



Pakistan's Monthly Serious and Organized Crime Review

Compiled by National Initiative against Organised Crime (NIOC)

Centre for Governance Research-Pakistan

August 2021

- Total 24 incidents of serious and organized crimes were reported during the month of August. These crimes are categorised in this review into four main categories.
 - Terrorism and Violent Extremism
 - Crimes against Women and Children
 - Drug Trafficking
 - Migrant Smuggling and Human Trafficking

One major incident of terror took place in Quetta Serena hotel. BLA claimed the responsibility. Counter Terrorism Department (CTD) personnel and security forces conducted joint operation in different areas of Quetta city and killed five BLA militants in response to the attack.

➤ Terrorism and Violent Extremism

2 policemen martyred, 12 injured in blast near Quetta's Serena Hotel



At least two policemen were martyred, and 12 others injured in an explosion near Quetta's Serena Hotel.

Six civilians were also wounded in the blast that targeted a vehicle carrying 15 policemen near Tanzeem Chowk, Balochistan government spokesperson Liaquat Shahwani said in a statement.

He said the improvised explosive device (IED) was fitted into a motorcycle.

The injured were shifted to hospital, where an emergency was imposed, while Counter-Terrorism Department (CTD) teams were at the scene.



Shahwani condemned the attack, saying "terrorists want to disturb Balochistan's peace and spread fear."

"[We] will bring to justice the elements trying to create disturbance in peaceful Balochistan," he added.

Balochistan Chief Minister Jam Kamal Khan also condemned the attack and expressed sadness over the martyrdom of the two police personnel.

"Terrorist elements want to ruin the province's peace. [We] will never allow terrorists to succeed in their nefarious plans," he was quoted as saying in a statement.

The chief minister directed officials to submit a report into the attack and to provide the best available treatment facilities to the injured.

Separately, a vendor was injured on Quetta's Sariab Road after unidentified persons hurled a grenade at his roadside stall where he was selling Pakistan flags and other paraphernalia ahead of 14th August.

The incidents come more than three months after a powerful bomb exploded in the parking lot of the Quetta Serena Hotel, killing five people and wounding a dozen others.

Since then, there have been a number of attacks in the city in which security personnel and civilians were wounded or lost their lives.

Late last month, at least four people were injured and a Frontier Corps (FC) vehicle was damaged in a blast in Hazar Ganji, a locality on the outskirts of Quetta.

On July 1, at least six security personnel were injured, two of them seriously, in a motorcycle bomb explosion that targeted an army convoy on Quetta's Airport Road. Balochistan Inspector General Mohammad Tahir Rai had said that an IED had been planted on the motorcycle, which was detonated by remote control.

Source: Dawn, August 08, 2021.

Three customs officials shot dead in D.I. Khan



Three officials of the customs department were killed after assailants riding motorcycles opened fire on them on Dera-Zhob road near Kulachi area.

Police said the gunmen attacked an anti-smuggling squad of the customs department during routine patrol near Kulachi and escaped.

The attack left two customs officials, identified as Farooq Jan, a resident of Tank, and Fahad Bashir, a resident of Karak, dead on the spot while the third, Farooq Khan, a resident of Lakki Marwat, died on way to hospital.

Soon after the incident, a contingent of police, led by DPO retired Capt Najam-ul-Hasnain Liaquat, reached the spot and cordoned off the area to launch a search operation for perpetrators involved in the terrorist act. A Rescue 1122 team took bodies of the victims to Dera district headquarters hospital and later handed them over to relatives. According to an official statement issued in Peshawar, three Customs Department officials lost their lives while performing counter-smuggling duty on Dera-Zhob road near Kulachi.

Source: Dawn, August 10, 2021.

Security forces, CTD kill five BLA militants in joint op



At least five suspected armed militants belonging to a banned militant organisation have been killed in a gun battle with Balochistan chapter's Counter Terrorism Department (CTD) personnel and security forces in the New Marri Camp area of Hazarganji located in the provincial capital Quetta.

Acting on a tip-off based on intelligence reports, the CTD conducted a search operation in the area.

According to CTD officials, the search operation in the New Marri Camp of Hazarganji was launched on reports that terrorists were planning to conduct terrorist attacks at important places of the provincial capital Quetta on the eve of Independence Day when the country will be celebrating its 74th birthday.

The CTD personnel and security forces cordoned off a compound in New Marri Camp area, a locality on the outskirts of Quetta city and ordered the suspected terrorists to surrender.

However, the armed men hiding in the compound, instead of giving up, began indiscriminate firing on the CTD personnel which was responded befittingly.

The ensuing heavy gun battle lasted almost an hour, resulting in the killing of five suspected militants residing in the compound.

