

Country Advice Pakistan

Pakistan – PAK38635 – Hazaras – Quetta – Targeted Killings – State Protection – Relocation – Kidnapping of Businessmen – Ransom

1. Are Shiite Hazaras targeted by extremist groups in Quetta?

The vast majority of ethnic Hazaras in Pakistan are Shi'ite Muslims, primarily of the Twelver sect. Of the estimated 600,000 Hazaras living throughout Pakistan¹, at least half live in the province of Baluchistan.² However, Australia's Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT) states that, by its estimation, there are at least 350,000 Hazaras living in Quetta alone³, with as many as 70,000 living in the Quetta suburb of 'Hazara Town'.⁴

Deobandi Sunni Muslim extremist groups such as Lashkar-e-Jhangvi (LeJ) target both Hazara community gatherings and individuals in Quetta. A July 2010 DFAT report states that "[t]he security situation in Baluchistan, particularly Quetta, is generally poor", and that "[t]he Hazari community is specifically affected by sectarian killings of Shi'a by armed Sunni groups". According to the Human Rights Commission of Pakistan (HRCP), between 2003 and 2009, over 260 members of the Hazara community in Quetta were killed in targeted killings, and more than 1000 people suffered some form of injury. Some of these attacks include:

- A July 2003 bombing of a Shia mosque in Quetta that left more than 50 people dead
- A March 2004 attack on a Shia Ashura procession that killed 38
- A March 2005 bombing of a Shi'ite shrine in Jhal Magsi that killed 65.

The International Crisis Group (ICG) states that the "Pakistani Taliban and other Sunni radical groups including Lashkar-e-Jhangvi and [Sipah-e-Sahaba Pakistan] SSP" were responsible for these attacks. Since 2009, attacks on Hazaras in Quetta by LeJ and other

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¹ Department of Foreign Affairs & Trade 2010, The Hazara Community, 20 May – Attachment 1

² Akbar, M.S. 2009, 'Hazara tribesmen under attack in Quetta', *Daily Times*, 6 February http://www.dailytimes.com.pk/default.asp?page=2009\02\06\story 6-2-2009 pg7 15 – Accessed 29 March 2010 – Attachment 2

³ Department of Foreign Affairs & Trade 2010, Conditions for Asylum Caseloads: Hazaras in Quetta, 30 July – Attachment 3

⁴ Department of Foreign Affairs & Trade 2010, *The Hazara Community*, 20 May – Attachment 1

⁵ Akbar, M.S. 2009, 'Hazara tribesmen under attack in Quetta', *Daily Times*, 6 February http://www.dailytimes.com.pk/default.asp?page=2009\02\06\story 6-2-2009 pg7 15 – Accessed 29 March 2010 – Attachment 2

⁶ Department of Foreign Affairs & Trade 2010, Conditions for Asylum Caseloads: Hazaras in Quetta, 30 July – Attachment 3

⁷ UK Home Office 2011, *Country of Origin Information Report – Pakistan*, 17 January, Section 20.06http://www.unhcr.org/refworld/docid/4d37e8622.html – Accessed 27 April 2011 – Attachment 4

⁸ International Crisis Group 2009, *Pakistan: The Militant Jihadi Challenge*, Asia Report no.164, 13 March, p.16 – Attachment 5

Tehrik-e-Taliban Pakistan (TTP) affiliated extremist groups have continued. The largest such attack occurred on 3 September 2010, when up to 73 Shi'ites (mostly Hazaras) were killed and over 200 injured in a suicide bombing in the city. Once again, LeJ claimed responsibility for the attack. The UN News Service reported that extremists claimed that the attack was "revenge for the killing of a Sunni Muslim leader last year."

