

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 Washington File, *New York Times*, *Washington Post*, BBC News, Associated Press, Reuters News, Agence France-Presse, *Dawn* (Karachi), *Daily Times* (Lahore), and *The News* (Karachi). For a substantive review, see CRS Issue Brief IB94041, *Pakistan-U.S. Relations*. This report will be updated monthly.

Acronyms

ISI:	Inter-Services Intelligence Agency
MMA:	Muttahida Majlis-e-Amal or United Action Front, a coalition of six Islamist parties
NWFP:	North West Frontier Province

- 10/05/04** — Pakistan announced having moved extra troops and “quick reaction forces” near the Afghan border to prevent militants from infiltrating into Afghanistan to disrupt upcoming elections there.
- 10/04/04** — **Pakistani security forces and Islamic militants agreed to a 10-day unofficial cease-fire in South Waziristan** to allow a group of mediators to work toward a settlement. On the same day, four militants were killed and five Pakistani soldiers injured in clashes in South Waziristan.
- 10/02/04** — In anticipation of imminent retirements, President Musharraf named Lt. Gen. Ahsan Salim Hayat, the Karachi Corps Commander, to be the new Vice-Chief of Army Staff and ISI chief Lt. Gen. Ehsan ul-Haq to be the new Chairman of the Joints Chiefs of Staff Committee. Both men are considered to be close confidantes of Musharraf.
- 10/01/04** — **An apparent suicide bomber killed at least 30 worshipers at a Shia mosque in the northeastern city of Sialkot.**
- 09/30/04** — A spokesman for the International Atomic Energy Agency said that **Pakistan had refused to allow interviews with A.Q. Khan**, the Pakistani metallurgist who oversaw an illicit international nuclear proliferation network.
- 09/29/04** — Deputy Secretary of State Armitage called the activities of Pakistani security forces “very noteworthy, very notable, and extraordinarily

appreciated,” adding that “we think Pakistan is on the road to democracy” and “we believe that President Musharraf is the right man in the right place at the right time in the right job.” On the same day, President Musharraf rejected a recently released U.S. Department of State human rights report as “contrary to the real situation in Pakistan.”

- 09/28/04** — U.S. Trade Representative Zoellick met with Pakistan’s commerce minister in Washington and agreed to begin **negotiations on a U.S.-Pakistan bilateral investment treaty**. On the same day, militant groups seeking to disrupt upcoming Afghan elections issued threats against Afghans living in Pakistan to discourage their voting.
- 09/26/04** — **Pakistan reported having killed suspected top Al Qaeda operative Amjad Farooqi**, a Pakistani national wanted for involvement in the 2002 kidnapping and murder of reporter Daniel Pearl and two December 2003 attempts to assassinate President Musharraf, after a 4-hour gunbattle in the southern city of Nawabshah. On the same day, the Secretary General of the British Commonwealth said that body expects a separation of the offices of President and Army Chief in Pakistan after 2004. Also, five Pakistani soldiers were killed and six injured when militants attacked their convoy in South Waziristan.
- 09/25/04** — The top U.S. military officer in Afghanistan, Lt. Gen. Barno, said that Al Qaeda was present along the Pakistan-Afghanistan border and was actively encouraging militants to disrupt upcoming Afghan elections. On the same day, Pakistan lifted four-month-old economic sanctions on South Waziristan that had been meant to pressure tribal leaders there to cooperate with government security operations.
- 09/24/04** — **President Musharraf met for the first time with Indian PM Singh** on the sidelines of the U.N. General Assembly meeting in New York. In a joint statement that Musharraf called a “major breakthrough,” the two leaders agreed to explore possible options for a “peaceful, negotiated settlement” of the Kashmir issue “in a sincere manner and purposeful spirit.” They also discussed the possibility of building a gas pipeline to India via Pakistan. On the same day, **H.R. 10** (the 9/11 Recommendations Implementation Act of 2004) was introduced in the House. Sec. 4082 of the act would require the President to transmit to Congress a detailed strategy for future, long-term U.S. engagement with Pakistan. Sec. 4083 of the act would extend the President’s waiver authority on coup-related sanctions on Pakistan through FY2006.
- 09/23/04** — President Bush appointed career foreign service officer Ryan Crocker to be **the new U.S. Ambassador to Pakistan**. On the same day, Former Army Chief Gen. Jehangir Karamat was appointed to be **Pakistan’s new Ambassador to the United States**. Also, **H.R. 4818** (Foreign Operations Appropriations FY2005) was passed by the Senate, including **S.Amdt. 3694**, which would require the President to report to Congress on education reform efforts in Pakistan. Finally, 31 suspected low-level Al Qaeda members were reported to have been arrested based on tips provided by Qari Saifullah Akhtar, an alleged Al Qaeda leader captured in Dubai in August.
- 09/22/04** — **President Bush met with President Musharraf in New York**, where the two leaders reaffirmed their commitment to broaden and deepen the U.S.-

