3.1.7. Pakistani police

Police organisations in Pakistan are divided into those operating under federal control and those controlled by the administrations of their respective provinces and territories.258 According to an estimate found in academic papers from 2023 and 2025, Pakistan's police had an overall strength of around 624 390.259 A CTD is found in each of the country's four provincial police organisations260 and the Islamabad Capital Territory Police.261 Efforts were ongoing to also establish CTDs in AJK262 and GB.263 The Frontier Constabulary, a federal paramilitary force mainly recruited from KP264 and initially tasked to maintain law and order in border and frontier zones,265 is now present across multiple areas of the country, with its duties including operations against criminal gangs and smugglers. In mid-2025, the government decided to convert the Frontier Constabulary into a nationwide force named the Federal Constabulary, with recruitment efforts, offices266 and jurisdiction to be expanded across Pakistan.267

The highest police rank is that of Inspector General of Police (IGP),268 who acts as the head of a provincial or administrative police organisation.269 Police have been criticised for alleged bias and arbitrariness in handling criminal complaints,270 discouraging the registration of crimes, their conduct with the public, and inadequacies in preventing and responding to crimes.271 Moreover, NGOs noted that police frequently employed torture,272 mainly during arrests and interrogations,273 relying on torture to obtain confessions.274 According to findings of the National Corruption Perception Survey (NCPS) 2025, conducted by Transparency International (TI) Pakistan across all of the country's four provinces in September 2025, public perceptions of the police had improved by 6 % compared to 2023. Nonetheless, the police were viewed as the country's most corrupt institution (24 %), with perceptions of police corruption highest in Punjab (34 %).275 During the reference period, law enforcement agencies were attributed responsibility for arbitrary detentions and extrajudicial killings.276 These included multiple enforced disappearances277 and extrajudicial killings in Balochistan that were reported to have been carried out by the CTD.278

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