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Pakistan Seeks to Deploy Troops Into Gaza Strip

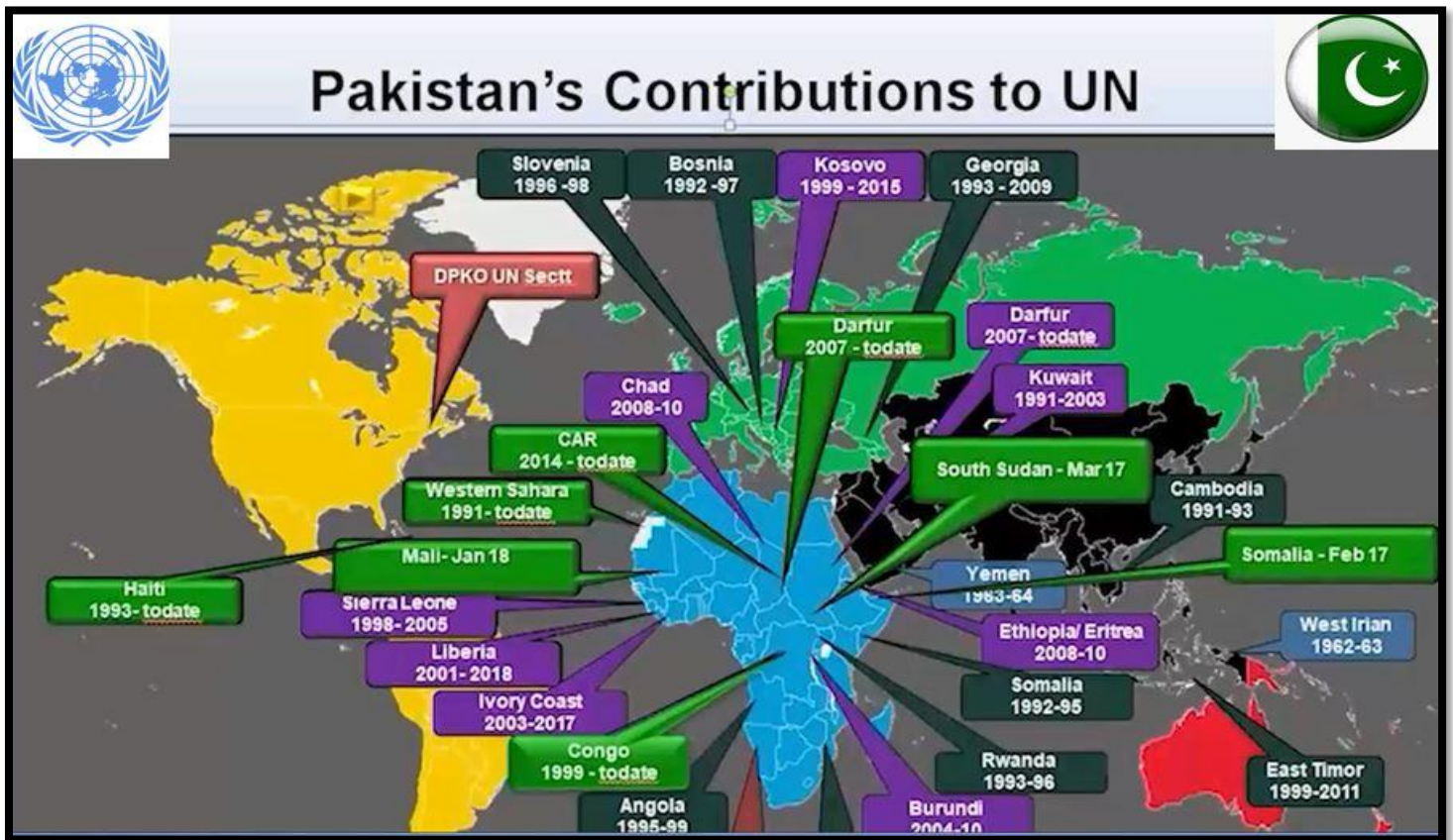
Prepared by Tal Shiar Directorate of Analysis / October 28, 2025

Pakistan is in advanced deliberations to contribute troops to the proposed International Stabilization Force (ISF) for Gaza, part of a broader U.S.-brokered peace initiative following the recent ceasefire deal between Israel and Hamas. The ISF aims to maintain internal security, support disarmament, and facilitate reconstruction. Pakistan's participation would mark a historic shift, given its lack of formal diplomatic ties with Israel and longstanding support for Palestinian sovereignty. This would give Islamabad the opportunity to assert leadership in Muslim-world peacekeeping while risking severe domestic backlash over perceived alignment with Israeli interests in a non-recognized state. This deployment, if realized, could leverage Pakistan's storied UN peacekeeping legacy to aid Gaza's demilitarization and reconstruction but exposes troops to operational risks in a fragile ceasefire environment.

