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SUBJECT: PAKISTAN MEDIA REACTION: JUNE 02, 2010

Summary: The release of three Pakistanis detained by Israeli authorities while aboard a Gaza-bound aid flotilla dominated electronic and print media on Wednesday morning. Protest demonstrations on the Israeli attack and a failed march by protesters to the U.S. Consulate in Karachi received wide-spread coverage. "The Nation" reported that the White House declined to condemn Israel for its raid on the humanitarian flotilla. Newspapers noted that Al Qaeda's number three leader Mustafa Abu Al-Yazid alias Sheikh Sa'id Al Misri was killed in a U.S. drone attack in North Waziristan. The Pakistan Army's declaration of victory over militants in Orakzai Agency was also carried in most major newspapers. Several Urdu and English language newspapers reported that the Pakistan Navy has inducted two P3C Orion aircrafts, provided by the U.S., in its aviation fleet. In an exclusive story, "Dawn" reported that the Federal and Sindh governments reached a broad agreement on the imposition of the value added tax (VAT). There were also media reports that Pakistan's

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security agencies have strong reservations about the opening of a proposed U.S. Consulate in Quetta, but a final decision is still pending. Newspapers also reported Under Secretary of State for Political Affairs Bill Burns' comments on India and Pakistan, stating that "no one can afford a resurgence of tensions between the two nuclear armed neighbors." Media reported the release of Pakistani national, Mahuhannas Saifur Rehnab Khan, from detention in Chile pending a probe of traces of explosives found during his visit to the U.S. Embassy in Santiago.

The terrorist attack on Jinnah Hospital in Lahore in an unsuccessful bid to rescue a detained comrade dominated editorial themes in Wednesday's mainstream newspapers. "The News," in its editorial "Citizens' stand," observed, "The inescapable reality belatedly dawning is that the southern Punjab Taliban has the capacity to operate province-wide." Additionally, "The Nation," in its critique titled "A grievous lapse," stated, "The terrorist phenomenon in the province has to be thoroughly investigated to get to the truth, especially as the voices announcing the existence of militant groups in southern Punjab are getting louder." "Daily Times," in its article "Punjab's lotus-eaters," also emphasized, "We are in the middle of a civil war and failing to understand its implications will doom us. No part of the country is safe from its nefarious outreach." End Summary.

TOP STORIES

News Story: Pakistanis Held By Israelis Return Today- "Dawn" (06/02)

"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. A press statement by the Pakistan mission to the United Nations said that the three, Mr. Talat Hussain, Mr. Raza Mehmood Agha and Mr. Nadeem Ahmed Khan, had been recovered and sent to Jordan. They were detained in Israel's Beersheba prison."

News Story: Nation Up In Arms Against Israeli Aggression - "The News" (06/02)

"Police here on Tuesday baton-charged a rally, organized by the Imamia Students Organization (ISO), as the country wide protests and rallies were held against the Monday barbarous attack on Gaza bound aid flotilla by Israel. The Police tried to disperse participants of the rally when they reached Fawwara Chowk. The Police used baton and water cannons to scatter the rally. Despite all odds, the participants managed to reach outside the American Consulate and staged sit in there. They also threw shoes at the consulate to

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register their protest."

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News Story: US Declines To Specifically Condemn Israel - "The Nation" (06/02)

"The White House declined Tuesday to specifically condemn Israel for its raid on humanitarian flotilla but said it showed Middle East peace moves were now needed more than ever."

News Story: Pakistan Navy Inducts Two U.S.-Provided Maritime Patrol Aircraft - "Jang," "Ausaf," "Express," "Jinnah," "Nawa-e-Waqt," (06/02)

"In an induction ceremony held today at PNS Mehran, Karachi, U.S. and Pakistani officials commemorated the delivery of two P-3C Orion maritime patrol aircraft to the Government of Pakistan from the United States. The aircraft will enhance the Pakistan Navy's maritime patrol operations."

News Story: Centre And Sindh Reach Accord On VAT - "Dawn" (06/02)

"In a major development, the federal and Sindh governments have reached a broad agreement on value added tax (VAT) under which the province will get the power to impose tax on all services but will delegate its authority to the federation to make collection on eight categories."

