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# Issue Paper Pakistan Chronology of Events January 1994 to February 1995 (Supplement to the Country Review) June 1995

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### MAP

See original.

Source: Pakistan: A Country Study 1984, p. xviii

## **GLOSSARY**

AJK

Azad Jammu and Kashmir

ANP

Awami National Party

HRCP

Human Rights Commission of Pakistan

ISI

Inter Service Intelligence

JI

Jamaat-i-Islami Pakistan (Islamic Assembly)

JUI

Jamaat Ulema Islam (Conference of Ulema of Islam)

MNA

Member of National Assembly

MQM-A

Mohajir Quami Mahaz-Altaf (Mohajir National Movement)

MQM-H

Mohajir Quami Mahaz-Haqiqi

NPT

Nuclear Proliferation Treaty

NWFP

North West Frontier Province

PML-J

Pakistan Muslim League-Junejo

PML-N

Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz

PPP

Pakistan People's Party

SSP

Sipah-i-Sahaba Pakistan (Forces of the Lions of Pakistan)

TJP

Tehrik-i-Jafria Pakistan

TNSM

Tehrik-i-Nawaz-i-Shariat Mohammed (Movement for the Enforcement of Islamic Law)

## **INTRODUCTION**

Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto's Pakistan People's Party (PPP) government was challenged in several ways throughout 1994 and early 1995. Bhutto faced open public criticism from her brother and mother, and the parliamentary opposition, led by the Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N), employed a variety of tactics to bring down the government. The spread of fundamentalist Islam to tribal areas led to several armed confrontations, and the blasphemy laws were a continuing source of controversy. Sectarian conflict between Sunnis and Shiites increased and spread beyond Punjab province. The situation in Karachi deteriorated markedly, with hundreds of deaths due to sectarian conflict, increasing crime and conflicts between both the Mohajir Quami Mahaz (MQM) and the government and between MQM factions.

The following chronology provides details on these trends. This paper is a supplement to the chronology included in the the DIRB's April 1994 *Pakistan: Country Review* and should be read in conjunction with that paper. For additional background information, please consult the January 1994 DIRB Question and Answer Series paper *Pakistan: Ahmadis Update December 1991-October 1993*, and the June 1994 DIRB Human Rights Brief *Women in Pakistan*.

## CHRONOLOGY

### 1994

#### 4 January

In response to reports that 5,000 to over 40,000 Afghans have entered Pakistan since fighting renewed in Afghanistan on 1 January 1994, the government imposes visa restrictions on all Afghans entering the country (Radio Pakistan 9 Jan. 1994; *The News* 4 Jan. 1994).

#### 5 January

Several hundred supporters of Murtaza Bhutto, the prime minister's brother, attempt to stage a march from the Bhutto family home in Larkana to Zulfikar Ali Bhutto's grave about 15km away (AP 5 Jan. 1994; *The Houston Chronicle* 16 Jan. 1994; AFP 5 Jan. 1994). Over 12,000 police are deployed in a 20km radius around the site to allow Prime Minister Bhutto to commemorate her father's birthday without meeting her brother's supporters (ibid.; Reuters 5 Jan. 1994; *FEER* 20 Jan. 1994). At least two people are killed when police fire upon some of Murtaza Bhutto's supporters at Larkana (*The Herald* Jan. 1994, 34; *Asiaweek* 9 Feb. 1994b, 42; AP 5 Jan. 1994); some sources report as many as four killed and 20 wounded (*Current History* Mar. 1994, 143; *Time* 17 Jan. 1994; *The Houston Chronicle* 16 Jan. 1994). Although police later state that they were returning gunfire from the crowd (*The Herald* Jan. 1994, 34; AP 5 Jan. 1994; AFP 5 Jan. 1994), Bhutto's widow claims the police fired without provocation (ibid.; AP 5 Jan. 1994).

Bhutto's widow later describes her daughter as a "dictator" (ibid.; *Keesing's* Jan. 1994a, 39819), comparing her to General Mohammed Zia ul-Haq (*Time* 17 Jan. 1994; *FEER* 20 Jan. 1994). Mother and daughter reportedly reach a "truce" later in the month, with both making statements of rapprochement (*Dawn* 17 Jan. 1994; *The Nation* 18 Jan. 1994; *Asiaweek* 9 Feb. 1994b, 42), but it is not clear how their differences on Murtaza will be resolved (ibid.; *The Nation* 18 Jan. 1994). [ This confrontation is only the latest in a Bhutto family conflict that has grown since Murtaza's November 1993 return to Pakistan after 16 years of self-imposed exile in Syria, and his subsequent arrest on charges of terrorism (AP 5 Jan. 1994; *Financial Times* 8 Jan. 1994; AFP 5 Jan. 1994). Bhutto's widow maintains that Murtaza should inherit her husband's political legacy and be involved in the PPP leadership (*Asiaweek* 9 Feb. 1994b, 42; AFP 8 Jan. 1994; *Newsweek* 24 Jan. 1994).]

#### 8 January

At least ten people are injured when a bomb explodes near the Karachi city courts (AFP 8 Jan. 1994; *The News* 9 Jan. 1994). Sources within the city administration suggest the bombing may be linked to the recent confrontation at Larkana (ibid.; AFP 8 Jan. 1994).

Suresh Kumar, an "active member of the Murtaza Bhutto Committee" who was injured during the 5 January demonstration (*The Muslim* 9 Jan. 1994), is rearrested after escaping custody (ibid.; AFP 8 Jan. 1994). According to one source, Sindh information minister Perves Ali Shah has described Kumar as a "known terrorist" (*The Muslim* 9 Jan. 1994).

**12 January**

Thousands are stranded in Afghanistan when the Torkham border post is closed because of the large number of Afghans seeking asylum in Pakistan (AFP 13 Jan. 1994; *The News* 13 Jan. 1994b; UNHCR 14 Jan. 1994; UNCHR 14 Feb. 1994). Sources indicate that the government does not recognize these new arrivals as "refugees" (PTV Television Network 13 Jan. 1994) and has denied that the border is closed (*The News* 13 Jan. 1994b; *The Muslim* 14 Jan. 1994; Radio Pakistan 26 Jan. 1994). The government states that people with "valid" travel documents are still allowed entry to Pakistan (ibid.; AFP 13 Jan. 1994; *Jang* 18 Jan. 1994), and the UNCHR notes that the sick and wounded have been permitted entry (UNCHR 14 Feb. 1994; *Jang* 18 Jan. 1994). The government decides to contribute to the relief effort underway in the camps near Jalalabad (ibid.; *The News* 13 Jan. 1994b; PTV Television Network 13 Jan. 1994).

**13 January**

Federal interior minister Naseerullah Babar states that the army security presence in Sindh province will likely continue until June (*The News* 13 Jan. 1994a).

According to Radio Pakistan, government officials claim Indian troops have been "indiscriminately firing from across the Line of Control" between Pakistani and Indian Kashmir (Radio Pakistan Overseas 13 Jan. 1994).

**15 January**

In what the presiding judge describes as a poorly investigated case, two Christian men charged with blasphemy are granted bail by the Lahore High Court after a lower court had denied it (*The Herald* Feb. 1994b, 16). Along with Salamat Masih, an illiterate 13-year-old boy, Manzoor Masih and Rehmat Masih were originally accused of writing anti-Islamic graffiti on a mosque wall (ibid.). Conviction on blasphemy charges brings a mandatory death sentence in Pakistan (also see 5 April 1994 entry) (AP 5 Apr. 1994; UPI 5 Apr. 1994; Reuters 21 Apr. 1994).

**21 January**

Five people are killed and at least 15 wounded in a grenade attack outside a Shiite mosque in Punjab province (Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran 21 Jan. 1994). Other sources report from four to seven deaths and up to 25 injured (BBC Summary 24 Jan. 1994; *Asiaweek* 2 Feb. 1994, 7; Reuters 5 Feb. 1994). The attack is believed linked to the ongoing sectarian conflict between Sunnis and Shiites (*The Herald* Mar. 1994e, 107; Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran 21 Jan. 1994).

**22 January**

Amir Kazi Hussain Ahmad resigns as leader of the Jamaat-i-Islami Pakistan (JI), the main Islamic political party (UPI 22 Jan. 1994; *The Herald* Feb. 1994a, 66; *Keesing's* Jan. 1994b, 39819). On 27 February, in what is interpreted as a mandate to reform the JI, Ahmad is reelected leader (*Keesing's* Feb. 1994c, 39865).

An attack on a Sunni mosque in Punjab province that leaves two dead and eight injured is believed to be a response to the 21 January attack on a Shiite mosque (Reuters 5 Feb. 1994).

**23 January**

In response to requests from Egypt, Algeria, Tunisia and other Arab countries to extradite nationals who participated in the war in Afghanistan, the government instructs all "Arab Islamists" to leave Pakistan by the end of the month. The requesting governments suspect that

many of their nationals are involved in terrorist or insurrectionary activities in their home countries (*Keesing's* Jan. 1994b, 39819; *Al-Sharq Al-Awsat* 6 Jan. 1994; *Dawn* 24 Jan. 1994; UPI 26 Jan. 1994). Earlier in the month the Pakistani government stated that the passports of foreign nationals would not be renewed (*The News* 13 Jan. 1994a).

In March justice and law minister Iqbal Haider states that Pakistan has recently expelled 2,000 veterans of the war in Afghanistan believed connected to attacks in Egypt (AFP 27 Mar. 1994). In April, in reference to the continued presence of Arab nationals, interior minister Babar states that Pakistan will not be used as a base for terrorism (Xinhua 3 Apr. 1994). On April 18 the government states that Arab nationals must leave the country immediately or "face severe action" (*The News* 19 Apr. 1994; *The Frontier Post* 21 Apr. 1994). One source reports that most Arab war veterans simply cross the border into Afghanistan (ibid.). On 27 April the National Assembly amends the penal code to allow the prosecution of people who engage in acts of terrorism against "friendly countries" (AFP 28 Apr. 1994b). The government effort to remove Arab militants continues into May; on 17 May 1994, alleged "Jihad cadre" Ali Eid is extradited and other members of "militant cells" are arrested (*Middle East International* 29 May 1994a).

