



## **Pakistan - Researched and compiled by the Refugee Documentation Centre of Ireland on 21 February 2011**

### **Information on Sepah-e-Sahaba.**

A profile from the *South Asia Terrorism Portal* states:

“Earlier termed Anjuman Sipah-e-Sahaba, the Sipah-e-Sahaba Pakistan (SSP) is a Sunni sectarian outfit that has been alleged to be involved in terrorist violence, primarily targeted against the minority Shia community in Pakistan” (South Asia Terrorism Portal (undated) *Sipah-e-Sahaba Pakistan, Terrorist Group of Pakistan*)

The *National Consortium for the Study of Terrorism and Responses to Terrorism* notes:

“Sipah-e-Sahaba/Pakistan (SSP) is a religiously-motivated terrorist organization operating in Pakistan. SSP, a Sunni sectarian group, believes that Pakistan's Shia population possesses too much power and influence and that Pakistan should be governed as a Sunni state. Shias make up approximately 20% of Pakistan's population” (National Consortium for the Study of Terrorism and Responses to Terrorism (undated) *Terrorist Organization Profile: Sipah-e-Sahaba/Pakistan (SSP)*)

In December 2010 a timeline from the *South Asia Terrorism Portal* includes for March 2010 that:

“The Interior Minister Rehman Malik said that the SSP and TTP were involved in terrorist activities in the country and warned of strict action against them. Referring to the SSP, the interior minister said it had close links to al-Qaeda and Taliban” (South Asia Terrorism Portal (December 2010) *Incidents involving Sipah-e-Sahaba Pakistan*)

A report published in November 2010 by the *United States Department of State* notes:

“Targeted assassinations of clergy remained a key tactic of several groups, including banned sectarian organization Sipah-i-Sahaba (SSP), terrorist organization Lashkar-i-Jhangvi (LJ), and Sipah-i-Mohammad Pakistan (SMP). SSP and LJ targeted both Shi'a and Barelvis, whereas SMP targeted Deobandis” (United States Department of State (17 November 2010) *Pakistan, International Religious Freedom Report 2010*)

An *IRIN News* story from October 2010 includes the following profile:

“Sipah-e-Sahaba Pakistan  
Area of operations: Countrywide with a concentration in the Punjab  
Targets: Non-Muslims and the Shia minority

Base of support: Other sectarian groups and hard-line Muslim factions” (IRIN News (13 October 2010) *Pakistan: A guide to main militant groups*)

The *South Asia Terrorism Portal* in September 2010 notes:

“The LeJ and the SSP remain the principal organisations responsible for the rise of sectarian strife in the country. Though both these outfits maintain that they are not organisationally linked, they share the same origins, sectarian belief system and worldview. Their charter of demands includes turning Pakistan into a Sunni State, and both draw their cadres from the same madrassas (seminaries) and social milieu” (South Asia Terrorism Portal (6 September 2010) *Sectarian Torments*)

*BBC News* in August 2010 notes:

“Right-wing organisations, including banned extremist groups, are leading the relief and rescue effort in flood-hit Pakistan. Three of the most prominent groups, Jamaat-e-Islami, Jamaat-ud-Dawa and Sipah-e-Sahaba have thousands of activists who have fanned out across the country. All are very powerful on the ground despite having limited or no officially recognised political representation” (BBC News (10 August 2010) *'Hardline' groups step in to fill Pakistan aid vacuum*)

A report by *Reuters* in May 2010 states:

“SSP is a pro-Taliban, anti-Shi'ite militant group based in central Punjab. The group was banned in 2002, but officials say its members were suspected of involvement in attacks in the province, including the burning to death of eight Christians on suspicions of blasphemy last year” (Reuters (30 May 2010) *Factbox-Major militant groups in Pakistan*)

Reviewing events of 2009 a *Freedom House* report issued in June 2010 states:

“Tens of thousands of armed militants are believed to be active in Pakistan. These members of radical Sunni Islamist groups—including the TTP, Lashkar-i-Jhangvi, the JD, and the Sipah-i-Sahaba Pakistan (SSP)—have varying agendas and carry out terrorist attacks against foreign, Shiite, and Christian targets, killing hundreds of civilians each year” (Freedom House (1 June 2010) *Freedom in the World - Pakistan (2010)*)

### **References:**

BBC News (10 August 2010) *'Hardline' groups step in to fill Pakistan aid vacuum*

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-south-asia-10925400>

(Accessed 18 February 2011)

Freedom House (1 June 2010) *Freedom in the World - Pakistan (2010)*

<http://www.freedomhouse.org/template.cfm?page=22&year=2010&country=7893>

(Accessed 18 February 2011)

IRIN News (13 October 2010) *Pakistan: A guide to main militant groups*  
<http://www.irinnews.org/report.aspx?ReportId=90760>  
(Accessed 18 February 2011)

National Consortium for the Study of Terrorism and Responses to Terrorism  
(Undated) *Terrorist Organization Profile: Sipah-e-Sahaba/Pakistan (SSP)*  
[http://www.start.umd.edu/start/data\\_collections/tops/terrorist\\_organization\\_profile.asp?id=3870](http://www.start.umd.edu/start/data_collections/tops/terrorist_organization_profile.asp?id=3870)  
(Accessed 21 February 2011)

Reuters (30 May 2010) *Factbox-Major militant groups in Pakistan*  
<http://www.reliefweb.int/rw/rwb.nsf/db900sid/MYAI-85Y2RD?OpenDocument&query=ssp&cc=pak>  
(Accessed 18 February 2011)

South Asia Terrorism Porta (December 2010) *Incidents involving Sipah-e-Sahaba Pakistan*  
[http://www.satp.org/satporqtp/countries/pakistan/terroristoutfits/SSP\\_tl.htm](http://www.satp.org/satporqtp/countries/pakistan/terroristoutfits/SSP_tl.htm)  
(Accessed 18 February 2011)

South Asia Terrorism Portal (6 September 2010) *Sectarian Torments*  
[http://www.satp.org/satporqtp/sair/Archives/sair9/9\\_9.htm](http://www.satp.org/satporqtp/sair/Archives/sair9/9_9.htm)  
(Accessed 21 February 2011)

South Asia Terrorism Portal (Undated) *Sipah-e-Sahaba Pakistan, Terrorist Group of Pakistan*  
<http://www.satp.org/satporqtp/countries/pakistan/terroristoutfits/ssp.htm>  
(Accessed 18 February 2011)

United States Department of State (17 November 2010) *Pakistan, International Religious Freedom Report 2010*  
<http://www.state.gov/g/drl/rls/irf/2010/148800.htm>  
(Accessed 18 February 2011)

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:**

Amnesty International  
Asian Human Rights Commission  
BBC Monitoring  
BBC News  
Council on Foreign Relations  
Daily Times  
Dawn  
Electronic Immigration Network  
European Commission  
European Country of Origin Information Network  
Freedom House  
Google  
Human Rights Commission of Pakistan  
Human Rights Watch  
Human Security Gateway  
Immigration and Refugee Board of Canada  
International Crisis Group  
International Relations and Security Network  
IRIN News  
Lexis Nexis  
Minority Rights Group International  
The Nation  
National Consortium for the Study of Terrorism and Responses to Terrorism  
Online Newspapers  
Pakistan Conflict Monitor  
Pak Institute for Peace Studies  
Refugee Documentation Centre E-Library  
Refugee Documentation Centre Query Database  
Reliefweb  
Small Arms Survey  
South Asian Terrorism Portal  
United Kingdom Home Office  
UNHCR Refworld  
United States Department of State