waziristan tribal district.<sup>3</sup>
- December 2: Unknown militants shot dead two tribal elders in separate incidents in Salarzai tehsil of Bajaur tribal district, in front of their homes. The victims were identified as Malik Sadat Khan and Malik Shahzollah Khan.<sup>4</sup>
- December 4: An improvised explosive device went off outside a general store in the Pirwadhai area of Rawalpindi, leaving one person dead and seven others injured. The blast was caused by an IED placed inside an auto-rickshaw parked outside the shop.<sup>5</sup>

Meanwhile, militants from Afghanistan fired mortar shells in Laittay Bando area of Bajaur district. As a result, a shell hit two shepherds who were grazing their sheep in the mountainous area. Sherin Khan was killed on the spot and Kashmir Khan got injuries.<sup>6</sup>

## 2. Terror Financing

After the new regulations introduced to fulfil Financial Action Task Force (FATF) requirements, thousands of small and medium levels non-governmental organisations (NGOs) are suffering and many have suspended their operations. For one, according to a media report, the mapping of NGOs

<sup>2</sup> Dawn, December 1, 2020, <https://www.dawn.com/news/1593304/four-elders-gunned-down-in-north-waziristan-attack>

<sup>3</sup> Dawn, December 2, 2020, <https://www.dawn.com/news/1593481/another-elder-shot-dead-in-north-waziristan>

<sup>4</sup> Dawn, December 3, 2020, <https://www.dawn.com/news/1593676/two-tribal-elders-killed-in-bajaur>

<sup>5</sup> Dawn, December 5, 2020, <https://www.dawn.com/news/1594090/ied-blast-leaves-one-dead-seven-injured-in-rawalpindi>

<sup>6</sup> Dawn, December 2, 2020, <https://www.dawn.com/news/1593490/cross-border-attack-kills-man-in-bajaur>

in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa started in May 2019 to fulfill the FATF requirements. The provincial government deregistered earlier this year around 3,851 NGOs of the total 4,935, working in different sectors in the province. Prior to launching the exercise, sources said that 3, 838 NGOs were registered with the provincial social welfare department and 1,097 were registered with the provincial industries department.<sup>7</sup>

### 3. Drug Trafficking

According to the ‘Global Synthetic Drugs Assessment 2020’, Pakistan experienced a significant increase in methamphetamine seizures between 2016 and 2018, and quantities of the drug seized increased more than 21 times from about 133kgs in 2016 to 2.9 tonnes in 2018.<sup>8</sup>

Federal Minister for Narcotics Control Muhammad Azam Khan Swati during a meeting with Special Assistant to PM on Health Dr. Faisal Sultan and senior officials from Anti-Narcotics Force (ANF) said that illicit drug use is a real threat which needs a prompt response. The Federal Minister further underlined that there was a need to set up more addicts’ treatment and rehabilitation centres to root out the menace of the drugs abuse from the society.<sup>9</sup> In this regard, the ANF planned to establish a new Model Addicts Treatment and Rehabilitation Centre in Islamabad.<sup>10</sup>

The Google, an internet search engine, and Ministry of Narcotics Control established a strategic partnership to raise public awareness and tackle the hazard of illicit drugs.<sup>11</sup>

The ANF launched a countrywide operation against drug mafia and arrested 21 suspected smugglers while seizing 3302.47 kilograms of narcotics worth \$1.051 billion from their possession.<sup>12</sup>

The ANF foiled a smuggling bid and confiscated 105 kilograms of opium which was being illegally transported to Canada. A suspect was also arrested.<sup>13</sup> Meanwhile, in a raid by the ANF, 150 grams of crystal meth headed to Australia was seized.<sup>14</sup>

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<sup>7</sup> *Dawn*, November 30, 2020, <https://www.dawn.com/news/1593118>

<sup>8</sup> *Dawn*, December 4, 2020, <https://www.dawn.com/news/1593910/pakistan-sees-surge-in-methamphetamine-seizures>

<sup>9</sup> *Daily Dunya*, December 1, 2020, [https://e.dunya.com.pk/detail.php?date=2020-12-01&edition=ISL&id=5419754\\_52380769](https://e.dunya.com.pk/detail.php?date=2020-12-01&edition=ISL&id=5419754_52380769)

<sup>10</sup> *The Nation*, December 2, 2020, <https://nation.com.pk/E-Paper/islamabad/2020-12-02/page-14/detail-7>

<sup>11</sup> *The Nation*, December 5, 2020, <https://nation.com.pk/E-Paper/islamabad/2020-12-05/page-3/detail-5>

