

ACTION INR-00

INFO	LOG-00	EEB-00	AF-00	AID-00	AMAD-00	A-00	RPPR-00
		INL-00	DNI-00	DOTE-00	PDI-00	DS-00	EAP-00
	DHSE-00	EUR-00	OIGO-00	FAAE-00	UTED-00	VCI-00	FOE-00
	DIAS-00	H-00	TEDE-00	IO-00	LAB-01	ARMY-00	MOFM-00
	MOF-00	M-00	VCIE-00	NEA-00	DCP-00	NSAE-00	ISN-00
	OIC-00	OIG-00	OMB-00	NIMA-00	EPAU-00	GIWI-00	P-00
	ISNE-00	DOHS-00	IRM-00	NCTC-00	FMP-00	BBG-00	R-00
	EPAE-00	ECA-00	IIP-00	SCRS-00	DSCC-00	PRM-00	DRL-00
	G-00	SCA-00	CARC-00	NFAT-00	SAS-00	FA-00	SRAP-00
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E.O. 12958: N/A  
 TAGS: KMDR, KPAO, OIIP, OPRC, PGOV, PREL, PK  
 SUBJECT: PAKISTAN MEDIA REACTION: JUNE 03, 2010

Summary: Coverage of the disagreement between Interior Minister Rehman Malik and Punjab Chief Minister Shahbaz Sharif over terming the militants in Punjab as "Punjabi Taliban" dominated headlines in several major newspapers on Thursday morning. Media highlighted reports that a UN investigator called for a halt to CIA-directed drone strikes on suspected Al Qaeda and Taliban terrorists, warning that the practice amounted to a "license to kill without accountability." Newspapers also covered reports that despite the Pakistan Army's announcement of "successful conclusion of the operation in Orakzai Agency," more than half of the Agency is yet to be cleared of the Taliban. Additionally, the security forces killed 20 militants in gunship helicopters' shelling in the area. The

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Israeli attack on the aid flotilla continued to receive media coverage, and several papers reported that the deported activists have accused Israel of "barbarism." The Under Secretary Burns' remarks that "Indian role key to future success in Afghanistan" were also reported. Along with this report, the media also highlighted a story that the U.S. Congress has approved the sale of C-17 Globemaster III strategic aircraft to India. The Foreign Office spokesman's statement expressing hope that the "U.S.-India strategic dialogue should improve regional environment and have no negative impact on the U.S.-Pakistan relations" received extensive coverage. A minor roadside accident involving a U.S. Mission's vehicle and a car of "The Nation" editor Dr. Shireen Mazari's spouse in Islamabad was also reported in some newspapers. "The Nation," however, portrayed the accident in a negative tone, and said that "U.S. diplomats (are) still working on a covert agenda."

Most major newspapers wrote editorials on various topics and themes, which included: the military offensive in Orakzai Agency, the quarterly report of the State Bank of Pakistan, the latest survey of the Transparency International, the Water issue between Pakistan and India, and the killing of an Al Qaeda leader. In its editorial titled, "Unanimous condemnation," "Dawn," wrote, "The United States' decision not to veto Tuesday's Security Council resolution serves to highlight the international community's anger over Israel's unprovoked attack on the Gaza peace armada." Discussing the death of Al Qaeda 'number three' leader Mustafa Abu Al Yazid (alias Saeed Al Misri), "The News," in its article, "Number three," said, "The loss of Saeed will hurt Al Qaeda in the short term, but it is a durable organization that in all likelihood has as many 'number threes' as one may care to count. The loss of one is far from a knockout blow." End Summary.

#### TOP STORIES

News Story: Punjabi Taliban Have Grown Dangerous: Malik - "Daily Times" (06/03)

"Punjabi Taliban holed up in south Punjab have become more dangerous and are geared up for large-scale sabotage in the country, Interior Minister Rehman Malik said on Wednesday."

News Story: No Military Action In Punjab: Malik - "The Nation" (06/03)

"Interior Minister Rehman Malik on Wednesday said that no military operation is planned against banned outfits in Punjab, rather effective action would jointly be taken to eliminate them, while talking to media persons in Islamabad."

