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- Press Release, Essay on U.S.-Pakistan Relations, Holiday Social, Media Review -

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### *The National Interest*

## **U.S.-Pakistan Relations Must Rebalance for Today's World**

Amb. Touqir Hussain (Ret) & David Silverman

General Raheel Sharif, Pakistan's Chief of Army Staff, was in Washington last week. He arrived on the heels of Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif's visit a month earlier. The trips were independent yet related, with two different interlocutors discussing the same subjects: Afghanistan, Pakistan's ongoing operations against militants in North Waziristan and its broader anti-terror campaign, the country's nuclear program and India-Pakistan tensions.

The army wanted to convey its own perspective on these issues directly and not solely through the civilian leadership. It has been leading the response to Pakistan's security issues and felt its voice needed to be heard, believing it could better explain the security and foreign policy dynamics at the heart of the challenges facing Pakistan. Confirming the broad policy agenda of the visit, Gen. Sharif met with a number of administration officials and political leaders, including the heads of the CIA and the State and Defense Departments, as well as members of Congress.

The highlight of the visit was a meeting with Vice President Joe Biden. The White House [press release](#) said both leaders "reaffirmed their strong commitment to peace in Afghanistan and the important role that the United States and Pakistan can play to support a reinvigorated reconciliation process in coordination with Afghanistan." According to Pakistani official sources who spoke on the condition of anonymity, Gen. Sharif sought to clear up any misunderstanding or misperception in Washington about Pakistan's security and counterterrorism policies and approach to the talks with the Taliban. After having heard from the "horse's mouth," the officials felt there should be a greater clarity about where Pakistan stands. And this is what Pakistan also wanted from Washington's side: to know where it stands.

The talks focused largely on Afghanistan. Pakistan's view was that before bringing the Taliban to the negotiating table, divergent U.S. and Pakistani strategies needed to be addressed first, and the dialogue has to be Afghan-owned. According to Pakistani officials, the U.S.' force-first approach—which prioritized operations against the Taliban, as well as the Haqqani network, in order to coerce them into negotiations—might only fracture the group. This would only allow [an emergent wing of the Islamic State](#) to pick up the pieces and leave no one to talk to. Reconcilable parties must first be co-opted and talks started; then, those who want to fight must be dealt with by force. And to ensure the success of military action, there ought to be better coordination among the three intelligence agencies—the CIA, ISI and NDS—to close any escape routes.

A recent Asia Foundation survey shows [62 percent](#) of Afghans believe reconciliation with the Taliban will bring stability. But the unity government in Kabul has no unified position on this. Even if the reconciliation process starts, it will only be the first step. Afghanistan's stability, and that of the region, will require much more. It will depend on serious efforts by Afghans to strengthen their internal unity, governing institutions and state structures. These efforts will have to be backed up by a strict commitment to noninterference by regional actors, most importantly from Pakistan; that cannot come in earnest without the normalization of India-Pakistan relations and improved understanding between Afghanistan and Pakistan.

Gen. Sharif reportedly told CIA Director John Brennan that [tensions with India on its eastern borders](#) would need to be reduced in order to reinstate peace talks between the unity government in Kabul and the Taliban. Presently, India's military posture will not allow Pakistan to divert its attention or resources to Taliban safe havens, while keeping guard against India at the [Line of Control](#) (LOC). Thus far, Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi has taken a hard line with Pakistan across the board—on Kashmir, borders, regional affairs and terrorism. And according to a recent [New York Times](#) editorial, "he has done nothing to engage Islamabad on security issues, and he also bears responsibility for current tensions."

There is a natural concern here in Washington about the growing nuclear program in Pakistan. Reportedly, Pakistan defended the program as a response to the Indian defense posture, assuring the U.S. that they do not plan to escalate unless India does.

The region is complex, and peace is indivisible. It has been said that India and Pakistan are no longer hyphenated in the eyes of U.S. policymakers. But it is increasingly clear that the South Asian neighbors, along with Afghanistan, are enclosed within the same brackets in some ways, irrespective of their size and national strength. How so? The U.S.' relationship with one state demonstrably affects intra-regional relations. The U.S.-India nuclear deal and the Asia-Pacific rebalance, for example, may have contributed to closer China-Pakistan ties and the hardening of all sides' positions.

For stability in Afghanistan and the broader region, and for the achievable peace that is possible thereafter, conscientious action and shared responsibility is required from all stakeholders, both local and remote. This will require America's continued regional engagement, in a form different from that of the past.

The past U.S. approach will not work because the region is no longer the same. China has emerged, India is rising and Afghanistan hovers between tumult and stability, while Pakistan struggles to reinvent itself. The U.S. can no longer restrict its interests to drone-driven counterterrorism only. It must find a policy that addresses the linkages in South Asia. It has much larger interests at stake, requiring a solid and enduring regional engagement to maintain a broader influence.

For the first time, the U.S. has positive and important relationships with all three countries. While Washington cannot treat each country equally, it should endeavor to treat them fairly. The U.S. would be best served by taking care to advance its relations with each state in a way that does not negatively impact intra-regional relations or harms U.S. regional interests. Above all, U.S.-Pakistan

relations must be stabilized.

