



Pakistan – Researched and compiled by the Refugee Documentation Centre of Ireland on 22 July 2016

Is there any information regarding a general connection/influence between the Muttahida Quami Movement (MQM) and the police?

Information suggesting that there is collusion or cooperation between the Muttahida Quami Movement (MQM) and the Pakistani police was not found among sources available to the Research and Information Unit. A number of reports refer to conflict between the MQM and the police.

An article from UK newspaper The Guardian states:

“On two occasions British judges have found that the MQM is a violent organisation. In 2010 a Karachi-based police officer sought asylum in the UK claiming the MQM was threatening to kill him in revenge for his having registered a case against one of its members. The judge, Lord Bannatyne, granted asylum and in his judgment accepted that: ‘the MQM has killed over 200 police officers who stood up to them in Karachi’. The figure is often cited by the Karachi police themselves, and refers to those officers who were closely involved in Benazir Bhutto’s anti-MQM crackdown, Operation Clean-up. It came in 1995, during Bhutto’s second government. Unable to rely on the slow, intimidated and corrupt courts, which were always nervous to convict MQM defendants, the security forces resorted to hundreds if not thousands of extrajudicial killings of MQM activists. Many of the police officers responsible have subsequently been murdered.” (The Guardian (29 July 2013) *Altaf Hussain, the notorious MQM leader who swapped Pakistan for London*)

A report from Amnesty International, in a section titled “Karachi: An Urban Frontline”, states:

“Karachi-based journalists expressed anger and frustration at the failure of the state to protect them from attacks. A significant hurdle to the protection of journalists there is the fact that law enforcement authorities are themselves subjected to abductions, targeted killings and other abuse to prevent them from investigating cases against political actors and armed groups. According to Karachi police official figures, 166 policemen were killed across the city in 2013, while 45 police officers were killed in the city in 2014 up to 16 March. Police accuse the Pakistani Taliban and its affiliates for the majority of these killings, but the MQM political party has also been implicated in the killing and intimidation of the police force. The Supreme Court of Pakistan noted that as many as 92 policemen involved in operations against the MQM from 1992-1995 had themselves ‘disappeared’, likely as a result of revenge by party activists for abuses these officers allegedly perpetrated against MQM members during those years.” (Amnesty International (30 April 2014) *“A bullet has been chosen for you”: Attacks on journalists in Pakistan*, p.28)

A report from Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty states:

“A Pakistani court issued an arrest warrant August 5 for the head of the political party that controls Pakistan's biggest and richest city, highlighting rivalries between the army and politicians there. Many fear the tensions threaten the stability of Karachi, a financial hub that is home to 20 million people and generates half of government revenue. The city is plagued by militants and violent crime, and is ruled by the Muttahida Qaumi Movement (MQM) political party.” (Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty (6 August 2015) *Arrest Warrant For Exiled Pakistani Revives Political Feud*)

An article from the English-language Pakistani newspaper Dawn states:

“Muttahida Qaumi Movement (MQM) leader Farooq Sattar claimed that MQM is a victim of state terrorism for the past two years, adding that the party cannot continue its political activities if law enforcement agencies continue to raid its offices in Karachi. Sattar was speaking to party workers and supporters during a protest rally, which turned into a sit-in at Numaish Chowrangi after police barred the protesters from moving towards the Red Zone.” (Dawn (26 November 2015) *MQM leaders surrender, offer arrest after local body polls*)

The 2015 US Department of State country report for Pakistan, in a section headed “Disappearance”, states:

“Karachi-based political party MQM alleged that the paramilitary Sindh Rangers kidnapped, tortured, and killed some of its members in ongoing security operations in Karachi. They claimed that as of August, 151 MQM members remained missing and that authorities killed 55 extrajudicially in the operations. The Human Rights Commission of Pakistan called for a probe into extrajudicial killings and disappearances of MQM workers.” (US Department of State (13 April 2016) *2015 Country Reports on Human Rights Practices*, p.5)

An article from the Sindh-based English-language newspaper the Daily Regional Times states:

“Muttahida Qaumi Movement (MQM) on Tuesday alleged that a death squad in police was abducting and killing MQM activists in Karachi. Addressing a press conference along with MQM coordination committee members, Haider Abbas Rizvi said that two of their activists, Sana ullah, son of Habibullah and Mansoor, son of Abdul Haq, were whisked away by law enforcing personnel on Monday night and later their bullet-riddled bodies were found from Dhabeji on Tuesday. Sana ullah was activist of MQM Unit 105 while Mansoor was activist of Gulistan-e-Johar sector, he said. Rizvi said that soon after the arrest of two activists, the MQM informed SHO Shah Faisal Colony, DIG East and concerned Rangers officials about their arrest. He said that a petition was also filed in Sindh High Court, and court had to hear it on Tuesday. On March 19, we suffered a similar loss when three of our activists, Abdul Jabbar, Yawar Abbas Jaffery and Shamshad Jaffery, were abducted and killed by law enforcing personnel, the MQM leader said. He said that Mohajir youngsters were being killed in the name of Karachi operation. A death squad comprising of plainclothes was involved in abducting and killing MQM activists, he

alleged.” (Daily Regional Times (2 April 2014) *MQM blames police for killing its activists*)

A report from the Human Rights Commission of Pakistan states:

“The Human Rights Commission of Pakistan (HRCP) has noted with serious alarm that while the Muttahida Qaumi Movement (MQM) has continued to voice concerns about abduction, torture and extrajudicial killings of its workers, steps have not been taken to investigate the charges. In a statement issued on Monday, the Commission said: ‘HRCP has learned that dead bodies of two MQM workers were found in Korangi late last week. Both men had been missing for over a month and their bodies showed torture marks. MQM has repeatedly complained in recent weeks that its workers and activists are being picked up, tortured and killed amid the ongoing security operation in Karachi and pointed the finger at the law enforcement agencies. HRCP thinks that these are very serious charges which must be investigated without any delay.’” (Human Rights Commission of Pakistan (21 April 2014) *HRCP wants abduction, killing of MQM workers probed*)

A Daily Regional Times article states:

“The activists of the MQM Kotri chapter staged a protest demonstration against the murder of their party leader in Karachi on Thursday. While talking to newsmen, the protestors including Zonal In-charge Ayoub Khan and others condemned the Karachi police officials for killing the MQM leaders and activists in fake encounters and police custody.” (Daily Regional Times (5 June 2015) *MQM accuses police officials of killing its leaders in fake encounters*)

An article from Dawn states:

“Four policemen were arrested and two senior police officers suspended after a Muttahida Qaumi Movement worker died in the custody of the Aziz Bhatti police, officials said on Wednesday. ‘Four policemen of the Aziz Bhatti police station have been arrested as a post-mortem examination of the body conducted at the Jinnah Postgraduate Medical Centre showed that Mohammed Wasim died from head injuries caused by a hard and blunt object,’ said Karachi-East SSP Pir Mohammed Shah.” (Dawn (4 June 2015) *Four policemen held after MQM worker’s custodial death*)

This response was prepared after researching publicly accessible information currently available to the Research and Information Unit 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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