Clashes at the Afghanistan-Pakistan Border

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In recent months, Pakistani forces and fighters affiliated with the Afghan administration have exchanged repeated gunfire, with incursions on both sides of the border — particularly in the **Spin Boldak district and near Chaman** — causing deaths, injuries, and damage to infrastructure. Recent nighttime clashes have left civilians injured on both sides of the border, highlighting the fragility of the previously reached ceasefire.

These episodes are part of a broader escalation: intense fighting in October forced Pakistan to **close key crossings such as Torkham, Spin Boldak, Ghulam Khan, Angoor Adda, and Dand-e-Patan**, disrupting commercial traffic and cross-border movements.

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Attempts at Truce and Failed Negotiations

In mid-October, Islamabad and Kabul had reached a **temporary 48-hour truce** after some of the worst violence along the border in recent years. However, the truce did not lead to a lasting ceasefire or a stable commitment to dialogue.

In the following months, **several rounds of peace talks were held in Istanbul**, mediated by Turkey and Qatar, but without concrete results: the negotiations ended without a definitive agreement, and the parties continue to exchange mutual accusations for the breakdown of dialogue and responsibility for the violence.

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Underlying Causes of the Conflict

Pakistani authorities accuse the Kabul administration of tolerating or not effectively countering militant groups, particularly the **Tehrik-e-Taliban Pakistan (TTP)**, which are said to have found refuge on Afghan territory and intensified attacks in Pakistan. Kabul, for its part, denies these accusations and sometimes counters with charges of insecurity caused by external forces or misunderstandings.

In the regional context, tensions persist related to the management of extremist groups such as the **ISIS-Khorasan Province (ISKP)** and other armed entities active in the region, with recent arrests of affiliates by Pakistani forces highlighting the complexity of the security situation.

Economic and Social Effects of the Border Crisis

The prolonged closure of crossings has had **severe economic consequences**. According to regional chambers of commerce, the traffic blockade has caused losses of hundreds of millions of dollars and the suspension of normal commercial activities between the two countries.

The daily flow of goods, people, and transport disruptions has caused difficulties for thousands of drivers, traders, and families, with thousands of trucks and containers stuck at the borders and goods perishing due to prolonged waits.

Human movements have also been severely affected, with many people unable to return to their homes or work in neighboring countries, exacerbating an already difficult humanitarian situation.

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Future Scenarios and Peace Prospects

The tensions between Kabul and Islamabad are not only military but also diplomatic and economic. The persistent lack of mutual trust makes it difficult to initiate a deep and stable dialogue. In addition to bilateral attempts, **regional countries like Iran, China, and Russia have promoted multilateral meetings** to discuss stability, cooperation, and the future of Afghanistan, albeit without the direct participation of all interested parties.

The main demands remain a **permanent ceasefire**, the opening of border crossings, the resumption of trade exchanges, and cooperation against terrorism and transnational armed organizations.

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