



Organized Crime Watch-6/2021

Pakistan's Organized Crime Monthly Review

Compiled by National Initiative against Organised Crime (NIOC)

June 2021

1. Terrorism Watch

A total of 12 terrorist attacks took place in Pakistan during June 2021, representing a decrease of 20 percent from the month before. These attacks claimed 29 lives – compared to 33 in the previous month – and injured 31 other people. Six of these attacks happened in Balochistan, four in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and one attack took place in each of Punjab and Islamabad.

Over 65 percent of the total deaths that resulted from terrorist attacks in June were recorded among security forces (10 FC men, 4 army soldiers, and 5 policemen); 10 deaths were also reported among civilians. Significant deaths among security forces personnel happened because nine out of total 12 terrorist attacks across Pakistan targeted army, FC or police.

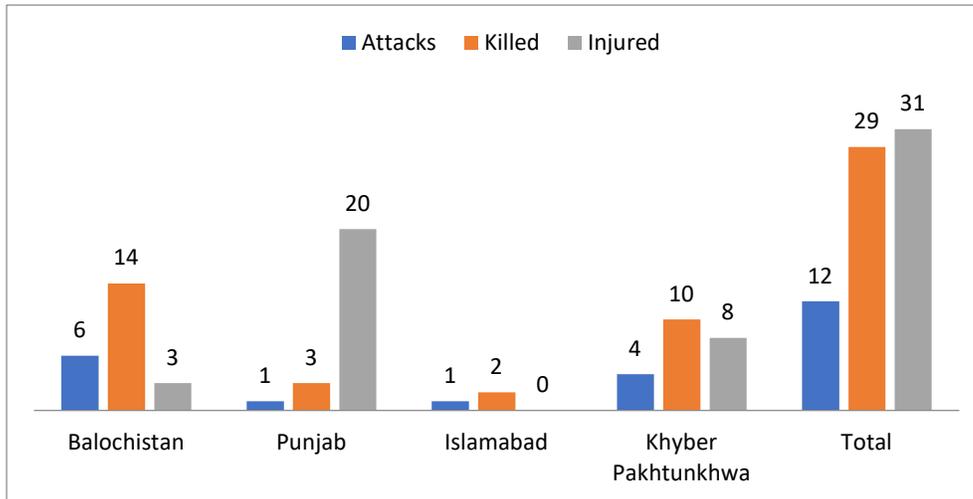
As in the month before, Baloch insurgent groups continued targeted terrorist assault against security forces. Six terrorist attacks took place in Balochistan, which claimed 14 lives – including 11 security forces personnel – and inflicted injuries on another three people.

Meanwhile, compared to five in the previous month, a total of four terrorist attacks took place in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa during the month under review, one less than the month

before. These attacks claimed 10 lives – same as in the previous month – and injured another eight people.

In all, two terrorist attacks happened in Lahore (Punjab) and the federal capital Islamabad, apparently targeting the law enforcement personnel. The attack in Lahore took place near the residence of Hafiz Saeed, the chief of Jamaatud Dawa. As many as five people lost their lives and 20 others were injured in these two attacks.

Chart 1: Terrorist Attacks in Pakistan in June 2021



The Tehreek-e-Taliban Pakistan (TTP) and other militants with similar objectives perpetrated eight attacks in June 2021, killing 18 people and injuring 31 others. Baloch nationalist insurgent groups were believed to be involved in four targeted attacks against security forces that killed 11 army and FC officials.

2. Terror Financing

The most prominent development was the Financial Action Task Force (FATF) Plenary Session where it was announced that Pakistan would remain on the Grey List. Out of the 27 Action Goals assigned to Pakistan by the FATF, Pakistan needs to only complete one, on which it has already made progress. While the FATF has lauded Pakistan’s progress, the response within Pakistan has been unfavorable to say the least. Pakistanis, and even the Foreign Minister, claimed that the FATF is acting to harm Pakistan on behalf of hostile external actors. Jamaat-e-Islami leader Siraj-ul-Haq called the FATF “blackmailers”. The next meeting is set to take place in October, and efforts will need to be made to counter terrorism financing before that meeting takes place. In spite of expectations of Pakistan’s removal from the Grey List, remarks made about Osama bin Laden by both the Prime Minister, Foreign Minister and former Prime Minister Shahid Khaqan Abbasi likely influenced the Task Force’s decision, in addition to Pakistan’s unwillingness to provide the US access to bases in Pakistan for operations in neighboring Afghanistan.

Other developments:

- On June 6th, 3 Lyari gangsters were arrested for murder and extortion, among other crimes. According to authorities, the money generated from illicit activities was used to fund the Lyari gang war.
- On June 16th, the Balochistan Home Minister issued a statement claiming that Baloch insurgents are receiving funding from Indian intelligence.
- Pak Sarzameen Party (PSP) activist Anis Ahmed's National Identity Card was blocked following the discovery of suspicious bank transactions. These transactions are related to an ongoing investigation of the Muttahida Qaumi Movement's (MQM) links to India.

