

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, see CRS Issue Brief IB94041, *Pakistan-U.S. Relations*. This report will be updated regularly.

12/01/03 — Pakistan and India agreed to restore airline overflight and landing rights by January 1, 2004. Progress in improved Pakistan-India relations spurred a 4.8% rise in Pakistan's main stock index, the biggest ever one-day gain.

On the same day,

President Musharraf offered to withdraw all of Pakistan's 50,000 troops from Kashmir if New Delhi agreed to pull back its estimated 700,000 soldiers from the disputed region.

11/30/03 — President Musharraf announced that, as a "gesture of goodwill," Pakistan would agree to resume overflights with India.

11/29/03 — Afghan President Karzai claimed that former Taliban leader Mullah Omar was seen in the western Pakistani city of Quetta during the previous week.

11/28/03 — A press report indicated that the International Atomic Energy Agency is investigating the possibility that Iran's uranium enrichment technology was obtained from a Pakistani source.

Acronyms

LOC:	Line of Control (Kashmir)
MMA:	Muttahida Majlis-e-Amal, a coalition of six Islamist political parties
NWFP:	North West Frontier Province
FTO:	Foreign Terrorist Organization
WMD:	weapons of mass destruction

¹ Entries are on a day-to-day basis going back 60-90 days, then include periodic high-profile events. 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), *News International* (Karachi), *Hindu* (Madras), and *Hindustan Times* (Delhi).

- 11/26/03 — At midnight, **Pakistan and India began a formal cease-fire** at their shared international border, as well as along the LOC and Actual Ground Position Line on the Siachen glacier. The United States hailed the move as “steps toward peace [that] offer hope for real progress in the region.”
- 11/24/03 — An Indian government spokesman announced New Delhi’s intention to match Pakistan’s cease-fire order at the LOC while extending it to the Siachen glacier area to the north. He also warned that the cease-fire would fail unless Pakistan halts its material support for Kashmiri insurgents.
- 11/23/03 — In a major address to the nation, **PM Jamali announced a unilateral cease-fire** by Pakistani forces at the LOC to begin on the final night of Ramadan. He also said that, while Pakistan is in transition to civilian rule, in any developing country “the actual strength lies with the armed forces.”
- 11/20/03 — Islamabad announced a ban on three additional Islamic “extremist organizations.”
- 11/18/03 — Top MMA leaders threatened to launch a “peaceful and effective movement for the removal of General Musharraf” if Pakistan’s constitutional crisis is not resolved by mid-December.
- 11/17/03 — Strongly rejecting PM Jamali’s assertions to the contrary, an MMA leader in Pakistan’s parliament accused the Musharraf government of toeing the U.S. administration’s policy line by cracking down on Islamist groups only days after the issue was mentioned by the U.S. ambassador.
- 11/15/03 — **President Musharraf announced a ban on three radical Islamic groups** believed to be previously-outlawed organizations operating under new names. Over following days, security forces arrested at least 16 suspected militants and sealed 137 offices operated by the groups.
- 11/14/03 — Pakistani Foreign Secretary Khokhar held meetings with Deputy Secretary of State Armitage and Deputy National Security Advisor Hadley in Washington to discuss matters of mutual interest, reportedly including Pakistan’s concerns that Indian weapons acquisitions may lead to a regional imbalance.
- 11/13/03 — U.S. Ambassador to Pakistan Nancy Powell gave a major policy speech in which she reiterated America’s long-term commitment to Pakistan. She also noted particular U.S. concern that banned Pakistani extremist groups had re-established themselves under new names. On the same day, Afghanistan’s foreign minister accused Pakistan of giving free rein to Taliban leaders. Also, the deputy chief of the U.S. Central Command, Lt. Gen. Smith, met in Islamabad with President Musharraf, his deputy, and the commander of the Pakistan navy to discuss increasing U.S.-Pakistan anti-terrorism cooperation. Finally, the U.S. Department of Agriculture announced an offer of \$95 million in credit guarantees for sales of U.S. agricultural commodities to Pakistan.
- 11/12/03 — President Musharraf said that Pakistan fully supports the Bonn process and efforts by Afghan President Karzai for reconciliation and reconstruction. On the same day, an Islamabad judge ordered that arrested pro-democracy figure Javed Hashmi be transferred to jail on judicial remand after Hashmi’s lawyer complained that his client had suffered physical and mental torture while in custody.
- 11/10/03 — A report of the International Atomic Energy Agency claimed that Iran’s clandestine nuclear program was assisted with sensitive technologies from

