



CRS Report for Congress

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 Report RL33498, *Pakistan-U.S. Relations*. This report will be updated regularly.

- 12/18/06** — The United States launched a three-year, \$11.5 million effort to improve children's health in Pakistan's tribal areas.
- 12/16/06** — Pakistan's Anti-narcotics Force received \$850,000 worth of vehicles and counternarcotics security equipment from the United States.
- 12/15/06** — Pakistan's Supreme Court blocked a new attempt to enact a Taliban-style Islamic law bill in the NWFP. The controversial Hasba (or accountability) bill is opposed by President Musharraf. On the same day, 2 people were killed and 10 others injured in conflict between ethnic Pashtuns and Mohajirs in Karachi.
- 12/14/06** — Islamabad claimed to have arrested more than 500 Taliban militants in 2006 and remanded 400 of them to Afghan custody.
- 12/13/06** — Fazlur Rehman, leader of the Islamist JUI-F party, refused to stage anti-government rallies in western Pakistan as called for by his coalition allies. On the same day, Islamabad reportedly sanctioned the payment of \$5 million as compensation to victims of conflict in North Waziristan. Also, a judge dismissed terrorism charges against British national Rashid Rauf, who had been arrested in August on suspicion of masterminding a plot to destroy American passenger jets flying out of London.
- 12/12/06** — **Afghan President Karzai again blamed Pakistan for supporting pro-Taliban militants** and seeking to "enslave" the Afghan people.
- 12/11/06** — Brussels-based International Crisis Group issued a report criticizing the apparent failure of Islamabad's efforts to "appease" Islamist militants in

Acronyms:

FATA: Federally Administered Tribal Areas

NWFP: North West Frontier Province

- Pakistan's tribal regions. On the same day, Pakistani and Chinese soldiers began unprecedented ten-day joint counterterrorism exercises in the NWFP. Also, Pakistani border guards arrested 90 Afghans for illegally entering Pakistan. Finally, a retired Pakistani air marshal claimed the Pakistan Air Force had no capabilities to undertake the 10/30 Bajaur madrassa attack, suggesting that the attack was launched by U.S. forces.
- 12/10/06** — Some 10,000 supporters of Islamist political parties took to the streets of Karachi to protest passage of the Women's Protection Bill.
- 12/09/06** — Pakistan test-fired a nuclear-capable Hatf III (Ghaznavi) short-range ballistic missile.
- 12/08/06** — **Foreign Minister Kasuri ended a two-day visit to Kabul** without resolving differences between Pakistan and Afghanistan over the composition of proposed tribal councils to stem the Taliban insurgency. On the same day, London-based Amnesty International criticized Islamabad for human rights abuses related to its cooperation with the U.S.-led "war on terror," including the arbitrary detention, enforced disappearance, and torture of hundreds of people.
- 12/07/06** — **The Pentagon notified Congress of a possible Foreign Military Sale to Pakistan worth up to \$855 million.** The deal involves refurbishment and modification of three excess P-3 aircraft with the E-2C Hawkeye airborne early warning suite. On the same day, Washington unveiled **the Secure Freight Initiative**, which seeks to prevent nuclear-related smuggling into the United States by placing specialized x-ray and optical scanners at sea ports in six foreign nations, including Karachi.
- 12/06/06** — President Musharraf again said he would not resign his position as army chief before slated 2007 polls and that exiled former Prime Ministers Bhutto and Sharif would not be allowed to contest those elections. On the same day, Pakistani press reports said Islamabad would in 2007 implement major changes to primary school curriculum, including "less biased" discussion of the partition of British India.
- 12/05/06** — The U.S. Air Force awarded to Maryland-based Lockheed Martin a \$144 million contract to provide materials for F-16 combat aircraft being sold to Pakistan. On the same day, President Musharraf called the Women's Protection Bill "just the beginning" and "a victory for moderates," and said his government would soon introduce legislation outlawing forced marriages. Also, the NWFP Chief Minister, a leading Islamist politician, accused Pakistani intelligence of planting a bomb outside his Peshawar office. Islamabad called the claim a fabrication.
- 12/04/06** — **President Musharraf told an interviewer that Pakistan is "against independence" for Kashmir**, instead offering a four-point proposal that would lead to "self-governance," defined as "falling between autonomy and independence." Many analysts saw the proposal as being roughly in line with New Delhi's Kashmir position. Some opposition political parties and Kashmiri separatist groups rejected Musharraf's proposal as an abandonment of Islamabad's long-held policy, but the Foreign Office insisted that Pakistan's "legal position" continues to be based on relevant U.N. Security Council resolutions.
- 12/03/06** — A suicide bomber, suspected to be of Uzbek origin, killed himself and a policeman in North Waziristan.

