



Pakistan – Researched and compiled by the Refugee Documentation Centre of Ireland on 31 July 2012

Any information on armed conflict in Pakistan that has occurred within the last 3 months.

Overview of Conflict in Pakistan

A report from the *Pakistan Institute for Peace Studies* refers to events in May 2012 as follows:

“The security landscape of Federally Administered Tribal Areas (FATA), Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP), Balochistan and Karachi remained volatile in the reporting month. Tehrik-e-Taliban Pakistan (TTP) and its affiliated groups stepped up their attacks against security forces in different parts of country. Besides persistent attacks by the Baloch nationalist insurgents in Balochistan, the Sindhi nationalists in interior Sindh also took up arms and as a result violent incidents were reported from this historically peaceful area. Banned sectarian outfits continued targeting rival communities and religious scholars in Quetta, Karachi, and Kurram Agency of FATA. The US increased the frequency of drone strikes in FATA. Pakistani security forces continued their fight against militants with small-scale military operations in FATA and Balochistan and search and hunt operation in KP and Karachi. A total of 121 terrorist attacks were carried out across Pakistan in the month of May mainly by religiously motivated militants, nationalist insurgents and sectarian groups that claimed lives of 132 people and injured another 342. (See Chart 1) Balochistan faced the maximum number of attacks (38 attacks) in which 37 people were killed and 125 injured. FATA was the worst-hit region of the country in terms of casualties where 63 people were killed and 103 injured in 31 reported militant attacks. As many as 30 terrorist attacks were reported from Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP) that left 10 people dead and 76 others injured. Moreover 19 people were killed and 36 others injured in 20 reported terrorist attacks in Sindh province whereas Punjab witnessed two attacks that left 3 people dead and 2 others injured.” (Pakistan Institute for Peace Studies (14 June 2012) *Pakistan Security Report (May 2012)*)

A report from the *Center for Research & Security Studies* on conflict during June 2012 states:

“Ethno-political violence in Karachi, religio-terrorism violence in Federally Administered Tribal Areas (FATA) and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP), and nationalist-separatist violence in Balochistan led to the decimation of staggering 544 persons during June. Meanwhile, renewed wave of religio-terrorism violence in FATA and KP ate up almost 324 persons during the month under review. The data collected through different sources suggests that some 545 people lost their lives in 195 incidents of violence across the country (for details see data sheet). It also underlines that the overall level of violence escalated in June in comparison to May, wherein 530 people were

perished. The violent clashes also left 498 people injured across the country during the reported month.” (Center for Research & Security Studies (7 July 2012) *Pakistan Conflict Tracker Monthly Report (June 2012)*)

A report from the *Human Rights Commission of Pakistan* states:

“The increasing incidents of wanton violence and bloodshed across the country, including the recent killing of at least 18 people in Dasht, this week’s attack on an army camp in Gujrat and the daily killings in Karachi, not only expose a propensity by all concerned to resort to violence at the slightest excuse but also a consistent failure of the state to address inclination towards violence and to bring the perpetrators to justice, the Human Rights Commission of Pakistan (HRCP) said on Wednesday.” (Human Rights Commission of Pakistan (11 July 2012) *HRCP slams expanding violence and impunity*)

Attacks Attributed to Islamist Militants

An *Agence France Presse* report on attacks by suspected Islamist militants in Peshawar in May 2012 states:

“Bomb and mortar attacks killed at least two people and wounded 21 others in Pakistan's northwestern city of Peshawar, a gateway to the tribal badlands, police said on Saturday. ‘A remote-controlled bomb exploded as a police van carrying four prisoners passed by an abandoned tin of vegetable oil in Peshawar city on Saturday, killing one policeman and wounding 17 others,’ local police official Mohammed Asif said. A woman and four policemen were among those wounded. Another local police official, Javed Iqbal, also confirmed the incident and casualties. Nobody claimed responsibility for the blast but Islamist militants have carried out several attacks in the city.” (Agence France Presse (12 May 2012) *Pakistan: Bomb, mortar attacks kill two in Pakistan: police*)

A *South Asia Intelligence Review* article states:

