



Pakistan – Researched and compiled by the Refugee Documentation Centre of Ireland on 6 September 2013

Availability and feasibility of internal relocation from Lahore to Hyarabad.

Information specifically referring to the possibility of internal relocation from Lahore to Hyarabad was not found among sources available to the Research and Information Unit.

The 2012 US Department of State country report for Pakistan, in a section titled “Freedom of Movement, Internally Displaced Persons, Protection of Refugees, and Stateless Persons”, states:

“The law provides for freedom of internal movement and for uninhibited foreign travel, emigration, and repatriation, but the government limited these rights.” (US Department of State (19 April 2013) *2012 Country Reports on Human Rights Practices – Pakistan*)

A Refugee Review Tribunal of Australia country advice document, in response to a request for information on the possibility of internal relocation in Pakistan for failed asylum seekers, states:

“Specific information was not located on relocation for failed asylum seekers in Pakistan. In relation to relocation generally, Article 15 of the Constitution of Pakistan indicates that '[e]very citizen shall have the right to remain in and, subject to any reasonable restrictions imposed by law in the public interest, enter and move freely throughout Pakistan and to reside and settle in any part thereof.' It is reported that the law in Pakistan provides for freedom of movement within the country, emigration, foreign travel and repatriation, although the government reportedly limits these rights in practice. During 2009, restrictions were placed on politicians, religious leaders and political workers to prevent them from moving freely within Pakistan. The movement of ordinary citizens who resided in insurgency affected areas of Malakand, Swat and the Federally Administered Tribal Areas was also reported to be seriously affected.” (Refugee Review Tribunal of Australia (20 December 2010) *Pakistan – PAK37896 – Asylum seekers – Returnees from the West – Internal relocation*, p.2)

A report published by the Human Rights Commission of Pakistan, in a section titled “Freedom of movement”, states:

“The year 2012 witnessed frequent restrictions on the freedom of movement, both from state and non-state actors. The restrictions imposed by the state were mostly continuation of past practices and institutional barriers, which included banning of clerics from entering particular cities during the Shia mourning month of Moharram, and the customary reliance on the Exit Control

List. The usual difficulties faced in the issuance of passports remained largely unaddressed. An agreement for a new and relaxed visa regime between Pakistan and India remained unimplemented, causing immense difficulties to people who wished to travel to India. One of the new instruments of restricting freedom of movement was banning the use of motorcycle in some parts of the country and a ban on pillion riding in many more. Another new phenomenon was the banning of mobile phones in different parts of the country which has direct implications for freedom of movement. The shortage of fuel and strikes particularly by the sellers of compressed natural gas (CNG) meant that everyday mode of transportation remained affected throughout the year. The Pakistan Railways experienced a steady decline in the year 2012, with a very high number of trains cancelled, rescheduled and train routes discontinued. This had a direct bearing on the ability to move freely for a large segment of the population. (Human Rights Commission of Pakistan (4 April 2013) *State of Human Rights in 2012 (Chapter 3. Fundamental freedoms - Freedom of movement)*)

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:

Human Rights Commission of Pakistan (4 April 2013) *State of Human Rights in 2012 (Chapter 3. Fundamental freedoms - Freedom of movement)*
<http://www.ein.org.uk/print/members/country-report/state-human-rights-2012-chapter-3-fundamental-freedoms-freedom-movement>
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US Department of State (19 April 2013) *2012 Country Reports on Human Rights Practices – Pakistan*
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UNHCR Refworld
US Department of State