

CRS Report for Congress

Received through the CRS Web

Pakistan: Chronology of Events

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Summary

This report provides a reverse chronology of major events involving Pakistan and Pakistan-U.S. relations from September 2001.¹ For a substantive review of Pakistan-U.S. relations, see CRS Issue Brief IB94041, *Pakistan-U.S. Relations*. This report will be updated regularly.

11/01/03 — Indian PM Vajpayee said that “a meaningful dialogue with Pakistan is only possible when we see sincerity in their efforts to stop cross-border infiltration and to dismantle the infrastructure of terrorism.”

10/30/03 — U.S. National Security Advisor Rice said that “Pakistan needs to do more to make sure that there cannot be terrorist acts taken ... from Pakistan or from Kashmir against targets there, and we frequently talk to the Pakistanis about that.” On the same day, one of the leading figures of Pakistan’s political opposition, **Alliance for the Restoration of Democracy President Hasmi, was arrested** and accused of defaming the military.

10/29/03 — In its first detailed response to New Delhi’s October 22 initiative, **Islamabad welcomed India’s proposals** and accepted several —

Acronyms

LOC:	Line of Control (Kashmir)
MMA:	Muttahida Majlis-e-Amal, a coalition of six Islamist political parties
NWFP:	North West Frontier Province
SAARC:	South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation
FTO:	Foreign Terrorist Organization
WMD:	weapons of mass destruction

¹ Entries are on a day-to-day basis going back 60-90 days, then include periodic high-profile events. Sources include, but are not limited to, the U.S. Department of State Washington File, *New York Times*, *Washington Post*, BBC News, Associated Press, Reuters News, Agence France-Presse, *Dawn* (Karachi), *Daily Times* (Lahore), *News International* (Karachi), *Hindu* (Madras), and *Hindustan Times* (Delhi).

including a restoration of sporting ties, the establishment of a joint coast guard hot-line, and the resumption of travel negotiations — while also expressing disappointment that India continued to shun direct bilateral dialogue. Islamabad’s response came in the form of a 13-point list of measures. On the same day, the Chief Minister of Pakistan’s NWFP, Islamist leader Akram Khan Durrani, reportedly claimed that Israel’s intelligence agency had organized the terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001 in order to “start a war between Muslims and Christians.”

- 10/27/03 — The IMF approved a \$248 million loan for Pakistan and noted “strong improvement in Pakistan’s external and fiscal prospects” while encouraging further economic reforms.
- 10/26/03 — A suspected senior Al Qaeda leader was captured in a raid in Faisalabad.
- 10/23/03 — A Pakistani military spokesman said that Pakistan had started fencing parts of its western border with Afghanistan to stop cross-border movement of Al Qaeda and Taliban guerrillas. On the same day, a Pakistan-Turkey Military Dialogue Group ended meetings in Rawalpindi with an agreement to embark on joint ventures in defense production.
- 10/22/03 — **The Indian government unveiled a set of 12 proposals** meant to improve its relations with Pakistan. Many of the steps involved increasing people-to-people contacts between Pakistan and India. The United States warmly welcomed the Indian initiative. New Delhi also announced that Indian Deputy PM Advani would represent India’s central government in its first-ever proposed negotiations with Kashmiri separatists.
- 10/21/03 — Pakistan and China began a three-day joint naval exercise off the coast of Shanghai. The exercises are China’s first ever with a foreign navy. On the same day, Karachi police arrested four members of the FTO-designate Lashkar-i-Jhangvi Sunni militants suspected of involvement in an anti-Shia attack on October 3. Also, in the first official visit of its kind in many years, a group of three Pakistani civil servants traveled to Indian-held Kashmir to inspect hydroelectric projects on the Chenab River there.
- 10/20/03 — Unnamed U.S. officials reportedly claimed that investigators believe captured alleged Al Qaeda leader Khalid Sheik Mohammed had a direct role in the 2002 murder of *Wall Street Journal* reporter Daniel Pearl. Pakistani police say they have no evidence to support the claim. On the same day, Moody’s Investors Service raised its rating on Pakistan’s foreign debt and said a narrowing budget gap places Islamabad in a better position to manage the national debt.
- 10/17/03 — Apparent Islamic militants launched an attack on the home of the Chief Minister of Jammu and Kashmir, killing two Indian soldiers. Indian Deputy PM Advani blamed the attack on the Pakistan-based Lashkar-e-Taiba terrorist group. On the same day, President Musharraf called Indian PM Vajpayee a “man of peace.”
- 10/16/03 — **The U.S. Treasury Department identified Indian crime figure Dawood Ibrahim as a “global terrorist”** with links to both Al Qaeda and Lashkar-e-Taiba. Ibrahim, wanted by the Indian government for 1993 Bombay bombings that killed and injured thousands, is believed to be in Pakistan. On the same day, in testimony before the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, Assistant Secretary of Defense for International Security Affairs Rodman said, “There are elements in the Pakistani government who we suspect are sympathetic to the old policy of before

