

Forum: Security Council (SC)

Issue: The situation in Pakistan

Student Officer: Fani Kantzavelos

Position: President

INTRODUCTION

Pakistan is a country situated at the crossroads of the Middle East and Asia. It became independent on August 14, 1947, after being a part of Indian territory. Pakistan is mostly comprised of Muslims, and the state religion is Islam. As of today, Pakistan has an asymmetric federal government, with a President and Prime Minister, and separate legislative, executive, and judicial branches. However, the Pakistani military is heavily present in the country's political matters.

Pakistan has been facing a prolonged economic crisis for years, dating back to the mid-2010s. The International Monetary Fund (IMF) has been providing loans to Pakistan in order to prevent its default, with the most recent loan being granted in 2019. However, because of Pakistan's inability to meet certain requirements over the years leading up to 2023, it did not receive all installments of the loans. As of June 2023, Pakistan is still seeking to receive the remaining amount, as well as sign another bailout deal with the IMF, seeing as its currency, the Pakistani rupee, is at an all-time record low. Purchasing power in Pakistan has been reduced significantly among its population.

The current crisis facing Pakistan is not fiscal, but political. In April of 2022, former prime minister (PM) Imran Khan, chairman of the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI), was ousted from parliament under the guise of a vote of no confidence. However, it has been insinuated that the ex-PM fell out with the Pakistani armed forces, resulting in his ouster. The party of which the leader, Shehbaz Sharif, was voted as the new PM, is the Pakistan Muslim League (PML). Despite being a member of the Pakistan Democratic Movement (PDM) a coalition of all Pakistani parties that advocated for democracy, disagreed with Khan's policy, and condemned the involvement of the military establishment, the PML's leader, Shehbaz Sharif, came to power with the military's support. The Pakistan People's Party (PPP) withdrew from the PDM, but still is part of the current government-leading parliament.¹

Critique of the military came to an end when it came to leading Pakistani politics. The military has contributed to mass censorship, crackdowns against protesters, and restriction of civilian

¹ Tunio, Hafeez. "PPP Decides to Quit All PDM Offices." *The Express Tribune*, 13 Apr. 2021, tribune.com.pk/story/2294422/ppp-decides-to-quit-all-pdm-offices.

freedoms. The main situation in Pakistan is centered around the protests that erupted because of Imran Khan's arrest on multiple offenses. However, the courts have found Khan innocent of all charges brought against him. The military has banned the use of Khan's name in the media and is also attempting to try him in military court, which does not follow the typical rule of law. Nonetheless, political instability is widespread across Pakistan, with the people's sentiment being suppressed. The United Nations (UN) has only issued one press statement since the situation has broken out, with no word since. It is imperative that stability and justice are restored in Pakistan on its path toward real democracy, with the absence of military surveillance over political affairs.

DEFINITION OF KEY-TERMS

Austerity

"A difficult economic situation caused by a government reducing the amount of money it spends."²

Bailout

A bailout is financial aid or a loan that is granted to a country in order to ease a difficult economic situation, such as a financial crisis.³

Coup d'état

The overhaul of the legitimate, elected government by a state's armed forces.⁴

International Monetary Fund (IMF)

The IMF is an international economic organization that works towards ensuring sustainable economic growth to its 190 member states, by providing policy advice, financial and technical assistance, and loans.⁵

Partition

² "Austerity." *Cambridge Dictionary*, Cambridge University Press & Assessment, dictionary.cambridge.org/dictionary/english/austerity.

³ "Bailout." *Cambridge Dictionary*, Cambridge University Press and Assessment, dictionary.cambridge.org/dictionary/english/bailout.

⁴ "Coup d'état." *Encyclopædia Britannica*, Encyclopædia Britannica, Inc., www.britannica.com/topic/coup-detat.

⁵ "What Is the IMF?" *International Monetary Fund*, 11 Apr. 2022, www.imf.org/en/About/Factsheets/IMF-at-a-Glance.