Apart from large scale attacks there have been periods during which waves of numerous, small scale targeted killings have occurred. Furthermore, such killings have not been confined to high profile Hazaras. Recent killings include:

- In January 2009 three Shia Hazari policemen were killed on Siryab Road, Quetta. 12
- On 26 January 2009, Hussain Ali Yousafi, the chairman of the Hazara Democratic Party, was killed in Quetta. ¹³
- In March 2009 three Hazari construction workers were shot dead in Quetta.¹⁴
- Also in March 2009, two Shia Hazaras men were killed while driving down Arbab Karam Khan Road in Quetta by armed men on motorcycles. 15
- The *Baluchistan Times* reported that nine Hazaras were killed in a ten day period in March 2009. ¹⁶
- In June 2009, the Shi'ite Hazari headmaster of a local school in Quetta was shot. 17
- On 1 October 2009 a Hazari lawyer, Advocate Wulayet, was killed.¹⁸
- In September 2010 at least two Hazari vegetable sellers were killed and two others were seriously injured in Quetta when their truck came under fire. ¹⁹

In addition to the presence of the TTP affiliates LeJ and SSP in Quetta, there is a common view among strategic analysts that the city is home to members of the high command of one

⁹ Hughes, M. 2010, 'Suicide attack death toll reaches 73 in Quetta Pakistan', *The Examiner*, 4 September http://www.examiner.com/afghanistan-headlines-in-national/suicide-attack-death-toll-reaches-73-quetta-pakistan-video – Accessed 8 October 2010 – Attachment 6

video – Accessed 8 October 2010 – Attachment 6

10 Reporters Without Borders 2010, 'Journalists killed and injured in Quetta bombing, reporter kidnapped in Islamabad', UNHCR Refworld, 6 September http://www.unhcr.org/refworld/docid/4c8df29814.html – Accessed 11 October 2010 – Attachment 7

¹¹ UN News Service 2010, UN chief deplores deadly attacks against Pakistan's Shiite Muslims, UNHCR Refworld, 3 September http://www.unhcr.org/refworld/docid/4c84aca21a.html – Accessed 7 October 2010 – Attachment 8

Pakistan: 2009: Year of Terrorism' 2009, *Daily The Pak Banker*, 25 December – Attachment 9

¹³ Akbar, M.S. 2009, "'Mastermind" of sectarian killings held in Quetta', *Daily Times*, 13 November http://www.dailytimes.com.pk/default.asp?page=2009%5C11%5C13%5Cstory_13-11-2009_pg7_3 – Accessed 29 March 2010 – Attachment 10

¹⁴ Shahid, S. 2010, 'Retired SP among three shot dead in Quetta', *Dawn*, 18 March http://www.dawn.com/wps/wcm/connect/dawn-content-library/dawn/the-newspaper/front-page/retired-sp-among-3-shot-dead-in-quetta-830 – Accessed 29 March 2010 – Attachment 11

^{15 &#}x27;2 tribesmen gunned down' 2009, *The Nation*, 9 March – Attachment 12

¹⁶ 'Three escape unhurt in row of target killings in Quetta' 2009, *Baluchistan Times*, 11 March – Attachment 13

¹⁷ 'Quetta shuts down after target killings' 2009, *Dawn*, 23 June http://www.dawn.com/wps/wcm/connect/dawn-content-library/dawn/news/pakistan/metropolitan/07-quetta-shut-down-after-target-killings-claim-three-lives-ha-05 – Accessed 29 March 2010 – Attachment 14

¹⁸ 'Target-Killing Campaign; Advocate Wulayet Murdered' 2009, Hazara News Pakistan, 3 October http://hazaranewspakistan.wordpress.com/2009/10/03/target-killing-campaign-advocate-wulayet-murdered/ – Accessed 29 March 2010 – Attachment 15

^{19 &#}x27;2 Hazaras Killed in Hazar Ganji' 2010, Hazara News Pakistan, 2 October
http://hazaranewspakistan.wordpress.com/2010/10/02/2-hazaras-killed-in-hazarganji/ – Accessed 11 October 2010 – Attachment 16

of the three known factions of the Afghan Taliban. A June 2010 UK House of Commons research paper states that the main Shura (council) of Afghan Taliban, who have a history of targeting Hazaras, is based in Quetta. The Long War Journal states that the 'Quetta Shura' is headed by Mullah Mohammed Omar himself. The ICG has also described Quetta as "the Afghan Taliban's headquarters". The Afghanistan Taliban has a long history of targeting Hazaras in Afghanistan, due in large part to the association of Hazaras with Shia Islam.

