

CRS Report for Congress

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Pakistan: Chronology of Recent Events

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Summary

This report provides a reverse chronology of recent events involving Pakistan and Pakistan-U.S. relations. Sources include, but are not limited to, the U.S. Department of State, *New York Times*, *Washington Post*, *Dawn* (Karachi), *Daily Times* (Lahore), *News International* (Karachi), and major newswires. For a substantive review, see CRS Issue Brief IB94041, *Pakistan-U.S. Relations*. This report will be updated regularly.

- 07/25/05** — **President Musharraf said Al Qaeda's former Pakistan sanctuaries had been overrun and destroyed.** On the same day, Islamabad expressed a desire to expand Pakistan-U.S. cooperation in the areas of nuclear energy, civilian space research, and high technology. Also, a team of Pakistani experts began inspecting the site of a controversial Indian dam project on the Chenab River in Baghliar, Kashmir.
- 07/24/05** — **Prime Minister Aziz visited Kabul**, where he vowed "seamless cooperation" with the Afghan government in fighting terrorism and Islamic extremism.
- 07/22/05** — More than 2,000 supporters of the MMA Islamist coalition rallied in Islamabad to protest the government's recent crackdown on religious extremists. Smaller rallies were held in other Pakistani cities. On the same day, gunmen killed nine tribesmen, including two pro-government tribal elders, in separate attacks in South Waziristan. The elders had been assisting army efforts to hunt fugitive Islamic militants in the region.
- 07/21/05** — **President Musharraf gave a televised speech to the nation** in which he denounced the 7/7 London bombings as "unIslamic" and again vowed to combat religious extremism. He also acknowledged that some Pakistani madrassas (religious schools) "are involved in extremism and terrorism" and insisted that all madrassas register with the government by year's end. **More than 200 suspected Islamic extremists were arrested** in nationwide sweeps over a period of several days.

Acronyms:

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| LOC: | Line of Control (Kashmir) |
| MMA: | Muttahida Majlis-e-Amal |
| NWFP: | North West Frontier Province |
| PPP: | Pakistan People's Party |

- 07/20/05** — The House-passed version of the Foreign Relations Authorization Act, FY2006 and FY2007 (**H.R. 2601**) would require the President to report to Congress on the extent to which a “fully functional democracy” has been restored in Pakistan. On the same day, the Senate-passed version of the Foreign Operations FY2006 Appropriations bill (**H.R. 3057**) would require the Secretary of State report to Congress on steps taken by Pakistan to protect the rights and safety of Pakistani human rights lawyers and journalists. Also, India’s prime minister warned that rising violence in Kashmir could jeopardize the Pakistan-India peace talks. Finally, the Pakistan-based Hizbul Mujahideen terrorist group claimed responsibility for a car bomb attack in Indian Kashmir that killed five Indian soldiers and one civilian.
- 07/19/05** — U.S. Ambassador to Pakistan Crocker said the United States and Pakistan “need to have a long-term strategic partnership, as the *9/11 Commission Report* suggests.” On the same day, police in Lahore reportedly detained seven members of the outlawed Lashkar-e-Jhangvi and Jaish-e-Mohammed terrorist groups while investigating possible Pakistani links to the 7/7 London bombings.
- 07/18/05** — **Pakistani officials confirmed that three of the four suspects in the 7/7 London bombings had visited Pakistan during the past year.** On the same day, the Commander of U.S. Central Command, Gen. Abizaid, visited Islamabad to meet with President Musharraf and other top Pakistani military officers. Also, Pakistani intelligence agents reportedly arrested five Taliban leaders, including a deputy to Mullah Omar.
- 07/17/05** — **Pakistani soldiers conducting a search operation killed 17 suspected militants in North Waziristan** near the Afghan border. Up to 15 of the dead were reported to be women and children, some of whom may have participated in the fight as combatants.
- 07/16/05** — Thirteen suspected separatist militants were killed by Indian security forces after they reportedly crossed into Indian Kashmir from Pakistani territory. On the same day, security forces in the Punjab province arrested ten suspected militants, including alleged members of the Jaish-e-Mohammed terrorist group.
- 07/15/05** — **U.S. forces based in Afghanistan exchanged rocket and heavy weapons fire with militants just across the border in Pakistan,** killing 24 of them. Thousands of Pakistani tribesmen later denounced the U.S. action and Pakistan later told the United States that border violations would not be tolerated. On the same day, President Musharraf asked the Supreme Court to declare the NWFP’s Hasba law unconstitutional.
- 07/14/05** — **President Musharraf ordered a new crackdown on extremist and terrorist elements.** On the same day, **legislators in the NWFP provincial assembly passed a Hasba (or accountability) bill** that some fear will Talibanize the province through creation of a parallel Islamic legal body. The provincial governor, who represents the federal government, called the bill unconstitutional and vowed to block it. Also, a top Pakistani army commander in North Waziristan warned tribal elders of imminent military action if they did not hand over wanted foreign militants. Finally, nine suspected separatist militants were killed by Indian security forces in a lengthy gunbattle after they reportedly crossed into Indian Kashmir from Pakistani territory.