- four unnamed foreign countries. Most analysts believe that Pakistan is among these, though Islamabad and Tehran deny any nuclear cooperation.
- 11/07/03** — President Musharraf vowed to rectify “through all means possible” the “imbalance” being created by India’s “massive acquisition of arms.”
- 11/06/03** — A supplemental appropriations bill passed by the U.S. Congress became **P.L. 108-106**. The law includes provisions that \$1.15 billion in additional defense spending may be used to reimburse Pakistan and other key cooperating nations for their support of U.S. military operations; that extend the President’s P.L. 107-57 waiver authority through FY2004; and that — upon Presidential determination that Pakistan is cooperating with the United States in the global war on terrorism — up to \$200 million in FY2004 Economic Support Funds may be used for the modification of direct loans and guarantees for Pakistan. On the same day, Pakistan’s interior minister said the government would soon launch a plan to monitor Pakistani madrassas. A representative of the MMA responded by saying that the Islamist coalition would “strongly resist” any effort to monitor Pakistan’s religious schools. Also, police at Islamabad airport seized 82 kilograms of heroin found in the luggage of a Britain-bound Pakistani. Finally, a Swiss court overturned a previous ruling ordering former Pakistani PM Benazir Bhutto to return \$11 million allegedly obtained through illegal means.
- 11/05/03** — U.S. AID announced awarding 10 new grants totaling \$90 million to help reduce poverty in Pakistan.
- 11/04/03** — Islamabad police announced that pro-democracy figure Javed Hashmi was being held for abetting mutiny. On the same day, a Pakistani cleric who had been held by the U.S. military at Guantanamo Bay, Cuba for nearly one year filed a \$10 million lawsuit against the U.S. and Pakistani governments for alleged damages due to mental and physical torture.
- 11/03/03** — **President Musharraf traveled to Beijing**, where he signed several agreements with the Chinese government, including pacts on enhancing mutual defense industrial cooperation and preferential trade. On the same day, two leaders of Pakistan’s Islamist political coalition strongly condemned U.S. policies in Afghanistan while claiming that the United States and Israel are seeking to destabilize Pakistan.
- 10/30/03** — One of the leading figures of Pakistan’s political opposition, Alliance for the Restoration of Democracy President Hashmi, was arrested and accused of defaming the military.
- 10/29/03** — In a detailed response to New Delhi’s October 22 initiative, **Islamabad welcomed India’s proposals** and accepted several — including a restoration of sporting ties, the establishment of a joint coast guard hotline, and the resumption of travel negotiations — while also expressing disappointment that India continued to shun direct bilateral dialogue.
- 10/27/03** — The IMF approved a \$248 million loan for Pakistan and noted “strong improvement in Pakistan’s external and fiscal prospects” while encouraging further economic reforms.
- 10/22/03** — **The Indian government unveiled a set of 12 proposals** meant to improve its relations with Pakistan. Many of the steps involve increasing people-to-people contacts between Pakistan and India. The United States warmly welcomed the Indian initiative. New Delhi also announced that

