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	EUR-00	OIGO-00	FAAE-00	UTED-00	VCI-00	DIAS-00	H-00
	TEDE-00	IO-00	LAB-01	ARMY-00	MOFM-00	MOF-00	M-00
	VCIE-00	DCP-00	NSAE-00	ISN-00	OIC-00	OIG-00	OMB-00
	NIMA-00	EPAU-00	PM-00	GIWI-00	P-00	ISNE-00	DOHS-00
	IRM-00	NCTC-00	FMP-00	BBG-00	R-00	EPAE-00	ECA-00
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 JOINT STAFF WASHINGTON DC IMMEDIATE  
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E.O. 12958: N/A  
 TAGS: KMDR, KPAO, OIIP, OPRC, PGOV, PREL, PK  
 SUBJECT: PAKISTAN MEDIA REACTION: MARCH 09, 2010

Summary: Coverage of a suicide attack in Lahore on a police investigative centre, that killed at least 12 and injured 89, dominated media on Tuesday morning. Newspapers highlighted reports that the banned group Tehrik-e-Taliban Pakistan (TTP) has claimed responsibility for the attack; and that the U.S. Mission in Pakistan condemned the incident. Media reported a drone strike that killed five suspected militants in Miramshah town of North Waziristan. Reports of the unannounced visit of Defense Secretary Gates to Kabul, and his warning of "hard fighting" ahead despite signs of progress in the war against Taliban insurgents were also displayed prominently. General Petraeus' remarks, made in an interview with CNN, praising "emerging recognition" in Islamabad of the "symbiotic

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relationship between various extremist groups operating in FATA," were reported. The issue of enhanced screening at U.S. airports continued to garner coverage in newspapers and TV networks, as a six-member delegation of FATA parliamentarians returned home after cancelling their U.S. visit to protest the measure. Assistant Secretary PJ Crowley regretted the incident, but made it clear that "aviation rules and security regulations apply to everybody in the U.S." Five major newspapers published a U.S. Mission's press release denying media reports as "entirely false" that claimed violation of Pakistani airspace by NATO aircraft over the town of Chaman on Friday. Several major newspapers ran editorials analyzing various aspects of the Lahore suicide attack. "The News," underlined the "need to review strategy and assess to what extent the capacity of the militants has been damaged by the action against them in the north." "Dawn," observed that "Monday's attack was not the first against a 'secret' intelligence location in the city, it seems staggering that there still exist such centers in urban residential and commercial areas. Can such suspects not be detained at police stations, prisons or military centers? Why are the lives of civilians being endangered for what appear to be counter-terrorism shortcuts?" End Summary.

## TOP STORIES

News Story: 12 killed, 89 Injured; Taliban Claim Responsibility: Terrorists Strike At 'Safe House' In Heart Of Lahore - "Dawn" (03/09)

"A suicide bomber blew up an explosive-laden vehicle outside the interrogation centre of the Special Investigation Agency (SIA) of the Punjab government in Model Town on Monday morning, killing at least 12 people, among them eight security personnel and a woman, and injuring 89 others, police said."

News Story: Taliban Claim Responsibility, Vow More Attacks - "Daily Times" (03/09)

"A spokesman for the Tehreek-e-Taliban Pakistan (TTP) claimed responsibility for Monday's attack on the Special Intelligence Agency's office in Model Town. 'The attack was to avenge [U.S.] drone attacks and [Pakistani] military operations in the Tribal Areas,' said Taliban spokesman Azam Tariq. 'We have 2,800 to 3,000 more suicide bombers. We will target all government places, buildings and offices,' he said."

News Story: U.S. Condemns Terrorist Attack In Lahore - "Jang," "Nawa-i-Waqt," "Islam," "Ausaf," "Aaj Kal," "Jinnah" (03/09)

"The U.S. Embassy in Pakistan strongly condemns the terrorist attack in Lahore on Monday targeting Pakistan's brave law enforcement

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personnel. Such brutal acts demonstrate the terrorists' agenda of fear and intimidation. We extend our condolences to the victims' families and friends, and to the people of Pakistan."