Historically, the U.S.-Pakistan relationship has served the two countries' critical interests, but not without a cost to each. The trade-off was acceptable until America's post-9/11 re-engagement with Pakistan became entangled with a grinding, unpopular war that created problems, contrary interests and distrust on both sides. The relationship came to rest on the narrowest of common interests and public support. Since Prime Minister Sharif's first visit to Washington in October 2013, there has been a slow but positive reversal in relations. And now, with the second visit of General Sharif, there are grounds for optimism.

In a town where foreign policy is a ceaseless work in progress, and where Pakistan's friends seem temporary and its enemies permanent, only time will tell if we have heard the last word on the General's visit. But for now, the signs are positive.

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The original publication can be found [here](#).  
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*Touqir Hussain, a former Ambassador and Diplomatic Adviser to the Prime Minister of Pakistan, is Adjunct Professor at Georgetown University and SAIS Johns Hopkins University, where he is also Senior Pakistan Visiting Fellow. He writes on South Asian security issues, Iran, and Afghanistan.*

*David Silverman is an Associate Consultant at Manhattan Strategy Group. He has a Master's degree in Asian Studies from the Elliott School of International Affairs at George Washington University.*

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Registration and tax-deductible donations can be made through our website: [www.induspk.org](http://www.induspk.org)



#INDUSPK



## Holiday Social held at the Argyle Country Club in Silver Spring, MD

INDUS - Mobilizing People's Power hosted a holiday social on December 5 at the Argyle Country Club in Silver Spring, MD. Members of the INDUS Board of Directors, Academia, AdvoPak, and community members were present.



The meeting commenced with an opening presentation by Mr. Bilal Amin, Director of Membership and Administration. INDUS President Athar Javaid, speaking next, thanked the guests for their support and also welcomed members of AdvoPak, a DC-based group of young Pakistani-American professionals active in community outreach and social welfare activities in Pakistan. Mr. Javaid then joined the attendees in two minutes of silence to honor the victims of the San Bernardino shooting before inviting the assembled to speak from the podium and exchange their views on the tragedy.

This was followed by formation of a sub-committee, headed by Mr. Shahid Mahmud, Director of Projects, and Mr. Arif Sattar of NEDA-DC. The sub-committee was tasked with drafting a joint press release from various DC area communities to express the sentiments of the Pakistani-American community over the San Bernardino tragedy and to outline a future course of action. (The joint press release, initiated and organized by INDUS, is in the adjoining text box.)

An award winning documentary Veils & Walls, filmed by four Pakistani women reporters, was screened for the audience - courtesy Ms. Zaineb Majoka of AdvoPak

The meeting thanked Mr. Bilal Amin and Ms. Zaineb Majoka for their dedicated efforts in making this event a success.



Attendees enjoyed networking, speaking with members of INDUS - Mobilizing People's Power Academia, and a sumptuous holiday lunch.

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**INDUS – MOBILIZING PEOPLE’S POWER  
INITIATED & ORGANIZED COMMUNITIES  
PRESS RELEASE  
“WE ARE AMERICANS FIRST”**

WASHINGTON, DC -- Friday December 11, 2015: In a historic joint meeting, the leadership of several prominent Pakistani professional and cultural organizations issued a unanimous statement to condemn the barbaric murder of innocent citizens in San Bernardino, California and pledged their support to vigorously defend and work with the government to protect American lives.

“As community leaders, we have a role to play, and we are here to fulfill the obligations of the oath that we took when we became citizens of this great country,” said Syed Mehdi Kamal, President of NED Alumni Association of Washington DC (NEDA-DC).

“We are Americans first before anything else. Our children are born here; we live and will die here, we employ thousands of Americans across the country, we defend America by serving in the armed forces, we are engineers, doctors, poets, writers, businessmen, mothers, fathers, and ordinary citizens, playing our role in the community. We are the best defense against ignorance and radicalization,” said Mr. Javed Qamer, President, Organization of Pakistani Entrepreneurs of North America (OPEN), Washington DC Chapter.

The group spokesman, Mr. Arif Sattar, noted, “No country has suffered more or sacrificed more than Pakistan, who got pulled into the radicalization of young men and women when tens of thousands of Madrassa school recruitment centers were formed during General Zia’s regime with foreign funds. We have to honestly examine the facts and root causes of radicalization and fix them. As Americans we are here to help against all internal and external threats.”

Traditionally, national Muslim associations have made such public statements on behalf of the Muslim community: “It is time for the professional organizations, poets, writers, musicians, and intellectuals to not remain silent anymore. We are here to stand and fight with our nation against senseless murder, ignorance, bigotry and the politics of fear,” said Mr. Ashraf Jan of University of Karachi Alumni Association (UKAA).

The group agreed to find ways to enhance awareness and to proactively communicate with the community in monitoring and working with law enforcement as necessary. “Muslims in US should own the responsibility of fostering community activities and inter-personal relations that will detect and help early alleviation of signs of isolation, abnormal behavior and radicalization among young members of the community”, emphasized Mr. Athar Javaid, President of INDUS. The meeting was hosted through the platform of INDUS, a Washington DC based think tank and advocacy group.