2. Are there any areas in Pakistan where Hazaras form the majority or live in relative peace?

While the city of Quetta is home to the largest ethnic Hazara community in Pakistan, there are approximately 300,000 Hazaras living outside of Baluchistan. ²³ ²⁴ ²⁵ Despite this fact, almost no information specifically on the security circumstance of Hazari communities elsewhere in Pakistan has been located.

The 'Hazaras' in the Hazara Division of Khyber-Pakhtunkhwa who feature regularly in news coverage are not Persian/Dari speaking ethnic Hazaras, but in fact un-related Hindko-speaking Pashtuns. Hazara Colony, a large suburb of Karachi that also features regularly in news coverage is also primarily populated by Hindko-speaking Pashtuns from Hazara Division. The coverage is also primarily populated by Hindko-speaking Pashtuns from Hazara Division.

Recent clashes in Karachi between members of the Hazara community and supporters of the Awami National Party (ANP) did not involve ethnic Hazaras, but rather their Hindko-speaking namesakes. 'Hazaran' organisations involved in these clashes, Tehreek-e-Sooba Hazara (TSH) and Hazara Qaumi Mahaz (HQM), are Hazara Division organisations that advocate the creation of a separate Hindko Hazara province and oppose the renaming of North West Frontier Province to Khyber-Pakhtunkhwa in April 2010.²⁸ ²⁹ They are not ethnic Hazara political parties.

While no sources have been located that discuss the circumstances of Hazaras elsewhere in Pakistan, reports do suggest that there is a perception among Hazaras and others in Quetta that other regions of Pakistan are relatively more stable; a 2009 report in *The News* states that members of Quetta's Hazara community are leaving the city en masse, causing many to sell

²⁰ UK Parliament House of Commons Library 2010, *The 'AfPak policy' and the Pashtuns*, Research Paper 10/45, 22 June, p.13 – Attachment 17

²¹ Joscelyn, T. & Roggio, B. 2010, 'Afghan president meets with Siraj Haqqani: Report', The Long War Journal, 27 June http://www.longwarjournal.org/archives/2010/06/afghan president mee.php – Accessed 12 October 2010 – Attachment 18

²² International Crisis Group 2009, *Pakistan: The Militant Jihadi Challenge*, Asia Report no.164, 13 March, p.16 – Attachment 5

²³ Department of Foreign Affairs & Trade 2010, *The Hazara Community*, 20 May – Attachment 1

²⁴ Akbar, M.S. 2009, 'Hazara tribesmen under attack in Quetta', *Daily Times*, 6 February http://www.dailytimes.com.pk/default.asp?page=2009\02\06\story_6-2-2009_pg7_15 – Accessed 29 March 2010 – Attachment 10

²⁵ Department of Foreign Affairs & Trade 2010, *Conditions for Asylum Caseloads: Hazaras in Quetta*, 30 July – Attachment 3

²⁶ Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade 2010, *The Hazara Community*, 20 May – Attachment 1

²⁷ Gurio, A. 2010, 'CBC accepts Hazara Colony's demand for potable water', *Daily Times*, 15 February http://www.dailytimes.com.pk/default.asp?page=2010%5C02%5C15%5Cstory_15-2-2010_pg12_5 – Accessed 28 April 2011 – Attachment 19

²⁸ 'Hazara community refutes MQM's claim' 2010, Hazara.com.pk, 22 May http://www.hazara.com.pk/newsdetails.php?newsid=50 – Accessed 12 October 2010 – Attachment 20

²⁹ Medhi, N. 2010, 'HQM protests NWFP renaming', *The Nation*, 12 April http://www.nation.com.pk/pakistan-news-newspaper-daily-english-online/Regional/Karachi/12-Apr-2010/HQM-protests-NWFP-renaming – Accessed 12 October 2010 – Attachment 21

their businesses and property "at throw-away prices". The report also states that "[n]early 22,000 government employees have applied for the transfer out of the province." ³⁰

3. Is state protection available for Hazaras in Quetta?

Quetta is described by a recent source as a "garrison city" due to its large army presence.³¹ Despite this fact, and despite significant representation in Quetta's police force by Hazaras, state protection of Hazaras in the city appears highly inadequate given the ongoing campaign of attacks on the community and the failure of state authorities to prosecute the vast majority of perpetrators. Furthermore, Hazari members of the police force are regular victims of targeted killings by Sunni extremists.