News Story: Five Killed In NWA Drone Attack - "The News" (03/09)

"Five people were killed, four of them foreigners, and six others sustained injuries in a U.S. drone attack on a hotel and nearby veterinary hospital near Miramshah bazaar in North Waziristan Agency (NWA) on Monday, official sources said."

News Story: Gates Hails Taliban Bigwigs' Arrests - "The Nation" (03/09)

"U.S. Defence Secretary Robert Gates flew into Kabul on Monday on an unannounced visit, warning of 'hard fighting' ahead despite signs of progress in the eight-year war against Taliban insurgents. Gates discussed the offensive - billed as the biggest since the 2001 U.S.-led invasion - with Afghan President Hamid Karzai and the

commander of U.S. and NATO troops, General Stanley McChrystal, as well as operations planned this year. Gates acknowledged welcome 'bits and pieces of good news' when asked about the recent capture of senior Taliban leaders in neighboring Pakistan, but said it was probably too soon to say momentum had shifted to coalition forces."

News Story: U.S. Acknowledges Pakistan's Wider Anti-Militancy Resolve - "Dawn" (03/09)

"As Pakistan continued its success in capturing key Afghan Taliban and al-Qaeda-linked terrorists, a top U.S. General appreciated the 'emerging recognition' in Islamabad of the symbiotic relationship between various extremist groups in the region. 'I think the development most recently is that there is emerging a recognition of what (Defence) Secretary Robert Gates has called the symbiotic relationship between all of the extremist elements in the FATA,' Gen. David Petraeus, Chief of Central Command, told CNN in an interview, while citing his recent visits to the country and meetings with Pakistan Army leaders."

News Story: U.S. Regrets FATA Lawmakers' Return - "The News" (03/09)

"U.S. Assistant secretary of State P.J. Crowley on Monday said he regrets that six members of Pakistani Parliament from FATA cut short their U.S. visit over the complete body search of two of their colleagues. Responding to a question in Washington at the State Department, he said 11 members of Pakistani Parliament were invited by the U.S. State Department to visit the country. However, some

members of the delegation got upset when their colleagues were selected for complete body search before boarding a plane, and decided to end the U.S. visit. He said he regrets the incident but it simply indicates the fact that aviation rules and security regulations apply on everybody in the U.S."

News Story: FATA MPs' Visit To U.S. Was Not Official: NA - "The Post" (03/09)

"According to Sources of National Assembly, the Parliamentary delegation comprised on members Parliament of FATA did not go to the United States on an official visit. Sources of Assembly told that the visit of FATA members was arranged by U.S. Aid and U.S. Embassy and they could tell better about matters related to screening. Meanwhile, sources of the United States said that the routine checking of these members was carried out and the process of screening was not carried out."

News Story: No NATO Jet Violated Pak Airspace: U.S. - "Daily Times," "Express," "Ausaf," "Islam," and "Jinnah" (03/09)

"The U.S. Embassy said on Monday that no NATO aircraft violated Pakistan's airspace over the town of Chaman in Balochistan on Friday. Referring to an article carried by several national daily newspapers this weekend about a NATO aircraft's violation, it said the accusation was 'entirely false.'"

News Story: Gadahn Confusion Reaches Obama - "Dawn" (03/09)

"The White House said on Monday it could not confirm that Adam Gadahn, a senior Al Qaeda leader, had been arrested in Pakistan, said White House Deputy Press Secretary Bill Burton.... The New York Times reported that initially U.S. security officials had also informed President Barack Obama that Gadahn had been arrested but later they retracted their position."

#### TERRORISM/MILITARY ISSUES

News Story: Foreign Hands Involved In Terror Activities: Malik - "Daily Times" (03/09)

"Foreign elements are involved in terrorist activities in the country, Interior Minister Rehman Malik said on Monday."

News Story: 130 Houses Of Militants Torched In Bajaur - "The News" (03/09)

"Armed Lashkar of the Salarzai tribe backed by political administration and the Bajaur Levies on Monday torched the houses of 130 militants. The elders of the tribe announced to continue their

activities against the militants till their complete elimination

from the area. Assistant Political Agent of Khar Muhammad Iqbal Khattak on the occasion said that nobody would be allowed to challenge the writ of the government in their respective areas."

