

CRS Report for Congress

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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.

08/01/03 — Government officials from Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, and Afghanistan signed a protocol that would allow these countries to access Pakistani ports. On the same day, Noor Fatima, a Pakistani toddler who had traveled to India for heart surgery and became a “peace icon” in the process, returned home.

07/31/03 — Pakistan and India agreed to dates in late August to discuss the resumption of air links and overflight rights.

07/30/03 — Indian Defense Minister Fernandes indicated that “The situation along the LOC remains unchanged,” and he claimed that about 3,000 “terrorists” were being trained in camps on the Pakistani side. On the same day, India’s Junior Home Minister accused the Pakistani intelligence agency of “making attempts to revive militancy in Punjab.”

Acronyms

ASEAN: Association of Southeast Asian Nations
LOC: Kashmiri Line of Control
MMA: Muttahida Majlis-e-Amal (or United Action Front), a coalition of six Islamist political parties
NWFP: North West Frontier Province
SAARC: South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation
WMD: weapons of mass destruction

¹ Sources include, but are not limited to, USIS Washington File, *New York Times*, *Washington Post*, BBC News, Reuters News, Agence France-Presse, *Dawn* (Karachi), *Daily Times* (Lahore), *News International* (Karachi), *Hindu* (Madras), and *Hindustan Times* (Delhi).

- 07/29/03** — U.S. Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff Gen. Myers arrived in Islamabad for meetings with senior Pakistani military officials. While there, he called the Pakistani armed forces “very competent” and said that the future of U.S.-Pakistan defense cooperation is “very bright.”
- 07/27/03** — Talks between the government and the MMA Islamist coalition ended without finding a resolution of the ongoing dispute over President Musharraf’s controversial 2002 constitutional amendments or his status as Army Chief.
- 07/26/03** — A spokesman for the Pakistani Foreign Ministry accused India of “trying to disrupt relations between Pakistan and Afghanistan” through the organization and financing of terrorists acts by its consulates in Afghanistan. On the same day, U.S. Ambassador to India Blackwill said, “There are still terrorists coming across the [Kashmiri] Line of Control.”
- 07/25/03** — A spate of violence in the Kashmir region left 23 people dead, including 13 killed by Indian troops along the disputed border with Pakistan. On the same day, Indian Foreign Minister Sinha said that “Pakistan’s links with terrorism have not ended” and that “there cannot be meaningful dialogue at any level” if terrorist attacks continue to take place in Kashmir. Also, 16 Members of Congress sent a letter to President Bush outlining their concerns about Pakistan’s progress in the areas of nonproliferation, anti-terrorism, and democratization.
- 07/24/03** — The United Nations suspended staff travel to Pakistan’s North West Frontier Province after gunmen attacked one of their staff cars. On the same day, a flight carrying 75 Pakistanis deported from the United States arrived in Islamabad.
- 07/23/03** — The new head of the U.S. Central Command, Gen. Abizaid, traveled to Islamabad to meet with senior Pakistani leaders, including President Musharraf, whom he thanked for Pakistan’s “excellent cooperation” in anti-terrorism efforts. On the same day, an Israeli press report claimed that Iran received uranium enrichment technology from Pakistan during the 1990s.
- 07/22/03** — Militants attacked an Indian army camp in Kashmir, killing 7 soldiers. New Delhi blamed the attack on the Pakistan-based Lashkar-i-Taiba terrorist group. On the same day, India’s Junior Home Minister indicated that there had been no significant change in “terrorist activities” in Kashmir as compared to 2002.
- 07/21/03** — A spokesman for the Pakistani Foreign Ministry stated that Pakistan had not made a final decision on sending troops to Iraq, indicating that Islamabad was willing to contribute forces “under legitimate cover of the United Nations or if we are invited by the Iraqis.” On the same day, at least 7 Hindu pilgrims were killed and another 20 injured by explosions in Indian Kashmir.
- 07/20/03** — Acting Commander of Coalition Forces in Afghanistan Gen. Hagenbeck said that “hundreds” of Taliban fighters have crossed into Afghanistan from Pakistan, and that regrouped Taliban forces are being supported by Al Qaeda operatives.
- 07/19/03** — A press report indicated that two rounds of talks between senior Pakistani and Chinese military officials included an agreement to hold joint naval exercises. These would be the first-ever such exercises involving China and any foreign navy.

