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Refugee Documentation Centre (Ireland)
LEGAL AID BOARD

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Information on efforts of the authorities/security forces/police in dealing with the Taliban

A publication issued in February 2019 by the *Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade of Australia* notes that:

“The underlying conditions for militancy, including weak executive, judiciary and law enforcement institutions, poor infrastructure and services, extreme religious ideologies and stark sectarian divisions, and lack of economic opportunity continued in 2018, and continue to do so in 2019” (Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade of Australia (20 February 2019) *DFAT Country Information Report Pakistan*, p.18).

This document also states that:

“Despite official disruption efforts, the TTP and its affiliated networks remained the greatest security threat to Pakistan, with the highest overall number of attacks in 2018. TTP is the largest banned group in Pakistan and was responsible for 79 terrorist attacks across the country, resulting in 185 fatalities and 3336 injuries in 2018 (compared to 70, causing 360 fatalities and 360 injuries in 2017). The TTP effectively an umbrella organisation for predominantly Pashtun Sunni militant groups splintered into several separate groups reflecting Operation ZarbeAzb, leadership tensions and the rise of ISIL. Nevertheless, in early 2017, a number of these splinter groups rejoined the TTP or pledged support for its leader. The TTP and its splinter groups maintain a separate identity from the Afghan Taliban, although they remain ideologically aligned. TTP's level of cohesion waxes and wanes depending on the leadership. Even when TTP undergoes cyclical splintering, the disparate networks remain dangerous and willing to break any shortterm agreements they may reach with the Pakistani state” (ibid, p.20).

Reuters in January 2019 notes that:

“Militant violence in Pakistan has fallen sharply from levels a decade ago...” (Reuters (29 January 2019) *Gunmen kill nine in attack on Pakistan police station*).

The *United States Department of State* released a report in March 2019 commenting on events of 2018 noting that:

“Militant and terrorist activity continued, and there were suicide and bomb attacks in all four provinces, the former FATA, and Gilgit Baltistan. Militants and terrorist groups, including the Pakistani Taliban (Tehreek-e-Taliban Pakistan, Lashkar-e-Jhangvi, and the Islamic State Khorasan Province targeted civilians, journalists, community leaders, security forces, law enforcement agents, and schools, killing and injuring hundreds with bombs, suicide attacks, and other forms of violence” (United States Department of State (13 March 2019) *Pakistan 2018 Human Rights Report*, p.19).

This report also states:

“Military, police, and law enforcement agencies continued to carry out significant campaigns against militant and terrorist groups” (ibid, p.1).

A report published in February 2019 by the *Centre for Research & Security Issues* notes that:

“Across Pakistan, and across all metrics, violence-related casualties continued to decline in 2018, registering a 45% drop from the previous year, and 86% drop since 2013. If we look purely at fatalities from terror attacks and incidents, the number dropped 83% from 4,643 in 2013 to 754 in 2018. This an unprecedented drop in violence across the country. The bulk of the success is owed to the extensive kinetic operations conducted across the country” (Centre for Research & Security Issues (28 February 2019) *CRSS Annual Security Report, A comprehensive look at Pakistan's security situation from 2013 to 2018*, p.6).

This document also states that:

“There is a consistent drop in terror attacks after the launch of Operation Zarb-e-Azb” (ibid, p.47).

A report issued in January 2019 by *Human Rights Watch* reviewing events of the preceding year notes that:

“Attacks by Islamist militants resulted in fewer deaths in Pakistan in 2018 than in recent years. However, strikes primarily targeting law enforcement officials and religious minorities killed hundreds of people. The Taliban and other armed militants killed and injured hundreds of people in a failed effort to disrupt the elections” (Human Rights Watch (17 March 2019) *World Report 2019: Pakistan*, p.1).

A publication released in January 2019 by the *Pakistan Institute for Conflict and Security Study* points out that:

“2018 saw a remarkable reduction of 45 percent in the militant attacks in Pakistan” (Pakistan Institute for Conflict and Security Study (1 January 2019) *2018: Another Year of Decline in Anti-State Violence*

In January 2019 the *Pakistan Institute for Conflict and Security Study* notes that:

“2018 was an important year for Pakistan in terms of consolidating its successes in the war against terrorism. A decrease of 29 percent in terrorist attacks from the year before was an important milestone achieved at the end of the year. The Pakistan Army also declared the North Waziristan tribal district – once a critical flashpoint of militancy and an important battlefield in the war against terrorism – fully under control...” (Pakistan Institute for Conflict and Security Study (January 2019) *Pakistan Security Report 2018*, p.13).

References

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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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