The internationally respected Human Rights Commission of Pakistan (HRCP) has reported regularly on the circumstances of Hazaras and other Shi'ites in Baluchistan. Implicit in its reportage is criticism of both the level of state protection provided to Hazaras/Shi'ites, and the state's record in prosecuting the perpetrators of such crimes. In 2009 the HRCP reported that since 2003, "more than 260 people belonging to the Hazara community in Quetta have been killed in target (sic) shooting and more than 1,000 people injured", adding that that "not a single person has been convicted for carrying out these killings so far." ³²

Such a claim is not entirely accurate. In November 2009 police arrested Lashkar-e-Jhangvi (LeJ) member Hafiz Muhammad Usman Muhammad Shahi, aka Abbas, in relation to 16 cases of terrorism, resulting in the death of at least 28 members of the Shia-Hazara community. Abbas reportedly confessed to being involved in the murder of Hussain Ali Yousafi, the assassinated chairman of the Hazara Democratic Party (HDP), killed in Quetta in January 2009. ³³ Despite this arrest, members of the HDP staged a mass protest in March 2010, during which secretary of the party, Abdul Khaliq Hazara, claimed that "sectarian outfits have been given free hands and perpetrators of Hazara target (sic) killing have not been arrested". ³⁴

In August 2009, Quetta police shot dead two members of Sipah-e-Sahaba Pakistan (SSP), recently renamed Jamaat Ahle Sunnat, after they assassinated Shia religious leader Allama Maqsood Ali Donki in a grenade attack. In a show of strength and defiance, Jamaat Ahle Sunnat staged a public demonstration in Quetta the following day to protest the police killing of the two assailants.³⁵

³⁰ 'On the run: Target killing in Balochistan is rising' 2009, *The News – Pakistan*, 8 November http://www.jang.com.pk/thenews/nov2009-weekly/nos-08-11-2009/dia.htm#4 – Accessed 31 January 2011 – Attachment 22

³¹ Khan, A. 2010, Media In Balochistan: Blighted But A Brave New World Beckons, Intermedia, p.77
http://intermedia.org.pk/pdf/BALOCHISTAN%20REPORT%20FINAL-2010%20white.pdf – Accessed 8 October 2010 – Attachment 23

³² Human Rights Commission of Pakistan 2009, *Pushed to the Wall: Report of the HRCP fact-finding mission to Balochistan 5-11 October*, HRCP website, p.18 http://www.hrcp-web.org/pdf/Pushed%20to%20the%20wall.pdf – Accessed 28 April 2011 – Attachment 24

³³ Akbar, M.S. 2009, "Mastermind' of sectarian killings held in Quetta', *Daily Times*, 13 November http://www.dailytimes.com.pk/default.asp?page=2009%5C11%5C13%5Cstory 13-11-2009 pg7 3 – Accessed 29 March 2010 – Attachment 10

 ^{34 &#}x27;HDP Protests Hazara Target Killing' 2010, Hazara News Pakistan, 21 March
 http://hazaranewspakistan.wordpress.com/2010/03/21/hdp-protests-hazara-target-killing/ – Accessed 29 March 2010 – Attachment 25

³⁵ 'On the run: Target killing in Balochistan is rising' 2009, *The News – Pakistan*, 8 November http://www.jang.com.pk/thenews/nov2009-weekly/nos-08-11-2009/dia.htm#4 – Accessed 31 January 2011 – Attachment 22