### **25 January**

The country's first all women police station is opened in Rawalpindi by Prime Minister Bhutto (*Le Devoir* 26 Jan. 1994; *Time* 7 Feb. 1994; *Middle East Times* 20 Feb. 1994).

### **30 January**

Mohajir Quami Mahaz-Haqiqi (MQM-H) activist Zafar Abbas is killed in Karachi (Radio Pakistan 31 Jan. 1994a; Xinhua 1 Feb. 1994). The following day, in an unrelated incident, two people are killed and several injured in an attack on a passenger van (AFP 31 Jan. 1994; Reuters 31 Jan. 1994; Radio Pakistan 31 Jan. 1994b).

### **5 February**

A nationwide strike is held to express solidarity with the Kashmiri people under "Indian occupation" and their desire for self-determination. The strike is endorsed by the government and opposition and is observed on both sides of the Line of Control (PTV Television Network 5 Feb. 1994; *Keesing's* Feb. 1994d, 39866; BBC Summary 7 Feb. 1994).

Two people are killed and at least seven injured in an attack on a Sunni mosque near Multan. Reuters reports the location of the attack as Kabirwala while *The Herald* reports it as Kukkar Hatta (Reuters 5 Feb. 1994; *The Herald* Mar. 1994e, 107).

### **6 February**

The government announces that Pakistan will no longer carry out public executions (*FEER* 17 Feb. 1994; *Le Devoir* 2 Feb. 1994; AI Mar. 1994, 4); executions in jails will continue, however, as will the practice of public stoning (ibid.).

### **7 February**

The PPP introduces a no-confidence motion against the PML-N coalition government in the North West Frontier Province (NWFP) assembly. The motion is reportedly timed to coincide with the expiry of an ordinance preventing assembly members from switching parties (also see 23 February 1994 entry) (*Keesing's* Feb. 1994b, 39865).

### **9 February**

According to *Asiaweek*, five women allege that they were raped by eight men for voting for Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto (*Asiaweek* 9 Feb. 1994a, 5).

### **10 February**

At least 12 people are killed in Baluchistan in tribal feuds involving the Tarin and Nasar tribes and the Raisini and Rind tribes (Reuters 10 Feb. 1994; *Libération* 11 Feb. 1994).

### **12 February**

Maulana Samiullah Jhangvi, the Lahore vice-president of the Sunni organization Sipah-i-Sahaba Pakistan (SSP), is shot by two men on motorcycles (*The Herald* Mar. 1994e, 107).

A woman whose husband administered electric shocks to her, stopping only when he felt her life was in danger, is admitted to hospital in Rawalpindi with "severe internal burns" (*The Herald* Apr. 1994d, 17). The husband is later arrested, charged with attempted murder (ibid., 18; Xinhua 11 Mar. 1994; AFP 19 Mar. 1994) and sentenced to 30 years imprisonment (ibid. 14 July 1994). The woman is taken to London for surgery (ibid.; *The Herald* Apr. 1994d, 18; UPI 12 June 1994).

### **18 February**

Five Iraqi Kurds engaged in a hunger strike since 17 January are taken to hospital. They have been demanding the resettlement of 1,200 Kurdish asylum seekers to western countries (AFP 18 Feb. 1994a).

The government announces that the Council of Islamic Ideology, a group chartered under the constitution to advise the government on religious matters, will review the blasphemy law with a view to ending abuses. According to Maulana Kausar Niazi, a "distinguished religious scholar" and former religious affairs minister who heads the council, "the law needs modifications to ensure it is not abused by unscrupulous elements for their selfish ends" (AFP 18 Feb. 1994b). The council's recommendations will be forwarded to the Pakistan Law Commission, whose head expressed concern about the "abuse of authority by police vis-à-vis the blasphemy act and its misuse by political and sectarian organizations" (see entries for April-May 1994, 10 July 1994 and 9 Feb. 1995) (ibid.).

### **19 February**

A special court acquits Prime Minister Bhutto on the first of seven corruption charges laid soon after she was dismissed from office in 1990 (*Keesing's* Feb. 1994a, 39865; *Middle East Times* 6 Mar. 1994; Reuters 19 Feb. 1994).

### **23 February**

Three Afghans who hijacked a school bus in Peshawar on February 20 are killed and their child hostages freed when security forces mount an operation on the Afghanistan embassy in Islamabad (*Le Monde* 23 Feb. 1994; PTV Television Network 24 Feb. 1994; *The Herald* Mar. 1994a, 45). Among the hijackers' demands were the reopening of the Torkham border crossing, aid for Kabul and a cash ransom (ibid., 49; *Le Monde* 23 Feb. 1994; *Asiaweek* 9 Mar. 1994, 5).

The speaker stops proceedings in the NWFP assembly when fist fights break out during debate on the 7 February PPP-sponsored no-confidence motion on the PML-N led coalition government (UPI 23 Feb. 1994; *Keesing's* Feb. 1994b, 39865; *The Economist* 4 Mar. 1994). Direct federal rule is imposed on 25 February when President Leghari transfers power to Governor Khurshid Ali

Khan and suspends the assembly (ibid.; *FEER* 10 Mar. 1994, 23; *Keesing's* Feb. 1994b, 39865). One source describes the events as a "constitutional crisis" (see entry for 24 April 1994) (*The Herald* Mar. 1994c, 44).

### **24 February**

Three rockets are reportedly fired at the Torkham border post from within Afghanistan, and there are reports of skirmishes with Afghans attempting to cross into Pakistan. The border remains closed (*The News* 25 Feb. 1994).

### **28 February**

The prime minister's husband, Asif Ali Zardari, has the last of 13 charges against him dismissed by a special court. The corruption-related charges were filed shortly after Bhutto's removal from power in 1990 (*Keesing's* Feb. 1994a, 39865; *FEER* 28 Apr. 1994, 33).

### **March**

As a result of the recent surge in violence in Karachi, police are reportedly "shoot[ing] to kill" when dealing with criminal suspects and street demonstrations (*Country Reports 1994* 1995, 1246; *The Herald* Mar. 1994d, 20). At least 20 young men were killed by police in the previous four months (ibid.).

#### **1 March**

Opposition members led by PML-N leader Nawaz Sharif march on the National Assembly to protest Prime Minister Bhutto's policies (*The Herald* Mar. 1994c, 44a; UPI 2 Mar. 1994a), in particular the dismissal of the NWFP government, and pledge to "oust Bhutto 'within six months'" (ibid.; ibid. 2 Mar. 1994b).

#### **2 March**

Elections are held for half of the 87 senate seats (UPI 2 Mar. 1994a; *The Herald* Mar. 1994b, 17-18). The PPP wins 16 seats, the PML-N six, the Awami National Party (ANP) three, the Pakistan Muslim League-Junejo (PML-J), Jamhoori Watan and MQM-Altat (MQM-A) two each, and a number of other parties each win single seats (*Keesing's* Mar. 1994, 39914; Radio Pakistan 2 Mar. 1994). PPP senate seats now total 22 with support from the PML-J and Jamaat Ulema Islam (JUI), while the opposition PML-N has 20 seats with support from five ANP and two Pakhtunkhwa Milli Awami Party members (*The Herald* Mar. 1994b, 18).

#### **7 March**

Five Ahmadi journalists charged with blasphemy are released on bail (*Country Reports 1994* 1995, 1252; AI Apr. 1994, 2). A lower court had previously rejected bail for lesser charges but then added the blasphemy charges (ibid.). The original complaint was registered on 15 January 1994 by an official of Punjab province (ibid., 1), with the additional charges following on 21 January 1994 and 7 and 15 February 1994 (ibid., 2). The charges relate to articles that appeared in the Ahmadi publications *Al Fazal* and *Ansarullah* in June and July 1993, in which the journalists allegedly "passed themselves as Muslims and thereby have injured the religious feelings of Muslim[s]" (ibid.).

*The Nation* reports that the United States is considering withdrawing Pakistan's "most favoured nation" trading status because it is not abiding by International Labour Organization (ILO) conventions on bonded and child labour, practices reported to be widespread in some industries (*The Nation* 7 Mar. 1994).

**8 March**

Prime Minister Bhutto is acquitted by a Lahore special court on charges of improperly appointing PPP members to "top bureaucratic posts" during her first term in office (*Asiaweek* 23 Mar. 1994).

Good attendance is reported at International Women's Day events in several cities (*The Herald* Apr. 1994c, 82).

**9 March**

Radio Pakistan reports that one person is killed and two injured when Indian forces fire across the Line of Control in three separate incidents in Azad Kashmir (Radio Pakistan 10 Mar. 1994).

**17 March**

Officials reportedly detain for questioning 350 people in Karachi and 50 to 70 in other cities in Sindh province after a suspected MQM "ambush" of policemen in Karachi (AFP 18 Mar. 1994b; *ibid.* 17 Mar. 1994; AI 5 Apr. 1994). Reports indicate that between four and eight police officers are killed (*ibid.*; Xinhua 20 Mar. 1994; AFP 17 Mar. 1994). Reports on the number of detentions vary, with the MQM claiming up to 500 arrested (Reuters 17 Mar. 1994).

**18 March**

A bomb explodes in a bus in Gurat Punjab, killing six people and wounding 25. There are no immediate arrests or claims of responsibility (AFP 18 Mar. 1994a).

