



## **Organized Crime Watch-5/2021**

### **Pakistan's Organized Crime Monthly Review**

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

#### **May 2021**

##### **1. Terrorism Watch**

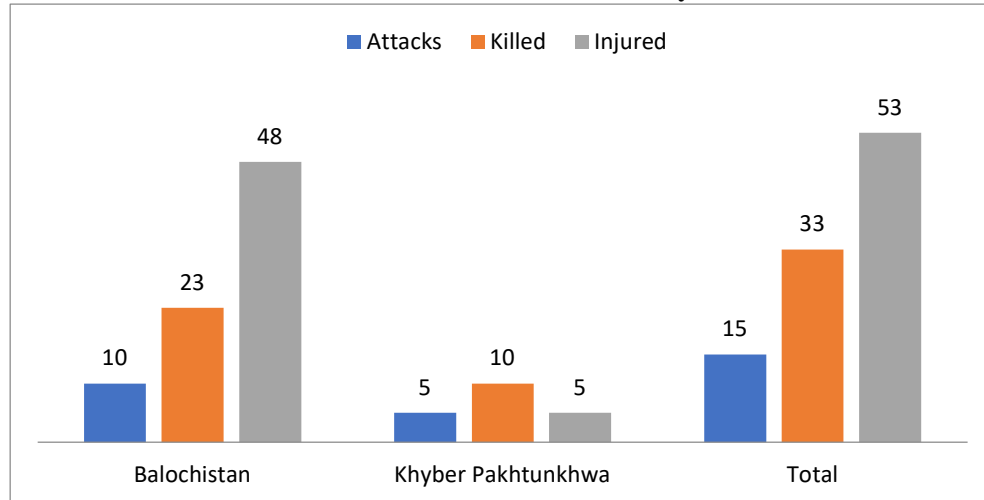
Posting an over 36 percent increase from the month before, a total of 15 terrorist attacks took place in Pakistan during the month of May (2021). These attacks claimed 33 lives – compared to 14 in the previous month – and injured 53 other people. The reported 15 attacks in May concentrated in Balochistan (10 attacks) and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (5 attacks) provinces only. Meanwhile, 12 out of the total 15 reported attacks targeted security forces and law enforcement personnel.

Among those 33 killed in terrorist attacks, 16 were personnel of security and law enforcement agencies (7 FC soldiers, 4 policemen, 3 army soldiers, and 2 Levies), nine civilians, as well as eight militants; those injured included 18 civilians and 27 security personnel, besides eight militants.

Baloch insurgent groups as well as the TTP intensified terrorist onslaught in Balochistan. Posting an increase of 100 percent from the month before, 10 terrorist attacks took place in Balochistan during May 2021. These attacks claimed 23 lives – compared to nine in the previous month – and inflicted injuries on another 48 people.

Meanwhile, compared to six in the previous month, as many as five terrorist attacks took place in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa during the month under review. These attacks claimed 10 lives – compared to 5 in the previous month – and injured another five people.

**Chart 1: Terrorist Attacks in Pakistan in May 2021**



The Tehreek-e-Taliban Pakistan (TTP) and other militants with similar objectives perpetrated six attacks in May 2021, killing 17 people and injuring 19 others. Baloch nationalist insurgent groups were believed to be involved in nine attacks that killed 16 people and inflicted injuries on 34 others.

## 2. Terror Financing

On May 7<sup>th</sup>, the Federal Government submitted its compliance report on the three remaining action goals to the Financial Action Task Force (FATF), in anticipation of the upcoming plenary session in June.<sup>1</sup> So far, Pakistan has achieved 24 of the 27 goals set by the FATF and is hopeful it will be removed from the task force’s “grey list” at the June plenary.

On May 10<sup>th</sup> it was reported that the Federal Government would implement new rules to counter money laundering in accordance with FATF requirements. These rules will govern the forfeiture, management and auction of property and assets related to money laundering cases.<sup>2</sup> This is likely a response to the illicit sale and acquisition of property to fund acts of terror and terror organisations, as seen in the case of Mullah Mansour in March,<sup>3</sup> whose properties and assets have since been seized by the Anti-Terror Courts.<sup>4</sup> Additionally, the Federal Government will form specialized bodies to deal with instances of money laundering and terror finance.<sup>5</sup> These bodies are intended to work with agencies like the National Counter-Terrorism Authority (NACTA), Federal Board of Revenue (FBR) and the Federal Investigation Agency (FIA) among others to successfully meet FATF requirements and fulfil the remaining 3 action goals

<sup>1</sup> <https://www.thenews.com.pk/print/831461-pakistan-submits-compliance-report-to-fatf>

<sup>2</sup> [https://epaper.dawn.com/DetailNews.php?StoryText=10\\_05\\_2021\\_001\\_005](https://epaper.dawn.com/DetailNews.php?StoryText=10_05_2021_001_005)

<sup>3</sup> <https://www.dawn.com/news/1610672>

<sup>4</sup> <https://www.dawn.com/news/1555423>

<sup>5</sup> <https://www.geo.tv/latest/349664-pakistan-to-form-new-institutions-to-meet-fatf-requirements-sources>

set by the Paris-based task force. Cases pertaining to money laundering will be transferred from police and provincial anti-corruption agencies to these new specialized bodies.

