



# Weekly Report

APRIL 25 - MAY 1,  
2014

## Pakistan

Olivia Howard

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### ***Peoples under Threat 2014, Minority Rights Group International***

- Pakistan has been ranked number seven in terms of countries with peoples most under threat in 2014. Threats to minorities are often downplayed by the international media focus on radical groups.
- The Pakistani Taliban and other militant groups have been targeting Shias, Christians and Ahmadis. Hundreds of victims died in the last year. Baluchi activists in Baluchistan also face repression.
- Source: Minority Rights Group International

<http://www.minorityrights.org/download.php?id=1353>

### ***Former Pakistan Colonel attacks war crimes trials***

- Retired Pakistani Colonel M Hanif has described as a “sham” Bangladesh’s ongoing trials for war crimes committed during the 1971 separatist struggle. He claims crimes were mainly committed by Bengali groups, especially the Awami League, currently in power in Bangladesh. Hanif now works for the Islamabad Policy Research Institute, which is close to the Pakistani military.
- Source: bdnews24.com

<http://bdnews24.com/bangladesh/2014/04/27/pakistan-ex-army-officer-terms-war-crimes-trial-sham>

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*“[The Pakistani army remains] conscious of human rights by not harming civilians or innocent people [in any war].” -Retired Pakistani Colonel M Hanif*

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### ***USCIRF Annual Report 2014***

- Since 2002, the US Commission on International Religious Freedom (USCIRF) has recommended that the US government designate Pakistan as a country of particular concern (CPC).
- Conditions are worse than ever due to violence targeting Shias, Christians, Ahmadis, and Hindus. The government often fails to arrest perpetrators.
- 17 people are on death row for blasphemy and 19 are serving life sentences. In addition, the constitution declares Ahmadis non-Muslims and the criminal code penalizes Ahmadi worship.
- Source: US Commission on International Religious Freedom

<http://www.uscifr.gov/sites/default/files/USCIRF%202014%20Annual%20Report%20PDF.pdf>

### ***Pakistan seminaries assisting, brokering deals for Taliban***

- Seminaries are reportedly helping the Taliban collect extortion and ransom money by arranging deals with their victims and providing courier services.
- Source: Business Standard

[http://www.business-standard.com/article/international/pakistan-seminaries-assisting-brokering-deals-for-taliban-114050100437\\_1.html](http://www.business-standard.com/article/international/pakistan-seminaries-assisting-brokering-deals-for-taliban-114050100437_1.html)