News Story: Malik Is Creating Provincial Prejudice, Says Shahbaz -

"Daily Times" (06/03)

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"Interior Minister Rehman Malik's statement about the Punjabi Taliban is aimed at creating disharmony among the provinces, a private TV channel quoted Punjab Chief Minister Shahbaz Sharif on Wednesday."

News Story: UN Investigator Calls For Halt To Drone Killings -  
"Daily Times" (06/03)

"A UN investigator called on Wednesday for a halt to CIA-directed drone strikes on suspected Al Qaeda and Taliban terrorists, warning that killings ordered far from the battlefield could lead to a 'Playstation' mentality. Philip Alston, UN special rapporteur on extra judicial executions, said missile strikes could be justified only when it was impossible to capture insurgents alive instead and only if they were carried out by regular U.S. armed forces operating with proper oversight and respect for the rules of war. "

News Story: U.S. Drones A 'Licence To Kill': UN Expert - "The News" (06/03)

"A UN human rights expert on Wednesday condemned the United States' targeted killings using drones, warning that the practice amounted to a 'licence to kill without accountability."

News Story: Taliban Still Rule Half Of Orakzai - "Daily Times" (06/03)

"Despite the military's announcement on Tuesday of "successful conclusion of the operation in Orakzai Agency", locals and officials said on Wednesday that more than half of the agency was yet to be cleared of the Taliban."

News Story: 719 Killed In Orakzai Operation Since May 1 - "Daily Times" (06/03)

"The total number of people killed in Orakzai since May 1 in action against Taliban is estimated at 719. Of the 719, at least 23 Taliban and one soldier were killed in the operation on Wednesday, security officials said. They told Daily Times that jet fighters and helicopter gunships pounded Taliban hideouts near the Kaasha and Toti Mela areas of Upper Orakzai Agency. Separately, more than a dozen Taliban attacked an army check-post in Shahu Khel area in which one soldier was killed, the official said."

News Story: Israel Deports 600 Gaza Flotilla Activists: Deported Activists Accuse Israel Of 'Barbarism' - "Daily Times" (06/03)

"Israeli naval commandos used batons, tear gas, stun grenades,

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rubber-coated bullets and live ammunition. In the storming of aid ships bound for Gaza, activists deported by Israel to Jordan said on Wednesday."

News Story: Indian Role Key To Future Success In Afghanistan: U.S.  
- "Dawn" (06/03)

"We refuse to accept the notion that somehow we can have strong relations with only one country in South Asia at a time," says a senior U.S. official while defining the Obama administration's policy towards India and Pakistan. Speaking at a seminar on the start of U.S.-India Strategic Dialogue this week, Under-Secretary of State for Political Affairs William J. Burns also hinted that the U.S. was not against India's inclusion in the UN Security Council as a permanent member.... He also delineated how the U.S. sought to balance Indian and Pakistani interests in Afghanistan but made it clear that Washington would not ask India to reduce its high-profile role in that country. 'We also highly value India's role in building economic and social opportunities in Afghanistan, and see India's continued involvement there as a key part of that country's future success, not part of its present problems,' said Mr. Burns."

News Story: Indo-U.S. Strategic Dialogue Should Improve Regional Environment: FO - "Daily Times" (06/03)

"The Foreign Office has said that the Indo-U.S. strategic dialogue will hopefully improve regional environment and have no negative impact on Pak-U.S. relations. FO spokesman Abdul Basit said whether it was Pak-U.S. relations or Indo-U.S. relations, all three countries must focus on promoting their interests. He said diplomacy was the name of efforts to promote bilateral relations."

News Story: U.S. Congress Approves Sale Of C-17 Aircraft To India -  
"Daily Times" (06/03)

"The U.S. Congress has cleared the sale of C-17 Globemaster III strategic aircraft to India, the Indian media reported on Wednesday. The report said the Obama Administration had notified the U.S. Congress of the potential sale of ten C-17 aircraft to India and sought approval in this regard."

News Story: Shireen Mazari's car meets accident; police nab two fleeing Americans - "Jang" (06/03)

"A land cruiser collided with the car of senior journalist Shireen Mazari at the Jatoi Chowk within the limits of Kohsar police station. Two Americans who were present in the land cruiser - FX 051 tried to make good their escape but the police present on the scene chased them and nabbed them near Auyb Chowk and took the occupants to the police station. Shireen Mazari's husband Dr. Tabish was

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present in the car NZ 1516 . The police, however, had not registered the case till 11.00 p.m. Police declared the land cruiser the property of the American Embassy."

