

## South Asia Project Director Contact Sheet

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### Samina Ahmed

South Asia Project Director, Islamabad, Pakistan

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Languages: Urdu (native), English (fluent)

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### Crisis Group role

Samina Ahmed oversees Crisis Group's work in Pakistan, Afghanistan, India and Nepal. Together with our analysts throughout the region, she prepares reports on the political, social, economic and military factors that increase the risks of extremism, internal conflict and war, and she makes policy recommendations to overcome these threats. In general, her team focuses on political, security and stability issues in South Asia, including problems of authoritarianism; Islamic extremism, domestic and regional terrorism; educational, judicial, and security sector reform; international involvement and intervention in the region, including US relations with authoritarian states; and domestic insurgencies and the risk of inter-state conflict. She also frequently briefs representatives of foreign ministries and international organisations, and is regularly involved in advocacy efforts internationally.

### Areas of expertise

- South Asian affairs
- Democratic transitions in authoritarian states
- Ethnic and religious conflict
- Nuclear proliferation

### Professional background

Research Fellow, Kennedy School of Government,  
Harvard University, 1999–2001

Senior Research Analyst, Institute of Regional Studies,  
1990–1997

Doctor of philosophy in Political Science, Australian  
National University, 1990

### Publications and Media (selection)

“Le scrutin afghan, reflet des échecs de ces dernières années”, in *Rue89*, 19 August 2009

“Vo'by menia tvar Afghanistanu”, *Pravda* (Slovakia), 18 August 2009

“Looking Beyond the Afghan Vote”, *The Boston Globe*, 18 August 2009

“Afghanistan: investire risorse per costruire un paese normale”, *La Repubblica*, 17 August 2009

“Die Wahlen müssen sicher sein”, *Die Zeit*, 17 August 2009

“Die Terroristen schauen nach Berlin”, *Der Tagesspiegel*, 9 July 2009

“The Peshawar Problem”, *Foreign Policy*, 19 June 2009

“Sauver le Pakistan”, *France 24*, 11 June 2009

“Saving Pakistan”, *France 24*, 10 June 2009

“Winning the Hearts and Minds of Pakistan's Displaced”, *Global Post*, 26 May 2009

“Talking to the Taliban Is Foolish”, *Financial Times*, 24 July 2008

“Pakistan: Still Schooling Extremists” (with Andrew Stroehlein), *The Washington Post*, 17 July 2005

“Juggling Figures, Ignoring Facts”, response to new Madrasa report, 7 March 2005

“A ‘Moderation’ of Freedom: Pakistan's Pervez Musharraf Isn't Practicing What He Preaches”, *The Washington Post*, 15 June 2004

“Non-Proliferation Shortcuts Don't Pay”, *The Observer*, 12 May 2004

“Warlords, Drugs, Democracy in Afghanistan”, *World Today*, May 2004