



Refugee Documentation Centre (Ireland)
LEGAL AID BOARD

Pakistan - Researched and compiled by the Refugee Documentation Centre of Ireland on Tuesday 25 & Wednesday 26 October 2016

Treatment of PAT by the PML including returnees;

In May 2016 the *News* states that:

“An Anti-Terrorism Court on Tuesday issued non-bailable arrest warrants for PTI chief Imran Khan and PAT chairman Dr Muhammad Tahir-ul-Qadri. According to details, the ATC held proceedings for the Asmat Junejo assault case... The arrest warrants were issued by Anti-Terrorism Court judge Sohail Ikram. SSP Asmat Junejo had sustained injuries when a crowd of protesters participating in the sit-in protest by PTI and PAT, beat him up. The protesters used sticks and batons when they thrashed SSP Asmat Junejo” (News (31 May 2016) *Pakistan anti-terror court issues arrest warrants for two political leaders*).

A report issued by *Human Rights Watch* in September 2016 points out that:

“On June 17, 2014, a large contingent of the Punjab police was sent to the headquarters of the Pakistan Awami Tehrik (PAT) in Lahore, an opposition political party that had been mounting a movement against the government, to remove allegedly illegally erected security barriers. Party workers and supporters of the party leader, Dr. Tahir-ul-Qadri, resisted the police, sometimes violently. The police opened fire, killing 14 PAT workers, and wounding or injuring more than 100. In the days following the attack, police officials maintained that they fired their weapons only in response to gunshots from inside Dr. Qadri’s house, allegations that PAT representatives denied...” (Human Rights Watch (25 September 2016) *This Crooked System - Police Abuse and Reform in Pakistan*, p.53).

No further information on this issue could be found among sources available to the RDC.

Are PML-N the ruling governing party

In October 2016 *Reuters* notes the:

“...ruling PML-N party...” (Reuters (10 October 2016) *Pakistan PM rushes to end energy shortages ahead of 2018 poll*).

BBC News in September 2016 points out that:

“Nawaz Sharif is currently serving his third term in office as prime minister... Mr Sharif returned from exile in 2008, and took up the premiership for the third time after his Muslim League party won parliamentary elections in 2013” (BBC News (2 September 2016) *Pakistan profile*).

An article published by the *Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty* in July 2016 mentions:

“Pakistan’s ruling PML-N party...” (Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty (21 July 2016) *Pakistani Bill To Combat ‘Honor Killings’ Wins Committee Approval*).

The *United States Department of State* notes in a report issued in April 2016 that:

“In 2013 the country held national elections that resulted in a PML-N-majority government led by Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif” (United States Department of State (13 April 2016) *2015 Country Reports on Human Rights Practices: Pakistan*).

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.

Sources Consulted

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Electronic Immigration Network
European Country of Origin Information Network
Freedom House
Google
Human Rights Watch
Immigration and Refugee Board of Canada
Internal Displacement Monitoring Centre
International Crisis Group
IRIN News
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