Other LeJ members have also been captured in Quetta, including Usman Saifullah Kurd and Shafeeq Rind. However, both men managed to escape from what the HRCP describes as Quetta's "very well-guarded" Anti-Terrorist Force (ATF) gaol. According to the HRCP, this fact has fuelled a common belief among Hazaras that "security agencies and the government are protecting and patronising the perpetrators of the crimes against the Shia group"; many Hazaras believe that the escape of these men from such a facility must have been "facilitated by the security agencies." One of the two escapees, Shafeeq Rind, has since been recaptured.³⁶

A report by the International Crisis Group (ICG) adds weight to the Hazari accusations of police complicity in the escape of suspects. In 2009, the ICG reported that some police in Quetta are guilty of perpetrating harm against Hazaras in Quetta and that there are numerous 'Sunni radicals' among the provincial police. Indeed, clashes between police and Hazaras have resulted in numerous Hazari deaths. One example cited by the ICG occurred on 19 July 2008 in which nine Hazara protesters were killed in a clash with police.³⁷ In 2007, the ICG also argued that senior officers in the Pakistan Army in Quetta actively supported violent Deobandi organisations, including Jamiat Ulema-e-Islam (JUI-F).³⁸

Given their demographic presence in Quetta, it is perhaps not surprising that there is a sizeable representation of Hazaras within the provincial police. Rather than strengthen the level of state protection provided to Quetta's Hazara community, these Hazari policemen are themselves targets of Sunni extremists.³⁹ Incidents of police killings in Quetta include:

- In January 2009 four policemen, three of them Shi'ites, were killed in Quetta. 40 All four of them were Hazara, according to *Dawn*. 41
- Hazari Deputy Superintendent of Police Ghulam Mohammad, who survived the above attack, was later killed on 16 April 2010.⁴²
- In June 2003, 8 Hazara police cadets were killed upon their "return from holiday".

4. Is state protection available for Hazaras elsewhere in Pakistan?

No information has been located providing information specifically on the availability and effectiveness of state protection for ethnic Hazaras throughout the various provinces and cities of Pakistan. The right to state protection is enshrined in Article 4 of Pakistan's

³⁶ Human Rights Commission of Pakistan 2009, *Pushed to the Wall: Report of the HRCP fact-finding mission to Balochistan 5-11 October*, HRCP website, p.18 http://www.hrcp-web.org/pdf/Pushed%20to%20the%20wall.pdf – Accessed 28 April 2011 – Attachment 24

³⁷ International Crisis Group 2009, *Pakistan: The Militant Jihadi Challenge*, Asia Report no.164, 13 March, p.16 – Attachment 5

³⁸ International Crisis Group 2007, *Pakistan: The Forgotten Conflict in Balochistan*, Asia Briefing no.69, 22 October, p.1 – Attachment 26

³⁹ International Crisis Group 2009, *Pakistan: The Militant Jihadi Challenge*, Asia Report no.164, 13 March, p.16 – Attachment 5

 ^{40 &#}x27;Riots erupt in Quetta after the killing of Hazara Democratic Party leader' 2009, *The Nation*, 26 January http://www.nation.com.pk/pakistan-news-newspaper-daily-english-online/Politics/26-Jan-2009/Riots-erupt-in-Quetta-after-the-killing-of-Hazara-Democratic-Party-leader – Accessed 30 March 2010 – Attachment 27
 41 DSP gunned down in Quetta' 2009, *Dawn*, 15 January http://www.dawn.com/2009/01/15/top9.htm – Accessed 30

⁴¹ DSP gunned down in Quetta' 2009, *Dawn*, 15 January http://www.dawn.com/2009/01/15/top9.htm – Accessed 30 March 2010 – Attachment 28

⁴² Mohammadi, I. 2010, 'Reasons for the Target Killing of Hazaras in Balochistan, Pakistan', Hazara.net, 22 August, p.2 http://www.hazara.net/downloads/Hazara_Ethnic_Cleansing_Pakistan.pdf – Accessed 11 October 2010 – Attachment 29

⁴³ Idris, I. 2004, 'Carnage in Quetta', *Al-Ahram*, no.681, 11-17 March http://weekly.ahram.org.eg/2004/681/in2.htm – Accessed 30 March 2010 – Attachment 30

Constitution, which states "[t]o enjoy the protection of law and to be treated in accordance with law is the inalienable right of every citizen, wherever he may be, and of every other person for the time being within Pakistan."

