



Australian Government
Refugee Review Tribunal

Country Advice

Pakistan

Pakistan – PAK38480 – Targeting of
families of western-educated children –
Targeting of returnee students – Imputed
western values

1 April 2011

1. Are there any reports that people in Pakistan have been targeted by militant Islamic groups for sending their children to western countries to be educated?

No reports were found of people in Pakistan having been targeted by Islamic groups for sending their children abroad to be educated.

2. Is there any evidence that people who have returned from study abroad are imputed with western values or pro-western beliefs by Islamic groups? If so, have such people been targeted by such groups upon return to Pakistan?

No evidence was found to indicate that people who have returned to Pakistan after studying abroad are imputed to hold western values or pro-western beliefs, nor was evidence found of returned students being targeted by Islamic groups for reason of such imputed values or beliefs.

Detailed information on the number of students from Pakistan studying abroad was not located; however information from the British Council indicates that more than 9,000 students from Pakistan studied in the United Kingdom higher education sector in 2007/2008, over 6,000 studied in Australia in 2008 and more than 5,000 studied in the United States in 2006/2007.¹

3. Have politically inactive Sunnis in Pakistan been targeted for harm due to a perception that they have western values, enjoy western culture, or are deemed to be pro-west?

A recent report by Human Rights Watch has observed that militant Islamic groups have targeted “nearly every sector of Pakistani society” and that targeted killing of political activists has escalated.²

Against a background of quite widespread threat of violence, however, no reports were found of specific targeting of politically inactive Sunnis because of a perception that they had western values, favourably viewed western culture or were otherwise supportive of “the west”.³

¹ ‘Pakistan Market Introduction’ 2009, British Council website, July <http://www.britishcouncil.org/eumd-information-background-pakistan.htm> – Accessed 1 April 2011 – Attachment 1

² Human Rights Watch 2011, *World Report 2011*, January – Attachment 2

³ Other sources consulted in relation to this question and the preceding questions include the US Department of State’s *International Religious Freedom Report 2010 – Pakistan* and *Country Reports on Human Rights Practices*

Attachments

1. 'Pakistan Market Introduction' 2009, British Council website, July <http://www.britishcouncil.org/eumd-information-background-pakistan.htm> – Accessed 1 April 2011.
2. Human Rights Watch 2011, *World Report 2011*, January.

for 2009 - Pakistan, the UK Home Office's most recent *Country of Origin Information Report – Pakistan* and *Operational Guidance Note – Pakistan*, the UN Refworld database, the Australian Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade website, the ISYS and CISNET databases, and the FACTIVA news database. Searches were also undertaken using the Copernic search engine.