News Story: Plan For US Consulate In Quetta Opposed - "Dawn" (06/02)

"A veto by the country's security agencies looks to have sealed the fate of the US plans to establish a consulate in Quetta. 'The security establishment has strong reservations about the proposed American consulate in the capital of Balochistan and has not given the required clearance,' a senior official told Dawn on Tuesday. Although a final decision by Islamabad is still awaited, it's evident that a nod is highly unlikely after strong opposition by the security agencies, which fear that the diplomatic facility may be used as an intelligence base in the province. The US had recently sought the government's approval for setting up a consulate in Quetta. 'We are awaiting their response. We made the request by diplomatic note to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs,' U.S. embassy spokesman Richard Snelsire told Dawn."

News Story: No One Can Afford Indo-Pak Tensions: US - "Daily Times" (06/02)

"The US on Tuesday pledged to pursue close relations with Pakistan and India as a senior US diplomat reaffirmed Washington's desire for better ties between the two South Asian countries since 'nobody can

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afford resurgence of tensions between the US and its neighbor-armed neighbors'. 'Of course the US attaches considerable importance to relations with Pakistan, but those relations do not come at the expense of India. We refuse to accept the notion that somehow we can have strong relations with only one country in South Asia at a time,' Under Secretary of State for Political Affairs Bill Burns said, as Washington and New Delhi prepared for this week's strategic dialogue."

News Story: Pak Suspect Freed Pending Chile Probe- "Daily Times"
(06/02)

"A Pakistani man has been freed from detention in Chile pending an investigation into how and why traces of explosive were found on him when he visited the US embassy in Santiago, officials said on Tuesday. Mahuhannas Saifur Rehnab Khan, 28, was released from a 120-day detention period in a high-security prison imposed on him two weeks ago when his probation was revoked on appeal. He will be required to remain in Santiago and confirm his presence every two weeks under the terms of his release, court officials told AFP."

TERRORISM/MILITARY ISSUES

News Story: Israeli Govt Treats International Law With Disdain: UN
- "Dawn" (06/02)

"Muslim nations on Tuesday angrily condemned Israel's 'heinous attack' on a Gaza aid flotilla and demanded an international probe at an emergency session of the UN Human Rights Council in Geneva. 'These murderous attacks are characteristic tools used by Israel to derail every peaceful effort and silence every voice of moderation and reason,' Pakistan's ambassador Zamir Akram told the council on behalf of the Organization of the Islamic Conference (OIC)."

News Story: Al-Qaeda Number Three Killed In NWA Drone Attack - "The News" (06/02)

"Pakistani security officials and the Taliban believe that al-Qaeda's No three and a close aide to Osama bin Laden, Mustafa Ahmad Mohammad Uthman Abu al-Yazeed, also known as Sheikh Saeed al-Misri, was among the 10 people killed in the US drone attack on May 21 at Saidabad village of Dattakhel subdivision in North Waziristan tribal region."

News Story: Al Qaeda Says Its Top Leader Yazid Dead - "Dawn"
(06/02)

"Al Qaeda said its number three leader and Osama bin Laden's one-time treasurer Mustafa Abu Al-Yazid had been killed along with close relatives, in what would be a major blow to the terror

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network. US monitoring groups said ~~UNCLASSIFIED~~ ^{UNCLASSIFIED} ~~UNCLASSIFIED~~, who was the leader of Al Qaeda in Afghanistan and its liaison with the Taliban for three years, was announced by the group in a message to jihadi websites on Monday."

News Story: US Confirms Death - "Dawn" (06/02)

"The White House confirmed on Tuesday that a US drone strike has killed a top Al Qaeda leader. Al Qaeda said in a statement published on Monday that a senior figure in the movement had been killed by an American missile in Pakistan's tribal areas. The statement identified the militant as Mustafa Abu Al-Yazid, an Egyptian who "was a top financial chief" for Al Qaeda as well as one of the group's founders."

News Story: Army Declares Victory In Orakzai - "Dawn" (06/02)

"The army declared victory over militants in Orakzai Agency on Tuesday and said that the military operation in the area had been completed and civilians could expect to return home soon. The announcement about the operation's end was contained near the end of a short press release describing a visit to Orakzai and neighboring Kurram tribal regions by Chief of Army Staff Gen Ashfaq Parvez Kayani."