“The dividing of a country into separate countries or areas of government.”⁶

Political Instability

“The propensity of a government collapse.”⁷

Praetorianism

The excessive intervention of the armed forces in a state’s political affairs.⁸

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Pakistan’s Road to Independence

Pakistan’s history begins in 1930 when the first call for a nation of Indian Muslims was made. In 1935, when the Government of India Act was enacted, it was tacitly agreed that Hindus and Muslims would coexist under the authority of an independent Indian state. However, while the Hindus, up until that point, had adopted the ways of their British colonizers, the Muslims had not, opposing themselves to the colonial rule, since they felt defeated as a religious group. This resulted in the Muslim community finding itself at an economic, political, and educational disadvantage compared to their Hindu counterparts. The Muslim League that existed at the time rallied support for its cause of being a separate nation from India. After World War II, the conditions seemed favorable for the creation of Pakistan. Ultimately, on August 14, 1947, Pakistan gained independence and went to establish its own government.

The Muslim League effectively took control of Pakistan, which was quickly embroiled in a war over the region of Jammu-Kashmir, which is still contested as a territory between India and Pakistan. The Muslim League was able to preserve the prideful, strong sentiment felt by the Pakistani population, but by the end of the war, the Muslim League’s leader had died, and the real implementation of the parliament was necessary. Liaquat Ali Khan took over, but his personality was not as strong as the Muslim League’s former leader, and this was evident in his

⁶ “Partition.” *Cambridge Dictionary*, Cambridge University Press & Assessment , dictionary.cambridge.org/dictionary/english/partition.

⁷ Alesina , Alberto, et al. “Political Instability and Economic Growth.” *Digital Access to Scholarship at Harvard* , Presidents and Fellows of Harvard College , Sept. 1992, dash.harvard.edu/bitstream/handle/1/4553024/alesina_instabilitygrowth.pdf?sequence=2.

⁸ “Praetorianism.” *Oxford Reference*, Oxford University Press, www.oxfordreference.com/display/10.1093/oi/authority.20110803100341729;jsessionid=5E179534F94F51A0882C22A8CF4734C4.

rule. Since Pakistan was also comprised of East Pakistan, a part of the country it was territorially separated from, it was very hard to establish authority over that region, and the remaining provinces in mainland Pakistan. Liaquat was killed, leaving many ethnic issues unsolved.

Early Politics in Pakistan

From 1950 and onwards, the Muslim League was increasingly weak, and could still not come to draft a constitution. The figures that ruled Pakistan were mostly corrupt, promoting their own interests in maintaining their political power, instead of making efforts to unify the nation. In 1956, a constitution was passed, declaring Pakistan an Islamic republic. The constitution mandated a national parliament comprised of 300 members, with a PM and cabinet to lead it. It also made provisions for a President, who would preside over the parliamentary process, essentially being at the disposal of the parliament. The constitution, however, did not prevail in making Pakistan a democracy, or even a parliamentary republic in name. There was an ethnic and political divide across Pakistan and East Pakistan, and the absence of the Muslim League hindered the proper operation of the state. This led to the first military coup in Pakistan in the fall of 1956.

Mohammad Ayub Khan established a military government operating under martial law. He deemed that Pakistan was not yet ready to adopt a democratic system, and instead opted to implement some provincial councils, which had to pledge support to Ayub Khan's leadership. The power in Pakistan at that point was concentrated in the bureaucratic system. Although he did try to gradually liberalize the country and grant more freedoms to the Pakistani population, he was met with opposition from more conservative groups within Pakistan. His failure to secure Jammu-Kashmir led to his voluntary retirement, where he ceded control to another military general.

The new Pakistani state

Yahya Khan, Ayub Khan's successor, followed the style of military rule. This continued until 1971, when East Pakistan was "lost," by being declared an independent state, now modern-day Bangladesh, essentially rebirthing the Pakistani nation. Zulfikar Ali Bhutto took over and was a figure who wanted absolute power in leading Pakistan. He cracked down on the younger generations and led a period of strict rule in Pakistan. He even implemented a new constitution in 1973, which with some amendments, is the current constitution in Pakistan. Bhutto founded the PPP, and because of its sole strength as a political party, set elections in 1977. The PPP won the elections with a majority, but it was accused of electoral fraud. Demonstrations followed, which forced the army to intervene and overthrow his government.