**18-19 March**

Over 30 development organizations and women's, human rights, labour and minorities groups hold a two-day national convention in Islamabad to press for reforms to laws that discriminate against women (UPI 19 Mar. 1994; *The Herald* Apr. 1994c, 81; *WIN News* Autumn 1994, 54). A joint action committee, Action for Legal Reforms, is formed to develop a consensus and apply pressure to the government and religious groups (*ibid.*; *The Herald* Apr. 1994c, 81).

**20 March**

In what is described as an "assassination attempt," Begum Nasim Wali Khan, the ANP leader in NWFP, is shot at while driving near Peshawar. Two suspects are arrested by police (PTV Television Network 20 Mar. 1994; AFP 20 Mar. 1994). An ANP spokesperson blames the PPP for the attack (*ibid.*).

**21 March**

Manzoor Gichki, the PPP senate chair candidate from Baluchistan, loses to the PML-N incumbent Wasim Sajjad (*Keesing's* Mar. 1994, 39914; UPI 21 Mar. 1994). According to one source, the loss is Bhutto's first since her election as prime minister five months earlier (*ibid.*).

**21-25 March**

Applied Socio-Economic Research (ASR), a "Lahore-based women's research institute," holds a conference to bring together members of the women's movement and to stimulate discussion on developing a women's studies centre in Lahore (*The Herald* Apr. 1994a, 89-90).

**25 March**

At a press conference in Karachi, a young girl claims she was humiliated during a police search of her home for MQM activists. Naheed Butt states that she was forced to strip in front of male officers and was subjected to abusive and threatening remarks (*The Herald* Apr. 1994b, 70; AI 5



Apr. 1994).

### **26-27 March**

Prime Minister Bhutto is acquitted in a special court in Lahore of an additional two of the seven charges relating to abuse of power during her first term in office (*Keesing's* Apr. 1994a, 39962; AFP 26 Mar. 1994).

### **27 March**

Violence erupts in Karachi during a "day of mourning" called by the MQM to protest arrests of its supporters and police "humiliation" of Naheed Butt. The strike shuts down schools, offices and businesses (UPI 27 Mar. 1994; Xinhua 27 Mar. 1994; BBC Summary 31 Mar. 1994a). Reports on the number of killed and injured vary from "two feared dead" to four killed and 10 injured (*ibid.*; Radio Pakistan 27 Mar. 1994; UPI 27 Mar. 1994; Xinhua 27 Mar. 1994).

### **29 March**

The Press Trust of India (PTI) news agency reports that three Pakistanis were killed at a border post in Jammu and Kashmir. According to PTI, the three were killed in an exchange of gunfire with the Indian Border Security Force (BSF) (BBC Summary 31 Mar. 1994b).

### **April**

Despite government efforts to restrict the flow, the interior ministry estimates that 60,000 displaced Afghans have entered Pakistan in the last six months, with half thought to be residing in Islamabad. According to *The Nation*, the government has asked the UNHCR not to provide financial assistance to asylum seekers through its local offices (*The Nation* 18 Apr. 1994).

### **4 April**

Pakistan formally requests that the Afghanistan government work toward the release of several Chinese engineers and Pakistani officials believed to have been kidnapped by Afghanistan national Mullah Salam Rocketi (also see 22 July 1994 entry) (BBC Summary 11 Apr. 1994).

### **5 April**

One Christian is killed and three wounded in an attack by three men on motorcycles outside a Lahore courthouse. All four had been charged under the country's blasphemy laws with writing anti-Islamic graffiti on a mosque wall (AP 5 Apr. 1994; UPI 5 Apr. 1994; AI 6 Apr. 1994). According to witnesses, the attackers are members of an Islamist party (*ibid.*; UPI 5 Apr. 1994; Reuters 21 Apr. 1994). *The Herald* reports in May that two suspects have been arrested but are being secluded by the police on orders from the interior ministry (*The Herald* May 1994e, 46a). The accused are freed on bail by the end of the year (*Country Reports 1994 1995*, 1252).

### **15 April**

MQM "dissident" and former MNA Rehman Umer Farooqi is shot and killed in Karachi by four men suspected of belonging to a rival MQM group (Japan Economic Newswire 16 Apr. 1994; Reuters 15 Apr. 1994).

### **16 April**

Unidentified attackers throw a grenade at a Shiite mosque in Karachi, injuring at least five people (Japan Economic Newswire 16 Apr. 1994; Reuters 16 Apr. 1994).

### **17 April**

According to a local press report, the Pakistan Supreme Appellate Court has ruled that a man convicted of killing his wife or children cannot receive the death sentence because it is not provided for in religious law (UPI 17 Apr. 1994).

### **20 April**

The Punjab provincial assembly unanimously passes a resolution urging the national government not to remove the death penalty for blasphemy (AFP 21 Apr. 1994; Reuters 21 Apr. 1994; *Los Angeles Times* 25 Apr. 1994).

### **21 April**

In Lahore thousands of Christians demonstrate against the blasphemy laws and demand their repeal (AFP 21 Apr. 1994; Reuters 21 Apr. 1994; *Los Angeles Times* 25 Apr. 1994). A similar demonstration in Karachi attracts an estimated 3,000 people (*ibid.*).

Near Lahore Dr. Hafiz Farooq Sajjad, accused of burning the Koran, is stoned to death and his corpse burned by a mob (UPI 10 Dec. 1994; *The Herald* May 1994f, 46b-50). Although recognized in his community as a "devout Muslim" (*ibid.*), he was initially beaten and then taken to a police station. A local Maulvi, described by *The Herald* as a jealous competitor of Farooq's (*ibid.*), then announced over the loudspeakers of his neighbourhood mosque that a Christian had burned a copy of the Koran. An enraged crowd took Farooq from the police, stoned him, set his corpse on fire and dragged it through the streets behind a motorcycle (*ibid.*; AI July 1994, 15-16).

### **22 April**

A grenade attack on a Sunni mosque in Lahore injures at least 25 people, including four children (AFP 23 Apr. 1994; *The Muslim* 23 Apr. 1994; Reuters 22 Apr. 1994).

### **24 April**

The PPP wins a Supreme Court-ordered no-confidence vote in NWFP, with Aftab Ahmad Khan Sherpao assuming power from PML-N chief minister Sabir Shah (*Keesing's* Apr. 1994b, 39962; Radio Pakistan Overseas 24 Apr. 1994; AFP 4 May 1994b). In protest the opposition parties boycott the session (*ibid.*; *FEER* 5 May 1994) and the National Assembly (PTV Television Network 24 Apr. 1994; AFP 25 Apr. 1994; Radio Pakistan 25 Apr. 1994). Several days later Punjab opposition members mount a sympathy boycott (*FEER* 12 May 1994, 20).

In response to demands for better protection of women's rights, the government states that it will set up shelters and grant free legal aid to abused women (*Middle East Times* 24 Apr. 1994).

### **25 April**

Three MQM senators-Ishtiaq Azhar, Nasreen Jalil and Aftab Shaikh-are arrested for "inciting people to violence" during the 27 March MQM strike in Karachi (Reuters 25 Apr. 1994; AFP 28 Apr. 1994a). A few days later three Sindh provincial assembly members and another senator are arrested (*ibid.*; Reuters 1 May 1994; Radio Pakistan 5 May 1994). Sources state that the MQM leaders are beginning a "concerted" anti-government campaign and invited their own arrests (AFP 28 Apr. 1994a; *The Herald* May 1994b, 38a).

The government extends the franchise to the northern areas, promising party-based elections in October and two reserved seats for women in the proposed 24-member council (*Keesing's* May 1994c, 40010; Radio Pakistan 28 Apr. 1994).

**27 April**

A relative of the judge presiding in cases involving Murtaza Bhutto is killed by masked men, as is his bodyguard (Xinhua 28 Apr. 1994).

**28 April**

The Bhutto government introduces a constitutional amendment bill to reserve 25 seats for women in the National Assembly, nine in the Senate and others in the provincial assemblies. The move is opposed by the Islamic parties. A previous measure introduced in 1973 expired in 1988 (Reuters 28 Apr. 1994; *Middle East International* 29 May 1994b). Two-thirds majorities are required in both the National Assembly and the Senate to pass a constitutional amendment (*News India* 13 May 1994). On 7 December law and justice minister Haider states that the government is still pursuing the issue and that the bill is still in committee (Xinhua 7 Dec. 1994).

**29 April-7 May**

Two or three people are killed by police during an MQM street demonstration in Karachi on 29 April (UPI 29 Apr. 1994; Reuters 1 May 1994; AFP 2 May 1994; *The Herald* May 1994c, 28). To protest this incident and the arrest of several MQM politicians, the MQM calls a strike, which leads to further violence (ibid.; *FEER* 12 May 1994; AFP 1 May 1994). Over the next few days in Karachi there are reports of "masked gunmen ... roaming the streets" (AFP 2 May 1994), "intermittent sniper firing" (Radio Pakistan 3 May 1994a), and a government ban on "assembl[ies] of more than five persons" (ibid. 2 May 1994). The army is called in to restore order (*Le Devoir* 4 May 1994; Reuters 2 May 1994; Xinhua 3 May 1994), but the government blames the MQM for the continuing violence (Radio Pakistan 3 May 1994b; *The Herald* May 1994c, 28; *Keesing's* May 1994b, 40009). Estimates of the number of dead and injured range from 20 dead and 85 injured to 32 dead and several hundred injured (ibid.; *Le Devoir* 4 May 1994; AFP 4 May 1994a; BBC Summary 5 May 1994; *Asiaweek* 18 May 1994, 30). Although Radio Pakistan reports that only 20 people were arrested (Radio Pakistan 4 May 1994), other sources estimate the number of detained at 200 to 500 (*Keesing's* May 1994b, 40009; Reuters 2 May 1994; AP 27 May 1994). *Country Reports 1994* indicates that over 800 MQM activists were arrested between 4 and 7 May, but that most were released within a week (*Country Reports 1994* 1995, 1248).