News Story: Punjab Ignoring CID Report On Terror Groups- "Dawn" (06/02)

"The Shahbaz Sharif government appears to be reluctant to take action against the banned sectarian and Jihadi organizations operating in Punjab in spite of evidence that these may have been involved in many terrorist attacks in the province recently and may have strong links with the Tehrik-i-Taliban Pakistan (TTP). The Sharif government's unwillingness to deal with the growing menace of terrorism in the province, including its southern districts, is in defiance of the evaluation by its own counter-terrorism agencies. A recent secret document based on data collected in south Punjab finds that a number of banned groups are carrying out a 'sustained drive' to recruit fresh cadre from among the "poverty stricken, illiterate and unemployed" youth in the region."

News Story: COAS Seeks Tribal Elders' Help For Peace - "The News" (06/02)

"Chief of the Army Staff (COAS) General Ashfaq Parvez Kayani on Tuesday visited the Kurram and Orakzai agencies and assured the tribal elders that security forces would extend to them all-out support in establishing peace across the tribal belt."

News Story: 18 Militants Killed In Orakzai Blitz - "The News"

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"Eighteen militants were killed and six others sustained injuries when jet fighters blitzed two hideouts of militants in Tari and Kot Killay areas in upper Tehsil of Orakzai Agency on Tuesday, tribal and official sources said."

News Story: Taliban Blow Up Girls' School In Mohmand - "Daily Times" (06/02)

"Pro-Taliban militants on Tuesday blew up a government school for girls and a health centre at Khushal Kally in Mohmand Agency, while three people were killed in different incidents, officials said."

News Story: Shops, Primary School, NATO Tankers Targeted In Quetta- "Daily Times" (06/02)

"At least eight people were injured in an explosion on Tuesday in the busy commercial area of Hub Industrial Township. Official sources said unidentified assailants on a motorcycle, hurled a hand grenade at a clothes shop located in the busy Rind Market of Hub town."

News Story: Taliban Hideouts Targeted In Landikotal- "Daily Times" (06/02)

"Security forces targeted militant hideouts at Alacha in Landikotal on Tuesday. However, the Taliban managed to flee before the military launched the attack. According to official sources, the forces attacked the hideouts of the Lashkar-e-Islam militants from Ali Masjid and Lala Kandao posts after receiving a tip-off about 60 Taliban seeking refuge in the area."

News Story: Karzai To Offer Incentives To Taliban At Jirga - "Dawn" (06/02)

"About 1,600 Afghans will convene on Wednesday in a giant tent at Kabul Polytechnic University to discuss how to reconcile with Taliban, even as the US rushes in more troops to ramp up the war. President Hamid Karzai will use the conference to roll out his program to offer economic incentives to Taliban and other fighters willing to abandon the nearly nine-year war."

POLITICAL ISSUES

News Story: Minorities Minister Promises Security For Ahmedis - "Daily Times" (06/02)

"Minorities Minister Shahbaz Bhatti on Tuesday promised "full protection" for the Ahmedi sect following Friday's attacks on two of their worship facilities that killed 93 people. Ahmedis claim the

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government does not protect them and actively discriminates against them." UNCLASSIFIED

News Story: Gilani Fires Dr Basit After SC Fiasco - "The News"
(06/02)

"Prime Minister Syed Yousuf Raza Gilani took the decision to relieve Dr Abdul Basit as the lead lawyer of the Federation on Monday night after he was briefed on his conduct in and out of the Supreme Court... He said the prime minister came to the conclusion that the continuation of Dr Basit as the lawyer of the Federation would further bring a bad name to the government and might create misunderstandings and misconceptions about it."

ECONOMY/ENVIRONMENT

News Story: New Power Tariff Hike To Be Effective From April -
"Dawn" (06/02)

"The government has made a commitment to the International Monetary Fund that power tariff, whenever increased, would be applicable with retrospective effect from April 1 this year."

News Story: State Bank Paints Gloomy Picture Of Economy - "Daily Times" (06/02)

"The State Bank of Pakistan on Tuesday painted a gloomy picture of the country's economic condition, saying the agriculture sector's growth was expected to remain below target and the fiscal deficit mark was going to be much higher than earlier estimates. The report also said that the overall external current account position would remain vulnerable."

