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# Current Intelligence Report Circular

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**CLASSIFICATION: DECLASSIFIED AND APPROVED FOR PUBLIC RELEASE**

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**CMC Director:** Giovanna Costantiello  
**Report Author(s):** Alexa McMichael and Giovanna Costantiello

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## Pakistan court drops Imran Khan terrorism charges

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On 19 SEP the Islamabad High Court, expunged Pakistan's Former Prime Minister Imran Khan's terrorism charges. The two-member bench that was led by Chief Justice of Islamabad High Court Athar Minallah ruled Khan's comments did not fall under Pakistan's "Anti-Terrorism" act. Khan was charged with terrorism for threatening statements he made against police officials and a female judge at a public rally in Islamabad on 20 AUG. Khan subsequently claimed that his statements were not meant to be interpreted as a threat. If Imran Khan is ever to be found guilty of violating the "Anti-Terrorism" Act, he would face a maximum sentence of life in prison or capital punishment. END

### CMCD Note

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It is likely that Imran Khan will push for a snap election now that his terrorism charges have been dropped. Khan will use this trial as a political tool to show that the Pakistan Muslim League party (PML-N) twists his words to gain political leverage. We estimate with high confidence that Khan will continue to hold rallies more frequently now that these charges have been dropped. Tensions are constantly rising between the Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) and PLM-N parties. Furthermore, they are unlikely to decrease by the end of this year.

### Sources

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Washington Post, Court orders charges against ex Pakistani PM Khan dropped  
[https://www.washingtonpost.com/world/court-orders-charges-against-ex-pakistani-pm-khan-dropped/2022/09/19/ccb94988-381c-11ed-b8af-0a04e5dc3db6\\_story.html](https://www.washingtonpost.com/world/court-orders-charges-against-ex-pakistani-pm-khan-dropped/2022/09/19/ccb94988-381c-11ed-b8af-0a04e5dc3db6_story.html)

Aljazeera, Drop "terrorism" charges against ex-PM Imran Khan: Pakistan court  
<https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2022/9/19/terrorism-charges-against-imran-khan-dropped-by-pakistan-court>