



Armed Conflicts Report

India - Kashmir (1947 - first combat deaths)

Update: January 2009

Summary

Type of Conflict

Parties to the Conflict

Status of the Fighting

Number of Deaths

Political Developments

Background

Arms Sources

Summary:

2008 The downward trend in violence continued in 2008 despite fears that a state election held in November might see an increase in rebel attacks. While 12 civilians were killed during the largely successful election, an earlier land dispute between Muslims and Hindus sparked the worse violence of the year as over 50 people were killed in protests and demonstrations, often as a result of clashes with Indian security forces. Although India and Pakistan did renew peace talks, with Kashmir as one of the issues to be covered, some 541 conflict deaths were reported for the year.

2007 Hostilities reached a 17-year low throughout 2007 despite concerns regarding the effects of Pakistani political instability on peace talks with Delhi. The February bombing of the Lahore-Delhi train killed sixty and was blamed on Islamic militants by Indian security personnel. Commercial trucks crossed the India/Pakistan border at Wagah for the first time since partition. Despite a marked decrease in violence estimates still place the casualty toll at over 800 for 2007.

2006 Peace talks between the Indian and Pakistani governments led to the establishment of new transportation routes between the two sides of Kashmir. Although there was limited progress made in other aspects of the territorial conflict, talks are continuing, with leaders of both countries stating a desire to come to an agreement. Overall, violence was down, but estimates are that over 1,000 lives were claimed.

2005 The Indian and Pakistani governments reached several agreements in ongoing peace talks including an agreement to withdraw troops from the disputed Siachen glacier. Peace talks between the Indian government and a coalition of moderate Kashmiri militants resumed but little progress was made. Fighting continued between Kashmiri rebels and the Indian government claiming over 1,700 people. A large earthquake in October devastated the region and neighbouring areas claiming over 70,000 lives and spurring a massive international relief operation.

2004 Several clashes between Indian security forces and rebels as well as rebel attacks on political and civilian targets claimed the lives of more than 1,800 people, a reduction over previous years. Unprecedented negotiations between the Indian government and moderate separatist groups began early in the year but failed to produce anything beyond an agreement to cease violence. Hard-line militant groups, meanwhile, continued a violent campaign against Indian control of Kashmir and peace negotiations between India and Pakistan continued with little progress. More positively, India pulled more than 1,000 of its soldiers out of Kashmir late in the year.

2003 Relations between India and Pakistan improved through the year and in November both governments agreed to a formal ceasefire along the Kashmiri Line of Control. Many of the insurgents refused to accept any cessation of hostilities however, and continued attacking Indian security forces and civilians in the disputed

area, resulting in over 2,000 deaths. The Indian government's unprecedented offer to meet with a political secessionist group, the All Parties Hurriyat Conference, signalled a significant shift in government policy.

2002 Civilians continued to be targeted by Islamic militants and caught in the cross-fire between Indian and Pakistani troops. Violence surrounding state elections resulted in the death of approximately 600 people. Tension between India and Pakistan escalated to the brink of war in June but stabilized again after Pakistan agreed to end the infiltration of armed separatists across the Line of Control (LoC).

2001 Violence continued throughout Kashmir in 2001, with suicide bombings, bombings, and attacks on the Indian army. In May, the end of an Indian cease-fire led to increased fighting as the Indian army resumed operations against separatist rebels. In December, an Islamic suicide squad attacked the parliamentary complex in New Dehli. A July summit between India and Pakistan ended without an agreement, with both sides citing Kashmir as the reason for the failure.

2000 Hostilities persisted within Kashmir, with numerous attacks on civilians, and a sharp increase in fighting between Pakistani-backed Islamic militants and Indian forces, particularly in the disputed India-Pakistan "Line of Control" border area. There was a relative decline in the intensity of violence after the Indian Government extended a November unilateral cease-fire and took steps early in 2001 to initiate peace talks with militants. Conflict casualties increased to over 2,600 deaths – the highest figure in four years according to one source.

1999 Major fighting between Indian forces and Islamic militants backed by Pakistani troops in the disputed India-Pakistan "Line of Control" border area lasted eight weeks until Pakistan agreed to a withdrawal of insurgents in July. Within Kashmir, attacks on civilians and extra-judicial killings by Indian security forces accompanied an increase in separatist attacks on government troops.

1998 Gun battles between separatists and Indian security forces, extra-judicial executions, and militant attacks on civilian, especially Hindu, villages continued in 1998, albeit at a lower level than in 1997. A build-up of Indian and Pakistani troops at the contested Kashmir border following May nuclear weapon tests by both countries led to heavier and more deadly artillery exchanges.

1997 Militant separatists and Indian government troops continued to clash through the year, and both rival groups carried out extra-judicial executions. In August, Indian and Pakistan troops resumed artillery exchanges along the disputed Kashmir border.

1996 Cross-border artillery exchanges between Pakistan and Indian forces, gun battles of Indian troops with separatist groups, bombings of civilian targets, and election-related attacks occurred throughout 1996.

1995 A major counter-insurgency operation in April and the May burning of the town of Charar-e-Sharif punctuated a year of sporadic gun fights between rebels and government security forces in which hundreds died.

Type of Conflict:

State formation/Border dispute

Parties to the Conflict:

1) Government of India:

Indian Army;

State police.

Elections in 2004 resulted in the Congress Party-led United Progressive Alliance coalition replacing the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP)-led coalition and forming the national government with Manmohan Singh as Prime Minister. India's next national election is scheduled for 2009.

India maintains a massive military presence in Kashmir with troop levels estimated at 500-600,000.

"India has about 500,000 soldiers and paramilitary troops in Kashmir, which is claimed in its entirety by India and Pakistan and has caused two of the three wars between them since they won independence from Britain in 1947." [*The Times*, June 13, 2009]

"For almost all the young protesters, that struggle is for total independence, rather than accession to Pakistan which, like India, claims all of divided Kashmir. Still, India has deployed an estimated 600,000 troops in Kashmir." [*The Economist*, 9 October 2008]

2) Rebels:

South Asia Terrorist Portal currently lists some 17 active rebel groups (and 18 inactive ones) over half of which are legally banned by India. These groups are divided into several categories depending on their objectives and location. There are those groups which seek to have Indian-controlled Kashmir join Pakistan (pro-Pakistan) and there are others which seek to have Kashmir gain its independence. In terms of location, there are those groups which are based in Pakistan and launch cross border attacks into Kashmir and there are others which operate out of Kashmir itself. While Indian officials claim that many of the insurgents are Pakistani, Pakistani officials insist that the insurgents are Kashmiri people fighting for their independence. Several groups are reported to have links to al-Qaeda. Some of the more prominent groups include:

- i) Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT - Army of the Pure) – Headquartered near Lahore, Pakistan, LeT has established training camps across Pakistan and Pakistan-occupied Kashmir. While it operates mainly in Kashmir where one estimate places its numbers at over 750, it has also carried out attacks in other parts of India. It has been accused of planning and carrying out the November shooting attack in Mumbai that killed over 170 people.
- ii) Hezb-ul-Mujahideen is one of the largest militant groups at around 1500 members. Based in Pakistan-occupied Kashmir, Hezb-ul-Mujahideen has conducted regular attacks across Kashmir.
- iii) the All Parties Hurriyat Conference (APHC), a legal grouping of religious and political parties, which in 2003 split into pro-Pakistan and pro-independence factions.
- iv) Jaish-e-Mohammed (JeM) is a relatively recent group based in Pakistan and aims to overthrow Indian rule in Kashmir. It conducts its attacks largely in Kashmir but has been accused of a 2001 attack on the Indian Parliament in New Delhi.

