

UNITED STATES - PAKISTAN RELATIONS

THE CAUSES OF INSTABILITY IN AFGHANISTAN, PAKISTAN, AND INDIA ARE INTERLINKED.

- **Kashmir is no longer a bilateral issue between India and Pakistan, and must be part of our regional policy.**
 - President Obama has acknowledged that the Kashmir issue is intimately tied to the causes of regional instability and diverts attention from the fight against terrorism. We must use our regional influence to play an active role in solving the Kashmir dispute, reducing the risk of nuclear conflict and enabling Pakistan and India to better focus their limited resources on combating the twin threats of militancy and poverty.
 - We applaud the Obama administration's appointment of Richard Holbrooke as a special representative for Pakistan and Afghanistan. However, by removing India from Mr. Holbrooke's formal brief, we have limited his capacity to confront significant issues, including the Kashmir dispute, that are essential to regional stability.
- **Our policies and actions in Afghanistan must bear in mind the consequences for Pakistan.** Much of the current instability on Pakistan's western frontier can be attributed to the after-effects of the joint US-Pakistan strategy in Afghanistan in the 1980s. We must be careful this time around to ensure that our efforts to stabilize Afghanistan do not have the unintended effect of de-stabilizing Pakistan, both in the near-term and in the long-term.
- **We should view with due skepticism the Indian government's knee-jerk allegations against Pakistan** following each of India's domestic incidents of militancy, terrorism, and civil unrest; in each instance, the Indian allegations have proven to be partial or false, and must not prejudice our own policies. Many of these incidents can be traced to human rights violations by Indian forces in Kashmir, along with other internal tensions relating to its Muslim and other minorities. India's reluctance to acknowledge and address these internal fissures is a significant source of domestic and regional instability.

OUR ECONOMIC POLICIES MUST REFLECT PAKISTAN'S ROLE AS OUR PARTNER.

- **The Enhanced Partnership with Pakistan Act should be passed without any conditionality.** Linking civilian assistance to counterterrorism performance contradicts the approach advocated by the current administration, reinforces the much-resented "transactional" perception of US-Pakistan relations, and allows the current "trust deficit" to persist. We must assure the Pakistani people that the US-Pakistan partnership is a long-term relationship.
- **In light of Pakistan's economic and civilian losses, more assistance and debt relief must be provided.** Economists estimate the war on terror has cost Pakistan's economy ~\$34.5 billion. Yet, the \$1.5 billion in annual assistance proposed by the Biden-Lugar Bill is dwarfed in comparison to aid we provide to other countries (please see attached chart). More direct assistance and debt relief – as previously provided to Egypt and Israel – will foster economic stability in this front-line state.
- **Promotion of trade will stimulate long-term economic development and promote bilateral ties.** Current US policy imposes higher tariffs on Pakistani goods, including crucial textile exports, than on those from many other countries. Pakistan, as a close partner of the US, should be designated a "favored nation", with reduced tariffs and expanded trade relationships. Doing so will strengthen Pakistan's economy and firmly signal the importance of our partnership.

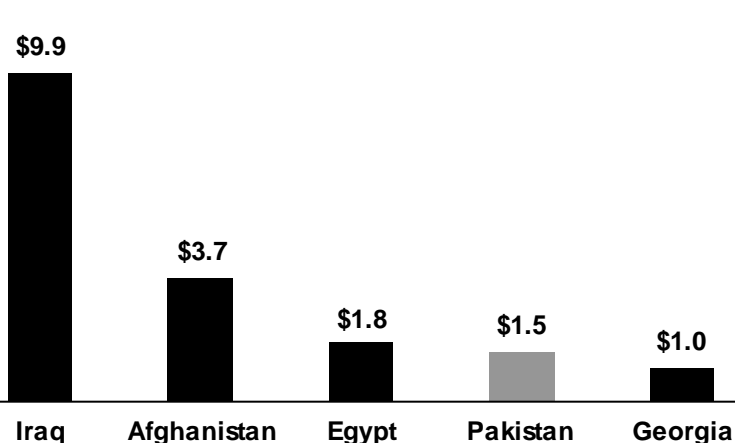
WE MUST IDENTIFY THE CAUSES AND STEM THE RISE OF ANTI-AMERICAN SENTIMENT IN PAKISTAN.

- **Our rhetoric must unequivocally acknowledge the Pakistani people's monumental sacrifices in the war on terror.** Since 2001, the war on terror has cost Pakistan 2,726 military and 5,517 civilian lives. The country's military deaths exceed those incurred by US and NATO forces (please see attached chart), while its civilian losses are – to put them in perspective – almost twice the number of casualties we suffered on 9/11. Many of the civilian deaths resulted from "collateral damage" by Pakistani or US/NATO forces. In this context, public insinuations by our officials that Pakistan is "not doing enough" in the war on terror are understandably met with outrage in Pakistan.
- **We need a long-term plan to change perceptions of the US amongst the Pakistani people.**
 - Unilateral attacks by our forces within Pakistan's borders are viewed by its people as violations of their sovereignty, and greatly inflame public opinion – especially when civilian casualties are incurred. In targeting the militant minority, these attacks alienate the moderate majority and diminish the Pakistani government's domestic credibility. Instead, we should focus on building the Pakistani military's counter-insurgency capacity through technology transfer including night-vision systems, radar, helicopters, and electronic intelligence devices.
 - We must identify new projects and enhance existing ones that allow Pakistani citizens to interact with Americans, both in Pakistan and in the US. Increasing opportunities for Pakistanis to travel to the US, particularly for education, would significantly impact perceptions of American values and build necessary bridges. Investing in critical areas of Pakistan's infrastructure, specifically in healthcare and education should also be a high priority.
- **We need to ensure the fair and humane treatment of Pakistani-Americans, Muslim-Americans, and visiting Pakistanis.** Policies like the Bush-era "sneak and peek", NSEERs, name-checks, etc. not only alienate minority communities within the US, but also have far-reaching effects on perceptions of the US amongst populaces worldwide. As President Obama has emphasized, our security is essential but it should not come at the expense of basic human rights and our moral high ground.