- 12/01/06 — In a major privatization move, the Pakistan government sold a ten percent share of the country's largest oil company for \$813 million. On the same day, a suicide bomber killed himself in the parking lot of a military facility in Peshawar. No other casualties were reported.
- 11/30/06 — Indian police named a Pakistani national as the main conspirator behind the 7/11 Bombay terrorist bombings.
- 11/29/06 — Education Secretary Spellings led the U.S. delegation at a **meeting of the U.S.-Pakistan Education Dialogue** in Washington. On the same day, Pakistan test-fired a nuclear-capable Hatf IV (Shaheen I) medium-range ballistic missile. Also, Pakistan's Supreme Court ordered the government to disclose the whereabouts of 41 suspected security detainees who have "disappeared." Human rights groups claim to have recorded more than 400 cases of such secret detentions since 2002. Finally, four bombs exploded on a railway line linking Pakistan and Iran. No injuries were reported.
- 11/27/06 — Suspected pro-Taliban militants in South Waziristan killed a tribal cleric they accused of being a "U.S. spy."
- 11/26/06 — **Chinese President Hu Jintao ended a four-day visit to Islamabad**, where China and Pakistan sought to bolster their "all-weather friendship and all-dimensional cooperation" with the signing of 18 new pacts, including a bilateral Free Trade Agreement. On the same day, some 8,000 supporters of Islamist political parties took to the streets of Karachi to protest passage of the Women's Protection Bill.
- 11/24/06 — China and Pakistan agreed to jointly develop airborne early warning radars. On the same day, two Pakistani journalists reportedly were kidnaped by Taliban militants in southern Afghanistan.
- 11/23/06 — Heavy fighting between government security forces and armed rebels broke out in the Kohlu district of Baluchistan.
- 11/21/06 — Police in Quetta arrested 47 suspected Taliban militants.
- 11/19/06 — **British Prime Minister Tony Blair ended a two-day visit to Pakistan**, where Britain and Pakistan agreed to forward their "abiding partnership" and London vowed to more than double its development assistance to Pakistan to \$944 million over the next three years.
- 11/17/06 — A suicide bomber killed himself and injured two policemen in an attack on a police van in Peshawar. On the same day, 15 people were injured by a bomb blast in Lahore.
- 11/16/06 — Pakistan test-fired a nuclear-capable Hatf V (Gauri I) medium-range ballistic missile. On the same day, Berlin-based Transparency International placed Pakistan 142nd out of 163 countries in its annual ranking of world corruption levels.
- 11/15/06 — **The Pakistan-India Composite Dialogue resumed** when Foreign Secretary Khan made a two-day visit to New Delhi for talks with his Indian counterpart. No progress was made on outstanding territorial disputes and India presented no evidence of Pakistani involvement in the 7/11 Bombay terrorist bombings, but the two officials did give shape to a joint anti-terrorism mechanism proposed in September and agreed to continue the dialogue process in early 2007.
- 11/14/06 — **Pakistan's National Assembly passed the Women's Protection Bill** to amend sections of the controversial Hudood Ordinances which apply Islamic law to cases of rape. Islamist politicians boycotted the vote in

