



Pakistan – Researched and compiled by the Refugee Documentation Centre of Ireland on 10 February 2014

Any information as to whether a member of the Pakistan Muslim League – Nawaz (PML-N) would be at risk from followers and supporters of former president Musharraf.

Referring to the Pakistan Muslim League – Nawaz (PML-N) winning the May 2013 elections in Pakistan a BBC News report states:

“Nawaz Sharif appears on course to secure a majority in Pakistan's parliament and form the next government after claiming victory in Saturday's election. Unofficial results suggest his Pakistan Muslim League has won easily, though he has reportedly opened talks with independents to guarantee a majority.” (BBC News (13 May 2013) *Pakistan election: Sharif poised to take over as PM*)

See also report from the English-language Pakistani newspaper Dawn which states:

“Nawaz Sharif of the PML-N was elected the country's 18th prime minister in a race which also featured Pakistan Peoples Party's Makhdoom Amin Fahim and Pakistan Tehrik-i-Insaaf's Javed Hashmi. The PML-N chief is scheduled to take oath from President Asif Ali Zardari on Wednesday evening. Sharif won the office by bagging 244 votes with his rivals Fahim and Hashmi securing 42 and 31 votes respectively.” (Dawn (5 June 2013) *Nawaz Sharif returns to power*)

A report from the US-based Center for Strategic and International Studies comments on the post-election dominance of the PML-N as follows:

“The election has shaken the civilian political landscape. One of the two traditional parties, in fact the one with support across provinces, was resoundingly thrashed, even humiliated. The Pakistan People's Party headed by the Bhutto family for over 50 years was deeply wounded by its historic opponent, the eponymous Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz headed by Mian Muhammad Nawaz Sharif and his brother, Shahbaz Sharif, the chief minister of Punjab. Unlike its opponents which were tied almost entirely to a single province, the PPP had arguably been the dominant party in Pakistan with support in all four provinces. Now it is left with seats only in its home province of Sindh and two seats in Punjab while the PML-N is the party with seats in all four provinces. The election has left the PPP with around 30 seats out of 272 in the National Assembly against 130-140 for PML-N and 30 (an equal number to the PPP) for the upstart PTI of Imran Khan, which had before won only a single seat and will now form the government in Khyber-Pakhtunkhwa (K-P) Province. Few observers predicted the PML-N dominance, let alone the PPP collapse. Most thought that Nawaz would probably receive the plurality of seats in the Assembly but not that many more than the PPP and therefore

that the PPP or PML-N would be the largest but not the predominant party in a ruling and probably unruly coalition. Not anymore.” (Center for Strategic and International Studies (21 May 2013) *Nawaz’s Decisive Victory Opens Door for Rethinking Pakistan Security Policy*)

Reports of PML-N members being targeted by followers of former president Musharraf since the May 2013 elections were not found among sources available to the Research and Information Unit. Numerous Pakistan media reports refer to the killing of PML-N members by supporters of other political parties or by unknown assailants. A selection of these reports follows:

A Right Vision News article states:

“Five persons were killed while several others sustained injuries as attacks on candidates continued on the last day of the election campaign on Thursday. A guard of PML-N candidate Akbar Askani was killed and three others injured when unknown miscreants attacked the convoy of the PML-N candidate near Turbat.” (Right Vision News (11 May 2013) *Pakistan: Two killed as attacks continue*)

An Express Tribune article, in a paragraph headed “Karachi unrest”, states:

“Two workers of PML-N were gunned down during victory celebrations, confirmed PMLN leader Ali Akbar Gujjar. Police said two bystanders were also killed during the celebration rally in Awami Chowk, in the remit of the Model Colony police station. They said the incident occurred when an MQM rally was passing through the area. Gujjar said the dead PML-N workers were distributing sweets when they were fired upon by a rally of ‘another group’, which was passing by.” (Express Tribune (13 May 2013) *Reactions: Eight killed in post-election violence*)

