

COUNTRY FACT SHEET

PAKISTAN

December 2006

Research Directorate
Immigration and Refugee Board of Canada

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1. GENERAL INFORMATION

Official name

Islamic Republic of Pakistan.

Geography

Pakistan is located in southern Asia and has a total area of 796,095 km².^A It shares borders with India to the east, Afghanistan and Iran to the west and China to the northeast. The climate is mostly hot and dry; mountainous areas are cold in winter.

Population and density

Population: 165,803,560 (estimate July 2006).

Density: 191.6 per km² (1 January 2005).

Principal cities and populations

Karachi 9,339,093; Lahore 5,143,495; Faisalabad 2,008,861; Rawalpindi 1,409,768; Multan 1,197,384; Hyderabad 1,166,894; Gujranwala 1,132,509; Peshawar 982,816; Islamabad (capital) 529,180 (1998 Census).^B

Languages

Urdu (8%) is the official language. Other languages are Punjabi 48%, Sindhi 12%, Siraiki 10%, Pashtu 8%, Balochi 3%, Hindko 2% and Brahui 1%. English, which is widely used in government and by the Pakistani elite, Farsi, Burushaski and other languages amount to 8%.

Religions

Islam is the state religion and is practised by approximately 97% of the population (Sunni 77%, Shia 20%). The remaining 3% is mostly Hindu or Christian.

Ethnic groups

Punjabi, Sindhi, Pashtun, Baloch and Muhajir.

Demographics (2006 estimate unless otherwise indicated)

Population growth rate: 2.09%.

Infant mortality rate: 70.45 deaths/1,000 live births.

Life expectancy at birth: 63.39 years.

Fertility rate: 4 children born/woman.

Literacy rate (% aged 15 and older who can read and write): 61.7% of males, 35.2% of females (2004).

Currency

Pakistani rupee (PKR).

PKR 54.32 = CAD 1.00.¹

^A This figure does not include the disputed territory of Kashmir.

^B There was some opposition to the census regarding the underenumeration of cities. The population of Karachi, for example, was estimated by critics of the Census to be 15 million.

National holidays

2006: 10 January (Id al-Adha, Feast of the Sacrifice), 31 January (Muharram, Islamic New Year), 9 February (Ashoura), 23 March (Pakistan Day), 11 April (Eid-i-Milad-un-Nabi, Birth of the Prophet), 1 May (Labour Day), 14 August (Independence Day), 6 September (Defence of Pakistan Day), 11 September (Anniversary of Death of Quaid-i-Azam), 24 September (Ramadan begins), 24 October (Id al-Fitr, end of Ramadan), 9 November (Allama Iqbal Day), 25 December (Birthday of Quaid-i-Azam), 31 December (Id-al-Adha, Feast of the Sacrifice).

2007: 20 January (Muharram, Islamic New Year), 29 January (Ashoura), 20 March (Eid-i-Milad-un-Nabi, Birth of the Prophet), 23 March (Pakistan Day), 1 May (Labour Day), 14 August (Independence Day), 6 September (Defence of Pakistan Day), 11 September (Anniversary of Death of Quaid-i-Azam), 13 September (Ramadan begins), 13 October (Id al-Fitr, end of Ramadan), 9 November (Allama Iqbal Day), 20 December (Id-al-Adha, Feast of the Sacrifice), 25 December (Birthday of Quaid-i-Azam).^C

Head of state

President General Pervez Musharraf (since 20 June 2001).^D

Head of government

Prime Minister Shaukat Aziz (since 28 August 2004).

Form of government

Pakistan is a federal republic. The president, who must be a Muslim, is the head of state and is selected by an electoral college composed of parliament and the four provincial assemblies to serve a 5-year term. The president may serve no more than two consecutive terms in office. The federal legislature is Pakistan's legislative branch of government. The prime minister is the head of the government and is chosen by the lower house of the federal legislature.