“Five suspected terrorists of banned outfit Baloch Liberation Army (BLA) were killed in the exchange of fire,” a senior CTD official said, adding that three armed men managed to escape from the compound taking advantage of the darkness.

The official added that arms and ammunition were recovered from the compound that included two sub-machine guns, three pistols, three hand grenades, two motorcycles, maps and important documents.

The bodies were shifted to civil hospital where two out of the five killed terrorists were identified as Jamil Ahmed and Muhammad Khan. The identity of the rest could not be ascertained as yet.

“They belong to the banned Baloch Liberation Army,” CTD officials said, adding that a massive operation has been launched for the arrest of the other suspected militants.

It may be recalled that three grenade attacks occurred in different areas of Quetta city during the last three days on pushcarts and a small shop that had been selling national flags. One person was killed and five others sustained injuries in these attacks. The banned BLA had claimed responsibility all the attacks.

Source: The Express Tribune, August 12, 2021.

10 killed in grenade attack on truck in Karachi



Ten people, including six women and four children, were killed while several others were injured in a grenade attack on a truck near Baldia Town's Mawach Goth area in Karachi.

Senior official of the Counter-Terrorism Department (CTD), Raja Umer Khattab, said that initial investigations showed that it was a grenade attack. He said that the grenade exploded before it could hit the floor of the vehicle.

He said that initial investigations showed that the attackers were on a motorcycle.

South Zone DIG Javed Akbar Riaz said that the incident took place around 9:45pm and the truck was carrying between 20-25 people. The passengers were returning home after attending a marriage ceremony, he said.

Additional police surgeon Dr Qarar Abbasi said that 10 dead bodies had been brought to the Dr Ruth Pfau Civil Hospital. Six women and four children were among the victims.

He said that 10 others who were injured in the incident had been brought to the hospital for treatment. He said that all four of the deceased children were male and between 10 to 12 years of age.

Karachi Administrator Murtaza Wahab took notice of the incident and sought details from the Keamari SSP. In a statement, he said that investigators were probing the incident from different angles.

Expressing regret over the loss of human lives, the administrator directed officials to provide the best possible medical treatment to those who were injured.

Meanwhile, Sindh Chief Minister Murad Ali Shah directed police officials and the district administration to shift the injured to nearby hospitals.

The chief minister also sought a report from the provincial transport minister about the vehicle, enquiring whether the truck belonged to Sindh or another province.

He also directed the transport minister to provide details about the vehicle's fitness certificate and the cause of the explosion.

Shah also directed the health secretary to shift the injured to the Burns Centre of Dr Ruth Pfau Civil Hospital Karachi for treatment.

Source: Dawn, August 14, 2021.

Army soldier martyred in South Waziristan



A soldier embraced martyrdom when the Pakistan Army engaged a movement of terrorists in Khyber-Pakhtunkhwa's South Waziristan district, the Inter-Services Public Relations (ISPR) said.

The military's media wing added that the movement was spotted in the Kanniguram area. "During intense exchange of fire, one of the terrorists was killed. While responding to terrorist fire, Naib Subedar Sonay Zai (age 42 years, resident of Darazinda, DI Khan), got critically injured and later embraced shahadat," it added.

The statement said that a search operation is being conducted in the area to eliminate any terrorists found.

"The Pakistan Army is determined to eliminate the menace of terrorism and such sacrifices of our brave soldiers further strengthen our resolve," ISPR further said.

Earlier this month, a soldier was injured when terrorists from inside Afghanistan across the international border opened fire on a military post in the Dewagar area of North Waziristan district.

According to the ISPR, the army troops responded in a befitting manner. "During the exchange of fire, one soldier got injured," the official statement said. On July 18, a soldier of the Pakistan Army embraced martyrdom during an intelligence-based operation (IBO) in South Waziristan.

The military's media wing said the operation was conducted in the Senai Narai area of the district on the reports of the presence of terrorists.

"During intense exchange of fire with terrorists, Sepoy Junaid, age 20 years, resident of Balakot, district Mansehra embraced shahadat," the statement added.

Source: The Express Tribune, August 19, 2021.

Two boys killed, Chinese man injured in Gwadar suicide attack



Two boys were killed and four others, including a Chinese national, injured when a suicide bomber blew himself up targeting a vehicle carrying Chinese nationals in Gwadar.

Banned Balochistan Liberation Army (BLA), Majeed Brigade, claimed responsibility for the attack.

Sources said the Chinese nationals, who were working on the under-construction East-Bay Expressway, were returning to their camp when the vehicle was hit by the blast.

“One Chinese national suffered minor injuries,” a police officer told Dawn.

Police officials said the incident occurred at around 7pm near Baloch Ward.