3. Drug trafficking

- Hashish remains the most popular drug to smuggle within Pakistan.
- The largest quantities of drugs have been seized in Balochistan and Sindh. The presence of large seizures is likely due to proximity to international borders and the Arabian Sea.
- Drugs are smuggled from Afghanistan into Pakistan, moving from KP to Sindh and Balochistan for transnational smuggling, or sale within Pakistan.
- A lack of effective checking has been identified in KP. Due to understaffing, KP police are unable to effectively patrol the region from Orakzai and Khyber to Kohat. This likely explains the low number of seizures in KP this past month.
- A greater focus has been put on non-kinetic measures to combat drug trafficking. June saw the International Day Against Drug Trafficking, thus a wide range of seminars, rallies and demonstrations nationwide. These were largely aimed at the youth and were organized by both local governments and universities.
- Police are now being drug tested for narcotic and alcohol abuse across the country in order to prevent narcotics from being stolen from police station lockups. Departments across Punjab have already been tested with varying results; Rawalpindi saw a very small number of officers test positive, however Kasur police saw a positive test rate of 50%. The integrity of the tests will have to be scrutinized for more accurate results.

Table of All Drug Busts:

June 2021 - NIOC	Response		Types of drugs seized (in kg)				Total (by province in kg)
	Ops	Arrests	Hashish	Heroin	Ice/Meth	Others	
Punjab	37	73	181.24	10.52	1.07	97	289.83
Balochistan	2	0	2010	0	0	0	2010
Sindh	27	67	632.32	2.68	1.41	1207	1843.41
KP	2	11	0.35	0	0.03	0	0.38
AJK/GB	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
TOTAL	68	151	2823.91	13.20	2.51	1304	
							Ecstasy Pills
							0

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4. Cybercrime

The dissemination of violent sexual content, including child pornography, continues to make up the bulk of cybercrime observed in Pakistan. Videos of torture and rape continue to be shared on social media and go viral, attracting outrage and condemnation. In addition to the dissemination of this content, other cybercrimes like fraud remain frequent. Major cyberattacks on infrastructure did not occur in June.

- On June 4th, the Federal Ombudsman requested a more “holistic” approach to combatting cybercrime, particularly against children.
- This ties into the need for a more robust cybersecurity infrastructure within Pakistan, which is extremely vulnerable to cyberattacks.
- On June 8th, a man was jailed in Quetta on child pornography charges for 3 years. According to Dawn this is the first child pornography case where the accused has been convicted.
- On June 10th, two events took place:
 - o 3 members of the Bhojani family were arrested for committing fraud of over Rs.1 billion. The Bhojanis are well-known businessmen.
 - o 3 were booked for sexually humiliating a child, filming the act and uploading the footage to social media.
 - On June 13th, several events took place:
 - o Prime Minister Imran Khan ordered a crackdown against online hate speech following a terrorist attack against a Muslim family in Canada. This is a part of Khan’s ongoing efforts to highlight Islamophobia across the world.
 - o A member of the Lodi Gang was arrested. The gang member would film the torture of the gang’s victims.
 - o 5 were arrested for kidnapping and torturing a boy while filming it. The video was uploaded to social media.
 - On June 15th, it was revealed by the FIA and NACTA that social media companies are refusing to cooperate with them on combatting cybercrime. According to NACTA, Facebook “does not bother” to respond to correspondence.
 - o This is most likely due to a disconnect between Pakistani cybercrime laws like PECA, and the operating principles and Terms of Service with sites like Facebook. Content outlawed under PECA may still adhere to the Terms of Service and thus stay online.
 - On June 16th, a teacher in Muzaffargarh was arrested for raping his students and filming it.
 - On June 17th, two events took place related to the filming of rape and abuse:
 - o A woman and her male relative were tortured and beaten, with the man being forcibly stripped naked. The attack was filmed, and the footage uploaded to social media.

- o A 14-year-old girl was raped by 2 men who filmed the incident before they then attempted to use the footage to blackmail the girl's family for money. The two rapists were arrested after the family reached out to the police.

5. Migrant Smuggling

While most kidnappings in Pakistan happen for ransom, domestic and transnational human trafficking remains an issue that needs to be better dealt with.

- On June 2nd, the ringleader of a people smuggling ring was arrested in Punjab.
- On June 13th, an Iran-based American citizen was arrested in Karachi for travelling without travel documentation. After crossing the Iranian border with the help of traffickers, he went on to acquire an emergency passport from the American Consulate in Karachi
- On June 14th, 100 Pakistanis were deported from Iran. The latest mass deportation from Iran to Pakistan, the migrants were deported for carrying incomplete travel documents whilst trying to enter Europe from Iran.
- On June 19th, Pakistanis were detained in Moscow for travelling on fake IDs. Allegedly they were travelling to watch the UEFA European football championships.
- o The trafficker involved in this case was found dead by suicide in FIA custody in Rawalpindi.
- On June 28th, 3 were arrested for abducting a woman and her 2 children from Shangla and selling her to someone in Balochistan for Rs.4 lakhs.

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).