

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.

10/02/03 — Numerous **Members of Congress met with Pakistani PM Jamali** at the Capitol where they asked him to discuss regional terrorism, nuclear proliferation, and the Kashmir situation, among other issues. On the same day, the Pakistan Army reported killing 12 suspected Al Qaeda fighters near the Afghani border.

10/01/03 — **President Bush met with Pakistani PM Jamali** at the White House and confirmed a mutual interest in combating terrorism.

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.

09/29/03 — Indian security forces claimed to have killed 15 Muslim militants as they tried to cross the LOC from Pakistan.

09/28/03 — A taped message said to be from alleged Al Qaeda leader Ayman al-Zawahri called President Musharraf a “traitor” and urged Pakistanis to

Acronyms

LOC:	Line of Control (Kashmir)
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 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).

overthrow him for his role in assisting U.S.-led anti-terrorism operations. On the same day, Indian PM Vajpayee said that the peace initiative with Pakistan had been damaged by President Musharraf's remarks at the United Nations. Also, the newly-elected head of the Hurriyat Conference, hardliner Syed Ali Shah Geelani, reportedly claimed that the Lashkar-e-Taiba and Jaish-e-Mohammed terrorist groups are "friends" and "benefactors" of his organization.

- 09/27/03 — A bomb exploded on a Karachi bus, injuring 10, and Karachi police announced the arrest of three members of the Lashkar-e-Jhangvi, a domestic terrorist group.
- 09/26/03 — Indian PM Vajpayee ruled out any bilateral talks with Pakistan during the January 2004 SAARC summit in Islamabad.
- 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."** He also told President Bush that continued cross-border terrorism from Pakistan was making it difficult for India to maintain its peace initiative. On the same day, Pakistani police in Peshawar arrested two suspected Al Qaeda members. Also, Pakistani Islamist groups criticized Musharraf for his offer to send troops to Iraq.
- 09/24/03 — **President Bush met with President Musharraf** in New York where he reiterated U.S. friendship and reportedly urged the Pakistani president to prevent "cross-border infiltration" into both Kashmir and Afghanistan. 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 air traffic control radars and 40 Bell 407 helicopters are meant to enhance Pakistan's ability to support Operation Enduring Freedom and to secure its borders.
- 09/23/03 — President Musharraf met with Secretary of State Powell in New York to discuss bilateral relations. **Musharraf reportedly indicated that Pakistan would be willing to send troops to Iraq** if they were part of a U.N.-backed force that included other Muslim countries.
- 09/20/03 — Pakistani police detained 17 Islamic seminary students in Karachi. The men were Indonesian and Malaysian nationals suspected of having links with the Southeast Asian Jamaat Islamiyah terrorist network. On the same day, Pakistan formally invited the Indian prime minister to attend a January 2004 SAARC summit meeting in Islamabad.
- 09/19/03 — Treasury Secretary Snow visited Pakistan and lauded the Islamabad government for its efforts to combat terrorist financing. On the same day, MMA members walked out of a parliament session and declared that they would have no further negotiations in their dispute with the Musharraf government.
- 09/18/03 — **The U.S.-Pakistan Defense Consultative Group** completed a three-day meeting in Washington where it set a schedule for joint military exercises and training, discussed how the U.S. military can assist Pakistan in improving its counterterrorism capabilities, and included a U.S. vow to expedite future security assistance. A Pentagon statement called the meetings "substantive, cordial, [and] useful."

- 09/15/03** — **The Hurriyat Conference of Kashmiri separatists formally split** after a dispute between hardliners allied with Islamabad and moderates favoring negotiation with New Delhi. On the same day, India's foreign minister lowered expectations by saying that a SAARC summit set for January 2004 would not necessarily lead to summit-level discussions with Pakistan. He reiterated New Delhi's demand that "cross border terrorism" in Kashmir be halted. Also, the United States agreed to export to Pakistan \$12.4 million worth of inedible beef tallow under a P.L. 480 Title II food grant. Finally, President Bush formally identified Pakistan as being among the world's "major illicit drug producing or drug-transit countries."
- 09/14/03** — Surging separatist violence in Kashmir reportedly killed as many as 437 civilians, Islamic militants, and Indian security men during the first two weeks of September. An Indian military official said infiltration rates at the LOC were up after dropping in the spring and early summer months.
- 09/13/03** — Addressing Pakistan's growing water crisis, President Musharraf called on the country's provincial leaders to resolve their differences over water distribution and agree to the construction of at least two major dams.
- 09/12/03** — Afghan President Karzai called on Pakistani clerics to stop supporting Taliban members who seek to destabilize Afghanistan.
- 09/11/03** — Declassified documents released by the U.S. Defense Intelligence Agency suggested that **Pakistan's intelligence agency may have provided material assistance to Al Qaeda** during the 1990s.
- 09/10/03** — The Associated Press quoted a top Chinese official saying that Muslim separatists in China's northwest used "several training camps in Pakistan."
- 09/09/03** — A leader of the Islamist MMA demanded that President Musharraf refuse a U.S. request to send Pakistani troops to Iraq.
- 09/08/03** — A top U.S. military commander said that as many as 1,000 Taliban fighters had infiltrated into Afghanistan from Pakistan. Afghan President Karzai said that Kabul is "very concerned about the increased activity of the Taliban on the Pakistan border."
- 09/05/03** — Pakistan and China established a joint working group to combat terrorism.
- 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.
- 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 Pakistan Foreign Ministry spokesman said that India was withdrawing the "hand of friendship" offered to Pakistan in April 2003. On the same day, U.S. and Afghan forces launched new operations against remnant Taliban forces near the Pakistan border. The maneuvers appear to have been coordinated with Pakistani security forces using helicopters.
- 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.
- 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** — 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. On the same day, 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.
- 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 seeks to purchase up to two squadrons of F-16 fighter aircraft from Brussels.
- 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.
- 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.
- 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.

- 07/25/03 — **Sixteen 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.
- 07/16/03 — **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.
- 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.
- 07/04/03 — **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.
- 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 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 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 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, 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, 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 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 kidnaped 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.