[Source: South Asia Terrorism Portal, http://www.satp.org/satporgtp/countries/india/states/jandk/terrorist_outfits/index.html]

"Leaders of some of these terror groups also have al-Qaeda connections. The long-time leader of the Harakat ul-Mujahideen group, Fazlur Rehman Khalil, signed al-Qaeda's 1998 declaration of holy war, which called on Muslims to attack all Americans and their allies. Maulana Masood Azhar, who founded the Jaish-e-Mohammed organization, traveled to Afghanistan several times to meet Osama bin Laden. Azhar's group is suspected of receiving funding from al-Qaeda, US and Indian officials say. In 2006, al-Qaeda claimed to have established a wing in Kashmir." [*Background: Kashmir Militant Extremists*, Council on Foreign Relations, updated: July 9, 2009]

3) Pakistan government:

Because the India-Pakistan border has been in dispute since partition in 1947, both governments maintain troops in Kashmir. Pakistan and India have fought two wars over rival territorial claims to Kashmir, but in recent years fighting has largely consisted of irregular artillery shelling of rival positions. The government of Pakistan has been further implicated in the conflict between India and insurgents due to reports of Islamabad supporting the rebels by providing them with arms and allowing them to launch attacks from Pakistani territory.

Status of Fighting:

2008 The downward trend in violence continued from 2007. While violent attacks continued throughout the year, the Union Home Ministry stated that for the first 10 months of 2008, terrorist attacks were down 39%, civilian killings 41%, and security forces killings by 31%. This positive trend continued during state elections held late in the year which saw a 63% voter turnout despite a call by rebel groups to boycott the election. Militancy related incidents were down some 86% compared to the previous 2002 state election and although 12 civilians were unfortunately killed in 2008, this was a 95% decrease from the 220 killed in 2002. Less positive was the violence associated with a Hindu-Muslim land dispute in mid-year which led to the death of over 50 civilians.

"The violence is part of an escalating crisis that began in June with a dispute over land near a Hindu shrine and has inflamed tensions between Muslims and Hindus in India's only Muslim-majority state. The Hindu minority was angered when the state government reversed a decision

to give about 100 acres of land to a Hindu trust to build facilities for pilgrims near the shrine. Muslims had complained that the gift of land would alter the religious balance in the region." [Associated Press, August 12, 2008]

"The level of infiltration across the Line of Control/International Border also saw a decline and, for the first time since 1990, the number of militancy-related incidents, according to J&K Police data, dropped below the four-figure mark to approximately 703 in 2008. The J&K Director General of Police (DGP), Kuldeep Khoda, stated on December 25, 2008, that the year witnessed an exceptional decrease of 40 per cent in militancy-related incidents compared to 2007, the largest such decline since 1990." [South Asia Terrorism Portal, <http://www.satp.org/satporgrp/countries/india/states/jandk/index.html>]

2007 Fighting was more sporadic than in recent years and violence fell to a level not seen in 17 years. In February, the bombing of a Lahore-Delhi train killed 60 and was attributed by some Indian security forces to Pakistani jihadis. Also in February, a strike in the Kashmiri city of Srinagar broke out after high-ranking Indian officials were accused of 5 civilian "encounter killings". (This term is applied to killings of individuals accused by police or military forces of being anti-Indian militants for motives that could range from personal revenge to greed – a cash reward is paid for the killing of a militant.) In late 2007, the home of India's High Commissioner in Pakistan was broken into in November, prompting protest against reported Pakistani terrorism from Delhi. In a more positive vein, the rebel group Hizbul Mujahideen promised to stop grenade attacks on civilians in an attempt to garner more popular support. Peace negotiations between India and Pakistan continued throughout the year, but little progress was achieved.

"India and Pakistan proceeded with dialogue process despite 18 February bombing of Lahore-Delhi train that killed over 60. Nuclear risk reduction pact signed during Pakistan FM Mahmood Kasuri's visit to Delhi 21 February, but terror attack, attributed by some Indian security officials to Pakistan-based jihadis, overshadowed visit. India said Pakistan must end all "cross-border terrorism" if dialogue process to succeed. In shift, head of separatist APHC moderate faction Umar Farooq called for militants to support political solution, but said Indian troop withdrawal should be first move. Strike in Srinagar 6 February shut down city in protest at recent uncovering of Indian Army and police role in at least 5 "encounter killings" of civilians, 8 police arrested. Lashkar-e-Toiba commander Abu Talha reported killed by Indian police 28 February." [International Crisis Group, 01 March 2007]

"Indian authorities said violence in India-controlled Jammu and Kashmir fell two-thirds in 2006 to lowest level in 17 years. No agreement in 11th round of talks between New Delhi and Islamabad on Siachen Glacier issue. New Delhi hosted 24 April roundtable on Kashmir, but separatist parties stayed away as talks skirted subject of territory. Thousands protested in Srinagar on the 16th of April in response to continued civilian casualties at hands of Indian police forces." [International Crisis Group, 01 May 2007]

"Hardliner Hizbul Mujahideen announced end to grenade attacks in public places as part of an apparent attempt to garner more public support. Indian police killed 3 alleged members of that group who barricaded themselves in mosque in Palnoo, Kulgam district on the 23rd of December." [International Crisis Group, 01 January 2008]

2006 Although levels of violence are considered to have lowered, daily clashes continue to occur, killing on average four to six people per day. Grenade attacks by rebel forces targeting security forces often kill or injure civilians. Gunfire between rebels and security forces has also resulted in a number of civilian deaths. Attacks on tourists became more common than in the past. Rebels are also known to have targeted suspected civilian informers, torturing or killing them as warnings to others. Due to the relative lessening in violence, the Indian army removed 5,000 troops from the region in February.

"Officials say violence involving Indian security forces and separatist militants has been falling since India and Pakistan launched a peace process in 2004. But an average of between four and six people a day are still being killed in regular gun battles and occasional bomb blasts across the mountainous region." ['India says Kashmir toll over 41,000, others differ', Reuters AlertNet, 07 Dec 2006]

'Militants on Wednesday night (June 14) attacked villagers in Indian-controlled Kashmir (IcK)'s Udhampur district by dragging out 15 villagers from their homes and killing one by slitting his throat. Two other villagers had their noses, tongues and ears cut off by militants who suspected them of being informers. The other men were beaten with canes, and six of them were seriously injured...Kashmiri militants often attack civilians suspected of being informers, particularly in rural and remote areas where security presence is low.' ['Militants attack villagers, as six people killed in continuing violence in Indian-controlled Kashmir' (IcK), *Asia-Pacific Daily Report*, June 15, 2006]

"There have been several attacks on tourists in Kashmir this year, which have left several dead and dozens injured....Tourists are not commonly targeted in the restive region. In the past, more traditional militant groups have refrained from attacking tourists because tourism forms a very important part of local livelihoods and the economy. However, other more radical groups have said that tourists bring in corrupting influences to Kashmiri society."['At least eight killed in string of attacks in Indian-controlled Kashmir' (IcK), *Asia-Pacific Daily Report*, July 11, 2006]

2005 Fighting continued between insurgents and Indian troops. Insurgents carried out numerous attacks and bombings on civilian and political targets mainly inside the disputed territories but also inside India proper. It is believed but still unconfirmed that a militant group linked to Kashmir-based militants was responsible for bombings in New Delhi in October that killed 59 people and injured hundreds. The United Jihad Council, a political body representing 14 militant groups called a temporary ceasefire following an October earthquake but fighting continued.

