

[Subscribe](#)[Share ▼](#)[Past Issues](#)[Translate](#)[View this email in your browser](#)

Dedicated to Democratic Ideals, a progressive and politically stable Pakistan, and strong US-Pakistan relations.

www.induspk.org

May Contents:

1. Touqir Hussain: Is the US abandoning Pakistan (again)?
2. Community Integration: "Extinction"
3. Q&A with Mr. Aoun Sahi, Pulitzer-winning journalist & INDUS supporter
4. Our Focus
5. Media Review



Like INDUS on Facebook



Follow INDUS on Twitter

Is the United States Abandoning Pakistan (Again)?

The answer is not as simple as some are making it out to be.

Amb. Touqir Hussain (Ret.)

June 1, 2016 - The U.S. drone strike that killed Taliban leader Mullah Mansour comes during a period of testing times in U.S.-Pakistan relations. Yet in order to get a clear sense of the true state of the bilateral relationship and its broader implications, one needs to take a closer look at the dynamics underway.

The headline-grabbing event cited as being emblematic of the downturn in U.S.-Pakistan relations is Congressional opposition to the sale of eight F-16s to Pakistan that had been

brewing since April, related partly to concerns about its impact on U.S.-India relations as well as growing unhappiness about the terrorist attacks in Afghanistan by the Haqqani network. Pakistan was finally informed early May that the U.S. Congress would allow the sale but not help with the funding as earlier promised. That was significant as it meant that Pakistan would have to pay the entire amount of about \$700 million from its own resources. Islamabad [rejected the idea](#).

The U.S. House of Representatives confirmed this when it passed the National Defense Authorization Act 2017 on May 17 that included restrictions on military aid for Pakistan. It blocked \$430 million that were to finance the sale of F-16s under the Foreign Military Financing (FMF) unless Pakistan took action against the Haqqani network. The Senate version included similar restrictions.

In Pakistan, the Congressional action ignited memories of the Pressler Amendment, the 1985 law under which all economic and security assistance to Pakistan including the supply of F-16 planes for which Pakistan had already made the payment was terminated in 1990 (The aid was not revived till the U.S. reengagement with Pakistan after 9/11).

Understandably, recent Congressional actions have led some Pakistanis to fear that the two countries might be headed for another periodic downturn in relations. The fear has been compounded by the drone strike against Mullah Mansour that crossed many red lines – it was the first drone attack outside the FATA area and it was against a Taliban political leader, not a declared terrorist, and one whose complete freedom of movement indicated full support of the government of Pakistan. U.S. President Barack Obama has threatened more such strikes if necessary.

These developments raise the question as to whether the United States may be walking away from Pakistan yet again and relying instead on its military power to degrade the Taliban strength at the expense of relations with Pakistan as it extricates from the Afghanistan war. While there is no simple answer to this complex question, a better understanding of history may help us assess where both sides really are today.

A closer look suggests that history is not really repeating itself in U.S.-Pakistan relations in the way some think it is. Analogies to the previous downturn in bilateral ties ignore some critical differences that may tell us more than the similarities. For instance, when Washington walked away last time, it walked away from the region, not just from Pakistan. This time it is heavily invested in the region as South Asia has changed beyond recognition, presenting economic, strategic and security opportunities, threats and challenges. Several triangular relationships are emerging in South Asia—the United States, India and China; the United States, India and Pakistan; the United States, Pakistan and Afghanistan; China, Pakistan and Afghanistan; and a prospective Russia, Iran and India axis. The U.S. relationship with Pakistan gives Washington a place in all of them.

As Special U.S. Representative to Pakistan and Afghanistan Richard Olson said in a Congressional testimony on April 27, "Pakistan is strategically vital, due to its role in issues that matter to us, as well as its location at the crossroads of Afghanistan, India, China, and Iran. American national interests require that [we stay engaged](#) as Pakistan charts its long-term future."

Olson is not alone in his assessment. Earlier this week, the U.S. Senate Armed Services Committee noted that "Pakistan has been a long-standing strategic partner of the United States" and expressed its desire to continue a ["strong and enduring"](#) relationship between the two countries.

