



Pakistan – Researched and compiled by the Refugee Documentation Centre of Ireland on 13 August 2014

Any reports on Blood feuds in Pakistan. State protection available for victims of blood feuds in Pakistan: Is it effective?

An International Business Times article on blood feuds in Pakistan states:

“Of the many problems facing Pakistan, one that may not receive much media attention in the West has to do with ancient blood feuds that pit one tribe against another, often leading to extreme violence. In the district of Larkana, in northern Sindh province -- perhaps best known as the home of the Bhutto dynasty -- such conflicts between tribes have intensified to the point where dozens of people have been killed and 40 schools have been shut down just in the past year. According to a report in Dawn, an English-language Pakistani daily newspaper, some 11 tribal disputes involving at least 22 different tribes have led to at least 147 deaths and 71 people injured so far in 2013.” (International Business Times (12 July 2013) *Deadly Ancient Tribal Feuds Still Plague Pakistan In 21st Century*)

The 2013 US Department of State country report on Pakistan, in a section titled “Denial of Fair Public Trial”, states:

“Under the pashtunwali code of conduct, a man, his family, and his tribe are obligated to take revenge for wrongs, real or perceived, to redeem their honor. Frequently disputes arose over women and land. They often resulted in violence. The traditional settling of family feuds in tribal areas, particularly those involving killing, could result in giving daughters of the accused in marriage to the bereaved. Many tribal councils instituted harsh punishments, such as the death penalty, honor killings, or ‘watta-satta’ marriages (exchange of brides between clans or tribes).” (US Department of State (27 February 2014) *2013 Country Reports on Human Rights Practices*, p.19)

A report from the Pakistani newspaper Right Vision News states:

“A man and his nephew were killed by rivals over blood feud in Bachkan Ahmadzai village on Thursday. An official of Tajori police station said Misal Khan and nephew Meer Kamal died instantly after their rivals fired gunshots at them in the village. He said the gunmen fled after the attack.” (Right Vision News (25 May 2013) *Pakistan: Blood feud claims two lives*)

A report from the Pakistani television station Geo TV states:

“At least five people were gunned down on Sunday. Four of them were identified as Ali Ahmed, Ghulam Mustafa, Wazeer and Nawab, all Badani Jatoi. Three others persons including Afzal, Nawab and Hassan received bullet injuries in an armed clash took place between two groups belonging to Arbelo Badani and Lao Badani Jatoi group at village Arbelo Jatoi situated in

Katcha area in the jurisdiction of Kot Shahoo police station. The motive behind the clash was said to be ongoing dispute over a piece of agricultural land. More than 34 people of both parties have already been killed in this dispute.” (Geo TV (26 May 2013) *Five killed over land dispute in Shikarpur*)

A Right Vision News report states:

“Three persons were shot dead and as many sustained injuries near a checkpoint in Nelishung area on Karakoram Highway in Battagram district on Sunday night, sources said. The sources said former nazim of union council Sakarga Saifullah along with his relatives was on his way home in Alai in Kohistan district after performing 'Umrah' when gunmen opened fire on their van at Nelishung. As a result, Saifullah, his brother Taj Muhammad and cousin Khushal were killed on the spot while Liaqat Ali, Khan Nazar and Fakhar Nawaz sustained injuries. The dead and injured were shifted to the District Headquarters Hospital in Battagram.” (Right Vision News (21 August 2013) *Pakistan: Blood feud claims 3 lives in Battagram*)

A Right Vision News report on fatalities resulting from a land dispute states:

“A long standing blood feud Tuesday claimed the lives of at least nine people in Kasho area of Warah , Oct. 10 -- sub-division of Kambar-Shahdadkot district. According to details the tragedy struck when two heavily armed groups of Chandio tribe clashed over the ownership of land on late Tuesday evening in Ashiq Ji Tukri village. The gunmen opened indiscriminate fire on each other piling up casualties on both sides within no time. Nine people were reportedly killed and four more were injured in the shootout, which was far from over by the time of filing this report.” (Right Vision News (10 October 2013) *Pakistan: Nine gunned down over land ownership dispute*)

A report on ending of a 15 year blood feud the from the English-language Pakistani newspaper Dawn states:

“A jirga settled a 15-year-old bloody dispute on Sunday between the Chachar and Bhayo communities in which four persons each of the two sides had been killed while nine injured.” (Dawn (28 October 2013) *15-year-old blood feud settled by jirga*)

This report also states:

“The jirga held the two sides responsible for killing four each of their rivals and injuring nine. The clash had been started in the village of Gahi Bhayo near Karam Pur when cattle heads and other valuables of the Bhayo community people had been stolen allegedly by the Chachar community and the first man falling victim to the dispute was a Bhayo.” (ibid)

