

SOUTH BLOC REPORTS
OPEN SOURCE INVESTIGATIVE REPORT

FARA DOCUMENT
FOREIGN AGENT
REGISTRATION ACT
UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

LOBBYING DISCLOSURE



PAYMENTS TO FOREIGN
PRINCIPALS

Registrant Name

Foreign Principal

Purpose

THE

PAKISTAN LOBBYING NETWORK

AN OPEN-SOURCE INVESTIGATIVE REPORT ON
PAKISTAN'S LOBBYING ECOSYSTEM (1947-2025)



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INTRODUCTION

For a nation facing perpetual domestic economic crises, inflation, and staggering debt, Pakistan has consistently prioritized a highly sophisticated, **multi-million-dollar** global leverage machine. Rather than utilizing its state funds for domestic stability, Pakistan treated foreign lobbying as a core pillar of national defense and survival. By purchasing access to elite political circles, major media outlets, and key Western think tanks, the Pakistani lobbying network has masterfully shaped international narratives. This machinery serves two primary purposes:

- a. Obscuring state-sponsored cross-border militancy
- b. Manufacturing diplomatic intervention during moments of military panic.

Over the decades, Pakistan's spending on Western influence lobbying has consistently outpaced its economic reality. While the early years relied heavily on Cold War bargaining, the modern era has seen a massive transition to high-priced public relations firms. Early access was secured through arrangements such as the **Peshawar Air Station** lease and defense-driven state visits, transitioning into highly paid single-client public relations handlers during the Cold War. The fees paid to secure professional services scaled dramatically, with firms such as **Locke Lord Strategies** and **Janus Merritt Strategies** charging between **\$50,000** and **\$75,000 per month**.

According to the **U.S. Foreign Agents Registration Act (FARA)** transparency records, Pakistan outspent India **3:1** in Washington lobbying during the recent crisis. To manage the international fallout from **Operation Sindoor**, Pakistan reportedly deployed a **₹45 crore** emergency public relations campaign. It simultaneously retained up to **six premier U.S. lobbying firms**, including **Orchid Advisors** at **US\$250,000 per month** and **Qorvis** at **US\$150,000 per month**. This **₹45 crore** campaign was actively used to shape international narratives regarding Pakistan's domestic terror infrastructure.



The Cold War Build-up [1947–1971]

The foundation of the Pakistani lobbying network was not built on economic strength, but on a highly calculated geopolitical sales pitch. Positioning as **America's "most allied ally"** in Asia against the spread of **Communism**

1. The 1950 Liaquat Ali Khan Campaign

Immediately following independence, Pakistan recognized the need to secure Western military and economic aid to offset its asymmetries. Pakistani Prime Minister **Liaquat Ali Khan** undertook a state visit to the **United States** in **May 1950**. Ali used his famous speech at **MIT**, to skillfully frame Pakistan as the anti-communist defender.

2. The SEATO and CENTO Alliance: Mid 1950's

The lobbying campaign paid off massively by the **mid-1950s**. Following the assassination of **Liaquat Ali Khan** - a highly Pro-Western leadership smoothly assumed control of **Rawalpindi** and **Karachi**. By playing directly into the **Eisenhower administration's "containment"** policy, Pakistan successfully lobbied its way into major multilateral security pacts. These are the **Southeast Asia Treaty Organization (SEATO)** and the **Central Treaty Organization (CENTO)**. This alignment unlocked **hundreds of millions of dollars** in direct **American defense aid** and hardware, establishing the precedent of using foreign policy lobbying to directly fund the Pakistani military ecosystem.

3. Ayub Khan and JFK: 1961

By the early **1960s**, **General Ayub Khan** perfected the art of diplomatic lobbying. During his **July 1961** state visit to **Washington**, **Ayub Khan** was treated to an unprecedented, lavish state dinner hosted by the American President **John F. Kennedy (JFK)** at **Mount Vernon**. **Ayub Khan** used this huge personal access to directly lobby members of the **U.S. Congress** who were heavily sceptical of foreign aid programs. **Ayub Khan's** efforts successfully preserved **America's** military and financial commitments to Pakistan, right up until the shifts of the **1971 war**.



