

## Death Penalty in Pakistan – Fact Sheet

### Quick Facts

<b>Death Row Population</b> (When moratorium was lifted in December 2014)	8,261 <sup>1</sup>
<b>Death Row Population</b> (Current estimate)	8,500~
<b>Total Number of Executions</b> (Since December 2014)	468 <sup>2</sup>
<b>Total Number of Death Sentences</b> (2014-2016)	712+
<b>Number of Capital Offences in Pakistan</b>	27
<b>Method of Execution</b>	Hanging

+ Denotes confirmed figures. Actual number can be higher

### Breakdown of Executions by Court System

Execution of Prisoners Convicted by the Military Courts	63+
Execution of Prisoners Convicted by Civilian Anti-Terrorism Courts	74+
Execution of Prisoners Convicted by Regular Courts	266+

+ Denotes confirmed figures. Actual number can be higher

### Breakdown of Executions by Year

Year	Number	Rate/Week
2014 (Since 18 December*)	7	NA
2015	325	6~/Week
2016	88	2~/Week
2017 (Until the end of May)	48	2.5~/Week

### Explaining the Yearly Breakdown

- Between **18 December 2014** and **10 March 2015**, Pakistan executed **24** convicts. Since then, the number is **444**. These dates are significant because until March 2015, only those convicted under terrorism charges were being executed. On 10 March 2015, the Interior Ministry issued that death penalty be resumed for all capital offences.<sup>3</sup>
- There was a **73% decline** in executions from 2015 to 2016. Despite the stark decline, Pakistan remained one of the top executing states in the world for the year.

<sup>1</sup> Gishkori, Zahid. "8,261 prisoners: Hanging in the balance". *Express Tribune*. 18 December 2014. Islamabad. <<https://tribune.com.pk/story/808727/6261-prisoners-hanging-in-the-balance/>>

<sup>2</sup> Figures accurate up to 26 May 2017

<sup>3</sup> "Pakistan ends death penalty suspension after seven years". *BBC*. 10 March 2015. Islamabad. <<http://www.bbc.com/news/world-asia-31812177>>

- Of the 88 executions in 2016, only two were carried out after July 2016. Between July 2016 and February 2017 **only 6** executions were carried out. This near-total stoppage of executions in the latter half of the year can be credited to the tireless efforts of human rights organizations.
- However, February 2017 saw an uptick of militant attacks and in response “Operation *Rad-ul-Fasad*” was launched. Since February the rate of executions has therefore risen alarmingly.
- The year 2017 has so far seen **48** executions in Pakistan out of which at least **38** were convicted by military courts whereas in the year 2016 only 6 people tried in military courts were hanged.
- It is important to note that this is the same period when the tenure of military courts was scheduled to end and the efforts to give an extension to the military courts were being carried out by the ruling party.

### Geographical Breakdown<sup>4</sup>

City	Number of Executions
Lahore	54
Faisalabad	48
Rawalpindi	45
Sahiwal	36
Bahawalpur	33
Multan	25
Kohat	20
Attock	19
Sialkot	18
Mianwali	17
Gujrat	16
Gujranwala	15
Sargodha	13
Karachi	10

City	Number of Executions
Jhang:	9
Vehari	9
DG Khan	9
Harripur	8
Mach	7
Jahlum	6
Toba Tek Singh	6
Kasur	6
Sukkur	5
Mirpur	4
Peshawar	2
Haiderabad	2
Larkana	1
Teemer Graha	1

- The city-by-city breakdown clearly shows that a significant majority of executions being carried out in Pakistan are in the province of Punjab. Incidentally, Pakistan’s ruling party, the PML-N, only has a provincial government in Punjab out of Pakistan’s four provinces.

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<sup>4</sup> Confirmed figures only