Pakistan relationship. On the same day, **Musharraf visited Washington to inaugurate a new Congressional Pakistan Caucus** comprised of 54 U.S. Representatives. Also, a press report said that Pakistan soldiers were receiving counterterrorism training at a Florida military base.

- 09/21/04 — Police in Quetta announced the capture of 10 militants linked to the Lashkar-e-Jhangvi terrorist group and wanted in connection with attacks on Shia Muslims. On the same day, New York-based Human Rights Watch urged President Bush to ask President Musharraf to resign from the military as promised and fully restore civilian rule in Pakistan.
- 09/20/04 — **H.R. 5024** (the 9/11 Commission Recommendations Implementation Act of 2004) was introduced in the House. Sec. 302 of the act would authorize the President to provide increased military assistance and economic and development assistance to Pakistan as part of a comprehensive effort to help Islamabad combat extremism.
- 09/18/04 — The Pentagon announced having released 35 prisoners from detention in Guantanamo Bay and transferred them to Pakistan. Twenty-nine of the prisoners were transferred for continued detention in Pakistan.
- 09/17/04 — A former Chief Justice of Pakistan's Supreme Court concurred with numerous opposition political leaders that President Musharraf's retention of his military uniform beyond 2004 would violate of the Constitution.
- 09/16/04 — The Senate Appropriations Committee stated while it "appreciates Pakistan's significant contributions to the ongoing global war against international terrorism, it remains concerned with the slow pace of democratic development in that country." On the same day, in the annual U.S. Narcotics Certification Report, President Bush again identified Pakistan as a "major drug transit or illicit drug-producing country."
- 09/15/04 — The U.S. Department of State's *International Religious Freedom Report 2004* singled out Pakistan for "state hostility toward minority or non-approved religions" for the sixth consecutive year. On the same day, the Information Minister said that President Musharraf had decided to retain his position as Army Chief beyond the end of 2004. He later "clarified" that he was only expressing his hopes. Also, the NWFP provincial assembly passed a resolution urging Musharraf to honor his commitment to resign from the army at the end of 2004. Finally, press reports indicated that Pakistan was negotiating a \$750 million loan from China to purchase four P-22 frigates for its navy.
- 09/14/04 — Pakistan's Parliament passed a bill establishing harsh new penalties for the export of nuclear or biological weapons materials or technologies. The foreign minister later said that the laws would not be applied retroactively. On the same day, Pakistan's air force chief said that the United States had agreed to sell 18 F-16 fighter aircraft to Pakistan.
- 09/13/04 — **U.S. Under Secretary of State Larson met with PM Shaukat Aziz in Islamabad** to discuss the bilateral economic relationship. On the same day, the Punjab provincial assembly passed a resolution urging President Musharraf to remain as Army Chief beyond the 2004 deadline. Also, PM Aziz reportedly said that progress on the Kashmir issue was a prerequisite for progress in other areas, "including gas pipelines." Finally, a Pakistan army spokesman said that more than 60 foreign militants had been killed over a four-day period.

