



Pakistan – Researched and compiled by the Refugee Documentation Centre of Ireland on 12 July 2016

Treatment by the Taliban of Awami National Party members, particularly in Kuzibandai Swat, between July 2013 & July 2016, including abductions and/or houses being destroyed.

A report published by the Pak Institute for Peace Studies, in a section titled “Violence against Political Leaders and Workers”, states:

“Leaders and workers of Awami National Party (ANP) faced the highest number of terrorist attacks (8) in 2015 compared to other parties; the ANP has been the prime target of the militants since the launch of 2013 election campaign.” (Pak Institute for Peace Studies (PIPS) (January 2016) *Pakistan Security Report 2015*, p.32)

A report from the Inter Press Service states:

“The ANP has long been targeted by the Taliban. The Tehrik-i-Taliban Pakistan (TTP) killed about 800 ANP leaders and workers when the party was in government in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province of Pakistan (2008-2013) because of the party’s tough stand against them.” (Inter Press Service (16 September 2013) *Executions on Hold ‘for the Wrong Reasons’*)

A report from the German International broadcaster Deutsche Welle states:

“In 2012, the Pakistani Taliban bombed a political rally in the northwestern city of Peshawar, killing eight people, including the former provincial minister Bashir Ahmed Bilour of the liberal Awami National Party (ANP). Bashir, an ally of former president Asif Ali Zardari, was known for his secular politics and an unwavering anti-Islamist stance. Bashir was not the only ANP leader targeted by the Tehreek-e-Taliban Pakistan (TTP). The Pakistani branch of the militants has killed dozens of the party’s leaders in the past seven or eight years. It won’t be an exaggeration to say that the ANP has been the worst victim of Islamist insurgency in the restive Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province, which has historically been the party’s stronghold even long before Pakistan’s independence from the British in 1947.” (Deutsche Welle (4 February 2015) *Pakistan’s Charlie Hebdo reward: No room for secular politics*)

An article from the English-language Pakistani newspaper Dawn, in a paragraph headed “The long shadow of Swat”, states:

“The wave of targeted killings aimed at the ANP in the wake of the Swat operation in 2009 has never quite receded. Over the last few months, it has escalated to an extent that is alarming even by the ANP’s own grim standards of losing leaders and activists to incessant hits. In Swat alone, according to Swat ANP president Sher Shah Khan, there have been 24 targeted killings of ANP workers in the past three months. Overall, 22 members of the Swat Amn

Committee, that the ANP constitutes a big part of, have been killed since 2009.” (Dawn (13 November 2014) *Situationer: ANP in the cross hairs*)

In a paragraph headed “Hit hard in Karachi” this article states:

“In Karachi, where the ANP has a strong following, party cadres have been hit hard by the TTP-Swat. Since elections in 2013, when the TTP declared war on the ANP, the Muttahida Qaumi Movement and the Pakistan People’s Party, asking voters to stay away from campaign meetings and polling, the ANP has lost candidates and elections to targeted attacks in neighbourhoods such as Lyari and SITE where it won in 2008. According to Zia-ur-Rehman, a researcher based in Karachi, 70 ANP activists have been targeted in Karachi alone.” (ibid)

An article from the Pakistani English-language independent newsweekly The Friday times states:

“The ANP had registered more than 250,000 members in its last membership drive carried out four years ago, but this time, we were able to register only 40,000 members,’ Syed said. ‘It is because of fear. The TTP has killed more than 100 party office-bearers and workers in Karachi, compelling others to leave the party, or leave the city.’” (The Friday Times (27 June 2014) *Lie Low: Attacks and threats force ANP to tell its members to stop political activities in Karachi*)

This article also states:

“Political analysts believe that attacks on ANP’s Karachi leaders is a continuation of the TTP attacks on the ANP in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and FATA, related mainly to a ‘clash of ideologies’ and because of the party’s Pashtun-nationalist secular outlook. Hasan Khan, an Islamabad-based political analyst who monitors the Taliban insurgency in the region, says ANP has always opposed the Taliban and their predecessors – the Afghan Mujahideen. ‘Targeting influential Pashtun elders is the key strategy of Taliban groups, first successfully carried out in Afghanistan, then FATA and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, and now in Karachi,’ he said. Shahi Syed thinks that the TTP Swat chapter is behind the campaign of violence. In June 2012, TTP operatives sent a message to ANP’s local leaders to quit the party, remove their party’s flags and slogans from their homes and businesses, and close their offices.” (ibid)

An article from the Pakistani news agency Right Vision News states:

“Mian Mushtaq, a former high-ranking member of the secular Awami National Party (ANP) that ruled the northwestern Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province until last year, was in his car when he was attacked, senior police official Rahim Shah told AFP. ‘Up to four gunmen had taken position on both sides of a road and as soon as Mian Mushtaq’s car passed they started firing and fled in the nearby fields,’ Shah said. ‘Mian Mushtaq and two others died in the firing,’ he added.” (Right Vision News (14 January 2014) ANP leader among eight killed in KP attacks)

An article from the Lahore-based newspaper The Nation states:

“Tehreek-e-Taliban Pakistan Swat faction was behind the killing of ANP workers. Police picked over 40 suspects from Orangi Town and adjacent localities to probe the killings of five workers of Awami National Party. Three ANP activists were shot dead along with two others, including a 10-year-old boy, by unidentified men in Orangi Town's MPR Colony on Thursday evening. Three ANP activists Dr Israr, Jamshed Khan and Razeemullah and the other two, Iqbal Khan and minor Sajjad, were guests from Swat. They were targeted when they were returning home after visiting the Manghopir Lake.” (The Nation (22 February 2014) *'TTP Swat faction behind ANP men killings in Karachi'*)

An article from Pakistan Today states:

“Militants on Sunday shot dead an Awami National Party (ANP) leader in Buner whereas house of another leader was blown up and his three relatives were abducted from outskirts of Peshawar.” (Pakistan Today (20 April 2014) *Militants kill ANP leader in Buner*)

A report from Right Vision News states:

“Unknown gunmen attacked a hujra in the Badbher area on the outskirts of Peshawar and abducted three people. The hujra situated in the Mashokhel area of Badbher belongs to the slain Awami National Party (ANP) leader Mian Mushtaq. The three people who were abducted were reported to be Mushtaq's close associates and relatives. The Station House Officer (SHO) of Badbher police station Garanullah said that the attackers may have thrown a hand grenade or a bomb at Mushtaq's hujra, which damaged two vehicles on the premises. Family sources have said that three people related to the late ANP leader were abducted by the gunmen, SHO Garanullah said. The names of those abducted are Fahad, Shakeel and Shabbir Ahmed.” (Right Vision News (22 April 2014) *Pakistan: Slain ANP leader's house attacked; Police foil terror bid*)

A Right Vision News report on the the killing of three people in Swat states:

“Three persons including a policeman was shot-dead and two others injured when member of a peace committee and local leader of Awami National Party's car was ambushed by unknown gunmen in Swat district on Wednesday. According to police, ANP local leader Naimatullah Khan was coming from Shakara Dara to Mingora when reached at Bara Bhandai his car was sprayed with volley of bullets by the attackers.” (Right Vision News (12 June 2014) *Pakistan: 3 shot dead in Swat*)

See also Right Vision News report which states:

“Local leader of Awami National Party (ANP) Mohammad Ashraf was gunned down in Swat while a policeman who got injured in firing also succumbed to injuries. According to police, unidentified gunmen opened fire in Matta area of Swat and killed ANP leader Mohammad Ashraf on the spot. During firing, a cop was also injured who was shifted to a nearby hospital for treatment but he could not survive and later succumbed to his injuries.” (Right Vision News (5 October 2014) *Pakistan: ANP leader, cop gunned down in Swat*)

A Right Vision News report on an attack on the house of an Awami National Party leader states:

“Two children sustained injuries when unidentified motorcyclists hurled a hand grenade on the house of an Awami National Party leader in the provincial capital on Monday. An official at the Pandu police station said house of ANP local leader Haji Noor Jan located in Shaheedabad area was attacked. He added that two children, including Nizam Khan, 9, a close relative of Noor Jan, and a passerby, Lalzada, 10, sustained injuries in the explosion. The injured children were shifted to Lady Reading Hospital where doctors provided them medical treatment.” (Right Vision News (20 November 2014) *Pakistan: Two children hurt in attack on ANP leader's house*)

An article from Dawn states:

“Police foiled a terrorist bid by defusing a heavy improvised explosive device (IED), planted outside the residence of known lawyer and leader of Awami National Party Abdul Lateef Afridi in Hayatabad Township here on Monday night.” (Dawn (15 April 2015) *IED found outside ANP leader's house*)

An article from Pakistani newspaper The News states:

“A bomb went off outside the residence of former provincial minister Hidayatullah at the Din Bahar Colony, near Charsadda Road on Wednesday evening. Locals said the bomb, planted outside the residence of Awami National Party leader Hidayatullah, went off in the evening, damaging the main gate and boundary wall. However, no casualty was reported.” (The News (16 July 2015) *House of ANP's ex-minister bombed*)

An article from Dawn states:

“Awami National Party (ANP) local leader Syed Jamshaid Ali was shot dead by unidentified attackers in Man-glore area of Swat on Sunday. According to police, two unidentified men approached Jamshaid Ali when he was present at the site of an under-construction school building at Telegram. ‘One of the attackers met him and the other opened fire, killing him on the spot,’ said Manglore Police Station SHO Fayaz Khan.” (Dawn (11 April 2016) *ANP leader killed in Swat*)

An article from The News International states:

“The Awami National Party (ANP) on Wednesday staged protest rallies across the province to condemn the target killings of its leaders and workers. The protesters urged the government to ensure an end to the killing spree of the leaders and workers and take action against the perpetrators or else they would besiege the Governor's House and Chief Minister's Houses. The ANP workers in every district and agency headquarters took to streets on the call of their provincial president Ameer Haider Hoti and condemned the killing of ANP leader Jamshed Ali Khan in Swat.” (The News International (14 April 2016) *ANP protests workers' killing*)

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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