

Current Intelligence Report Circular

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Imran Khan granted protective bail

On 20 AUG Pakistan's former Prime Minister Imran Khan gave a speech in Islamabad in which he swore to "take action" against a police chief and female judge. Additionally, he accused police of "torture and abuse" towards *Tehreek-e-Insaf* (PTI) leader Shahbaz Gill while he was in their custody. Following on 22 AUG Pakistani police filed terrorism charges against former prime minister Imran Khan. Followers of Khan's political party have stated they will hold nationwide rallies if Khan is arrested. A former minister under Imran Khan, Ali Amin Khan Gandapur stated, "We will take over Islamabad and my message to the police is do not be part of this political war anymore." Under Pakistan's 1997 antiterrorism law, Khan could face several years in prison for threatening a police officer and judge. In fear of violent clashes between police and Khan supporters, a Pakistani court in Islamabad issued Imran Khan "protective bail" which barred officers from arresting him until 01 SEP. END

CMCD Note

It is likely that political tensions between the Pakistan Muslim League and PTI parties will increase as this trial ensues. With a leader of the largest political party in Pakistan being charged with violating Pakistan's 1997 antiterrorism law, it is not likely that Pakistan's political unrest will deescalate between Mawlid on 07 OCT and Quaid-e-Azam's Birthday on 25 DEC. There has been a trend in Khan's public statements becoming more agitating as charges have increased. These are historical holidays in Pakistan that can be used to elevate one's political platform and it is likely that these holidays will be important to Khan's agenda. We estimate with high confidence that if Khan is arrested, police will become a target of the PTI's followers.

Sources

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