News Story: U.S. Diplomats Still Working On Covert Agenda; Expired Visa Holder U.S. Dip Causes Accident - "The Nation" (06/03)

"Despite the Interior Ministry's repeated tall claims of having cleared the country of unregistered diplomats and foreigners especially of U.S. origin, the still ongoing overt and covert activities of U.S. diplomats in Islamabad themselves are posing direct threat to the security of the U.S. main ally in the war on terror. This fact came to the fore on Wednesday night when two U.S. diplomats - one of them having expired visa - hit the vehicle of Dr. Tabish, the husband of Editor 'The Nation' Dr. Shireen Mazari, on Margalla Road, Sector F-7, and made a failed attempt to run away from the scene."

### TERRORISM/MILITARY ISSUES

News Story: U.S. Has Few Options For Pakistan-Linked Attack - "Daily Times" (06/03)

"The United States' ability to respond to a successful terrorist attack linked to Pakistan is extremely limited, despite recent talk of severe consequences and even unilateral U.S. military action, if one should occur. The issue is receiving renewed attention following published reports that Washington might consider a strike that goes beyond the CIA's ongoing missile attacks by remote-controlled, unmanned planes. It's unclear whether Pakistan would agree and, if not, whether the U.S. would proceed anyway, jeopardizing an alliance that is critical for success in the war in neighboring Afghanistan."

News Story: Pakistan's Nuclear Arsenal To Overtake India's: SIPRI - "The Nation" (06/03)

"Our conservative estimates are that Pakistan has sixty warheads and could produce 100 nuclear weapons at short notice. In comparison India had also 60 to 70 nuclear warheads," the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI) said."

News Story: Taliban Squad Targets Karzai's Jirga - "Dawn" (06/03)

"A Taliban suicide squad armed with rockets on Wednesday targeted an Afghan peace conference hosted by President Hamid Karzai that is seeking consensus on how to end nearly nine years of war. As Karzai addressed more than 1,600 delegates and western diplomats at the 'peace Jirga,' rockets exploded and gunfire erupted near the huge

air-conditioned tent in Kabul where the conference was taking place." UNCLASSIFIED

News Story: Top Al Qaeda Leader Killed In Drone Strike - "Dawn"  
(06/03)

"Jihadi group announced on Wednesday that top Al Qaeda operative Osama bin Ali bin Abdullah bin Damjan Al-Dawsari, a close associate of militant commander Maulvi Nazir had been killed in a drone attack in Nezai Narray near Angoor Adda in South Waziristan."

News Story: Religious Figures Claim No Terrorist In South Punjab -  
"Dawn" (06/03)

"Ulema hailing from all sects and teachers of different madressahs at a joint press conference in Bahawalpur on Wednesday condemned the statement of Federal Interior Minister Rehman Malik about the possible army operation in south Punjab. According to them, there is no terrorist in any of the madressahs in the three districts of Bahawalpur division."

News Story: Israeli Attack On Aid Mission To Be Raised In NA, Senate  
- "Dawn" (06/03)

"The recent Israeli attack on a multi-nation aid mission to Gaza is expected to dominate the first day's proceedings of the 23rd session of the National Assembly and 62nd session of the Senate on Thursday. Various parliamentary groups have indicated that they will raise the issue and press the government to not to limit itself to only protesting against the inhuman treatment meted out by Israeli forces to a peaceful humanitarian mission but also demand the lifting of the siege of Gaza to allow delivery of food and other essential goods to Palestinians."

News Story: Pakistanis Held By Israelis Return Today - "Dawn"  
(06/03)

"Three Pakistanis detained by Israeli commandos who stormed a Gaza aid flotilla on Monday have been sent to Jordan for onward travel to Pakistan, the UN Secretary-General's office informed the Pakistan mission in New York on Tuesday."

News Story: Two Hurt In Attack On NATO Tanker In Sibi - "Daily  
Times" (06/03)

"Two people, including the driver of an oil tanker supplying fuel to NATO forces in Afghanistan, were wounded when unidentified armed men opened fire at the tanker near Sibi, Quetta on Wednesday."