“On May 16, 2012, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP) Governor Masud Kausar declared that about 90 percent of the seven tribal agencies in Federally Administered Tribal areas (FATA) and Frontier Regions (FRs) were under complete Government control, as a result of 'successful action' by the Security Forces (SFs): ‘I must say, apart from North Waziristan Agency and some parts of South Waziristan Agency, the remaining FATA is clear now and the Government writ is being consolidated.’ Governor Masud Kausar's observations, however, fail to reconcile with the ground realities in FATA. Significantly, a 'targeted operation' has been going on in Khyber Agency, a stone's throw away from Peshawar, KP's provincial capital, since October 2011. FATA has, in fact, witnessed 1,225 fatalities, including 214 civilians, 133 SF personnel and 878 militants, in just first four months of 2012; as against 977 fatalities, including 125 civilians, 95 SF personnel and 757 militants in the last four months of 2011, according to the South Asia Terrorism Portal (SATP) database. Out of the 1,225 fatalities in 2012 (first four months), at least 928 have been outside the North and South Waziristan Agencies. Since May 1, 2012, FATA has added 240 fatalities, including 61 civilians, 45 SF personnel and 134 militants (all data till May 27, 2012). Meanwhile, the 'targeted operation' in Bara was launched four days after

Lashkar-e-Islam (LI) militants attacked a SF convoy in the Akkakhel area of Bara tehsil (revenue unit) of the Khyber Agency, on October 17, 2011, killing nine personnel. 14 terrorists were killed in retaliatory fire by the SFs. Since then, the Agency has witnessed 598 fatalities including 211 civilians, 50 SF personnel and 337 militants. The Agency has, in fact, recorded a total of 2,582 fatalities, including 678 civilians, 188 SF personnel and 1,549 militants since 2008, notwithstanding Governor Kausar's claims of the 'Government writ'. During this period, the Agency recorded 190 major incidents (each involving three or more fatalities), including, among the most prominent, since January, 2012." (South Asia Intelligence Review, volume 10, no. 47 (28 May 2012) *Khyber Agency: Another Futile Operation*)

A *Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty* report on the beheading of Pakistani soldiers states:

"Pakistani officials say militants have beheaded two Pakistani soldiers who were captured in an attack in the country's northwest tribal area bordering Afghanistan. The militants seized the soldiers after storming a security outpost on May 6 in Miranshah, capital of North Waziristan, in an assault that officials said left nine Pakistani soldiers dead and 12 others injured." (Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty (7 May 2012) *Pakistan: Militants Behead Two Soldiers*)

See also *Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty* report on a similar incident in June 2012 which states:

"Pakistani officials say militants have crossed into Pakistan from Afghanistan and killed 13 Pakistani troops, beheading seven of them. Military officials said on June 25 that more than 100 militants had crossed the border in the northwestern Upper Dir region the previous night and clashed with Pakistan forces on a patrol. The military said six soldiers were killed outright. Seven, who were missing, were killed and then beheaded, while another four still have not been found." (Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty (25 June 2012) *Militants Reportedly Kill 13 Pakistani Soldiers, Behead Seven*)

A *Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty* report on a suicide bomb attack in May 2012 states:

"A suicide bomber has killed at least 24 people and injured more than 50 others in an attack on a security checkpoint in northwest Pakistan. Officials say the bomber struck on May 4 near a crowded market in Khar, regional capital of the Bajaur tribal district, on the border with Afghanistan. The dead are reported to include two senior officers of the Bajaur Levies, a tribal police force in the remote region. At least five other policemen were also killed. Schoolchildren and other civilians were among the dead and injured. A self-proclaimed spokesman of the Tehrik-e Taliban Pakistan has claimed responsibility for the attack." (Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty (4 May 2012) *Bomb Kills 24 In Northwest Pakistan*)

A *BBC News* report on a suicide bomb attack in July 2012 states:

"A suicide bomb attack has killed at least nine people in north-western Pakistan, officials say. The blast went off at the entrance to an anti-Taliban commander's compound in Kurram, part of the tribal regions which border

Afghanistan. The compound is used by a local militia and also contains residential units, reports the Reuters news agency. Pakistan's military has been carrying out operations against militant groups in the tribal regions for months. Three children were among the dead, tribal police officials told the Associated Press (AP). At least 15 people were injured.” (BBC News (21 July 2012) *Pakistan blast 'kills nine' in Kurram at Nabi compound*)

A *Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty* on an attack on a bus in May 2012 states:

“Gunmen have killed at least seven passengers in an attack on a bus in Pakistan's southern Sindh Province. More were injured and reportedly taken to a nearby hospital. The bus was reportedly bound for the Swabi district of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Province. Reports quoted police officials as giving different accounts on the bloodshed. Some officials suggested separatists from the neighboring Balochistan Province may have carried out the attack, while others said it appeared to be an attempted robbery. Pakistan is battling violence from Islamist insurgents in the northwest, as well as Baloch and other separatist movements.” (Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty (25 May 2012) *Gunmen Kill 7 On Pakistani Bus*)

See also *Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty* report on the bombing of a bus in June 2012 which states:

