

= Hina Rabbani Khar =

Hina Rabbani Khar (Urdu : ہینا ربانی کھار ; born 19 November 1977) is a Pakistani stateswoman who served as the 26th Foreign Minister of Pakistan between February 2011 till March 2013 ? the youngest person and the first woman to hold the position .

Hailing from an influential feudal family , she studied business at LUMS and Amherst before entering politics as a member of national assembly in 2002 and becoming a junior minister responsible for economic policy under the Prime Minister Shaukat Aziz . She joined the Pakistan Peoples Party and was re @-@ elected to the national assembly in 2008 . In 2009 , she became the Minister of State for Finance and Economic Affairs and the same year became the first woman to present the national budget .

She was appointed by Prime Minister Yousaf Raza Gillani as the Foreign Minister of Pakistan in July 2011 following the resignation of Mehmood Qureshi , and served until the 2013 election . During her time at the foreign ministry she resumed talks with India , which had derailed since the Mumbai attacks . She also led an unsuccessful move to grant India most favoured nation status . While on a visit to Bangladesh , she issued an unconditional apology from Pakistan for atrocities carried out during the Liberation War of 1971 .

During her two year long appointment as the country 's foreign minister she attracted significant global attention on her appearance and status as Pakistan 's first women foreign minister . She was interviewed by Charlie Rose , CBS News and Washington Post among others . She served as a high @-@ ranking member of the Central Executive Committee of the Pakistan Peoples Party from 2008 until 2013 , when she retired from politics . However , she continues to remain a member of Pakistan People 's Party and a public speaker on foreign policy . She has written op @-@ ed 's for Newsweek Pakistan and was interviewed by Mehdi Hasan at the Oxford Union in December 2015 .

= = Early life and family = =

Hina was born into a feudal Muslim Jat family of Khar clan in Multan , Punjab , Pakistan . Khar is the daughter of powerful oligarch and retired politician Ghulam Noor Rabbani Khar . Her father was a prominent national politician and formerly served as a member of the National Assembly . She is niece of Ghulam Mustafa Khar , former Governor and Chief Minister of Punjab , and the cousin of actress and model Aaminah Haq .

Khar is co @-@ owner of a restaurant chain named the " Polo Lounge " . The initial branch opened at the Lahore Polo Ground in 2002 . A second Polo Lounge has since opened in Islamabad 's Saidpur Village .

= = = Education = = =

Khar is a graduate of the Lahore University of Management Sciences (LUMS) where she holds a BSc (with honors) in Economics conferred in 1999 . She subsequently attended the University of Massachusetts at Amherst in the United States where she earned a MSc in Business Management , attained in 2002 .

Khar has retained ties with her alumnus institution , LUMS , long after her graduation . In 2012 , she delivered a lecture at LUMS on " Foreign policy and Young Democracy " . In 2012 , she helped secure funding for the Abdus Salam Institute of Physics and spoke highly of notable theorist Dr. Abdus Salam at LUMS .

= = Career = =

Hina Rabbani Khar came to national prominence in the national political arena through Prime Minister Shaukat Aziz in 2004 , who appointed her to the Finance Ministry . In the 2002 general elections , she successfully contested and secured the parliamentary constituency of her father , veteran politician Ghulam Noor Rabbani Khar , after most members of her family were disqualified .

With the financial support of her father , she campaigned on a newly founded PML (Q Group) platform against the Pakistan Muslim League .

Khar was elected as a member of the National Assembly , representing the NA @-@ 177 (Muzaffargarh @-@ II) constituency in Punjab , a constituency her father had represented previously . A new law requiring all parliamentary candidates to hold a university degree had meant he could not run that year . The Guardian wrote , " In deference to local sensibilities about the place of women , her landlord father Noor addressed rallies and glad @-@ handed voters ; Hina stayed largely at home , with not even her photo appearing on the posters . " In 2005 , she was elevated to the position of deputy minister of economic affairs under Shaukat Aziz . As deputy minister , she dealt extensively with the donor community during the 2005 earthquake that hit Northern Pakistan .

In 2007 , she made an unsuccessful attempt to renew her alliance with PML @-@ Q , but the party denied her a ticket platform to campaign for re @-@ election in 2008 . She was later invited by the senior members of the Pakistan Peoples Party and successfully campaigned for her constituency for a second time . The PPP secured a plurality of the votes and formed a left @-@ wing alliance with the Awami National Party , MQM and PML @-@ Q.

