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## **THE FIGHT AGAINST TERRORISM IN PAKISTAN**

The history of terrorism is a history of well-known and historically significant individuals, entities, and incidents associated, whether rightly or wrongly, with terrorism. Scholars agree that terrorism is a disputed term, and very few of those labeled terrorists describe themselves as such. It is common for opponents in a violent conflict to describe the other side as terrorists or as practicing terrorism.[1] Terrorism in Pakistan has become a major and highly destructive phenomenon in recent years. The annual death toll from terrorist attacks has risen from 164 in 2003 to 3318 in 2009, with a total of 35,000 Pakistanis killed between 11 September 2001 and May 2011.[2] According to the government of Pakistan, the direct and indirect economic costs of terrorism from 2000–2010 total \$68 billion.[3] Terrorism in Pakistan originated with supporting the Soviet–Afghan War, and the subsequent civil war that continued for at least a decade. The conflict brought numerous fighters from all over the world to South Asia in the name of jihad. The mujahideen fighters were trained by Pakistan's military, American CIA and other western intelligence agencies who carried out insurgent activities inside Afghanistan well after the war officially ended. The situation is equally tense and complicated in Pakistan. Although President Pervez Musharraf seized power in a coup and has extended his tenure through undemocratically dubious measures, the U.S. government has offered muted criticism at best because it considers him a key ally in the fight against terrorism. After President Pervez Musharraf declared the state of emergency in Pakistan, the attention of the whole world has been swept around in this country. George W. Bush took a rather tolerant position on the actions of Musharraf, saying that he did more for democracy in this country than anyone else to him. However, the international community is generally worried about the state of affairs in Pakistan, which owns nuclear weapons and is considered one of the largest. Western allies in the fight against terrorism.

"Geographically, Pakistan is located directly at the entrance to the Persian Gulf with all its oil resources. He has nuclear weapons. All this will make him an extremely influential player if Islamic fundamentalists seize power here. " Political analyst Farhan Ali of Rand Corporation agrees. She believes that the cooperation between Washington and Islamabad should be viewed through the prism of the fight against terrorism:

"The United States is now seeing Alcaida threatening not only the United States but the world community as well. It is vital for the United States to cooperate with this country and jointly fight terrorism in its territory."

Pakistan announces a "high level" commitment to work with international authorities to strengthen the rules and compliance with the action plan to combat terrorist financing and money laundering. Finance Minister Shamshad Akhtar told members of the FATF target group on June 30 that Pakistan plans to apply the "nationwide" approach to strengthening the fight against terrorist financing.

On June 29, the global body for monitoring money laundering said it would return Pakistan to its "gray list" to push Islamabad and stop the alleged support of the militant groups. Pakistani officials said they had warned of such actions during the FATF meeting in Paris, which lasted for a week.

The FATF, which consists of 35 member states and two regional organizations, prevents banks and global investors from allocating money to a country included in the gray list. Placing in a gray list may also precede the possible addition of Pakistan to the "black" FATF list, which will mean further sanctions.

The FATF provided Pakistan with an action plan on the necessary steps to be taken from the gray list. The Ministry of Finance reported that Akhtar created a "mechanism for institutional coordination and monitoring" to ensure implementation of the plan of action.

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## **CHAOTIC CRIMES COMMITTED ON ST. PATRICK'S DAY**

Between Christmas, Halloween, Thanksgiving, and a medley of other occasions, it seems as though a holiday is being celebrated at just about any given moment. Every year on March 17th, smack between Valentine's Day and Easter, St. Patrick's Day celebrations erupt in towns and cities across the country. But what sets St. Patrick's Day apart from many of its festive counterparts is a notorious association with drinking. Every March 17th, green beer overflows in pubs throughout New York City, and herds of people ranging from lightly buzzed to blackout drunk