#### POLITICAL ISSUES

News Story: PM Announces Measures For Women's Empowerment - "Daily Times" (03/09)

"Prime Minister Yousaf Raza Gilani on Monday announced the establishment of the Office of Women's Ombudsman, 10 percent quota for women in the Central Superior Services (CSS) and the conversion of youth development centers into working women's hostels. Addressing a function on the occasion of International Women's Day at the Convention Centre, Gilani said the government had initiated several measures for empowering women."

#### ECONOMY/ENVIRONMENT

News Story: Fourth IMF Tranche In Peril: Tarin's Successor Not Chosen Yet - "Business Recorder" (03/09)

"President Asif Zardari and Prime Minister Yousuf Raza Gilani could not agree on the appointment of Shaukat Tarin's replacement despite a stern warning from the Ministry of Finance that the absence of the head of Ministry of Finance with right credentials could possibly result in a delay in the release of 4th tranche (\$1.2 billion) from the IMF before the end of current month, officials in Ministry of Finance told Business Recorder."

#### MISCELLANEOUS

News Story: Six Girls Killed In Pindi Hostel Fire on Women's Day - "The News" (03/09)

"At least six girl students belonging to different educational institutions, including the Riphah Medical College and the Fatima Jinnah Women's University, lost their lives due to burns and suffocation when fire engulfed the National Foundation Women Hostel on the Iftikhar Janjua Road in Rawalpindi on Monday afternoon.... there was an irony to the tragic incident that it took place on the International Women's Day which is observed worldwide on March 8."

#### EDITORIALS/OPINIONS

Editorial: Model Town Suicide Attack: Government Claims And The Ground Reality, an editorial in the second-largest, nationalist Urdu daily "Nawa-i-Waqt" (cir. 150,000) (03/09)

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"It is better for the government to reconsider its pro-U.S. policy, which causes suicide attacks and terrorism, and shun its role of frontline ally in the war against extremism. The military operation in tribal areas should stop immediately and process of holding peace jirgas (dialogue) with the Taliban should start."

Editorial: A Suicide Attack On A Government Office, an editorial in the center-right Urdu daily "Pakistan" (cir. 10,000) (03/09)

"An intelligence office was attacked in Model Town Lahore prior to the latest attack on March 8. It was announced after the previous attack that the offices of this peculiar type will be shifted out of the locality. However, the agency was never removed.... Attack on Pakistan's innocent people does not hurt imperialism; it only strengthens its position for political bargaining."

Editorial: Another Suicide Attack In Lahore, an editorial in the liberal Urdu daily "Express" (cir. 25,000) (03/09)

"Three attacks on the intelligence agencies' facilities prove that these are being specially targeted by the terrorists, hence their security must be enhanced. While some measures have been taken in this regard, perhaps appropriate security measures were not taken at this building."

Editorial: Model Town Suicide Attack: Government Should Fulfill Duty To Protect The Citizens, an editorial in the Lahore-based independent Urdu daily "Din" (cir. 5,000) (03/09)

"Terrorist attacks in Lahore signal the fact that even now the enemy can easily get hold of explosive material and transport it anywhere. Terrorists' free movement and the ease of transportation points to failures in the security system... Statements of condemnation by the President, PM, CM and Interior Minister are not enough. It is their responsibility to provide security to the citizens."

Editorial: Lahore Attack, an editorial in the Karachi-based center-left independent national English daily "Dawn" (cir. 55,000) (03/09)

"Given that Monday's attack was not the first against a 'secret' intelligence location in the city, it seems staggering that there still exist such centers in urban residential and commercial areas. Can such suspects not be detained at police stations, prisons or military centers? Why are the lives of civilians being endangered for what appear to be counter-terrorism shortcuts? The list of questions goes on. The Tehrik-i-Taliban Pakistan spokesman, Azam Tariq, has already claimed responsibility for the attack and

promised there will be more if the ~~home bases~~ and military operations in the tribal areas do not cease." UNCLASSIFIED

