



Pakistan – Researched and compiled by the Refugee Documentation Centre of Ireland on 11 January 2018

Please provide information on attacks between civilians in Pakistan and in particular on foot of business disputes. (The client was blamed for the loss of money in a joint business) Please provide brief up to date information on the effectiveness of the police where people are attacked and injured in such circumstances.

An article from The Frontier Star states:

“At least four persons were injured after two groups clashed within the Race Course police jurisdiction. The two groups, who had a business dispute, exchanged hot words and someone from one group opened fire and injured four persons of the rival group.” (The Frontier Star (28 July 2016) *Four injured in clash between two groups*)

An article from The Frontier Post states:

“A man was shot and injured over a business dispute within the Waris Khan police jurisdiction. Waris Khan police said that Ikram and Ansar Ijaz had a business dispute and Ikram and his brothers Irfan, Imran exchanged hot words with Ijaz and opened fire on him and injured him.” (The Frontier Post (4 August 2016) *Man shot, injured*)

A Frontier Star article states:

“At least three persons have been booked for allegedly torturing and hurling life threats at a woman over business dispute within the I-9 Police jurisdiction. Perveen Riaz stall owner, lodged a complaint with the local police that her brother-in-law along with his sons Hamza and Ali turned up at her stall and started torturing her and hurling life threats at her over business dispute.” (Frontier Star (10 September 2016) *Three booked for allegedly torturing woman stall owner*)

See also Frontier Star article which states:

“At least three persons including mother and son have been injured in clashes over separated business dispute within the Khanna and Sabzi Mandi Police jurisdiction. Nasreen Begum, a resident of Khanna, lodged a complaint with the local police that Ashraf, , Kami, NASreen and Sofiya showed up at her house and started torturing and assaulting her and daughter Shazia over business dispute.” (The Frontier Star (21 September 2016) *Mother, daughter among three injured in clashes*)

An article from the Tribal News Network states:

“Three people were killed when rival groups traded fire during a Jirga in Jamrud, Khyber Agency on Thursday. Official sources said a Jirga was being held between two rival groups of Jehangir and Mehboob Khan to resolve a business dispute in Toda Mela area in the evening when they traded fire. Jehangir, Ashiq and Mehboob Khan sustained serious injuries in the firing. They succumbed to their injuries on way to hospital.” (Tribal News Network (21 April 2017) *3 Killed As Rival Groups Trade Firing During Jirga In Jamrud*)

A Frontier Star article states:

“A man who was shot injured in a firing incident near Sindhi Hotel succumbed to injuries later in hospital. According to the police the deceased was identified as Farman Ansari a resident of Liaquatabad and he was doing a private job. The police have suspected that victim has been killed over a business dispute or a financial matter.” (The Frontier Star (21 April 2017) *One killed, 4 injured in firing incidents*)

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

“A 55-year-old businessman was killed and his two friends wounded in a brazen gun attack near Shouk Chowk in Faisal Town police precincts on Tuesday.” (The Nation (26 April 2017) *Businessman killed in brazen gun attack*)

This article also states:

“Investigators say they believe the man was killed over some property or business dispute.” (ibid)

An article from The Express Tribune, a Pakistani newspaper affiliated with the International New York Times, states:

“A security guard was killed and two others were injured when a business dispute between partners of a private medical college turned ugly on Sunday. The incident took place at the Yusra Medical and Dental College near Rawat early on Sunday. Sihala police said one group broke into the college on Saturday night by breaking the locks. Noticing the forced entry, the other group of around a dozen people, allegedly led by the college's chief security officer Colonel (retd) Aurangzeb, opened fire on the 'intruders'. As a result, security guard Habibullah - who was accompanying the group which had broken into the college, was killed. A police officer told The Express Tribune that the break-in and subsequent 'clash' was the result of a property dispute involving senior college officials.” (The Express Tribune (3 May 2017) *Guard killed in dispute at private medical college*)

An article from The News International, Pakistan's largest English-language, states:

“A police inquiry report has found nine people, including five policemen, guilty in abduction and torture of a businessman. However, the inquiry report has given a clean chit to DSP Nasrullah Warraich, saying that he was unaware about what was happening in his jurisdiction. This scribe has obtained a copy

of the inquiry report No 100-R-DSP/RIB dated 22.02.2017. According to the inquiry report, complainant Ulfat Hussain is a businessman and the owner of a rice mill. He had a business dispute with his partner Attiqur Rehman of Gojra. The dispute developed between them in 2015 and both the parties went in civil litigation, which was pending in Gojra civil court. Multan Delhi Gate police registered a case No 163/15 under Sections 406/420 dated 12.5.15 on the complaint of Attiqur Rehman against Ulfat Hussain. However, the police quashed the case due to lack of evidences.” (The News International (30 May 2017) *Five cops found guilty of abduction of businessman*)

A report published by the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT) of Australia, in a section headed “Police” (paragraph 5.5), states:

“The effectiveness of individual police forces in Pakistan and the challenges faced by these forces vary. Overall, however, police capacity in Pakistan is limited by a lack of resources, poor training, insufficient and outmoded equipment, and competing pressures from superiors, political actors and the judiciary. Credible sources in Pakistan told DFAT that there is a widespread perception across the community of high levels of police corruption.” (Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT) Australia (1 September 2017) *DFAT Country Information Report – Pakistan*)

A report from the Asian Human Rights Commission states:

“When thinking of police officers in Pakistan, inept, corrupt and intimidating are some of the first thoughts that come to mind. Their attitude towards complainants and victims of crime are particularly devoid of civility. In fact, complainants are harassed for daring to report crimes and demanding justice. The country’s justice delivery mechanisms largely fail victims, who are left with no avenues to seek justice.” (Asian Human Rights Commission (6 September 2017) *Pakistan: Policing system plagued by pervasive corruption*)

This report also states:

“Deeply entrenched corruption and embezzlement of funds by all ranks of the police has made it difficult for the common man to approach police for redressal. This gives rise to mob vigilance and deteriorating law and order. Corruption is multi faceted and multi layered, with police receiving monthly ‘tributes’ from organized criminal gangs in exchange for being allowed to loot and plunder with complete impunity. Another source of steady income for the police is to take bribes from complainants to file FIRs; alternatively, the alleged accused is also encouraged to pay bribes to not nominate him in the FIR. Victims have reported that they were forced to pay bribes on various pretexts when they approached the police to file a complaint, such as paying for fuel or even stationary. The investigation process is also not immune from corruption; the police charge large bribes from the accused. If the accused happens to be poor or vulnerable, he can be implicated in a number of crimes.

Justice in Pakistan is not given as a right, but rather it is given up for sale to those with deep pockets and nerves of steel. In this manner, the majority of criminals escape prosecution, while victims think many times before making police complaints.” (ibid)

A chapter from the 2016 Human Rights Commission of Pakistan report, in a section headed "Policing", states:

"The law and order situation was so grim that despite huge funds being spent on police and attempts being made to transform the system, people suffered from a creeping sense of insecurity in every province. Tackling specialised criminality requires a rethinking on police structures and regaining the public's trust through responsible and responsive policing. And so, there were calls for urgent reforms in the police system." (Human Rights Commission of Pakistan (HRCP (9 May 2017) *State of Human Rights in 2016 [Chapter II Enforcement of law - Law and order; Jails, prisoners and disappearances]*)

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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