Iran Rejects U.S. Accusation It Is Taliban Ally - "Daily Times"  
(06/03)

"Iran dismissed on Wednesday accusations by the top U.S. and NATO commander in Afghanistan, Gen. Stanley McChrystal, that Tehran has helped train and arm Taliban insurgents. 'Those kinds of lies are designed to conceal the failures of the (NATO forces) in Afghanistan,' Iranian Foreign Minister Manouchehr Mottaki said."

#### POLITICAL ISSUES

News Story: Embassies Demand Bargain Real Estate - "The Nation"  
(06/03)

"After Norwegian and Danish Embassies, the U.S. Embassy too has refused to accept the \$800 per square yard land price offered by the Capital Development Authority (CDA) in the new diplomatic enclave for its proposed expansion."

News Story: Will Of People Is Above Constitution, Says SC Judge -  
"Dawn" (06/03)

"A member of the 17-judge full court hearing petitions challenging the 18th Amendment said on Wednesday that the will of the people was above the Constitution and upholding and protecting that will was the ultimate objective of every organ and functionary of the state. 'Even if there are deficiencies, it is for the people to point out and determine it ultimately,' Justice Jawwad S. Khawaja observed in response to arguments put forward by Advocate Mohammad Akram Shaikh, the counsel for petitioner Nadeem Ahmed."

News Story: Detailed Verdict On FaceBook Ban; FO Asked To Move UN  
Over Profane Content - "Dawn" (06/03)

"The Lahore High Court (LHC) has directed the Foreign Affairs Ministry to instruct Pakistani Ambassador to the United Nations to present a resolution in the General Assembly conveying the discomfort suffered by Pakistani people because of publication and promotion of blasphemous content on Facebook, a social networking website."

News Story: SHC Bars Uploading of 'Obscene Material' on YouTube -  
"Dawn" (06/03)

"The Sindh High Court on Wednesday directed the Pakistan Telecommunication authority (PTA) to immediately remove and block any 'obscene material' uploaded or being uploaded from Pakistan on YouTube, a video-sharing website."

#### ECONOMY/ENVIRONMENT

News Story: Tight Monetary Policy Due To High Inflation: IMF -  
"Daily Times" (06/03)

"State Bank of Pakistan will keep exchange rate flexible and will increase the policy rate if inflation continues to exceed expectations. International Monetary Fund (IMF) paper on Pakistan said that monetary policy would continue to focus on combating inflation and strengthening reserves."

News Story: Sindh, Balochistan Face Cyclone Threat - "Dawn" (06/03)

"As tropical cyclone Phet travels northwards towards Sindh's coastal areas and is expected to hit them on Friday waves in the sea have already started swelling and rains were reported in some parts of the interior of the province on Wednesday. Dr. Qamar-uz-Zaman Chaudhry, director general of the Meteorological Department, said that Phet would hit the Omani coast on Thursday morning."

News Story: UN Issues Flash Floods Warning - "Dawn" (06/03)

"The United Nations has warned of devastating flash floods in coastal areas because of the approaching tropical storm. 'The heads of UN agencies are requested to inform offices in Balochistan about possible flash floods,' an internal alert issued by UN offices in Pakistan on Wednesday said."

MISCELLANEOUS

News Story: 86 Students Awarded USAID Scholarships - "Daily Times" (06/03)

"A meeting of the Scholarship Management Committee was held at Higher Education Commission (HEC) Secretariat on Wednesday to approve scholarships for 86 needy students of the academic year 2009-10 under the USAID funded 'Merit and Needs Based Scholarship Program.'"

News Story: Exhibition At QAU: Bringing Out The Bright Side Of The U.S. - "Daily Times" (06/03)

"With a need to revive cordial relations with the U.S., an exhibition titled 'Freedom Train Exhibition', organized by the M. Phil students of the Area Study Centre, Quaid-i-Azam University (QAU), started on Wednesday."

News Story: Joint Efforts Urged To Curb Bonded Labor - "Dawn" (06/03)

"Bonded labor can only be eliminated from the province through coordination and cooperation among the government, civil society and stakeholders, especially in the brick kiln sector. Updating the existing laws on bonded labor in the light of changing economic and administrative realities, enforcement of minimum wages and provision of health services were the other points agreed on by participants at the Bonded Labor Stakeholders' Conference, hosted by the US Consulate at a hotel on The Mall in Lahore on Wednesday."

