

Bloody road to Pakistan's election

A wave of attacks blamed on Taliban- and Al Qaeda-linked militants have left at least 300 people dead across Pakistan in the run-up to parliamentary elections. Opposition parties loyal to the late Benazir Bhutto and former Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif appear poised for a landslide victory as public support for President Pervez Musharraf (right) plunges to an all-time low

Preferred choice of prime minister among voters*
Pakistan People's Party (PPP)

56%



Makhdoom Amin Fahim. Former presidential nominee and most popular candidate

Asif Ali Zardari. Bhutto's widower. Co-chairman of PPP with son **Bilawal Bhutto-Zardari**



Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N)

15%



Nawaz Sharif. PML-N leader and his brother are disqualified

Makhdoom Javed Hashmi. Among most vocal critics of Musharraf's military regime – imprisoned for defaming army



Pakistan Muslim League-Quaid (PML-Q)

Chaudhry Pervez Elahi. President of pro-Musharraf PML-Q. Named by Benazir Bhutto as one of four persons who posed a threat to her life prior to her assassination



12%

Almost eight in 10 Pakistanis (79%) believe elections will have been rigged if PML-Q wins most seats. **75% of Pakistanis want Musharraf's resignation**

Jan 10, 2008, Lahore: Bomb kills 24 people, more than 80 injured

Jan 15, Karachi: Rush-hour blast kills 10 people, more than 40 injured

Feb 4, Rawalpindi: Four killed by suicide bomber

Feb 6, Karachi: **Awami National Party (ANP)** leader shot dead

Feb 6: Musharraf agrees to ceasefire with Taliban commander **Siraj Haqqani**



Feb 9, Charsadda: Bomb kills 27 people at ANP rally

Feb 9, Islamabad: Riot police use tear gas against 1,500 lawyers protesting against detention of chief justice Chaudhry

Feb 11, North Waziristan: Car bomb kills election candidate and nine others

Feb 18: Election day

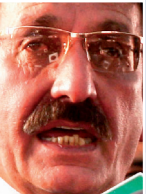
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Oct 18, 2007, Karachi:

Suicide bombs kill more than 140 people at rally welcoming return from exile of former prime minister and opposition leader **Benazir Bhutto**

Nov 3: President Musharraf declares state of emergency. Dismisses chief justice **Iftikhar Muhammad Chaudhry** (below) and 60



other top judges before Supreme Court can rule on legality of his re-election

Dec 15: Musharraf

lifts emergency rule

Dec 21, Charsadda:

57 people killed by suicide bomber at Muslim festival

Dec 27, Rawalpindi:

Bhutto assassinated. Killing of **Pakistan People's Party** leader and at least 20 others blamed on Taliban strongman **Baitullah Mehsud** – also accused of October 18 attack

*17% of respondents did not choose a preferred candidate.

International Republican Institute poll of 3,845 adults between January 19-29. Margin of error: $\pm 1.69\%$