“Two boys were killed and four other people, including two children and a Chinese national, were injured,” Liaquat Ali Shahwani, a spokesman for the Balochistan government, said.

Police said it was a suicide attack and the vehicle carrying Chinese nationals was the target of the bomber.

Members of security forces rushed to the scene of bombing, cordoned off the area and took bodies and the injured to Gwadar district hospital.

“We received bodies of two children and three injured,” Dr Latif, Medical Superintendent of the hospital, told Dawn.

The children were playing near the East-Bay Express-way when the bomber detonated himself at the vehicle.

“Other Chinese nationals travelling on the vehicle remained safe and they were immediately taken to a safe place by security forces guarding the vehicle of Chinese nationals,” the sources said.

Members of security forces cordoned off the entire area after the blast.

The sources said that remains of the suicide attacker were found on the site of the blast.

The deceased were identified as Salman, 10, Salman Haider, 11. Three out of four injured included Kafa, 30, Aswad and Sameer Anwar 13.

The BLA identified the suicide attacker as Sarbland Baloch alias Umer Jan.

The interior ministry in a statement released in Islamabad said: “Today in the evening, in a cowardly attack, a convoy of Chinese nationals comprising three Chinese vehicles with integral security details of Pakistan army and police contingent was targeted on East Bay Expressway in Gwadar.

“The targeting took place along the coastal road near a Fishermen colony.

“A young boy ran out of the colony once the convoy reached there to target Chinese vehicles.”

Soldiers of Pakistan army in plainclothes rushed to intercept the boy; who immediately, exploded himself about 15-20 metres away from the convoy, it said.

According to the statement, both Pakistan and China recognise the threats posed to their cooperation and collaboration towards growth and development of their communities under the evolving regional environment. Cognisant of hostile designs, government of Pakistan is already undertaking a comprehensive review of security of Chinese nationals and is committed to ensuring their safe stay in Pakistan in this journey of progress.

“We reaffirm to our Chinese brothers our wholehearted endeavours to deal with these threats comprehensively. In this hour of distress, while we are saddened by injury to our Chinese brother and loss of innocent Pakistani children, both countries stand together firmly in defeating the inimical acts aiming to undermine our cooperation and friendship,” it said.

Source: Dawn, August 21, 2021

Captain martyred, 2 soldiers injured in IED blast in Balochistan



A Pakistan Army captain was martyred and two soldiers were injured after their vehicle hit an improvised explosive device (IED) planted by terrorists in Balochistan's Gichik area.

The injured soldiers were shifted to a medical facility in Khuzdar, the Inter-Services Public Relations (ISPR) said in a statement.

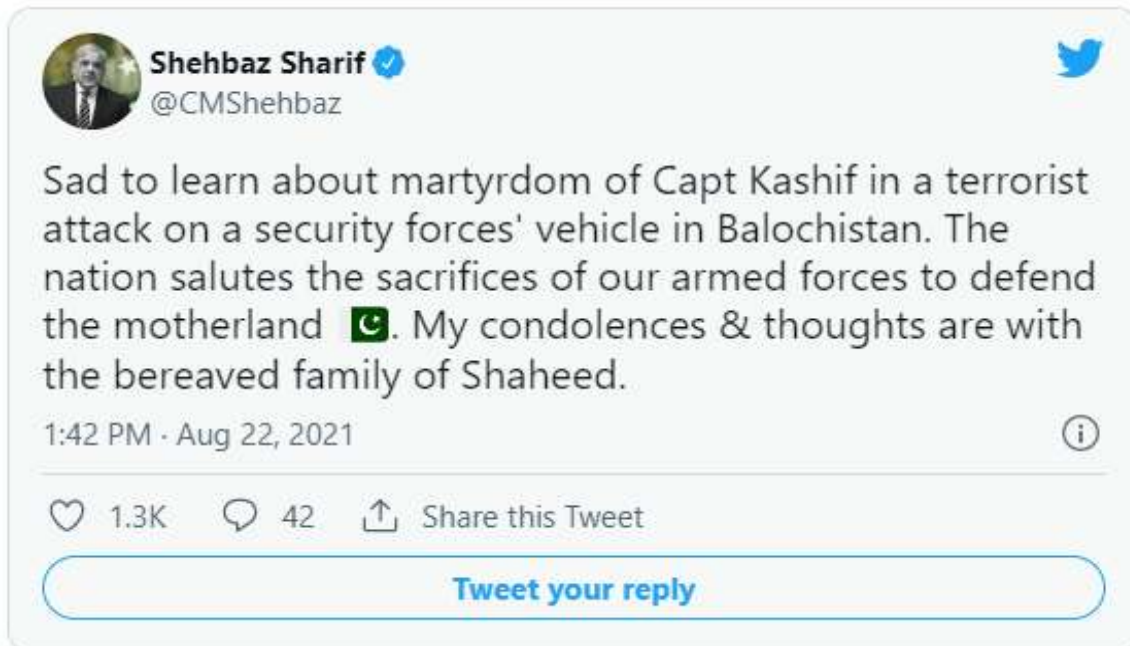
Interior Minister Sheikh Rashid condemned the terrorist attack and expressed sadness on receiving news about the captain's death.