9/11,” adding that there still exists in northwestern Pakistan a radical Islamic infrastructure that “spews out fighters that go into Kashmir as well as into Afghanistan.” Also, Pakistan’s Interior Minister accused India of operating 6 “terrorist camps” in Afghanistan to train dissidents for carrying out attacks on Pakistan. Finally, India’s External Affairs Minister said Pakistan has done “nothing at all to stop cross-border terrorism.”

- 10/14/03** — **The U.S. Treasury Department designated the Pakistan-based Al Akhtar Trust as a terrorist support organization** under Executive Order 13224. Al Akhtar is said to be carrying on support for Al Qaeda and Taliban terrorist activities funded by the previously-designated Al Rashid Trust. On the same day, Foreign Minister Kasuri said that Pakistan will send troops to Iraq only in tandem with other Muslim countries and under a UN umbrella.
- 10/13/03** — The Chairman of Pakistan’s Joint Chiefs of Staff, Gen. Aziz, arrived in Washington for an official five-day visit. On the same day, Pakistani police in Baluchistan reported seizing 1.2 tons of Afghan opium.
- 10/11/03** — Pakistan’s Information Minister insisted that there are no militant training camps operating on Pakistani soil.
- 10/10/03** — **Human Rights Watch sent an open letter to President Musharraf** criticizing the “suppression of civil liberties and the progressive undermining of civilian institutions” during his four-year rule.
- 10/08/03** — Political administrators in the South Waziristan Agency launched a crackdown on a tribe for not surrendering members accused of sheltering Al Qaeda and Taliban suspects. On the same day, during a visit to the region, Assistant Secretary of State for South Asia Rocca underscored America’s commitment to assist in the social development of Pakistan.
- 10/07/03** — U.S. Ambassador-designate to Kabul Khalilzad said that it is “critical” that Pakistan not “become a sanctuary for Taliban and Al Qaeda.”
- 10/06/03** — **Pakistani Sunni militant leader and National Assembly member Maulana Azam Tariq was shot dead** along with four others in Islamabad. Tariq had led the FTO-designate Sipah-e-Sahaba. On the same day, Deputy Secretary of State Armitage met with President Musharraf in Islamabad to review the U.S.-Pakistan strategic relationship.
- 10/03/03** — **Gunmen opened fire on a Karachi bus, killing 7 Shia Muslims** and injuring 7 others, spurring violent protests. On the same day, Pakistan test-fired a short-range missile in the country’s first ballistic missile test in nearly 6 months. A total of three missiles would be test fired in October.
- 10/02/03** — **President Bush and numerous Members of Congress met with Pakistani PM Jamali** in Washington where they discussed regional terrorism, nuclear proliferation, and the Kashmir situation, among other issues. On the same day, **the Pakistan Army reported killing 8 suspected Al Qaeda fighters** and capturing 18 others near Afghanistan.
- 09/30/03** — Deputy Secretary of State Armitage said that elements of the Pakistani security community may be reluctant to work with the United States.
- 09/28/03** — Indian PM Vajpayee said that the peace initiative with Pakistan had been damaged by President Musharraf’s remarks at the United Nations. Also, Kashmiri hardline separatist Syed Ali Shah Geelani reportedly claimed that the Lashkar-e-Taiba and Jaish-e-Mohammed terrorist groups are “friends” and “benefactors” of his organization, the Hurriyat conference.

