



Pakistan – Researched and compiled by the Refugee Documentation Centre of Ireland on 23 February 2018

Is there any information on the violence and attacks and lack of security in the KPC province and particularly if any information on Nowshera?

A report published by the European Asylum Support Office, in a section titled “Khyber Pakhtunkhwa” (sub-section headed “Description of the violence”), refers to information provided by the Pakistan Institute of Peace Studies (PIPS) as follows::

“PIPS documented a total of 154 incidents of violence in the province, including 127 terrorist attacks in 2016, an increase of 2 % compared to 2015. In addition three incidents of ethnic and political violence, five operational strikes, 15 armed clashes between law enforcement and militants, one cross-border attack and one clash between militants and tribesmen were observed by PIPS. PICSS documented a decrease of 10 % in the number of overall attacks compared to 2015.

PIPS observed that militants in 2016 used suicide bombings, fire arms, IEDs, hand grenades and rockets.

In 2016, sources stated that militants attacked educational institutions, government officials and institutions and policemen. For example, in January 2016, Bacha Khan University in Charsadda was attacked when militants stormed into the university. At least 20 people were killed. On 7 March 2016, a court in Charsadda was attacked. On 16 March 2016, a blast on a bus carrying government officials in Peshawar killed 15 people. On 19 April 2016, a blast occurred at a tax office in Mardan. On 2 September 2016, a suicide blast was carried out on a court in Mardan. At the end of October 2016, a police officer and a polio worker were killed in Peshawar and Jamrud. In November 2016, personnel of the Frontier Corps were killed in Peshawar in an IED attack.”

The same trend persevered at the beginning of 2017. In February 2017, a convoy of the Frontier Corps was targeted in Charsadda. On 15 February 2017, a suicide attack targeted judges in Peshawar. At the end of February 2017, a court was attacked in Charsadda. Five civilians were killed and 15 injured. On 8 May 2017 an explosion damaged a school gate in Urmur, and subsequently two policemen got injured by a roadside bomb believed to be connected to the first explosion. On 21 May 2017, six policemen were killed in two separate attacks near Peshawar.” (European Asylum Support Office (August 2017) *Pakistan: Security Situation*, pp.59-60)

A document published by the South Asia Intelligence Review, a publication of the South Asia Terrorism Portal, states:

“At least 13 persons were killed and another 41 were injured when a suicide bomber blew himself up near the entrance of District and sessions court of Mardan District in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP) on September 2, 2016. Four lawyers and three Policemen were among the dead. District Police Officer (DPO), Mardan, Faisal Shahzad said the attacker detonated a hand grenade before exploding his suicide vest. The bomb contained eight kilograms of explosive material, the DPO said, adding that security arrangements at the site of the attack helped mitigate the damage. The Tehreek-e-Taliban Pakistan (TTP) splinter, Jama'at-ul-Ahrar (JuA), claimed responsibility for the attack.” (South Asia Intelligence Review (4 September 2016) *'Khyber Pakhtunkhwa: Slow Burn*)

This document also states:

“The Mardan court suicide attack comes just hours after terrorists of JuA attacked the Christian Colony in the Warsak Dam area of provincial capital Peshawar in the morning of September 2. One civilian, one Levies official and four suicide bombers were killed in an exchange of fire with Security Forces (SFs) in that incident. Two Frontier Corps (FC) personnel, a Policeman and two private guards sustained injuries in the attack. Firing reportedly began around 6 am (PST), when terrorists wearing suicide jackets attacked the colony. Two of the attackers detonated their suicide jackets, while the other two were killed by SFs. Director General (DG) of Inter-Services Public Relations (ISPR) Lieutenant General Asim Bajwa confirmed ‘all four suicide bombers were killed’.” (ibid)

The 2018 Amnesty International report for Pakistan, in a section headed “Violence against women and girls”, states:

“Violence continued against women and girls, including killings by relatives committed in the name of so-called “honour”. In Khyber Pakhtunkhwa northwest province, 94 women were murdered by close family members. In several cases, there was a failure to conduct investigations and hold the perpetrators accountable.” (Amnesty International (22 February 2018) *Amnesty International Report 2017/18: Pakistan*)

The 2018 Human Rights Watch report for Pakistan, in a section headed “Women’s and Children’s Rights”, states:

“The Khyber Pakhtunkhwa draft domestic violence bill received wide public criticism for exempting parents and spouses when they use ‘corrective measures’ against female family members, raising the concern that it will legitimize some forms of domestic violence. At least 180 cases of domestic violence were reported in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province in 2017, including 94 women murdered by close family members.” (Human Rights Watch (18 January 2018) *World Report 2018: Pakistan*)

A report from Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty states:

“A prominent women’s rights advocate in a conservative northern Pakistani region says unidentified attackers have fired two bullets at her house. Tabassum Adnan told RFE/RL that the attack took place in the Swat district at around 12.45 a.m. on June 30, adding that she was unhurt. ‘I received threats before this, including via text messages,’ she said. ‘But I never expected that

someone would attack me.' Swat, located in the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Province, once was a stronghold of the Pakistani Taliban extremist group." (Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty (30 June 2017) *Bullets Shot At Women's Rights Activist Home In Northern Pakistan*)