A Dawn article states:

“A senior lawyer was shot dead in an attack in Nazimabad area of Karachi on Thursday that also left his lawyer son injured. Naimat Ali Randhawa, a former public prosecutor of Anti-Terrorism Court and leader of PML-N Sindh’s lawyer wing, and his son, Tauqeer Ali Randhawa, were going home when two gunmen on a motorcycle attacked them, said SSP Central Amir Farooqi. They sustained injuries in the attack and were taken to Abbasi Shaheed Hospital where Naimat Ali Randhawa was pronounced dead after brief treatment. His son was later shifted to a private hospital.” (Dawn (27 September 2013) *Senior lawyer shot dead in Karachi*)

A Right Vision News article states:

“At least four people, including a leader of the ruling Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N), were killed in two different incidents in Quetta and Panjgoor town of Balochistan on Friday, police said. Commissioner Quetta, Usman Gul said gunmen opened fire at a hotel and killed Rasool Bakhsh Khetran and a companion of his on Masjid road area of Quetta. The assailants sped away on a motorcycle after the attack. Police later took the dead bodies to nearby civil hospital for postmortem. Family members and Khetran tribesmen brought the dead bodies near Governor House to mourn the killings. The protest

resulted in suspension of traffic towards Governor House. Addressing the incensed protesters, member Balochistan Assembly from Jamiat Ulema-i-Islam (F), Sardar Abdul Rehman Khetran said that the provincial government had completely failed to protect the lives and properties of the masses. He demanded the arrest of the accused involved in the murder of the PML-N leader. The protesters later dispersed after the assurance of commissioner Quetta division Usman Gul and other high ups.” (Right Vision News (27 October 2013) *Pakistan: Four killed in Balochistan violence*)

A Daily Regional Times article states:

“Thirteen people including women, office bearers of Ahle-e-Sunnat ul Jammāt and PML-N were killed in various violent incidents in the city. Five people were killed in 15 minutes span of time in Defense and Korangi areas. Mufti Tariq Shah belonging to PML-N, Yaar Mohammad and Jan Mohammad were killed at Goldki market situated in Defense Phase I whose corpses have been transferred to Jinnah Hospital (JH). Riaz and Ramzan belonging to ASJ were gunned down during blind shootout on a hotel by armed gunmen riding motorbike at Korangi industrial area.” (Daily Regional Times (6 November 2013) *13 including political workers killed as violence sparks in Karachi*)

A Frontier Post article states:

“The Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) Youth Wing City president was shot dead by a rival group on some minor dispute here on Friday. According to police sources, two rival groups had an exchange of fire in Bakhshi Park Mohallah on some petty dispute. As a result, PML-N youth wing city president, Muhammad Sultan was killed on the spot.” (Frontier Post (23 November 2013) *PML-N worker shot dead*)

A Right Vision News article states:

“At least five persons including an activist of the PML-N were killed, in different incidents of firings and violence, while the security agencies captured 94 suspects during raids in different parts of Karachi on Thursday. An activist and local office holder of the PML-N, Abdul Hameed, was shot dead by unknown armed attackers while returning to home after dropping his children at school in Awami Colony of Korangi Town on Thursday morning.” (Right Vision News (28 December Pakistan: *Five including PML-N activist killed, 94 suspects captured in Karachi*)

An article from The Patriot states:

“Four persons were killed and three others sustained bullet injuries in a cross firing between the supporters of PML-N and PML-Q candidates, in the precincts of Factory Area police station on Tuesday night. According to police, the incident took place at Dera Masjid Wala locality where Qaiser Virk and Muhammad Sattar groups exchanged indiscriminate fire over tearing election posters. As a result, Sattar, Tahir, Waqas and an unknown person died on the spot while Qaiser Virk and two others suffered bullet injuries.” (The Patriot (9 January 2014) *Four killed, three injured in firing incident*)

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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