The Nuclear Cover-Up & The Afghan Pipeline 1971–2001

Following the devastating defeat of the **1971 war** and the independence of **Bangladesh**, the Pakistani influence industry faced its first existential crisis. Pakistan had lost half its territory and was suddenly forced to manage a complex international agenda. The military state of Pakistan desperately needed to hide their pursuit of **nuclear weapons** capability while simultaneously positioning itself as a gateway for Western intelligence operations. To achieve this strategy, the lobbying industry evolved away from simple diplomatic charm and entered the world of highly coordinated and shadow-funded front groups and high-class **Washington** political fixers.

The basic geopolitical shield for Pakistan's ambitions was forged in the aftermath of the **1979 Soviet invasion of Afghanistan**. By transforming themselves into the ultimate partner for the **CIA's** covert Anti-Soviet operations, Pakistan successfully got massive leverage from the Americans. Despite alarming American intelligence findings regarding Pakistan's rapid enrichment of weapons-grade material, the lobbying industry successfully bypassed the legislative guardrails. Pakistan also repeatedly secured presidential waivers for the **Symington Amendment** and **Glenn Amendment**. These legislative bypasses allowed **billions of dollars** in direct American military hardware and economic assistance to continue flowing uninterrupted, proving that geography could completely blindside Western non-proliferation laws.

As the financial flows from the **Afghan pipeline** began to stabilize, the Pakistani state recognized that it needed to build permanent narrative control mechanisms inside the **United States**. Rather than relying solely on traditional embassy communications, Pakistan began hiring political operatives to anchor their image. During the **mid-1980s**, the **Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP)** and state entities brought on **Washington** insiders, such as prominent political consultant and strategist **Mark Siegel**, to navigate the halls of **Capitol Hill**. These public affairs retainers were specifically put forth to actively counter mounting Western media scrutiny over domestic military dictatorships, human rights violations and covert weapons procurement channels.



Simultaneously, the **Pakistani Inter-Services Intelligence (ISI)** used the strategy of using proxy diaspora fronts to secretly manipulate Western policy on regional issues, most notably **Kashmir**. The most prominent manifestation of this strategy was the establishment of the **Kashmiri American Council (KAC)** in **Washington, D.C.**, directed by **Syed Ghulam Nabi Fai**. For over **two decades**, the **KAC** successfully passed itself off to the American public and members of **Congress** as an independent, grassroots humanitarian nonprofit financed strictly by local diaspora donations. In reality, federal investigations and **FBI** disclosures unmasked the **KAC** as a highly coordinated, **multi-million-dollar** covert influence ring.

The mechanics of this shadow network were clearly exposed when the **FBI** arrested **Fai**, revealing that the **ISI** had secretly funneled at least **\$3.5 million** into the **KAC** to run seminars, host conferences and influence **U.S.** political campaigns. The operation utilised a web of "straw donors", primarily **Pakistani American** professionals who made tax-deductible contributions to the council and were secretly reimbursed via covert financial routes tied directly to **Pakistan**. This decades-long scheme allowed **Pakistani intelligence** to directly dictate talking points to **U.S. lawmakers** and opinion makers, demonstrating how effectively the state could bypass federal foreign agency registration laws to purchase access and obscure its true maneuvers.



The War on Terror "Double Game" 2001–2020

The **September 11 attacks** forced the Pakistani lobbying industry into an intense balancing act. Overnight, Pakistan was forced to turn away from being the guardian patron of the **Taliban** regime in **Afghanistan** to positioning itself as **America's** front partner in the global **War on Terror**. To survive this era, the Pakistani military establishment executed a two-track strategy often described by intelligence analysts as the "**double game**." Publicly, the state cooperated with **Washington** to secure financial inflows and privately it protected its regional militant proxies. Managing the severe international damage caused by this strategy, required an immediate expansion of public relations and lobbying campaigns across **America** and **European** nations.

To protect their image and secure financial bailouts, the Pakistani state began injecting **millions of dollars** into Western public affairs firms. Over this two-decade time period, Pakistan consistently retained the **Washington** firms which included **Locke Lord Strategies**, **Team Eagle** and **Janus-Merritt Strategies** with monthly retainers frequently averaging between **\$50,000** and **\$75,000**. These corporations were tasked with a single, clear agenda - convince a deeply sceptical **U.S. Congress** that Pakistan was a partner deserving of "**Major Non-NATO Ally**" status. These firms worked around the clock to arrange media appearances for Pakistani generals and push back against growing intelligence reports that exposed how the **Inter-Services Intelligence (ISI)** was actively sheltering the **Haqqani Network** and other groups killing coalition soldiers.