Legislative structure

The federal legislature is bicameral. The National Assembly (lower house) has 342 members elected by the general population for 5-year terms. The Senate (upper house) has 100 members who serve 6-year terms. Senators are chosen by members of Pakistan's provincial assemblies (see below for administrative divisions).

Administrative divisions

Pakistan has four provinces (Sindh, Balochistan, Punjab and the North-West Frontier Province), in addition to the Islamabad Capital Territory and the Federally Administered Tribal Areas.

^C Some dates may vary by one or two days due to the Islamic lunar calendar.

^D President Musharraf had previously assumed the title of Chief Executive of Pakistan on 14 October 1999 (see Section 2 - Political Background).

Judicial system

The judiciary comprises the Supreme Court, provincial high courts and special courts to address specific issues such as drugs and traffic violations. The president selects the chief justice of the Supreme Court and chooses other Supreme Court judges in consultation with the chief justice. Pakistan also has a Federal Shariat Court, which determines whether Pakistan's laws are in accordance with Islam. In addition, the office of the Wafaqi Mohtasib (Ombudsman) seeks to promote good relations between the government and citizens of Pakistan.

Elections

To elect members to the National Assembly, Pakistan has universal suffrage for citizens 18 years and older. Out of 342 seats, 60 seats are designated for women and 10 for religious minorities. The last election was 10 October 2002 with the following results:

Pakistan Muslim League (Quaid-e-Azam Group) 118 seats, Pakistan's People's Party Parliamentarians 81 seats, Muttahida Majlis-e-Amal 60 seats, Pakistan Muslim League (Nawaz Group) 19 seats, Muttahida Qaumi Movement 17 seats, National Alliance 16 seats, Pakistan Muslim League (Functional Pir Pagara Group) 5 seats, Pakistan Muslim League (Junejo Group) 3 seats, Pakistan People's Party (Sherpao Group) 2 seats, Balochistan National Party 1 seat, Pakistan Tehrik-e-Insaf 1 seat, Pakistan Muslim League (Zia-ul-Haq) 1 seat, Jamhoori Watan Party 1 seat, Muhajir Qaumi Movement 1 seat, Pakistan Awami Tehreek 1 seat, Independents 14 seats and Vacant 1 seat.^E

With respect to the Senate, 88 out of 100 members are elected by members from the four provincial legislatures, 8 are elected by delegates from the Federally Administered Tribal Areas and 4 by representatives from the federal capital. Senators serve six-year terms with elections for half of the membership occurring every three years. The last senate election was 6 March 2006 with the following results:

Pakistan Muslim League (Quaid-e-Azam Group) 38 seats, Muttahida Majlis-e-Amal 17 seats, Pakistan People's Party Parliamentarians 9 seats, Muttahida Qaumi Movement 6 seats, Pakistan Muslim League (Nawaz Group) 4 seats, Pakistan People's Party (Sherpao Group) 3 seats, Pakhtoonkwha Milli Awami Party 3 seats, Awami National Party 2 seats, Balochistan National Party (Awami) 1 seat, Balochistan National Party (Mengal) 1 seat, Jamhoori Watan Party 1 seat, Jamiat-e-Ulema-e-Islam 1 seat, National Alliance 1 seat, Pakistan Muslim League (Functional Pir Pagara Group) 1 seat and Independents 12 seats.

^E According to the Commonwealth Secretariat, the 10 October 2002 election reflected the will of the people. However, concerns were expressed regarding the general fairness of the procedures. For example, there were reports that some women in the North-West Frontier Province were prohibited from voting altogether. *The Europa World Yearbook 2006* reports that European Union (EU) election monitors found serious problems with the electoral process.

Defence

Military service is voluntary. The age of eligibility is 16 years but soldiers must wait until they reach the age of 18 to engage in combat. In August 2005, the armed forces of Pakistan numbered 619,000 personnel:

Army:	550,000
Navy:	24,000
Air Force:	45,000

Paramilitary forces numbered as many as 302,000, including 185,000 in the National Guard.