"Terrorists cannot dim our courage with cowardly attacks. We are fighting the terrorists with full force. We will defeat them," he said.



PML-N president and Leader of the Opposition in the National Assembly Shehbaz Sharif said he was saddened to hear about the captain's martyrdom.

"The nation salutes the sacrifices of our armed forces to defend the motherland," he tweeted.



There has been an uptick in violence in restive Balochistan, with several incidents of terrorism reported this year, targeting both civilians as well as security forces.

Earlier this week, two children were killed and four others, including a Chinese national, were injured when a suicide bomber blew himself up targeting a vehicle carrying Chinese nationals in Gwadar.

Banned Balochistan Liberation Army (BLA), Majeed Brigade, had claimed responsibility for the attack.

On Aug 8, two policemen were martyred and 12 others injured in an explosion near Quetta's Serena Hotel. Six civilians were also wounded in the blast.

The improvised explosive device (IED) used in the attack was fitted into a motorcycle.

Last month, four people were injured and a Frontier Corps (FC) vehicle was damaged in an IED blast in the province's Hazar Ganji locality.

On July 1, at least six security personnel were injured, two of them seriously, in a motorcycle bomb explosion that targeted an army convoy on Quetta's Airport Road.

Inspector General of Balochistan Mohammad Tahir Rai had said that an IED had been planted on the motorcycle, which was detonated by a remote control.

Terrorist killed in North Waziristan

In a separate statement, the ISPR said a terrorist was killed in an intelligence-based operation (IBO) in North Waziristan.

Security forces conducted the IBO in North Waziristan's Boya area after receiving reports about the presence of terrorists there. During the exchange of fire, a terrorist was killed and weapons and ammunition were later recovered, the statement said.

A search of the area was underway to eliminate any further terrorists, the ISPR added.

Source: Dawn, August 22, 2021

Captain martyred, two soldiers injured in blast

A captain of Pakistan Army was martyred and two soldiers were injured when an improvised explosive device (IED) targeted a vehicle of security forces in Tobo, Gichik area of Balochistan.

The vehicle hit the IED that was planted by militants on the road, said an Inter-Services Public Relations (ISPR) media release.

The martyred officer was identified as Captain Kashif.

The injured soldiers were shifted to a medical facility in Khuzdar.

According to ISPR, Chief of the Army Staff Gen Qamar Javed Bajwa attended the Namaz-i-Janaza of the officer in Rawalpindi.

Senior military officials, people from various walks of life and relatives of the martyred captain attended the funeral prayer.

The martyred captain was buried with full military honours.

Source: Dawn, August 23, 2021.

3 coal miners gunned down in Balochistan



Some armed men gunned down three coal miners working in the Marwar coalfield area on Monday night, some 70 kilometres from Quetta.

The victims were identified as Hidayat-ur-Rehman, Gul Hakim and Abdul Wakeel, who were working for two private coal companies — the National Coal Company and Dinar Coalmines.

The gunmen entered the area in the night and opened indiscriminate fire, killing the three coal miners on the spot.

“Three young coal miners were killed on the spot as they suffered multiple bullet injuries,” Gul Muhammad, a senior police officer of Hanna police station, told Dawn. Members of security forces reached the site after getting information about the incident and took bodies to hospital.

“We received three bullet-riddled bodies in the hospital,” Dr Wasim Baig, a spokesman for the Civil Hospital, said.

The attackers escaped after killing the miners and members of the security forces deployed at the nearby check-post got the information late because there was no mobile phone service in the hilly area.

Two of the three victims belonged to the Shangla area of Swat district of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa while the third victim was a resident of Quetta.

“It seems to be an incident of targeted killing of mine workers,” a police officer said, requesting anonymity.

Source: Dawn, August 25, 2021.

‘Two TTP militants arrested’



The police claimed to have arrested two militants of the proscribed Tehreek-e-Taliban Pakistan after a raid in Ibrahim Hyderi Area.

According to the police, an intelligence-based operation was carried out and two suspected terrorists, Naimatullah Baba and Pirullah Khan, were arrested. Two hand grenades were confiscated from them, added the cops.