= = = Minister of State for Economic Affairs = = =

Khar came to prominence during the Shaukat Aziz government and was appointed Minister of State for Economic Affairs in 2004 , a post she retained until 2007 . In 2008 , after successfully defending her constituency , she was appointed Minister of State for Finance and Economic Affairs in the cabinet of Yousaf Raza Gillani . She worked on the financial budget and economic policies in the absence of the then Finance Minister and on 13 June 2009 she successfully presented the 2010 federal budget in the Parliament and has the distinction of being the first woman politician to present the Pakistani budget in the National Assembly .

= = = Foreign minister = = =

Khar was appointed as Minister of State for Foreign Affairs ? the deputy head of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs ? on 11 February 2011 , as part of Gillani 's cabinet reshuffle . After Shah Mehmood Qureshi 's resignation as Foreign Minister , she became acting Minister of Foreign Affairs on 13 February 2011 . She was formally appointed as Foreign Minister on 18 July and was sworn in on 19 July , becoming the youngest and first female Minister of Foreign Affairs . President Asif Ali Zardari , who succeeded Pervez Musharraf in 2008 , said the appointment was " a demonstration of the government 's commitment to bring women into the mainstream of national life " . She was appointed foreign minister during a difficult time in Pakistan : when the country 's armed forces were confronting extreme elements in Western Pakistan and anti @-@ American emotions ran high over the Raymond Davis incident .

Shortly after her appointment , she visited India and held peace talks with her Indian counterpart , S. M. Krishna . Relations between the two countries had been suspended following the 2008 Mumbai attacks , resuming in February 2011 . The Indian media reported extensively on her fashion and appearance ? the Birkin bag , the sunglasses , the Jimmy Choo stilettos and the pearl necklaces , for example . She held talks with leaders of the Hurriyat Conference before meeting Indian government representatives , a decision which was criticised by the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) , India 's main opposition party , which said it was a breach of protocol and demanded an inquiry into the matter . In August 2011 she visited China and held talks with Yang Jiechi , the Chinese Foreign Minister . Hindustan Times reported that , in contrast to her reception in India , she was largely ignored by Chinese media .

The NATO strike which killed 24 Pakistani troops was one of the most notable incidents during her tenure and Foreign Minister Khar vigorously stated that the government of Pakistan and defense committees had approved a measure ? similar to a parliamentary resolution put forward after bin Laden 's May 2011 death ? that formally bars NATO and ISAF forces from using Pakistan 's supply routes . On 6 June 2012 , Pakistan renewed its call for a U.S. apology over the killing of 24 soldiers

in U.S. warplane attacks at the Salala checkpoint , as Khar argued that " higher principles should take precedence over politically popular considerations " . Khar challenged the U.S. to " live up to its democratic ideals by respecting the will of Pakistan ' s elected legislature " , Foreign Policy magazine said in a Doha @-@ datelined report on its interview with the top Pakistani diplomat . On 15 December 2011 , when the United States suspended financial aid to Pakistan , Khar warned her counterpart Hillary Clinton that the United States will be responsible for defeat in the war on terror as Pakistan could not fight the war alone .

On 21 January 2012 , Khar secretly left for Moscow with an agenda of strengthening bilateral relations . Khar and her foreign service officers made tremendous efforts to reach out to countries such as Russia in the wake of strained ties with the United States . On this trip she extended an invitation to the Russian leadership to visit Pakistan and to reaffirm cooperation and bilateral commitment and support to promote stability and peace in Afghanistan for " Afghan @-@ led and Afghan @-@ owned " efforts for national reconciliation in the country . On 12 August 2012 , while speaking at the 16th Summit of the Non @-@ Aligned Movement in Tehran , Khar maintained that " growing confrontation over Iran ' s nuclear program was threatening further instability in the broader region , and a peaceful resolution of this issue is still possible on the basis of reciprocal confidence @-@ building measures and security assurances against external threat . "

During her short visit to Bangladesh on 9 November 2012 , Khar was approached by the Foreign Minister of Bangladesh Dipu Moni to settle pending post @-@ independence issues , emphasizing especially an unconditional apology from Pakistan for the genocide it had carried out during the Liberation War of 1971 . Khar reiterated that Pakistan had regretted its 1971 actions on different occasions since 1974 and called for the two countries to move ahead together . She urged Moni and the Prime Minister of Bangladesh , Sheikh Hasina , to bury the past .

= = Personal life = =

Khar is married to Feroze Gulzar and has two daughters , Annaya and Dina .