

You are in: [World: South Asia](#)[Front Page](#) Monday, 18 December, 2000, 10:02 GMT[World](#)**Pakistan religious leader killed**[Africa](#)[Americas](#)[Asia-Pacific](#)[Europe](#)[Middle East](#)[South Asia](#)[From Our Own Correspondent](#)[Letter From America](#)[UK](#)[UK Politics](#)[Business](#)[Sci/Tech](#)[Health](#)[Education](#)[Entertainment](#)[Talking Point](#)[In Depth](#)[AudioVideo](#)

Jamaat-e Islami protest against General Musharraf

A prominent Pakistani religious leader has been shot dead in Karachi.

Dr Athar Qureshi was walking to a mosque to say his morning prayers when three men approached him in a vehicle, police said.

One of the men shot Dr Qureshi, who is a former leader of Jamaat-e Islami (Party of Islam) and a former member of the Sindh provincial assembly.

No one has so far admitted responsibility for the killing.

A Jamaat-e Islami official said it was an "act of terrorism".

"The motive is to create a scare. The government has failed to protect law-abiding citizens," said Munawar Hassan, secretary-general of Jamaat-e Islami.

In recent years, Dr Qureshi had supported calls for Islamic law to be introduced in Pakistan.

Although he was no longer a member of Jamaat-e-Islami, he had always been respected as a scholar, a party official said.

Backlash fear

Karachi has suffered serious violence caused by ethnic, religious and political feuds, with hundreds of people killed in recent years.

On Sunday, supporters of Jamaat-e Islami rallied in Karachi, Lahore and Islamabad demanding the resignation of Pakistan's military leader, General Pervez Musharraf.

Search BBC News Online

[Advanced search options](#)[Launch console for latest audio/video](#)[BBC ONE TV NEWS](#)[WORLD NEWS SUMMARY](#)[BBC NEWS 24 BULLETIN](#)[PROGRAMMES GUIDE](#)**See also:**[06 Apr 00 | South Asia Life sentence for Sharif](#)[10 Dec 00 | South Asia Nawaz Sharif begins exile](#)[23 Dec 99 | South Asia Pakistan court upholds Islamic banking](#)[14 Sep 98 | From Our Own Correspondent The 'Islamisation' of Pakistan](#)[12 Oct 00 | South Asia Pakistan after the coup: Special report](#)**Internet links:**[Government of Pakistan](#)[Jamaat-e-Islami](#)

The BBC is not responsible for the content of external internet sites

Other top South Asia stories:[Ferry disaster in Bangladesh](#)[Kashmir hijacker surrenders](#)[Assam settlers gunned down](#)[Tamils appeal for ceasefire](#)[Top Kashmiri militants killed](#)[Nepalese 'to sue' Bollywood star](#)[Fourth day washout in Durban](#)

Despite a ban on rallies imposed by the 14-month-old military government, the army has been reluctant to be heavy handed against religious parties fearing a backlash.

Jamaat-e Islami attacked General Musharraf for pardoning the former prime minister, Nawaz Sharif, who lost power in a coup in October 1999 and was sentenced to life imprisonment.

Mr Sharif left the country just over a week ago for exile in Saudi Arabia.

[Sri Lankans in steppe horror](#)

Links to top South Asia stories are at the foot of the page.

Links to other South Asia stories



[^^ Back to top](#)

[News Front Page](#) | [World](#) | [UK](#) | [UK Politics](#) | [Business](#) | [Sci/Tech](#) | [Health](#) | [Education](#) | [Entertainment](#) | [In-Depth](#) | [Talking Point](#) | [Audio/Video](#)

[>To BBC Sport](#)