Zia ul-Haq was the next general to commandeer Pakistan and maintained his rule until 1988 when he died. He imposed martial law until 1985, and when it was lifted, multiple political parties used

this event to their advantage. The Muslim League was re-established as the PML, and Ali Bhutto's daughter, Benazir Bhutto's daughter returned to Pakistan, and was enthusiastically welcomed. Despite Zia's efforts to maintain control and quell ethnic conflicts, he ultimately failed. His death in 1988 led to elections later that year, in which the PPP under Benazir Bhutto won approximately half of the seats in parliament.

Pakistan's renewed political system

Bhutto was not highly popular, making quite a lot of enemies as PM. She refused to enter a coalition with her rival party and tried to force the Punjab leader Nawaz Sharif to stand down from his position. The PPP's rule was declared weak and unable to rule, resulting in the administration's dismissal. In the 1990 elections, Bhutto lost to Nawaz Sharif. Sharif based his campaign on anti-PPP sentiment, which backfired on his political agenda. He was deemed unfit to rule by 1992, resulting in another military intervention in Pakistan's rule. The army led an interim government until elections were held in October 1993.

Bhutto won a majority and collaborated with a wing of the PML in order to ensure her supremacy in parliament. Bhutto succumbed to the United States (US) pressure on the regime to become more stable, reach a settlement on Jammu-Kashmir, and suspend its popular nuclear program. This resulted in public outcry, and multiple scandals plagued the rest of Bhutto's term. She was ultimately dismissed in 1996, seeing as her personal and political life had spiraled out of control.

Nawaz Sharif gained the most votes in the 1997 elections with the PML. Sharif concentrated a lot of power to the position of PM, essentially establishing autocratic rule in Pakistan. He even became closer to extremist Islamic groups, and overall fortified the religious character of the Pakistani state. His regime was characterized by widespread corruption, a complete disregard for the national budget, and an absence of legality. By 1999, the military was convinced that Sharif was unfit as PM, and he was swiftly replaced by General Musharraf. He suspended the constitution, essentially forming a government with a coup d'état. In contrast to his military predecessors, he did not establish martial law.

Modern politics in Pakistan

Musharraf's rule lasted until 2007. Musharraf became the only leader of Pakistan, but he did claim that he wished to return to civilian rule as soon as it was feasible for Pakistan. Musharraf, in an attempt to legitimize his power, held a referendum asking to extend his presidency by 5 years. The people overwhelmingly voted yes, and parliamentary elections were held with limitations. The PML, which was the party Musharraf ran with, gained the majority of the seats, followed by the PPP. His party fought against Islamic extremism, which was not an entirely popular policy, but the PML had motivation from the US. When Musharraf tried to extend his presidency, the Supreme Court objected, on the grounds of his position as head of the military. He resigned from his post and remained President in later 2007. Musharraf's leadership became fragile as he was forced to declare a state of emergency and then uplift it. By the end of 2008, Musharraf lost all support, and he subsequently resigned. Musharraf's regime allowed Pakistan to reach a certain political model, which paved the way for modern Pakistani politics.

Until 2017, the administrations in the Pakistani government interchanged between the PML and PPP and were dissolved when the military no longer supported the government's actions. Pakistan, from its inception, has been a praetorian state, with the military removing an administration when it strays away from its policy line. However, Imran Khan's party was the first to break the cycle between the political families, the Sharifs and the Bhuttos, a fact Khan has stated himself. The military has typically favored the PML and PPP in government since they have had the most experience in governing Pakistan and have also been parties established very close to the beginning of its history. Imran Khan's PTI was the first party apart from the PPP and PML to gain the military's support, and the first party to gain such popular support, even after a leader's ouster.