- 07/13/05 — **H.Res. 353**, expressing U.S. support for India-Pakistan cooperation on the construction of natural gas pipelines, was introduced in the House. On the same day, talks between Pakistani and Indian officials ended with a “serious commitment” to begin work on a \$4-4.5 billion pipeline that would deliver Iranian gas through Pakistan to India. Also, India’s foreign secretary said that the continued existence of “the infrastructure of terrorism” on Pakistani soil and the continued infiltration of Islamic militants into Indian Kashmir could hamper the bilateral peace process.
- 07/12/05 — India’s external affairs minister said he had provided “photographic evidence” that terrorist camps exist on Pakistani territory.
- 07/10/05 — Leading Islamist politician and opposition figure Maulana Fazlur Rehman said the recently signed U.S.-India defense pact would create instability and create a war-like situation in South Asia. On the same day, suspected Taliban fighters ambushed an Afghan army patrol near the Pakistan border and beheaded ten Afghan soldiers. Also, *Herald* magazine reported that several militant training camps have re-opened on Pakistani territory.
- 07/08/05 — A senior leader of Pakistan’s MMA Islamist political coalition suggested that Western governments may have “engineered” the 7/7 London bombings. On the same day, four suspected separatist militants and four Indian soldiers were killed in gunbattles near the Kashmiri LOC.
- 07/07/05 — **Pakistan expressed concern that a new U.S.-India defense framework agreement could lead to “induction of advanced weapons systems into the region” and “destabilize strategic balance” there.** Secretary of State Rice later told Foreign Minister Kasuri that the United States will “remain responsive to Pakistan’s security concerns.” On the same day, Pakistan and Iran signed an agreement to build a pipeline that is to deliver Iranian natural gas to Pakistan by 2009. Also, India’s prime minister said that repeated terrorist attacks have the potential to disrupt the India-Pakistan peace process. Finally, masked gunmen shot and killed a Pakistani intelligence officer in North Waziristan.
- 07/06/05 — Pakistan said it would deploy an additional 4,000 troops to its border with Afghanistan, bringing the total to some 80,000. On the same day, Pakistani troops clashed with suspected militants in North Waziristan, leaving at least one soldier dead.
- 07/05/05 — A convoy carrying Pakistan’s Ambassador to Iraq was attacked by gunmen in Baghdad. On the same day, Pakistan’s interior minister ruled out the possibility that Osama bin Laden was in Pakistan and suggested the Al Qaeda founder may be in southern Afghanistan.
- 07/02/05 — Six suspected separatist militants were killed by Indian security forces after they reportedly crossed into Indian Kashmir from Pakistani territory.
- 06/30/05 — In **S.Rept. 109-96**, the Senate Appropriations Committee expressed concern with “the slow pace of the democratic development of Pakistan.”
- 06/29/05 — **Talks between Indian and Pakistani officials seeking to resolve a water dispute over the Wullar Barrage ended in deadlock.**
- 06/28/05 — Pakistan’s Supreme Court ordered the re-arrest of 13 men previously acquitted in an infamous gang rape case involving Mukhtaran Mai.
- 06/27/05 — India’s defense minister denied that the India-Pakistan peace process was “entrenched” and claimed that the “infrastructure for terrorism in Pakistan and Pakistani-controlled territory remains.” On the same day, militants in

