

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.

- 09/02/03** — Seven Pakistanis were killed in two related incidents in Karachi. Six of the dead belonged to the MQM, a political party representing Muslims who emigrated from India to Pakistan.
- 09/01/03** — A Foreign Ministry spokesman said that India is withdrawing the “hand of friendship” offered to Pakistan in April 2003.
- 08/31/03** — Pakistani authorities reportedly arrested three, and perhaps as many as seven, army officers, including a lieutenant colonel, on suspicion of their having possible links with Islamic extremist groups.
- 08/30/03** — U.S.-led troops in Afghanistan launched a new military offensive against suspected Taliban forces operating near the Afghanistan-Pakistan border.
- 08/29/03** — Indian PM Vajpayee said that New Delhi will have no direct talks with Islamabad until violence ends in the disputed Kashmir region.
- 08/28/03** — Talks between Pakistan and India on resuming bilateral air links ended with only an agreement to meet again at a later date.

Acronyms

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 Entries are on a day-to-day basis going back approximately 60 days, then include periodic high-profile events. 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).

- 08/27/03** — A press report stated that the International Atomic Energy Agency has implicated Pakistani companies in providing **“critical technology and parts” to Iran’s nascent nuclear weapons program**. Islamabad denied any Pakistan-Iran nuclear cooperation.
- 08/25/03** — **Two car bombs exploded in Mumbai, India**, killing 52 and spurring New Delhi to suggest a role of Pakistan-based terrorist groups in the attack. Islamabad condemned the “acts of terrorism.”
- 08/23/03** — A delegation of **six Members of Congress met with President Musharraf** in Islamabad, where they were assured that Pakistan would not allow terrorist activity to originate from its soil.
- 08/21/03** — USAID and the Pakistani government signed a 3-year, \$38 million grant agreement to support good governance and poverty reduction initiatives in Pakistan.
- 08/20/03** — Pakistani opposition parties, protesting President Musharraf’s proposed constitutional changes and his continued role as Army Chief, walked out of the Parliament’s first session in six weeks. On the same day, Pakistani Foreign Minister Kasuri said he had “excellent talks” with his Afghani counterpart during a two-day visit to Kabul. Also, a State Department spokesman said that the United States is “still concerned” about the level of cross-border terrorist exfiltration from Pakistan. Finally, U.S. Ambassador to Pakistan Powell urged Pakistanis to address international donor concerns about the transparency and accountability of economic aid.
- 08/19/03** — A spokesman for the Afghani government accused Pakistani Islamist parties of providing financial support for Taliban forces who seek to carry out destabilizing attacks in the region. On the same day, more than one year after the notification of Congress, U.S. Ambassador to Pakistan Powell announced that **Islamabad will purchase six C-130 military transport aircraft** from Lockheed Martin for approximately \$75 million under a Foreign Military Financing grant.
- 08/18/03** — USAID and the Pakistani government signed a 5-year, \$116 million grant agreement to support healthcare services for Pakistani families. On the same day, the Belgian government confirmed that Pakistan is seeking to purchase up to two squadrons of F-16 fighter aircraft from Brussels. Also, Islamabad accused India of operating 55 “terrorist camps” in Indian Kashmir.
- 08/17/03** — Former Pakistani PM Nawaz Sharif reportedly stated that more than 4,000 Pakistani soldiers were killed in the 1999 Kargil conflict, which he claimed was entirely planned and launched by the Pakistani Army without his knowledge.
- 08/16/03** — Gunmen in Karachi killed two Shiite Muslims, including a doctor.
- 08/15/03** — On the occasion of India’s national independence day, Indian PM Vajpayee invited Pakistan to “abjure its anti-India outlook” and “walk together with India on the road to peace.”
- 08/14/03** — The MMA issued a religious edict against any Pakistani soldiers that may be sent to join a multilateral stabilization force in Iraq. On the same day, in Peshawar, Pakistani security forces – reportedly assisted by F.B.I. agents – killed a Libyan national believed to be an Al Qaeda member. Three other suspects escaped.

- 08/13/03** — A Foreign Ministry spokesman said that Pakistan “deplores” the U.S. decision to allow Israel to sell the Phalcon Airborne Early Warning System to India. On the same day, during a visit to Islamabad, Assistant Secretary of Commerce for Market Access and Compliance Lash urged Pakistan to reduce the incidence of corruption, which he reportedly called a “major hurdle in promoting investment in Pakistan.”
- 08/12/03** — A third meeting of the Tripartite Commission of officials from the United States, Pakistan, and Afghanistan took place near Kabul to discuss ongoing efforts to stabilize the Pakistan-Afghanistan border region. On the same day, Pakistani Foreign Minister Kasuri said that Pakistan would contribute troops to a UN-backed stabilization force for Iraq, preferably in tandem with “some other Muslim country.”
- 08/11/03** — **U.S. forces in Afghanistan shot and killed two Pakistani soldiers** at a border patrol post after what the U.S. Central Command called an “unfortunate and unintended engagement” in which they were mistaken for Al Qaeda or Taliban fighters. On the same day, President Musharraf called for modifications of the SAARC charter to allow for bilateral dispute resolution.
- 08/10/03** — In Lahore, Pakistan, some 100 politicians, activists, and journalists from both India and Pakistan began a two-day conference aimed at reducing bilateral tensions between the two South Asian neighbors. On the same day, the commander of Afghani border forces in the Kandahar province said that Taliban fighters operate from Pakistani territory with the “full support of the ISI” (Pakistan’s intelligence agency).
- 08/09/03** — India claimed to have killed a top Lashkar-e-Taiba figure responsible for planning a March 2003 attack that left 24 Kashmiri Hindus dead.
- 08/07/03** — The Pakistani government declared the Al Rasheed Trust to be “an organization suspected of terrorism.”
- 08/05/03** — Upon returning from Pakistan, U.S. Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff Gen. Myers said that “Pakistan is providing tremendous support to the United States” in tracking Taliban and Al Qaeda forces, and that Islamabad has “stepped up troops levels and patrols” along the Pakistan-Afghanistan border. On the same day, a Swiss judge found former Pakistani PM Benazir Bhutto and her husband guilty of money laundering during her time in office.
- 08/04/03** — President Musharraf said, “We must finish off religious extremism” and “must not use the mosques to spread hatred.” On the same day, Pakistani PM Jamali said that Pakistan-based terrorist organizations such as Lashkar-e-Taiba had been “closed and sealed” and that Islamabad could “prove” that it did not support terrorism.
- 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."
- 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.
- 07/23/03** — In Islamabad, the new head of the U.S. Central Command, Gen. Abizaid, met with senior Pakistani leaders, including President Musharraf, whom he thanked for Pakistan's "excellent cooperation" in anti-terrorism efforts.
- 07/22/03** — Militants attacked an Indian army camp in Kashmir, killing 7 soldiers, including a general. New Delhi blamed the attack on the Pakistan-based Lashkar-i-Taiba terrorist group.
- 07/21/03** — A spokesman for the Pakistani Foreign Ministry stated that Islamabad was willing to contribute forces to a potential Iraqi stabilization force "under legitimate cover of the United Nations or if we are invited by the Iraqis."
- 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 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.
- 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.
- 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.
- 07/08/03** — **Several hundred Afghanis 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 53.**
- 06/03** — **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. Also, the MMA-ruled legislature of the NWFP passed a bill that introduces Sharia (Islamic) law in the region.
- 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. A pro-military party won a plurality of parliamentary seats while an Islamist coalition made a surprisingly strong showing in the western provinces. 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 major 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 kidnapped 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 large 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 six weeks, 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.