News Story: Discharge From Attaabad Lake Increasing- "Daily Times"
(06/02)

"The discharge from the spillway of the artificial lake at Attaabad has increased to 1,000 cusecs and the inflow reached the level of 3,000 cusecs on Tuesday. According to a private TV channel, the water discharge increased from 650 cusecs to 3,000 cusecs and the water leakage level reached the level of 350 cusecs. According to sources, the melting of glaciers has contributed to the increasing of the water inflow in the lake."

News Story: Multi-Million AIDS Project In Jeopardy, Punjab Health Dept Launches Inquiry Against PACP Official For Giving Undue Favour To NGO, Health Secretary Tells WB Contract With 'Nai Zindagi' Was Terminated Over Irregularities- "Daily Times" (06/02)

"A growing rift between the Punjab Health Department and a local

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non-governmental organization may lead to the launch of a multi-million rupees project sponsored by the World Bank and UK's Department for International Development, initiated to combat AIDS in Pakistan."

EDITORIALS/OPINIONS

Editorial: Citizens' Stand, an editorial in the populist, often sensational national English daily "The News" (cir. 55,000) (06/02)

"The presence of the Taliban in southern Punjab has been known for many years, and it seems that the banning of the three principal groups -- Lashkar-e-Jhangvi, Jaish-e-Mohammad and Sipah-e-Sahaba -- has made little difference to their operational abilities. Their 'hideouts' from which they are now emerging are well-known to local and national journalists and the international media - but seemingly only very recently to our politicians and ministers. Now within a space of days they have carried out two operations in Lahore that indicate high levels of coordination and sophisticated planning. . . . The inescapable reality belatedly dawning is that the southern Punjab Taliban have the capacity to operate province-wide. There can be little doubt that there will be more attacks - an Ahmedi was stabbed to death in Narowal on Monday -- and governmental assurances as to its desire to protect minorities sound distinctly hollow. The Taliban did not appear 'as-if-by-magic' in southern Punjab, they are there courtesy of the sympathies and policies of successive governments over the last thirty years and we will not be rid of them unless the citizens act collectively to counter the tide of hatred on which fanaticism thrives."

Editorial: A Grievous Lapse, an editorial in the center-right national English daily "The Nation" (cir. 20,000) (06/02)

"The terrorist phenomenon in the province has to be thoroughly investigated to get to the truth, especially as the voices announcing the existence of militant groups in southern Punjab are getting louder. Interior Minister Rehman Malik charged the other day that it was these groups that were coming out in the open and had become active in the entire province. The charge has either to be denied with facts and figures or confirmed, and in the case of confirmation, suitably tackled."

Editorial: Punjab's Lotus-Eaters, an editorial-note in the Lahore-based liberal English language daily "Daily Times" (cir. 10,000) (06/02)

". . . . We are in the middle of a civil war and failing to understand its implications will doom us. No part of the country is safe from its nefarious outreach. Every metropolis, military as well as civilian target, mosque, playground, procession, school, etc, of

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the terrorists' choice is under threat of a special attack. It may be remembered that during the five years 2002-2007, extremist organisations flourished under the benign, protective and patronising umbrella of the Mutahidda Majlis-e-Amal (MMA) government in the then NWFP. Despite the government's stated policy of fighting militancy, we saw a swift rise of the Pakistani Taliban in FATA, which swelled and spilled into the settled areas. They decimated the pro-government tribal elders, blew up schools, beheaded 'American spies' and soon threw the entire province into blood and chaos. They reached the point where they felt themselves strong enough to challenge the state."

Opinion: Last Friday, an op-ed by Munir Attaullah in the Lahore-based liberal English language daily "Daily Times" (cir. 10,000) (06/02)

". . . Is there any doubt that the Ahmedi community is the victim of state discrimination through specific legislation, and active persecution by fanatic religious elements that the authorities turn a blind eye to?"