Editorial: Lessons From Lahore, an editorial in the populist, often sensational national English daily "The News" (cir. 55,000) (03/09)

"It is clear that the terrorists remain able to operate. It is unclear so far which of the many militant groups that exist in our midst was responsible for this latest act of violence. But the tactics used, involving a suicide bomber and a vehicle packed with explosives, suggest a distinct link to the attacks staged in the past. There is a need to review strategy and assess to what extent the capacity of the militants has been damaged by the action against them in the north. Clearly, the base of the action needs to be widened and pockets of militancy that exist in other places taken out so that the loss of life, injury and panic seen most recently in Lahore can be eliminated."

Editorial: Exposing Vulnerabilities, an editorial in the center-right national English daily "The Nation" (cir. 20,000) (03/09)

"It is well known that terrorists will target such centers where informants or arrested militants may be threatening to reveal all. It is also well-known that such centers are also used by foreign agencies like the CIA to interrogate all kinds of 'suspects.' If some of the residents of Model Town are to be believed, then according to them this blast also had a connection with the U.S.! Be that as it may, residential areas are no place for these high value targets."

Editorial: Capture in Karachi, an editorial in the populist, often sensational national English daily "The News" (cir. 55,000) (03/09)

"There is some doubt as to the identity of the top Al Qaeda figure held in Karachi on March 7. Initial reports had identified him as the American-born spokesman for the outfit, Adam Yahiyeh Gadahn, who appeared on many of its videos.... Pakistan now needs to work towards changing its image as a 'safe haven' for militants.... The discovery of key militants in Karachi also shows that our larger cities have become a prime destination for them.... As citizens, all of us would benefit from the ouster of Al Qaeda. This then is the target that must steadily be worked towards, making our country a better place for everyone living within its borders."

Editorial: New Developments in Afghanistan, an editorial in the Lahore-based liberal English language daily "Daily Times" (cir. 10,000) (03/09)

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"Given the opportunist nature of the Hizb-i-Islami chief, the effectiveness of fighters under his command is questionable, but this switching of sides is significant for political reasons. Despite representing a relatively weaker section of the insurgency, Hizb-i-Islami's joining hands with the Afghan government is the first major success of Karzai's policy of reaching out to the militants. It also indicates an element of desperation among the Taliban to this imminent departure of Hizb-i-Islami from the resistance alliance. The reasons for this response to the open door policy notwithstanding, the possibility of opening up reconciliation with at least one section of the insurgency can only be welcomed."

Editorial: "Naked" Full Body Scanning, an editorial in the Islamabad-based rightist English daily "Pakistan Observer" (cir.

5,000) (03/09)

"Growing number of Pakistanis are strongly protesting and refusing to undergo the unilateral and humiliating screening procedure introduced by the United States at its airports, which amounts to 'naked' filming of the human being. Though Pakistan Foreign Office maintains that the Obama administration is giving second thought to this degrading and insulting system yet there are no indications that the administration was really moving towards that end.... The U.S. insistence to continue with the special procedure is also reflective of the fact that the West is either unaware of the Eastern and Muslim values and norms or is deliberately adopting such tactics to humiliate them. It is because of this discriminatory and derogatory approach that is one of the fundamental causes of growing hatred against the superpower. There could be hundred and one methods to enhance security without humiliating people of a particular faith and background."

Editorial: A Sad Plight, an editorial in the Lahore-based liberal English daily "The Post" (cir. 5,000) (03/09)

"The International Women's Day marked another year of changing social trends and inclusion of more and more women in various fields in the country but the goal of women empowerment is not yet achieved. Women's rights has been the buzzing tune in the country for a while now and the general psychology of society as a whole has been transforming from a conservative approach to a more moderate concept where women are not seen as just a household commodity."

