

# Immigration and Refugee Board of Canada

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## Responses to Information Requests

Responses to Information Requests (RIR) respond to focused Requests for Information that are submitted to the Research Directorate in the course of the refugee protection determination process. The database contains a seven-year archive of English and French RIRs. Earlier RIRs may be found on the UNHCR's [Refworld](#) website.

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### PAK103606.FE

Pakistan: Fraudulent documents (2008-2010)

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In an article published on 10 August 2010, the *Daily Times* of Lahore reported that "fake passports are widely available" in Pakistan. According to the *Sydney Morning Herald*, the Federal Investigation Agency (FIA) in Pakistan arrests an average of six people a day in the Islamabad area for document fraud (*The Sydney Morning Herald* 13 July 2010). An assistant director of the FIA stated that tens of thousands of people have some sort of involvement in this industry (*ibid.*). According to an article published on 12 November 2009 in another Lahore newspaper, *The Nation*, the current British Home Office Minister responsible for Immigration stated that numerous applications for British visas presented by Pakistanis are accompanied by false documents. The Consul General of the United States in Pakistan stated that in July 2010, nearly 98% of applications for American visas made by Pakistanis were refused because they were accompanied by false documents (*Dawn* 21 July 2010).

In its report, *State of Human Rights in 2008*, the Human Rights Commission of Pakistan (HRCP) noted that in May 2008, 5.8 million of Pakistan's 7.5 million passport holders had a machine-readable passport (HRCP Mar. 2009, 4). A press attaché with the High Commission of Pakistan in Malaysia stated that "it's next to impossible to forge" the machine-readable passports (*The Star* 22 Aug. 2010). A report published by the FIA indicates that 141 passengers were deported in 2005 for having false documents and that 25 passengers were deported in the first half of 2008 (Pakistan n.d.a). A senior official with Pakistan's National Database and Registration Authority (NADRA), the agency that issues the Computerized National Identity Card (CNIC) (Pakistan n.d.b), told the newspaper *Dawn* that "Nadra's system was so secure that it foiled over 250 attempts of getting fake CNIC in a day" (4 Mar. 2010). However, according to an article in the *Daily Times*, representatives of NADRA and of passport offices in Lahore confirmed that with help from NADRA officers and using fake fingerprints, it is possible to "get more than one original CNIC and passport with different identities" (*Daily Times* 12 Apr. 2010). According to some sources, the FIA is investigating this (*ibid.*). It also investigated in 2008 when NADRA officers were suspected of issuing fake CNICs (*The Nation* 13 Nov. 2008). Moreover, in an effort to put a stop to counterfeiting, the Lahore Development Authority has started printing 13 types of property ownership documents, including transfer letters, on security paper (Pakistan n.d.c; *The News International* 7 Oct. 2010).

The following is a partial list of cases reported in the media concerning fraudulent documents in Pakistan:

- The Supreme Court asked the Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) to review the degrees of legislators (AP 30 June 2010). Almost all of the nearly 1,100 elected officials have to submit their diplomas for verification (*ibid.*; *Time* 21 July 2010; *The News International* 14 Oct. 2010). According to an article in the newspaper *The News International* on 14 October 2010, at the time the article was published, the degrees of 67 Members of Parliament had been declared fake; however, the hearings into the fake degrees was still ongoing as of 1 November 2010 (Pakistan 1 Nov. 2010).
- In September 2010, six Pakistanis went to Denmark to seek asylum (*Dawn* 21 Sept. 2010). They were allegedly in possession of fake visas and were aided by FIA agents at Benazir Bhutto International Airport (*ibid.*).
- In September 2010, the FIA arrested four people-three women who had fake Afghan passports that had been provided to them by the smuggler accompanying them-as their airplane was about to take off for Oslo (*Dawn* 19 Sept. 2010). An FIA agent and an immigration inspector allegedly helped the passengers clear the checks prior to boarding (*ibid.*).
- On 20 June 2010, Zimbabwean police arrested two Pakistanis with fake Kenyan passports (AFP 26 June 2010; VOA 26 June 2010).
- In March 2010, the FIA arrested a forgery expert and found at his residence various forged documents, including passports, visa stickers and security papers (*Daily Times* 3 Mar. 2010; *The Nation* 3 Mar. 2010).
- In early 2009, Pakistan's National Accountability Bureau (NAB) announced that the former consul general of Pakistan in the United States would soon be arrested for issuing 300 fake passports to Pakistanis (*Daily Times* 17 Feb. 2009; APP 17 Feb. 2009). He subsequently admitted in court that his office had indeed issued 300 fake passports (DPA 29 Jan. 2010).

This Response was prepared after researching publicly accessible information currently available to the Research Directorate within time constraints. This Response is not, and does not purport to be, conclusive as to the merit of any particular claim for refugee protection. Please find below the list of sources consulted in researching this Information Request.

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## Additional Sources Consulted

**Oral sources:** Attempts to reach representatives of the High Commission of Canada in Islamabad and Transparency International (TI) in Pakistan were unsuccessful.

**Internet sites, including:** Bertelsmann Transformation Index (BTI), European Country of Origin Information Network (ecoi.net), *Forced Migration Review* (FMR), Gallup, Global Integrity, Interpol, *Jane's Intelligence Review*, Pakistan - Ministry of Interior, Pakistan - National Accountability Bureau (NAB), PakTribune, Transparency International (TI) - Pakistan, U4 Anti-Corruption Resource Centre, United Nations - Refworld.

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