Opinion: New Zones For Militancy , an op-ed by Arif Ansar in the Lahore-based liberal English language daily "Daily Times" (cir. 10,000) (06/02)

". . . The emerging collaboration between the TTP and Punjabi Taliban of southern Punjab means that one cannot end the war by simply driving terrorists out of the tribal areas and that Pakistan must prepare itself to fight on several fronts. There is increasing evidence of the collusion between international terrorists and the local extremists in the region. This is extending the war against extremism into new territories, thus reinforcing the perception that it is not confined to the Pak-Afghan region alone. General Petraeus is well aware of this. Recently, the New York Times revealed that, in late 2009, he signed a secret order, which authorises special operations forces to increase their activities in both allied and hostile nations in the Middle East, Central Asia and the Horn of

Africa. This newly unveiled US national security strategy has dispensed with the limitations imposed by current international borders. The US appears to have finally reached the conclusion that if the extremists refuse to accept international borders, any effort to counter terrorism must do likewise."

Opinion: Still No Counterterrorism Strategy , an op-ed by Mosharraf Zaidi an editorial in the populist, often sensational national English daily "The News" (cir. 55,000) (06/02)

". . . . We are too self-conscious as a nation. Too beholden to mullahs on the one hand, and too dislocated from our own culture and

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context on the other. The terrorist UNCLASSIFIED were more of what has become a standard part of life in Pakistan since 2007. The TTP may be ceding ground to the Pakistani Army and the friendly skies that US drones explore on a daily basis. But they are winning the war. The longer we remain stuck in a useless ideological conversation, the more ground the TTP will gain. The most important tribute we can pay to those that were slaughtered by the TTP in Lahore is to formulate and execute a transparent and comprehensive counter-terrorism strategy. Anything less would be a continuation of the failed politics of Pakistani liberals, and the unchallenged run of success enjoyed by Pakistani fanatics."

Opinion: Victims And Victimisers, an op-ed by Rafia Zakaria in the Karachi-based center-left independent national English daily "Dawn" (cir. 55,000) (06/02)

"If the attacks on Ahmadis in Lahore last week were not horrifying enough, the ensuing debate on Pakistani talk shows and television programmes was even more chilling. While condemning the attack, it seems Pakistanis were unwilling to deal with the underlying bigotry that permits such hatred. Across the globe in the United States, on the same day as the attack in Lahore, the Manhattan Community Board in New York City voted to allow the construction of a mosque near Ground Zero despite opposition from several groups. This curious juxtaposition presents a timely illustration of ideas of American pluralism and Muslim identity brought into proximity by globalisation and migration. Can Muslims expect tolerance from western nations where they are minorities when their own nations are unwilling to apply similar concepts?"

Editorial: Pakistan And U.S. Designs, an editorial in the second-largest, nationalist Urdu daily "Nawa-i-Waqt" (cir. 150,000) (06/02)

"America has asked Pakistan to provide full data of passengers traveling to America from Pakistan, and has increased pressure in this regard.... Any unusual demand could be expected from America as if we are a slave country. First it made Pakistan take action in the tribal areas and now it has ordered us to extend the action to Islamabad, Lahore and Multan.... If an iota of self respect remains in Pakistan rulers then American aid and cooperation should be slapped on its face and Pakistan should limit the ties to mere diplomatic relations."

Editorial: A Dangerous Demand, an editorial-note in the center-right national English daily "The Nation" (cir. 20,000) (06/02)

"The US demand to Pakistan to provide information of every Pakistani travelling outside the country so as to contain terrorism is a

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matter of serious concern and must be a cause for concern. And there should be little doubt that the Americans intend to have Pakistan effectively under their thumb. . . . Islamabad must strongly resist the US pressure on passenger information. The chance that the data given to the US authorities could be used to malign innocent Pakistani travelers cannot be ruled out."

Opinion: Too Early For Euphoria , an op-ed by Shamshad Ahmad an editorial in the populist, often sensational national English daily "The News" (cir. 55,000) (06/02)

". . . Will Obama's new grand strategy undo the wrongs done by his predecessor? Only time will tell. Obama might be sincere about seeking to break with the Bush legacy, but eventually it is the unrelenting challenges of America's global outreach that will determine his actions. In alleviating Muslim grievances, President Obama must not forget 'the principle of justice to all peoples and nationalities, and their right to live on equal terms of liberty and safety with one another, whether they be strong or weak' that President Woodrow Wilson had spelt out in his famous 14-point congressional speech in January 1918."

