



Refugee Documentation Centre (Ireland)
LEGAL AID BOARD

Pakistan - Researched and compiled by the Refugee Documentation Centre of Ireland on Wednesday 19 October 2016

Information on police corruption

A document published in December 2015 by the *Asian Human Rights Commission* states that:

“The Corruption Perception Index each year shows the police to be the most corrupt institution in Pakistan. There is no sign of improvement” (Asian Human Rights Commission (10 December 2015) *Asia Report 2015 - Pakistan: From the Frying Pan, to the Fire*, p.6).

A compilation of COI research issued in January 2016 by the *Immigration and Refugee Board of Canada* notes that:

“According to sources, police in Pakistan are corrupt...” (Immigration and Refugee Board of Canada (14 January 2016) *Pakistan: Police corruption; authorities responsible for receiving complaints against the police, including effectiveness; procedures to submit a complaint against the police (2012-January 2016)*).

The *United States Department of State* issued a report in April 2016 commenting on events of 2015 noting that:

“The law provides criminal penalties for official corruption, but the government did not implement the law effectively, and officials frequently engaged in corrupt practices. Corruption was pervasive in politics and government, and various politicians and public office holders faced allegations of corruption, including bribery, extortion, cronyism, nepotism, patronage, graft, and embezzlement. Corruption: Corruption within the lower levels of police was common. An April 2014 report by Transparency International asserted that the major causes of corruption were lack of accountability and low salaries. Some police charged fees to register genuine complaints and accepted bribes for registering false complaints. Bribes to avoid charges were commonplace. Anecdotal reports persisted about corruption in the judicial system, including reports of small-scale facilitation payments requested by court staff. Lower courts reportedly remained corrupt, inefficient, and subject to pressure from higher-ranking judges as well as prominent, wealthy, religious, and political figures” (United States Department of State (13 April 2016) *2015 Country Reports on Human Rights Practices – Pakistan*).

In February 2016 a publication issued by the *U4 Anti-Corruption Resource Centre* states:

“In Pakistan, 75% of those who had contact with the land services and 65% of those in contact with the police reported paying bribes” (U4 Anti-Corruption Resource Centre (23 February 2016) *Corruption and governance indicators in selected Asian countries*, p.4).

In March 2016 the *United States Overseas Security Advisory Council* notes in a report that:

“Corruption within the police and security services, especially the lower levels, is widespread. The country is consistently rated very low when it comes to corruption at all levels of government. The major cause for corruption in this sector is the lack of accountability and low salaries” (United States Overseas Security Advisory Council (29 March 2016) *Pakistan 2016 Crime & Safety Report: Islamabad*).

A document issued in September 2016 by *Human Rights Watch* notes that:

“Pakistan’s police are widely regarded to be among the most abusive, corrupt, and unaccountable institutions of the state” (Human Rights Watch (25 September 2016) *“This Crooked System”, Police Abuse and Reform in Pakistan*, p.79).

Business Monitor International in October 2016 points out that:

“Pakistan’s corrupt and underfunded police force is inadequate at addressing the country’s endemic criminal problems” (Business Monitor International (1 October 2016) *Pakistan - Q4 2016*).

References

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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.

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