- 09/12/04** — National Security Advisor Tariq Aziz reportedly ended two days of “secret” talks with his Indian counterpart J.N. Dixit on ways to break the Kashmir deadlock. On the same day, a “mainstream leader” of the Jamaat al-Dawat (a new incarnation of the banned Lashkar-e-Taiba terrorist group) was shot and killed in Lahore. Also, 13 people, including five soldiers, were reported killed in fierce clashes between militants and security forces in South Waziristan.
- 09/11/04** — President Musharraf told a gathering of military officers that he will “not give up Kashmir.” On the same day, tribal militants blocked the main supply route linking North and South Waziristan. Also, the Human Rights Commission of Pakistan called for creation of a parliamentary committee to look into the killing of civilians in South Waziristan.
- 09/09/04** — Up to 70 suspected Islamic militants were killed when Pakistani warplanes attacked an alleged Al Qaeda training camp in South Waziristan.
- 09/08/04** — Pakistan and India announced that they would grant tourist visas for the first time since independence. On the same day, Former Indian PM Vajpayee said that President Musharraf was not fulfilling his January 2004 pledge to end the use of Pakistani territory by terrorist groups. Also, eight civilians in South Waziristan were reported killed in an explosion and gunfire by security forces.
- 09/07/04** — The Pentagon notified Congress of **the possible sale to Pakistan of \$78 million worth of military radio systems** meant to improve Pakistani communication capabilities and to increase interoperability between Pakistani and U.S.-led counterterrorist forces. On the same day, **S. 2774**, seeking to implement the recommendations of the 9/11 Commission, was introduced in the Senate. Sec. 502 of the act would require the President to report to Congress on U.S. efforts to support Pakistan and encourage moderation there. Also, President Musharraf asked religious leaders to help isolate the small number of madrassas that promote extremism by openly condemning them.
- 09/06/04** — **Foreign Minister Kasuri ended two-day talks with his Indian counterpart in New Delhi.** The meetings took place in a “cordial and constructive atmosphere” with both sides agreeing to continue the dialogue. However, strains arose over the issue of Kashmir, with Kasuri restating concerns about human rights abuses in Indian Kashmir and Singh repeating charges that Pakistan has not fulfilled its pledge to halt the “cross-border infiltration” of militants. On the same day, Pakistan ended its 15-year relationship with the International Monetary Fund.
- 09/02/04** — State Department Coordinator for Counterterrorism Cofer Black led a U.S. delegation to Islamabad for **a meeting of the U.S.-Pakistan Joint Working Group on Counterterrorism and Law Enforcement.** On the same day, police in Karachi announced seizing 160 kilograms of processed heroin worth up to \$50 million.
- 08/31/04** — A bilateral exchange of prisoners involved the repatriation of 19 Pakistanis and 36 Indians. On the same day, three people were killed and 15 injured when a bomb exploded at a market in Baluchistan.
- 08/29/04** — Three Pakistani soldiers were killed and another ten injured in rocket attacks and landmine explosions near the Afghan border.

- 08/27/04** — **Shaukat Aziz was elected by Parliament to become Pakistan’s new prime minister.** Opposition parties, which had boycotted the vote when their candidate was not allowed to participate, called the process “sham democracy.” Islamist leader Maulana Fazlur Rehman later called the process a “mockery of the Constitution.”
- 08/26/04** — U.S. Assistant Secretary of State Bloomfield ended a two-day visit to Islamabad, where he met with Pakistani officials to discuss international security and bilateral cooperation.
- 08/25/04** — **Prime Minister Chaudhry Shujaat Hussain announced his resignation** in preparation for the seating of Prime Minister-designate Shaukat Aziz.
- 08/24/04** — During a visit to Islamabad, U.S. Assistant Secretary of Commerce Lash reportedly expressed to Pakistani officials U.S. concerns that Islamabad is not taking sufficient action to protect intellectual property rights (Pakistan is a world leader in the pirating of CDs).
- 08/23/04** — **President Musharraf met with Afghan President Karzai** in Islamabad, where he assured Karzai that Pakistan would not allow extremists to use Pakistani territory to disrupt upcoming Afghan elections. On the same day, Islamabad said that security forces in North Waziristan had killed four foreign militants, most likely Uzbeks, during a raid.
- 08/21/04** — Pakistani officials reported the capture of up to ten Al Qaeda suspects who they said were planning suicide attacks against President Musharraf and the U.S. Embassy.
- 08/19/04** — **U.S. Ambassador to Pakistan Nancy Powell signed an agreement to expand bilateral cooperation** on border security, counternarcotics, and law enforcement capacity building with an additional \$30.6 million in new assistance to augment the Ministry of Interior Air Wing.
- 08/18/04** — Pakistan published pictures of six “most-wanted terrorists” along with offers of major monetary rewards for information leading to their capture. On the same day, a leading cleric previously seized during a raid of his Faisalabad madrassa reportedly died in police custody. Members of the MMA Islamist coalition said he was beaten in detention.
- 08/17/04** — Three members of the Pakistan People’s Party were killed by unidentified gunmen in a district where Finance Minister Shaukat Aziz was slated to run for an assembly seat. On the same day, top Islamist political leader Qazi Hussein Ahmed denied that his Jamaat-e-Islami party had any ties to Al Qaeda and he called the United States “the biggest of all the terrorists.”
- 08/16/04** — **Interior Minister Faisal announced that Pakistan had captured 12 foreign and 51 Pakistani “terrorists” over the past four weeks.** Faisal also asked the leadership of the Islamist Jamaat-e-Islami party to explain why several important Al Qaeda fugitives were captured in the homes of party workers.
- 08/12/04** — Pakistan and India concluded two-day talks on economic cooperation without notable progress, reportedly due to Pakistan’s refusal to grant India most-favored nation status until headway is made on Kashmir and other political issues. On the same day, a Pakistani official said that two “top Al Qaeda suspects” had been arrested in Karachi and Peshawar.
- 08/08/04** — The Interior Minister confirmed the arrest of Pakistani terrorist chief Fazlur Rehman Khalil, leader of Harakat ul-Mujahideen and ally of Osama bin Laden. On the same day, twin bomb attacks on a Karachi religious school killed eight people and injured 42 others.