Opinion: Possible US Strikes, an op-ed by Mahmood Shah in the Karachi-based center-left independent national English daily "Dawn" (cir. 55,000) (06/02)

". . . Let's be frank with ourselves: the US is no friend of Pakistan or Afghanistan or for that matter of the Muslim world. And anyway we have to see to our national interests which guide the country's policies. We should shun wishful thinking and pretensions. Mr Obama's latest strategic thoughts consist of some very noble ideas and sound concepts but will the US establishment implement these in letter and spirit? One appreciates the US president's vision but one is not confident that he can act upon these given the present environment. If the US carries out its threats against Pakistan as postulated by Ms Clinton then Pakistan would be the third Muslim country in a row after the invasion of Iraq and Afghanistan to have been affected in a similar manner. What will be the reaction of the Islamic world? Mind you, Pakistan is the only Muslim nuclear state."

Editorial: Israeli Terrorism On The Flotilla , an editorial in the Lahore-based liberal English language daily "Daily Times" (cir. 10,000) (06/02)

"Israel's deadly high-seas attack on the aid flotilla bound for the Gaza strip on Monday has, once again, put the spotlight on typical Zionist aggression and its complete defiance of international law. . . The attack on the flotilla is, as expressed by the Turkish Foreign

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Minister, Ahmet Davutoglu, an act of UNCLASSIFIED terrorism in Turkey. It is state-sponsored terrorism and the rest of the world now waits to see how the UN, US and the rest of the west will react, given their constant homilies on the 'war against terror'."

Editorial: Israeli Raid On Aid Flotilla, an editorial in the leading mass circulation populist, often sensational Urdu daily "Jang" (cir. 300,000) (06/02)

"The people, who are aware of the real motives behind the illegal creation of Israel, also know why Tel Aviv violated all the universal ethics and international laws in attacking the Gaza-bound aid flotilla. The patrons of Israel should use the UN forum in order to condemn this blatant aggression and to hold the perpetrator accountable for this brutal act. Their silence on this issue would expose the true nature of their tall claims about the human rights and peace in the world

Editorial: Time To Use Iron Fist Against Israel, an editorial in the popular rightist Urdu-language daily "Ausaf" (cir. 10,000) (06/02)

"The attack of the ships carrying relief goods for besieged Palestinians of the Gaza Strip has once again demonstrated that Israel is a state inhabited by pirates who only understand the language of force. They have had always killed and oppressed the weak. We think that the time is not far when the Israelis will be eating humble pie."

Editorial: Attack On Aid Flotilla: Israel's Shameful Act, an editorial in the Peshawar-based Urdu-language daily "Mashriq" (cir. 55,000) (06/02)

"The hatred against the U.S. in the world will intensify if the U.S. continues to extend its full support to Israel in the aftermath of the condemnable attack on a Gaza-bound aid fleet. Moreover, all countries should boycott Israel on every forum and, thus, prove that the international community supports peace across the globe. Besides, this shameful act of Israel has also provided an opportunity to Pakistan, Iran, and Turkey to evolve a united strategy to face the potential Israeli threat."

Editorial: Israel's Violations Of International Laws, an editorial in the liberal Urdu daily "Express" (circ. 25,000) (06/02)

"The international community's reaction against Israeli aggression is completely justified. [The Israeli action] is a result of undue support by the U.S. and other countries that support its policies - no amount of lamentation of such support is enough. If the international community wants to strengthen its stance, it will need

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to devise a strategy to stop countries from supporting Israel
unduly.

Only then will it be possible to rein it in. It is now
imperative to control Israel to protect the Palestinians rights."

Editorial: State Of Lawlessness, an editorial in the Karachi-based
center-left independent national English daily "Dawn" (cir. 55,000)
(06/02)

". . . Mr Laljee's abduction speaks volumes for the kind of power
that the country's intelligence apparatus wields in Pakistan. Such
arbitrary actions actually weaken the law, underscoring the
institutional lack of writ in Pakistan. The businessman was lucky to
have been released by his captors, in all probability because of his
links with the president. However, in a country where all are equal
before the law only in theory, what has happened to the hundreds of
missing people said to have been picked up by the agencies? What is
the fate of the common man, who has few connections in officialdom,
and who the security establishment suspects of being involved in
wrongdoing? There is virtually no guarantee of his safety and
security while in the custody of the intelligence agencies."

(All circulation figures are based on estimation)

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