**April-May**

The Supreme Court of Pakistan interprets the blasphemy law to mean that all prophets of Islam, not just the Prophet Mohammed, are to be protected. The court believes this will provide greater protection for minorities (*Asiaweek* 4 May 1994, 6). However, some Christians fear the worship of Jesus as the son of God could be interpreted as "blasphemous," as could Biblical stories involving aspects of the Islamic canon (*The Economist* 13 May 1994, 110).

Reports indicate that the government is considering changes to the blasphemy law to prevent it being used to settle personal vendettas (*The Herald* May 1994e, 46a; Inter Press Service 27 May 1994). One change would require that a charge first be presented in court before it could be filed with police, while another change would provide "severe" penalties for persons giving false evidence (*FEER* 26 May 1994; UPI 7 June 1994; *International Herald Tribune* 18 June 1994). These amendments have been ready for months, but the government has yet to introduce them in the National Assembly (also see 10 July entry) (ibid.).

In its 1993 annual report, the Human Rights Commission of Pakistan (HRCP) estimates that one woman is raped every three hours, and of these 50 per cent are minors and 25 per cent are gang-raped (HRCP 1994, vii). Women also continue to be victims of public humiliation, police

excesses and domestic violence (ibid., 57-62). While noting that the incidence of political harassment declined in 1993, HRCP remains concerned about excesses in the name of religious laws, prospects for the poor, and child and bonded labour (ibid., i).

According to the HRCP, official discrimination against and general harassment of Ahmadis continued in 1993 (HRCP 1994, 7, 28, 39-40). A movement to declare Zikris, a religious group of about one million concentrated in Baluchistan, to be non-Muslims gained momentum in 1993 (*Country Reports 1994 1995*, 1253; *India Abroad* 3 June 1994; HRCP 1994, 48), and a bill to this effect was referred to a parliamentary standing committee (ibid.). Zikris have been subjected to violence and harassment (ibid.), and according to *India Abroad*, the PPP has assured the JUI, its political ally in Baluchistan, that it will move to declare Zikris non-Muslims (*India Abroad* 3 June 1994).

### **3 May**

At least four young men are killed by police in Sukker, 350km north of Karachi; while the HRCP accuses police of "executing" them (VOA 15 May 1994; *Country Reports 1994 1995*, 1246), the police claim the men were "dangerous criminals" killed in a two-hour gun battle (ibid.; *The Herald* May 1994d, 37; AP 27 May 1994). The HRCP conducts its own inquiry and concludes that the men had been arrested, their hands bound behind their backs and taken to the home of a policeman and shot (ibid.; *Country Reports 1994 1995*, 1246).

### **4-5 May**

Two Indian "terrorists" are arrested as they attempt to cross the Line of Control in Azad Kashmir. Confiscated weapons reportedly include two rocket launchers and 18kg of explosives (Xinhua 9 May 1994; PTV Television Network 9 May 1994).

### **16 May**

Sources report that the army has intervened in the Malakand tribal area in NWFP, killing as many as 11 people and wounding up to 28 (*The Herald* May 1994a, 60-61; *Le Devoir* 17 May 1994; Inter Press Service 27 May 1994; UPI 16 May 1994). The deaths occurred when the army attempted to open a road that had been blocked by an estimated 20,000 to 30,000 tribes people demanding the enforcement of Islamic law (ibid.; Reuters 17 May 1994; Pakistan News Service 20 May 1994; *Keesing's* May 1994d, 40010). The gathering occurred at the urging of the Tehrik-i-Nawaz-i-Shariat Mohammed (Movement for the Enforcement of Islamic Law, or TNSM) after a recent Supreme Court ruling struck down British colonial law, which had been in force for over a century (ibid.; Reuters 16 May 1994; *The Herald* May 1994a, 60-61). The following day the government promises to introduce Sharia law in Malakand (Reuters 17 May 1994; AFP 17 May 1994). Religious fundamentalists reportedly interpret Islamic law to mean that people must drive on the right side of the road, contrary to traffic law. A number of accidents occur before the fundamentalists' directive is withdrawn (Reuters 16 May 1994; Inter Press Service 27 May 1994).

### **27 May**

Several hundred children march through Karachi streets to demand that Pakistan end child labour (*Journal of Commerce* 31 May 1994; Reuters 27 May 1994). They attempt to present a petition to the government but are stopped by police. Rally organizers estimate that 19 million children are working in Pakistan (ibid.).

### **29 May**

The opposition PML-N ends its boycott of the National Assembly, which was begun to protest removal of the NWFP government, and returns to parliament for the upcoming budget debate (*Keesing's* May 1994a, 40010; AFP 29 May 1994; PTV Television Network 29 May 1994).

### **30 May**

A protest over a water shortage in Islamabad leaves one person dead and more than 50 injured (VOA 30 May 1994). Two people were killed in a similar protest in Karachi a week earlier (*ibid.*; Pakistan News Service 3 June 1994).

### **31 May**

Three policemen and one civilian are killed by unidentified gunmen in Karachi (Xinhua 31 May 1994).

### **5 June**

Murtaza Bhutto, detained on charges of terrorism, is granted bail by a special court for speedy trials (*Keesing's* June 1994a, 40056-57; Radio Pakistan 5 June 1994). He has spent more than six months in jail since returning to Pakistan (*The Herald* June 1994, 49; *FEER* 16 June 1994, 13; *Asiaweek* 22 June 1994, 26). Immediately upon release he criticizes the Bhutto government (*ibid.*; *Middle East Times* 19 June 1994; *The San Francisco Chronicle* 9 June 1994), calling his sister's administration "corrupt and incompetent," and promising to work for her removal from office (*ibid.*). *Middle East Times* reports that "thousands of people" turn out to greet him three weeks later on his first public tour since returning to Pakistan, and speculates that "he might pose a tangible threat to his sister" (*Middle East Times* 10 July 1994).

### **9 June**

The Special Court for the Suppression of Terrorism sentences Altaf Hussain and 18 other MQM leaders to 27 years each for involvement in the kidnapping and torture of a military intelligence officer 30 months earlier (Xinhua 9 June 1994; *FEER* 23 June 1994, 20; UPI 10 June 1994). Hussain is living in London in self-imposed exile, while many other MQM leaders are believed to be in hiding in Pakistan (*ibid.*; Xinhua 9 June 1994). Following his sentencing Hussain promises that there will be "strong retaliation" (AFP 11 June 1994a), and MQM gunmen reportedly fire from Karachi rooftops "as a show of strength" (UPI 10 June 1994). Three people are killed as a result of the shooting (*ibid.*).

### **11 June**

Police raid a youth camp near Muzaffarabad in Pakistani Azad Kashmir. Twelve people are injured, including four policemen, and eight students are arrested. The students were engaged in a hunger strike in solidarity with Yasin Malik, a Kashmiri leader recently released by India (AFP 11 June 1994b).

### **12 June**

At least two people are killed in Karachi in factional fighting between MQM-A and MQM-H supporters (Xinhua 12 June 1994).

### **16 June**

Associated Press of Pakistan (APP) reports that opposition leader Nawaz Sharif's car is stoned by a "mob" in Muzaffargarh. Banners reading "do not turn the sale of personal property into a political issue" were displayed, in reference to Sharif's allegation that President Farooq Ahmed Khan had sold barren farm land to six Karachi residents (Radio Pakistan 16 June 1994).

The government posts troops in major towns and cities in order to prevent sectarian conflict during the Islamic month of *moharram*. Shiites traditionally march to mourn the death of the grandson of the prophet Mohammed, and the occasion is often marked by confrontations with Sunnis. According to UPI, Sunni leader and MNA Azam Tariq had earlier threatened to "wage war against the Shiites" (UPI 16 June 1994).

### **18 June**

At least two people are killed as fundamentalist Sunnis fire upon Shiite worship sites in Karachi and Hyderabad. At least 10 people have been killed in sectarian clashes in Sindh province in the last month (Xinhua 19 June 1994; *Keesing's* June 1994b, 40056).

### **25 June**

A clash between Shiites and Sunnis outside a Shiite mosque in a Sindh village results in one person killed, 16 injured and 158 arrested (Reuters 26 June 1994).

### **26 June**

Pashtoon tribes people in NWFP battle Arab veterans of the war in Afghanistan who are wanted for political violence in their home countries. The Arab veterans' "attempts to enforce strict Islamic Law" (UPI 26 June 1994) reportedly drove the tribes people to declare a "Jihad" against them (VOA 28 June 1994; Reuters 14 July 1994). Reports indicate that three to five Arabs and five tribes people are killed (ibid.; UPI 26 June 1994; AFP 29 June 1994).

### **26-27 June**

The Federation of Pakistan Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FPCCI) calls a strike to protest the government's recent budget. Industrial areas and shopping centres are closed in Karachi, as are major shopping centres in Islamabad, Rawalpindi and Peshawar (Radio Pakistan Overseas 26 June 1994; PTV Television Network 27 June 1994; *The Economist* 22 July 1994). The business community is opposed to proposed new sales taxes, fines for tax evaders and increased powers to tax collectors (UPI 27 June 1994).

### **27 June**

G.M. Syed, the 91-year-old leader of the Jeay Sindh Movement, is in very poor health after 30 months under house arrest. Syed is awaiting trial on sedition charges (AI 27 June 1994).

### **28 June**

"Heavily armed gunmen" kill six police officers in Karachi. The senior officer was investigating several cases against the MQM (Radio Pakistan 28 June 1994; AP 28 June 1994; AFP 28 June 1994). MQM "Black Tigers" are suspected of responsibility (*The Gazette* 10 July 1994).

