



Council on Pakistan Relations
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2009 ANNUAL REPORT

The Council on Pakistan Relations was established in the summer of 2009 to represent the views of Pakistani Americans and others interested in strengthening relations between Pakistan and the United States at this critical moment in the bilateral relationship. As was seen throughout 2009, relations between the U.S. and Pakistan remain fragile and often characterized by an atmosphere of mistrust and apprehension. CPR's goal is to work to increase mutual understanding; sensitize U.S. policymakers and other opinion makers to the views and concerns of Pakistanis; contribute positively to the policy debate in Washington over Pakistan and South Asia; and work to ensure that U.S. assistance to Pakistan is wisely spent and reaches its intended target, i.e. the people of Pakistan.

Pakistan, more than any other nation, has suffered tremendous socio-economic costs because of its relationship with the United States in the "war on terror." The country has become the front-line in the fight against extremism; its civilian population has been targeted by al-Qaeda and Taliban militants; hundreds of thousands of Pakistanis have been displaced from their homes due to fighting; democratic institutions have been weakened; its economy has severely contracted resulting in massive unemployment; and relations with its neighbors have grown increasingly complex and unstable.

In 2009, Pakistan dominated the headlines and received significant attention from the Obama Administration and U.S. Congress. The U.S. Congress held more than 20 hearings on Pakistan and in October, it passed the Kerry/Lugar foreign aid bill which appropriated \$1.5 billion a year for five years to help stabilize Pakistan. Although the historic legislation was lauded by U.S. policymakers as a demonstration of a long-term commitment to Pakistan, it was harshly criticized by some in Pakistan as another example of U.S. meddling in the country's internal affairs. Throughout the fall, CPR provided key Congressional staffers with recommendations on how to strengthen the legislation and ensure that it met U.S. and Pakistani objectives.

CPR's Activities

Within this overall political and policy context, CPR worked to quickly establish itself as a leading voice of Pakistani Americans in Washington, D.C. CPR met with senior Members of Congress and staff, Administration officials and leading think tank and academic experts to

introduce to the organization, provide constructive ideas on how to improve U.S.-Pakistan relations and address specific issues such as how to strengthen the Kerry/Lugar legislation, recommend political and economic reforms that Pakistan should undertake, discuss the impact of the U.S. predator drone attacks, and other related issues.

During the second half of 2009, CPR met with more than 30 Congressional offices including Members of Congress and staff. These included:

Congressman Ackerman (D-NY)	Congressman Honda (D-CA)
Congressman Joe Barton (R-TX)	Congressman Darrell Issa (R-CA)
Chairman Howard Berman (D-CA)	Congressman Jesse Jackson Jr.(D-IL)
Congressman John Boozman (R-AR)	Congressman Peter King (R-NY)
Minority Leader John Boehner (R-OH)	Congressman Marcy Kaptur (D-OH)
Congressman Dan Burton (R-IN)	Congresswoman Sheila Jackson Lee (D-TX)
Congressman Russ Carnahan (D-M)	Congressman John Larson (D-CT)
Congresswoman Yvette Clarke (D-NY)	Congressman Edward Markey (D-MA)
Congressman Mike Conaway (R-TX)	Congressman Jeff Sessions (R-TX)
Congressman Jeff Fortenberry (R-TN)	Congressman Chris Van Hollen (D-MD)
Congresswoman Kay Granger (R-TX)	

Senator John Barrasso (R-WY)	Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid (R-NV)
Senator Chris Dodd (D-CT)	Senator Jim Risch (R-ID)
Chairman John Kerry (D-MA)	Senator Debbie Stabenow (D-MI)
Senator Carl Levin (D-MI)	

Senate Committee on Foreign Relations

House Foreign Affairs Committee

CPR also actively engaged the Obama Administration, including officials in the U.S. Department of State and the U.S. Agency for International Development. At the Department of State these officials included Ambassador Robin Raphel, the Coordinator for Humanitarian Assistance at the U.S. Embassy in Islamabad, the Office Director for Pakistan Affairs and the Secretary of State's staffer for South Asia. At USAID, CPR met with the official responsible for the Kerry/Lugar assistance package.