- Internal government and military discussions on ISF participation are at an advanced stage, with indications tilting toward involvement; officials emphasize a preference for a UN-mandated framework to legitimize the mission, drawing on Pakistan's deployment of over 200,000 personnel across 40+ UN operations for credibility in volatile settings.
- As a top contender alongside Indonesia and Azerbaijan, Pakistan's role in the ISF—tasked with internal security, Hamas disarmament, border control, and humanitarian aid—aligns with Trump's 20-point Gaza Peace Agreement, potentially unlocking U.S. economic and defense support amid thawing bilateral ties.
- Pakistan's Information Ministry has firmly denied Indian media allegations of a secret deal to deploy 20,000 troops in coordination with U.S. CIA and Israeli Mossad, reaffirming non-



recognition of Israel and absence of any Gaza mission talks, highlighting sensitivities around sovereignty and Palestinian solidarity.



Pakistani Troops Will be Placed in a Complicated and Risky Situation

Should Pakistan commit troops (Pakmil), the move could fracture internal cohesion by clashing with widespread public empathy for Palestinians; regionally, it might bolster ties with Egypt and Jordan but strain relations with Hamas backers like Turkey and Iran. Pakmil forces will also be placed in a vulnerable position inside Gaza as HAMAS is likely to resist disarmament and will attack any international force that seeks to implement the full terms of the peace deal. With a fractured peace deal, Pakmil forces will also get caught in the crossfire between the Israeli Defense Forces and HAMAS.

- Pakistan confronts a dilemma with ISF involvement—it will have to coordinate with Israeli Defense Forces to enforce demilitarization—which risks alienating nationalist and clerical factions who decry it as betrayal of the Palestinian cause and fuel unrest from Islamists groups. This risks broader instability amid ongoing political suppression critiques.
- Israeli lawmakers received briefings on possible Pakmil troop inclusion in the ISF, though PM Netanyahu has vowed to vet all foreign forces and explicitly opposes Turkish participation due to Erdogan's rhetoric; UAE, Egypt, and Qatar are also approached, underscoring the Muslim-majority composition.
- During Munir's recent visits to Egypt and Jordan, leaders lauded Pakistan's "positive and proactive contributions" to regional peace and the Muslim ummah, with discussions touching on implementing Trump's plan via a U.S.-led coordination center; this signals tacit regional buy-in despite domestic hurdles.

Conclusion

Pakmil's peacekeeping experience uniquely equips it for the ISF, yet the decision demands careful calibration to mitigate domestic revolt and secure multilateral cover like a UN mandate. Absent such safeguards, involvement may yield short-term diplomatic gains but long-term fractures. On the ground, Pakmil forces will face significant risks if HAMAS refuses to disarm where they will have to either forcibly implement the peace deal or risk getting between IDF anti-HAMAS operations.

Potential Contributors to Gaza's International Stabilization Force

Country	Status	Estimated Troops	Key Notes
Indonesia	Committed	20,000+	World's largest Muslim-majority nation; pledged at UNGA Sep 2025 to lead core deployment for training Palestinian forces; core with Azerbaijan.
Azerbaijan	Committed/Core	Undisclosed	Top contender; U.S.-Israel talks confirm troops for demilitarization; post-Karabakh diplomacy aligns; no Turkish role due to Israel veto.
Egypt	Expected to Lead	Undisclosed	Key mediator; to oversee border security/coordination center; UN mandate preferred; consults with Jordan on training.
Pakistan	In Advanced Talks	Undisclosed	Internal military/govt deliberations; prefers UN framework; leverages UN peacekeeping experience but risks domestic backlash.
Turkey	In Talks/Likely Excluded	Undisclosed	Expressed interest as guarantor; capable force but Israeli veto over Erdogan/Hamas ties; potential mediation role only.
Malaysia	Interested	Undisclosed	Early indications via OIC; aligns with Muslim solidarity; no firm pledge yet.
Jordan	Consultant	Undisclosed	Policing expertise for advisory/training; guarantor; no direct troops expected.
Qatar	In Talks/Non-Troop	N/A (Funding)	Mediator; pledged financial/logistics, not boots; hosts talks/coordination.
UAE	In Talks/Declined Troops	N/A (Funding)	Declined direct; offers funds/training; Abraham Accords ties; UN mandate preferred.
Saudi Arabia	Declined	N/A	Political backing; focuses on reconstruction funds, no troops.