



3.1.2. Federal Investigative Agency (FIA)

The Federal Investigation Agency (FIA) describes itself as a ‘border control, criminal investigation, counter-intelligence and security agency’ under the MoI.¹⁹⁹ Created in 1975 under the FIA Act 1974,²⁰⁰ the FIA is tasked with handling complex criminal cases requiring a response at federal level, including cases of a cross-regional or international nature.²⁰¹ The FIA’s responsibilities include fighting terrorism, espionage, human trafficking, illegal immigration, and corruption.²⁰² The FIA is empowered to conduct arrests, seize assets, and present legal cases before special courts.²⁰³ It comprises a number of separate specialised departments,²⁰⁴ including the Counter Terrorism Wing (CTW) whose work includes handling cases related to terrorism (including cyber terrorism), blasphemy and espionage.²⁰⁵ Amongst others, during the reference period, there were reports of FIA members arresting media professionals²⁰⁶ and torturing and temporarily detaining individuals and their family members.²⁰⁷

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Pakistan, FIA, About Us, n.d. a, [url](#)

- [200](#)

Pakistan, FIA, About Us, n.d. a, [url](#); Dr. Shahab Imam Law Associates, What is FIA: The Role of Pakistan’s Federal Investigation Agency, n.d., [url](#)

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