The PTI took over in 2018, after winning that year's elections by a landslide. The PTI did not implement any radical policies in comparison to its predecessors; instead, it tolerated terrorist groups and received an additional IMF loan in 2019, after those granted from 2011 and onwards. Khan did not embody democracy, which incited the creation of the PDM. Multiple individuals underwent forced disappearances, and those who opposed the regime were swiftly silenced. The first chasm between the military and Imran Khan as acting PM was noticed when the parliament's leader opposed the appointment of a new head of intelligence. Even though it was later reported that relations between the two parties had been mended, by April 2022, Imran Khan was ousted, once again showing how military support is essential in maintaining government rule. The first PTI administration showed that even a new party is no exception to its term being cut short by the military.

Recent Developments

Mass protests eroded across Pakistan in response to Khan's removal, who has been proven to be one of the most approved Pakistani leaders in the country's history. However, the PML took on ruling the country shortly after. The military responded by violently suppressing protests and

increasing censorship. As of 2023, the use of Imran Khan's name in Pakistani media is prohibited. Imran Khan was arrested in May 2023, which led to mass protests on May 9, 2023, which targeted military bases and were, for the first time, violent, according to Pakistani officials' accounts. It is said that the military allowed the protesters to enter military areas, which may be a sign of indirect support for Khan's PTI. Despite Khan's arrest on the basis of multiple crimes such as corruption and embezzlement, he has been found innocent by the civilian courts. According to Khan himself, "I think the massive crackdown going on is to prepare the ground to re-arrest me. I expect to be arrested over the next, maybe, ten days or two weeks."⁹ Two weeks after Khan's statement, the electoral commission issued Khan's arrest with no bail. PTI leaders have also been further persecuted by the army and the state organs it controls. Overall, the situation in Pakistan has further regressed the level of democracy in Pakistan. While Khan's regime was far from a democratic one, the army's repeated intervention highlights the need for the SC to act, considering that Pakistan has been in an acute political and economic crisis for over a year.

MAJOR COUNTRIES AND ORGANIZATIONS INVOLVED

China

China has fostered relations with Pakistan ever since the middle of the 20th century, but never seriously. China believed that Pakistan had more to gain from the two countries' relations than China ever could. Even though Pakistan played an important role in establishing relations between the US and China, China distanced itself from Pakistan, until the mid-2000s. India was establishing closer ties with the US, and China also started to emerge as an important power. In 2013, when China launched its Belt and Road Initiative (BRI), engaging with Pakistan and investing in its territory was a way to counter Indo-American influence. The China-Pakistan corridor is a strategic, "crown jewel" in the BRI, seeing as the total investment is worth 62 billion USD.¹⁰ Through China's BRI, Pakistan has become a valuable ally to the former, and has also gained geopolitical influence. India is now cornered both by China and Pakistan, even though India has some ties with China, because of its developing friendship with Russia. China and Pakistan's alliance is a strategic one and considering that there are multiple Chinese investments in Pakistan, political stability in Pakistani territory is important for China, in order for there to be a steady return. China, however, is wary of the presence of terrorist groups close to the Southern

⁹ Wallen, Joe. "Imran Khan on the Conspiracy against Him." *The Spectator World*, 23 June 2023, thespectator.com/topic/imran-khan-conspiracy-pakistan-shehbaz-sharif/.

¹⁰ Chatterjee Miller, Manjari. "How China and Pakistan Forged Close Ties." *Council on Foreign Relations*, 3 Oct. 2022, www.cfr.org/article/how-china-and-pakistan-forged-close-ties.

Chinese border, considering that China's Uyghur population, which is Muslim, is rumored to have ties with groups from Pakistan. Seeing as China has been limiting the freedom of the Uyghur identity, reducing the terrorist threat is also an important objective it has with Pakistan.