### **10 July**

Minister of justice and law Iqbal Haider receives death threats from religious fundamentalists for suggesting that the blasphemy laws should be reformed (*The Pakistan Observer* 11 July 1994a; *Chicago Tribune* 28 July 1994; UPI 10 July 1994). Religious groups hold demonstrations and strikes in several areas of the country (*Jang* 11 July 1994; *The Frontier Post* 11 July 1994; FBIS 11 July 1994). The prime minister states that there will be no change to the law (PTV Television Network 11 July 1994), a position adopted by cabinet on 11 July (ibid.; Radio Pakistan Overseas 11 July 1994). Haider is quoted by one source as stating that the government does not want to weaken the law, only to discuss ways of improving procedures to make blasphemy cases "foolproof" (*The Pakistan Observer* 11 July 1994b). At year's end the government still had done

nothing to amend the law (also see 9 February 1995 entry) (*Country Reports 1994 1995*, 1253).

### **11 July**

The vice-president of Tehrik-i-Jafria Pakistan (TJP) is killed near Islamabad by two unidentified men on a motorcycle (AFP 12 July 1994).

### **12 July**

The Associated Press of Pakistan reports at least two people killed and 27 injured in a bomb explosion at a Sunni mosque in Lahore (VOA 23 July 1994; AFP 12 July 1994; AP 12 July 1994). No one claims responsibility but the attack is believed related to the ongoing conflict between Shiite and Sunni extremists (ibid.; DPA 12 July 1994). Another bombing in a Lahore garbage depot injures two others (ibid.; AFP 12 July 1994; AP 12 July 1994).

### **14 July**

*Dawn* reports that 37 lawyers protesting the "manhandling and arrest" of another lawyer are themselves arrested in Quetta (Pakistan News Service 21 July 1994).

Pakistan and Egypt sign an extradition treaty that allows fugitive nationals to be extradited to their home countries (Xinhua 14 July 1994; DPA 14 July 1994; Reuters 14 July 1994).

### **16 July**

At least four people, including a young child, are killed in fighting between MQM factions in Karachi (AFP 16 July 1994; *Country Reports 1994 1995*, 1247). Two of the corpses are identified as belonging to MQM-Altaf members and show signs of torture (ibid.).

### **22 July**

Afghan commander Mullah Rocketi releases seven Pakistani and two Chinese hostages, several of whom have been held for over a year (Radio Pakistan Network 22 July 1994). His initial demands had included the release of his brother, the return of weapons and cash (*The News* 6 July 1994).

Lt.-Gen. Hamid Gul, the former chief of Inter Service Intelligence (ISI), announces the formation of a new political party. The party's stated purpose is to end "communalism and ethnic prejudice" and to better provide for Pakistan's defence needs. A founding convention is promised for the near future (Radio Pakistan 23 July 1994; Reuters 22 July 1994).

### **23 July**

At least nine people are killed and 40 injured in Sunni-Shiite violence in Karachi (*Keesing's* July 1994, 40103).

### **23-24 July**

An attack on a bus in Karachi leaves six Shiites dead and up to 28 injured (VOA 23 July 1994; Xinhua 24 July 1994; *Kayhan International* 28 July 1994; AFP 24 July 1994). Some sources, including the speaker of the Iranian parliament, blame the attack on Sunni militants, specifically the SSP (ibid.; Xinhua 24 July 1994). Clashes between Shiites and Sunnis the following day result in attacks on Shiite mosques, with another two to four killed and up to 13 injured (ibid.; VOA 24 July 1994). Police believe "religious hit squads" may be operating on the streets of Karachi (VOA 11 Aug. 1994).

**24 July**

An opposition bill that would have extended the scope of the blasphemy laws is defeated in the Senate, with only 11 of 88 senators supporting it. The proposal would have made blaspheming the family and associates of the Prophet Mohammed subject to the death penalty (UPI 24 July 1994).

**25 July**

Retired general Imtiaz Ahmed, the former chief of Pakistan's intelligence service, is arrested on charges of attempting to "topple" the previous Bhutto government by buying MNAs' support (AFP 25 July 1994; *FEER* 8 Sept. 1994; UPI 25 July 1994). Ahmed is considered a "close aide" of opposition leader Nawaz Sharif (*ibid.*; *FEER* 8 Sept. 1994).

The Senate passes a law that permits the death penalty in some drug trafficking cases and raises the minimum penalty from two to 25 years (Reuters 26 July 1994). The legislation was passed by the National Assembly in April 1994 (*ibid.*; AFP 26 Apr. 1994).

**28 July**

About 17,000 oil tank truck drivers strike after Saifur Rahman, the secretary of the tanker drivers association, is arrested and allegedly tortured by police. The strike soon spreads to other cities, halting an estimated 38,000 tanker trucks and forcing the authorities to begin rationing fuel (UPI 30 July 1994).

**31 July**

According to AFP, the UNHCR plans to scale back its aid to Afghan asylum seekers in Pakistan by early 1996 (AFP 31 July 1994). The UNHCR reportedly states that the majority of the estimated one million displaced Afghans can be considered "self-sufficient," but it pledges continued assistance to those "truly in need" (*ibid.*).

**August**

The government appoints 20 new judges, 13 of whom are PPP members (*FEER* 8 Sept. 1994; *India Today* 15 Dec. 1994, 75-76; *Keesing's* Aug. 1994, 40144). The opposition claims the government is trying to pack the courts with PPP sympathizers in anticipation of the upcoming corruption cases of PML leader Sharif and his supporters (*ibid.*).

The government proposes to introduce legislation to restrict public criticism of politicians. According to *FEER*, the proposals are widely condemned in the press as presuming the guilt of anyone charged (*FEER* 8 Sept. 1994, 22).

**10-11 August**

At least five people are killed in Karachi in two days of Sunni-Shiite sectarian violence. In one incident a Shiite man and his father are shot and killed on the street, while in another two Shiites are killed by gunfire (VOA 11 Aug. 1994; Xinhua 11 Aug. 1994).

**16 August**

The opposition announces a boycott of all parliamentary standing committees to protest government corruption (*Keesing's* Aug. 1994, 40144). PML leader Nawaz Sharif pledges to engage in a "long march" to "push the government into the sea" if it does not resign by 11 September (also see entries for 11 and 16 September 1994) (*ibid.*; Radio Pakistan 16 Aug. 1994; *FEER* 8 Sept. 1994).



**18 August**

Prime Minister Bhutto rejects opposition calls for new elections (*Keesing's* Aug. 1994, 40144; Xinhua 22 Aug. 1994). She states that the government will complete its mandate and asks the opposition to play its "due role" in parliament (*ibid.*). She further predicts that opposition's long march will "fizzle out" (*ibid.*).

**23 August**

Government and opposition lawmakers agree to form a panel to review the eighth amendment to the constitution, which allows the president to remove the prime minister. The panel, the creation of which is informally approved in the National Assembly, will report its findings and recommendations to the government (VOA 23 Aug. 1994).

**25 August**

Interior minister Naseerullah Babar states that the government is planning to expel about one million illegal immigrants residing in Karachi because of their involvement in drug trafficking and violence in the city (*Los Angeles Times* 26 Aug. 1994; *News India* 2 Sept. 1994; Reuters 25 Aug. 1994). Government officials believe most are from neighbouring countries such as India, Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Burma and Iran. Karachi's population is estimated to be about 10 million (*ibid.*).

**27 August**

Nine people are killed and over 20 wounded in a tribal clash between Bugtis and Raisani in Quetta, Baluchistan (*FEER* 6 Oct. 1994, 20; UPI 27 Aug. 1994). A curfew is imposed and the army deployed, but people remain fearful of revenge killings (*ibid.*).

The government bans the public display of all weapons in Karachi. President Leghari is reported to have recently met with the MQM to discuss the violence in the city (*Dawn* 28 Aug. 1994).

**11 September**

A government spokesman states that security forces will not stop Sharif's "long march," but emphasizes that any street demonstrations must remain peaceful (Radio Pakistan 11 Sept. 1994).

**12 September**

*The Washington Post* publishes an interview in which Nawaz Sharif alleges that in 1991, Pakistan's army and security intelligence officials proposed a "detailed" plan to pay for covert military operations by trafficking in heroin (*The Washington Post* 12 Sept. 1994, A13; *Le Point* 24 Sept. 1994; UPI 14 Sept. 1994). The government denies the allegations (*ibid.*), while Sharif denies that the interview ever took place and says he will sue the paper for US\$100 million (*ibid.*; *FEER* 6 Oct. 1994, 20). *The Washington Post* stands by its story (*ibid.*; UPI 14 Sept. 1994).

**14 September**

A bomb explodes in a refugee camp near Kotli in Kashmir, killing 10 and wounding 17 (Reuters 15 Sept. 1994).

The Supreme Court of Azad Jammu and Kashmir upholds an earlier judgement from the Azad Jammu and Kashmir (AJK) High Court that the Northern Areas, including Gilgit and Baltistan, are part of Azad Jammu and Kashmir (AJK) "as it existed on 14<sup>th</sup> of August 1947" (*The News* 15

Sept. 1994). However, it also rules that the Northern Areas are not defined as such in the AJK interim constitution of 1974, and therefore sets aside the lower court ruling that administrative responsibility for the area be assumed by AJK (*ibid.*; *The Frontier Post* 16 Sept. 1994; *Country Reports 1994 1995*, 1254-55).

### **15 September**

An Ahmadiya mosque in Rawalpindi is razed by city officials on grounds that it could incite "religious riots" since authority to build had neither been granted nor sought (UPI 16 Sept. 1994). One source notes that the site had served as a place of worship for 40 years (*Country Reports 1994 1995*, 1253).

### **16 September**

Sharif's "long march" concludes. He calls for a national strike on 20 September and announces that the opposition parties have agreed to set up a "supreme council," to be led by Sharif, to deliberate on opposition strategy (*Xinhua* 16 Sept. 1994; *The News* 16 Sept. 1994).

In Karachi, six SSP supporters are killed. The following day six supporters of the rival TJP are killed (AFP 19 Sept. 1994).

