



Pakistan - Researched and compiled by the Refugee Documentation Centre of Ireland on 1 August 2012

Recent information on internal relocation

Commenting on events of 2011, a report issued in May 2012 by the *United States Department of State* notes:

“The law provides for freedom of movement within the country and for uninhibited foreign travel, emigration, and repatriation, but the government limited these rights in practice.” (United States Department of State (24 May 2012) *Country Reports on Human Rights Practices for 2011, Pakistan*, Section 2d. Freedom of Movement, Internally Displaced Persons, Protection of Refugees, and Stateless Persons, p.29)

This report also points out that:

“The government’s restrictions on access to certain areas of FATA, KP, and Balochistan, often for security concerns, hindered the ability of humanitarian assistance providers to deliver aid to vulnerable populations.” (ibid)

A paper issued in May 2012 by the *UNHCR* in the context of religious minorities states:

“In the context of Pakistan, an IFA/IRA will generally not be available in areas of FATA, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, as well as Balochistan province, which are currently affected by sustained security and military counter-insurgency operations and retaliatory militant attacks.” (UNHCR (14 May 2012) *UNHCR Eligibility Guidelines For Assessing The International Protection Needs Of Members Of Religious Minorities From Pakistan* , p.42)

IFA & IRA are acronyms for internal flight alternative/internal relocation alternative.

A report published in March 2012 by the *Human Rights Commission of Pakistan* states, reviewing events of 2012, that:

“The freedom of movement faced many challenges in Pakistan in 2011, with restrictions in many parts of the country, mainly as a consequence of violence by non-state actors and the government’s failure to afford adequate protection to the people.” (Human Rights Commission of Pakistan (March 2012) *State of Human Rights in 2011* , p.71)

References

Human Rights Commission of Pakistan (March 2012) *State of Human Rights in 2011*
<http://www.hrcp-web.org/pdf/AR2011/Complete.pdf>
(Accessed 31 July 2012)

UNHCR (14 May 2012) *UNHCR Eligibility Guidelines For Assessing The International Protection Needs Of Members Of Religious Minorities From Pakistan*
http://www.ecoi.net/file_upload/90_1337326697_unhcr-pakistan-20120514-religious-minorities.pdf

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United States Department of State (24 May 2012) *Country Reports on Human Rights Practices for 2011, Pakistan*

<http://www.state.gov/j/drl/rls/hrrpt/humanrightsreport/index.htm#wrapper>

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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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