If the United States clearly recognizes Islamabad's importance, what explains the F-16s dispute and the strike against an apparent protégé of Pakistan? With respect to the F-16s, the Obama administration appears to be acquiescing to the Congressional action because it is finding that political battles are getting ever harder to fight for Pakistan as its public image in the United States – a key driver of Congressional perceptions – has eroded significantly.

Yet at the same time, the administration clearly recognizes that Pakistan cannot be ignored either: it has an important role in facilitating or complicating the advancement of U.S. interests in the future. As Ambassador Olson had said in the same testimony "Pakistan is critical to a negotiated settlement to the conflict in Afghanistan; strategic stability in the subcontinent; countering violent extremism; and defeating terrorists that threaten the U.S. and the region." The Obama administration thus does not want to abandon Pakistan.

Some have suggested that the administration may be experimenting with a new approach to U.S.-Pakistan relations: rather than continuing with a past policy of alternating between periods of engagement and isolation, it may have decided to more strategically fuse engagement and containment and use aid as a leverage to more adroitly influence Pakistan's actions. In other words: Washington is sending Islamabad a signal that while it can take the F-16s, if it wants the funding for them it will also need to meet certain demands.

The demands largely focus on the Taliban issue. Pakistan was expected to bring the Taliban to the negotiating table but it failed. It was then asked to take action against the insurgents operating from its territory but it failed here too. So Pakistan has been clearly told by a frustrated Washington and an angry Kabul that it simply cannot have it both ways. Pakistan has come under enormous pressure lately both from the Afghan government and the United States, especially Congress. The drone strike may yet be another move by Washington following closely on the heels of the dispute over F-16s to put a squeeze on Pakistan.

More likely, however, is the possibility that Pakistan may have acquiesced in the drone strike to release some of this twin pressure from the United States and Afghanistan by passing it on to the Taliban. In this way, Pakistan thus enhances its leverage against the Taliban by moving closer to Washington and also keeps U.S.-Pakistan relations on an even keel. The bottom line is that if Pakistan wants better ties with the United States, it has to do a little more to accommodate U.S. interests. Pakistan may have finally realized that and begun to act on it.

The key question, though, is how far Islamabad will go. Specifically, will Pakistan finally change its approach towards the Taliban? In the past, Pakistan has always prioritized its own national interests on this question, even sometimes at the cost of American aid. The big question now is whether Pakistan has at long last begun to realize that a change in its Taliban policy is indeed in its national interest.

As for Washington, it has to realize Pakistan should not be expected to compensate for the failures of U.S. policies. It is not sanctuaries in Pakistan alone that have caused the failure of the Afghanistan war, but a range of factors including America's own missteps. Following from that, actions against sanctuaries may not help, and furthermore could potentially create more problems than they solve. The fundamental issue affecting the American interests in the region is Pakistan-Afghanistan relations and the internal dynamics of both countries. And that is not going to be resolved any time soon, and certainly not by drone strikes.

Touqir Hussain, a former Ambassador and Diplomatic Adviser to the Prime Minister of Pakistan, teaches at Georgetown and Johns Hopkins University.

The original article, published by The Diplomat, is available [here](#).



INDUS Newsletter - May



Share



Tweet



Forward

Community Integration & Civic Promotion

Promoting the concept of citizenship, and highlighting pathways to achieve the “American Dream.”

When successful, community integration and civic promotion begin with the individual and then advance collectively, usually through socialization with informal groups and professional and cultural associations and with the support of Federal, State, and municipal programs. However, due to regional, organizational, and programmatic differences, the catalytic potential of civil society organizations often goes underutilized. Such organizations have the capability, as well as a responsibility, to enhance the process of community integration and identify supplemental methods and frameworks to advance government and nongovernmental efforts to integrate new communities within American society.

INDUS — Mobilizing People's Power convened several local associations in January 2016, highlighting this need. We are pleased to announce the Community Integration & Civic Promotion program. It is our effort to facilitate and deepen community integration, promote the concept of U.S. citizenship, and highlight pathways to realize the “American Dream.”

