



# Weekly Report

MARCH 20-27,  
2014

- 1 Pakistan Taliban agrees to ceasefire to help Afghan allies
- 2 Pakistan court sentences Christian man to death for blasphemy

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*“From the day there was a ceasefire on that side, almost every night one or other of our border posts has been attacked by people from the other side of the border.” – Umer Daudzai, Interior Minister of Afghanistan*

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## Pakistan

Olivia Howard

### ***Pakistan Taliban agrees to ceasefire to help Afghan allies***

- The Pakistani Taliban announced a ceasefire with their government this month at the urging of the Afghan Taliban.
- The Taliban in Afghanistan and Pakistan have secretly agreed to focus on operations in Afghanistan, with the Pakistani militants preserving their bases to stage cross-border attacks.
- Insurgents are crossing the border to disrupt the upcoming election in Afghanistan.
- The Pakistani government has been worried about increasing convergence between the two Talibans.
- Source: Reuters

<http://www.reuters.com/article/2014/03/27/us-afghanistan-election-taliban-idUSBREA2Q1C420140327>

### ***Pakistan court sentences Christian man to death for blasphemy***

- Sawan Masih has been sentenced to death for insulting the prophet Muhammad.
- When the allegations of his blasphemy emerged in Lahore last year, over 3000 Muslims rioted and torched 100 Christian homes in the Joseph Colony neighbourhood in Lahore. No one was killed.
- Masih argued the blasphemy allegation was motivated by a property dispute between him and his friend. Rights campaigners say the country’s blasphemy laws are often used to settle personal disputes.
- Pakistan has had a de facto moratorium on civilian hangings since 2008.
- Source: The Guardian

<http://www.theguardian.com/world/2014/mar/27/pakistan-court-sentences-christian-man-death-blasphemy>