## EDITORIALS/OPINIONS

Editorial: Unanimous Condemnation, an editorial in the Karachi-based center-left independent national English daily "Dawn" (cir. 55,000) (06/03)

"The United States' decision not to veto Tuesday's Security Council resolution serves to highlight the international community's anger over Israel's unprovoked attack on the Gaza peace armada.... The UN's executive arm called the Israeli raid a 'military operation' and demanded that all peace workers and the ships be released. Significantly, America supported the Council's call for a 'credible' investigation and demanded 'foreign participation' in the probe. Talking to reporters Secretary of State Hillary Clinton said the Israeli investigation into the raid must conform to the criteria laid down by the UN resolution. The world must not forget that the Israeli attack and the deaths on the peace convoy are only a symptom of what ails the Middle East - it is the continuation of the denial of the Palestinian people's right to live in peace and honor on their soil."

Editorial: Number Three, an editorial in the populist, often sensational national English daily "The News" (cir. 55,000) (06/03)

"It is not a monolithic entity, a kind of terrorist retail mall that is a one-stop shop; it is more of an ideological global franchise. There are Al Qaedas that have sprung up from Spain to the Arabian Peninsula. There may be many 'number threes' or none at all. There will certainly be more than one 'number one' depending on which branch of the franchise is being described, but given the nature of the way in which terrorist organizations are run via linked cells, identifying numbers two or three or any other is a far from precise process. The loss of Saeed will hurt Al Qaeda in the short term, but it is a durable organisation that in all likelihood has as many 'number threes' as one may care to count. The loss of one is far from a knockout blow."

Editorial: Orakzai Agency, an editorial in the Karachi-based center-left independent national English daily "Dawn" (cir. 55,000) (06/03)

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"From Bajaur to Mohmand and Bara to FR Peshawar, the phenomenon has repeated itself: operations by security forces to clear out an area are deemed a 'success' only to see militants sneak back in the weeks and months that follow. Sometimes forces are withdrawn from one area to focus on another trouble spot, leaving a vacuum in the first area which is soon filled by militants, as has happened in FR Peshawar after security forces were sent from there to deal with militants in Kala Dhaka, Mansehra. What also makes the claim about success in Orakzai doubtful is geography. The Khyber-Orakzai-Kurram border areas have long been centers of militancy. If Orakzai is clear, then by that logic the Tirah area in Khyber and the east of Kurram should be clear too. However, the evidence suggests otherwise. The army needs to clarify what the position in Orakzai Agency is and what can be expected in the weeks ahead."

Opinion: N. Waziristan: Why Only The Military Option?, an op-ed by Ayaz Wazir in the populist, often sensational national English daily "The News" (cir. 55,000) (06/03)

"The U.S. government has consistently continued to increase pressure on us to extend military action yet further within Pakistani territory, on one pretext or another. Although our rulers acted like the proverbial obedient servants and carried out every military demand made of us, often to utter disregard for life and the safety of our civilian populations, but they have failed to win the confidence or approval of their masters in Washington.... How many times are we going to conquer FATA? Each tribal agency has experienced at least two military operations in the last nine years. The people are fed up and have no capacity or patience left for any more sacrifices. The treatment meted out to the tribesmen so far is certainly not commendable. There is every likelihood of the same treatment following a fresh operation. Let us reconsider our policy options if we really want peace and harmony to return to the area."

Editorial: Israel: Release Of Three Pakistanis, an editorial in the center-right Urdu daily "Pakistan" (cir. 10,000) (06/03)

"Three Pakistani journalists detained by Israel, Talat Hussain, Agha Raza Mehmud and NGO representative Nadeem Ahmed Khan were released on Tuesday.... The government leadership and the Foreign office should be thanked for their fruitful efforts for the release.... Palestinian Ambassador has demanded of the international community to take strict action against Israeli terrorism, but who would listen to him."

Editorial: There Must Be An Impartial Enquiry Of The Israeli Attack, an editorial in the liberal Urdu daily "Express" (circ. 25,000) (06/03)

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"The need is to conduct a UN-supervised inquiry into the incident [of Israeli attack on flotilla], and not to depend on or trust Israel alone. It is necessary that the nations of the world put an international force together to take aid to those besieged in Gaza; this force should supervise the distribution of aid. The UN can play an important role in this regard and it must play this role by extricating itself from U.S. influence."