The absolute peak of this lobbying crisis arrived in **May 2011**, following the unilateral **U.S. Navy SEAL** raid that eliminated **Al-Qaeda** leader **Osama bin Laden** in the garrison city of **Abbottabad**. The discovery of the world's most wanted terrorist living down the street from **Pakistan's military academy** completely shattered **Islamabad's** credibility on **Capitol Hill**. American lawmakers immediately demanded a total cutoff of foreign aid and security assistance. In response, Pakistan's lobbying industry launched an aggressive campaign. Corporate PR brokers shifted the narrative away from Pakistan and reframed the event as an embarrassing "**intelligence failure**" shared by both nations, while simultaneously warning the Americans that defunding Pakistan would cause a **nuclear-armed state** to collapse into chaos.



As political access dried up under congressional scrutiny, the Pakistani state increasingly relied on laundering its talking points through international think-tanks and academic networks. By quietly funding research centres and sponsoring policy seminars, Pakistan sought to manufacture independent-looking analysis that minimised its state support for cross-border terror. This academic and institutional strategy allowed Pakistan to preserve **billions of dollars** in **Coalition Support Funds (CSF)** and economic aid packages right up until the **late 2010s**. This era proved that a highly sophisticated and corporate-backed public relations entity could effectively preserve a superpower alliance even in the face of absolute diplomatic betrayal.



The Modern Era & The May 2025 War 2021–2026

Entering the **2020s**, Pakistan's lobbying network strategy underwent a massive shift. Facing heavy economic bankruptcy, inflation, and collapsing domestic political landscape, the traditional methods of selling the state as the security partner began to fail. In response, Pakistan shifted its narrative toward economic and resource diplomacy, attempting to use its critical mineral reserves and trade corridors to attract Western corporate interest. However, the true test of this modernized strategy arrived in **May 2025**, when the massive crisis forced the entire lobbying network to execute the fastest and most expensive emergency lobbying campaign in its entire history.

After the terror attack in **Pahalgam**, which led to heavy **Indian** retaliatory airstrikes against military and terror infrastructure inside **Pakistan**, with **Indian** missiles hitting major airbases and command centres, a wave of panic swept through **Pakistan**. Realizing they were facing a conventional military defeat, the Pakistani state immediately unleashed a massive **₹45 crore (\$5.4 million)** emergency lobbying front in **Washington, D.C.** Within days, Pakistan activated **six U.S. public relations and lobbying firms** including high-priced entities like **Orchid Advisors, Seiden Law, Javelin Advisors** and **Qorvis** to flood the halls of American power with pleas for immediate diplomatic intervention.

According to the official **U.S. Foreign Agents Registration Act (FARA)** public disclosure logs, Pakistan's corporate handlers contacted **U.S.** government officials, congressional staffers and media outlets over **60 times** during the intense conflict. The sole focus of this messaging was to create an illusion of nuclear instability, falsely warning Western leaders that continued **Indian** strikes would lead to uncontrollable nuclear escalation. This highly coordinated narrative was pushed aggressively across international news networks to pressure **U.S.** into forcing a ceasefire, effectively using American corporate lobbyists to blunt **India's** military momentum and shield **Pakistan's** domestic terror infrastructure from total destruction.



To secure long term protection in a shifting **American** political landscape, Pakistan's lobbying networks intentionally bypassed diplomatic channels to build direct inroads into the highest levels of **American** power. Moving into **2026**, firms like **Javelin Advisors** and **Seiden Law**, staffed by influential political insiders, successfully brokered closed door meetings for senior **Pakistani military** officials, including discussions regarding trade and security access. By packaging their requirements as corporate opportunities, the Pakistani state demonstrated that even while enduring domestic financial ruin, it could still successfully buy global access to rewrite international narratives during a military crisis.



CONCLUSION

At its core, Pakistan's global lobbying network has never been built on economic or demographic power, instead it has survived for nearly 80 years by selling one thing - geopolitical geography.

From the Cold War to the May 2025 crisis, whenever Pakistan faced military or diplomatic crisis, its strategy remained exactly the same - bypass diplomacy and hire Western PR firms to exploit the Western security fears to secure financial and military deals.

However, as the global political landscape shifts toward economic transparency and reality in 2026, this decades old strategy of buying narrative control is facing challenges. For South Bloc Reports, tracking this shadow network remains essential to understanding how international narratives are bought, sold and weaponized during international crises.



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