India

Pakistan was formerly administered by the British under Indian territory. Before 1947, Indian Muslims fought for independence to form their own state. There was a prevalent internal divide, made evident by the names Hindustan for India, and Pakistan for Indian Muslims. The languages the two groups spoke also greatly differed. After Pakistan was declared independent, a war quickly broke out between Indian and Pakistani armed forces over the Jammu-Kashmir territory. Even today, there is a de facto border drawn in the middle of the territory by the UN, in order to reduce tensions in the region. Multiple fights have broken out after 1947, up until the 2000s. Terrorist attacks in Indian cities have been blamed on Pakistani-based terrorist groups, which Pakistan has denied involvement in. Small conflicts have broken out in Jammu-Kashmir, with fire being exchanged between the two sides, or small attacks being carried out by army units from both sides. India and Pakistan both claim Jammu-Kashmir as a whole and have not shown compromise in any of their negotiations. Seeing as India is Pakistan's neighbor to the east, the turbulent relations between the two have been a source of frustration for the Pakistani people. While India has not taken advantage of the political instability in Pakistan, political specialists say that this stance will not last long. Limited trade exists between the two countries, but this does not mask the hostility between them.

United States of America (US)

The United States has had relations with Pakistan since it became an independent country. The US is the largest contributor of foreign direct investment (FDI) and has opened the market for Pakistani exports.¹¹ The US has also been rumored to be involved in Pakistani politics. Ousted PM Imran Khan supported that the US played an integral role in his removal from his position. US officials, however, have denied this claim. It is important to note that Imran Khan had adopted an increasingly critical stance of the West towards the end of his tenure, stating that Pakistan was more of a "slave" to the US.¹² Despite the allegations of US intervention in Pakistani political

¹¹ Bureau of South and Central Asian Affairs. "U.S. Relations with Pakistan ." *U.S. Department of State*, United States Government , 15 Aug. 2022, www.state.gov/u-s-relations-with-pakistan/#:~:text=The%20United%20States%20established%20diplomatic,to%20Afghanistan%20stabilization%20and%20counterterrorism.

¹² Hussain, Abid. "Imran Khan's U-Turn: No Longer Blaming Us for His Ouster as PM." *Al Jazeera*, 14 Nov. 2022, www.aljazeera.com/news/2022/11/14/imran-khan-u-turn-no-longer-blames-us-for-removal-as-premier.

affairs, the counselor to the US Secretary of State acknowledged that while “we certainly have some influence, [...] we don't have infinite amount of influence and control events in Pakistan and don't seek to control events in Pakistan.”¹³ The US is avidly vying for elections to take place in Pakistan in due time, as well as the limitation of the role of the military in Pakistan’s political affairs. The US also launched a mission in Pakistan in the conquest of Osama bin Laden, former leader of Al Qaeda. The government in Pakistan at the time was hesitant to allow this mission to take place, and many Pakistanis believe that the US acted on its own in its pursuit of the terrorist leader. The US has also been critical of the presence of terrorist groups in Pakistan, and the lack of a legal framework against them.

Amnesty International

Amnesty International is a human rights organization that has advocated against human rights abuses in Pakistan. According to Amnesty’s report on Pakistan in 2022, multiple enforced disappearances occurred throughout the year, as well as crackdowns on innocent civilians exercising their right to assembly. Torture was carried out, and censorship regulations became even more strict. There is also discrimination against Hindus within Pakistani territory. Amnesty International condemns such practices.¹⁴

United States Institute of Peace (USIP)

The USIP has been committed in its mission in Pakistan since the 1990s. “The Institute works to help reverse Pakistan’s growing intolerance of diversity and to increase social cohesion.”¹⁵ It has worked towards ameliorating the role of law enforcement in local communities, focusing on reducing violence. They have also launched projects supporting religious minorities, democratic institutions, and empowering freedom of thought and tolerance against terrorist calls for violence.¹⁶ They have also reported on the current situation in Pakistan, including the impact it has had on Pakistanis.

¹³ Inskeep, Steve. “U.S. Stands by as a Partner to Help as Khan’s Arrest Adds to Pakistan’s Turmoil.” *NPR*, 10 May 2023, www.npr.org/2023/05/10/1175165435/u-s-stands-by-as-a-partner-to-help-as-khans-arrest-adds-to-pakistans-turmoil.

¹⁴ “Pakistan 2022.” *Amnesty International*, 2023, www.amnesty.org/en/location/asia-and-the-pacific/south-asia/pakistan/report-pakistan/.