“Police in Pakistan say a bomb blast has killed at least 19 people in the city of Peshawar, in the country's restive northwest. The explosion was detonated on June 8 in the Daudzai area, reportedly near a bus carrying government employees. Officials said at least 20 people were wounded. A senior police official said there were women and children among the victims.” (Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty (8 June 2012) *Bomb Blast Kills At Least 19 In Pakistan's Northwest*)

A *BBC News* report on this incident states:

“At least 18 people have been killed in a bomb attack on a bus carrying government employees in north west Pakistan. The vehicle is said to have been taking the workers to their offices when it was hit on the outskirts of the city of Peshawar. At least 34 people are also thought to have been injured in the incident. Peshawar lies near Pakistan's lawless tribal belt - a stronghold of Taliban and al-Qaeda militants. Hundreds have died in attacks in and around the city in recent years.” (BBC News (8 June 2012) *Pakistan bus bombing: At least 18 killed near Peshawar*)

See also *Voice of America News* report which states:

“A bomb has blown up a bus full of government employees in the northwestern city of Peshawar, killing at least 19 people, Pakistan's second lethal blast in as many days. Local officials say the bomb was planted in the back of the bus. More than 35 people were wounded in the blast, which destroyed most of the vehicle. Peshawar is close to Pakistan's border with Afghanistan, an area that is known to harbor Taliban and other militants. Provincial Information Minister Iftikhar Hussain says Pakistan will not be cowed by militant violence. ‘Pakistan is ready to seek a peaceful resolution to the country's insurgency, but if militants are unwilling to talk and persist in acts of terrorism, then it is the country's duty to go after them with full force,’

he said via translator. No group immediately claimed responsibility for the attack. Peshawar has seen numerous bombings in the past five years, but the violence dropped in recent months as the Pakistani military pushed back militants in the area. The bus explosion came just a day after a blast outside a religious school in the southwestern city of Quetta killed 16 people, including children.” (Voice of America News (8 June 2012) *Pakistan Bus Bomb Kills 19*)

An *Agence France Presse* report on the bombing of a market place in Landi Kotal in June 2012 states:

“Tribesmen in Pakistan's troubled northwest mourned Sunday as the death toll from a bomb attack climbed to 29 after four blast victims died overnight in hospitals, officials said. Private markets and all bazaars remained closed as local tribesmen held funerals to bury the dead in different parts of Khyber tribal district along the Afghan border, witnesses said. ‘Four more critically injured died in hospitals overnight. The whole town is closed to mourn the deaths,’ Raseed Khan, a local government official, told AFP. A car bomb ripped through a market area in the main bazaar of Landi Kotal in Khyber tribal district on Saturday, initially killing 25 people including three children, officials said, adding that more than 50 people were injured.” (Agence France Presse (17 June 2012) *Pakistan: Pakistan's tribesmen mourn as bomb toll rises*)

See also *Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty* report which states:

“A bomb has killed at least 20 people in a northwest Pakistan tribal town near the Afghan border. The blast, which wounded another 80 according to a local official, took place in the main bazaar of Landi Kotal in the Khyber tribal district. Local administration official Arshad Khan said the bomb exploded near a bus stand on June 16 and appeared to be aimed at members of the pro-government Zakha Khel tribe, who oppose a local warlord. Nobody has claimed responsibility but Islamist militants have carried out several previous attacks in the area.” (Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty (16 June 2012) *Pakistan Blast Kills At Least 20 In Khyber Agency*)

A *Voice of America News* report on this incident states:

“A car bomb in northwest Pakistan has killed 26 people and wounded more than 50 others. The bomb exploded Saturday near a bus stand at a crowded bazaar in Landi Kotal, in the Khyber tribal district. No one immediately claimed responsibility for the attack but the Pakistani Taliban have carried out hundreds of similar bombings across the country.” (Voice of America News (16 June 2012) *26 Killed in Pakistan Car Bombing*)

An *Agence France Presse* report on the killing of civilians in a bomb attack in July 2012 states:

“A bomb tore through a vehicle in Pakistan's northwestern tribal belt on Wednesday, killing 14 members of the same clan, including three children, officials said. ‘It was a remote-controlled bomb planted on the road. The bomb exploded near a pick-up van carrying passengers,’ senior administration official Zakir Hussain told AFP of the incident in Sepoy village, Orakzai district. Eight people were killed on the spot and six died in a state-run hospital in the nearby city of Kohat, Hussain said. The dead included three

women, two 11-year-old boys and a three-year-old girl, he said. All the victims were part of the same clan or same extended family.” (Agence France Presse (18 July 2012) *Pakistan: Bomb kills 14 Pakistani relatives: officials*)