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***INDUS, Mobilizing People’s Power, is a Washington DC based Think Tank and advocacy group dedicated to a progressive, politically stable Pakistan and strong US-Pakistan bilateral relations working with several prominent Washington DC Think Tanks and Academia.***

***This joint statement was released by officers and members of the following organizations:***

***NEDA-DC; a local chapter representing over two thousand alumni of NED University of Engineering and Technology in North America***

***OPEN DC; a local chapter representing Pakistani entrepreneurs in North America***

***UKAA; Karachi University Alumni Association has more than thousand alumni in***

**Washington DC**

***Pakistani American Association of Greater Washington, Inc., is to "Promote goodwill, understanding and fellowship among Pakistani-Americans and community at large."***

## MEDIA REVIEW

### **The Ahmadi Conundrum in Pakistan**

*Saima Baig*

"Pakistan will not be able to get rid of any of its issues, especially those related to terrorism, if the mindset of its people does not see an absolute overhaul." The ongoing mistreatment of the Ahmadiyya, who were declared non-Muslims by Pakistan in 1974, is a case study in government failure. "Unless this is changed, nothing else will." [\[Huffington Post\]](#)

### **Pakistan Military Deals a Blow to Jihadists but Not to Ideology**

*Rob Nordland*

Cellphone coverage was blocked during a recent sermon of Maulana Abdul Aziz, the infamous Lal Masjid cleric. Such a tactic "raises questions about how effective any military-only campaign against militancy can be in the long term" so long as ordinary citizens continue to buy in to radical notions and conspiracy theories. The ideological threat still needs to be addressed. [\[NYT\]](#)

### **Pakistan Army helped revive talks with India**

A Reuters report says this month's surprise meeting in Lahore between Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Pakistani Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif was facilitated by the military's "ownership" of peace talks and the appointment of Naseer Khan Janjua, a recently retired general, as the national security adviser. The new dynamics have given Pakistan the "renewed confidence to restart dialogue with India, including speaking about the thorny issue of terrorism." [\[Tribune\]](#)

### **Quaid-e-Azam M.A. Jinnah Drew Inspiration From Prophet Mohammad's Life**

*Riaz Haq*

The contents of Misaq-e-Madina, Islam's first constitution approved by Prophet Mohammad (PBUH) 1400 years ago, appear to have inspired Quaid-e-Azam Mohammad Ali Jinnah's vision of a pluralistic Pakistan where people of all religions and nationalities live in harmony with equal rights and protections under the law. [\[Haq's Musings\]](#)

### **Meet the Muslim Woman Awarded US Professor of the Year**

*Hasnaa Mokhtar*

Dr. Amina El-Ashmawy, a chemistry expert at Collin College, was named the 2015 U.S. Professor of the Year by the Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching and the Council for Advancement and Support of Education (CASE). [\[Muslim Girl\]](#)

### **Bureaucracy-generated carbon footprint**

*Naeem Sadiq*

In addition to the frustration of Pakistani citizens, the incompetence of government offices also causes the needless consumption of energy resources and the emission of greenhouse gases and other pollutants. [\[Tribune\]](#)

### **Stop worrying about Trump**

*Ali Jehanzeb*

Pakistan's treatment of Ahmadi should be remembered when presidential candidate Donald Trump suggests outrageous U.S. policies, such as "a complete shutdown" of Muslims from entering the country. "Maybe the outcry should be towards the lack of support for our fellow

Pakistanis, since this view is not dissimilar to how we treat our minorities". [\[Daily Times\]](#)

## OUR FOCUS

### **Youth Leadership Development**

Creating campus-based, strictly nonpolitical Student Government Associations that offer Executive, Legislative & Judiciary functions experience within the campus environment. Elected student representatives, as Members of Parliament, Senators and judges manage all aspects of student affairs, in conjunction with campus administration.

### **Pakistan Civil Liberties Union**

Civil liberties are personal guarantees and freedoms that the government cannot abridge, either by law or by judicial interpretation. However in today's Pakistan, rising violence, intolerance, weak rule of law, endemic corruption, lack of social and economic justice, and religious freedom, social exclusion of the vulnerable and the marginalized are a common phenomenon that the people of Pakistan face on a daily basis. Pakistan Civil Liberties Union – PCLU is a watchdog organization intended to combat all the above issues at every cross section of our society.

### **Communities' Integration – Homeland, USA**

Promoting, protecting, and enhancing the cherished American Dream and American Ideals.

### **Policy Research – As It Happens**

Campus-based political and social sciences research. Graduate Student and Faculty focusing on policy issues for possible social, cultural, and political reform, followed by advocacy action and awareness creation by the same researchers for the purposes of legislative reform as appropriate.

### **Cultivating Early Awareness**

Aimed at increasing youngsters' awareness of rights and responsibilities of citizenship, and building a national bond at a very impressionable age, leading to real benefits to the nation in evolving future leadership.

*As always, thank you for reading, and thank you for your efforts. If you have questions or comments, or desire to participate in any way, please don't hesitate to contact us at [induspk.usa@gmail.com](mailto:induspk.usa@gmail.com).*

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