



Pakistan - Researched and compiled by the Refugee Documentation Centre of Ireland on Wednesday 16 May 2018

Information on the security situation in Punjab province

In January 2018 the *Pak Institute for Peace Studies* notes reviewing 2017 that:

“A total of 61 people were killed, including 54 in Lahore alone, and 194 others were injured in 14 reported terrorist attacks from Punjab” (Pak Institute for Peace Studies (6 January 2018) *Pakistan Security Report 2017*, p.21)

A report published in January 2018 commenting on 2017 by the *Pakistan Institute for Conflict and Security Study* notes that:

“Punjab witnessed 15 militant attacks in which 59 people were killed and 208 others injured while in previous year, the province had witnessed 14 militant attacks in which 60 people were killed and 280 others were injured. So in terms of figures, 2017 was not entirely different as the figures of attacks and deaths were quite identical though number of injured has gone down as compared to previous year” (Pakistan Institute for Conflict and Security Study (22 January 2018) *Pakistan: Security Assessment 2017*, pp.35-36).

In February 2018 the *Centre for Research and Security Studies* issued a report reviewing 2017 which included noting that:

“A rise in violence was recorded in Punjab this year (425 fatalities in 2016 to 469 in 2017)...” (Centre for Research and Security Studies (February 2018) *CRSS Annual Security Report 2017*, p.47).

In February 2018 a document issued by the *European Asylum Support Office* commenting on Punjab states that:

“...militancy and extremism threat has spread up and down Punjab, across cities, towns and villages. And the State does not currently appear to have a strategy or the capacity to address the threat” (European Asylum Support Office (February 2018) *EASO COI Meeting Report: Pakistan; 16-17 October 2017; Rome*, p.21).

In March 2018 the *United States Overseas Security Advisory Council* states in a report that:

“Political violence in 2017 was common in Lahore and rural Punjab” (United States Overseas Security Advisory Council (20 March 2018) *Pakistan 2018 Crime & Safety Report: Lahore*).

A report issued in April 2018 by the *South Asia Terrorism Portal* notes that:

“Ongoing investigations by the National Investigation Agency (NIA) in seven separate cases of 'targeted attacks', five of which resulted in six killings, reported from across Punjab, through 2016 and 2017, have uncovered a transnational network of conspirators affiliated to Khalistani terrorist groups backed by Pakistan's Inter

Services Intelligence (ISI), working relentlessly to revive the 'Khalistani terror threat' in Punjab” (South Asia Terrorism Portal (2 April 2018) *Punjab: Marginal Challenge*).

The *Express Tribune* in May 2018 commenting on terrorism in April 2018 states that:

“No terrorist attack was reported from Punjab...” (Express Tribune (15 May 2018) *44 lives lost in 29 terror attacks in April*).

References

Centre for Research and Security Studies (February 2018) *CRSS Annual Security Report 2017*

<http://crss.pk/wp-content/uploads/2018/03/CRSS-Annual-Security-Report-2017-7.pdf>

Accessed Wednesday 7 March 2018

European Asylum Support Office (February 2018) *EASO COI Meeting Report: Pakistan; 16-17 October 2017; Rome*, p.21

https://www.ecoi.net/en/file/local/1426168/90_1520500210_easo-pakistan-meeting-report-october-2017.pdf

Accessed Wednesday 7 March 2018

Express Tribune (15 May 2018) *44 lives lost in 29 terror attacks in April*

<https://tribune.com.pk/story/1710263/1-44-lives-lost-29-terror-attacks-april/>

Accessed Wednesday 7 March 2018

Pakistan Institute for Conflict and Security Studies (22 January 2018) *Pakistan: Security Assessment 2017*

<https://www.picss.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/01/PICSS-Annual-Report-2017-1-1.pdf>

Attachment not included due to IT limitations

Accessed Wednesday 7 March 2018

Pak Institute for Peace Studies (6 January 2018) *Pakistan Security Report 2017*

<https://www.pakpips.com/article/book/pakistan-security-report-2017>

Accessed Wednesday 7 March 2018

South Asia Terrorism Portal (2 April 2018) *Punjab: Marginal Challenge*

<http://www.ein.org.uk/print/members/country-report/punjab-marginal-challenge>

This is a subscription database

Accessed Wednesday 7 March 2018

United States Overseas Security Advisory Council (20 March 2018) *Pakistan 2018 Crime & Safety Report: Lahore*

<http://www.ein.org.uk/members/country-report/pakistan-2018-crime-safety-report-lahore>

This is a subscription database

Accessed Wednesday 7 March 2018

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

Amnesty International
BBC News
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
Lexis Nexis
Minority Rights Group International
Online Newspapers
Refugee Documentation Centre E-Library
Refugee Documentation Centre Query Database
Reliefweb
Reuters
United Kingdom Home Office
United States Department of State
UNHCR Refworld