



Refugee Documentation Centre (Ireland)
LEGAL AID BOARD

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Information on the legal status of Fikal Jafriya and their involvement in terrorism, including available state/police protection

An undated profile published by the *South Asia Terrorist Portal* states:

“Tehreek-e-Jaferia Pakistan (TJP) meaning 'movement of the followers of Fiqah-e-Jaferia', the dominant Shia outfit in Pakistan was formed in 1992. The origin of TJP can be traced to the Tehreek Nifaz Fiqah-e-Jafria (TNFJ) meaning 'movement for the implementation of Fiqah-e-Jafreia' (a school of Islamic jurisprudence which is traced back to its founder Imam Jafar Sadiq) which was formed in 1979 to protect the interests of the Shiite minority and to spread the ideas of Ayatollah Khomeini, the Iranian leader who led the successful Islamic Revolution that overthrew the Shah of Iran in 1979. It is widely believed that the Sunni clergy considered the name of Tehreek Nifaz-e-Fiqah-e-Jaferia as being offensive and opposed the Shias, a minority sect demanding the imposition of their fiqah (a school of Islamic jurisprudence) in a Sunni majority Pakistan. Following this backlash, the Shia leadership is reported to have changed the name from TNFJ to Tehreek-e-Jaferia Pakistan (TJP) in 1994” (South Asia Terrorist Portal (Undated) *Terrorist Group of Pakistan, Tehreek-e-Jaferia Pakistan*).

This document also notes:

“The objectives projected by the TJP are: the creation of a society based on 'pure Islam', the protection of social, political and religious rights of Shiites, the propaganda of Shiite ideas, coordination of all Pakistani Shiite organisations and the fight against imperialism. It also believes in Islamic egalitarianism and social justice. Two TJP members are also members of the Pakistani Parliament. The TJP is reported to have links with the Iranian clergy. The outfit source its finances from the Shiite community in Pakistan, Iran as well as certain commercial groups. The Tehreek-e-Jaferia Pakistan, led by Allama Syed Sajid Ali Naqvi, is a well-organised outfit, which effectively represents the interests of the Shia community in Pakistan with a significant following in Jhang. In recent years, as a result of increased pressure from the Sunnis, the TJP has preferred to adopt a more reconciliatory and accommodating posture than in the past when it appeared more assertive and threatening vis-à-vis the government and Sunnis. The TJP has several affiliated organisations, including Sipah-e-Abbas, Sipah-e-Ahl-Bait and youth bodies like the Imamia Students Organisation and the Imamia Organisation, which are reported to play an active role. Since 1994, the Sipah-e-Muhammad Pakistan (SMP), a splinter group of the TJP with a significant following in Jhang has emerged as a prominent Shia terrorist outfit involved in anti-SSP campaigns, violence and target killings. The TJP is one of the five outfits that have been proscribed by President Pervez Musharraf on January 12, 2002” (ibid).

An article in *Dawn* published in August 2009 states referring to Tehrik Nifaz-i-Fiqah Jafaria states:

“Tehrik Nifaz-i-Fiqah Jafaria: Also known as Tehrik-e-Islami, Tehrik-Nifaz-i-Fiqah Jafaria is a Shia political party formed in 1979 following the Islamic revolution in Shia Iran. It aims to introduce Fiqah-i-Jaffriah (the Shia legal system) for Pakistani Shias to prevent imposition of the Sunni school of thought. TNFJ later split into two groups with the second group (Tehrik-e-Jafaria Pakistan) headed by Allama Arif Hussaini, who was assassinated in 1988 during Gen Zia ul-Haq’s regime. TJP was banned two times by President Pervez Musharraf’s government and its leaders were arrested. However, they continue to operate under new names” (Dawn (25 August 2009) *Pakistan bans 25 militant organisations*).

Research published by the Refugee Review Tribunal of Australia in November 2008 states:

“The Tehrik-e-Jafaria Pakistan (TJP) of Allama Sajid Naqvi was banned, along with the Sunni-based Sipah-e-Sahaba Pakistan (SSP) and other sectarian groups, on 12 January 2002. The Tehrik-e-Jafaria Pakistan (TJP) changed its name to the Islami-e-Tehreek-e-Pakistan (variously abbreviated in different sources to ITP or TIP, and translated as the “Pakistan Islamic Movement”), but this group was subsequently banned in November 2003. Since 2003, the TJP under Allama Sajid Naqvi has used several names in attempts to avoid the proscription; these include Millat-e-Jaferia, and the Jaferia Students Organisation” (Refugee Review Tribunal of Australia (7 November 2008) 1. *Can you provide an update on the TNFJ since February 2002?; 2. Is the group still in existence? What are the aims of the group? What are its policies? Who are the current leaders of the group?; 3. Is there any information on the student wing? If so can you provide information about the student wing in the period 1998-2000?; 4. Is there any recent information on the activities of the TNFJ in Rawalpindi?; 5. What is the attitude of the current government towards members of the TNFJ?; 6. Anything else of relevance,p.2).*

No further information on this issue could be found among sources available to the RDC.

References

Refugee Review Tribunal of Australia (7 November 2008) 1. *Can you provide an update on the TNFJ since February 2002?; 2. Is the group still in existence? What are the aims of the group? What are its policies? Who are the current leaders of the group?; 3. Is there any information on the student wing? If so can you provide information about the student wing in the period 1998-2000?; 4. Is there any recent information on the activities of the TNFJ in Rawalpindi?; 5. What is the attitude of the current government towards members of the TNFJ?; 6. Anything else of relevance*

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<http://www.satp.org/satporgtp/countries/pakistan/terroristoutfits/TJP.htm>

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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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