The 2005 defence budget was PKR 222 billion (CAD 4,222,440,000).²

Media

Article 19 of the 1973 constitution entitles citizens to freedom of speech and expression and freedom of the press. However, these rights may be restricted under specific circumstances; for example, in the interests of Islam, the security of Pakistan, friendly foreign relations, public order and/or morality.

There are over 400 daily newspapers in Pakistan. Newspapers with wide circulation are: *Daily Jang* (Urdu), *Nawa-i-Waqt* (Urdu and English), *Dawn* (English and Gujarati), *Jasarat* (Urdu), *The Nation* (English) and *Frontier Post* (English).

In 2003, there were approximately 28.6 million television receivers, 800,000 personal computers, and 1.5 million Internet users in Pakistan.

United Nations Human Development Index and Country Rank^F

Value: 0.539/1 (2004).

Rank: 134 out of 177 countries (2004).

Gender-related Development Index and Country Rank^G

Value: 0.513 (2004).

Rank: 105 out of 136 countries (2004).

Population below the national poverty line

32.6% (1990-2003).

^F The HDI is a composite measurement of human development in a country, based on life expectancy, levels of literacy and education, and standard of living. Values are: 0.800 and higher (high human development), 0.500-0.799 (medium human development) and 0.500 and under (low development index). Countries are ranked in descending order by their HDI value.

^G The GDI adjusts the rating of the HDI to reflect inequalities between men and women.

Transparency International's Corruption Perceptions Index (CPI)^H

Score: 2.2/10 (2006).

Rank: 142 out of 163 countries surveyed (2006).

Transparency International's Global Corruption Barometer (GCB)^I

Political parties 4.0, parliament/legislature 3.9, business/private sector 3.6, police 4.4, legal system/judiciary 3.8, media 3.6, tax revenue 3.9, medical services 3.4, education system 3.1, military 3.1, utilities 3.8, registry and permit services 3.9, NGOs 3.4 and religious bodies 2.8.

[Information compiled from: Commonwealth Secretariat 2002; *Ethnologue: Languages of the World* 2005; *The Europa World Year Book* 2006 10 June 2006; Pakistan 2006; Pakistan 1973; *Political Handbook of the World: 2005-2006 Dec. 2005*; Transparency International 7 Dec. 2006; *ibid* 7 Nov. 2006; UN 2006; US 19 Sept. 2006]

2. POLITICAL BACKGROUND

General Pervez Musharraf

On 12 October 1999, former Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif attempted to replace Army Chief of Staff General Pervez Musharraf while Musharraf was in Sri Lanka.³ Upon learning Sharif's intentions, Musharraf boarded a plane to return to Pakistan.⁴ Sharif gave orders to deny Musharraf's plane permission to land but the military disobeyed Sharif's orders, intervened and gained control of the airport.⁵ Sharif and his cabinet were subsequently arrested.⁶ On 14 October 1999, Musharraf declared a state of emergency and assumed the title of Chief Executive of Pakistan.⁷ Musharraf also suspended the constitution and outlined his priorities as the new leader, including improving Pakistan's economic situation, targeting corruption and building democracy.⁸ In April 2000, former Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif was sentenced to life in prison for hijacking and terrorism related to his role in preventing Musharraf's plane from landing.⁹ In December 2000, the terrorism conviction was reversed and Musharraf pardoned Sharif.¹⁰ Sharif left Pakistan to live in exile in Saudi Arabia.¹¹

In May 2000, the Supreme Court ruled that although Musharraf's October 1999 coup was "extra-constitutional," it was legitimate.¹² The Supreme Court also concluded that elections for the national and provincial assemblies should be held no later than October 2002.¹³ Musharraf indicated his acceptance of this timetable on 25 May 2000.¹⁴ On 21 June 2001, Musharraf dissolved parliament and the provincial legislatures and named himself president of Pakistan.¹⁵ He also scheduled a referendum for 30 April 2002 in which voters would decide whether to extend his presidency to 2007.¹⁶ While 97.7% of

^H The Transparency International CPI is based on composite survey data from 16 polls and 10 independent institutions. The data reflects the perceptions of resident and non-resident business people and country analysts. Scores range from 0 (highly corrupt) to 10 (highly clean). According to their score, countries are ranked in order from least corrupt (1) to most corrupt (163).