See also report from Dawn which states:

“A jirga held in Baba Kot near Garhi Khero on Saturday evening settled a blood feud between two groups of Malghani and Jakhrani tribes by imposing heavy penalties on the guilty parties for murdering 10 people over a period of 10 years. The jirga chaired by Sardar Fateh Ali Khan Umrani heard a number of individuals belonging to the warring groups of Dil Murad Jakhrani and Gulab Malghani before reaching a verdict that both sides had killed five each

of their rivals and injured three, including a woman.” (Dawn (25 November 2013) *Tribal jirga settles blood feud*)

A further report from Dawn states:

“A tribal jirga on Sunday settled a blood feud between rival families of Toormang and Bandagai Talash here. The jirga comprising elders from Sulthankhel tribe of Toormand and Talash Dushkhel was held at the hujra of elder Bashir Ahmad at Bandagai. Prosecution counsel Mohammad Salim advocate chaired the function. The enmity started when three persons belonging to Bandagai Talash were shot dead by their rivals on June 20 last year over a matter related to family honour.” (Dawn (27 January 2014) *Dir jirga resolves blood feud*)

A Right Vision News report states:

“Seven of a family including two women succumbed to an old blood feud here on Saturday night, Right Vision News reported. Reports have it that attackers, belonging to Marfani tribe, stormed the house of a rival family in Lakhi Ghulam Hussain, a small town in the Kathca are of Sindh, while the occupants were sleeping. ‘Vengeful Marfani gunmen shot dead all the occupants one by one before making a clean gateway’ sources quoted police as saying. ‘The motive behind this massacre is an age-old blood feud’, police told sources.” (Right Vision News (31 March 2014) *Pakistan: Seven of family succumb to blood feud*)

A Dawn Report states:

“Two people were seriously wounded when rival groups clashed over a blood feud in Abakhel village on Sunday. Police said that rival groups traded fire resulting into serious injuries to Habibur Rehman from one side and Abdul Rehman from the other. They said that villagers shifted the injured persons to government city hospital while heavy contingent of police reached the area to control the situation.” (Dawn (7 July 2014) *Blood feud leaves two persons injured in Lakkī*)

A recent Express Tribune article states:

“Family members and relatives staged a protest in Dhuddiwala on Monday after three people were shot dead by their rivals. Imtiaz, a brother of Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) leader Pervaiz Iqbal, and his two friends were shot and killed by rivals. Madina Town police said Imtiaz, Aziz and Abdual Ghaffar were standing on the Ghausia Darbar Road near Dhuddiwala, when unidentified gunmen, travelling in a car, fired shots at them. Police said all three received bullet injuries. ‘Imtiaz and Abdul Ghaffar died on the spot and Aziz in a hospital,’ police said.” (Express Tribune (12 August 2014) *Blood feud: Protest held after three shot dead in Faisalabad*)

This article also states:

“Rafiq, one of the protesters, told reporters that Imtiaz’s brother, Javaid, had earlier been killed in a similar attack. ‘The people, who earlier killed Javaid, have now murdered Imtiaz and his friends. They have repeatedly threatened Iqbal and his family. We had informed the Madina Town SHO about the

threats and requested him to provide Iqbal and his family security. However, the police have not paid any attention to our requests,' he said." (ibid)

A report from the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT) of Australia, in a section titled "State Protection" (paragraph 5.1), states:

"Pakistan's laws and Constitution provide for state protection of people's property, lives and religious beliefs and places. In practice, there is an absence of effective state protection in many areas in Pakistan, particularly outside large urban centres and well-protected cantonments. This situation is particularly difficult for Pakistan's poor, regardless of ethnicity or religion, because they lack the resources to pursue their rights through Pakistan's justice system. Overall, a lack of resources and in some cases, political will, limits the federal and provincial governments' ability to adequately address human rights issues, protect vulnerable groups and prosecute human rights violators." (Australian Government: Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT) (29 November 2013) *DFAT Country Information Report: Pakistan*, p.21)

A UK Home Office report on state protection in Pakistan, in a section titled "Consideration of issues" (paragraph 1.2.2), states:

"The current country information suggests that whilst there is a fully functioning criminal justice system, the effectiveness of the police varies greatly by district, ranging from reasonably good to ineffective. Pakistan's police system suffers severe deficiencies in a number of areas, including equipment, technology, personnel, training, and intelligence capability. There have also been reports that the police have often failed to protect members of religious minorities and women." (UK Home Office (14 July 2014) *Country Information and Guidance – Pakistan: Actors of protection*, p.4)