The degree to which state protection is available and effective varies from province to province and from agency to agency. The US Department of State reports that in 2010 police effectiveness in providing state protection ranged "from reasonably good to ineffective", adding that "[p]olice often failed to protect members of religious minorities, including Christians, Ahmadis, and Shia Muslims, from attacks".⁴⁵

Pakistanis have little faith in the capacity of the police force to adequately protect them. Transparency International has ranked the police as the most corrupt institution in Pakistan in three consecutive surveys (2009, 2006, and 2002). 46

International organisations also have little confidence in the ability of Pakistan's police to provide adequate state protection. In a 2008 report on the Pakistan police force, the International Crisis Group (ICG) bluntly stated in its opening remarks that "[a]fter decades of misuse and neglect, Pakistan's police force is incapable of combating crime, upholding the law or protecting citizens and the state against militant violence." Later, the author of the ICG report stated that "[i]t is hardly surprising that this under-staffed, ill-equipped, deeply politicised, and pervasively corrupt force has failed to counter the growing extremist menace that is undermining the stability of the Pakistani state, claiming hundreds of lives in terror attacks." 47

As mentioned in the response to question three, there are elements within the police force in Quetta that sympathise with Sunni jihadists. This is also true elsewhere in Pakistan; a point conceded by a number of police officers. One officer told the ICG in 2008, "[w]hen the state itself has consciously promoted extremism and sectarianism for almost three decades, it's not surprising that these tendencies have managed to establish roots inside the police force, just like they have within the military". Nevertheless, nationwide police inadequacies regarding state protection are more likely to do with inadequate resources than police connivance. The ICG states that police in Punjab maintain lists of sectarian activists with criminal records; however they only act after terrorist attacks occur. Implicit in these remarks is the belief that lack of resources prevents police from being proactive, beyond simply maintaining lists.

Members of various vulnerable groups who have sought police protection have reported that under-resourced police have advised them to seek alternative sources of protection. In April 2010, *Dawn* reported that members of an Ahmadi family in the Punjab city of Faisalabad sought protection from police, only to be advised by police to hire private security guards. *Dawn* reports that three members of the family were killed soon after police declined the family's request for protection.⁴⁹

Page 6 of 10

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⁴⁴ Human Rights Commission of Pakistan 2011, *Annual Report 2010*, April, p.15 http://www.hrcp-web.org/Publications/AR2010.pdf – Accessed 27 April 2011 – Attachment 31

⁴⁵ US Department of State 2011, Country Reports on Human Rights Practices 2010 – Pakistan, 8 April, Section 1.d – Attachment 32

⁴⁶ Jamal, A. 2010, *Police Organisations in Pakistan*, Human Rights Commission Pakistan, May, p.7 http://www.hrcp-web.org/pdf/Police Organisations in Pakistan[1].pdf – Accessed 27 April 2011 – Attachment 33 http://www.hrcp-web.org/pdf/Police Organisations in Pakistan[1].pdf – Accessed 27 April 2011 – Attachment 33 http://www.hrcp-web.org/pdf/Police Organisations in Pakistan[1].pdf – Accessed 27 April 2011 – Attachment 33 http://www.hrcp-web.org/pdf/Police Organisations in Pakistan[1].pdf – Accessed 27 April 2011 – Attachment 33 http://www.hrcp-web.org/pdf/Police Organisations in Pakistan[1].pdf – Accessed 27 April 2011 – Attachment 33 http://www.hrcp-web.org/pdf/Police Organisations in Pakistan[1].pdf – Accessed 27 April 2011 – Attachment 34 http://www.hrcp-web.org/pdf/Police Organisations in Pakistan[1].pdf – Accessed 27 April 2011 – Attachment 34 http://www.hrcp-web.org/pdf/Police Organisations in Pakistan[1].pdf – Accessed 27 April 2011 – Attachment 34 http://www.hrcp-web.org/pdf/Police Organisations in Pakistan[1].pdf – Accessed 27 April 2011 – Attachment 34 http://www.hrcp-web.org/pdf/Police Organisations in Pakistan[1].pdf – Accessed 27 April 2011 – Attachment 34 http://www.hrcp-web.org/pdf/Police Organisations in Pakistan[1].pdf – Accessed 27 April 2011 – Attachment 34 http://www.hrcp-web.org/pdf/Police Organisations in Pakistan[1].pdf – Accessed 27 April 2011 – Attachment 34 <a href="http://w

