



Refugee Documentation Centre (Ireland)
LEGAL AID BOARD

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Information on police corruption in Pakistan.

A report published by *Transparency International*, in a section titled “Survey Findings”, states:

“National Corruption Perception Survey 2010 has revealed that police remains the most corrupt sector according to the perceptions of Pakistanis. The proportion of people disturbed has also increase by about 10%. One reason could be that an individual interacts the most with the police sector. It is rather inevitable. Therefore, this provides a justification for 1st position of police since last four years. (Transparency International – Pakistan (1 June 2010) *National Corruption Perception Survey*, p.15)

The Introduction to a report published by the *Institute for Social Policy and Understanding* states:

“The police infrastructure is one of Pakistan’s most poorly managed organizations. It is aptly described as ill-equipped, poorly trained, deeply politicized, and chronically corrupt.” (Institute for Social Policy and Understanding (April 2009) *Police & Law Enforcement Reform in Pakistan: Crucial for Counterinsurgency and Counterterrorism Success*, p.7)

In a section titled “Lack of funds and Corruption” this report states:

“According to Transparency International’s ‘Global Corruption Barometer 2007,’ the police are the most corrupt public sector agency in Pakistan. It has only 350,000 police for a population of around 172 million, a ratio of 1:477. In the prevailing circumstances, the police frequently perform guard and VIP duties for an increasing number of foreign dignitaries, politicians, and officials, tasks that only further diminish its overall capacity. Earning around \$100 per month, low-ranking officers can hardly make ends meet. In my recent interview with a chief of police in an important and major Punjabi city, the officer stated that around a quarter of his force is directly involved in crime – a claim substantiated by his arrest of many police officials under his command. Acknowledging the obvious linkage between very low salaries and corruption, Punjab’s law minister of government recently commented that his government would raise the salaries to make them more lucrative and declared that ‘once handsome salaries are provided, there will be zero tolerance for corruption!’” (ibid, p.13)

The 2011 *Freedom House* report on Pakistan, in a section titled “Political Rights and Civil Liberties”, states:

“Police routinely use excessive force, torture, and arbitrary detention; extort money from prisoners and their families; accept bribes to file or withdraw charges; rape female

detainees; and commit extrajudicial killings.” (Freedom House (26 July 2011) *Freedom in the World 2011 – Pakistan*)

The 2011 *United States Department of State* country report on Pakistan, in Section 4 “Official Corruption and Government Transparency”, states:

“Corruption within the lower levels of the police was common. The July survey by Transparency International noted that the major cause of corruption was lack of accountability, followed by lack of merit and low salaries. Some police were known to charge fees to register genuine complaints and accepted money for registering false complaints. Bribes to avoid charges were commonplace. Critics charged that SHOs' appointments were politicized.” (United States Department of State (8 April 2011) *2010 Human Rights Report: Pakistan*)

An *International Crisis Group* report, in a section titled “Politicising The Police”, states:

“The public is certainly justified in perceiving the police as brutal and corrupt. Since 2002, after the order came into being, the independent Human Rights Commission of Pakistan’s annual reports have highlighted widespread and increasing instances of illegal detentions, deaths in custody, police torture, extrajudicial killings and pervasive corruption.” (International Crisis Group (14 July 2008) *Reforming Pakistan’s Police*, p.12)

See also section of this report titled “Corruption” which states:

“Police corruption has certainly not declined since the Police Order’s promulgation. Transparency International’s ‘Global Corruption Barometer 2007’ called the police the most corrupt public sector agency in Pakistan. In 2002, the military government formed a three member committee, headed by an additional secretary of the interior ministry, to find ways of tackling police corruption. It was given a list of 4,000 officers suspected of corrupt practices but no action was taken. In 2006, the Punjab government’s ‘Anti-Corruption Establishment’ report warned that police corruption was ‘very high’, ranging from bribes to registering false cases and dropping charges against criminals. This warning, however, was not accompanied by remedial action. Police officers agree that there is widespread corruption, from petty bribery at the lower rungs of the hierarchy to more substantial graft at the top. In an attempt to justify their force’s shortcomings, they blame the government for failing to take action and also for not addressing its own shortcomings. ‘How can corruption in the police go down when people known to be corrupt are made its bosses?’ asked an officer.” (ibid, p.13)

A *Right Vision News* article states:

“At least 88 Policemen and officers, involved in different wrongdoings were penalized and 21 such Police Personnel were dismissed from their jobs during last year. The decision to held corrupt Police Personnel and officers accountable was taken by Senior Superintendent Police (SSP) Tahir Alam Khan. An inspector and 20 constables were dismissed from their services. The Police high-ups have also stopped increment of 4 Assistant Sub Inspectors, 3 head constables, 59 constables and a Sub Inspector last year.” (Right Vision News (30 April 2011) *Pakistan: 88 Policemen penalized, 21 dismissed last year*)

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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