- 07/18/03** — During an unusual week-long visit to India in which he met with top Indian officials, Pakistani Opposition Leader and top Islamist politician Maulana Fazlur Rehman said that the 1972 Simla Agreement between Pakistan and India could serve as a “guiding principle” for bilateral dispute resolution.
- 07/17/03** — Assistant Secretary of State for South Asia Rocca stated that the United States “has accepted that [Pakistan and India] have nuclear weapons” and believes that “the government of Pakistan is in control of its nuclear assets.” She also said Pakistan “needs conventional weapons” and the United States “would like to help [Pakistan] acquire” them. On the same day, the United States freed 11 of the 54 Pakistani nationals who were being held at the Guantanamo Bay prison facility.
- 07/16/03** — H.R. 1950 (the Foreign Relations Authorization Act) was passed by the House. Sec. 709 of the Act requires the President to report to Congress on actions taken by Pakistan to close terrorist camps, prohibit infiltration at the Kashmiri Line of Control, and cease the transfer of WMD to any third parties.
- 07/15/03** — The Tripartite Commission of officials from the United States, Pakistan, and Afghanistan met in Kabul to discuss ongoing efforts to stabilize the Pakistan-Afghanistan border region. On the same day, President Musharraf linked Pakistani diplomatic recognition of Israel with a settlement of the Palestinian issue.
- 07/14/03** — Indian Foreign Secretary Sibal said that India will attend a SAARC summit meeting of regional leaders scheduled to be held in Islamabad in January 2004, though he did not say if India would be represented by PM Vajpayee. On the same day, at least 21 people were killed in separatist-related violence in Kashmir.
- 07/13/03** — The government of Baluchistan established an Islamist legal council.
- 07/11/03** — In a sign of warming bilateral relations, the first Indian bus to Pakistan in 18 months crossed the border on its way to Lahore. On the same day, two people were killed when a bomb exploded outside a Karachi office building.
- 07/08/03** — The U.N. Counter-Terrorism Committee issued a report that expressed concerns about charities linked to Al Qaeda being allowed to continue operating schools and other cultural institutions in Pakistan. On the same day several hundred Afghans in Kabul ransacked the Pakistani embassy in an attack that Pakistani officials called premeditated.
- 07/07/03** — Afghanistan’s President Karzai expressed anger at the Pakistani President for comments suggesting that Karzai was not in full control of his government.
- 07/04/03** — Suicide bombers attacked a Shiite mosque in Quetta, killing at least 53. PM Jamali suggested that “foreign elements” were to blame, but later indications show that the indigenous Lashkar-i-Jhangvi, a Sunni militant group, was responsible.
- 07/02/03** — Pakistani authorities arrested two Islamic militants, including an alleged leader of the outlawed Jaish-e-Mohammed terrorist group, who are suspected of masterminding attacks on Pakistani Christians in 2002 that left 11 dead.
- 07/01/03** — The pro-Pakistan Kashmiri separatist Hizbul Mujahideen said they were “ready to extend cooperation” to the nascent Pakistan-India peace process.