### **19 September**

After three days of sectarian violence in Karachi that results in at least 12 killed, the army begins a "massive" crackdown involving house-to-house searches for weapons and criminals (*Asiaweek* 28 Sept. 1994; AP 19 Sept. 1994; AFP 19 Sept. 1994). According to Karachi residents, an undeclared curfew is in effect (*ibid.*). Religious "hit squads" are again said to be operating (AP 19 Sept. 1994).

### **20 September**

The parliamentary opposition begins a national strike to protest against the Bhutto government (*The News* 30 Sept. 1994; Inter Press Service 21 Sept. 1994). Businesses close throughout the country despite the deployment of police to prevent violence. Clashes occur between police and opposition supporters after the government bans public gatherings in all major cities (*ibid.*). The following day Sharif calls the strike an "unprecedented success" (*The News* 21 Sept. 1994; Inter Press Service 21 Sept. 1994), but some analysts believe the closure of shops and businesses may have been due more to a fear of violence than a sign of support for the opposition (*ibid.*).

### **26 September**

Shaukat Ali Kashmiri, secretary-general of the Jammu and Kashmir People's National Party (JKPNP), is released from an army detention centre at Attok Fort (AI 30 Sept. 1994; *Country Reports 1994 1995*, 1248). On 22 September Amnesty International had called for an inquiry into his disappearance after reports that he was taken into custody by ISI on 26 August. Kashmiri had been prohibited from leaving Pakistan on 17 May 1994 and was reportedly set to enter a local election in Gilgit and Baltistan when he disappeared (AI 22 Sept. 1994).

Two bomb blasts kill 13 people in Azad Kashmir. According to the All India Radio Network, the bombings are the work of ISI, which is "forcing the muhajirs to undergo arms training" (All India Radio Network 28 Sept. 1994).

### **27 September**

The Sindh home department bans PML leader Nawaz Sharif and several senior PML and ANP

officials from entering Sindh province (AFP 28 Sept. 1994; *Dawn* 28 Sept. 1994; Radio Pakistan 27 Sept. 1994). The order is in effect until 7 October (ibid.). According to PML-N sources, the ban and the detention of 500-600 party activists is timed to coincide with a planned series of opposition rallies (ibid.; AFP 28 Sept. 1994). One PML source claims there were over 11,000 arrests, primarily in Punjab province (*Libération* 7 Oct. 1994). Sharif and his supporters vow to defy the ban (AFP 28 Sept. 1994; Reuters 28 Sept. 1994).

### **29 September**

Just hours before his arrival, the Sindh government lifts the order preventing Sharif from entering the province. According to *The News*, the day of opposition protest is "peaceful" and no violent incidents are reported anywhere in the country. Crowd sizes are said to vary from "poor" in Rawalpindi to "reasonably good" in Peshawar and other parts of NWFP (*The News* 30 Sept. 1994).

### **Early October**

A Pakistani delegation in Geneva refuses a UNHCR request to grant permanent residency to asylum seekers from Afghanistan. A government spokesman states that the asylum seekers are in Pakistan temporarily and must "return to their country at the first available opportunity." An estimated 1.4 million Afghans are living in camps in Pakistan (*The News* 24 Oct. 1994; *Country Reports 1994 1995*, 1253).

### **3 October**

Pointing to "serious violations" of human rights, the HRCP demands the army's withdrawal from Sindh province (AFP 3 Oct. 1994).

### **10 October**

On the eve of a nationwide general strike, police reportedly arrest thousands of opposition supporters (AFP 8 Oct. 1994; VOA 10 Oct. 1994). Opposition sources allege that over 3,000 people have been arrested in Sindh, while a police spokesperson, denying that there has been a crackdown, states that 1,100 people have been detained to prevent violence during the strike (ibid.; *Index on Censorship* Nov.-Dec. 1994, 245). According to *Country Reports 1994*, among those detained are 45 members of the Sindh provincial assembly. Few of those detained are charged and within a month most are released (*Country Reports 1994 1995*, 1248).

### **11 October**

The general strike is alternately described as a "complete success" by the PML-N and a "flop" by the PPP government (AFP 12 Oct. 1994). PTV Television reports that the response to the strike was poor in Islamabad and Rawalpindi PTV Television Network (11 Oct. 1994), while VOA states that Karachi was "virtually paralysed" by the strike and that most shops were closed in Islamabad and Peshawar (VOA 11 Oct. 1994). *Current History* reports that at least three were killed and 12 wounded in Karachi gunfire (*Current History* Dec. 1994, 442).

Pointing to the 12 September 1994 *Washington Post* article about the Pakistan army's plan to finance covert operations with the proceeds from "large-scale narcotics deals," 19 American politicians urge President Clinton to put Pakistan on the US State Department's "terrorist watch list" (Reuters 11 Oct. 1994).

### **16 October**

Law and justice minister Haider tells a UNICEF delegation that the government will soon set up a

permanent commission to "curb abuses against children" and "suggest appropriate measures to protect children" (Xinhua 16 Oct. 1994).

### **16-18 October**

Violence erupts in Karachi, with reports of torture, sectarian and factional conflicts and dozens of deaths (AFP 18 Oct. 1994; *FEER* 3 Nov. 1994, 22; *Libération* 19 Oct. 1994; *ibid.* 20 Oct. 1994). Security forces conduct house-to-house searches (*The Herald* Nov. 1994c, 63; *The Nation* 24 Oct. 1994) and make over 100 arrests (*ibid.*).

### **19 October**

According to a Radio Pakistan report, the Sindh government and MQM have agreed on a number of points, including curbing the activities of "miscreants and antisocial elements," examining cases filed against MQM members, returning properties taken during the PPP's term in office, permitting legal MQM political activities, and provision of federal and provincial government grants to rebuild services and amenities in Karachi (BBC Summary 27 Oct. 1994).

### **24 October**

Chinese engineers employed on a canal project in Jaffarabad district are fired upon by unidentified attackers, causing them to refuse to continue working (*Dawn* 26 Oct. 1994).

### **25 October**

The election results for a Northern Areas council are announced: of the 24 seats the TJP wins eight, the PPP seven, independents seven and the PML-N one, with one seat not yet decided (Radio Pakistan 26 Oct. 1994; DPA 29 Oct. 1994). A later report indicates that the final seat is won by an independent (*ibid.*).

A *Jang* photographer is beaten and arrested by soldiers while photographing a security operation in Karachi (*La lettre de Reporters sans frontières* Dec. 1994; *Index on Censorship* Nov.-Dec. 1994, 245). He is released after protests from fellow journalists (*ibid.*).

### **29 October**

The opposition walks out of parliament to protest the government's refusal to allow detained MNAs to attend the session (Xinhua 29 Oct. 1994). "Dozens" of opposition MNAs were arrested during the earlier anti-government campaign (*ibid.*; *The Herald* Nov. 1994a, 41).

### **30 October**

Eight people, including two soldiers and a policeman, are reported killed in Karachi in confrontations between rival MQM factions, and in clashes with police (UPI 30 Oct. 1994).

### **2 November**

"Scores" and perhaps "hundreds" of hostages, including two judges, are taken by tribes people who want Sharia law introduced in Malakand (*Keesing's* Nov. 1994a, 40280; U.S. Department of State 8 Nov. 1994; *The Herald* Nov. 1994b, 46; *FEER* 1 Dec. 1994). The following day a PPP NWFP provincial assembly member, also taken hostage, is reportedly killed (Reuters 3 Nov. 1994; *MNS News* 7 Nov. 1994; *Index on Censorship* Nov.-Dec. 1994, 245).

The conflict between the government and the tribes people reportedly resurfaced when two judges were appointed to Malakand, a move the TNSM regarded as government refusal to honour its promise to implement Sharia in the region (*The Herald* Nov. 1994b, 46). The

government sends in the military and reaffirms its commitment to enforce Sharia in Malakand (ibid.; *MNS News* 7 Nov. 1994; *Keesing's* Nov. 1994a, 40280). In response the TNSM leader orders the hostages released, but the "rebellion" by "thousands of heavily armed" tribes people continues (ibid.; *The Herald* Nov. 1994b, 45-48; *FEER* 1 Dec. 1994; *India Today* 15 Dec. 1994, 75). According to *India Today*, the insurgency is supported by "Afghan refugees, drug lords and gunrunners" who do not want Pakistani law to prevail in the area (ibid.). The revolt is eventually crushed by security forces (*FEER* 1 Dec. 1994), but not before as many as 200 people are killed (*Keesing's* Nov. 1994a, 40280; *FEER* 12 Jan. 1995, 22).

### **10 November**

MQM-Haqiqi secretary-general Mansoor Ahmed Khan is shot and killed in his car in Karachi, along with his wife, baby and sister-in-law (AFP 11 Nov. 1994). His killing sparks an outbreak of violence over the next few days (ibid.; *The Herald* Nov. 1994c, 64; U.S. Department of State 14 Nov. 1994), with reports of up to 17 deaths (*Keesing's* Nov. 1994b, 40280).

### **13 November**

Mian Mohammed Sharif, the father of opposition leader Nawaz Sharif, is arrested on charges of tax evasion, fraud, forgery and impersonation (UPI 13 Nov. 1994; *Keesing's* Nov. 1994c, 40280; *FEER* 24 Nov. 1994, 13; Reuters 17 Nov. 1994). He is released on 16 November (ibid.; *Keesing's* Nov. 1994c, 40280), reportedly because of poor health (Reuters 17 Nov. 1994; *FEER* 1 Dec. 1994). At year end his case is still before the courts (*Country Reports 1994 1995*, 1250).