- protest. Days later, some 10,000 members of the Musharraf-supporting, ethnic-based MQM party marched in Karachi in support of the changes.
- 11/13/06** — **The Pentagon notified Congress of a possible Foreign Military Sale to Pakistan worth up to \$160 million.** The deal involves thousands of military radio systems. On the same day, **lawmakers in the NWFP again passed a controversial Hasba (or accountability) bill** that would establish Taliban-style Islamic laws in the region. Also, a bomb exploded at a market in Quetta, killing 2 people and injuring 15 others. Finally, a legal commission from Peshawar found “no proof” that the madrassa at Chingai had been used to train militants.
- 11/11/06** — A pro-government tribal chief and eight other people were killed when a bomb destroyed their vehicle in South Waziristan.
- 11/08/06** — **A suicide bomber killed himself and 42 army recruits at a military training camp at Dargai in the NWFP,** not far from the site of the 10/30 Chingai madrassa attack. Many observers speculated that camp bombing was revenge for that attack.
- 11/06/06** — Assistant Secretary of State for South and Central Asia Boucher met with top Pakistani officials in Islamabad to discuss bilateral relations and regional issues. On the same day, a legal commission from Peshawar concluded that the 10/30 madrassa attack in Bajaur was most likely launched by a U.S. Predator drone.
- 11/05/06** — Suspected pro-Taliban militants shot and killed a pro-government tribal leader in South Waziristan.
- 11/04/06** — At least 10,000 people took to the streets in Bajaur to protest the 10/30 attack at Chingai.
- 11/03/06** — Pro-Taliban militants in Waziristan beheaded a local tribal cleric they accused of being a “U.S. spy.”
- 11/01/06** — A pro-Taliban tribal leader claimed to have prepared a squad of suicide bombers to target Pakistani security forces in retaliation for the 10/30 Bajaur attack. On the same day, a bomb exploded in Quetta, killing three people, including two policemen, and injuring four others.
- 10/31/06** — At least 10,000 people took to the streets of Khar in northwestern Pakistan to protest the previous day’s attack in Bajaur.
- 10/30/06** — **Some 82 people were killed in a pre-dawn air attack on a religious school at Chingai in the Bajaur tribal agency,** just hours before government officials were to conclude a truce with Islamist militants in the Bajaur capital. The Pakistani military claimed to have undertaken the attack after the school’s pro-Taliban leader continued to train terrorists and shelter “unwanted foreigners” despite repeated warnings. Fugitive Al Qaeda lieutenant Ayman al-Zawahri was reported to have made past visits to the madrassa. The independent Human Right Commission of Pakistan later condemned the “atrocities” and “mass murder” by government authorities, while New York-based Human Rights Watch called for an independent investigation into the incident. **Many observers speculated that the attack had in fact been carried out by U.S. Predator drones.** On the same day, the body of an accused “American spy” was found in the Bajaur agency. Also, USAID signed a \$120 million contract with a Massachusetts-based construction company to assist in ongoing earthquake relief efforts in northern Pakistan. Finally, Islamabad admitted

for the first time that it had in August detained British national Rashid Rauf on suspicion of masterminding a plot to destroy American passenger jets flying out of London.

- 10/27/06 — Afghan President Karzai appealed directly to influential Pakistani Pashtun politicians, including leading Islamist figure Fazlur Rehman, for support in tackling the Taliban insurgency.
- 10/24/06 — **Indian Prime Minister Singh said New Delhi had “credible evidence” of Pakistan’s involvement in the 7/11 Bombay train bombings.** On the same day, suspected tribal rebels blew up a gas pipeline in Baluchistan, leaving tens of thousands of people without gas.
- 10/23/06 — India’s defense minister accused the Pakistani intelligence services of seeking to “infiltrate and subvert” India’s armed forces. Islamabad denied the charges.
- 10/22/06 — Pro-Taliban militants in North Waziristan reportedly announced plans to raise their own taxes.
- 10/20/06 — A bomb exploded at a crowded shopping area in Peshawar, killing 6 people and injuring 31 others. No group claimed responsibility.
- 10/19/06 — **Former Prime Ministers Sharif and Bhutto met in London** to reaffirm a mutual commitment to their May 2006 “Charter of Democracy.” On the same day, two Pakistani soldiers were shot and killed by Islamic militants in South Waziristan. Also, Information Minister Durrani urged Indian leaders to avoid making public statements that could “spoil the atmosphere” between the two countries.
- 10/17/06 — **Afghan President Karzai expressed certainty that Taliban leader Mullah Omar was in Quetta,** Pakistan. A Pakistani official rejected the allegation, saying “the entire world knows [Omar] is in Afghanistan.”
- 10/16/06 — USAID launched an \$11.5 million program to improve children’s health in Pakistan’s FATA.
- 10/15/06 — Information Minister Durrani said that no one will be allowed to criticize “the institution of the armed forces as it is enshrined in the constitution.”
- 10/11/06 — Suspected Taliban militants in North Waziristan shot and killed two men they accused of being “U.S. spies.”
- 10/09/06 — Islamabad criticized a reported nuclear test by North Korea, calling it a “destabilizing” development for the entire region. President Musharraf later denied the existence of any link between Pakistan and the North Korean test. On the same day, NATO’s military commander in Afghanistan met with President Musharraf in Islamabad. Also, Afghan President Karzai called for a jirga of Pashtun tribes from Pakistan and Afghanistan aimed at ending the Taliban insurgency.
- 10/08/06 — U.S. Ambassador to Pakistan Crocker said the United States will train 30,000 teachers and build 50 new schools in earthquake-affected areas of Pakistan.
- 10/07/06 — Police in Baluchistan reported arresting at least 45 suspected Taliban militants in a series of raids near the Afghan border.
- 10/06/06 — President Musharraf said the 9/5 Waziristan truce was designed to marginalize rather than compromise with Islamic militants, and he insisted that the truce was working to bolster peace and stability in the FATA.
- 10/04/06 — Afghan security agents arrested 17 people allegedly trained in Pakistan to launch suicide attacks in eastern Afghanistan. On the same day,

