

# CRS Report for Congress

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## Pakistan: Chronology of Recent Events

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### Summary

This report provides a chronology of recent events involving Pakistan and Pakistan-U.S. relations. Sources include, but are not limited to, major newswires, the U.S. Department of State, and Pakistani news outlets. For a substantive review, see CRS Issue Brief IB94041, *Pakistan-U.S. Relations*. This report will be updated regularly.

- 04/07/06** — The United States earmarked another \$13 million for Pakistan earthquake relief. On the same day, some 10,000 of tribesmen rallied in northwest Pakistan to demand the military's withdrawal from the region.
- 04/06/06** — A prominent Shiite cleric narrowly escaped assassination when a bomb exploded near his car in Karachi. The Sunni militant Sipah-e-Sahaba terrorist group, whose members staged a public rally the same day, is suspected of involvement.
- 04/05/06** — During a visit to Islamabad, Assistant Secretary of State Boucher told an interviewer the United States would like to see a more stable, open, democratic, and prosperous Pakistani society, and he encouraged better Pakistani-Afghan cooperation to defeat the "common enemy" of Islamic extremists in the shared border area. On the same day, up to 44 people, including 4 Pakistani soldiers and 40 Islamic militants, were killed in ongoing fighting in North Waziristan.
- 04/03/06** — Interior Minister Sherpao visited Washington for meetings with U.S. officials. On the same day, up to 11 people, including 3 women, died in ongoing fighting in North Waziristan.
- 04/02/06** — Landmine explosions killed up to 13 people, including 7 police officers, in Baluchistan. On the same day, a Pakistani soldier and two civilians were killed in ongoing fighting in North Waziristan.
- 04/01/06** — Sri Lankan President Rajapakse ended a visit to Islamabad, where Pakistan and Sri Lanka agreed to bolster bilateral cooperation in a wide range of areas.

#### Acronyms:

**MMA:** Muttahida Majlis-e-Amal  
**PML:** Pakistan Muslim League

- 03/31/06 — Suspected tribal militants blew up four electrical towers in Baluchistan, leaving 80% of the province without power.
- 03/30/06 — **U.S. soldiers ended their Pakistan earthquake relief mission**, the largest such mission since the 1948 Berlin Airlift. On the same day, stray mortar fire killed a woman and a child in North Waziristan. Also, the Pakistan Air Force inducted four women pilots for the first time.
- 03/29/06 — Commerce Minister Khan said that better access to U.S. markets through tariff reduction would help to fight extremism in Pakistan, claiming that each \$1 billion in Pakistani garment exports provides a liveable income for 1.2 million people. On the same day, the Pakistani and Indian commerce secretaries held a third round on Composite Dialogue talks on bilateral economic and commercial cooperation. Also, terrorist leader Maulana Fazlur Rehman Khalil was abducted and severely beaten by unidentified gunmen near Islamabad.
- 03/28/06 — **H.R. 5017**, to insure the implementation of the recommendations of the 9/11 Commission, was introduced in the House. The bill contains Pakistan-related provisions. On the same day, a bomb blast in Peshawar killed 1 person and injured 15 others just hours after the U.S. Consulate there had closed due to security concerns. Also, at least 25 people were killed and 30 injured in clashes between followers of two rival clerics in the North West Frontier Province.
- 03/27/06 — The Human Rights Commission of Pakistan claimed the “total breakdown in the law and order situation across the country means that the life of no citizen is safe.”
- 03/26/06 — Gunbattles in Dera Bugti, Baluchistan left a Pakistani soldier and two militants dead.
- 03/25/06 — Police in Quetta arrested 57 tribesmen in connection with recent bomb and rocket attacks in Baluchistan.
- 03/24/06 — In a speech marking **the launch of a new bus service** linking Amritsar, India with Nankana Sahib, Pakistan, **Indian Prime Minister Singh said “India sincerely believes that a strong, stable, prosperous, and moderate Pakistan is in the interest of India,”** and he envisioned someday entering into a Treaty of Peace, Security, and Friendship with Islamabad. Pakistan cautiously welcomed the comments while insisting that Kashmir remained the “heart of conflict, mistrust, and hostility” between India and Pakistan. On the same day, Pakistani troops backed by helicopter gunships continued battling Islamic militants in North Waziristan, reportedly killing 18.
- 03/23/06 — President Musharraf demanded that all foreign militants leave Pakistan or “be crushed.” On the same day, Pakistan formally protested the killing of at least 14 Pakistanis by Afghan soldiers in southern Afghanistan. Also, a bomb blast in Kohlu, Baluchistan, killed 1 person and injured 13 more.
- 03/22/06 — Top Pakistani law enforcement officials met with their Indian counterparts to discuss increased cooperation in areas of mutual concern. On the same day, a pro-government cleric was assassinated in South Waziristan.
- 03/21/06 — Tests confirmed **Pakistan’s first N5N1 avian flu infections**. On the same day, the Chairman of the U.S. Joint chiefs of Staff, Gen. Pace, visited earthquake-affected areas in Pakistan. Also, Pakistan test-fired a cruise missile for the second time.