^I The Transparency International GCB is a public opinion survey used to gauge people's perceptions of corruption within their own state. Scores range from 1 (not corrupt) to 5 (extremely corrupt).

ballots cast in the referendum favoured the extension of Musharraf's presidency, electoral irregularities were reported and opposition parties rejected the outcome.¹⁷

The Legal Framework Order (LFO)

On 21 August 2002, Musharraf put forth the Legal Framework Order (LFO), consisting of 29 constitutional amendments.¹⁸ The LFO called for the creation of a permanent National Security Council (NSC) as a civil-military institution, an increase in the number of seats in the National Assembly and the Senate, and significantly broader presidential powers.¹⁹ The LFO granted the president the power to dismiss the cabinet, dissolve the National Assembly, increase his presidential term and select provincial governors and Supreme Court judges.²⁰

The Pakistan People's Party Parliamentarians (PPPP) and the Muttahida Majlis-e-Amal (MMA) opposed the LFO and requested that Musharraf step down from his position as army chief of staff.²¹ To overcome the opposition to the LFO, Musharraf made an agreement with the MMA to relinquish his army title by December 2004.²² In December 2003, following Musharraf's pledge, the National Assembly, excluding the PPPP and the Pakistan People's Party (Nawaz) (PML-N), voted in favour of most of the provisions in the LFO as Pakistan's 17th constitutional amendment.²³ On 30 November 2004, while Musharraf was out of the country, the acting president signed a bill allowing Musharraf to continue as both president of Pakistan and army chief of staff, contrary to the December 2003 agreement he made with the MMA.²⁴

India:

Relations between Pakistan and India have long been prominent in Pakistani politics.²⁵ In particular, discord over the development and testing of nuclear weapons and the contested region of Kashmir are divisive issues.²⁶ With respect to Kashmir, both Pakistan and India assert their claim to the entire territory.²⁷ Since 1947, their competing claims have led to two Indo-Pakistani wars.²⁸ In 1949, the Line of Control (LoC) was established to separate Azad (Free) Kashmir and the Northern Areas (Pakistani-controlled Kashmir) from Jammu and Kashmir (Indian-controlled Kashmir).²⁹ In December 2006, Musharraf indicated that if India were to agree to a gradual withdrawal of troops, Kashmiri self-governance and joint supervision in the region, Pakistan may reconsider its territorial claim to the area.³⁰

United States (US):

In 2000, the US moved toward more favourable relations with India, thus hindering US-Pakistani cooperation.³¹ However, following the 11 September 2001 terrorist attacks, the US sought to improve relations with Pakistan as part of their overall strategy to control terrorism in Afghanistan.³² However, rapprochement with the US was potentially dangerous for Musharraf as it risked alienating pro-Taliban, Islamic fundamentalist elements of Pakistani society.³³ On 19 September 2001, Musharraf announced that he had allowed the US the use of Pakistani airspace and would collaborate in intelligence gathering.³⁴ Musharraf also "derecognized the Taliban" and took steps to prevent Taliban and al-Qaeda personnel from fleeing to Pakistan.³⁵ Such actions have served to inflame anti-American sentiments in Pakistan.³⁶ In particular, they resulted in strong resistance to

cooperation with the US in the North-West Frontier Province, the Federally Administered Tribal Areas and Waziristan (a region adjacent to the Afghanistan border).³⁷

Afghanistan:

