



Refugee Documentation Centre (Ireland)  
LEGAL AID BOARD

## **South Africa - Researched and compiled by the Refugee Documentation Centre of Ireland on 17, 18 & 19 October 2011**

### **Information on a Muslim group called MQM, including their treatment of Hindus and moderate Muslims, what options are available to those fearing them; what protection is available to those fearing other South African criminal groups**

In March 2010 the *Daily Financial Post* states:

“Muttahida Qaumi Movement (MQM), South Africa celebrated the 26th foundation day of MQM at International Exhibition Centre, in Durban” (Daily Financial Post (9 March 2010) *Pakistan:MQM Durban celebrates party's foundation day*).

An article from *The Guardian* in September 2010 points out that:

“The MQM is the fourth largest political party in Pakistan, and the dominant party in Karachi. It was founded in 1984 by Hussain, a former Chicago cab driver, and won broad support among the "mohajirs" - Muslims who fled India after partition in 1947. The party prided itself on its well-oiled machine and its secular, liberal outlook. But British police sources have said it was also linked to extortion, gun smuggling and South African crime networks” (The Guardian (17 September 2010) *Imran Farooq murdered outside London home*).

The *Pak Tribune* in October 2010 states:

“Reportedly, Altaf is seriously considering shifting his party’s international secretariat to Dubai or Johannesburg since he and his colleagues feel London has become an unsafe place for them. South Africa is also being considered where MQM workers have established a strong base and where India also has a heavy presence. A month back a rumor was in circulation that the MQM had ordered its elite terrorist wing to move from South Africa to Pakistan to make Karachi Beirut of Pakistan; each member was equipped with multiple passports and identity cards; master mind was Qamar Ghalib Teddy, Sohail Commando, Rizwan Haider and Nadeem Mullah” (Pak Tribune (4 October 2010) *Murder of MQM leader Imran Farooq in London*).

The *South Asian Media Network* in August 2011 notes:

“Altaf Hussain self exiled leader of MQM-A caught escaping to South Africa by the authorities.” (South Asian Media Network (28 August 2011) *Altaf Hussain caught escaping to South Africa?*).

This report also points out:

“According to reports both Khalid Shamim and another MQM-A terrorists who were arrested in Karachi while arriving from Colombo actually called in to be eliminated in Karachi by their own party MQM-A. They had crucial information related to Dr Imran Farooq's murder as well as target killing cells in various countries including South Africa” (ibid).

In April 2011 a report issued by the *United States Department of State* notes:

“Large, well organized criminal syndicates also operate freely throughout the country” (United States Department of State (30 April 2011) *South Africa 2011 OSAC Crime and Safety Report*, p.5).

In August 2010 *IOL News* states:

“No person has ever been killed while on the National Prosecuting Authority's witness protection programme, NPA spokesman Mthunzi Mhaga said on Friday” (*IOL News* (20 August 2010) *Nobody killed in NPA witness protection*).

A paper produced in 2010 by the *Institute for Security Studies* notes:

“In the Apartheid-era the security sector was geared toward prosecuting political opponents and guerrilla movements, with little experience of dealing with organised criminal syndicates. Recent crime rates suggest the corner has not been completely turned on this issue” (Institute for Security Studies (2010) *The Justice Sector Afterthought: Witness Protection in Africa*, p.101).

This report also notes:

“The contemporary protection programme performed successfully when evaluated on its ability to protect organised crime witnesses. The one death that occurred demonstrates the high level of threat posed to gang violence witnesses. The murder occurred after a witness contacted family members through channels prohibited under his agreement. The witness asked his family to visit him and organised criminal elements who were watching the family followed them to the witness, who they then murdered” (ibid, p.103)

The *United States Department of State* in March 2011 point out in a report that:

“According to a study published in April 2010 by the Institute for Security Studies (ISS), a local think tank, organized crime in Southern Africa is on the rise, and South Africa has become the central hub for the spread of organized crime across southern Africa” (United States Department of State (3 March 2011) *International Narcotics Control Strategy Report 2011 (Volume I: Drug and Chemical Control): South Africa*).

No further information on these issues could be found among sources available to the RDC.

## References

Daily Financial Post (9 March 2010) *Pakistan:MQM Durban celebrates party's foundation day*

<http://www.lexisnexis.com/uk/>

(Accessed 18 October 2011)

This is a subscription database

The Guardian (17 September 2010) *Imran Farooq murdered outside London home*

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/uk/2010/sep/17/imran-farooq-murdered-london-home>  
(Accessed 18 October 2011)

Institute for Security Studies (2010) *The Justice Sector Afterthought: Witness Protection in Africa*

<http://www.iss.co.za/pubs/Books/WitnessProt4.pdf>

(Accessed 18 October 2011)

IOL News (20 August 2010) *Nobody killed in NPA witness protection*

<http://www.iol.co.za/news/south-africa/nobody-killed-in-npa-witness-protection-1.673634>

(Accessed 19 October 2011)

Pak Tribune (4 October 2010) *Murder of MQM leader Imran Farooq in London*

<http://paktribune.com/articles/Murder-of-MQM-leader-Imran-Farooq-in-London-232179.html>

(Accessed 18 October 2011)

South Asian Media Network (28 August 2011) *Altaf Hussain caught escaping to South Africa?*

<http://www.lexisnexis.com/uk/>

(Accessed 18 October 2011)

This is a subscription database

United States Department of State (30 April 2011) *South Africa 2011 OSAC Crime and Safety Report*

<https://www.osac.gov/pages/ContentReportPDF.aspx?cid=10934>

(Accessed 18 October 2011)

United States Department of State (3 March 2011) *International Narcotics Control Strategy Report 2011 (Volume I: Drug and Chemical Control): South Africa*

<http://www.ein.org.uk/>

(Accessed 18 October 2011)

This is a subscription database

This response was prepared after researching publicly accessible information currently available to the Refugee Documentation Centre within time constraints. This response is not and does not purport to be conclusive as to the merit of any particular claim to refugee status or asylum. Please read in full all documents referred to.

## **Sources Consulted**

Amnesty International

Bertelsmann Transformation Index

BBC News

The Centre for the Study of Violence and Reconciliation

Dispatch Online

Electronic Immigration Network

European Country of Origin Information Network  
Freedom House  
Google  
Human Rights Watch  
Human Security Gateway  
Immigration and Refugee Board of Canada  
Institute for Security Studies  
Internal Displacement Monitoring Centre  
International Crisis Group  
International Relations and Security Network  
IRIN News  
Lexis Nexis  
Mail and Guardian  
Minority Rights Group International  
Online Newspapers  
Refugee Documentation Centre E-Library  
Refugee Documentation Centre Query Database  
Reliefweb  
Reuters  
United Kingdom Home Office  
United States Department of State  
UNHCR Refworld