- 03/20/06** — Foreign Minister Kasuri told the Pakistani Senate that “Pakistan will not accept any discriminatory treatment” and the United States “must have a package approach while dealing with India and Pakistan” with regard to civil nuclear cooperation. Kasuri later called the U.S.-India deal a “one-sided bargain” that is inconsistent with Washington’s professions of friendship with Islamabad. On the same day, during a visit to Washington, Afghan Foreign Minister Abdullah claimed that pro-Taliban militants continue to train and hide in Pakistan’s tribal areas.
- 03/19/06** — A two-week, U.S.-sponsored Pakistani-Afghan border security seminar began in Germany. On the same day, suspected Islamic militants blew up a police vehicle in northwest Pakistan near North Waziristan, killing seven people and injuring another five.
- 03/17/06** — President Musharraf said that the pending U.S.-India civil nuclear cooperation deal would “upset the balance of power” in South Asia and Pakistan’s Ambassador to the United States reportedly requested a “package deal” that would allow for U.S. civil nuclear cooperation with both Pakistan and India. On the same day, some 20,000 people rallied in Lahore to protest against the publication of blasphemous cartoons in European newspapers.
- 03/16/06** — The House passed an emergency supplemental appropriations bill (**H.R. 4939**), including a provision allowing that up to \$1.2 billion in Pentagon funds may be used to reimburse Pakistan and other key cooperating nations for their support of U.S. military operations. On the same day, President Bush’s 2006 *National Security Strategy of the United States* stated, “We are eager to see Pakistan move along a stable, secure, and democratic path,” adding, “America’s relationship with Pakistan will not be a mirror image of our relationship with India.”
- 03/15/06** — At least 14 people, most of them schoolgirls, were injured when a bomb exploded in Quetta.
- 03/14/06** — Officials from Pakistan, India, and Iran met in Tehran for talks on a proposed tripartite gas pipeline project.
- 03/13/06** — **Secretary of Energy Bodman visited Islamabad**, where he discussed a wide range of energy-related issues with Pakistani leaders, but declined to discuss civil nuclear cooperation and voiced U.S. opposition to a proposed Iran-Pakistan-India gas pipeline project.
- 03/12/06** — Sibghatullah Mojadidi, a former Afghan president, survived a suicide car bomb attack in Kabul that left four people dead. Mojadidi, who is seeking to encourage Taliban defections, blamed Pakistan’s intelligence agency for the attack. Pakistan rejected the charges.
- 03/10/06** — **At least 30 people, including 21 children and 5 women, were killed when a bus carrying a wedding party hit a landmine** in Dera Bugti, Baluchistan. On the same day, the Pakistan Army reported that artillery barrages had killed 25 Islamic militants in North Waziristan. Locals disputed the claim, saying most of the dead were civilians, including women and children.
- 03/09/06** — A top U.S. military officer told a House panel that senior Al Qaeda and Taliban leaders operate in Pakistan’s Federally Administered Tribal Area along the Afghan border. On the same day, the U.S. Embassy in Islamabad reported that earthquake contributions from Americans to philanthropic organizations had topped \$130 million.