Editorial: Humanitarian Tragedy In Gaza And Global Conscience, an editorial in the Lahore-based independent Urdu daily "Din" (circ. 5,000) (06/03)

"Today, the Israeli reaction to humanitarian aid being sent to Palestinians should act as an eye-opener for the entire international community, including the U.S., which supports Israel unconditionally. This state, [Israel] formed like a sore on the Arab region, has now become a major threat for humanity. We feel that all international organizations including the UN and OIC should take note of Israeli aggression and compel it to stay within limits, and rid the hapless Palestinians of this constant misery."

Opinion: Obama's Security Strategy, an op-ed by Tariq Fatemi in the Karachi-based center-left independent national English daily "Dawn" (cir. 55,000) (06/03)

"Admittedly, the U.S. has to address the growing perception that it is singling out Muslims for 'punishment,' but the strategy is a document that should be a wake-up call for our leadership. With Obama in saddle, the time for excuses, subterfuges and alibis is over. The world is fast losing its patience with us. The challenge confronting Pakistan is truly existential. We can thumb our noses and face isolation, ostracisation and intervention leading to fragmentation, or we can rejoin the world community as a responsible and responsive state. It is our choice that will determine our destiny."

Opinion: American Insolence, an op-ed by Azam Khalil in the center-right national English daily "The Nation" (cir. 20,000) (06/03)

"Unilateral air strikes in the tribal areas would lead to calls for revenge and result in damaging America's relationship not only with the Pakistani government, but also with its military establishment. However, it is possible that the U.S. administration may plan or conceive such ideas out of desperation because of its failure to achieve its political and military objectives in Afghanistan. The U.S. is well aware of the fact that in spite of the policy of increasing their ground forces in Afghanistan they have been losing

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the war. And even the policy of bribing the warlords. Thus, the U.S. must understand that in case they opt for unilateral strikes in Pakistan's settled areas it will add a new dimension to the Afghan war. Consequently at the end of the day, the U.S. will not be able to sustain this adventure and will have to pull out from Afghanistan in a huff, which will create more serious problems not only for the Americans, but also for the western democracies. It would, therefore, be suitable if the U.S. took Pakistan into confidence and allow them to take care of the security issues that are connected with Afghanistan and the South Asian region."

Opinion: U.S.-Karzai Marriage Of Convenience, an op-ed by S.P. Seth in the Lahore-based liberal English language daily "Daily Times" (cir. 10,000) (06/03)

"There was some rethink in Washington about Karzai's relative importance in the U.S. scheme of things. And this was judged to be pretty high, which led to him being invited to Washington and accorded all the pomp and ceremony. Karzai now is once again the U.S. buddy - at least on the surface. And he is quite happy. He would not last long with the Taliban who have always regarded him as an American puppet. The Americans knew that Karzai's threats were mere bluster but they did not want to find out because he was their only visible Afghan face.... The Americans will get off his back for the time being. For the Americans, having made him feel wanted and assured, they will not have to watch him threatening to fraternize with the Taliban, even as they carry out the operations against them in Kandahar. But this new facade is a marriage of convenience and will not last. In other words, there is no respite for the Afghan people with all the protagonists and antagonists engaged in their power games."

Opinion: Tell America, Enough Is Enough, an op-ed by Mohammad Jamil in the Lahore-based liberal English daily "The Post" (cir. 5,000) (06/03)

"American leadership is slow on the uptake, in understanding the ground realities and taking correct decisions.... In Afghanistan, American and NATO forces have used every lethal weapon during the last nine years but they have not been able to break the will of Afghan people. Yet they are not willing to accept the eidetic reality that even President Obama's surge strategy has utterly failed.... It is in this backdrop that they are pressurizing Pakistan to simultaneously launch operation in North Waziristan to ward off the possibility of Afghan Taliban getting support from North Waziristan. As mid-term elections are scheduled to be held in November 2010, President Obama wishes to see some semblance of success to convince American public that his strategy has worked."