### **14 November**

Fist fights break out between government and opposition MNAs when President Leghari is shouted down while addressing a joint session of parliament (*India Today* 15 Dec. 1994, 76; *Keesing's* Nov. 1994c, 40280; *The Daily Telegraph* 15 Nov. 1994). Security measures are needed to protect both the president and prime minister (ibid.; *FEER* 1 Dec. 1994; Xinhua 14 Nov. 1994).

### **19-20 November**

Seven people are killed by snipers as rival MQM factions battle in Karachi (Reuters 19 Nov. 1994). A total of 13 are killed and more than 20 wounded in "running gun battles" during the two days of fighting (AFP 20 Nov. 1994; *Keesing's* Nov. 1994b, 40280).

### **23 November**

Karachi business people hold a "peace march" (AFP 27 Nov. 1994a; Xinhua 27 Nov. 1994). One source notes that "violence and killing are becoming a daily routine" in Karachi, with the situation "deteriorating day by day" (ibid.).

### **25 November**

Six members of a Shiite party are killed and 17 wounded in an attack on a bus near Islamabad (*Middle East Times* 10 Dec. 1994).

### **27 November**

PML-N member and former interior minister Chaudry Shujaat Hussain is released on "interim" bail after his 22 November arrest on charges of fraud (AFP 27 Nov. 1994b). He is rearrested after failing to raise the required amount (AFP 8 Dec. 1994).

Gul Masih, a Christian sentenced to death for blasphemy in 1992, is acquitted by the Lahore

Court of Appeal (*Libération* 28 Nov. 1994; AI 28 Nov. 1994; *The Herald* Dec. 1994e, 20). The original charge resulted from a dispute between Masih and his plumber. According to *The Herald*, Masih was detained "in what appeared at that time to be more a case of protective custody," but he was charged under the blasphemy laws, tried and sentenced to death (*ibid.*). Despite his release there are still concerns about his safety (*ibid.*; AI 28 Nov. 1994).

### **November-December**

After 29 months on the streets of Karachi, the army withdraws to its barracks on November 30 (*The Herald* Dec. 1994b, 30; AFP 3 Dec. 1994; UPI 19 Dec. 1994), resulting in an immediate surge in violence and factional fighting (*Libération* 12 Dec. 1994; AFP 5 Dec. 1994; UPI 19 Dec. 1994). Ethnic leader Altaf Hussain alleges that the recent disturbances have been "staged" by government agencies that want the army returned (*ibid.*). Some business organizations want the army returned, but with increased powers (*The Herald* Dec. 1994d, 33; *FEER* 12 Jan. 1995, 22). The number of casualties rises as the month progresses, with UPI reporting on 19 December that 130 people have been killed since December 1.

### **3 December**

A peace march in Karachi led by intellectuals and sports and entertainment personalities is attended by an estimated 5,000 people (AFP 3 Dec. 1994).

### **4 December**

Mohammed Salahuddin, editor of the conservative Urdu-language Karachi weekly *Takbeer*, is killed outside his office by unidentified gunmen (*Asiaweek* 14 Dec. 1994, 19; *Libération* 12 Dec. 1994; UPI 9 Dec. 1994). According to *The Herald*, Salahuddin was an outspoken critic of "terrorism, parochialism, ethnicism and anti-Pakistani elements" (*The Herald* Dec. 1994a, 38) and a well-known critic of both the MQM and PPP (*ibid.*, 38a; Xinhua 5 Dec. 1994b; *Country Reports 1994 1995*, 1251), and there is "little doubt" that he was killed because of his differences with the MQM (*The Herald* Dec. 1994a, 38a). Two days later Ghulum Mohammed Samdani, general manager of the Urdu daily *Parcham*, is killed in his office by masked gunmen (*ibid.* Jan. 1995, 97; *Country Reports 1994 1995*, 1251; VOA 9 Dec. 1994b; UPI 9 Dec. 1994). The All Pakistan Newspapers Society calls a nationwide strike for 9 December to protest the killings (*ibid.*; VOA 9 Dec. 1994b; *Index on Censorship* Jan.-Feb. 1995, 244).

### **5 December**

After indications that the UNHCR will reduce assistance by 40 per cent by 1 January 1995, and terminate all assistance by 30 September 1995, information minister Khalid Kharal states that the government will provide "incentives" to displaced Afghans to return home (UPI 7 Dec. 1994; Xinhua 5 Dec. 1994a). Several days later a Yugoslav Telegraph Service report states that the Pakistan government will provide US\$5.5 million in assistance to displaced Afghans over the next year, and that the UNHCR is expected to propose to its executive committee in October 1995 that aid be continued (BBC Summary 16 Dec. 1994).

### **7 December**

Abdul Sattar Edhi, a man described as "Karachi's patron saint" because of his long-term work with the poor, leaves Karachi for London, stating that his life is in danger and he is under pressure to become involved in politics (also see entries for January 1995 and 7 January 1995) (*The Herald* Dec. 1994c, 38b; VOA 9 Dec. 1994a).

An attack on a Sunni mosque in Karachi leaves eight people dead, including a leader of the SSP

(AI 13 Dec. 1994; VOA 8 Dec. 1994). Shiite sources deny responsibility (ibid.).

### **10 December**

Intellectuals and human rights and political activists march in Islamabad to demand an end to the sectarian and ethnic violence responsible for the deaths of about 70 people during the previous week (UPI 10 Dec. 1994).

### **14 December**

Religious "hit squads" in Karachi kill four Shiite activists and one Sunni cleric (AP 14 Dec. 1994). Bomb threats result in several school districts being closed until 1 January 1995 (ibid.). According to AP, this is the "first time the threat of violence has moved into Karachi's rich suburbs" (ibid.).

*The National Assembly* unanimously decides to establish a parliamentary committee to investigate the causes of the Karachi violence (*Keesing's* Dec. 1994b, 40322).

### **18 December**

Three people are killed in Karachi during a strike called by the SSP (*Current History* Feb. 1995, 94; AFP 18 Dec. 1994). The strike was called to protest the 7 December attack on the Sunni mosque in Karachi (ibid.; UPI 19 Dec. 1994; *Current History* Feb. 1995, 94).

### **22 December**

At least eight people are killed in Karachi on the same day President Leghari arrives for talks with MQM representatives. In one incident, four men seeking to avenge the deaths of comrades killed the previous week capture and execute four members of the paramilitary Rangers (UPI 22 Dec. 1994).

### **24 December**

Three people are killed and several injured when a bus is bombed near Lahore. It is unknown who is responsible, but Reuters alludes to the continuing tension and violence between Shiites and Sunnis (Reuters 24 Dec. 1994).

### **26 December**

Alleging that India has been encouraging the Karachi violence, the government orders the Indian consulate in Karachi closed (*Keesing's* Dec. 1994a, 40322; *Asiaweek* 6 Jan. 1995, 6; AFP 7 Jan. 1995).

### **28 December**

President Leghari and JI leader Senator Kurshid Ahmad meet to discuss the JI's planned protest of a mid-January visit from a delegation containing US Defence Secretary William Perry (*The Muslim* 29 Dec. 1994). According to *The Muslim*, President Leghari urges the JI to call off the demonstration and assures him that the government has no plans to 'unilaterally' sign the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) (ibid.). Despite these assurances the rally goes ahead in Rawalpindi on 6 January. Thousands are reported as attending. Senator Ahmad alleges that the purpose of the visit is to "pressure" Pakistan to abandon its nuclear program and sign the NPT (ibid. 7 Jan. 1995; AFP 6 Jan. 1995).

### **31 December**

A JI member is shot and killed while protesting against new year's celebrations, which he

considered anti-Islamic. Protestors and police blame each other for the death. In response to threats from fundamentalist parties, the government reportedly asks five star hotels and clubs not to hold new year's eve parties (Inter Press Service 4 Jan. 1995).

## **1995**

### **January**

Sources report that a "third force" has been formed, to represent, from outside established political structures and parties, the interests of "millions of Pakistanis disgusted and disillusioned with corrupt politicians" (*India Today* 15 Feb. 1995, 107). At the centre of the movement is the former ISI chief, Lt.-Gen. Hamid Gul, who has also enlisted the support of popular former Pakistani cricket team captain Imran Khan (*ibid.*; *FEER* 9 Mar. 1995b, 20; *The Herald* Feb. 1995b, 26). Also involved is the Pasban, a group that began as the Jamaat-i-Islami youth wing but split from the JI in May 1994. The Pasban's strengths include fund-raising, grassroots organizing and attracting the young and others who have not traditionally supported conservative Islamic views. According to *The Herald*, it was after being approached by Gul's supporters that Abdul Sattar Edhi decided to flee the country on 7 December 1994 (*ibid.*, 26-30).

### **5 January**

Ninety-one people are arrested and illegal arms confiscated by police in a government campaign to "restore law and order in Karachi" (Xinhua 5 Jan. 1995). About 140 people were arrested over the previous two days (*ibid.*).

Pakistan denies Russian accusations that Afghan mercenaries are being recruited from Pakistan refugee camps to fight Russian forces in Chechnya (AFP 5 Jan. 1995; *The Herald* Feb. 1995c, 69).

### **7 January**

Abdul Sattar Edhi returns from London to Karachi, where he states that he will continue his work with the poor (AFP 7 Jan. 1995; VOA 7 Jan. 1995).

### **10 January**

Two Afghans arrested in August 1993 are sentenced to death for blasphemy by a district court in Islamabad. They had asked a printing press to reproduce a sketch of the Prophet Mohammed (DPA 10 Jan. 1995).

### **12 January**

Four people are shot and killed outside a Sunni mosque in Karachi. All are believed to have been SSP supporters (AFP 13 Jan. 1995).

### **14 January**

The Lahore High Court acquits Arshad Javed of blasphemy charges, ruling that he could not be criminally liable because of his mental condition (AI 1 Feb. 1995). According to Amnesty International, Javed, who was arrested in February 1989 and spent five years in jail, is only the second person in Pakistan to be acquitted on blasphemy charges (*ibid.*).