- 03/08/06 — Prime Minister Aziz told an interviewer that “there is no need for further discussion” of the A.Q. Khan-run nuclear smuggling ring, as “all information” has been shared with international investigators.
- 03/07/06 — The Commander of the U.S. Central Command, Gen. Abizaid, visited Islamabad, where President Musharraf reportedly requested his help in defusing Pakistan-Afghanistan tensions. On the same day, a train service linking Pakistan and Iran was suspended following rocket and bomb attacks on the rail by suspected Baloch militants. Also, Interior Minister Sherpao said Islamabad had “credible evidence” that “a foreign hand” was aiding militants in Pakistan’s North Waziristan and Baluchistan regions.
- 03/06/06 — President Musharraf criticized Afghan President Karzai for “bad-mouthing” Pakistan with “baseless” claims about the presence in Pakistan of top Islamic militant leaders, including Mullah Omar. On the same day, Pakistani troops backed by helicopter gunships continued battling Islamic militants in North Waziristan, reportedly killing 19. Security forces regained control of a major town where government buildings had been seized in an audacious attack by hundreds of armed militants.
- 03/05/06 — **Fierce fighting in North Waziristan** reportedly left up to 100 Islamic militants dead. On the same day, 35,000 protesters rallied in Karachi against the publication of blasphemous cartoons in European newspapers.
- 03/04/06 — President Bush and President Musharraf issued a joint statement on the **U.S.-Pakistan “strategic partnership”** that calls for the launch of a strategic dialogue and “significant expansion” of bilateral economic ties, including mutual trade and investment, as well as initiatives in the areas of energy, peace and security, social sector development, science and technology, democracy, and nonproliferation. President Bush expressed being “grateful for President Musharraf’s strong and vital support in the war on terror” and later said Musharraf understood that Pakistan’s planned 2007 elections “need to be open and honest.” Musharraf later claimed that his government has “introduced the essence of democracy” in Pakistan. On the same day, the Pentagon issued a statement lauding bilateral military relations with Pakistan and calling for continued strengthening of the defense relationship. Also, former Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto welcomed President Bush’s call for democracy in Pakistan while warning that U.S. support for President Musharraf was myopic.
- 03/03/06 — **President Bush began a one-day visit to Pakistan** under heavy security. On the same day, two girls were killed and three other children injured in a grenade attack in Quetta.
- 03/02/06 — **A car bomb exploded outside the U.S. Consulate in Karachi**, killing at least five people, including an American diplomat. President Bush, who was slated to visit Pakistan the next day, said the terrorist attack would not alter his travel plans.
- 03/01/06 — **Pakistani soldiers and helicopter gunships attacked a suspected Al Qaeda camp in North Waziristan**, killing up to 30 militants and spurring anti-U.S. outrage among some local residents.
- 02/28/06 — Defense Intelligence Agency Director Maples told a Senate panel that Pakistan and India “continue modernizing their nuclear weapons stockpiles” and “maintain aggressive ballistic missile programs.”
- 02/26/06 — Some 25,000 people in Karachi protested the publication of blasphemous cartoons in European newspapers.

- 02/22/06 — **In a major speech, President Bush lauded close U.S. relations with Pakistan**, identifying it as a “key ally in the war on terror” and saying the United States wants to “build a broad and lasting strategic partnership with the people of Pakistan.” The President called Pakistan’s scheduled 2007 elections “an important test of Pakistan’s commitment to democratic reform, and the Islamabad government must ensure that these elections are open and free and fair.” He later vowed to encourage Pakistani and Indian leaders to address the “important issue” of Kashmir, where the United States supports a resolution that is acceptable to “all sides,” including the Pakistanis, the Indians, and the “citizens of Kashmir.”
- 02/21/06 — A Karachi court sentenced 11 men to death for their roles in a failed June 2004 attack on a senior Pakistani general that killed 10 people.
- 02/20/06 — Prime Minister Aziz said that the publication in European newspapers of cartoons deemed offensive to Muslims was an attempt to promote a clash of civilizations.
- 02/19/06 — President Musharraf began a five-day visit to China to discuss counterterrorism, trade, and technical assistance with top Chinese leaders.
- 02/18/06 — **The “Thar Express” railroad linking Sindh with India’s Rajasthan state was resumed** after more than four decades in suspension.
- 02/16/06 — Afghanistan presented Pakistan with a list of 150 Taliban militants said to be living in Pakistan. On the same day, Pakistan’s ruling party condemned the publication of blasphemous cartoons as part of a “vilification campaign” against Islam and up to 50,000 protestors angered by the cartoons marched in Karachi.
- 02/15/06 — **Afghan President Karzai arrived in Islamabad** for a three-day visit focused on bolstering security along the Pakistan-Afghanistan border, and Afghan officials reported that recent suicide bombings in Afghanistan appear to have been orchestrated by Taliban fugitives operating out of Pakistan. On the same day, apparent Baloch separatist **militants shot and killed three Chinese engineers and their Pakistani driver in Baluchistan**. Also, violent protests over blasphemous cartoons continued in Pakistani cities.
- 02/14/06 — Anger over the publication in European newspapers of cartoons deemed offensive to Muslims led to **violent protests in Islamabad and Lahore**.
- 02/13/06 — U.S. Navy engineers in Pakistan turned over \$2.5 million worth of construction equipment to their Pakistani counterparts.
- 02/10/06 — **The State Department’s Bureau of South Asian Affairs was reorganized** to include official responsibility for U.S. diplomatic relations with Afghanistan and the five Central Asian states, and will now be called the Bureau for South and Central Asian Affairs.
- 02/09/06 — **A suicide bomber killed at least 23 Shia Muslims** taking part in a religious procession, and at least 8 more people were killed and hundreds injured in ensuing sectarian riots 125 miles southwest of Islamabad.
- 02/08/06 — **President Bush exercised his authority to waive coup-related sanctions on Pakistan for FY2006**, finding that such a waiver would facilitate the transition to democratic rule in Pakistan and is important to U.S. efforts to combat terrorism.
- 02/05/06 — **A bomb exploded on a bus in Quetta, killing at least 13 people** and injuring 20 others.