- North Waziristan issued anonymous threats against any tribal leaders who “spy for the United States.”
- 06/25/05** — Heavy fighting in southern Afghanistan near the Pakistan border reportedly left 178 Taliban fighters dead over a three-day period, but top Taliban leaders apparently escaped the area.
- 06/23/05** — President Musharraf reiterated Pakistan’s full support for the government of Afghan President Karzai. On the same day, a prominent Sunni cleric was killed by unidentified gunmen in Karachi.
- 06/21/05** — President Bush telephoned President Musharraf to discuss tensions between Pakistan and Afghanistan after Afghan President Karzai asked Musharraf to halt the infiltration of insurgents across the Afghan-Pakistan border. Some senior Afghan leaders have said top Taliban leaders are in Pakistan. On the same day, the United States and Pakistan began a week-long joint naval exercise in the Arabia Sea.
- 06/20/05** — Afghan authorities reported arresting three Pakistani nationals minutes before they planned to kill the U.S. Ambassador to Afghanistan in Kabul.
- 06/19/05** — **Director of Central Intelligence Goss told an interviewer that he had “an excellent idea of where [Osama bin Laden] is”** while suggesting that “dealing with sanctuaries in sovereign states” presented a problem.
- 06/18/05** — Muslim clerics and “thousands” of Taliban in South Waziristan reportedly marked the first anniversary of militant leader Nek Mohammed’s death by vowing to continue their jihad against America.
- 06/17/05** — President Musharraf reportedly said he had imposed travel restrictions on gang rape victim Mukhtaran Mai to protect Pakistan’s image from Western nongovernmental organizations which are “as bad as the Islamic extremists.”
- 06/16/05** — **Outgoing U.S. Ambassador to Afghanistan Khalilzad said that Osama bin Laden and Taliban chief Mullah Omar were not in Afghanistan.** Islamabad rejected suggestions that Omar was in Pakistan. On the same day, Assistant Secretary of State for Arms Control Rademaker said “it would be a mistake to proceed with this [Iran-Pakistan-India] pipeline” as it would generate revenue that Iran would use “for funding its weapons of mass destruction program and for supporting terrorist activities.”
- 06/15/05** — Addressing the case of gang rape victim Mukhtaran Mai, a State Department spokesman said, “The United States expects Pakistan’s leaders to honor their pledge to protect the basic human rights of their citizens, including freedom to travel.” Islamabad said Mai had been removed from the Exit Control List and was free to travel abroad. A *New York Times* editorial criticized President Musharraf for his government’s handling of the case, which BBC News later called “a public relations disaster” and a leading Pakistani commentator called “a monumental blunder.” On the same day, a leading Kashmiri separatist, a former Pakistani army chief, and the PPP made separate **accusations that Pakistani Information Minister Rashid operated a training camp for Kashmiri separatist militants during the 1980s.** New Delhi later informed Islamabad that Rashid would not be allowed to travel across the Kashmiri LOC due to the allegations. Also, **a senior fugitive Taliban leader appeared on Pakistani television** to claim that Osama bin Laden and Taliban chief Mullah Omar were both alive and in good health.

- 06/14/05** — During a **House International Relations Committee hearing on the United States and South Asia**, Assistant Secretary of State for South Asia Christina Rocca said that Pakistan is set “on the path of becoming a moderate, prosperous and democratic state.” Several Members in attendance spoke against a U.S. policy of selling combat aircraft to South Asian countries, and expressed concerns about the state of democracy in Pakistan and about the nuclear proliferation network of A.Q. Khan. One expert witness warned about Pakistan’s “dysfunctional social order, its dangerous sectarianism and its distorted political system,” saying the country had achieved “sustainable failure.” All three witnesses endorsed resumed U.S. sales of F-16 fighters to Pakistan. On the same day, President Musharraf visited Canberra, where Pakistan and Australia agreed to bolster bilateral counterterrorism efforts.
- 06/10/05** — A court ordered the release of 12 men imprisoned in connection with the 2002 gang rape of Mukhtaran Mai. Mai later complained that the government was preventing her from moving freely or leaving the country to accept an invitation to visit the United States.
- 06/09/05** — During a visit to Washington, Foreign Minister Kasuri suggested that Pakistan could claim more successes in combating terrorism than any other country, but he emphasized that military means alone will not end the problem and opined that the “sense of deprivation will have to be tackled.” On the same day, Secretary of State Rice told an interviewer that “Pakistan has to make inroads on democracy.” Also, during a visit to Pakistan, moderate Indian Kashmiri separatist leader Mirwaiz Umer Farooq urged interested parties to “move beyond” UN resolutions that call for a plebiscite in the disputed region.
- 06/06/05** — **Pakistan’s annual federal budget** allocated a total of \$18.4 billion, including \$4.6 billion for public sector development (up 35% over the previous year) and \$3.7 billion for defense (up 15% over the previous year). Opposition parties and some analysts called increased defense spending unnecessary and claimed the budget will further impoverish the poor. On the same day, **a Pakistan-American and his father were arrested** in California on charges of lying to FBI agents about their alleged involvement in terrorist training in Pakistan.
- 06/05/05** — President Musharraf visited Doha, where Pakistan and Qatar agreed to expedite initial work on a proposed gas pipeline linking the two countries.
- 06/03/05** — **The U.S. State Department’s annual *Trafficking in Persons Report*** said that “Pakistan does not fully comply with the minimum standards for the elimination of trafficking; however, it is making significant efforts to do so,” and it removed Pakistan from the “Tier 2 Watch List” in recognition of progress.
- 06/02/05** — **Leaders of the moderate faction of the Hurriyat Conference of Kashmiri separatist groups began an unprecedented visit to Pakistan.** On the same day, talks between Pakistani and Indian officials to resolve a dispute over India’s Kishanganga dam project ended in deadlock.
- 06/01/05** — Prime Minister Aziz visited Ankara, where Pakistan and Turkey agreed to increase defense trade and cooperation.
- 05/31/05** — President Musharraf said that captured Al Qaeda suspect Abu Faraj al-Libbi had been remanded to U.S. custody.