- Indian Deputy PM Advani would represent India's central government in its first-ever proposed negotiations with Kashmiri separatists.
- 10/21/03** — Pakistan and China began a three-day joint naval exercise off the coast of Shanghai. The exercises are China's first ever with a foreign navy.
- 10/20/03** — Moody's Investors Service raised its rating on Pakistan's foreign debt and said a narrowing budget gap places Islamabad in a better position to manage the national debt.
- 10/16/03** — **The U.S. Treasury Department identified Indian crime figure Dawood Ibrahim as a "global terrorist"** with links to both Al Qaeda and Lashkar-e-Taiba. Ibrahim, wanted by the Indian government for 1993 Bombay bombings that killed and injured thousands, is believed to be in Pakistan. On the same day, India's External Affairs Minister said Pakistan has done "nothing at all to stop cross-border terrorism."
- 10/14/03** — **The U.S. Treasury Department designated the Pakistan-based Al Akhtar Trust as a terrorist support organization** under Executive Order 13224. Al Akhtar is said to be carrying on support for Al Qaeda and Taliban terrorist activities funded by the previously-designated Al Rashid Trust. On the same day, Foreign Minister Kasuri said that Pakistan will send troops to Iraq only in tandem with other Muslim countries and under a UN umbrella.
- 10/13/03** — The Chairman of Pakistan's Joint Chiefs of Staff, Gen. Aziz, arrived in Washington for an official five-day visit.
- 10/10/03** — Human Rights Watch sent an open letter to President Musharraf criticizing the "suppression of civil liberties and the progressive undermining of civilian institutions" during his four-year rule.
- 10/07/03** — U.S. Ambassador-designate to Kabul Khalilzad said that it is "critical" that Pakistan not "become a sanctuary for Taliban and Al Qaeda."
- 10/06/03** — **Pakistani Sunni militant leader and National Assembly member Maulana Azam Tariq was shot dead** along with four others in Islamabad. Tariq had led the FTO-designate Sipah-e-Sahaba.
- 10/03/03** — Gunmen opened fire on a Karachi bus, killing 7 Shia Muslims and injuring 7 others, spurring violent protests.
- 10/02/03** — **President Bush and numerous Members of Congress met with Pakistani PM Jamali** in Washington where they discussed regional terrorism, nuclear proliferation, and the Kashmir situation, among other issues. On the same day, **the Pakistan Army reported killing 8 suspected Al Qaeda fighters** and capturing 18 others near Afghanistan.
- 09/30/03** — Deputy Secretary of State Armitage said that elements of the Pakistani security community may be reluctant to work with the United States.
- 09/25/03** — While speaking to the U.N. General Assembly, Indian PM Vajpayee contended that Pakistan had "let terrorism become a tool of blackmail."
- 09/24/03** — President Bush met with President Musharraf in New York. In his speech to the U.N. General Assembly, Musharraf criticized the "brutal suppression of the Kashmiris" under "Indian occupation." On the same day, **Congress was notified of two pending majors arms sales** to Pakistan potentially worth more than \$200 million. The six air traffic control radars and 40 Bell 407 helicopters are meant to enhance Pakistan's ability to secure its border with Afghanistan.

- 09/20/03 — Pakistani police detained 19 Islamic seminary students in Karachi. The men were Indonesian and Malaysian nationals suspected of having links with the Southeast Asian Jamaat Islamiyah terrorist network.
- 09/19/03 — Treasury Secretary Snow visited Pakistan and lauded the Islamabad government for its efforts to combat terrorist financing.
- 09/18/03 — The **U.S.-Pakistan Defense Consultative Group** met in Washington.
- 09/15/03 — The Hurriyat Conference of Kashmiri separatists formally split after a dispute between hardliners and moderates.
- 09/12/03 — Afghan President Karzai called on Pakistani clerics to stop supporting Taliban members who seek to destabilize Afghanistan.
- 09/03/03 — **Congress was notified of a pending major arms sale** to Pakistan potentially worth \$100 million. The six air surveillance radars are meant to enhance Pakistan's ability to support Operation Enduring Freedom.
- 08/03 — 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.
- 07/03 — The Foreign Relations Authorization Act, FY2004-2005 (H.R. 1950) was passed by the House. Section 709 of the Act requires the President to report to Congress on actions taken by Pakistan to close terrorist camps, prohibit infiltration at the LOC, and cease the transfer of WMD. Also, 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.
- 05/03 — President Musharraf made a pledge to Deputy Secretary of State Armitage that any terrorist training camps existing on Pakistani-controlled territory would be closed.
- 04/03 — After **an Indian "hand of friendship" offer**, Pakistani PM Jamali and Indian PM Vajpayee had the first direct contact between national leaders since a July 2001 summit in Agra, India.
- 03/03 — Alleged top Al Qaeda leader Khalid Mohammed was arrested in Rawalpindi. In the same month, 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. Also, Islamabad expressed disapproval of the U.S.-led invasion of Iraq. Finally, 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. 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 Consultative 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 since FY1990. The C-130 aircraft and 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 LOC 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, at 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.
- 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 reportedly 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 Afghan 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.