In other developments:

- A TTP sleeper cell was disbanded in Karachi on May 3<sup>rd</sup> and three men arrested. One of the men would collect donations for the banned outfit Jaish-e-Muhammad (JeM), whom he was formerly a part of.<sup>6</sup>
- On May 7<sup>th</sup>, a crackdown against TLP financiers was set to be launched by the Punjab Counter-Terrorism Department (CTD).<sup>7</sup> 328 individual financiers were identified, ranging from businesspeople to traders and industrialists. The crackdown has yet to occur.
- Seven former militants were arrested on May 12<sup>th</sup> for committing bank robberies in KP.<sup>8</sup> It currently remains unknown as to which group the robbers belonged to, or if the money stolen would be used for funding acts of terror.

### 3. Drug trafficking

#### Trends Observed

- A nationwide increase in anti-narcotic operations was observed, with 62 operations in April and 100 operations in May.
  - The increase in operations can be attributed to rhetoric from police forces nationwide promising greater kinetic action to counter drug trafficking.
- Majority of these operations occurred in Punjab, which is a major transit point for drugs moving south from KP and the Afghan Border.
- Arrests for drug trafficking also increased though not as much, with 246 arrests in April and 265 arrests in May.
- Hashish remains the most popular drug to smuggle within Pakistan.
  - A major bust in Balochistan made this month’s total of hashish seized skyrocket.
  - Hashish is followed by heroin, which is often smuggled internationally by passengers through air travel or concealed in courier packages headed abroad.
- A major increase in the seizure of ecstasy pills was observed, from 335 seized in April to 1700 seized in May.
- Larger individual seizures occur in Sindh and Balochistan, due to their proximity to international borders and the Arabian Sea. Seizures in these regions occur when authorities intercept large vehicles like commuter vans and transporters. More frequent searches may prove to yield more fruit.
- Drugs largely enter the country through Afghanistan, where hashish, opium, heroin and ice or methamphetamine are regularly and widely produced.
- **Table of Major Antinarcotic Operations**

| Major Operations/Busts |          |         |          |
|------------------------|----------|---------|----------|
| Date                   | Location | Arrests | Seizures |

<sup>6</sup> [https://epaper.dawn.com/DetailNews.php?StoryText=03\\_05\\_2021\\_113\\_004](https://epaper.dawn.com/DetailNews.php?StoryText=03_05_2021_113_004)

<sup>7</sup> <https://www.dawn.com/news/1622462>

<sup>8</sup> [https://epaper.dawn.com/DetailNews.php?StoryText=12\\_05\\_2021\\_008\\_005](https://epaper.dawn.com/DetailNews.php?StoryText=12_05_2021_008_005)

|            |                         |    |  |
|------------|-------------------------|----|--|
| 5/5/2021   | Khuzdar,<br>Balochistan | 2  | 1492kg hashish   |
| 9/5/2021   | Mithi, Sindh            | 1  | 1040 "packets" of opium seized - no amount in kg found |
| 26/05/2021 | Vindar,<br>Balochistan  | 17 | 34,737kg marijuana (logged in table as hashish)        |
| 29/05/2021 | Nationwide              | 16 | 2049kg various narcotics                               |

• **Table of Narcotics Seized Nationwide**

| Province     | Response   |            | Types of drugs seized (in kg) |               |              |              | Total (by province in kg) |
|--------------|------------|------------|-------------------------------|---------------|--------------|--------------|---------------------------|
|              | Ops        | Arrests    | Hashish                       | Heroin        | Ice/Meth     | Others       |                           |
| Punjab       | 63         | 118        | 505.38                        | 1581.84       | 10.94        | 41.35        | 2139.51                   |
| Balochistan  | 6          | 23         | 36243.18                      | 0             | 0.05         | 0            | 36243.23                  |
| Sindh        | 21         | 42         | 307.87                        | 16.58         | 13.86        | 1.04         | 339.35                    |
| KP           | 10         | 82         | 43.73                         | 1.98          | 1.72         | 0            | 47.43                     |
| AJK/GB       | 0          | 0          | 0                             | 0             | 0            | 0            | 0                         |
| <b>TOTAL</b> | <b>100</b> | <b>265</b> | <b>37100.16</b>               | <b>1600.4</b> | <b>26.57</b> | <b>42.39</b> |                           |
|              |            |            |                               |               |              |              | <b>Ecstasy Pills</b>      |
|              |            |            |                               |               |              |              | 1700                      |