Relations with Afghanistan have been strained due to controversy over whether Musharraf is lending support to Taliban and al-Qaeda operatives inside Pakistan.³⁸ In particular, the signing of a 5 September 2006 peace agreement between Pakistan and pro-Taliban fighters in North Waziristan³⁹ has caused friction between President Musharraf and Afghan President Hamid Karzai.⁴⁰ The peace deal stipulates that pro-Taliban militants will cease hostilities against the army and refrain from fighting in Afghanistan.⁴¹ In return, the government agrees to cease major air and ground offensives, release prisoners, return soldiers to barracks and permit militants to carry small arms.⁴² President Karzai claims that since the implementation of the peace agreement, violence in Afghanistan has increased.⁴³ Information gathered by the United States regarding the frequency of violence in the region appears to corroborate Karzai's assertion.⁴⁴

3. POLITICAL PARTIES

Leading party:

Pakistan Muslim League (PML): The PML first emerged in 1962 and has regularly split and reformulated itself since then.⁴⁵ In 2004, the PML united several of its factions: the **PML Quaid-e-Azam Group (PML-Q)**, **PML (Junejo)**, **PML (Functional)**, **PML (Zia-ul-Haq Shaheed)** and the **PML (Jinnah)**.⁴⁶ The PML (Functional) is no longer a part of the united PML.⁴⁷ In total, the united PML won 127 seats in the October 2002 election⁴⁸ with the PML-Q obtaining the most seats.⁴⁹ Chaudhry Shujaat Hussain is the president of the party and party member Shaukat Aziz is the prime minister of Pakistan.⁵⁰

National Alliance: The following parties allied with the PML shortly after its unification in 2004:⁵¹

Millat Party (MP): The MP was established in August 1998 and supports the creation of an Islamic egalitarian society, human rights, anti-corruption and "true federalism."⁵² The leader of the MP is Farooq Ahmad Khan Leghari.⁵³

National People's Party (NPP): The NPP was established in 1986 by breakaway members of the Pakistan People's Party (PPP) and espouses the principles of fairness and democracy.⁵⁴ The leader of the NPP is Ghulam Mustafa Jatoi.⁵⁵

National Awami Party (NAP): The NAP was founded in 2000 by breakaway members of the Awami National Party (ANP).⁵⁶ The leader of the NAP is Ajmal Khan Khattak.⁵⁷

Sindh Democratic Alliance (SDA): The SDA was established in September-October 2001 and forged linkages at the provincial level with the PML-Q.⁵⁸ The leaders of the SDA are Ghulam Murtaza Jatoi and Arbab Ghulam Rahim; Rahim is both a PML vice president and the chief minister of Sindh.⁵⁹

Sindh National Front (SNF): The SNF was founded in 1989 by its current leader, Mumtaz Ali Bhutto, following the disbanding of the Sindh-Baluch-Pushtoon Front (SBPF).⁶⁰ The SNF supports a confederation of Pakistan's provinces, as did the SBPF.⁶¹

Other National Assembly parties:

Pakistan People's Party (PPP): The PPP was originally established in 1967 by Zulfikar Ali Bhutto in support of Islamic socialism, democracy and non-alignment in international affairs.⁶² In 1977, General Zia ul-Haq ousted the PPP government and in 1979, Bhutto was executed.⁶³ His widow, Begum Nasrat, and daughter, Benazir, subsequently became the leaders of the party.⁶⁴ Benazir Bhutto has been the prime minister of Pakistan numerous times and is the life chairperson of the party.⁶⁵ Due to indictment for various criminal offences, she maintains this position from abroad.⁶⁶

In order to circumvent regulations that prevent individuals convicted of criminal activity from running for electoral office, the **Pakistan People's Party Parliamentarians (PPPP)** was formed in August 2002.⁶⁷ Running as part of the **Alliance for the Restoration of Democracy (ARD)**⁶⁸, the party won 81 seats in the National Assembly two months later.⁶⁹ Ten PPPP members later defected from the party, six of whom were given cabinet positions.⁷⁰ This splinter group is called the **Pakistan People's Party Parliamentarians (Patriots) (PPPP-P)**.⁷¹ In 2004, the **Pakistan People's Party (Sherpao Group)** and the PPPP-P merged to form the current official PPP.⁷²