2004 Insurgents fighting Indian security forces and attacks on civilian and political targets claimed thousands of lives. Conflict deaths were fewer than in previous years in part because there were no major clashes between Indian and Pakistani troops in 2004.

2003 While hostilities between Indian and Pakistani troops ceased for most of the year, insurgents continued their campaign against Indian security forces and civilians. These attacks, coupled with the Indian forces' counter-insurgency operations resulted in thousands of deaths in 2003. There were reports of the rebels recruiting, forcibly or otherwise, children to fight in the conflict.

"There has been no let-up in separatist violence in the Himalayan region despite peace efforts by New Delhi and Islamabad who last month began a truce along a military control line dividing the region between them. ... The army ceasefire on the 742-km (460-mile) Line of Control has held so far, but rebel groups have said they will not observe the truce." [*Reuters*, December 2, 2003]

"Across the vast mountainous state of Jammu and Kashmir ... the disappearance of some 600 boys and young men [who are subsequently trained to fight] over the past year is a grave signal that the 14-year-long insurgency here is gaining energy. ... Kashmiri officials say that militant groups operating out of Pakistan are more aggressively going after local teenagers to fill their ranks. [*The Christian Science Monitor*, October 3, 2003]

"While most attacks are aimed at Indian security forces in Kashmir, militants have also assassinated moderate leaders and threatened to kill Kashmiris who vote in elections. Indian forces are accused of brutality of their own, including summary executions, systematic torture and hundreds of disappearances." [*nytimes.com*, September 27, 2003]

"Indian Defence Minister George Fernandes Thursday said a recent military operation to flush out militants from the high mountains of Indian Kashmir resulted in the deaths of 65 rebels and the recovery of major weapons caches. ... The Indian army in April launched 'Operation Sarpvash' (annihilation of snakes) in the Hillkaka area of Surankote in southern Kashmir to flush out an estimated 250 to 300 militants who had set up bases there in the past three to four years." [*Agence France Presse*, July 24, 2003]

2002 Violence continued throughout the year with Islamic militants stepping up attacks against civilians before and during state assembly elections in September and October. Soldiers, civilians and rebels were killed in shelling between Indian and Pakistani troops, and in security force skirmishes with militant groups.

2001 There was a major escalation of the conflict in 2001, beginning with an Indian offensive after a ceasefire ended in May, and increasing after the September 11 attacks on the United States. Suicide bombings, bombings, and raids were reported throughout the year, along with government offensives against separatist rebels. In December, the conflict reached India's capital with a suicide attack on the parliamentary complex in New Delhi.

"Twelve people, including all five assailants, were killed in a 50-minute gun battle when a suicide squad stormed the parliamentary complex in New Dehli." [*CNN*, December 15, 2001]

2000 Hostilities persisted within Kashmir, with numerous attacks on civilians, and a sharp increase in fighting between Pakistani-backed Islamic militants and Indian forces, particularly in the disputed India-Pakistan "Line of Control" border area. There was a relative decline in violence after the Indian Government extended a November unilateral cease-fire and took steps early in 2001 to initiate peace talks with the militants. Overall, attacks on civilians and extra-judicial killings by security forces increased in 2000.

"In August, the Hezbs-ul- Mujahideen (HuM) announced a three-month ceasefire, only to withdraw it two weeks later, (after India refused to involve Pakistan in talks over Kashmir's future) and detonated a bomb in Srinagar, killing nine policemen and a journalist." [*Jane's Defence Weekly*, 16 August 2000]

1999 Major fighting between Indian forces and Islamic militants backed by Pakistani troops in the disputed India-Pakistan "Line of Control" border area lasted eight weeks until Pakistan agreed to a withdrawal of insurgents in July. Within Kashmir, attacks on civilians and extra-judicial killings by security forces accompanied an increase in rebel attacks on Indian security forces.

"In May, after Islamic militants crossed from Pakistan into Indian Kashmir near the town of Kargil, India responded with military operations against the militants and their Pakistani backers. Armed clashes between India and Pakistan continued for the next eight weeks, until Pakistan agreed to withdraw the militants, and both countries agreed on a process of 'disengagement.'" [*Human Rights Watch World Report*, 2000]

"Contradicting weeks of official denials, a Pakistani military leader here acknowledged Wednesday that his nation's soldiers have been playing a major role in operations against Indian troops since fighting broke out along the disputed Kashmiri border last month." [*Los Angeles Times*, June 17, 1999]

1998 Gun battles between separatists and Indian security forces, extra-judicial executions, and militant attacks on civilian, especially Hindu, villages continued in 1998, albeit at a lower level than in 1997. A build up of Indian and Pakistani troops at the contested Kashmir border followed May nuclear weapon tests by both countries and led to heavier and more deadly artillery exchanges.

"The death toll in the last week is more than 100. ... Fighting in Kashmir usually peaks in the late summer when mountain passes are clear of snow, making troop and artillery movement easier. But this summer has been bloodier than any other since the early 1990s, when an insurgency was in full swing." [*Globe and Mail*, August 11, 1998, pA10]

"According to the [Indian] officers, Afghan, Sudanese and Pakistani mercenaries, armed and trained by Pakistan's Inter Services Intelligence (ISI), regularly cross the LoC at dusk, under covering fire that enables them to reach bases inside Indian-held Kashmir." [*Jane's Defence Weekly*, 16 September 1998, p26]

1997 Militant separatists and Indian government troops clashed throughout the year, and both rival groups carried out extra-judicial executions. In August, Indian and Pakistan troops resumed artillery exchanges along the disputed Kashmir border.

"In early October, Indian forces killed 51 Pakistani soldiers and damaged 124 of their bunkers in retaliation to the earlier shelling of Indian territory." [*Asian Age*, 3rd October 1997, cited in *International Security Digest*, November 1997]

1996 Cross-border artillery exchanges between Pakistan and Indian forces, gun battles of Indian troops with separatist groups, bombings of civilian targets, and election-related attacks extended the conflict throughout 1996.

"In the months preceding the elections, Indian security forces intensified their efforts against militant groups, stepping up cordon-and-search operations and summarily executing captured militant leaders. Alongside them, operating as a secret, illegal army, were state-sponsored paramilitary groups, composed of captured or surrendered former militants described as 'renegades' by the Indian government. Many of these groups were responsible for grave human rights abuses, including summary executions, torture, and illegal detention as well as election-related intimidation of voters." [Human Rights Watch, *WWW site description of India's Secret Army in Kashmir*, May, 1996]

1995 Bombings and gun battles were reported throughout the year. The capture and execution of foreign tourists brought attention to the Al-Faran group in August. Human rights groups reported pervasive torture and summary executions by government security forces, as well as by insurgents.

Charar-e-Sharif was surrounded in March by thousands of security personnel – trapping militants from two pro-Pakistan groups inside a 14th century shrine that honoured a Kashmiri Muslim saint. In May the town, along with its Muslim mosque and shrine, was burned to the ground. Rebel and government combatants blamed each other. "Some 150 people died in the fire, and more than 1,500 homes and shops were burnt to the ground." [*InterPress Service*, May 23, 1995]

In what was called "the biggest counter-insurgency operation in Indian Kashmir in more than five years," soldiers were reported to have sealed off a section of the frontier with Pakistan in April and attacked small bands of separatists as they crossed to the Indian side. The government reported at least 50 separatist deaths. [*VoA*, April 27, 1995]

Number of Deaths:

Total: Estimated deaths range up to 77,000 since 1989.