The think tanks and academic institutions CPR met with included:

The Center for American Progress	U.S. Institute of Peace
The Heritage Foundation	The Council on Foreign Relations
The Center for Strategic and International Studies	The Brookings Institution
The Woodrow Wilson Center	The International Republican Institute

The Year Ahead

In 2010, Pakistan will continue to receive significant attention from U.S. policymakers. This year will be critical in CPR's efforts to improve the U.S.-Pakistan bilateral relationship and effectively represent the views of Pakistani Americans in Washington. CPR will broaden its base of contacts on Capitol Hill and the Administration and will provide concrete policy proposals to U.S. government officials. CPR will also actively engage the media and expand its online grassroots efforts. In 2010, CPR will work to achieve the following objectives:

1. Establish an effective and influential platform for independently-minded Pakistani Americans.

CPR will continue to expand its base of grassroots supporters among Pakistani Americans and others by establishing CPR local chapters in key U.S. states. CPR will undertake an aggressive on-line campaign to reach new supporters and engage Pakistani Americans interested in participating in the U.S. foreign policy debate over Pakistan. CPR will host events in key Pakistani American communities and build awareness of CPR's objectives and activities. CPR will continue to maintain its independence and non-partisan approach to U.S.-Pakistan relations and advance policy recommendations that are in keeping with U.S. and Pakistani national interests.

2. Establish strategic alliances with other Pakistani American interest groups to develop a common agenda.

In 2010, CPR will work to establish strategic alliances and working relationships with other Pakistani Americans groups in Washington D.C. and around the country. By developing a common agenda focused on what's best for the U.S. and Pakistan, the Pakistani American community will be able to have a much greater impact on U.S. foreign policy decisions than ever before. Unlike many other ethnic communities in the United States, the Pakistani American community has yet to fully organize itself into an effective and coordinated political interest group. CPR will also work to strengthen and increase the activities of the Pakistani Caucus in the U.S. Congress.

3. Promote increased trade between the United States and Pakistan.

In order to effectively address extremism, poverty and stagnant economic growth, Pakistan must work to create employment through internal reforms and increased trade with the United States. CPR will work to promote a trade agreement that will give Pakistani goods preferential access to the U.S. market. Beyond the limited scope of the "Reconstruction Opportunity Zones" that some Members of Congress supported last year, CPR will push for a

much broader trade agreement that will stimulate Pakistan's economy and demonstrate a long-term commitment between the two countries.

4. Ensure that U.S. assistance to Pakistan is wisely spent and reaches its intended target, the people of Pakistan.

Based on discussions CPR has had with key U.S. government officials, CPR will serve as an informal "watchdog" group monitoring how U.S. assistance is being spent in Pakistan. There is significant concern in Washington, especially in the U.S. Congress, that the recently passed Kerry/Lugar legislation, which provides more than \$1.5 billion in funding a year over a period of five years, may not be spent wisely. CPR, with its extensive network of contacts in Pakistan and throughout the U.S. government, will periodically monitor and report to U.S. policymakers on how the U.S. assistance is being allocated. At the end of each year, CPR will issue a report card that will be sent to Members of Congress and the Administration.

5. Promote and strengthen democracy in Pakistan.

CPR believes that Pakistani Americans not only have an important role to play in the United States but also in Pakistan. Pakistani Americans can play a unique role in supporting and promoting reforms inside of Pakistan. CPR will work with the Government of Pakistan, directly and through its Embassy in Washington, to encourage them to implement land reform, health and education reform and other important steps the Government of Pakistan needs to take to strengthen its institutions and restore the public's faith in its elected leaders.

6. Promote a regional South Asia U.S. foreign policy approach.

Until and unless Pakistan feels secure along its border with India, it will be difficult for Islamabad to focus its efforts on its western border with Afghanistan as the U.S. and international community would like to see. By promoting a regional South Asia policy that addresses the decades old border disputes and mistrust that characterizes many of the bilateral relationships in the region, the international community would have a much better chance of achieving its goals. CPR will work to promote a regional U.S. approach that will address many of the underlying causes of instability in the area.