A *Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty* on the killing of Pakistani soldiers in a suspected Taliban attack states:

“Authorities in Pakistan said at least seven soldiers were killed and two wounded when a roadside bomb hit a paramilitary convoy in Pakistan's northwestern tribal region along the Afghan border. The incident took place in a marketplace in the Bara area. No group has claimed responsibility for the attack yet, but the Taliban regularly target government officials and civilians in the area.” (Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty (28 June 2012) *Seven Pakistani Soldiers Killed In Bombing*)

See also *Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty* which states:

“The Pakistani military says six soldiers and a police officer have been killed in an attack by gunmen on an army camp near Islamabad. The military said in a statement that five other security personnel were wounded in the attack near Wazirabad, less than 150 kilometers southeast of the capital. The military said the camp that was attacked had been set up by the army to search for the debris of a helicopter that crashed recently. There was no immediate claim of responsibility for the attack.” (Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty (9 July 2012) *Gunmen Kill Seven At Pakistani Army Camp*)

A *BBC News* report on this incident states:

“Gunmen have attacked an army camp in Pakistan, killing at least seven security personnel and injuring five, officials say. The attack happened at a site along the Chenab river in the Gujrat district of central Punjab province. The Pakistani Taliban have claimed responsibility for the attack. The Tehreek-e-Taliban spokesman told BBC Urdu that its Punjab Wing was responsible and would continue to target the army wherever it could.” (BBC News (9 July 2012) *'Seven die' as gunmen attack Pakistan army camp*)

A *Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty* report on the killing of police trainees in Lahore states:

“In Pakistan, officials say nine police trainees have been shot dead by gunmen who attacked a building where they were sleeping in the eastern city of Lahore. Pakistani Taliban spokesman Ahsanullah Ahsan said Taliban militants had carried out the attack to avenge the police torture of militants in prison. Reports say those who were killed in the early morning attack on July 12 were training to become prison guards. Officials said the attack was carried out by masked gunmen who arrived at the police hostel on motorcycles. It was the second attack in three days on security personnel in the province of Punjab. On July 9, gunmen on motorbikes shot dead seven security personnel at an army camp less than 150 kilometers southeast of Islamabad.” (Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty (12 July 2012) *Gunmen Kill At Least Nine Pakistani Security Personnel In Lahore*)

An article from *The Guardian* refers to this incident as follows:

“Masked gunmen have stormed a house and killed nine police cadets in Pakistan's eastern city of Lahore, police say. It is the second attack on security forces in the relatively peaceful Punjab province in four days. The Pakistani Taliban said it was responsible for Thursday's killings and vowed more violence in the region. It had already claimed responsibility for the earlier attack.” (The Guardian (12 July 2012) *Pakistani Taliban kill police cadets in Lahore*)

A *Voice of America News* report recent attacks states:

“Attacks across Pakistan Saturday killed at least 19 people. In the deadliest attack, authorities say a suicide bomber detonated explosives outside the compound of militant commander Mullah Nabi in the town of Spin Tal. Nine of the dead were killed in that attack. The town is in northwestern Pakistan, near the Afghan border. Nabi is a rival to another prominent commander, who is allied with the Pakistani Taliban.” (Voice of America News (21 July 2012) *Attacks Across Pakistan Kill At Least 19*)

Baluchistan Province

A *Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty* report on an attack in Baluchistan province states:

“Police say gunmen riding on motorcycles have shot dead eight people in an attack on a laundry in southwestern Pakistan. Police officials said the June 23 attack took place in a busy commercial area of Quetta, the capital of the southwestern Baluchistan province. No one immediately claimed responsibility for the attack.” (Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty (23 June 2012) *Gunmen Kill Eight In Southwest Pakistan*)

A *Voice of America News* report on the bombing of a political rally in Baluchistan province states:

“Pakistan's volatile Baluchistan province suffered another attack Friday, when a bomb struck a political rally in the provincial capital. At least six people, including a child, were killed in the blast, which occurred while members of the Awami National Party were meeting in Quetta. Police say more than 12 others were wounded when a bomb planted on a bicycle exploded. Rasheed Nasir, a party worker who was among the wounded, told reporters: ‘We were on stage and the rally was going to start. As the secretary was making the announcement, suddenly the blast happened and many of our workers were martyred and wounded.’ No one has claimed responsibility for the bombing.” (Voice of America News (13 July 2012) *No Let-up in Attacks in Pakistan's Baluchistan Province*)

Violence in Karachi

A report from the *Human Rights Commission of Pakistan* states:

“The Human Rights Commission of Pakistan (HRCP) is extremely concerned at the latest cycle of violence and the utter breakdown of law and order in Karachi yet again, which has claimed scores of lives already. HRCP has called upon the government and the main political parties to work together to

urgently find a way out. In a statement issued on Wednesday, the Commission said: "HRCP is alarmed and dismayed at the latest bout of bloodletting that has taken a stranglehold on Karachi. Frequent calls for strikes and the violence they entail have led to loss of lives, as well as considerable financial loss. More than 300 people have been killed in violence in the city in 2012 already. Countless others have been unable to go to work or leave their homes because of fears for their safety. Nearly 1,800 people were killed in violence in 2011. There is a consensus that much of the violence in Karachi is part of an increasingly deadly turf war in which the main political parties in Karachi have enthusiastically participated." (Human Rights Commission of Pakistan (4 April 2012) *Killings in Karachi are unacceptable: HRCP*)

An *Agence France Presse* report on an attack on a political rally states:

"At least nine people were killed as violence erupted in Pakistan's most populous city of Karachi on Tuesday after unknown gunmen opened fire on a rally, police said. Gunmen and arsonists went on the rampage after the firing on a protest rally against a police operation earlier this month in the city's Lyari district in which 25 people were killed. Sindh provincial home ministry official Sharfuddin Memon said 10 had been killed while police gave a toll of nine dead." (Agence France Presse (22 May 2012) *Pakistan: Nine killed in renewed Karachi violence: officials*)

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

"Unknown gunmen have opened fire on a rally in the center of Karachi, killing at least nine people and wounding some 30 others. Some news agencies have put the casualty figures higher. The attackers struck a political rally by the nationalist Awami Tehrik group, and the violence sparked rioting that led to the burning of several shops and cars." (Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty (22 May 2012) *Pakistan Shooting Kills At Least Nine*)

See also *Voice of America News* report which states:

"Pakistan's largest and most commercially important city, Karachi has long been the site of sectarian tension between the different language communities. The Human Rights Commission of Pakistan says some 400 people have died in sectarian violence in Karachi this year alone - a higher death toll than in all the terrorist attacks across the country. Nearly 1,800 people died in violence in Karachi in 2011." (Voice of America News (22 May 2012) *Gunmen Kill 10 at Rally in S. Pakistan*)

A *BBC News* report on killings in Karachi states:

"At least nine people, including a senior police officer, have been shot in targeted killings in the Pakistani city of Karachi, officials say. Most of those killed overnight were the victims of drive-by shootings. Police Superintendent Shah Mohammad was attacked by armed bikers in Karachi's eastern Korangi area. Karachi has long suffered outbreaks of violence, blamed on criminal elements, as well as turf wars between rival political and ethnic groups." (BBC News (29 May 2012) *Pakistan: 'Nine killed' in Karachi targeted shootings*)

A *South Asia Intelligence Review* document refers to the killing of bus passengers in May 2012 as follows:

“At least seven passengers on a Swabi-bound bus were shot dead three others were wounded when armed militants opened fire on the bus on National Highway at Rinn Shakh, near Qazi Ahmed Taluka town in Shaheed Benazirabad District on May 25. Three people, including an activist each from the Awami National Party (ANP) and the Muttahida Qaumi Movement (MQM) were killed here on May 25 in separate incidents of violence in Karachi. Six persons, including two political activists, were killed in separate acts of violence in Karachi on May 24. At least five more people were killed over a dozen others injured in the ongoing in Karachi on May 23 due to a strike call by Awami Tehreek (AT) President Ayaz Latif Palijo. A rally opposing creation of Mohajir Province in Sindh, titled 'Mohabbat-e-Sindh' (Love of Sindh), organised by the Awami Tehreek (AT), a Sindh-based nationalist party, was attacked by unidentified armed militants at Napier Road in Karachi killing at least 13 people and injuring 35 others on May 22.” (South Asia Intelligence Review, volume 10, no.47 (28 May 2012) *41 civilians and one militant among 42 persons killed during the week in Sindh*)

See also *South Asia Intelligence Review* article on violence in Karachi in July 2012 which states:

“At least seven people were killed in separate incidents of violence in Karachi, the provincial capital of Sindh, on July 21. At least six people, including a World Health Organisation (WHO) doctor, were killed in Karachi on July 20. At least 11 persons, including two Policemen, Jama'at Ulema-e-Islam-Fazl (JUI-F) leader and a State Bank of Pakistan (SBP) employee, were killed in separate incidents of violence in Karachi on July 19. 11 persons, including a Policeman and a former Sunni Tehreek (ST) cadre, were killed in separate incidents of target killing in Karachi on July 18. At least seven persons, including a criminal, an activist of Muttahida Qaumi Movement (MQM), Awami National Party (ANP) and Jama'at-e-Islami (Jel), were killed in separate acts of target killing in Karachi on July 17. Six people were killed in separate violent incidents that took place in Karachi on July 16.” (South Asia Intelligence Review, Volume 11, no. 3 (23 July 2012) *47 civilians and three SFs among 51 persons killed during the week in Karachi; 25 civilians and 16 militants among 42 persons killed during the week in FATA*)