"The two nuclear-armed countries have waged two wars over Kashmir, and Indian security forces and separatist fighters skirmish almost daily. Fighting has left up to 77,000 dead since the early 1990s, according to human rights groups." [*washingtonpost.com*, August 28, 2008]

"According to government estimates over 47,000 people have been killed in militancy related incidents in the past two decades in Jammu and Kashmir as of November 2008. These included 20,647 militants, 7,000 police officers and special police officers and 20,000 civilians." [*2009 India Human Rights Report*, Asian Centre for Human Rights, May, 2009]

"...a separatist insurgency against Indian rule has killed more than 67,000 people since 1989. ['1 killed, 24 wounded in Kashmir attacks', Mujtaba Ali Ahmed, *Seattle Post-Intelligencer*, Monday, May 22, 2006]

"More than 65,000 people, mostly Muslim civilians, have died since 1989 ..." [*Associated Press*, November 27, 2003]

2008 South Asia Terrorism Portal notes that "civilian casualties, at 69 in 2008, fell below the 100 mark for the first time since 1990." They also report that 90 security forces personnel and 382 militants were killed for a total of 541 deaths. This represents a major decline in violence over 2007.

"Civilians were reportedly killed in crossfire in Jammu and Kashmir during the year. According to JKCSS based in Jammu and Kashmir, 55 persons were killed and 1,500 injured in a mass uprising in the state during the year. For Jammu and Kashmir, South Asian Terrorism Portal reported that 69 civilians, 90 security forces, and 382 militants were killed. According to local NGOs based in Jammu and Kashmir, 124 security forces and 233 militants were killed through August. According to media reports, two civilians were killed by security forces during the year." [*2008 Human*

Rights Reports, India, Bureau of Democracy, Human Rights and Labor, US Department of State, February 2009]

"Since 2006, the graves of at least 940 people are reported to have been discovered in 18 villages in Uri district alone. At the time Amnesty International urged the Indian government to launch urgent investigations into these mass graves, which are thought to contain the remains of victims of human rights abuses in the context of the above armed conflict." [*Amnesty International*, 2 July, 2008]

2007 Despite reports that violence has fallen to levels not seen for almost twenty years, reports are that intermittent skirmishes have been responsible for the death of some 800 people throughout the year. This statistic includes the 60 people who were killed during the Lahore-Delhi train bombing in February.

[*South Asia Terrorism Portal* counts 777 deaths in 2007.]

"Babir Ahmad, top commander of Huji militant group, killed by security forces in Indian-administered Kashmir; wanted for November 2007 Uttar Pradesh bombings. Pakistan President Musharraf said peace talks with India "now on track" and expects progress after Pakistan's February elections." [*International Crisis Group*, 01 February 2008]

"India and Pakistan proceeded with dialogue process despite 18 February bombing of Lahore-Delhi train that killed over 60." [*International Crisis Group*, 01 March 2007]

2006 Estimates are that over 1,000 people were killed this year.

"Since 2002, terrorism-related fatalities have demonstrated a secular decline in Jammu and Kashmir (J&K), and this trend continued in 2006, with a total of 1,116 persons killed. More than 40,000 people have lost their lives in the conflict since 1989, and, even at present, an average of nearly 100 lives is lost each month in J&K." [*South Asia Terrorism Portal*, www.satp.org, accessed January 2007]

2005 Over 1,700 people were killed this year of whom approximately a third were civilians.

"On July 19...a family of six was killed by suspected insurgents, and Indian soldiers killed four men whom they identified as members of a Pakistan-based militant group. The next day, a car bomb exploded in front of an Indian Army convoy in Srinagar, the capital of the Indian-held part of Kashmir." [Somini Sengupta, *The New York Times*, July 29, 2005]

"Twelve Islamic militants, four Indian troops and a civilian have been killed in an upsurge of violence in Kashmir just ahead of a visit to Pakistan by moderate separatists, officials said Tuesday. The toll was the highest in months in the disputed region." [*Agence France-Presse*, May 31, 2005]

"The Indian Army and other security forces have dealt a major blow to most militant groups active in Kashmir valley, neutralising 152 terrorists, including 38 top commanders, since the year began." [*The Times of India*, April 29, 2005]

2004 Over 1,800 people were killed including politicians, combatants and civilians, in the conflict in 2004. The drop in casualties from previous years was due, in part to a reduction of fighting between the Indian and Pakistani militaries.

2003 According to independent media reports, between 2,000 and 2,500 people, including hundreds of civilians, were killed in 2003.

"This year about 700 civilians, 500 Indian security men and at least 1,000 militants have died and thousands more have been wounded and maimed." [*Guardian Weekly*, November 13-19, 2003]

"Five months after the start of a new peace initiative, surging violence in the disputed territory of Kashmir has killed more than 300 people in the last month ..." [*nytimes.com*, September 27,

2003]

2002 An estimated 2,500 to 3,000 people, including many civilians, were killed throughout 2002.

2001 According to media reports as many as 4,500 people died in 2001 as a result of the conflict, the majority of them separatists and government soldiers.

"Indian authorities blame Pakistan for increased militant violence of the Kashmir border that has left hundreds dead. A spokesman said rebels had killed 527 civilians between January and July this year. Militants also abducted 235 people and killed 93 of them." [CNW August 7, 2001]

"According to Reuters news agency, daily police bulletins show that more than 150 people, mostly separatist guerillas, have been killed in Kashmir since the terrorist strikes on the World Trade Center and the Pentagon." [CNW, October 21, 2001]

2000 Conflict casualties rose again in 2000, increasing between 2,600 and 3,200 deaths of Indian and Pakistani troops, Muslim insurgents and civilians – the highest figure in four years according to one source.

"Pakistan-sponsored militancy claimed 2,389 lives, including that of 1,520 militants in the year 2000 in Jammu and Kashmir, an official spokesman said Friday... During the year militants gunned down 762 civilians, 98 of them in December and injured 1,258, despite the unilateral cease-fire, as against 69 killed in November. The toll of security forces also went up during the recently concluded year. While the highest number of 397 security personnel, including 86 Jammu and Kashmir policemen, lost their lives in anti-militancy operations, 864 were injured... During the year, 768 ultras were killed in the Kashmir valley and 752 in the Jammu region. One hundred and twenty-eight civilians were killed in explosives and grenade blasts." [The Times of India, 6 January 2001]

"The authorities in the Indian-administered Kashmir say that there has been a phenomenal rise in the number of casualties among the Indian security forces fighting militants. The state's junior Home Minister, Mushtaq Ahmed Lone, told the legislative assembly that 2,575 people, including civilians, had been killed in Indian-administered Kashmir in the past nine-and-a-half months. It is the highest figure for the last four years. He said the security forces had lost about 635 of their members against about 1,200 militants." [BBC News, 18 October 2000]

1999 Conflict casualties increased in 1999 when at least 1,400 and as many as 2,500 Indian and Pakistani troops and Muslim insurgents died (and as many as 80,000 people were displaced) in fighting on the Indian side of the Line of Control. Hundreds more civilians and combatants died in fighting in Kashmir.

