



## **Pakistan - Researched and compiled by the Refugee Documentation Centre of Ireland on 10 and 11 April 2013**

### **Information on an attack by the Taliban in Hazara town in Quetta between June 2012 and April 2013**

In February 2013 *Amnesty International* notes:

“The Pakistan authorities must do more to protect the persecuted Shi’a Hazara minority community, Amnesty International said following a devastating attack in Quetta that killed scores. On Saturday 17 February, at least 84 people, mostly Shi’a Hazaras, were killed when a bomb exploded in a vegetable market in Quetta, the capital of Balochistan province. The bombing was claimed by the anti-Shi’a armed group Lashkar-e-Jhangvi (LeJ). LeJ also claimed responsibility for a series of bombings targeting Hazaras in Quetta on 10 January 2013 that claimed more than 90 lives” (*Amnesty International* (18 February 2013) *Pakistan: Authorities must do more to protect Hazara community from deadly attacks*).

In February 2013 *BBC News* states:

“At least 79 people are now said to have been killed in a bomb attack in a predominantly Shia Muslim part of the south-western Pakistani city of Quetta. The blast, which also wounded 180 others, ripped through a crowded market place in an ethnic Hazara area at around 18:00 (13:00) on Saturday” (*BBC News* (17 February 2013) *Pakistan: Dozens dead in bomb attack on Quetta market*).

This document also states:

“A twin suicide bomb attack at a crowded snooker club on 10 January killed at least 92 people and wounded 121. The banned Sunni militant group Lashkar-e-Jhangvi claimed responsibility for the January attacks; and has reportedly claimed responsibility for this latest bombing. The bomb went off in a market area housing grocery stores, vegetable shops, language schools and a computer centre. It happened as people, mainly women, were shopping for groceries and children were coming out of their classes. The district is dominated by ethnic Hazaras, who mostly belong to Pakistan's Shia minority” (*ibid*).

It is also pointed out in this document that:

“Hundreds of Shia Hazaras in Quetta have been killed in such attacks over the last several years” (*ibid*).

In February 2013 *Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty* in February 2013 points out that:

“Lashkar-e Jhangvi has accepted responsibility for nearly all the attacks carried out against Hazaras in Balochistan Province” (Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty (21 February 2013) *Pakistan's Beleaguered Hazara Minority Caught In Regional Crossfire*).

A report by *Agence France Presse* issued in January 2013 states:

“Extremist bomb attacks killed 115 people in one of Pakistan's deadliest days for years, raising concerns Friday about rising violence in the nuclear-armed country ahead of general elections. Eighty-two people were killed and 121 wounded Thursday when two suicide bombers targeted a crowded snooker club in the southwestern city of Quetta, in an area dominated by Shiite Muslims from the Hazara ethnic minority. Extremist Sunni militant group Lashkar-e-Jhangvi claimed responsibility for what was the worst single attack ever on Shiites, who account for around 20 percent of Pakistan's 180 million-strong population” (Agence France Presse (11 January 2013) *Fears for Pakistan as blasts kill 115*).

A report issued by *BBC News* in October 2012 states:

“Gunmen on motorbikes have shot dead four people from the minority Shia Hazara community in the Pakistani city of Quetta, police say. No-one has claimed responsibility for the attack, which police say bears all the hallmarks of a sectarian attack” (BBC News (16 October 2012) *Four minority Shia Hazaras are shot dead in Pakistan*).

A report published in September 2012 by *Human Rights Watch* points out that:

“In...two separate attacks on September 1, 2012, gunmen attacked and killed eight Hazara Shia in Quetta, Balochistan's capital. In the first attack, witnesses told Human Rights Watch that four armed men riding on two motorbikes shot dead five Hazaras at a bus stop in the Hazar Ganji area of the city. The victims, all vegetable sellers, were returning from the vegetable market. Within two hours of the attack, gunmen riding a motorbike attacked a nearby bus stop, killing two people from the Hazara community. An eighth victim, also a Hazara Shia, died in the hospital on September 2” (Human Rights Watch (5 September 2012) *Pakistan: Shia Killings Escalate*).

In June 2012 *BBC News* states:

“At least four students were killed and many injured by a bomb blast which hit a university bus in the Pakistani province of Balochistan, officials say. Police say the bomb was planted on a vehicle parked in a suburb of the provincial capital, Quetta. Passengers on the bus were mostly from the minority Shia Hazara community” (BBC News (18 June 2012) *Bus carrying Shias is bombed in Pakistan's Quetta city*).

## References

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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**

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