**4. Cybercrime**

Cybercrime in Pakistan revolves around a few key occurrences, ranging from the dissemination of child pornography, videos of torture and fraud. There have been no major incidents of cyber-attacks in Pakistan this month, with most cybercrime being domestic in nature with no influence from external actors.

- On May 1<sup>st</sup>, 5 were arrested and 15 booked for torturing a woman and uploading the footage to social media.<sup>9</sup> The arrests were made following outrage from social media users.
- On May 4<sup>th</sup>, five were arrested for filming the torture of a man and uploading the footage to social media. Of the five arrested, one is a landlord.<sup>10</sup>
- A digital currency swindler was arrested on May 7<sup>th</sup> after allegedly stealing 371,000 Euros from 6 victims. This total is worth 70 million PKR.<sup>11</sup>

<sup>9</sup> [https://epaper.dawn.com/DetailNews.php?StoryText=01\\_05\\_2021\\_178\\_004](https://epaper.dawn.com/DetailNews.php?StoryText=01_05_2021_178_004)

<sup>10</sup> <https://tribune.com.pk/epaper/news/Lahore/2021-05-04/MDM0YmQ3M2I1YWYxNGUwMjM3MjIjMGQ3MzllNGNiOTAnBlZw%3D%3D>

<sup>11</sup> <https://tribune.com.pk/epaper/news/Lahore/2021-05-07/NmE1MjU4NGM5YWMyYmlyOGJhYTRmOTI0YjRjYzY3MDEuanBlZw%3D%3D>

An article from cybersecurity publication *The Daily Swig* has highlighted the capability of India as a malignant actor in South Asian cyberspace.<sup>12</sup> As its technology sector grows, and given its large pool of raw talent, there is potential for them to pose a threat to Pakistani cybersecurity.

## 5. Migrant Smuggling

People smuggling has continued in Pakistan, though like the month prior the focus is on people leaving the country. Smuggled people are transported to Turkey, from where they go on to Continental Europe to seek better economic opportunities. Several such instances were reported in May:

- On May 9<sup>th</sup>, three passengers were arrested at Karachi Airport for travelling on fake visas.<sup>13</sup> The passengers in question were attempting to travel to Turkey.
- On May 10<sup>th</sup>, a group trafficking infant children in Sahiwal was busted. One of the children was recovered while a woman in the gang was arrested.<sup>14</sup> According to reports, the children would be abducted from hospitals.
- On May 22<sup>nd</sup>, 136 illegal migrants were deported from Iran back to Pakistan for attempting to travel on invalid travel documentation.<sup>15</sup> The migrants aimed to travel to Europe through Turkey. Given the frequency of people being deported from Iran, it is highly likely that a transnational network of traffickers is operating in the region, attempting to smuggle people to Europe through Turkey. The FIA have announced a future investigation.

### About NIOC:

National Initiative against Organized Crime (NIOC) is the first-ever initiative against Organized Crime in Pakistan, which was launched in November 2019. It is led by a group of committed professionals and experts with law enforcement, media and other public service backgrounds. Through developing an empirical evidence-base and conducting hands-on consultations, NIOC aims to build community resilience and influence public policy to combat organized crime including terror financing, drug trafficking, human trafficking and cybercrime. With a complex governance structure having multiple layers of stakeholders, the criminal justice system and law enforcement apparatus require better coordination and capacity building. NIOC tries to identify the gaps and suggest improvements in the Criminal Justice System (CJS).

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<sup>12</sup> <https://portswigger.net/daily-swig/indian-cyber-espionage-activity-rising-amid-growing-rivalry-with-china-pakistan>

<sup>13</sup> <https://nation.com.pk/09-May-2021/3-arrested-for-traveling-on-fake-visas>

<sup>14</sup> [https://epaper.dawn.com/DetailNews.php?StoryText=10\\_05\\_2021\\_178\\_002](https://epaper.dawn.com/DetailNews.php?StoryText=10_05_2021_178_002)

<sup>15</sup> [https://epaper.dawn.com/DetailNews.php?StoryText=22\\_05\\_2021\\_005\\_004](https://epaper.dawn.com/DetailNews.php?StoryText=22_05_2021_005_004)