¹⁵ “The Current Situation in Pakistan.” *United States Institute of Peace | Making Peace Possible*, The United States Institute of Peace, 23 Jan. 2023, www.usip.org/publications/2023/01/current-situation-pakistan.

¹⁶ “The Current Situation in Pakistan.” *United States Institute of Peace | Making Peace Possible*, The United States Institute of Peace, 23 Jan. 2023, www.usip.org/publications/2023/01/current-situation-pakistan.

TIMELINE OF EVENTS

DATE	DESCRIPTION OF EVENT
14 August 1947	Partition of India and independence of Pakistan.
27 October 1958	Martial law is imposed in Pakistan. General Ayub Khan becomes the leader of the country.
March 1969	General Yahya Khan takes over leadership in Pakistan. Martial law is imposed for a second time.
December 1971	East Pakistan becomes the independent state of Bangladesh.
20 December 1971	Yahya Khan steps down. Zulfikar Ali Bhutto assumes the position of President.
April 1973	New constitution is adopted under Zulfikar Ali Bhutto. This constitution, with some amendments, still operates in Pakistan today.
5 July 1997	Mohammad Zia-ul-Haq assumes power and declares the 1973 constitution void. A few days prior, the army dissolved Bhutto's government.
17 August 1988	Zia is killed mid-flight. Elections are held a few months later.
October 1999	"General Musharraf launches the third military coup, suspends the constitution, dismisses the federal and provincial governments, assumes the office of the Chief Executive, declares state of emergency and

	promulgates the Provincial Constitutional Order, 1999.” ¹⁷
August 2002	The 1973 constitution is restored, and over time, multiple amendments are made to it.
2008-2013	Zardari governs Pakistan in a coalition with the PPP.
February 2008	General Musharraf is not re-elected.
April 2010	Pakistan shifts to a parliamentary system.
2014-2018	Weak governments form under the leadership of the PPP or PML-N with weak political programs for Pakistan.
August 2018	Imran Khan’s PTI assumes leadership of Pakistan with the army’s support.
April 2022	Imran Khan is removed from his position as PM after a vote of no confidence takes place in parliament.
3 November 2022	Assassination attempt on Imran Khan’s life.
May 2023	Imran Khan is repeatedly arrested and found innocent of charges brought against him by the military.
9 May 2023	Violent civilian protests as a reaction to Imran Khan’s arrest. Action is taken against the Pakistani armed forces. A military crackdown ensues.

¹⁷ “Constitutional History of Pakistan.” *ConstitutionNet*, International IDEA, Apr. 2018, constitutionnet.org/country/pakistan.

May-June 2023

Multiple politicians affiliated with the PTI step down from their positions in the party.

RELEVANT UN RESOLUTIONS, TREATIES AND EVENTS

Press Statement by Secretary General on May 10th, 2023

Through the UN spokesperson for the Secretary General, Antonio Guterres relayed the message that the right to peaceful assembly should be respected in the protests that had broken out in Pakistan. He also expressed that the judiciary should be able to rule on the charges brought against Imran Khan based on the rule of law in Pakistan. No other statement or action has been made by the UN in relation to the current political crisis in Pakistan. Historically even, Pakistan has stood alone in times of military coups, without much foreign intervention in restoring democracy. Lack of action apart from this statement has contributed to the prolonging of turmoil in Pakistan and its military's intervention in political affairs.

IMF Loans

The IMF has provided Pakistan with multiple loans in the past. The most recent loan that Pakistan secured was in 2019, for a sum of 6.7 billion United States Dollars (USD),¹⁸ as a bailout to prevent Pakistan from defaulting. However, since then, inflation has risen to 24.5% as of January 2023, heightening the economic crisis in Pakistan.¹⁹ Imran Khan's administration did not adhere to all the formalities set out by the IMF in the acquisition of the loan, which led to the IMF denying the remaining 1.1 billion of the loan to Pakistan.²⁰ On June 26th, 2023, Pakistan has gained an understanding with the IMF and has pledged to further raise taxes, lower public expenditure, and fully implement the provisions set out by the conditions with which the loan will be granted.²¹ 4 days later, Pakistan secured a 3 billion USD bailout deal, which is meant to help Pakistan ease the

¹⁸ Mangi, Faseeh, et al. "Pakistan Narrows External Funding Gap, Hopes for IMF Deal Soon." *Bloomberg*, 5 June 2023, www.bloomberg.com/news/articles/2023-06-05/pakistan-narrows-external-funding-gap-hopes-for-imf-deal-soon.

