



Pakistan: Researched and compiled by the Refugee Documentation Centre of Ireland on 7 June 2011

Effectiveness of internal relocation

Please find attached information relating to your query on Pakistan.

A report by the *Home Office UK Border Agency* under the heading 'Ahmadis who fear extremist militant groups and/or individuals' states:

"Case owners should assess on an individual case by case basis whether internal relocation is a reasonable option for applicants in this category. In particular, case owners will need to consider whether the individual concerned has lived away from the area where they face a threat, whether the individual has extended family/friends in other parts of Pakistan, whether the threat that they face is likely to follow them, and whether they would be easily identifiable in their new location..." (Home Office UK Border Agency (1st October 2010) *Operational Guidance Note Pakistan* - pg.7 par.3.7.13)

The *United States Department of State's* annual report on Pakistan says:

"The law provides for freedom of movement within the country, and for uninhibited foreign travel, emigration, and repatriation; the government limited these rights in practice. The law prohibits travel to Israel, and the country's passports include a statement that they are "valid for all countries except Israel." Government employees and students must obtain "no objection certificates" from the government before traveling abroad. This requirement rarely was enforced for students.

The government cooperated with the UNHCR and other humanitarian organizations in providing protection and assistance to IDPs, refugees, returning refugees, asylum seekers, and other persons of concern. However, the government's restrictions on access to certain areas of FATA, KP, and Balochistan, often due to security concerns, hindered the ability of humanitarian assistance providers to deliver aid to vulnerable populations.

Persons on the Exit Control List (ECL) were prohibited from foreign travel. Although the ECL was intended to prevent those with pending criminal cases from traveling abroad, no judicial action was required for the Ministry of Interior to add a name to the ECL. The ECL sometimes was used to harass human rights activists or leaders of nationalist parties. Those on the list had the right to appeal to the courts for removal of their names.

There were no reports of restrictions on emigration or prohibition against repatriation. The law prohibits forced exile, and no case of forced exile was

reported during the year.” (United States Department of State (8 April 2011) *2010 Human Rights Report: Pakistan*)

Another report by the *Home Office UK Border Agency* under the heading ‘Freedom of Movement’ states:

“The Human Rights Commission of Pakistan noted in its annual report, *State of Human Rights in 2009 (HRCP Report 2009)*, published February 2010, that “Restrictions were placed on politicians, political workers and religious leaders to prevent them from moving freely within the country and an indiscriminate use of Exit Control List curtailed the right to freedom of movement. The movement of ordinary citizens residing in the insurgency-stricken areas of Swat, Malakand and the Federally Administered Tribal Areas [FATA] bordering Afghanistan was also seriously affected.” (Home Office UK Border Agency (17th January 2011) *Country of Origin Information Report Pakistan - pg.181*)

A report by *Amnesty International* under the heading ‘North Waziristan’ states:

“According to residents of North Waziristan who spoke to Amnesty International in early 2010, the dominant Taleban groups in the agency have not imposed the same kind of strict religious restrictions on residents as witnessed in other parts of FATA. But insecurity has significantly curtailed freedom of movement and economic activity has significantly slowed. According to residents, effectively all the girls’ schools are closed in North Waziristan, while boys’ schools remain open with relatively low attendance due to insecurity.” (Amnesty International (10th June 2010) *‘As If Hell Fell On Me’ The Human Rights Crisis In Northwest Pakistan - pg. 26*)

References:

Amnesty International (10th June 2010) *‘As If Hell Fell On Me’ The Human Rights Crisis In Northwest Pakistan*
<http://www.amnesty.org/en/library/asset/ASA33/004/2010/en/1ea0b9e0-c79d-4f0f-a43d-98f7739ea92e/asa330042010en.pdf>
(Accessed 7 June 2011)

Home Office UK Border Agency (1st October 2010) *Operational Guidance Note Pakistan*
<http://ukba.homeoffice.gov.uk/sitecontent/documents/policyandlaw/countryspecificasylumpolicyogns/>
(Accessed 7 June 2011)

Home Office UK Border Agency (17th January 2011) *Country of Origin Information Report Pakistan*
http://webarchive.nationalarchives.gov.uk/20110220105210/http://rds.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/country_reports.html
(Accessed 7 June 2011)

United States Department of State (8 April 2011) *2010 Human Rights Report: Pakistan*

<http://www.state.gov/g/drl/rls/hrrpt/2010/sca/154485.htm>

(Accessed 7 June 2011)

Sources Consulted:

Amnesty International
European Country of Origin Information Network
Human Rights Watch
Immigration and Refugee Board of Canada
Online newspapers
Refugee Documentation Centre Library
Refugee Documentation Centre Query Database
UNHCR Refworld
US Department of State

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.