- Baluchistan's chief minister accused Indian intelligence services of fueling the Baloch insurgency.
- 10/03/06** — Islamabad clarified for U.S. Ambassador Crocker that **the A.Q. Khan issue “is closed”** and that no further details about his case would be shared. On the same day, a follow-up U.S. military earthquake relief mission to Pakistan included delivery of more than 10,000 sheets of corrugated iron for home construction.
- 10/01/06** — President Musharraf told an American television interviewer that some “retired” former top officials of Pakistan's Inter-Services Intelligence (ISI) may be providing assistance to the Taliban. Two former ISI chiefs later rejected Musharraf's claim as “baseless.”
- 09/30/06** — **Bombay's top police official said the 7/11 train bombings were “planned by Pakistan's [intelligence service] and carried out by Lashkar-e-Taiba and their operatives in India.”** Islamabad swiftly rejected the allegation as propaganda designed “to externalize an internal [Indian] malaise.” On the same day, the United States and Pakistan signed a letter of acceptance for a multi-billion dollar deal to provide Pakistan with new and used F-16 combat aircraft.
- 09/28/06** — A U.S. military spokesman in Kabul said **the number of militant attacks in eastern Afghanistan had doubled and even tripled in some cases since the 9/5 truce in Waziristan** (he did not, however, make a causal link between the two developments). On the same day, **a leaked report from the British Defense Academy said Pakistan's intelligence service indirectly supported terrorist groups**, including Al Qaeda, by supporting the Pakistan's Islamist political parties. Also, the United States and Pakistan signed two agreements on \$41 million in U.S. assistance to strengthening Pakistan's law enforcement agencies. Finally, London-based Amnesty International accused the Islamabad government of abducting hundreds of Pakistanis as part of the U.S.-led “war on terror,” with U.S. agents paying thousands of dollars in “bounties” for accused terrorists who could then be held for months with no legal process.
- 09/27/06** — Islamic militants said they had “taken control” of Miramshah, North Waziristan, including opening a “Taliban office” there. A government spokesman later said the office had been closed.
- 09/25/06** — **President Musharraf's autobiography was released.** The book faced heavy criticism in Pakistan as divulging “state secrets” and being inappropriate for a sitting president. Musharraf also gave a speech in New York City, where he called “ridiculous” the claim that the Taliban were headquartered in Quetta, Pakistan, and insisted that Pakistan was playing a “totally neutral role” in Afghanistan. On the same day, India's defense minister said Pakistan “remains a nursery of global terrorism.”
- 09/22/06** — **President Bush met with President Musharraf** at the White House to discuss a variety of bilateral issues, including security in the Afghanistan-Pakistan region and the 9/5 truce in North Waziristan. President Bush praised the leadership and courage of the Pakistani leader, who explained to the U.S. president that the truce represented a “holistic approach” to fighting terrorism and would help in the battle against the Taliban.
- 09/21/06** — The Commander of the U.S. European Command, Gen. Jones, told a Senate panel **it is “generally accepted” that the Taliban headquarters is somewhere in the vicinity of Quetta, Pakistan.**