Both suspects hail from South Waziristan and received training from Afghanistan, said the police, adding that Naimatullah's father and two brothers were also linked with the militant outfit. One of the brother's, Barkatullah, is imprisoned while another brother, Amanullah Mannu, was killed in an alleged police encounter in 2014.

Naimatullah is accused of killing a man named Mehtab Baradar on the directives of slain TTP commander Hakimullah Mehsud, who suspected Mehtab of spying on the terrorist group. The murder case was registered at Sohrab Goth Police Station, informed officials.

Meanwhile, Pirullah is accused of carrying out reconnaissance of Mehtab to facilitate the target killing.

Source: The Express Tribune, August 25, 2021.

3 Levies personnel martyred in landmine blast in Balochistan's Ziarat



Three Levies personnel were martyred and as many injured when their vehicle hit a landmine in Balochistan's Ziarat district.

The explosion occurred when the Levies vehicle ran over a landmine near Mangi Dam, provincial government spokesperson Liaquat Shahwani said.

He further said the injured were sent to a hospital in Quetta for treatment.

According to Shahwani, the martyred personnel included a risaldar major, havaldar and a sepoy. The three injured were all sepoys.

Security sources said four labourers working at Mangi Dam were kidnapped by unidentified armed suspects. The Levies party was travelling to the area to get the workers released when it hit the landmine.

The Balochistan Levies is a force in charge of maintaining law and order in the tribal areas of the province.

Today's incident comes four days after a Pakistan Army captain was martyred and two soldiers injured when their vehicle hit an improvised explosive device (IED) planted by terrorists in Balochistan's Gichik area.

There has been an uptick in violence in the province, with several incidents of terrorism reported this year, targeting both civilians as well as security forces.

Last Friday, two children were killed and four others, including a Chinese national, were injured when a suicide bomber blew himself up targeting a vehicle carrying Chinese nationals in Gwadar.

The banned Balochistan Liberation Army (BLA), Majeed Brigade, had claimed responsibility for the attack.

On August 8, two policemen were martyred and 12 others injured in an explosion near Quetta's Serena Hotel. Six civilians were also wounded in the blast. The IED used in the attack was fitted into a motorcycle.

Last month, four people were injured and a Frontier Corps (FC) vehicle was damaged in an IED blast in the province's Hazar Ganji locality.

Source: Dawn, August 26, 2021.

Four security men martyred in Ziarat, Panjgur bomb attacks

Four security personnel including three Levies Force officials were martyred and six others injured in terrorist attacks in Ziarat and Panjgur districts.

The banned Baloch Liberation Army claimed responsibility for a landmine blast in Mangi dam area near Ziarat.

Official sources said Levies Force had received information about the kidnapping of four labourers who were working at the dam. A contingent of Levies Force launched a search operation to rescue the labourers. However, a Levies men's while chasing the kidnappers vehicle hit a landmine and was blown up. "Three Levies personnel were martyred in the blast," a security official told Dawn, adding that three other personnel in another vehicle received injuries.

Officials said that the kidnappers released two labourers when the Levies had started chasing them.

In the Guargu area of Panjgur, a Frontier Corps man was martyred and three others were injured in a bomb attack.

Official sources said unknown men attacked an FC vehicle which was passing through the Guargu area. "One security man identified as Muhammad Aslam was martyred and three others were injured," a security official confirmed, adding that the injured were shifted to the district hospital Panjgur.

Source: Dawn, August 27, 2021.

Dir Scouts man martyred in attack

One paramilitary soldier embraced martyrdom when terrorists attacked a check-post from across the Afghan border.

Security sources confirmed that Havaladar Gul Ameer of Dir Scouts 185 Wing embraced martyrdom after having been injured in the attack on the post in the Three Baman Sector along the Pakistan-Afghanistan border.

They said terrorists escaped when security forces returned fire. Havaladar Ameer was brought to the THQ hospital, Samarbagh, in critical condition where he succumbed to injuries.

Source: Dawn, August 27, 2021.

Police constable shot dead in Kohat attack

A police constable was killed when men from a moving car opened fire on him in Ghulam Banda area.

The victim, who was wearing plain clothes, was identified as Khalid Khan.

The police have registered a case into the killing, which they said was the result of an old enmity between the families of the constable and the attackers.

The bullet-riddled body was shifted to the KDA Teaching Hospital for autopsy. Later, it was handed over to relatives for burial.

Source: Dawn, August 29, 2021.

Police officer martyred in ‘targeted’ attack, colleague survives

A police officer was martyred in Orangi Town while another officer survived the assassination attempt, according to police.

West SSP Suhai Aziz said that the two police officers, associated with the investigation wing, were eating at a restaurant in Gulshan-i-Bihar, Sector-16, when apparently a lone suspect carrying pistols in his both hands opened an indiscriminate fire on them.