Benazir Bhutto is the chairperson of the original PPP for life; Makhdoom Amin Fahim is the president and Senate leader of the PPPP; Chawdry Aitzaz Ahsan is the National Assembly leader of the PPPP; and Rao Sikander Iqbal is the leader of the current official PPP.⁷³

United Council for Action (Muttahida Majlis-e-Amal, MMA): The MMA was established in 2001 by the Assembly of Islamic Clergy (Jamiat-ul-Ulema-e-Islam, JUI), the Assembly of Pakistani Clergy (Jamiat-ul-Ulema-e-Pakistan, JUP), the Islami Tehrik-i-Pakistan (TiP), the Pakistan Islamic Assembly (Jamaat-e-Islami-e-Pakistan, JIP), the Jammu and Kashmir Jamiat-e-Islami and the Jamiat-e-Ahle Hadith (JAH).⁷⁴ The JAH split from the MMA prior to the 2002 election campaign.⁷⁵

The MMA advocates a return to the constitution, the creation of an Islamic state and a negotiated settlement of the Kashmir problem.⁷⁶ The MMA opposes both the 2002 Legal Framework Order (LFO) and Musharraf's support of the United States (US) "war on terrorism."⁷⁷ Qazi Hussain Ahmad is the leader of the MMA.⁷⁸ MMA members are:

Assembly of Islamic Clergy (Jamiat-ul-Ulema-e-Islam, JUI): The JUI was established in 1950 based on a commitment to governance in accordance with Sunni Islam.⁷⁹ There are currently two JUI factions: JUI-S (also known as JUI-Haq) is led by Sami ul-Haq, and JUI-Fazlur (JUI-F) is led by Fazlur Rahman.⁸⁰ In the 2002 National Assembly election, the JUI-F won 41 MMA seats and the JUI-S won 2 seats.⁸¹

Assembly of Pakistani Clergy (Jamiat-ul-Ulema-e-Pakistan, JUP): The JUP was formed in 1968⁸² and advocates moderate Sunni principles.⁸³ The JUP secured no seats in the October 2002 National Assembly election and is led by Shah Farid al-Haq.⁸⁴

Islami Tehrik-i Pakistan (TiP) (also Tehrik Millat-e-Islami Pakistan): The Shia Muslim TiP was banned in November 2003.⁸⁵ The TiP is the successor to the banned **Tehrik-e-Jafariya-e-Pakistan**, a group with strong ties to the **Sipah-i-Muhammad** (see "Armed Groups and Other Non-State Actors").⁸⁶ The TiP did not win any seats in the October 2002 National Assembly election.⁸⁷ The leader of the TiP is Allama Sajid Ali Naqvi.⁸⁸

Pakistan Islamic Assembly (Jamaat-e-Islami-e-Pakistan, JIP): Established in 1941, the Sunni Islamist JIP is regarded as a highly organized political party in Pakistan.⁸⁹ The JIP won 17 seats in the October 2002 National Assembly election.⁹⁰ Amir Qazi Hussain Ahmad is the party leader.⁹¹ The **Jammu and Kashmir Jamiat-e-Islami** is an official branch of the JIP.⁹²

Pakistan Muslim League - Nawaz (PML-N): The PML-N was established in 1993.⁹³ Running as part of the ARD⁹⁴ and headed by former prime minister Nawaz Sharif, the PML-N won 19 seats in the October 2002 National Assembly election.⁹⁵ In 2003, the acting president of the party, Javed Hashmi, was arrested for circulating correspondence that was deemed to be anti-Musharraf.⁹⁶ Hashmi was convicted of treason in 2004.⁹⁷ Mian Shahbaz Sharif is the leader of the party.⁹⁸

Nationalist People's Movement (Muttahida Qaumi Movement, MQM):⁹⁹ The MQM was originally founded as the All Pakistan Mohajir Students Organization in 1978, and then changed its name to the Mohajir Qaumi Movement in 1984 and, finally, to the Muttahida Qaumi Movement in 1997.¹⁰⁰ The MQM promotes democracy and supports the interests of the Mohajirs, Urdu-speaking migrants from India.¹⁰¹ Aftab Sheikh is the leader of the MQM.¹⁰²