- On the same day, Pakistani police arrested a commander of the outlawed Jaish-e-Mohammed terrorist group. Abdul Jabbar is believed to have organized two separate anti-Christian attacks that left 11 dead.
- 06/30/03** — Pakistan's new High Commissioner arrived in New Delhi, restoring diplomatic links that were severed in December 2001. On the same day, a Pakistani court sentenced three Islamic militants to death for their roles in a May 2002 car bombing in Karachi that killed 11 French military technicians.
- 06/29/03** — President Musharraf called for a national debate on the issue of Pakistan's potential diplomatic recognition of Israel.
- 06/28/03** — Two suspected separatist militants attacked an army camp in Indian Kashmir, killing 12 soldiers and wounding another 7. The Indian government called the attack "part of the Pakistan-sponsored proxy war in Kashmir."
- 06/27/03** — The F.B.I. arrested 11 men in three eastern U.S. states for preparing for "violent jihad" against foreign targets in Kashmir. Reports indicate that the group had close ties to the outlawed Pakistan-based Lashkar-e-Taiba terrorist group, and that at least 7 had received militant training in Pakistan.
- 06/26/03** — A leader of a Pakistani Islamist party expressed support for armed resistance by local tribal groups against Pakistani army troops that are seeking to extend the government's control over border areas near Afghanistan.
- 06/25/03** — The United States and Pakistan signed a Trade and Investment Framework Agreement and a Science and Technology Cooperation Agreement. On the same day, President Musharraf accepted "in principle" a U.S. request that Pakistan contribute peacekeeping troops to an Iraqi "stabilization force."
- 06/24/03** — 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.
- 06/23/03** — Unusually lethal violence killed 16 and wounded 40 in Indian Kashmir. On the same day, Pakistani authorities arrested five Islamic militants, including "most-wanted" members of the outlawed Lashkar-i-Jhangvi terrorist group.
- 06/21/03** — U.S., Afghani, and Pakistani troops launched a major operation aimed at halting Taliban activity near the Afghanistan-Pakistan border.
- 06/20/03** — Islamabad froze the assets of 15 organizations and individuals with alleged ties to Osama bin Laden and Pakistani terrorist groups.
- 06/19/03** — A former U.S. Special Envoy to Afghanistan testified before Congress that some elements of Pakistan's intelligence service were "assist[ing] radical Afghan groups mounting attacks into Afghanistan from bases in Pakistan."
- 06/18/03** — Pakistani authorities arrested five suspected Al Qaeda members in a wealthy neighborhood of Peshawar. Algerian Adil al-Jazeera is believed to be a long-time aide to Osama bin Laden. On the same day, India blocked Pakistan's bid to join the ASEAN Regional Forum, and Indian PM Vajpayee stated that Pakistan is "preparing for a fourth defeat" in its historic conflict with India.

- 06/17/03** — Senior American, Pakistani, and Afghani military officers met in Islamabad to establish a commission in an effort to halt raids into Afghanistan from Pakistan by Taliban and other militants. On the same day, ten Indian parliamentarians arrived in Pakistan on an 8-day “peace mission.”
- 06/14/03** — The Pakistani Parliament approved a \$14 billion budget in a session boycotted by the opposition MMA Islamist parties.
- 06/13/03** — The U.S. Ambassador to India stated that, “Terrorism emanating from Pakistan [to India] has not ended.”
- 06/08/03** — Gunmen attacked Pakistani police recruits near Quetta, killing 11 and injuring 9, most of them Shiites. On the same day, in response to Islamist legislation passed in the North West Frontier Province, President Musharraf stated that, “The people of Pakistan do not want a theocratic state and are strongly opposed to the Talibanization of society.”
- 06/03/03** — A high-level meeting chaired by President Musharraf threatened to take “constitutional measures” if the NWFP government fails to improve the law and order situation there. On the same day, a Pew Center opinion poll found that 72% of Pakistanis were “very worried” or “somewhat worried” about a perceived military threat from the United States, and that 45% had at least “some confidence” in Osama bin Laden’s ability to “do the right thing regarding world affairs.”
- 06/02/03** — The MMA-ruled legislature of the NWFP passed a bill that introduces Sharia (Islamic) law in the region. They plan to follow the move with the creation of a Department of Vice and Virtue to implement the new laws. On the same day, while visiting Islamabad, F.B.I. Director Mueller met with President Musharraf and other top officials to discuss ongoing Pakistan-U.S. anti-terrorism cooperation.
- 04/03** — Pakistani PM Jamali and Indian PM Vajpayee had the first direct contact between national leaders since the 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 (the United States imposed sanctions on Pakistan’s Khan Research Laboratories for its role in receiving missile-related technology from North Korea). 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. The pro-military PML-Q party won a plurality of parliamentary seats while an Islamist coalition made a surprisingly strong showing in the western provinces. The secular PPP of former PM Bhutto was shut out of both the national and provincial coalitions. 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 Cooperation 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 U.S. arms sales to Pakistan, the first in more than a decade. The 7 C-130 aircraft and 6 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 Line of Control 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, outside 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, though Musharraf later apologized to the nation for acknowledged irregularities in the process.
- 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 apparently 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 massive 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 Afghani Taliban and join in the U.S.-led anti-terrorism campaign as a key front-line state. Within one month, 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.