<sup>12</sup> *The Nation*, December 3, 2020, <https://nation.com.pk/E-Paper/islamabad/2020-12-03/page-14/detail-3>

<sup>13</sup> *The Express Tribune*, December 5, 2020, <https://tribune.com.pk/epaper/news/Karachi/2020-12-05/YmI1YjljYzlwNzU3YzliMWZlNDk1N2VmNGFmZTEyODUuanBIZw%3D%3D>

<sup>14</sup> *The Express Tribune*, December 2, 2020, <https://tribune.com.pk/epaper/news/Karachi/2020-12-02/NGUzMWVhNDlhYzdiMTE0ZWl2NzdkZGZmMWY4OTcxYmQuanBIZw%3D%3D>

The district and sessions judge Saryab division Quetta fined and awarded prison term to a drug pusher.<sup>15</sup> On the other hand, the district court Hyderabad fined and awarded prison term to a drug dealer.<sup>16</sup>

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

- The Hyderabad police claimed to have arrested a drug peddler and seized drugs from his possession.<sup>17</sup>
- The Sargodha police claimed to have arrested seven drug peddlers and seized narcotics from their possession.<sup>18</sup> Separately, the police arrested a drug peddler and seized 22 kilograms of hashish from him.<sup>19</sup>
- The Faisalabad police arrested a drug pusher and seized over 7 kilograms of hashish from his possession.<sup>20</sup>
- The Karachi police arrested one drug dealer and seized 2 kilograms of hashish from his possession.<sup>21</sup> Separately, Karachi police and civil intelligence institutes have launched a crackdown against drug peddlers. The police issued a list of drug peddlers and directed to arrest them within a week.<sup>22</sup>
- The Rajoa police arrested a women drug peddler and seized 2 kilograms of heroin from her possession.<sup>23</sup>
- The judicial magistrate court Karachi arrested 4 police officials involved in drug trafficking.<sup>24</sup> Separately, a drug pusher was fined and awarded prison term by district court of Sindh, Hyderabad.<sup>25</sup>

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<sup>15</sup> *Daily Express*, December 1, 2020,

[https://www.express.com.pk/epaper/PoPupwindow.aspx?newsID=1107925844&Issue=NP\\_QTA&Date=20201201](https://www.express.com.pk/epaper/PoPupwindow.aspx?newsID=1107925844&Issue=NP_QTA&Date=20201201)

<sup>16</sup> *Daily Express*, December 4, 2020,

[https://www.express.com.pk/epaper/PoPupwindow.aspx?newsID=1107932251&Issue=NP\\_KHI&Date=20201204](https://www.express.com.pk/epaper/PoPupwindow.aspx?newsID=1107932251&Issue=NP_KHI&Date=20201204)

<sup>17</sup> *The Express Tribune*, November 30, 2020, <https://tribune.com.pk/epaper/news/Karachi/2020-11-30/ZDIwZjI1NDc2ZWZiMTlkZGMwZGVhM2E1NzlhMmY4NWUuanBIZw%3D%3D>

<sup>18</sup> *The Express Tribune*, November 30, 2020, <https://tribune.com.pk/epaper/news/Karachi/2020-11-30/NDExNzBkYTUyMWVjOWE3NjY0NjFmMTEwODhhZDVhNzYuanBIZw%3D%3D>

<sup>19</sup> *The Express Tribune*, December 4, 2020, <https://tribune.com.pk/epaper/news/Karachi/2020-12-04/YjgzMTJjNDVhZDdjMGE1NGJmMTMxZDRhNTdiNDk3MWQuanBIZw%3D%3D>

<sup>20</sup> *The Express Tribune*, December 1, 2020, <https://tribune.com.pk/epaper/news/Karachi/2020-12-01/Y2E5MDM2NDUzMzlmYmNiNDgzMmUxYjVmZTlmMWQwYjMuanBIZw%3D%3D>

<sup>21</sup> *The Express Tribune*, December 2, 2020, <https://tribune.com.pk/epaper/news/Karachi/2020-12-02/NGUzMWVhNDlhYzdiMTE0ZWl2NzdkZGZmMWY4OTcxYmQuanBIZw%3D%3D>

<sup>22</sup> *Daily Jang*, December 2, 2020, [https://jang.com.pk/news/852485?\\_ga=2.137872304.1226322725.1606820892-2039814662.1604552106](https://jang.com.pk/news/852485?_ga=2.137872304.1226322725.1606820892-2039814662.1604552106)

<sup>23</sup> *Dawn*, December 3, 2020, [https://epaper.dawn.com/DetailNews.php?StoryText=03\\_12\\_2020\\_178\\_010](https://epaper.dawn.com/DetailNews.php?StoryText=03_12_2020_178_010)