Jamhoori Watan Party (JWP): The JWP is successor to the Baluchistan National Alliance (BNA) and secured one seat in the October 2002 National Assembly election.¹⁰³ Leader Nawab Akbar Bugti was killed on 26 August 2006.¹⁰⁴

Movement for Justice (Pakistan Tehrik-e-Insaaf, PTI): The PTI was formed in 1996 and advocates economic growth and a welfare state.¹⁰⁵ Imran Khan, Pakistan's former national cricket captain, is the founder and leader of the PTI and won one seat in the October 2002 National Assembly election.¹⁰⁶

Pakhtoonkhwa Milli Awami Party (PkMAP): The PkMAP advocates increased autonomy for the North-West Frontier Province and is supported chiefly by Pakhtoons in the region.¹⁰⁷ The party secured one seat in the October 2002 National Assembly election and is led by Mahmood Khan Achakzai.¹⁰⁸

Other parties:¹⁰⁹

All Pakistan Jammu and Kashmir Conference, Awami National Party (ANP), Baluchistan National Party (BNP), Communist Mazdoor Kissan Party (CMKP), Communist Party of Pakistan (CPP), Islami Jamhoori Mataz (IJM), Labor Party of Pakistan, Millat-e-Islamia (MI), Muhajir Qaumi Movement Pakistan (MQM Pakistan), Muttahida Qaumi Movement-Altaf (MQM-A), Muttahida Qaumi Movement-Haqiqi (MQM-H), National Democratic Front, National People's Party (NPP), National Workers' Party, National Party (NP), Pakistan Democratic Party (PDP), Pakistan People's Movement (Pakistan Awami Tehrik, PAT), Pakistan Shia Political Party (PSPP), Pakhtun Quami Party (PQP), Pakistan People's Party (Shaheed Bhutto) (PPP-SB), People's Leadership Party (Awami Qiadat Party, AQP), Punjabi Pakhtoon Ittehad (PPI), Service Movement (Khaksar Tehrik), Sindh Taraqi Tassand Party (STTP), Social Democratic Party of Pakistan, Solidarity Movement (Tehrik-e-Istiqlal), Workers' and Peasants' Party (Mazdoor Kissan Party, MKP).

4. ARMED GROUPS AND OTHER NON-STATE ACTORS

Al-Qaeda: Al-Qaeda is a militant Sunni Muslim organization that operates on the principle of "defensive jihad."¹¹⁰ Al-Qaeda members are called to fight against actions they believe undermine or attack Muslims.¹¹¹ At the time of publication of this *Country Fact Sheet*, the largest concentrations of al-Qaeda personnel are located in Afghanistan and Pakistan.¹¹² As a result of al-Qaeda's loose organizational network, it is difficult to precisely gauge its membership, which may range from several hundred to several thousand members.¹¹³ Osama bin Laden is the leader of al-Qaeda.¹¹⁴

Army of the Pure (Lashkar-i-Taiba, LiT): The LiT was founded as the military wing of the religious group **Markaz ad-Dawa Wal Irshad** in 1993.¹¹⁵ Through armed struggle, the LiT calls for an independent, Islamic Kashmir.¹¹⁶ The leader of the LiT is Hafiz Mohammed Sayeed.¹¹⁷

Guardians of the Friends of the Prophet (Sipah-i-Sahaba, SiS): The SiS is a militant Sunni organization established in 1982 and has strong linkages to the armed sectarian groups **Lashkar-i-Jhangvi (LiJ)** and **Tehrik-e-Nifaz-e-Shariat-e-Mohammadi (TNSM)**.¹¹⁸ Through armed struggle, the SiS seeks to establish a Sunni state governed completely by Sharia law.¹¹⁹ Following a government ban, the SiS changed its name to **Millat-i-Islamia Pakistan (MIP)**.¹²⁰ The MIP was subsequently banned in November 2003.¹²¹ The leader of the SiS is Maulana Muhammad Ahmad Ludhianvi.¹²²