"The number of insurgency-related killings and acts of torture in Jammu and Kashmir and the northeast by regular security forces showed no clear improvement from the previous year; ... The Minister of Home Affairs for Jammu and Kashmir said that security forces had killed 762 militants in the state as of October. ... Kashmiri separatist groups maintain that many such "encounters" are faked and that suspected militants offering no resistance are summarily executed. ...

The spring and summer incursion of Pakistan-backed armed forces into territory on the Indian side of the line of control around Kargil in the state of Jammu and Kashmir and the Indian military campaign to repel the intrusion left 524 Indian soldiers dead and 1,363 wounded, according to December 1 statistics by Defense Minister George Fernandes. Earlier Government figures stated that 696 Pakistani soldiers were killed. A senior Pakistani police official estimated that approximately 40 civilians were killed on the Pakistani side of the line of control. However, additional official Pakistani Government statistics regarding the conflict were not available at year's end. ... Kashmiri militant groups also committed serious abuses. In addition to political killings, kidnappings, and rapes of politicians and civilians ..., insurgents engaged in extortion and carried out acts of random terror that killed hundreds of Kashmiris." [India Country Report on Human Rights Practices for 1999, Bureau of Democracy, Human Rights, and Labor, US State Department, 2000].

1998 Approximately 2,200 people were killed, including at least 100 in summer artillery exchanges between Indian and Pakistani troops.

"Both sides traded artillery fire for nearly 10 days in July, when about 100 people died on either side." [*Jane's Defence Weekly*, 16 September 1998, p25]

1997 Over 2,100 civilian, security forces, and militant deaths, according to at least one source.

"Security forces committed an estimated 100-200 extrajudicial killings of suspected militants in Jammu and Kashmir.... most observers believe that the number of killings attributed to regular Indian forces declined slightly from the previous year. Although precise numbers are unavailable, progovernment countermilitants may have committed 100 to 200 extrajudicial killings in Jammu and Kashmir during of the year. Human rights groups believed that the number was slightly lower than in 1996. ... According to the Union Home Ministry, 918 civilians, 189 members of the security forces, and 1,114 militants were killed in Jammu and Kashmir during the period January 1 to December 15. In 1996 the totals were 1,214 civilians, 94 security force personnel and 1,271 militants, according to reliable press reports." [*India Country Report on Human Rights Practices for 1997*, Bureau of Democracy, Human Rights, and Labor, US State Department, 1998].

1996 The hundreds of deaths from conflict violence during 1996 may be a decline from fatality levels of earlier years. However, one report claimed 2,500 deaths up to the end of November and another sources placed the overall death toll at over 2,900.

"between five and 10 politically motivated killings are reported every day from Jammu and Kashmir." [*Amnesty International Release*, September 1996]

"An Indian official stated on 25 November that since the start of 1996 about 1,154 'militants' had been killed by security forces in the Indian province of Jammu and Kashmir... . In addition, 1,192 civilians and 156 security personnel died at the hands of the militants he said." [*PTI News Agency*, New Delhi, as cited in *IBRU Boundary and Security Bulletin* Winter 1996-1997]

1995 Likely more than 1,000 and according to one source, as many as nearly 2,800 were killed.

"Security-related death tolls in the state average from 10 to 20 people daily, usually in scattered incidents." [*VoA*, April 24, 1995] This implies a 1995 total of at least 3,000. Although no estimate for the year is available, it is apparent from accumulated reports that hundreds of deaths occurred during 1995, and likely more than 1,000.

1994 At least 1,300 and according to one source, as many as nearly 2,900 were killed.

Political Developments:

2008 In midyear, Pakistan and India started fresh peace talks in hopes of continuing a peace process launched in 2004. Later in the year, in October, India welcomed Pakistan President Zardari's declaration that Kashmir's "freedom fighters" are terrorists. Within Kashmir, the most serious outbreak of sectarian violence occurred as a result of the state government's reversal of a decision to provide land to a Hindu trust that is responsible for a shrine visited by Hindu pilgrims. Indian security forces fired on the unarmed protesters, killing and injuring many.

On a more positive note, state elections were held in November with a 63% turnout and far less violence than was expected. Early in 2009, Omar Abdullah was sworn in as the new chief minister of the Kashmir. His party, the pro-India National Conference party, won the most seats and formed a coalition with the Congress party to form a government.

"The unrest this summer in Kashmir has left nearly 40- people dead, all unarmed protesters, and more than 600 injured in the biggest demonstrations since an uprising against Indian rule by the region's Muslim majority broke out in 1989. On Wednesday, troops fired on protesters in two towns outside Srinagar, killing two people and injuring more than a dozen. Political analysts and human rights activists say the Indian government has failed to adjust its strategy to deal with a

separatist movement committed to nonviolence. Some Indian political leaders, even those who disagree with the push for Kashmir's independence, are beginning to wonder whether India's democracy is mature enough to handle such widespread but peaceful dissent."

[*washingtonpost.com*, August 28, 2008]

"The violence is part of an escalating crisis that began in June with a dispute over land near a Hindu shrine and has inflamed tensions between Muslims and Hindus in India's only Muslim-majority state. The Hindu minority was angered when the state government reversed a decision to give about 100 acres of land to a Hindu trust to build facilities for pilgrims near the shrine. Muslims had complained that the gift of land would alter the religious balance in the region."

[*Associated Press*, August 12, 2008]

"What began as a dispute over land for Hindu pilgrims visiting a shrine in Kashmir snowballed into full-scale anti-India protests this month, boosting separatists who want India's only Muslim-majority region to secede. Police and soldiers dressed in battle gear patrolled the street as about 350,000 protesters arrived from nearby towns and villages, officials said." [Reuters, 22 August, 2008]

"With armed troops patrolling shuttered streets and separatist leaders locked up, Indian Kashmiris voted in a state election on Monday, casting their ballots for better roads and civic amenities. An estimated 500,000 Indian troops are stationed in the region to defend the frontier, fight separatist militants and now provide security to the elections." [Reuters, 17 November, 2008]

"Accepting the oath of office, Mr. Abdullah promised to uphold the sovereignty and integrity of India. He said he hoped that relations with Pakistan, which also claims Kashmir in its entirety, would improve following the Mumbai attacks. And he said that he wanted negotiations with separatists: "They must have now realized that talks are the way forward."" [BBC News, January 5, 2009]

2007 In December 2006 President Musharraf of Pakistan vetoed an Indian proposal that would have created an autonomous Kashmir in exchange for concessions from the Indian government. The proposal followed confusion surrounding statements made by Musharraf that implied Pakistan would cede control over its portion of the Kashmir region if India did the same, effectively rendering the area autonomous. Officials within Pakistan claim that these statements were 'twisted' and taken 'out of context' by the media and did not reflect the interests of Pakistan. In September, Pakistan registered formal disapproval of India's plans to lead tourist groups through the Siachen glacier, an area hotly contested by the two sides. In a bid to restore some form of normalization, commercial trucks were allowed to pass through the India/Pakistan border at Wagah for the first time since partition. In December 2006, the United States signed the US/India Nuclear Deal, granting the sale of US nuclear technology to India for its civilian nuclear program. No sales are currently allowed to Pakistan. Peace talks continued throughout the year, but concerns as to their progress were expressed at the end of the year following political instability within Pakistan.