<sup>24</sup> *Daily Express*, December 3, 2020,

[https://www.express.com.pk/epaper/PoPupwindow.aspx?newsID=1107929973&Issue=NP\\_KHI&Date=20201203](https://www.express.com.pk/epaper/PoPupwindow.aspx?newsID=1107929973&Issue=NP_KHI&Date=20201203)

<sup>25</sup> *Daily Express*, December 4, 2020,

[https://www.express.com.pk/epaper/PoPupwindow.aspx?newsID=1107932251&Issue=NP\\_KHI&Date=20201204](https://www.express.com.pk/epaper/PoPupwindow.aspx?newsID=1107932251&Issue=NP_KHI&Date=20201204)

- The Ferozabad police arrested two students and confiscated over 2 kilograms of narcotics from their possession. Police also arrested an auto-rikshaw driver drug peddler.<sup>26</sup>
- The Rawalpindi police arrested two drug peddlers and seized 3 kilograms of hashish from their possession.<sup>27</sup>
- The Abdul Hakim police arrested two drug peddlers and seized over 2 kilograms of hashish from them.<sup>28</sup>
- The local residents, including the civil society activists, in Kohat have demanded punitive action against the drug peddlers to save the young generation from the menace.<sup>29</sup>

#### 4. Cyber Crime

During the week under review, a media report revealed that a manifold increase in the use of the internet during the coronavirus pandemic has also resulted in a rise in cybercrimes, including harassment of women. The internet usage in the country has increased by about 200 percent during the time of pandemic. The FIA Cybercrime Wing had received double women harassment and cybercrime applications this year as compared to last year. About 8,000 applications about harassment of women were received last year, while about 16,000 have been received so far this year. About 2,000 of the complaints have been investigated, while investigation into the rest is underway. About 300 cases have been registered in two years.<sup>30</sup>

Separately, Islamabad High Court has questioned the framing of rules for social media and observed that such rules would discourage criticism and adversely affect accountability in the country. Taking up a petition filed against the ban on video-sharing social networking service TikTok, the IHC chief justice asked how rules for social media were framed and which authority enforced them. He observed that even judicial orders of the superior courts were subject to criticism; however, it should not have an impact on the right to fair trial. He asked the Pakistan Telecommunication Authority (PTA) to review the rules in the light of objections raised by the Pakistan Bar Council (PBC).<sup>31</sup>

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<sup>26</sup> Daily *Jang*, December 5, 2020, [https://jang.com.pk/news/853804?\\_ga=2.158165178.1624632130.1607169801-1279310720.1600370579](https://jang.com.pk/news/853804?_ga=2.158165178.1624632130.1607169801-1279310720.1600370579)

<sup>27</sup> Daily *Dunya*, December 4, 2020, [https://e.dunya.com.pk/detail.php?date=2020-12-04&edition=ISL&id=5423148\\_74081791](https://e.dunya.com.pk/detail.php?date=2020-12-04&edition=ISL&id=5423148_74081791)

<sup>28</sup> Daily *Dunya*, December 4, 2020, [https://e.dunya.com.pk/detail.php?date=2020-12-04&edition=MUL&id=5423202\\_37628576](https://e.dunya.com.pk/detail.php?date=2020-12-04&edition=MUL&id=5423202_37628576)

<sup>29</sup> *Dawn*, December 4, 2020, [https://epaper.dawn.com/DetailNews.php?StoryText=04\\_12\\_2020\\_183\\_003](https://epaper.dawn.com/DetailNews.php?StoryText=04_12_2020_183_003)

<sup>30</sup> *The Express Tribune*, December 3, 2020 <https://tribune.com.pk/story/2274414/cyber-harassment-cases-double-in-a-year>

<sup>31</sup> *Dawn*, December 5, 2020, <https://www.dawn.com/news/1594080/ihc-chief-justice-questions-new-social-media-rules>

Meanwhile, FIA's Cyber Crime Wing has arrested an alleged offender involved in Child Pornography on the information provided by Brazil through Interpol.<sup>32</sup> According to the FIA official offender belong to Narowal district in Punjab was part of an international gang.

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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>

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<sup>32</sup> *The Express*, December 2, 2020,  
[https://www.express.com.pk/epaper/PoPupwindow.aspx?newsID=1107927951&Issue=NP\\_KHI&Date=20201202](https://www.express.com.pk/epaper/PoPupwindow.aspx?newsID=1107927951&Issue=NP_KHI&Date=20201202)