Violence Against Shias

A *BBC News* report states:

“An increase in sectarian violence has killed hundreds of Pakistanis in recent years. Many attacks have been concentrated in the Northern Areas and Balochistan province. Shias and other minority communities say those behind the violence - such as the banned Sunni militant organisation Lashkar-e-Jhangvi - are rarely caught or punished.” (BBC News (9 May 2012) *Pakistan's Shias fear sectarian attacks*)

A *South Asia Intelligence Review* article states:

“Violence against the Shi'ite minority has long been endemic in Pakistan, with a progressive increase in scale and geographical distribution over time. Living

in absolute fear, the Shia community, variously estimated at between five and 20 per cent of Pakistan's 187 million population, is currently being targeted in an escalating and vicious cycle of sectarian attacks that have enveloped the entire country. The idea of Shias as a 'heretical' sect has become an entrenched dogma of mainstream Sunni politics in Pakistan. On April 18, 2012, National Assembly Standing Committee (NSC) during a meeting told the National Assembly Human Rights Committee (NAHRC) that more than 650 Shias in Quetta, the provincial capital of Balochistan, and 450 in the Dera Ismail Khan District of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP) were targeted and killed 'recently' (no date was specified) though the statement was issued in the context of the Shia-Hazara killings between March 29 and April 17, 2012.)" (South Asia Intelligence Review, Volume 10, No. 42 (23 April 2012) *Sectarianism: Savage Campaign*)

This article also states:

"SATP has recorded a total of 41 incidents of sectarian attacks, resulting in at least 165 fatalities since the beginning of 2012 (till April 22). The Federally Administered Tribal Areas (FATA) experienced the highest number of such killings, while Balochistan accounted for highest number of such incidents. FATA recorded 43 killings in two incidents, followed by Balochistan, with 37 killings in 15 incidents; KP, 23 killing in five incidents; Punjab, 21 fatalities in two incidents; Gilgit-Baltistan, 24 fatalities in three different incidents on a single day; and Sindh, nine killings in six incidents. All six regions of Pakistan have witnessed Shia killings, but the pattern and trend of such attacks varies. In KP, Punjab, FATA and Gilgit-Baltistan, attacks have ordinarily targeted large Shia gatherings. In Sindh – particularly in its provincial capital Karachi – and in Balochistan, 'target killings' ordinarily use small arms to execute individual or small group assassinations. In Karachi, moreover, eminent Shias, often drawn from educated and professional classes, have been particularly targeted." (ibid)

A *Voice of America News* report states:

"Authorities say a roadside bomb has hit a bus carrying Shi'ite pilgrims in southwestern Pakistan, killing at least 13 people. The bus was traveling from Iran to Quetta, the capital of Baluchistan province when Thursday's blast occurred. The province has seen sectarian violence between majority-Sunni Muslims and minority Shi'ites. The attack wounded at least 30 people." (Voice of America News (28 June 2012) *Deadly Blast Hits Bus Carrying Shi'ites in SW Pakistan*)

See also *Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty* report on this incident which states:

"Police in Pakistan say suspected Sunni Muslim militants attacked a bus carrying Shi'ite pilgrims, killing at least 10 people. Dozens more were injured in the attack in the southwestern town of Quetta, the capital of Balochistan Province. Police say the bus, which was carrying around 40 passengers traveling from Iran to Quetta, was attacked with a bomb and gunfire. Shi'ite Muslims are a minority in predominantly Sunni Pakistan. Although most Sunnis and Shi'ites live peacefully together, extremists from both sides have targeted each other over the past three decades. In recent years, Sunni attacks on Shi'ites have been far more common. Balochistan, which borders

Afghanistan and Iran, has become an increasing flashpoint for sectarian violence.” (Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty (28 June 2012) *At Least 10 Killed In Pakistani Bus Attack*)

A report from the *Asian Human Rights Commission* states:

“The killings of the Shiite Muslims continue un-abated in those areas under the control of the military and Para-Military forces where the banned Muslim organizations operate freely and without hindrance. In the latest killings on June 28 at least 13 pilgrims were martyred and several others injured in a bomb blast attack on Zaireen's bus in Hazar Ganji, Quetta, the capital of Balochistan where the city remains under the tight control of the Frontier Corp (FC), a unit of the Pakistan Army. In the city it is not possible for anyone to move without being body searched by the FC and other law enforcement agencies yet the militants pass freely. The reports say that a police officer was also killed in the attack. The bus carrying at least 40 persons from a Shiite religious group was coming from Taftan, Pakistan's border city with Iran. The pilgrims had gone to Iran on a pilgrimage tour. The banned organization, Lashkar-e-Jhangvi (LeJ) has claimed responsibility for the massacre.” (Asian Human Rights Commission (4 July 2012) *Pakistan: Killings of Shiite Muslims under the very nose of the military -- the 'independent judiciary' turns a blind eye while the government continues its policy of appeasement*)

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:

Agence France Presse (18 July 2012) *Pakistan: Bomb kills 14 Pakistani relatives: officials*
http://reliefweb.int/sites/reliefweb.int/files/reliefweb_pdf/node-511464.pdf
(Accessed 31 July 2012)

Agence France Presse (17 June 2012) *Pakistan: Pakistan's tribesmen mourn as bomb toll rises*
http://reliefweb.int/sites/reliefweb.int/files/reliefweb_pdf/node-504564.pdf
(Accessed 31 July 2012)

Agence France Presse (22 May 2012) *Pakistan: Nine killed in renewed Karachi violence: officials*
http://reliefweb.int/sites/reliefweb.int/files/reliefweb_pdf/node-498429.pdf
(Accessed 31 July 2012)

Agence France Presse (12 May 2012) *Pakistan: Bomb, mortar attacks kill two in Pakistan: police*
http://reliefweb.int/sites/reliefweb.int/files/reliefweb_pdf/node-496248.pdf
(Accessed 31 July 2012)

Asian Human Rights Commission (4 July 2012) *Pakistan: Killings of Shiite Muslims under the very nose of the military -- the 'independent judiciary' turns a blind eye while the government continues its policy of appeasement*
<http://www.humanrights.asia/news/ahrc-news/AHRC-STM-136-2012>
(Accessed 30 July 2012)

BBC News (21 July 2012) *Pakistan blast 'kills nine' in Kurram at Nabi compound*
<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-asia-18937158?print=true>
(Accessed 31 July 2012)

BBC News (9 July 2012) *'Seven die' as gunmen attack Pakistan army camp*
<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-asia-18765664?print=true>
(Accessed 31 July 2012)

BBC News (8 June 2012) *Pakistan bus bombing: At least 18 killed near Peshawar*
<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-asia-18363922?print=true>
(Accessed 31 July 2012)

BBC News (29 May 2012) *Pakistan: 'Nine killed' in Karachi targeted shootings*
<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-asia-18246240?print=true>
(Accessed 31 July 2012)

BBC News (9 May 2012) *Pakistan's Shias fear sectarian attacks*
<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-asia-17936651?print=true>
(Accessed 31 July 2012)

Center for Research & Security Studies (7 July 2012) *Pakistan Conflict Tracker Monthly Report (June 2012)*
<http://crss.pk/beta/?p=3080>
(Accessed 31 July 2012)

The Guardian (12 July 2012) *Pakistani Taliban kill police cadets in Lahore*
<http://www.guardian.co.uk/world/2012/jul/12/pakistani-taliban-kill-police-lahore/print>
(Accessed 31 July 2012)

Human Rights Commission of Pakistan (11 July 2012) *HRCP slams expanding violence and impunity*
<http://www.hrcp-web.org/showprel.asp?id=289>
(Accessed 30 July 2012)

Human Rights Commission of Pakistan (4 April 2012) *Killings in Karachi are unacceptable: HRCP*
<http://www.hrcp-web.org/showprel.asp?id=265>
(Accessed 30 July 2012)

Pakistan Institute for Peace Studies (14 June 2012) *Pakistan Security Report (May 2012)*

<http://san-pips.com/printview.php?action=reports&id=270>

(Accessed 31 July 2012)

Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty (12 July 2012) *Gunmen Kill At Least Nine Pakistani Security Personnel In Lahore*

<http://www.rferl.org/articleprintview/24642514.html>

(Accessed 30 July 2012)

Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty (9 July 2012) *Gunmen Kill Seven At Pakistani Army Camp*

<http://www.rferl.org/articleprintview/24639135.html>

(Accessed 30 July 2012)

Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty (28 June 2012) *At Least 10 Killed In Pakistani Bus Attack*

<http://www.rferl.org/articleprintview/24629406.html>

(Accessed 30 July 2012)

Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty (28 June 2012) *Seven Pakistani Soldiers Killed In Bombing*

<http://www.rferl.org/articleprintview/24629177.html>

(Accessed 30 July 2012)

Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty (25 June 2012) *Militants Reportedly Kill 13 Pakistani Soldiers, Behead Seven*

<http://www.rferl.org/articleprintview/24625670.html>

(Accessed 30 July 2012)

Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty (23 June 2012) *Gunmen Kill Eight In Southwest Pakistan*

<http://www.rferl.org/articleprintview/24623599.html>

(Accessed 30 July 2012)

Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty (16 June 2012) *Pakistan Blast Kills At Least 20 In Khyber Agency*

<http://www.rferl.org/articleprintview/24616143.html>

(Accessed 30 July 2012)

Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty (8 June 2012) *Bomb Blast Kills At Least 19 In Pakistan's Northwest*

<http://www.rferl.org/articleprintview/24607858.html>

(Accessed 30 July 2012)

Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty (25 May 2012) *Gunmen Kill 7 On Pakistani Bus*

<http://www.rferl.org/articleprintview/24593114.html>

(Accessed 30 July 2012)

Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty (22 May 2012) *Pakistan Shooting Kills At Least Nine*

<http://www.rferl.org/articleprintview/24589548.html>

(Accessed 30 July 2012)

Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty (7 May 2012) *Pakistan: Militants Behead Two Soldiers*

<http://www.rferl.org/articleprintview/24572486.html>

(Accessed 30 July 2012)

Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty (4 May 2012) *Bomb Kills 24 In Northwest Pakistan*

<http://www.rferl.org/articleprintview/24569418.html>

(Accessed 30 July 2012)

South Asia Intelligence Review, Volume 11, no. 3 (23 July 2012) *47 civilians and three SFs among 51 persons killed during the week in Karachi; 25 civilians and 16 militants among 42 persons killed during the week in FATA*

<http://www.ein.org.uk/print/members/country-report/47-civilians-and-three-sfs-among-51-persons-killed-during-week-karachi-25-civ>

(Accessed 30 July 2012)

This is a subscription database

South Asia Intelligence Review, volume 10, no. 47 (28 May 2012) *Khyber Agency: Another Futile Operation*

<http://www.ein.org.uk/print/members/country-report/khyber-agency-another-futile-operation>

(Accessed 31 July 2012)

This is a subscription database

South Asia Intelligence Review, volume 10, no.47 (28 May 2012) *41 civilians and one militant among 42 persons killed during the week in Sindh*

<http://www.ein.org.uk/print/members/country-report/41-civilians-and-one-militant-among-42-persons-killed-during-week-sindh>

(Accessed 31 July 2012)

This is a subscription database

South Asia Intelligence Review, Volume 10, No. 42 (23 April 2012)

Sectarianism: Savage Campaign

http://www.satp.org/satporqtp/sair/Archives/sair10/10_42.htm#assessment1

(Accessed 30 July 2012)

Voice of America News (21 July 2012) *Attacks Across Pakistan Kill At Least 19*

<http://www.voanews.com/articleprintview/1442453.html>

(Accessed 31 July 2012)

Voice of America News (13 July 2012) *No Let-up in Attacks in Pakistan's Baluchistan Province*

<http://www.voanews.com/articleprintview/1404362.html>

(Accessed 31 July 2012)

Voice of America News (28 June 2012) *Deadly Blast Hits Bus Carrying Shi'ites in SW Pakistan*
<http://blogs.voanews.com/breaking-news/2012/06/28/deadly-blast-hits-bus-carrying-shiites-in-sw-pakistan/>
(Accessed 31 July 2012)

Voice of America News (16 June 2012) *26 Killed in Pakistan Car Bombing*
<http://www.voanews.com/articleprintview/1211845.html>
(Accessed 30 July 2012)

Voice of America News (8 June 2012) *Pakistan Bus Bomb Kills 19*
<http://www.voanews.com/articleprintview/1204883.html>
(Accessed 30 July 2012)

Voice of America News (22 May 2012) *Gunmen Kill 10 at Rally in S. Pakistan*
<http://www.voanews.com/articleprintview/920007.html>
(Accessed 30 July 2012)

Sources Consulted:

Amnesty International
Asian Human Rights Commission
BBC News
Center for Research and Security Studies
Electronic Immigration Network
European Country of Origin Information Network
Guardian
Human Rights Commission of Pakistan
Institute of Peace and Conflict Studies
International Crisis Group
Pakistan Institute for Peace Studies
Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty
Reliefweb
South Asia Intelligence Review
UNHCR Refworld
Voice of America