As a result, assistant sub-inspector Akram Khan, 45, suffered multiple bullet wounds and died.

The SSP said that the other ASI, Zafar Husain, survived in the attack though the assailant also targeted him.

The martyred police officer was posted at the Manghopir police station.

“It appeared to be a targeted killing incident,” said the SSP.

The case was handed over to Counter-Terrorism Department (CTD) for an investigation.

Senior CTD official Raja Umer Khattab described it as a terror-related incident. He said that the CCTV footage obtained from the restaurant showed that alleged killer wore shalwar-kameez and trimmed beard. He also carried a handkerchief on his shoulder. He said the killer appeared to be a trained killer as he did demonstrate panic while committing the crime.

The officer said that when the surviving police officer took shelter within the restaurant, the assailant came back and opened fire on him but missed the target. The assailant then walked away and looked calm and confident, he added.

The CTD official said that ASIs Akram and Zafar had been posted at the Pakistan Bazaar police station before they were transferred to Manghopir. They also intended to conduct a raid in the area in another case during the night, said Mr Khattab.

Investigators have collected eight spent bullet casings fired from 30-bore pistols from the crime scene. Witnesses told the police that one suspect stayed beside the motorbike, parked outside the restaurant, while another one went inside.

According to the FIR registered at the CTD under terror charges, complainant ASI Zafar Husain said that they were in the area for the investigation into a case and were sitting inside to meet an ‘informer’ when the armed man attacked them.

Source: Dawn, August 30, 2021.

3 personnel, 2 civilians martyred in terrorist attacks in merged districts



SEPOY Jamal / SEPOY Ayaz

Three security men and two civilians were martyred in firing from the Afghan side of the border and IED (improvised explosive device) attacks in different areas of the merged districts.

Three terrorists were killed in retaliatory fire by security forces, the Inter-Services Public Relations (ISPR) said.

Terrorists from inside Afghanistan opened fire on a military post in Bajaur district. Troops responded in a befitting manner. According to intelligence reports, two to three terrorists were killed and three to four terrorists got injured.

In the exchange of fire, Sepoy Jamal and Sepoy Ayaz embraced martyrdom. Jamal, 28, was a resident of Mardan while 21-year-old Ayaz hailed from Chitral.

Officials said that terrorists opened fire on a check-post from the Afghan side in Bajaur.

Islamabad strongly condemns the use of Afghan soil by terrorists for activities against Pakistan and expects that existing and future set-up in Afghanistan will not allow such activities, the ISPR said.

Security forces and civilians also came under attacks in North Waziristan and South Waziristan districts.

Intelligence sources said that terrorists targeted a bomb disposal squad with an IED near the Sherwangi Kandy post in Ladha tehsil of South Waziristan. Police said one sepoy embraced martyrdom.

Militants also attacked security forces and civilians with IEDs in the adjacent North Waziristan district. In the first attack, an IED went off near a security post in the Razmak subdivision in which one civilian was martyred while two others, including a soldier, suffered injuries.

Security forces cordoned off the area and conducted a search operation.

In the other incident, a vehicle supplying ration to security forces was hit with an IED in the Dirdoni area near Miramshah, causing injuries to two people. The wounded were taken to hospital where one of them, identified as Waliullah, was pronounced dead.

Source: Dawn, August 30, 2021.

11 suspected militants killed in CTD operation in Mastung



At least 11 suspected militants were killed in a gun battle with personnel of the Counter Terrorism Department (CTD) in Mastung area of Balochistan.

A spokesman for the department said that CTD men along with other security personnel conducted a search operation in the Mastung area, some 60km from here, on the basis of an intelligence report about the presence of suspected terrorists in a compound.

The security personnel cordoned off the compound and asked the armed men to surrender, but they opened fire instead. The security personnel took positions and returned fire.

“After the heavy gun battle that ensued, 11 alleged terrorists were found dead in the compound, which they were using as their hideout,” said the spokesman.

He said the slain men belonged to the militant Islamic State group. A huge quantity of arms and ammunition was seized from the compound.

Source: Dawn, August 31, 2021.

Soldier martyred in S. Waziristan blast



A soldier was martyred in South Waziristan district when an improvised explosive device went off.

An ISPR statement revealed that during an exchange of fire that followed the deadly IED explosion, one of the terrorists trying to flee from the area was killed.

“During area clearance by security forces, an improvised explosive device (IED) exploded in Asman Manza, South Waziristan District. Resultantly, a soldier, Sepoy Wajid Ullah (age 25 years, resident of Karak), embraced shahadat,” said the statement.

“Own troops immediately cordoned (off) the area to apprehend the terrorists involved in planting the IED. During intense exchange of fire one of the terrorists trying to flee away got killed,” added the press release.