Editorial: Exigencies of Stability in Afghanistan, an editorial in the Peshawar-based Urdu-language daily "Mashriq" (cir. 55,000) (03/09)

"While there are indications that the foreign forces are preparing



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to withdraw from Afghanistan, the clashes among the rival Afghan factions, reminiscent of the post-Soviet withdrawal and bloodshed in the country, should be a matter of serious concern for all stakeholders. We think that it is high time for the Afghan government, the Taliban, and all other Afghan factions to prove, practically, that they are capable of resolving their mutual differences on their own without any foreign interference. It is the only antidote to end the internal instability of Afghanistan."

Opinion: Taliban, Talibanization And Pakistan," an op-ed by Saleem Safi in the leading mass circulation populist, often sensational Urdu daily "Jang" (cir. 300,000) (03/09)

"Two explanations are being put up for the recent arrests of top Afghan Taliban leaders hiding in Pakistan. First, it is said that these people, with the help of an Arab country, were making contacts with Afghan President Hamid Karzai and the United States. But, while doing so, they had completely bypassed the government of Pakistan. Hence, their arrests are meant to send a message to all concerned parties that Pakistan is fully capable to torpedo all such maneuverings if its interests are ignored. Second, the U.S. has realized its mistakes and is ready to consider Islamabad's reservations and the arrests of these Taliban leaders are part of the confidence building measures on behalf of Pakistan. Whatever the reason for the detention of these leaders, I think Pakistan has committed a grave mistake. It is high time for us to establish close and cordial relations with the Afghan Taliban."

Opinion: The New Left Revisited, an op-ed by Asha Amirali in the Karachi-based center-left independent national English daily "Dawn" (cir. 55,000) (03/09)

"Religious militancy is growing, yes. It is instilling hatred and violence and negating all that progressive forces want to see realized in Pakistan. However, I believe it is essential for the Left to move beyond the liberal refrain about the Islamists constituting an existential threat to the Pakistani state. Islamism has established roots in parts of Pakistani society largely because of its historic patronage by the military establishment. Today it sustains these roots because of continued support by the state, the presence of western troops in the region, and the end of imagination that afflicts society."

Opinion: Preventing The Militants' Comeback, an op-ed by Rahimullah Yusufzai in the populist, often sensational national English daily "The News" (cir. 55,000) (03/09)

"Militants affiliated to the outlawed Tehrik-e-Taliban Pakistan (TTP) have been on the run for sometime now after losing their strongholds in Swat and the rest of Malakand region, South

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Waziristan, Frontier Region Bannu and tribal areas of Kurram, Khyber, Mohmand and Darra Adamkhel. Recently, they lost almost all of Bajaur due to renewed and aggressive military operations in Mamond and Charmang and had to relocate to relatively secure places in the adjoining Mohmand Agency.... The militants are no doubt in disarray and the TTP is no longer able to operate and pose a major security threat. But the state needs to do a lot more to improve conditions of life for the people by making the system of government and justice responsive to the needs of the population. This could create conditions to prevent a comeback by the militants."

Opinion: Listening To The Right Voice, an op-ed by Afnan Khan in the Lahore-based liberal English language daily "Daily Times" (cir. 10,000) (03/09)

"Extremism in the Muslim world and the growth of the European far right can be considered two sides of the same coin. The demands of lesser rights for non-natives and ban on their religious and cultural practices are contrary to the West's tall claims of being the torchbearers of human rights."

Opinion: A Secular State Is A Moral State, an op-ed by Ishtiaq Ahmed in the Lahore-based liberal English language daily "Daily Times" (cir. 10,000) (03/09)

"The modern secular-democratic state must ensure that all individuals as well as majorities and minorities enjoy freedom of religion and conscience and the political right to choose their government."

Editorial: NPT At 40, an editorial in the Karachi-based center-left independent national English daily "Dawn" (cir. 55,000) (03/09)

"The Non Proliferation Treaty's (NPT's) 40th anniversary is a timely call for all states, members as well as non-members, to come together to plan a strategy to reduce and eventually eliminate nuclear weapons from the world. The 'big five' must take the lead as they possess the bulk of the world's nuclear arms. President Obama mentioned his desire for a nuclear-free world in Prague last year. It is time the U.S. and the other four nuclear powers took practical steps to significantly reduce and phase out their arsenals."

(All circulation figures are based on estimation)

Feierstein

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