



Pakistan - Researched and compiled by the Refugee Documentation Centre of Ireland on 8 July 2013

Q16891 – Information on Jamaat-e-Islami.

A document published in May 2013 by *BBC News* included the following profile:

“The Jamaat-e-Islami (JI) is a right-wing religious party which is ideologically close to the Middle East-based Muslim Brotherhood. It was once popular with the Urdu speaking people of Karachi, but it lost support to the MQM in 1980s. Since then it has survived in electoral politics only through various alliances with the right-wing conservative forces. Considered to be the best organised party in the country, militants linked to the JI have been deeply involved in the wars in Afghanistan and Indian-administered Kashmir. Its best years were under Qazi Hussain Ahmad, a charismatic leader with populist appeal who died in January. The alliance of religious parties of which the JI was a member - the MMA - won more than 50 of the 272 seats in the parliament of 2002 - the best ever performance by a religious alliance. It boycotted the 2008 elections. This election is the first since 1988 in which the JI is contesting outside of an alliance.” (BBC News (12 May 2013) *Pakistan elections: Politicians and parties to watch*)

A profile of the party in April 2013 by *Dawn* states:

“Largely seen as a right-wing party, the Jamaat-i-Islami is the oldest religio-political party in Pakistan. It has a huge following among the country’s religious segments and is one of the few parties that hold intra-party elections every three years.” (Dawn (5 April 2013) *Jamaat-i-Islami*)

A report issued by the *International Crisis Group* in December 2011 states:

“The JI is a well-organised political party, with clear lines of authority and a nationwide network of locally organised branches.” (International Crisis Group (12 December 2011) *Islamic Parties in Pakistan*, p.7)

This report also points out that:

“Lacking a broad base, the JI has benefited largely from alliances with the military, in a mutually beneficial relationship.” (ibid, p.8)

In May 2013 the *Daily Times* states:

“Jamaat-e-Islami (JI) candidates for national and provincial assemblies’ seats on Friday staged a sit-in to protest outside Provincial Election Commission (PEC) office, calling for army deployment at polling booths.” (Daily Times (11 May 2013) *Jamaat-e-Islami stages sit-in outside PEC*)

A news report issued by *The Nation* in July 2013 notes:

“Interior Minister Chaudhry Nisar Ali Khan on Sunday [7 July] invited political leaders to attend a meeting on national security to be held on 12 July. The minister telephoned Jamaat-i-Islami (JI) chief Munawar Hassan, Pakistan Muslim League-Q chief Chaudhry Shujaat Hussain...” (The Nation (8 July 2013) *Pakistan interior minister invites leaders to 12 Jul meeting on security*)

The website of the party is <http://jamaat.org/beta/site/index/>

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This is a subscription database

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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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