Source: Dawn, August 31, 2021.

➤ Crimes against Women and Children

Bahawalpur police arrest 'serial paedophile'



Hasilpur police has arrested an alleged paedophile involved in the abduction and rape of minors in Bahawalpur.

According to the police report, the accused identified as Muhammad Ansar would kidnap children and sexually abuse the minors.

Police claimed to have arrested the serial paedophile using modern technology.

Reportedly, the accused was wanted by police in various cases registered against him in Bahawalnagar, Multan and Bahawalpur.

As many as 10 cases of sexual assault were registered against the suspect.

District Police Officer Muhammad Faisal Kamran told said" This is a successful operation by the police to detain a man responsible for the abduction and rape of minors. The society is in turmoil

because of such people and this spreads panic among the people. These children are our own, the DPO claimed.

Hasilpur Saddar police formed teams to launch a hunt for the alleged kidnapper and rapist. Police during the operation caught Ansar with the help of modern technology and CCTV footage.

The accused was a resident of Vehari district and used to sell birds on a motorcycle. The alleged paedophile was well acquainted with the neighbourhood.

The suspect would lure the minors by showing them content on his mobile phone. He would then abduct them and take them to an unknown location where he allegedly sexually assaulted the minor victims.

Police officials said the suspect would leave the victims there and flee from the crime scene.

The suspect, during police interrogation, confessed to three incidents of abduction and rape which were not reported to the police.

Source: The Express Tribune, August 8, 2021.

Minor boy killed after ‘abduction, rape’



A seven-year-old boy was allegedly raped and killed in Bamkawala village Ladha of Daska police station. The tortured body of a seven-year-old boy was found in the fields.

Police said the boy had gone out to play with friends in the street and was missing.

The station house officer said the child's hands, feet and neck were found tied with a shirt. The child was tied with his shirt and strangled by the same shirt.

The face of the child was crushed head with a stone. The body of the child was swelled due to scorching heat and was rushed to the hospital by Rescue 1122 team.

Sources said the incident took place in Ladha village of Bambanwala police station. A seven-year-old boy was raped and killed.

CCTV footage of the suspect who took seven-year-old to the fields after his abduction also came to light.

Source: The Express Tribune, August 8, 2021.

Over 6k harassment complaints filed



Over 6,000 women have submitted complaints of sexual harassment to the Federal Investigation Agency (FIA) Cybercrime Wing in Lahore during the current year.

Of the 6,168 applications received in less than eight months, a large number are against blackmailing with recorded and doctored video clips and photographs from calls or chats on WhatsApp and Facebook. According to sources, the majority of applications are from students of various universities and colleges against blackmailing by their peers. Pictures and videos recorded during joint educational and recreational activities were used for blackmailing in a number of cases.

There have been some cases in which a relationship started but did not last, leading to resentment and blackmailing.

The majority of the complainants of harassment are educated, including lawyers, doctors, entrepreneurs, bankers and employees of multinational and local companies.

According to the FIA record, the cybercrime wing has received 14,108 applications in all since January, of which 6,168 are complaints of sexual harassment. Officials of the agency said the number of such complaints was increasing day by day.

There are also many complaints about misuse of photos and videos taken from mobile phones and laptops sold by their owners without deleting them. Shopkeepers or buyers of the devices used the images for exploitation.

According to FIA sources, people's inability to understand and use the security features of the latest models of the phones and computers leaves them vulnerable to the leakage and misuse of their personal data.

The sources said women working in various companies had also filed complaints of sexual harassment. In some cases, employees of pharmaceutical companies, banks and other firms complained against dressing instructions issued to them.

Speaking to The Express Tribune, the FIA sources said the complaints were processed in accordance with the relevant laws but problems were faced when the required record was not received from the operators of social media platforms like Facebook, WhatsApp and Instagram. They said action on the complaints could not be completed until the record was received.

The cybercrime wing can only request the organisations to provide the record as soon as possible so that legal action may be pursued.

The FIA wing registered 2,575 cases and arrested 27 people, while 127 suspects were wanted and raids were being carried out for their arrest, the sources said.

When contacted, Lahore FIA Cybercrime Wing Director General Babar Bakht Qureshi said there were a large number of complaints and action was being taken accordingly.

He said a large number of such cases were related to matrimonial disputes or estrangement after close relations.

“Problems are also faced by people who do not know how to use modern technology,” the official said, adding that the FIA was taking action on the complaints.

Source: The Express Tribune, August 25, 2021.

Four arrested for involvement in ‘child porn, sexual offences’

The Federal Investigation Agency (FIA) has arrested four suspects for their alleged involvement in child pornography and sexual offenses through a mobile phone application.