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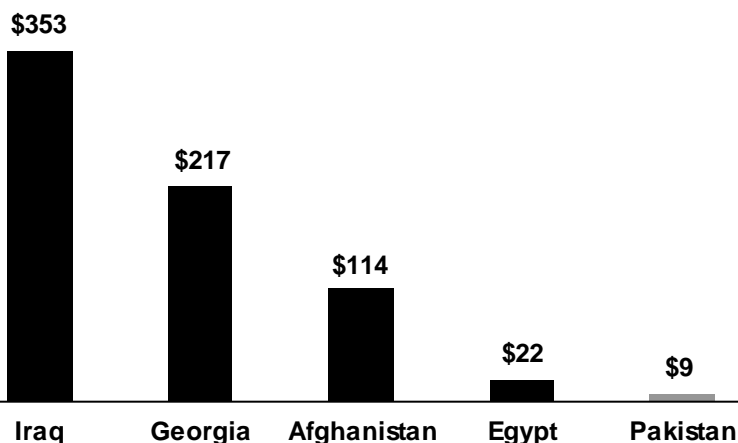
ATTACHMENTS & EXHIBITS

Annual U.S. Foreign Assistance (\$ Billion)



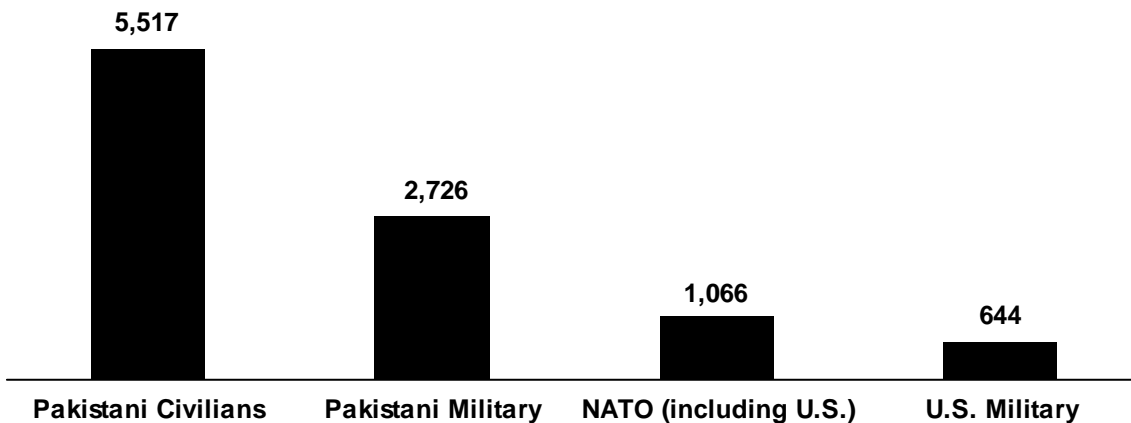
Source: U.S. Department of State; Associated Press

Annual U.S. Foreign Assistance (\$ per Capita)



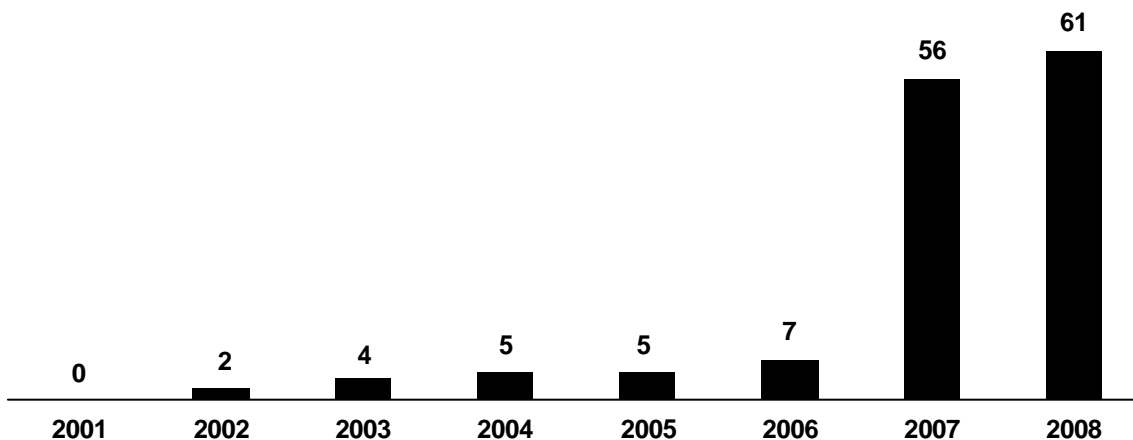
Source: U.S. Department of State; Associated Press

Number of Deaths Related to War on Terror in Afghanistan & Pakistan (2001 - Present)



Source: Pakistan Society of Criminology; U.S. Department of State; iCasualties.org; Associated Press

Number of Suicide Attacks in Pakistan



Source: Pakistan Society of Criminology; U.S. Department of State; Associated Press