- 09/27/03 — A bomb exploded on a Karachi bus, injuring 10.
- 09/26/03 — Indian PM Vajpayee ruled out any bilateral talks with Pakistan during the January 2004 SAARC summit in Islamabad.
- 09/25/03 — While speaking to the U.N. General Assembly, **Indian PM Vajpayee contended that Pakistan had “let terrorism become a tool of blackmail.”**
- 09/24/03 — **President Bush met with President Musharraf** in New York where he reiterated U.S. friendship and reportedly urged the Pakistani president to prevent “cross-border infiltration” into both Kashmir and Afghanistan. In his speech to the U.N. General Assembly, **Musharraf criticized the “brutal suppression of the Kashmiris” under “Indian occupation.”** On the same day, **Congress was notified of two pending majors arms sales** to Pakistan potentially worth more than \$200 million. The six air traffic control radars and 40 Bell 407 helicopters are meant to enhance Pakistan’s ability to secure its border with Afghanistan.
- 09/20/03 — Pakistani police detained 19 Islamic seminary students in Karachi. The men were Indonesian and Malaysian nationals suspected of having links with the Southeast Asian Jamaat Islamiyah terrorist network.
- 09/19/03 — Treasury Secretary Snow visited Pakistan and lauded the Islamabad government for its efforts to combat terrorist financing. On the same day, MMA members declared that they would have no further negotiations in their dispute with the Musharraf government.
- 09/18/03 — **The U.S.-Pakistan Defense Consultative Group** completed a three-day meeting in Washington where it set a schedule for joint military exercises and training, discussed how the U.S. military can assist Pakistan in improving its counterterrorism capabilities, and included a U.S. vow to expedite future security assistance.
- 09/15/03 — **The Hurriyat Conference of Kashmiri separatists formally split** after a dispute between hardliners allied with Islamabad and moderates favoring negotiation with New Delhi. On the same day, President Bush formally identified Pakistan as being among the world’s “major illicit drug producing or drug-transit countries.”
- 09/14/03 — Surging separatist violence in Kashmir reportedly killed as many as 437 civilians, Islamic militants, and Indian security men during the first two weeks of September.
- 09/12/03 — Afghan President Karzai called on Pakistani clerics to stop supporting Taliban members who seek to destabilize Afghanistan.
- 09/11/03 — Declassified documents released by the U.S. Defense Intelligence Agency suggested that **Pakistan’s intelligence agency may have provided material assistance to Al Qaeda** during the 1990s.
- 09/03/03 — **Congress was notified of a pending major arms sale** to Pakistan potentially worth \$100 million. The six air surveillance radars are meant to enhance Pakistan’s ability to support Operation Enduring Freedom.
- 09/01/03 — U.S. and Afghan forces launched new operations against remnant Taliban forces near the Pakistan border. The maneuvers appear to have been coordinated with Pakistani security forces using helicopters.
- 08/31/03 — Pakistani authorities reportedly arrested three, and perhaps as many as seven, army officers, including a lieutenant colonel, on suspicion of their having possible links with Islamic extremist groups.

- 08/27/03 — A press report stated that the International Atomic Energy Agency has implicated Pakistani companies in providing **“critical technology and parts” to Iran’s nascent nuclear weapons program.**
- 08/25/03 — Two car bombs exploded in Mumbai, India, killing 52 and spurring New Delhi to suggest a role of Pakistan-based terrorist groups in the attack.
- 08/21/03 — USAID and the Pakistani government signed a 3-year, \$38 million grant agreement to support good governance and poverty reduction initiatives in Pakistan.
- 08/19/03 — More than one year after the notification of Congress, U.S. Ambassador to Pakistan Powell announced that **Islamabad will purchase six C-130 military transport aircraft** from Lockheed Martin for approximately \$75 million under a Foreign Military Financing grant.
- 08/18/03 — USAID and the Pakistani government signed a 5-year, \$116 million grant agreement to support healthcare services for Pakistani families.
- 07/03 — **The Foreign Relations Authorization Act, FY2004-2005 (H.R. 1950) was passed by the House.** Section 709 of the Act requires the President to report to Congress on actions taken by Pakistan to close terrorist camps, prohibit infiltration at the LOC, and cease the transfer of WMD. Also, **suicide bombers attacked a Shiite mosque in Quetta, killing 53.**
- 06/03 — **President Bush hosted President Musharraf at Camp David** and praised the Pakistani leader for his country’s support in the U.S.-led anti-terrorist campaign while pledging to provide Pakistan with \$3 billion in U.S. military and economic assistance from FY2005-FY2009. Also, the MMA-ruled legislature of the NWFP passed a bill that introduces Sharia (Islamic) law in the region.
- 05/03 — **President Musharraf made a pledge to Deputy Secretary of State Armitage** that any terrorist training camps existing on Pakistani-controlled territory would be closed.
- 04/03 — After **an Indian “hand of friendship” offer**, Pakistani PM Jamali and Indian PM Vajpayee had the first direct contact between national leaders since a July 2001 summit in Agra, India.
- 03/03 — Alleged top Al Qaeda leader **Khalid Mohammed was arrested in Rawalpindi.** Also, President Bush declined to take action related to alleged Pakistani assistance to North Korea’s nuclear weapons program, and he waived coup-related sanctions on Islamabad through FY2003. **Islamabad expressed disapproval of the U.S.-led invasion of Iraq.** In Indian Kashmir, 24 Hindu villagers were killed by apparent Muslim militants. India blamed Pakistan for the attack.
- 11/02 — A fragile coalition of pro-military parties elected veteran politician Mir Zafarullah Jamali to be the Pakistan’s new prime minister, the first since Nawaz Sharif was ousted in an October 1999 military coup.
- 10/02 — **Pakistan held its first national elections** since an October 1999 military coup. Following the elections, both India and Pakistan announced major troop redeployments, signaling the end of a tense 10-month-long military face-off along their shared border.
- 09/02 — A moribund **U.S.-Pakistan security relationship** was revived when officials from both countries met in Islamabad for the first Defense Consultative Group session since 1997.