As per the FIA officials, the arrests were made following the complaint lodged with the agency by a man, Sanwal, of Mehmoodabad, who said the four suspects had developed relations with each other through a mobile phone application and they also contacted him to lure him into their activities, adding that they would be meeting near the Kashmir Bridge on Canal Road.

Following the information, FIA formed a team that arrested the four suspects – Asad, Tanveer, Usman and Umair. During search the raiding team found the app installed on their mobile phones, besides objectionable material.

FIA Deputy Director Muhammad Rizwan told the media that the agency had been informed that a website was working where objectionable videos of children as well as adults were being uploaded.

He said the arrested suspects were involved in the child pornography and sexual offences and their cell phones had been seized as evidence.

He said people using this app belonged to different areas of Pakistan, who would share their objectionable material with each other.

Investigation had been launched into the scam and other offenders would also be arrested soon, he added.

Source: Dawn, August 28, 2021.

➤ Drug Trafficking

2 convicted of trafficking drugs 13 years back acquitted



A Lahore High Court two-judge bench has acquitted two men convicted 13 years ago on charges of trafficking 11.79 ton narcotics to Canada.

The Anti-Narcotics Force (ANF) had registered the FIR in 2003 under sections 9(c)/15 of the Control of Narcotic Substances Act, 1997 at its Lahore police station against the suspects, Abdul Rehman and Muhammad Shafqat.

The trial court in its 2008 decision sentenced Rehman to 15 years imprisonment and handed down life term to Shafqat.

As per the prosecution story, the Canadian officials in Islamabad, intimated the special investigation cell of the ANF in writing that Canadian Customs intercepted and seized 11.79-ton shipment of hashish in Halifax, Nova Scotia, at Ceres Terminal, which was destined for Montreal, Canada.

According to the bill of lading, the consignment was sent through cargo from Karachi and it was fetched by the vessel in Sri Lanka.

In the letter, it was informed that hashish was packed in green plastic covered with two layers of blue commercial “Friskies”, a brand of cat food packing with an outer layer of yellow plastic wrap.

The convicts were the employees of the cargo companies and had been charged with smuggling the narcotics.

However, the bench in its verdict observes that no evidence is available against the appellants/convicts for possession, sealing or transportation of narcotics and the shipment was not sealed in the presence of the appellants before its dispatch to Canada.

It notes that the shipment was sealed in the presence of custom officers, who have been exonerated during investigation.

It observes that the description of packaging sent from Pakistan does not match with the property description found by Canadian police. During the voyage, the ship was hit by a sea storm at Sri Lanka and the container was found damaged, as reported by Sri Lankan authorities. The fact was confirmed by Canadian police that the container was damaged.

The bench notes that the Canadian authorities did not inform of the investigation extending to the consignee of this shipment, nor it was shown that the proceedings reached the logical end. It says the case property was not produced before the trial court, neither in Pakistan nor in Canada.

The bench comprising Justice Anwarul Haq Pannun and Justice Muhammad Amjad Rafiq allowed the appeals and acquitted the convicts.

Source: Dawn, August 11, 2021.

➤ Migrant Smuggling and Human Trafficking

Three die in attempt to enter Iran illegally via Taftan border



Three people trying to make their way to Iran illegally died of thirst last week after a pick-up driver abandoned them in a desolate area near Nokkundi in Chagai district. Four other people survived.

Rana Irfan, who lost a brother, a nephew and a cousin to the tragedy, complained to Taftan's administration that Saeed, a human smuggler, suddenly started demanding Rs350,000 for each man despite agreeing earlier to a payment of Rs11,000.

"As the driver was the smuggler's brother, he left all the seven people to fend for themselves in a forbidding place. After struggling for 36 hours to find a road or an inhabited area where they could get drinking water, the three died one by one," Irfan recalled, his voice choking with heartbreak.

The four other people were rescued by other smugglers and they reached their homes safely.

Khaleequr Rehman, Irfan's cousin, was laid to rest in Wazirabad, Gujranwala district, while the body of Hafiz Muhammad Bilal, Irfan's nephew, was temporarily buried where he breathed his last. The body of his brother, Mohammad Sajjad, remained untraced.

Mr Irfan appealed to the authorities to help him in retrieving the bodies of his brother and nephew as he could not afford the expenditure.

Nokkundi Tehsildar Muh-ammad Hashim Kurd said one unidentified body had been brought to the rural healthcare centre. Asked whether the administration would take action against the alleged human smugglers, Mr Kurd said he had not received any such complaint.

Source: Dawn, August 24, 2021.

About CGR

CGR is a forum for studies and debate on strategic and tactical issues related with good governance and the rule of law. It is a non-governmental civil society advocacy Centre dedicated to reforms in the justice and governance sectors.

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