- 02/03/06 — President Musharraf condemned “in the strongest terms” **the publication in European newspapers of cartoons deemed offensive to Muslims.**
- 02/02/06 — **Director of Intelligence Negroponte told a Senate panel** that Pakistan’s commitment to counterterrorism efforts has enabled some key Al Qaeda captures, but that Pakistan “remains a major source of extremism that poses a threat to [President] Musharraf, to the United States, and to neighboring India and Afghanistan.” He also said Musharraf has made “only limited progress” in democratization efforts. On the same day, Saudi King Abdullah visited Islamabad, where **Pakistan and Saudi Arabia signed five agreements** meant to enhance diplomatic, educational, and trade interactions.
- 01/31/06 — **Pakistan and India signed an agreement to relaunch a cross-border train service** that was halted in 1965.
- 01/30/06 — **Assistant Secretary of State for International Narcotics and Law Enforcement Patterson visited Islamabad** for meetings with top Pakistani leaders.
- 01/27/06 — The Senate passed **S.Res. 356**, commending earthquake relief and recovery efforts, and urging the U.S. government to take the lead in encouraging continued efforts.
- 01/26/06 — **Former Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto held a press conference in Washington**, where she claimed that Pakistan’s military-dominated government was sidelining the country’s secular democratic forces.
- 01/24/06 — **President Bush hosted Prime Minister Aziz at the White House**, where he lauded the “strategic” and “vital” U.S.-Pakistan relationship.
- 01/19/06 — Career Foreign Service officer **Richard Boucher was nominated to be Assistant Secretary of State for South Asian Affairs.**
- 01/18/06 — **Two days of high-level Pakistan-India talks ended** with Foreign Secretary Khan expressing satisfaction with the achievements of the bilateral “composite dialogue” while also calling for movement on “more difficult questions.”
- 01/17/06 — Pakistani officials claimed that **at least four Al Qaeda militants, including Ayman al-Zawahri’s son-in-law and a top bomb expert, had been killed in the 1/13 Bajaur attack.** On the same day, a U.S. delegation arrived in Islamabad for a fourth round of U.S.-Pakistan bilateral investment treaty negotiations.
- 01/13/06 — **A missile attack on a residential compound in northwest Pakistan near the Afghan border killed up to 18 people**, reportedly including numerous women and children. Pakistani officials and local **witnesses blamed the attack on U.S. air forces**, possibly Predator drones that were targeting top Al Qaeda leader Ayman al-Zawahri, who was not at the scene. U.S. officials would not confirm U.S. involvement. The incident led to **major public anti-U.S. demonstrations.**
- 01/10/06 — **A fierce battle between Pakistani soldiers and suspected Islamic militants in North Waziristan** left 14 militants and 7 soldiers dead.
- 01/08/06 — **President Musharraf accused India of arming and financing militants Baluchistan.** New Delhi rejected the allegations as “utterly false.”