Afghanistan: US Dead End, Opinion: Afghanistan: U.S. Dead End, an

op-ed by I.M. Mohsin in the center-right national English daily "The Nation" (cir. 20,000) (06/03)

"The Israeli commandoes killed 20 peace activists, mostly Turkish, which has emphatically denounced the atrocity. For Taliban such a crisis caused by Israeli arrogance, prompted by U.S. support, would be a God sent break and they will get thousands of volunteers, initially, in Afghanistan. It is customary to blame the owner of a mad dog when it attacks somebody. Hence the U.S., as the only

sponsor of Israel, would earn considerable opprobrium all over but more so in Muslims countries. President Obama must find some way of putting Israel, the U.S. dog, on leash; otherwise Muslims the world over, as yet weak, may lose their faith in it. Such disgust could open up many more Afghanistans!"

Opinion: Israeli Strike Echoes in Pakistan, an op-ed by Syed Saleem Shahzad in the Lahore-based liberal English daily "The Post" (cir. 5,000) (06/03)

"Israel's deadly attack on Monday on an unarmed Turkish aid ship trying to break the Israeli blockade of Gaza has overnight changed this, sparking protest rallies across the Muslim World... the incident has also turned the spotlight on the United States, which ultimately might be the major loser, especially in Afghanistan and Pakistan... Now, with anti-Israeli and anti-U.S. sentiment at a five-year high, mustering political support behind a pro-American operation in North Waziristan and a Kandahar offensive, already heavily opposed by local tribes, seems impossible. Any delay benefits the Taliban's Operation Fateh - which already has key strategic border towns in Khost, Paktia, Paktika, Kunar and Nangarhar in its sights. If the offensives do get off the ground, they will certainly stir already inflamed passions and further radicalize youth in Pakistan and Afghanistan - and there is no guarantee of their success."

Opinion: Israel's Latest Act Of Terrorism, an op-ed by Saida Fazal in the country's premier business newspaper, "Business Recorder" (cir. 25,000) (06/03)

"In a night-time attack on the Freedom Flotilla last Monday, Israeli soldiers, in the habit of massacring innocent Palestinians at will, killed 20 activists and injured several others. This happened in the international waters, in violation of humanitarian laws as six flotilla, carrying relief goods headed towards Gaza... The leader of the so-called Free World and the self-styled protector and promoter of human rights in countries such as China, Russia and Iran, the US had no words of condemnation for its protg's criminal behavior. Ignoring the fact that Israel used military power against unarmed civilians, the White House merely stated it "deeply regrets"

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the loss of life. We are told, though UNCLASSIFIED is 'working to understand the circumstances surrounding the tragedy.' It would be useful to know the outcome of this laborious process of understanding. The problem with the Obama administration is that it lacks the strength to pressure Israel to change its ways.... The event has underlined the emergence of a new important reality: that in this information age, concerned citizens from across the globe can get together to pressure governments, and possibly influence their policies, in meaningful ways."

Opinion: The Cost Of Double Standards, an op-ed by Sheharyar Malhi in the Lahore-based liberal English language daily "Daily Times" (cir. 10,000) (06/03)

"While there is little disagreement that extremist elements pose a threat to the entire world and must be dealt with, an issue of equal concern is the perception of the U.S. in Pakistan. Nearly all conspiracy theories point towards the U.S. for anything and everything that goes wrong here. Such is the mounting detestation that children in some of the most modern schools of Lahore, Karachi and Islamabad, the main and most modern cities of Pakistan, use 'America' as a synonym for violation of airspace, unwelcome intrusions and double standards. On the mainstream electronic and print media, if arguments are presented in favor of the U.S., you are often tagged as an agent of the CIA.... The U.S. needs to wake up to the voice of millions of its own as well as world citizens, especially those that fight its wars; else it could suffer a hefty cost for its indifference and double standards."

Opinion: Why Seek IMF Aid?, an op-ed by Humayun Akhtar Khan in the Karachi-based center-left independent national English daily "Dawn" (cir. 55,000) (06/03)

"We must get out of the IMF straitjacket and rely on ourselves. The 23 months stand-by arrangement is coming to an end later this year. Let's thank the IMF profoundly and move on. We need economic stability and growth.... We don't need a headmaster in the shape of the IMF to rap our knuckles. The Friends of Pakistan should help us though. After all we are taking the brunt of the war on terror, economically and in terms of massive civilian and military casualties."

(All circulation figures are based on estimation)  
Patterson

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