A report from the Chinese news agency Xinhuanet states:

"At least 11 Pakistani army officers and soldiers were killed and 13 others injured in a suicide blast inside an army unit in Pakistan's northwest Swat district on Saturday night, said the Pakistani army. The Inter-Services Public Relations, Pakistani army's media wing, said in a statement that the attack happened in a sports area of the unit in Kabal town of Swat, a district located in the country's northwest Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province. Local reports said that the death toll may further increase as several were in critical condition among the injured. Local media said that the attack happened when soldiers were playing volleyball there. The injured soldiers have been shifted to Kabal hospital." (Xinhuanet (3 February 2018) *11 killed in suicide blast in army camp in NW Pakistan*)

A Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty report on this incident states:

"At least 11 Pakistani soldiers were killed and 13 wounded in a suicide bomb attack at an army base in the Swat Valley. The Pakistani Army issued a statement saying a single attacker blew himself up on February 3 at an 'army sports area' where soldiers were playing volleyball as civilians watched. One officer was reportedly among the killed. The attack was claimed by the Tehrik-e Taliban, which called it 'a revenge attack.'" (Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty (3 February 2018) *Pakistani Soldiers Killed In Swat Valley Suicide Attack*)

A report from Reuters states:

"At least 11 soldiers were killed and 13 wounded on Saturday in a suicide attack near an army base in northern Pakistan, officials said, in a region that was once controlled by a local faction of the Taliban. Attacks have decreased sharply in the picturesque Swat Valley but can cause alarm in a region where Pakistani Taliban insurgents took partial control in 2007, before being ousted two years later in a major military operation hailed as an important blow against Islamist violence. Swat was the first sizeable region outside Pakistan's lawless tribal regions bordering Afghanistan to fall to the militants. More than 2,000 Taliban fighters have been driven out of the region, government officials say." (Reuters (3 February 2018) *Suicide bomber kills at least 11 soldiers in northern Pakistan*)

An article from Pakistani newspaper the Express Tribune states:

"The murder of actor and singer Sumbul Khan in Mardan was just one of the 19 major acts of violence against women across Khyber-Pakhtunkhwa so far this year, suggested data collected by a local non-governmental organization (NGO). The first violent incident of the year took place when a woman, identified as Salma, committed suicide by setting herself on fire inside the Kotwali police station in Peshawar on January 2. Her extreme act was motivated by a protest against the release of a house owner she had had a

dispute with.” (The Express Tribune (5 February 2018) *Khyber-Pakhtunkhwa — a violent place for women*)

This article also states:

“A few days later, a woman was gunned down by her family in Mansehra who had eloped and married a man she loved around 15 years ago. On January 8, a boy killed his stepmother in the Saddar area of Mardan. A day later, a couple was killed in Maidan area of Dir, apparently in the name of ‘honour’. The same day, a man killed his own wife in the Doranpur area of Mardan. Well-known stage actor Brekhna was killed along with her father by her suitor in the Kakshal area of the city. The man later committed suicide when he was chased by angry locals. On January 18, brothers strangled their sister to death in Dera Ismail Khan in another case of ‘honour killing’. On January 28, a newlywed bride was killed in Kohat.” (ibid)

A report from the Middle East North Africa Financial Network refers to an incident which occurred in Nowshera as follows::

“The Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Commission on the Status of Women (KPCSW) on Wednesday strongly condemned the incident of burning of a woman, Atlaas Bibi, mother of seven-year old child by her in- laws in Pabbi town of District Nowshera. Taking notice of the incident, the Commission sent a letter to DPO Nowshera demanding every possible support and justice for the victim. According to details, the incident took place on 26th June 2017 when Atlass bibi become victim of domestic violence by her in- Laws.” (Middle East North Africa Financial Network (MENA FN) (5 July 2017) *Pakistan- KPCSW takes notice of woman burnt by in-laws in Nowshera*)

Nowshera is also mentioned in an article from the Lahore-based newspaper The Nation which states:

“Zarsanga, a renowned folk singer of Khyber-Pakhtunkhwa, and her family members were beaten by a mob of villagers over some money dispute on Sunday night. The incident occurred as the aged singer returned to her village in Nowshera district from Swat. Zarsanga while filing a report with Azakhel Police Station said that her son had taken loan from some people for business and had returned the loan in time. However, she alleged that the people from whom her son had taken loan were demanding interest as well. She said that she and her family members were subjected to torture by the said people over the issue. Zarsanga and her three sons, a daughter-in-law and two grandsons sustained injuries in the assault. They were shifted to the local hospital where the doctors diagnosed that the singer had received deep wounds on her face.” (The Nation (24 July 2017) *Pashto singer Zarsanga injured in attack*)

See also article from The Nation which states:

“A man survived a second attempt on his life when he was shot at by his rivals over old enmity here at Akhora Khattak, Nowshera district in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa on Friday. According to police, scion of local respectable Bukhari family, Syed Shah Hussain Bukhari, resident of Akora Khattak, had previously been attacked by rivals sometime ago but he remained safe. It is to be noted that his father, Syed Athar Ali Shah, had been murdered in an attack

by rivals a couple of years ago. Since then, Shah Hussain along with his family has been residing outside his native village.” (The Nation (25 November 2017) *Man survives murder attempt*)

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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