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FIA Apprehends Three Human Traffickers for Deceptive Job Offer Fraud

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On July 20, 2025, the Federal Investigation Agency (FIA) in Gujranwala arrested three human traffickers for defrauding citizens with fake overseas job offers, exposing a ruthless network exploiting desperate job seekers. The operation underscores Pakistan's intensifying crackdown on human trafficking, targeting criminals who prey on vulnerable individuals with false promises of prosperity abroad.

The FIA's Gujranwala Zone conducted raids across Gujranwala and Gujrat, apprehending Muhammad Irfan, Muhammad Bilal, and Muhammad Shahbaz. Shahbaz, a wanted fugitive, allegedly swindled Rs1.2 million from a victim by promising a job in Greece, while Irfan extracted Rs1.1 million for a nonexistent position in Canada. Bilal defrauded another individual of Rs400,000 with a fake Dubai job offer. "These suspects exploited trust, leaving victims financially ruined," an FIA spokesperson stated (Pakistan Today, July 21, 2025). After collecting hefty sums, the trio went into hiding, only to be tracked down through intelligence-led operations. The FIA is now interrogating the suspects and pursuing other network members, signaling a broader effort to dismantle such syndicates.

This bust follows a pattern of rising human trafficking cases, with criminals exploiting economic hardship. Earlier this year, the FIA arrested five agents in the same region for defrauding victims of Rs10 million through similar scams, targeting countries like Europe and the Middle East (The Express Tribune, January 9, 2025). The agency's crackdown, intensified under Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi's directives, reflects a commitment to rooting out these predatory networks. "We will ensure justice for those exploiting innocent lives," said FIA Gujranwala Zone Director Abdul Qadir Qamar (@ARYNEWSOFFICIAL, X post, July 20, 2025).

The arrests highlight the need for stricter oversight and public awareness to combat human trafficking. As Pakistan battles this scourge, the government must bolster legal frameworks and international cooperation to protect citizens from such fraud. These actions send a clear message:

those who profit from human misery will face severe consequences, safeguarding the nation's most vulnerable from exploitation.