International Crisis Group 2008, Reforming Pakistan's police, Asia Report N°157,14 July, p.15 – Attachment 34
 'Slain Ahmadis had sought police protection' 2010, Dawn, 3 April – Attachment 35

5. Are there any reports of extremists demanding ransoms from well-known wealthy businessmen in Pakistan?

The kidnapping of businessmen and ordinary citizens for ransom is a common enterprise throughout Pakistan. Such kidnappings are often perpetrated by religious extremist groups and criminal gangs as a source of funds. Victims are often members of religious minorities. 51 52

The Human Rights Commission of Pakistan (HRCP) reported that in 2009 there were 592 cases of kidnapping for ransom in Khyber-Pakhtunkhwa (NWFP), 241 in Balochistan, 244 in Punjab, and 163 in Sindh.⁵³ In 2010, the HRCP reports that there were at least 581 kidnappings for ransom and 16,977 cases of abduction reported throughout Pakistan. The HRCP adds that the true figure is likely to be "much higher, as in many instances families of the victims did not report the crime because of fear of risking a relative's life and quietly paid the ransom." In the concluding remarks of its 2010 annual report, the HRCP states that not only is kidnapping for ransom "routine in all parts of the country", it adds that "[t]here are indications that the perpetrators are being protected by elements in authority."⁵⁴

Extortion and kidnapping of businessmen for ransom are common enterprises in Quetta. Muhammad Nadeem Khan, a member of Quetta's Chamber of Commerce and Industries, stated in late 2009 that "the law and order situation is so bad in Quetta that businesses close early evening." Many businessmen have reportedly left the city, preferring to sell their businesses and property at radically discounted prices rather than stay. 55 Victims of kidnapping/abduction in Quetta are often found later, having been killed. 56

⁵⁰ UK Foreign and Commonwealth Office 2011, 'Travel Advice – Pakistan', 4 January http://www.fco.gov.uk/en/travel-and-living-abroad/travel-advice-by-country/asia-oceania/pakistan – Accessed 6 January 2011 – Attachment 36

⁵¹ 'No one safe in Balochistan: Ansar Burney' 2011, *The Nation*, 17 January http://www.nation.com.pk/pakistan-news-newspaper-daily-english-online/Politics/17-Jan-2011/No-one-safe-in-Balochistan-Ansar-Burney – Accessed 25 January 2011 – Attachment 37

⁵² 'Slain Ahmadis had sought police protection' 2010, *Dawn*, 3 April – Attachment 35

⁵³ US Department of State 2011, *Country Reports on Human Rights Practices 2010 – Pakistan*, 8 April, Section 1.C-Attachment 32

Human Rights Commission of Pakistan 2011, Annual Report 2010, April, p.6, p.53, p.373 http://www.hrcp-web.org/Publications/AR2010.pdf – Accessed 27 April 2011 – Attachment 31
 On the run: Target killing in Balochistan is rising' 2009, *The News – Pakistan*, 8 November

^{55 &#}x27;On the run: Target killing in Balochistan is rising' 2009, *The News – Pakistan*, 8 November http://www.jang.com.pk/thenews/nov2009-weekly/nos-08-11-2009/dia.htm#4 – Accessed 31 January 2011 – Attachment 22

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