- 08/07/04** — The United Arab Emirates remanded to Pakistani custody “senior Al Qaeda operative” Qari Saifullah Akhtar, who had been arrested the previous day in Dubai. Akhtar is alleged to have run a terrorist training camp in Afghanistan until October 2001.
- 08/06/04** — Pakistan and India concluded two-day talks on their territorial dispute over the Siachen glacier in northern Kashmir.
- 08/05/04** — Up to 11 combatants were reported killed in heavy fighting between Pakistani security forces and tribal militants in South Waziristan.
- 08/03/04** — **British police arrested 12 Al Qaeda suspects** using intelligence gleaned from captured Al Qaeda suspects Ahmed Khalfan Ghailani and Mohammed Naeem Noor Khan. Among those taken was **Issa al-Hindi**, said to be one of the most important Al Qaeda figures captured in the past year. On the same day, Pakistan and China began their first-ever joint military exercises, a four-day counterterrorism drill.
- 08/02/04** — An Al Qaeda suspect captured on 7/13 was publically named as **Mohammed Naeem Noor Khan, said to be an Al Qaeda computer and communications expert** whose interrogation was revealing extensive intelligence on the Al Qaeda network.
- 07/30/04** — **A suicide bomber killed eight people in a failed attempt to assassinate the Prime Minister-designate, Shaukat Aziz.** An Al Qaeda-linked group claimed responsibility. On the same day, Pakistan announced that on 7/25 it had captured Ahmed Khalfan Ghailani, a Tanzanian national wanted for murder in connection with the 1998 Al Qaeda bombings of two American Embassies in East Africa.
- 07/29/04** — Pakistani and Indian officials met for two-day talks on their disagreements over the Wullar Barrage/Tulbul Navigation project in Kashmir.
- 07/23/04** — **President Musharraf met with Indian External Affairs Minister Natwar Singh** in Rawalpindi, where Musharraf “emphasized the need for simultaneous progress” on all issues, especially Kashmir, which he said needed to be resolved within “a reasonable time frame.”
- 07/22/04** — ***The 9/11 Commission Report*** emphasized the importance of eliminating terrorist sanctuaries in western Pakistan, and called for provision of long-term and comprehensive support to the government of President Musharraf so long as that government remains committed to combating terrorism and to a policy of “enlightened moderation.” On the same day, **H.R. 4965 (the Nuclear Black-Market Elimination Act)** was introduced in the House. Title III of the act would require the President to determine that Pakistan has verifiably halted all proliferation activities and is fully sharing with the United States all information relevant to the A.Q. Khan proliferation network.
- 07/16/04** — The United States and Pakistan signed an agreement to use FY2004 Economic Support Funds to cancel \$495 million in Pakistan’s concessional debt to the U.S. government.
- 07/15/04** — **H.R. 4818** (Foreign Operations Appropriations FY2005) was passed by the House. The bill would establish a new base program of \$300 million for military assistance for Pakistan.