



Refugee Documentation Centre (Ireland)
LEGAL AID BOARD

Pakistan - Researched and compiled by the Refugee Documentation Centre of Ireland on 2 April 2013

Information on current conditions in Lahore including sectarian killings, killings of those perceived as un-Islamic, political killings and extremist groups operating. Information on housing.

A report published in the *Express Tribune* released in February 2013 notes that:

“In an apparent sectarian attack, a Shia doctor and his 12-year-old son was shot by unidentified men in Lahore on Monday” (Express Tribune (19 February 2013) *Targeted attack: Shia doctor, son killed in Lahore*).

In March 2013 *BBC News* states:

“Police in the Pakistani city of Lahore have made 150 arrests after Muslims torched dozens of Christian homes in response to an allegation of blasphemy” (BBC News (10 March 2013) *Pakistan arrests scores over Lahore anti-Christian riot*).

In December 2012 a document issued by the *South Asia Terrorism Portal* commenting on events in Punjab province - where Lahore is located - states:

“While 2011 claimed 64 lives and left 183 injured in three incidents, 2012 saw 43 killed and 64 injured in four sectarian attacks. The two most important cities of the Province, Islamabad and Lahore, saw fewer incidents of violence as compared to previous years” (South Asia Terrorism Portal (30 December 2012) *Punjab Assessment - 2013*).

A report published in January 2013 reviewing events of the preceding year by *Human Rights Watch* notes:

“Members of the Ahmadi religious community continued to be a major target for blasphemy prosecutions and subjected to specific anti-Ahmadi laws across Pakistan. They faced increasing social discrimination as militant groups used provisions of the law to prevent Ahmadis from ‘posing as Muslims,’ forced the demolition of Ahmadi mosques in Lahore, barred Ahmadis from using their mosques in Rawalpindi, and vandalized Ahmadi graves across Punjab province” (Human Rights Watch (31 January 2013) *World Report 2013 - Pakistan*).

In February 2013 *BBC News* points out that:

“In recent years Lahore, like other major Pakistani cities, has also become synonymous with suicide bombings, and the growing presence of militant Jihadi groups who traditionally sought sanctuary in the tribal areas along the

Afghan-Pakistan border” (BBC News (25 February 2013) *Literary festival brings feel-good factor to Lahore*).

In March 2013 the *Daily Times*, in an article on Lahore states:

“A PML-N activist was shot dead by unidentified motorcyclists in the jurisdiction of Qilla Gujjar Singh police on Sunday” (Daily Times (25 March 2013) *Political worker shot dead in Lahore*).

Research issued in January 2013 by the *Immigration and Refugee Board of Canada* cites a source which states that

“...Lashkar e-Taiba, which has been designated a terrorist organization by the governments of Canada...and the US...is reportedly growing in influence in Lahore...” (Immigration and Refugee Board of Canada (14 January 2013) *Pakistan: Situation of Christians in Pakistan, including social and government attitudes, treatment and rights (2010-2012)*).

A report in April 2013 by the *South Asia Terrorism Portal* notes that:

“Ninety four (94) per cent of fresh recruits of Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT) see Jammu and Kashmir (J&K) as a fighting front and hail mostly from Pakistan's Punjab Province from families having links with the powerful army and intelligence network, according to a US report on Military Academy in West Point, Indian Today on April 6. While LeT's recruitment is diversified across the north, central and southern parts of Punjab, the highest concentration of militants have come (in order of frequency) from the Districts of Gujranwala, Faisalabad, Lahore, Sheikhpura, Kasur, Sialkot, Bahawalnagar, Bahawalpur, Khanewal and Multan” (South Asia Terrorism Portal (6 April 2013) *Undeniable links between Pakistan and LeT, says US report on Military Academy in West Point*).

In January 2013 the *Refugee Review Tribunal of Australia* issued a report citing research which stated:

“The TTP [Tehrik-e-Taliban Pakistan] is located primarily within the FATA, and parts of the Swat Valley of KPK. In addition to its presence in these areas, reports indicate that the TTP is capable of reaching targets in Islamabad, Rawalpindi, Faisalabad, Lahore...” (Refugee Review Tribunal of Australia (January 2013) *The Pakistani Taliban*, p.8).

This report also states:

“In waging war against the Pakistani state, the TTP has committed acts of terrorism in cities outside of the FATA and KPK, such as Islamabad, Rawalpindi, Karachi, and Lahore” (ibid, p.11).

In July 2012 a report issued by *Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty* 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” (Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty (12 July 2012) *Gunmen kill at least nine Pakistani security personnel in Lahore*).

A report published in April 2013 by the *Human Rights Commission of Pakistan* notes that:

“Challenges to the right to adequate housing in Pakistan remained unchanged to a large degree in the year 2012. While there was a shortage of nearly 8 million houses nationwide, according to the World Bank estimates, a systematic effort to address the gap was absent” (Human Rights Commission of Pakistan (April 2013) *State of Human Rights in 2012*, p.247).

This report also points out that:

“At least 65 shanty towns that had existed in Lahore for two decades or more were still awaiting regularisation at the end of 2012” (ibid, p.255).

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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.

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