"Pakistan President Musharraf mooted plan for autonomous Kashmir in exchange for Indian concessions. Plan would see Pakistan give up territorial claim and referendum demand if India accepted granting region autonomy within existing territorial borders, joint phased military withdrawal allowing "soft border" with free movement across Line of Control, and "joint supervisory mechanism" to govern cross-border issues. Musharraf ruled out full independence. PM Singh responded indirectly with messages of peace, but Delhi appears reluctant to move forward without Pakistani efforts to halt cross-border terrorist attacks. US President Bush signed the US-India nuclear deal on December 18, allowing US nuclear sales to India but with no sales allowed to Pakistan." [International Crisis Group, 01 January 2007]

"Pakistan is willing to give up its claim to all of Kashmir if India agrees that the disputed Himalayan region should become self-governing and largely autonomous." Pakistani President Gen. Pervez Musharraf said in an interview broadcast Tuesday on Indian television. Musharraf's office later sought to clarify the president's remarks, saying his offer was not unilateral but contingent on India doing the same. It also claimed Musharraf's remarks had been "twisted" out of context." ["Musharraf suggests Pakistan willing to give up Kashmir claim", *International Herald Tribune*, Tuesday, December 5, 2006]

"In step towards normalization, commercial lorries cross India-Pakistan border for first time since partition at Punjab's Wagah border post on the first of October. Pakistan President Musharraf announced political and administrative reforms for Northern Areas on the 23rd, giving regional assembly greater say in regional administration; move rejected in Northern Areas as attempt to bypass real political reform." [*International Crisis Group*, 01 November 2007]

2006 Peace talks between Indian and Pakistani government leaders continued, but were disrupted in July by the Mumbai train bombings which India claimed Pakistani terrorists were responsible for. These talks were resumed in mid-November. Although no clear breakthroughs were made on the Kashmir dispute, one area of advancement is transportation in the region, with two new bus routes and a new train route being established between major cities on each side of the region. Out of the talks also came a joint pact to institute an Anti-Terrorism Institutional Mechanism, though critics suggest this will reach little success. In December, Pakistani President Musharraf stated that Pakistan was willing to give up its claim to Kashmir if India would also, leaving the region self-governing and autonomous. Elections were held in April, with a 60% voter turnout, despite the polls being boycotted by separatist rebels who claim the polls support New Delhi's governance of the region. The Indian Prime Minister also called for round table peace talks in May between Kashmiri politicians and separatist leaders. The invitation was declined by both factions of the APHC (All Parties Hurriyat Conference), which stated that there was no room for discussion of independence at the table.

"Although considerable progress has been made in a number of areas, such as the revival of two railways routes and a trans-Kashmir bus service, little concrete progress has been made on the main Kashmir dispute." ['India-Pakistan peace process appears to stall shortly before third round of talks', *Asia-Pacific Daily Report*, Jan 11, 2006]

"Officials said that a record 60 percent of voters showed up at the polls yesterday, despite a boycott call by separatist rebels. Officials say that the high-turnout is indicative of the people's desire for peace in the restive region." ['Seven killed, 28 injured in Indian-controlled Kashmir (IcK) following polls', *Asia-Pacific Daily Report*, April 25, 2006]

"Over the weekend, Islamic separatist militants had threatened to step up attacks to disrupt the Kashmiri roundtable conference, to which the hardline and moderate factions of the APHC were invited. However, yesterday (Monday, May 22), both factions declined the invitation in what analysts said was a setback to the roundtable." ['Suicide bomb blast strikes Indian-controlled Kashmir (IcK) ahead of prime minister's visit', *Asia-Pacific Daily Report*, May 23, 2006]

"Indian Prime Minister Manmohan Singh yesterday (Wednesday, October 18) said that a joint anti-terror pact that was announced by him and Pakistan President Pervez Musharraf in September would test Pakistan's commitment to anti-terror measures. He was speaking at a meeting with Indian military commanders in New Delhi. The Anti-Terrorism Institutional Mechanism was announced during a sideline meeting between Singh and Musharraf in Havana, Cuba last month." ['Indian prime minister says joint anti-terror pact would test Pakistan', *Asia-Pacific Daily Report*, Oct 19, 2006]

"India and Pakistan have resumed a peace process that was halted earlier this year by deadly train bombings in Mumbai." [Anjana Pasricha, *Voice of America*, November 14, 2006]

"Pakistan is willing to give up its claim to all of Kashmir if India agrees that the disputed Himalayan region should become self-governing and largely autonomous. Pakistani President Gen. Pervez Musharraf said in an interview broadcast Tuesday on Indian television. Musharraf's office later sought to clarify the president's remarks, saying his offer was not unilateral but contingent on India doing the same. It also claimed Musharraf's remarks had been "twisted" out of context." ['Musharraf suggests Pakistan willing to give up Kashmir claim', *International Herald Tribune*, Tuesday, December 5, 2006]

2005 Peace talks between the Pakistan and Indian governments continued. The two sides came to several agreements including to relax restrictions on cross-border travel within divided Kashmir, to withdraw troops

from the disputed Siachen glacier, and to notify each other in advance of ballistic missile tests. Talks between the Indian government and the moderate Kashmiri rebel faction, the All Parties Hurriyat Conference, also continued but no significant breakthroughs were achieved. Local elections were held for the first time in Indian Kashmir but were boycotted by separatist militants.

"India and Pakistan have opened a fifth point on the Line of Control dividing Kashmir to ease the flow of aid to survivors of last month's earthquake... The agreement to partially open Kashmir's de facto border was struck at the end of last month. It was intended to allow Kashmiris divided by years of conflict to help each other following the quake." [BBC News, November 16, 2005]

"In the most significant push to the peace process since the initiation of the bus service between Indian and Pakistan Kashmir in April, the two countries have agreed to deploy troops from the glacier...the modalities of the withdrawal are yet to be worked out..." [Siddharth Srivastva, *Asia Times Online*, November 5, 2005]

"Talks on the glacier are among a series of negotiations the neighbours have opened since they pulled back from the brink of war in 2002. A ceasefire has held in divided Kashmir since November 2003 and the two countries started a cross-border bus service in April to help unite divided Kashmiri families. Then, in June, India allowed separatist Kashmiri politicians to visit Pakistan and Singh himself held talks with those leaders in New Delhi before meeting Musharraf in New York. But the peace process has yet to produce tangible progress on the dispute over Muslim-majority Kashmir, the trigger of two of the three wars between the rivals since 1947. With both sides sticking to long-held positions, no one is expecting significant progress." [Zeeshan Haider, *Reuters*, September 29, 2005]

"Declaring their peace process irreversible, nuclear rivals India and Pakistan agreed on Monday to open up the militarized frontier dividing Kashmir, capping a landmark visit to New Delhi by President Pervez Musharraf. In a significant coming together, Musharraf and Indian Prime Minister Manmohan Singh said they would work towards a 'soft border' in Kashmir, opening meeting points for divided families and boosting trade, travel and cooperation across the frontier." [Terry Friel and Kamil Zaheer, *Reuters*, April 18, 2005]

2004 Transportation services between Indian and Pakistani-held parts of Kashmir resumed for the first time in years as bilateral talks between India and Pakistan reportedly made progress towards a formal agreement. Talks covered several important issues, including Indian plans to build a dam that would affect Pakistani rivers in the region. Both countries are drafting "road maps" to peace that may become a formal plan for the Kashmiri peace process next year. The government of India, in an unprecedented and significant change of policy, began talks in early 2004 with the moderate separatist group the All Parties Hurriyat Conference. The Indian government also signalled the possibility that Kashmiris could play a more significant role in the ongoing talks with Pakistan. India reduced the number of soldiers in Kashmir by over 1,000 and the Indian Prime Minister promised further reductions contingent on reduced military activity by separatists.