¹⁹ Reuters. "Pakistan Seeks U.S. Help in Unlocking \$1.1 Bln IMF Loan - Dawn." *Reuters*, Thomson Reuters, 26 Jan. 2023, www.reuters.com/world/asia-pacific/pakistan-seeks-us-help-unlocking-11-1bn-imf-loan-dawn-2023-01-26/.

²⁰ Reuters. "Pakistan Seeks U.S. Help in Unlocking \$1.1 Bln IMF Loan - Dawn." *Reuters*, Thomson Reuters, 26 Jan. 2023, www.reuters.com/world/asia-pacific/pakistan-seeks-us-help-unlocking-11-1bn-imf-loan-dawn-2023-01-26/.

²¹ Yap, Karl Lester M, and Faseeh Mangi. "Pakistan Moves Closer to Vital IMF Deal with Last-Ditch Steps." *Bloomberg*, 26 June 2023, www.bloomberg.com/news/articles/2023-06-26/pakistan-moves-closer-to-vital-imf-deal-with-last-ditch-steps.

effects of the acute debt crisis.²² The approval for this new loan is set in July, with no further news having been revealed. The loan is meant to help alleviate the situation, but also help attract FDI.²³ While the IMF is preventing Pakistan's default, for the second time in the span of 4 years, further austerity measures will detrimentally affect the Pakistani population, the majority of which cannot secure a stable livelihood and afford basic goods. Additional fiscal regulations will contribute negatively to the approval of the current government, led by the PML, which can render Pakistan even more politically unstable.

PREVIOUS ATTEMPTS TO SOLVE THE ISSUE

There have not been any attempts to diminish the role of the army in Pakistani affairs, considering that the armed forces have always been considered “keepers” of law and order in Pakistan. All governments that have been elected have risen to power with the army's support and have also been deposed and removed by high-ranking army officials. The only instance of opposition to the army was noted in October of 2021, when the then PM, Imran Khan, seemed opposed to the appointment of a new head of intelligence in the Inter-Services Intelligence (ISI).²⁴ This was evident when the PM's office did not make any statement on the change of personnel. Because of the lack of checks and balances in the Pakistani constitution, as well as the Army Act, there is no certain protocol for the appointment of the leader of the ISI. However, it is a tradition that the PM appoints his chosen leader after recommendation from the military command or ministry of defense. In this case, the military appeared to be the reason for the change in the command of the ISI, and sources within the military of defense reported a “falling out” between the government and the military, and ultimately the military's choice withstood for leadership of the ISI. This attempt clearly ended in failure on the part of Khan's administration, which even in the wake of tradition, was unable to curb military involvement in political affairs, affirming the praetorian nature of the Pakistani state.

²² Al Jazeera. “Pakistan, IMF Reach \$3BN Staff-Level Agreement.” *Al Jazeera*, 30 June 2023, www.aljazeera.com/news/2023/6/30/pakistan-imf-reach-3bn-staff-level-agreement.

²³ Reuters. “IMF Loan Helps Pakistan Unlock Another \$5.6 Billion in Funding, Bloomberg Reports.” *Reuters*, Thomson Reuters, 14 July 2023, www.reuters.com/world/asia-pacific/imf-loan-helps-pakistan-unlock-another-56-bln-funding-bloomberg-news-2023-07-14/.

²⁴ Khan, Omer Farooq. “After Row with Army over New ISI Chief, Imran Govt Says Process Is on - Times of India.” *The Times of India*, 14 Oct. 2021, timesofindia.indiatimes.com/world/pakistan/after-row-with-army-over-new-isi-chief-imran-govt-says-process-is-on/articleshow/87003438.cms.