- 08/02 — **President Musharraf issued a “Legal Framework Order”** of controversial constitutional changes that greatly enhance the governance powers of both the President and the Pakistani military.
- 07/02 — Congress was notified of two pending major U.S. arms sales to Pakistan, the first since FY1990. The C-130 aircraft and Aerostat surveillance radars are meant to bolster Islamabad’s counterterrorism capabilities.
- 06/02 — Intense international diplomatic pressure — including multiple visits to the region by senior U.S. government officials — apparently persuaded India to refrain from taking military action against Pakistan. Key to the effort were **promises by Pakistani President Musharraf to U.S. Deputy Secretary of State Armitage** that all infiltration of militants across the LOC would be halted. Also, a car bomb exploded outside the U.S. consulate in Karachi, killing 12 Pakistani nationals. The attack was blamed on Islamic radicals who may have had links to Al Qaeda.
- 05/02 — **A terrorist attack on an Indian army base in Jammu and Kashmir killed 34**, mostly women and children. New Delhi blamed the attack on the “cross-border terrorism” of Pakistani-sponsored militants and vowed to fight a “decisive war” against Pakistan. Also, a car bomb killed 14, including 11 French military technicians, at a Karachi hotel. The attack was blamed on Islamic radicals who may have had links to Al Qaeda.
- 04/02 — **A controversial referendum** ostensibly legitimized Gen. Musharraf’s status as Pakistani President.
- Spring — U.S. military and law enforcement personnel began engaging in direct, but low-profile efforts to assist Pakistani forces in tracking and apprehending fugitive Al Qaeda and Taliban fighters on Pakistani territory.
- 03/02 — The U.S. military’s Operation Anaconda in Afghanistan’s eastern mountains reportedly prompted two waves of up to 5,000 Al Qaeda fighters fleeing into Pakistan.
- 01/02 — **President Musharraf delivered a landmark address** in which he vowed to end all Islamic extremism and terrorist activity originating from Pakistani soil. Also, *Wall Street Journal* reporter Daniel Pearl was kidnaped by Islamic radicals in Karachi and was later found dead.
- 12/01 — **A terrorist attack on the Indian Parliament complex in New Delhi killed 14**. New Delhi blamed the attack on Pakistani-backed Islamic militants and began a large military mobilization. Also, the United States designated two Pakistan-based militant groups — Lashkar-e-Taiba and Jaish-e-Mohammed — as Foreign Terrorist Organizations under U.S. law.
- 10/01 — **A terrorist attack on the assembly building in Indian Kashmir killed 34**. India blamed the attack on Pakistan-backed separatist militants.
- 09/01 — Terrorist attacks on the United States, and ensuing U.S. diplomatic pressure, transformed the Pakistan-U.S. relationship, spurring the Islamabad government to **sever ties with the Afghan Taliban and join in the U.S.-led anti-terrorism campaign** as a key front-line state. Within six weeks, all remaining proliferation- and democracy-related restrictions on U.S. aid to Pakistan were removed or waived, and large amounts of U.S. economic and military assistance began flowing into the country.