



Pakistan - Researched and compiled by the Refugee Documentation Centre of Ireland on Friday 7 & Monday 10 August 2015

Information on the police in 2013

In March 2014 a report issued by the *Human Rights Commission of Pakistan* reviewing events of 2013 points out that:

“Unjustifiably large numbers of police personnel were assigned to security detail of countless important figures in government and bureaucracy, further depleting the capacity of the department to protect the people” (Human Rights Commission of Pakistan (March 2014) *State of Human Rights in 2013*, p.44).

A publication released in February 2014 by the *United States Department of State* commenting on events of 2013 notes that:

“Police effectiveness varied greatly by district, ranging from reasonably good to ineffective. Some police committed human rights abuses or were responsive to political interests” (United States Department of State (27 February 2014) *2013 Country Reports on Human Rights Practices – Pakistan*, Section 1d Arbitrary Arrest or Detention).

In January 2014 a report issued by *Human Rights Watch* reviewing events of the preceding year points out that:

“The police and other security forces have been responsible for numerous abuses, including, torture and other ill-treatment of criminal suspects, extrajudicial killings, and unresolved enforced disappearances of terrorism suspects” (Human Rights Watch (21 January 2014) *World Report 2014 – Pakistan*).

A report issued by the *International Crisis Group* in January 2014 on urban policing includes noting:

“...decades of neglected police reform...” (International Crisis Group (23 January 2014) *Policing Urban Violence in Pakistan*, p.1).

In December 2013 a report issued by the *Asian Human Rights Commission* commenting on events of 2013 states that:

“Every police station has its own private torture centre...” (Asian Human Rights Commission (9 December 2013) *The State of Human Rights in Pakistan, 2013: Country Has Turned into a Killing Field*, p.1).

A document published in November 2013 by the *Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade Australia* points out that:

“At the Federal level, the Government of Pakistan maintains a number of specialist police agencies and each of Pakistan’s four provinces and two autonomous regions maintain their own police forces. Both the Federal and provincial governments also maintain a number of paramilitary police forces, which usually operate in particular

geographic areas. In total, Pakistan's police forces are estimated to number over 600,000. The capacity of Pakistani police to maintain law and order is limited by a lack of resources, poor training, insufficient and outmoded equipment, and political manipulation. Police departments are also perceived to be the most corrupt institutions in Pakistan, which further undermines public trust in police as an institution. This problem is compounded by the absence of effective human rights training for many of Pakistan's police forces" (Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade Australia (29 November 2013) *DFAT Country Report: Pakistan*).

Information on the police in August/2015

A *Reuters* article in August 2015 includes the following description of:

"...Pakistan's embattled and much maligned police force" (Reuters (6 August 2015) *Former top cop spins life on Pakistan's mean streets into novels*).

In June 2015 a document issued by the *Office of the Commissioner General for Refugees and Stateless Persons* points out that:

"The Pakistani Police has a strength of 354,000. There are 1479 police stations throughout the country. The police is generally understood to be underfunded and is facing a difficult task fighting rising amounts of crime and in certain regions activity of militants and insurgents. The reputation of the police itself is not good" (Office of the Commissioner General for Refugees and Stateless Persons (16 June 2015) *COI Focus - Pakistan: Security Situation*).

In June 2015 a report published by the *Asylum Research Consultancy* citing secondary sources states that:

"In an August 2014 report the United States Institute of Peace reports that "Pakistan's four provinces are home to 1,479 police stations and 410,000 police. The police station retains its role as the symbol of government authority and its position as the basic institutional policing unit responsible for public order, law enforcement, and police services... The April 2014 Transparency International report notes that the "Total strength of law enforcement agencies is approximately 575,000 inclusive of personnel of all federal, provincial paramilitary and intelligence forces. With a population of around 180 million, for every 304 people there is one police official. The ratio apparently seems in line with the UN policing standards in peace time which requires 1:400 of police population ratio. However, excluding all paramilitary, intelligence and administrative personnel, the ground reality turns out to be altogether different, and Police/Population ratio for Karachi in 2008 was 1:571 and in 2011 it was 1:625 for Pakistan and 1:529 for Punjab"... (Asylum Research Consultancy (June 2015) *Pakistan Country Report*, p.140).

A report released by the *United States Institute of Peace* in May 2015 notes that:

"All four provinces have their own police forces. However, efforts since 2008 to reform the police structure has been minimal" (United States Institute of Peace (May 2015) *Charting Pakistan's Internal Security Policy*, p.11).

A report issued in May 2015 by the *Centre for Research & Security Studies* states that:

“The police force faces resource constraints, shortage of human resources, poor mobility and communications, inadequate professional skills to deal with the needs and challenges of modern policing and investigation, and maintaining law and order in a society where challenges flowing from rising crime and terrorism have increased manifold (Centre for Research & Security Studies (May 2015) *Counter- Terrorism and Pakistan Police*, p.12).

The *Human Rights Commission of Pakistan* in April 2015 states in a publication that:

“Not only was the police, the premier law enforcement agency, ill-equipped to face the challenge in terms of resources and training, it was also criticised for inefficiency, corruption and politicisation” (Human Rights Commission of Pakistan (16 April 2015) *Annual report 2014*, p.58).

A report issued in June 2015 by the *United States Department of State* commenting on events of 2014 points out that:

“Police effectiveness varied by district, ranging from good to ineffective. Police committed human rights abuses or were susceptible to political pressure” (United States Department of State (25 June 2015) *2014 Country Reports on Human Rights Practices - Pakistan*, Section 1d Arbitrary Arrest or Detention).

References

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<http://reliefweb.int/report/pakistan/state-human-rights-pakistan-2013-country-has-turned-killing-field>

Attachment not included due to IT limitations
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Asylum Research Consultancy (June 2015) *Pakistan Country Report*

<http://www.refworld.org/docid/558909364.html>

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Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade Australia (29 November 2013) *DFAT Country Report: Pakistan*

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Human Rights Commission of Pakistan (16 April 2015) *Annual report 2014*

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Human Rights Commission of Pakistan (March 2014) *State of Human Rights in 2013*

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Human Rights Watch (21 January 2014) *World Report 2014 – Pakistan*

http://www.ecoi.net/local_link/267806/382110_en.html

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International Crisis Group (23 January 2014) *Policing Urban Violence in Pakistan*

<http://www.crisisgroup.org/en/regions/asia/south-asia/pakistan/255-policing-urban-violence-in-pakistan.aspx>

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<http://www.isn.ethz.ch/Digital-Library/Publications/Detail/?fecvnodeid=118629&dom=1&groupot593=0c54e3b3-1e9c-be1e-2c24-a6a8c7060233&fecvid=33&ots591=0c54e3b3-1e9c-be1e-2c24-a6a8c7060233&lng=en&v33=118629&id=190983>

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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.

Amnesty International
BBC News
Electronic Immigration Network
European Country of Origin Information Network
Freedom House
Google
Human Rights Watch
Immigration and Refugee Board of Canada
Internal Displacement Monitoring Centre
International Crisis Group
IRIN News
Lexis Nexis
Minority Rights Group International
Online Newspapers
Refugee Documentation Centre E-Library
Refugee Documentation Centre Query Database
Reliefweb
Regional Surveys of the World
Reuters
United Kingdom Home Office
United States Department of State
UNHCR Refworld