POSSIBLE SOLUTIONS

UN Administrative Body in Pakistan

The Pakistani government has been tied to the military since Pakistan became an independent, sovereign nation. Despite elections being held in which the population does participate, the party that gains the majority of the seats in parliament is only able to maintain its power with the backing of the military. As seen in the case of Imran Khan, the growing dissent between his administration and the armed forces led to a vote of no confidence, and the rise of the PMN with leader Shehbaz Sharif. Currently, the army has been charging Imran Khan with multiple charges, yet the judiciary has not been able to find the former PM guilty on any count. The military in fact, has moved to the option of military court, which will influence the outcome to the detriment of Imran Khan's political career. Nevertheless, it is important that democracy is implemented in Pakistan since the system has never been inherently democratic. Pakistan's political system has been underpinned by corruption in order to ensure the military's favor. A UN administrative body would be able to evaluate the current legitimacy of the Pakistani government, as well as provide institutional aid in order to promote democracy and reduce corruption throughout Pakistan. However, it is important to note that more conservative or religious populations in Pakistan may be opposed to such a body, since these groups may consider UN intervention as opposition to traditional Islamic values, which have been tied to the military in Pakistan for decades. On the other hand, a UN administrative body would be able to assist the Pakistani government in exercising power fairly and legitimately.

International Criminal Court (ICC) Trial

Pakistan has not ratified the Rome Statute, and is thus, not a member of the ICC. However, it is up to the SC's discretion to recommend that a state's officials be subject to an investigation by the ICC, and then a case may be brought against them. The ICC has also issued warrants in the past, in the cases of Vladimir Putin and Russia's Commissioner for Children's Rights. The military has been implicated in crimes against humanity, especially in the recent May 9th protests, as well as the multiple arrests of individuals in support of the PTI. The high military command of Pakistan would be able to be subjected to an ICC case upon recommendation from the SC. It is important to note that members of the P5, namely the US, China, and Russia, would be opposed to this, since they have not ratified the Rome Statute. These states may also consider the intervention of the ICC as a violation of sovereignty.

UN Peacekeeping Mission

The UN would be able to send a force of UN peacekeepers to Pakistan, in order to maintain peace and order. The military has unleashed a crackdown against civilians, members of the PTI, and any others opposing its institution. UN peacekeepers would be able to ensure the protection of

civilians, regulate any civilian-led assemblies without employing violence, and ensure that the military is not abusing its power. It is important to define the scope of the mission and the period of time, which may be amended depending on the unfolding situation in Pakistan. A UN peacekeeping force can be mandated by the SC, and the mission would operate in 6-month periods, ideally, until the presence of peacekeepers is no longer deemed necessary. However, delegates should consider that UN peacekeeping officers have often abused their power on similar missions. The presence of a UN peacekeeping force may cause unrest and provoke reactions from Pakistanis.

Supporting inclusive and democratic institutions

“Political parties in Pakistan have repeatedly eroded the public’s trust and undermined democracy by making short-term, expedient compromises with the army.”²⁵ It is important that the international community supports Pakistan’s long-awaited transition to democracy. The Security Council has been pursuant to states’ transitions to democracy in the past, and Pakistan should be no different. The SC should be committed to strengthening Pakistani institutions focused on education and welfare, which can not only help Pakistan become a democratic state, but also aid civilians in advocating for democracy themselves. While the army has suppressed all protests that have occurred over the past year, increased education can help ensure that Pakistanis are not passive members of their political system. Enforcement by the SC can occur through sanctions, which can be imposed depending on Pakistan’s commitment to democratic values. However, it is important to consider that sanctions in similar situations have not always borne any results in favor of democracy. Moreover, Pakistan is currently facing an economic crisis, and considering the IMF loans and the strict conditions that have been set, sanctions may ultimately have negative consequences. The SC should, regardless, extend its assistance to Pakistan’s transition to democracy.

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²⁵ Shah, Aqil. “Pakistan’s Military Still Runs the Show.” *Foreign Affairs*, Council on Foreign Relations, 26 June 2023, www.foreignaffairs.com/pakistan/pakistans-military-still-runs-show-imran-khan.

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