"Foreign ministers from India and Pakistan say they have made progress after two days of peace talks in Delhi." [BBC News, September 6, 2004]

"India's new Foreign Minister Natwar Singh has indicated he would not rule out redrawing borders with Pakistan in the search for peace." [BBC News, June 10, 2004]

"Pakistan says it will host the first direct talks with India's new foreign minister since last month's election of a new Indian government." [BBC News, June 7, 2004]

"The moderate faction of the main separatist alliance in Indian administered Kashmir has agreed to hold more peace talks with India." [BBC News, March 17, 2004]

"The Indian Government and a group of Kashmiri separatists have agreed that violence must end in the troubled region at a historic first meeting." [BBC News, January 22, 2004]

"Pakistan and India have restored air links between the two countries with a Pakistan International Airlines' (PIA) flight from Lahore to Delhi." [BBC News, January 1, 2004]

2003 Relations between India and Pakistan improved greatly as both states initiated confidence-building measures throughout the year. A ceasefire along the Kashmiri Line of Control in November led to a meeting between the heads of both states in January 2004, their first in over two years. Similarly, relations between the Indian government and certain secessionist groups improved as the former agreed to an unprecedented meeting with the largest political secessionist group, the All Parties Hurriyat Conference. However, India maintained its position of non-negotiation with the militant rebel groups. The counterterrorism efforts of the United States and of Pakistan as part of the "War on Terror" continued in 2003, targeting several factions fighting in Kashmir.

"A foreign ministry spokesman said India was willing to extend the ceasefire to the Siachen glacier, an icy battlefield north of the Line of Control (LoC). But he warned the ceasefire would fail unless Pakistan stops arming Kashmiri insurgents – a charge Pakistan denies. ... Pakistan's Prime Minister, Zafarullah Jamali, made the surprise truce offer on Sunday in a speech marking his first year in office." [*BBC News*, November 24, 2003]

"India and Pakistan began implementing a cease-fire along the Line of Control dividing the disputed region of Kashmir at midnight Tuesday. It is the first formal agreement on hostilities between the two bitter South Asian foes ... since ...1989 ... While the cease-fire will be observed along the two countries' entire international border, it does not cover Indian security forces and Islamic militants in Kashmir, and there is no indication how long it would last or how effective it would be." [*CNN.com*, November 25, 2003]

"Separatist political leaders [of the All Parties Hurriyat Conference] in Kashmir accepted a landmark offer of talks with the Indian government on Thursday but said they wanted to discuss a solution to the Kashmir dispute with Pakistan as well. ... The talks would be the first high-level contact between secessionist leaders and the Indian government.

... The largest Kashmiri militant group, Pakistan-based Hezb-ul-Mujahideen, said in a faxed statement to a Srinagar news agency, Current News Service, that 'the new dialogue process will create further confusion.' The agency reported another militant outfit, Al-Nasireen, said any dialogue process was incomplete without the participation of armed rebel groups ..." [*Associated Press*, October 23, 2003]

"Last week, the US added three more Pakistan-based extremist groups to its growing list of terrorist organizations. The largest of the three, Hizbul Mujahideen, is the oldest and largest Kashmiri militant group. ... Pakistan is also trying to show India – and the United States – it is serious about combatting terrorism originating from its soil. The government announced last week it would take action against banned terrorist groups that have reinvented themselves with new names. Pakistan cracked down on several groups last year at the behest of the US, but many of them have since regrouped." [*The Christian Science Monitor*, May 6, 2003]

"India and Pakistan said Friday they will hold their first talks in almost two years aimed at ending 50 years of war and acrimony and agreed to restore full diplomatic ties." [*Associated Press*, May 2, 2003]

2002 October elections in India-administered Kashmir ushered into power a new coalition government headed by the People's Democratic Party and the Congress Party. The elections were declared free and fair despite violence and boycotts by separatist groups. India and Pakistan approached the brink of war in June, stationing a total of one million troops along their disputed border. Tensions between the two nuclear powers were subsequently defused by international (particularly American) efforts to secure Pakistan's agreement to "permanently" end the infiltration of Islamic militants into Indian Kashmir. Both eventually pulled back from the border area although India maintained an armed presence along the Line of Control.

"India accuses the Pakistan army of helping militants cross into India Kashmir to join a separatist revolt and says infiltration has risen during the polls. Pakistan denies the charges." [*Reuters.com*, October 5, 2002]

2001 In July, an Indian and Pakistani summit failed to reach any agreement on the Kashmir situation. Following the summit failure hardline Islamic militant groups based in Pakistan announced a step-up in violence

and by November, India's ruling party called for tougher measures to deal with the militants in Kashmir.

"Fears of violence are rising in Kashmir after India and Pakistan failed to reach an accord over the disputed region at their summit in Agra. The summit, the first between the two nuclear foes in two years, raised hope the five decade dispute over the Himalayan territory could be resolved. But the neighbours were deadlocked over Kashmir, the territory that has sparked two of the three wars between the two arch rivals since independence from Britain in 1947." [CNN, July 17, 2001]

"Hardline militant groups in Pakistan said they will step up their armed struggle to separate Kashmir from India. They said there is no solution to the Kashmir dispute except through 'jihad' or holy war. The United Jihad Council, an umbrella organization of the dozens or so militant groups fighting Indian rule, has echoed a call by the frontline Hizbul Mujahideen group that an armed struggle remains the only choice to 'liberate' Kashmir." [CNN, July 17, 2001]

"Members of India's ruling Bharatiya Janata Party are calling for the enforcement of tough measures to finally put a stop to a bloody revolt in disputed Kashmir, party officials said. The avowedly nationalist BJP has long advocated tough steps to fight the nearly 12-year old revolt in Muslim dominated Kashmir." [CNN, November 2, 2001]

2000 An unconditional three month cease-fire offer by HuM insurgents in July was rejected by other armed groups in Jammu and Kashmir, and withdrawn two weeks later when India refused to involve Pakistan in Kashmir peace talks. In November Indian Prime Minister Vajpayee declared a month-long unilateral cease-fire for Ramadan, and extended it another month in December. Early in 2001, Vajpayee announced talks with rebel groups in Indian-administered Kashmir, excluding Pakistan despite a call for involvement by Pakistan's military ruler, General Musharraf.

"On Wednesday (Dec. 20) India extended its unilateral ceasefire in Kashmir (by another month), while Pakistan announced that it had begun a partial troop withdrawal from the Line of Control, which divides the region between the two countries." [BBC News, 22 December 2000]

In July, "Dar (top HuM commander) announced a unilateral cessation of hostilities for three months and offered talks with the Indian government. He demanded an end to military operations against HuM, human rights abuses and harassment of Kashmiri political workers, release of detainees, withdrawal of criminal cases against terrorists and the removal of security bunkers across Kashmir, especially Srinagar. However, the United Jihad Council opposed the cease-fire, expelled the HuM and vowed to continue their fight against India...