### **22 January**

The government announces that it will no longer permit direct foreign funding of Muslim religious



schools and institutions. All contributions must now be routed through the government, a move intended to reduce sectarian violence (PTV Television Network 22 Jan. 1995; *FEER* 9 Mar. 1995c, 25; AFP 22 Jan. 1995). Many of these schools, funded by Islamic states such as Shiite Iran and Sunni Saudi Arabia (AFP 22 Jan. 1995; *FEER* 9 Mar. 1995b, 20), are believed to be providing students with military and political training (PTV Television Network 22 Jan. 1995; *FEER* 9 Mar. 1995c, 25; AFP 22 Jan. 1995). SSP and TJP spokesmen promise "retaliation" and "confrontation" if the government interferes in the affairs of religious schools (AFP 25 Jan. 1995).

### **23 January**

According to PTV Television, the prime minister has threatened *The News* with legal action after it published a report alleging that she had asked Britain to extradite MQM-Altaf leader Altaf Hussain (PTV Television Network 23 Jan. 1995). The prime minister denies ever having asked Britain to extradite Hussain (*ibid.*).

### **25 January**

In what police refer to as attacks by "armed bandits," ten people are killed in several incidents in Karachi (Xinhua 26 Jan. 1995).

### **26 January**

Demonstrators in Azad Kashmir mark Indian Republic Day as a "black day," with protest rallies in all major towns in the region (PTV Television Network 26 Jan. 1995).

### **1 February**

MNA Haji Nawaz Khokhar defects from the PML-N and announces the formation of a 12-member bloc within the party. In giving his reasons for the split, he expresses dissatisfaction with Sharif's "erroneous policies" and his confrontational relationship with the government (*The News* 2 Feb. 1995; *The Economist* 18-24 Feb. 1995).

### **5 February**

At least 20 people are killed in Karachi during a nationwide strike called by the prime minister to demonstrate solidarity with Muslims in Indian Kashmir (*Libération* 6 Feb. 1995; Radio Pakistan 5 Feb. 1995; *The Ottawa Citizen* 6 Feb. 1995). Officials believe that 12 of the killings are in retaliation for attacks in Karachi on 4 February that resulted in 12 deaths. Most of those killed today are Sunnis, while on 4 February most of the victims were Shiites. While the government describes support for the strike as "complete," with businesses, government offices, public and private transportation, schools and markets reported closed throughout the country (*ibid.*; Radio Pakistan 5 Feb. 1995), one source reports low turnouts at rallies in major cities (*The Ottawa Citizen* 6 Feb. 1995). The following day the interior minister claims to know who is responsible for the February 5 killings and, implying that some are foreign agents, states that they will soon be arrested (*Dawn* 7 Feb. 1995).

### **7 February**

N.D. Khan, the new minister for law and justice, indicates that the government will use "political, administrative, and economic measures" to deal with Karachi's problems (Radio Pakistan 7 Feb. 1995). Among these measures is the provision of additional funding to Karachi police, a "massive economic package" of Rs 121 billion, and continued talks with the MQM (*ibid.*).

Ramzi Ahmed Yusuf, a suspect in the 1993 World Trade Centre bombing, is extradited to the US (AFP 9 Feb. 1995; *The News* 10 Feb. 1995; *The Nation* 10 Feb. 1995). The Jamaat-i-Islami,

Jamaat Ulema-i-Pakistan, Tanzeem-i-Islami and representatives of other Muslim countries all criticize the government action (*Dawn* 13 Feb. 1995; *ibid.* 12 Feb. 1995; *The Nation* 13 Feb. 1995).

### **8 February**

Opposition member Shaikh Rasheed is sentenced by a special "anti-terrorist" court to seven years' "rigorous imprisonment" for illegal possession of an assault rifle (*The Economist* 18-24 Feb. 1995; Radio Pakistan 9 Feb. 1995; *The Herald* Feb. 1995a, 48, 50).

### **9 February**

In Lahore, Salamat and Rehmat Masih are sentenced to death for blasphemy (AI 10 Feb. 1995; UPI 27 Feb. 1995; Reuters 13 Feb. 1995). Prime Minister Bhutto later reaffirms the government's intention to amend the blasphemy law (*ibid.*; *FEER* 23 Feb. 1995, 20). On 16 February the defence lawyer in the case is threatened, and her driver beaten, by a large crowd outside the Lahore High Court (also see 23 February 1995 entry) (AFP 16 Feb. 1995; *The Independent* 19 Feb. 1995).

### **10 February**

Seven more people are killed in various incidents in Karachi, including three MQM-Haqiqi members who are tortured and then killed after their house is broken into by six armed men. Three other people, including "a supporter of a militant Shiite" group, are killed in other incidents (Reuters 10 Feb. 1995).

### **13 February**

A strike is held in Vehari and Karampur towns in Punjab to protest nine recent killings, six of them at mosques and involving both Shiite and Sunni victims. The strikers demand that those responsible be found (AFP 13 Feb. 1995).

**15 February** The government announces its intention to look into the causes of the Karachi violence. France and Turkey offer to assist in the undertaking (AFP 15 Feb. 1995).

### **18 February**

Four TJP supporters are tortured and killed in Karachi, possibly by SSP supporters (AFP 18 Feb. 1995).

PML-N senior vice-president Ijaz ul-Huq, son of former president Zia ul-Huq, is arrested after displaying an unlicensed AK-47 at a February 16 rally in Islamabad and daring police to arrest him. The rally was called to protest the arrest of Shaikh Rasheed on the same charge (UPI 18 Feb. 1995).

### **19 February**

Members of the UN Military Observers Group, in Pakistan to investigate reported Indian cease-fire violations, are reportedly fired upon by Indian troops from across the Line of Control (Radio Pakistan 20 Feb. 1995). Another UN observer is fired upon the following day (*ibid.* 21 Feb. 1995).

### **23 February**

At least 150 people are arrested in Lahore in confrontations with police after the Lahore High Court acquits Salamat Masih and Rehmat Masih of blasphemy charges because of lack of

evidence (Reuters 24 Feb. 1995; UPI 27 Feb. 1995; *The Houston Chronicle* 25 Feb. 1995).

### **24 February**

Thirty-three SSP and TJP members are arrested in Punjab province in connection with cases involving murder, attempted murder and bombings. Officials indicate that a similar crackdown is likely in Karachi (AFP 23 Feb. 1995). According to *FEER*, the government is beginning a new crackdown on sectarianism (*FEER* 9 Mar. 1995a, 24).

### **25 February**

Twenty worshippers in two Shiite mosques are shot and killed in Karachi by Sunni gunmen (UPI 27 Feb. 1995; *FEER* 9 Mar. 1995a, 24; AFP 25 Feb. 1995).

### **27 February**

Salamat Masih and Rehmat Masih, the two Christians acquitted of blasphemy charges, are reported to have fled to Germany because they feared for their safety (Reuters 27 Feb. 1995). More than 100 journalists, teachers, social workers and writers rally outside the parliament building in Islamabad to demand repeal of the blasphemy law (*ibid.*; UPI 27 Feb. 1995).

## **NOTES ON SELECTED SOURCES**

### ***Far Eastern Economic Review (FEER)* [Hong Kong]**

*Far Eastern Economic Review* is a weekly magazine founded in 1946 which covers economic, social and political news in 30 Asian countries (*The Serials Directory* 1993, 1296). *The World's News Media* describes *Far Eastern Economic Review* as "influential" and "highly-regarded" (*The World's News Media* 1991, 217, 584).

### **Human Rights Commission of Pakistan (HRCP)**

The Human Rights Commission of Pakistan (HRCP), founded in 1987 and centered in Lahore, describes itself as a non-political, non-profit, non-governmental, and independent organization, of which "no office holder in government or a political party (at the national or political level) can be an office bearer" (HRCP 1992, back cover). HRCP activities include human rights monitoring and legal advocacy, and the dissemination of information through publications, workshops and seminars (*ibid.*).

### **Pakistani Media Sources (Various):**

This chronology makes use of various Pakistani media sources, many of which are made available through the Foreign Broadcast Information Service (FBIS), which publishes daily a wide variety of articles from the Pakistani press, radio and television. Press freedoms have reportedly been increasing in Pakistan in recent years, but reporters are still vulnerable to attacks for political or religious reasons, and self-censorship is common (*The World's News Media* 1991, 381-382; *Country Reports 1994 1995*, 1250-1251; CPJ 1992, 159-162; RSF 1994, 241-242). Printing presses and newspapers must be registered and the government has the power to seize "objectionable" materials (*Country Reports 1994 1995*, 1251). The government also reportedly influences editorial policy through its control of allocations of duty-free newsprint and government advertisements, and through bribery (*ibid.*). Nevertheless, sources indicate that the Pakistani press, especially those newspapers that are privately owned, can deliver high-quality, varied news coverage that critically examines government policies (*The World's News Media* 1991, 382; *Country Reports 1994 1995*, 1251). *The Herald* and the *Jang* publishing groups are the largest independent publishers. *The Herald* Group publishes, among others, Dawn, an

influential English daily newspaper founded in 1947, and *The Herald*, an English monthly news magazine founded in 1970 and reportedly respected for its independent editorial line (*The World's News Media* 1991, 382-383). *Jang* Group publications include *Jang*, an Urdu daily with the highest circulation in Pakistan, and *Daily News*, an English daily (ibid.). The government controls many other leading newspapers through the National Press Trust, whose publications, including *Imroze*, *Morning News*, and *Pakistan Times*, reportedly "tend to follow government policy and project the official point of view" (ibid., 382).

All radio stations and all but one television station, the Shalimar Television Network, are run by the government through the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting, and newsbroadcasts are reported to be strictly controlled (*Country Reports 1994 1995*, 1251; *The World's News Media* 1991, 382-384).

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