



# ONGOING POLITICAL UNREST IN PAKISTAN

# Executive Overview

This report assesses the ongoing political unrest in Pakistan, marked by large-scale protests following the arrest of former Prime Minister Imran Khan. The protests, spearheaded by Khan's party, the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI), have led to violent clashes with security forces in major cities like Islamabad and Rawalpindi. The government's crackdown has intensified, with severe restrictions on public gatherings and communication. The report outlines the origins, dynamics, and possible resolutions of this political conflict, with particular focus on the impact of the unrest on Pakistan's internal stability and international events like the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) summit.





# Introduction

## Background:

Former Prime Minister Imran Khan, ousted in 2022, was arrested in 2023, sparking widespread unrest across Pakistan. His supporters in PTI have been actively protesting against the government, accusing it of seizing power illegitimately and orchestrating Khan's detention through politically motivated charges. The resulting political tension has plunged Pakistan into a state of instability, marked by frequent clashes between protesters and security forces.

## Purpose:

This report aims to explore the dynamics of the PTI-led protests, the state's reaction, and the broader implications for Pakistan's political landscape and stability, with an emphasis on potential conflict resolution strategies.



# Impact Analysis

## Humanitarian Impact:

The protests have resulted in several injuries on both sides, with reports of police using tear gas and rubber bullets to disperse crowds. The suspension of mobile services has caused widespread disruptions, especially in Islamabad and Rawalpindi.

## Economic Impact:

Business activities in key cities have been severely affected by the unrest. Road blockades, strikes, and general insecurity have crippled commerce, and prolonged instability could further weaken Pakistan's already fragile economy.

## Social and Cultural Impact:

The protests have deepened divisions in Pakistani society, polarizing the population between PTI supporters and those loyal to the ruling coalition. This polarization is contributing to a climate of increasing political hostility and uncertainty.



# Conflict Resolution and Management

## Peace Processes:

No formal dialogue between PTI and the ruling government has yet been initiated. While temporary solutions, like the agreement on Khan's medical access, have de-escalated immediate tensions, there is no long-term strategy in place.

## Mediation and International Involvement:

The Pakistani government has faced criticism from international bodies for its crackdown on dissent, with calls for a peaceful resolution. The SCO summit has attracted global attention, intensifying international scrutiny of the ongoing unrest.

## Scenarios for Resolution:

**Dialogue:** A resolution may be reached if both PTI and the ruling coalition engage in meaningful negotiations. International actors could potentially mediate this dialogue.

**Continued Unrest:** Protests may continue, especially around the SCO summit, further escalating the situation and putting additional strain on Pakistan's political stability.





# Future Outlook

## Possible Outcomes:

**Escalation:** The protests may intensify in response to government repression or in the lead-up to future political milestones.

**De-escalation:** Dialogue, particularly involving international actors, could lead to a peaceful settlement and pave the way for electoral reforms.

## Threats and Opportunities:

**Threats:** Continued unrest threatens to further destabilize Pakistan, potentially leading to greater violence and economic collapse.

**Opportunities:** De-escalation through dialogue presents an opportunity for political reconciliation and systemic reform.

# Recommendations

## Policy Recommendations:

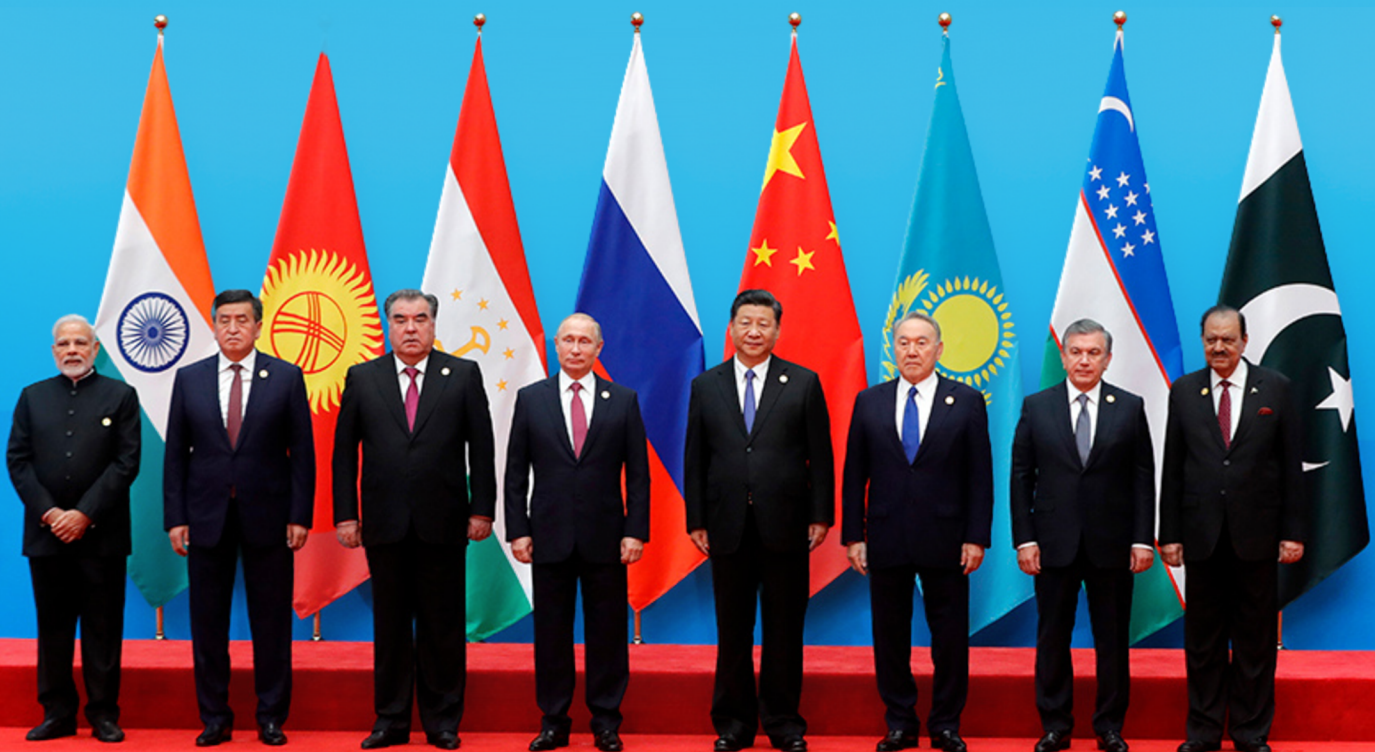
**Government:** The Pakistani government should initiate dialogue with PTI to prevent further violence and unrest. Engaging international mediators may help to facilitate this process.

**International Involvement:** Global actors, particularly those involved in the SCO, should encourage both sides to reach a political compromise.

## Strategic Recommendations:

**Electoral Reform:** Both parties should focus on reforming the electoral system to restore public trust and ensure transparency.

**Long-term Stability:** A framework for sustainable governance should be established to avoid repeated cycles of political unrest.







# Conclusion

The ongoing protests in Pakistan, following Imran Khan's arrest, represent a significant challenge to the country's political stability. With the government using heavy-handed tactics to suppress dissent and PTI mobilizing its supporters, the risk of further violence is high. A peaceful resolution will require dialogue, electoral reform, and international involvement to address the underlying political grievances.



Situational Report



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