- 05/30/05 — **Suicide bombers killed themselves and at least two other people, and injured 20 more**, in an apparent sectarian attack on a Shiite mosque in Karachi. An enraged crowd of some 1,000 Shias rioted, killing at least six more people. On the same day, **India’s prime minister said, “Not enough has been done [by Pakistan] to dismantle the infrastructure of terrorism, which is still intact.”** Also, gunmen shot and killed a senior leader of the Jamaat-e-Islami party in Karachi.
- 05/29/05 — **Talks between Pakistani and Indian officials seeking to resolve a territorial dispute over the Sir Creek ended in deadlock.** On the same day, suspected militants shot and killed a key tribal ally of the government in South Waziristan.
- 05/27/05 — **A suicide bomber killed 20 people and injured up to 100 more** in an apparent sectarian attack on a Muslim shrine in Islamabad. On the same day, **talks between Pakistani and Indian officials seeking to resolve a militarized dispute over the Siachen Glacier ended in deadlock.**
- 05/22/05 — **Rockets fired by a U.S. helicopter reportedly killed five Pakistanis** in a North Waziristan town one kilometer from the Afghan border.
- 05/19/05 — Two U.S. citizens of Pakistani origin claimed that they had been detained in Pakistan for nine months, and were beaten by Pakistani agents and interrogated by F.B.I. agents before being released without charges.
- 05/16/05 — A U.S. Army colonel said that **insurgents continue to cross into Afghanistan to attack U.S.-led forces** there before returning to Pakistan.
- 05/14/05 — Press reports claimed that a U.S. Predator drone had fired a missile on Pakistani territory, killing suspected Al Qaeda explosives expert Haithem al-Yemeni. Pakistan denied the reports. On the same day, police in Lahore used force to disperse a group of human rights activists who had staged a “mixed marathon” including men and women.
- 05/11/05 — An emergency supplemental appropriations bill became **P.L. 109-13**. The bill allows that up to \$1.22 billion in Pentagon funds be used to reimburse Pakistan and other key cooperating nations for their support of U.S. military operations. On the same day, the U.S. Commission on International Religious Freedom released an annual report which claimed that, “The response of the government of Pakistan to persistent and religiously motivated violence in Pakistan continues to be inadequate.”
- 05/10/05 — After consulting with the Indian and Pakistani governments, **the World Bank named a Swiss engineer to serve as Neutral Expert** to address the dispute over a dam India is constructing in Baghliar, Kashmir.
- 05/06/05 — **The Pentagon notified Congress of two possible Foreign Military Sales to Pakistan** worth up to \$226 million. The deals involve 300 Sidewinder air-to-air missiles and 60 Harpoon anti-ship missiles.
- 05/04/05 — **The Islamabad government announced having captured Abu Faraj al-Libbi**, a Libyan native wanted in connection with lethal attempts to assassinate President Musharraf in December 2003.
- 05/03/05 — Police in Islamabad and Lahore used batons to break up gatherings of journalists marking World Press Freedom Day.
- 04/27/05 — **The U.S. State Department released its *Country Reports on Terrorism 2004***, which called Pakistan one of the most important U.S. partners in the war on terrorism and said Pakistan in 2004 achieved notable gains in efforts to combat terrorism.