Two days before peace talks the LET(Lashkar-e-Tabiyya - Army of the Pious) struck, carrying out a series of eight well-planned attacks across the state in which 100 people, mostly Hindus, were killed in a 12 hour period. The first round of talks were held, but significantly Dar did not attend... Pakistan, meanwhile, under pressure from Washington, anxious to reduce tension over Kashmir, adopted a neutral stance to the peace talks. Indian security officials said the ISI (Pakistan's Inter Services Intelligence) was unhappy with the cease-fire and 'squeezed' (Sayed) Salahuddin (HuM leader) to scuttle the talks by issuing an ultimatum to India...(either agree to tripartite talks, including Pakistan by August 8 or the cease-fire would be called off). The following day the cease-fire was withdrawn and the security forces, including the army which had reduced military operations against the HuM, warned all units to brace for a fresh offensive." [Janes Defence Weekly, 16 August 2000]

1999 A February "Lahore Declaration" pledging India and Pakistan to efforts to solve the Kashmir dispute was surpassed by May fighting. The remainder of the year saw little progress towards peace beyond a US-pressured withdrawal agreement that ended the immediate crisis over the Line of Control.

"Pakistan announced Sunday that it had agreed with India on a withdrawal plan to end the most serious flare-up of hostilities between the nuclear rivals in nearly 30 years. ... The withdrawal agreement came one week after Pakistani Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif flew to Washington for talks with President Clinton and promised 'concrete steps' to restore the Line of Control, which was drawn in 1972 after the last war." [Reuters, July 12, 1999]

"Since then [the 10-week battle around Kargil] there has been no dialogue between the two sides. India has demonstrated an unwillingness to deal with Pakistan's new military government [as of an October coup], and maintains that Pakistan must end its sponsorship of the decade-old separatist insurgency in northern Jammu and Kashmir before talks can resume." [*Reuters*, December 20, 1999]

1998 Despite heightened political tensions between the two countries in 1998, stalled bilateral peace talks resumed in October but made little progress.

"Top Indian and Pakistani diplomats resumed stalled peace talks in Islamabad Friday The talks have been deadlocked for more than a year because of disagreements over the disputed Himalayan region of Jammu and Kashmir,..." [*Reuters*, October 16, 1998]

1997 After a three-year hiatus, talks between the Indian and Pakistan governments resumed in March, followed by prime ministerial discussions in May, but the November collapse of the Indian government left the future of the talks uncertain.

"Yet progress in talks between officials has been stymied by heavy shelling of civilian areas across the line of control in the disputed state of Kashmir." [*The Economist*, October 11, 1997]

1996 Indian parliamentary elections in May and state government elections in September served to focus violence as the Indian Army coerced voters to the polls, and separatists, who support a UN-sanctioned plebiscite, opposed the votes by attacking political workers.

"The forthcoming assembly elections are the first in nine years; in 1990, the state assembly was dissolved and Jammu and Kashmir was placed under President's Rule, that is, direct rule from New Delhi. Elections will be held in four phases on 7, 16, 21 and 30 September to permit the deployment of troops. An additional 70,000 troops have been moved to the state. Several groups, including the APHC, and parties set up by renegades have announced that they would boycott elections." [*Amnesty International Release*, September 6, 1996]

1995 Elections to end five years of direct rule by the federal government, scheduled for March, were postponed until 1996 because of the threat of escalating violence. There was growing demand for a plebiscite to be held over the future of Kashmir, as decided by India and the UN in 1947.

Background:

Rival territorial claims on the predominantly Muslim state of Kashmir have generated two wars between Pakistan and India since the Pakistan-India partition of 1947, with troops of both governments fighting each other across the inhospitable Siachen glacier. This war led to the creation of the United Nations Military Observer Group in India and Pakistan (UNMOGIP) in 1949. This mission was deployed with a mandate to monitor the ceasefire line between the two countries and continues to this day. A 1989 revolt for independence led by the Jammu and Kashmir Liberation Front developed into insurgency involving as many as 140 militant groups seeking independence or union with Pakistan. In response, the Indian government has deployed many troops and paramilitary personnel with estimated numbers ranging from 150,000 to 500,000. Following six years of direct rule by the federal government, elections were held in Kashmir in 1996 amidst violence. Peace talks between the Indian and Pakistani governments began in 1997 after a three-year hiatus but made little progress. In November 2000, India declared a unilateral cease-fire and made new attempts to initiate peace talks with some rebel groups, but in 2001 the cease-fire ended and violence escalated again. In June 2002, hostilities between India and Pakistan escalated, bringing the region close to war with nuclear potential. However, American-brokered talks served to defuse tensions by securing agreement by Pakistan to stop militant incursions into India-administered Kashmir. In recent years factions fighting against Indian forces in Kashmir have become increasingly more Islamist, placing greater emphasis upon religious rather than nationalist objectives. Levels of violence have been declining since the beginning of peace talks in 2004, but little formal progress has been made.

"Since the outbreak of the revolt in Kashmir in 1989 India has been in danger of losing the state either to Pakistan or as an independent entity. This is because Kashmir remains on the United

Nations agenda as an unresolved dispute -- a legacy of India's complaint to the UN Security Council in 1947 of Pakistani aggression. Unlike the Punjab, Assam, Sindh or the Tamil areas of Sri Lanka, the status of Kashmir is disputed by another sovereign state and remains divided between India and Pakistan. In fact, two wars, in 1947-48 and 1965, have been fought between India and Pakistan over it. ... Since 1989 India and Pakistan have been on the brink of yet another war. "The goals of the various Kashmiri insurgent groups have also changed since late 1989. The struggle was begun by the relatively secular Jammu and Kashmir Liberation Front (JKLF) with the encouragement and support of the Pakistani government. The JKLF stands for an independent Jammu and Kashmir based on the boundaries on 13 August 1947 of the old princely state. ...By the following year, when the JKLF-led revolt was in full swing, Pakistani support was withdrawn and redirected towards several pro-Pakistani groups." [Raju G.C. Thomas, "Secessionist Movements in South Asia," *Survival*, Vol 36:2, Summer 1994

Arms Sources:

Government:

Although India has a significant domestic arms industry, it imports large volumes of weapons, mainly from Russia, but also from France, the UK, the US, Germany, Netherlands, Ukraine, Italy, Israel, Poland, Qatar, South Africa, Slovakia, Kyrgyzstan and Uzbekistan.

[Sources: *SIPRI 2003/2004 to 2004/2005, 2008; The Military Balance 2004/2005, 2009*)

"The [Indian] Army operates a variety of air defense systems, mostly of Soviet origin. These include the Russian-made Kvadrat mobile surface-to-air missile system, the Osaka surface-to-air missile system, the Strela-1 system, the Pechora system, the Igla, the Shilka and Tanguska self-propelled anti-aircraft guns, and guns like the L-70, which is more than 30 years old." [*Defense News*, November 28, 2005]

"Russia supplies 72 percent of India's imported weapons ..." [*The Christian Science Monitor*, November 27, 2002]

"Tony Blair used a private meeting with his Indian counterpart to push the sale of British Hawk jets while urging peace with Pakistan, it has been confirmed." [*BBC News*, October 21, 2002]

Rebels:

Rebel groups are known to be supplied by Pakistan and by weapons that were siphoned off from the "Afghan Pipeline" during the 1980's. Many of the commanders took part in the war in Afghanistan which provided them with training and invaluable connections and access to groups willing to arm them. Drug production and trade also feature prominently in the region, and the arms and drug trade are interlinked. Many insurgent groups generate funding for arms acquisitions via the drug trade.

"Interviews with captured militants reveal that Pakistan plays a key role, facilitating the recruitment, arming and training of a number of militants." [*Guardian Weekly*, November 13-19, 2003]