The Executive Summary of a report published by the Asia Society Independent Commission on Pakistan Police Reform refers to the deficiencies of the police system as follows:

"As this report illustrates, Pakistan's police system suffers severe deficiencies in a number of areas, including equipment, technology, personnel, training, and intelligence capability. Moreover, the political will needed to address these issues is largely missing. Besides a poor public image, both the police leadership and the rank and file appear to lack a sense of accountability to the public they are meant to serve. Moreover, the system simply is not structured to reward good behavior, as merit-based opportunities for professional advancement are scarce, low pay is the norm, and a lack of support and resources compels even many well-intentioned officers to misuse their authority in order to survive." (Asia Society Independent Commission on Pakistan Police Reform (July 2012) *Stabilizing Pakistan Through Police Reform*, p.12)

In a section titled "Police Corruption and Accountability" this report states:

"The police in Pakistan are perceived to be corrupt as a matter of course, and are thought to be largely, if not solely, responsible for the breakdown of law and order in the country and for the steady erosion of the criminal justice system. Apart from its effect on law and order, police corruption is also

responsible for the weak prosecution of criminals, the failure of trial prisoners to appear in court, flawed court processing, and an alarmingly high rate of acquittal.” (ibid, p.24)

See also section titled “Antiterrorism Law” which states:

“Pakistan’s police force is underresourced, poorly trained, badly paid, low in morale, and viewed with suspicion by the courts and society because of its poor human rights record. Most police are regarded as corrupt, inefficient, and unprofessional. There are minimal forensic facilities or modern equipment to assist them in doing their job.” (ibid, p.49)

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.

References:

Asia Society Independent Commission on Pakistan Police Reform (July 2012) *Stabilizing Pakistan Through Police Reform*
http://asiasociety.org/files/pdf/as_pakistan_police_reform.pdf
(Accessed 13 August 2014)

Australian Government: Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT) (29 November 2013) *DFAT Country Information Report: Pakistan*
<https://www.immi.gov.au/media/publications/pdf/dfat-cir-pakistan.pdf>
(Accessed 13 August 2014)

Dawn (7 July 2014) *Blood feud leaves two persons injured in Lakki*
<http://www.dawn.com/news/1117590>
(Accessed 12 August 2014)

Dawn (27 January 2014) *Dir jirga resolves blood feud*
<http://www.dawn.com/news/1082882>
(Accessed 13 August 2014)

Dawn (25 November 2013) *Tribal jirga settles blood feud*
<http://www.dawn.com/news/1058302>
(Accessed 13 August 2014)

Dawn (28 October 2013) *15-year-old blood feud settled by jirga*
<http://www.dawn.com/news/1052233>
(Accessed 13 August 2014)

Express Tribune (12 August 2014) *Blood feud: Protest held after three shot dead in Faisalabad*
<http://tribune.com.pk/story/747398/blood-feud-protest-held-after-three-shot-dead-in-faisalabad/>
(Accessed 12 August 2014)

International Business Times (12 July 2013) *Deadly Ancient Tribal Feuds Still Plague Pakistan In 21st Century*

<http://www.ibtimes.com/deadly-ancient-tribal-feuds-still-plague-pakistan-21st-century-1344075>

(Accessed 12 August 2014)

Right Vision News (31 March 2014) *Pakistan: Seven of family succumb to blood feud*

<http://www.lexisnexus.com>

(Accessed 13 August 2014)

This is a subscription database

Right Vision News (10 October 2013) *Pakistan: Nine gunned down over land ownership dispute*

<http://www.lexisnexus.com>

(Accessed 13 August 2014)

This is a subscription database

Right Vision News (21 August 2013) *Pakistan: Blood feud claims 3 lives in Battagram*

<http://www.lexisnexus.com>

(Accessed 13 August 2014)

This is a subscription database

Right Vision News (25 May 2013) *Pakistan: Blood feud claims two lives*

<http://www.lexisnexus.com>

(Accessed 13 August 2014)

This is a subscription database

UK Home Office (14 July 2014) *Country Information and Guidance – Pakistan: Actors of protection*

https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/331643/Pakistan_CIG_Actors_of_protection.2014.07.16.v1.0.pdf

(Accessed 13 August 2014)

US Department of State (27 February 2014) *2013 Country Reports on Human Rights Practices*

<http://www.state.gov/documents/organization/220614.pdf>

(Accessed 12 August 2014)

Sources Consulted:

Asia Society

Australian Government

Electronic Immigration Network

European Country of Origin Information Network

Dawn

Google

Immigration and Refugee Board of Canada

Lexis Nexis
Refugee Documentation Centre Query Database
UK Home Office
UNHCR Refworld
US Department of State