Harkat-ul-Mujaheddin al-Alami (HMA): The HMA is a breakaway group from the **Hizb-ul-Mujaheddin (HuM)** with ties to **Harkat-ul-Jihad-i-Islami** through the **313** alliance.¹²³ The HMA was allegedly involved in an assassination attempt against President Musharraf in April 2002 and a bombing at the US consulate in Karachi in June 2002.¹²⁴

Hizb-ut-Tahrir: Banned in November 2003 by the Pakistani government, Hizb-ut-Tahrir works from London, England.¹²⁵ Although Hizb-ut-Tahrir has reportedly renounced terrorism, the group is thought to be connected to several "jihadi" groups globally.¹²⁶

Mohammadan Movement for the Enforcement of Islamic Law (Tehrik-e-Nifaz-e-Shariat-e-Mohammadi, TNSM): Banned in January 2002, the fundamentalist TNSM has ties to the northern regions of Malakand and Swat and has threatened attacks against US citizens and property.¹²⁷ The leaders of the TNSM are Maulana Sufi Muhammad and Maulana Muhammad Alam.¹²⁸

Movement of the Army of the Holy Warriors of Muhammad (Jaish-e-Muhammad Mujaheddin-e-Tanzeem, JeM or JMMT): The JeM was established in February 2000 and seeks the creation of an independent, Islamic Kashmir through violent means.¹²⁹ The group was banned in January 2002 and subsequently renamed itself **Khudam-ul-Islam**.¹³⁰ Khudam-ul-Islam was banned in November 2003, as were the related groups **Jamaat-al-Ansar** and **Jamaat-ul-Furqan (JuF)**.¹³¹ Maulana Masood Azhar is the leader of the JeM.¹³²

Sipah-i-Muhammad (SMP): The SMP is a Shiite extremist organization and a principal player in Pakistan's sectarian violence.¹³³ The SMP was outlawed in August 2001.¹³⁴

Tehrik-e-Pakistan (founded as Tehrik-e-Jafria-e-Pakistan, TJP): The TJP was established in 1987, and following a government ban of its activities in January 2002, Tehrik-e-Jafria-e-Pakistan changed its name to Tehrik-e-Pakistan.¹³⁵ The leader of the TJP is Allama Sajid Ali Naqvi.¹³⁶

5. FUTURE CONSIDERATIONS

The terms of both the president and prime minister are set to expire in 2007.¹³⁷ President Musharraf has indicated that he will stand for re-election.¹³⁸ He has also indicated that both former prime ministers Benazir Bhutto and Nawaz Sharif will not be permitted to run for election.¹³⁹ In a 6 December 2006 news article, a spokesperson for the Pakistan People's Party (PPP) expressed concerns about the fairness of the upcoming elections.¹⁴⁰

¹ Canada 29 Sept. 2006.

² Ibid. 15 Dec. 2006.

³ *Political Handbook of the World: 2005-2006* Dec. 2005, 880.

⁴ Ibid.

⁵ Ibid.

⁶ Ibid.

⁷ Ibid.

⁸ Ibid.

⁹ Ibid.

¹⁰ Ibid.

¹¹ Ibid.

¹² Ibid.

¹³ Ibid.

¹⁴ Ibid.

- ¹⁵ Ibid.
- ¹⁶ Ibid.
- ¹⁷ Ibid.
- ¹⁸ Ibid., 881.
- ¹⁹ Ibid.
- ²⁰ Ibid.
- ²¹ Ibid.
- ²² Ibid.
- ²³ Ibid.
- ²⁴ Ibid.
- ²⁵ *The Europa World Year Book 2006* 10 June 2006, 3375.
- ²⁶ Ibid.
- ²⁷ BBC 5 Dec. 2006.
- ²⁸ Ibid.
- ²⁹ *The Europa World Year Book 2006* 10 June 2006, 3375.
- ³⁰ BBC 5 Dec. 2006.
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