It is our endeavor to promote inter- and intra-community peace and understanding, combat extremism, and promote tolerance. As a continuation of this effort, we recently sponsored and collaborated in the production of "EXTINCTION" -- a fictional short film directed by Iram Parveen Bilal [JOSH; THE PHD MOVIE], written by Dylan Ramsey and produced by Bilal, Ramsey, and Joy Ganes. The film focuses on protecting the rights of minority groups and cultivating an environment conducive to their social integration with mainstream American society -- thereby strengthening and emboldening their pursuit of the American dream: life, liberty and pursuit of happiness for all. INDUS plans to collaborate with the producers to screen this film at National Endowment for Humanities, National Endowment for Arts, and US Institute of Peace in Washington, D.C..



Mr. Aoun Abbas Sahi is an INDUS Strong supporter and Associate since 2014.

Q&A: PULITZER-WINNING TEAM MEMBER, PEARL FELLOW AOUN SAHI

(Source: *Alfred Friendly Press Partners*. The interview is available [here](#))

Aoun Sahi, a Daniel Pearl Fellow in 2010, became a regular contributor to the Los Angeles Times after he returned to Pakistan, writing stories about terrorism, politics and other big news in his native country.

Then one day in early December, he got an urgent call from his editor at the Times: A Pakistani woman and her husband had gone on a shooting rampage at his workplace holiday party in San Bernardino, killing 14 people and wounding two dozen others.

His editor's question: What can we find out about this woman, Tashfeen Malik, and where she came from?

So began Aoun's involvement in reporting on an act of domestic terrorism. The Los

Angeles Times covered the story so extensively that its staff won the 2016 Pulitzer Prize for Breaking News Reporting. In an email interview with Sahar Majid, an Alfred Friendly staff member, Aoun talked about how the most challenging part of the reporting was to persuade Malik's family members to talk to him.

[READ MORE: Q&A: Pulitzer-winning team member, Pearl Fellow Aoun Sahi](#)

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.

Community Integration & Civic Promotion

When successful, the processes of community integration and civic promotion begin with the individual and, alongside support from Federal, State, and municipal programs, advance collectively, often through socialization with informal groups and professional and cultural associations. However, due to regional, organizational, and programmatic differences, the catalytic potential of civil society organizations is underutilized. Partnerships with local, regional, and national civil society organizations will advance community integration, promote the concept of citizenship, and highlight pathways to achieve the "American Dream."

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.

MEDIA REVIEW

The drop scene of US-Pakistan relations

Naveed Ahmad

This article analyzes the implications of the recent Congressional decision to sell Pakistan eight fighter jets only if the Pakistani government will pay full price for the aircraft. [[Tribune](#)]

A fascinating map of the world's most and least racially tolerant countries

Max Fisher

An analysis of data from the World Values Survey shows that "Pakistan is a remarkably tolerant country. Although the country has a number of factors that coincide with racial intolerance – sectarian violence, its location in the least-tolerant region of the world, low economic and human development indices – only 6.5 percent of Pakistanis objected to a neighbor of a different race. This would appear to suggest Pakistanis are more racially tolerant than even the Germans or the Dutch." [[WaPo](#)]

Sticks And Carrots: Elusive Quest For Afghan Peace – Analysis

Kriti M. Shah

The author analyzes the recently signed draft peace agreement between the Afghan government and Gulbuddin Hekmatyar's Hezb-e-Islami group. She argues that "the peace deal with Hezb-e-Islami will not directly affect the security situation or influence the Taliban to negotiate peace, but will instead set a precedent and baseline on which future negotiations will be based. The government must therefore ensure that it is successfully able to provide Hekmatyar and Hezb-e-Islami with greater incentives for peace than for war." [[EurasiaReview](#)]

Teaching Intolerance in Pakistan: Religious Bias in Public School Textbooks

United States Commission on International Religious Freedom (USCRIF)

"A new study of Pakistani public school textbooks, which reach over 41 million children, found that these textbooks negatively portray religious minorities and signal that these minorities are untrustworthy and inferior." The study was sponsored by USCRIF and conducted by The Peace and Education Foundation, a Pakistan-based NGO. The full report from the study is available as a [PDF](#). More information on the report is available in the press release: [[USCRIF.Gov](#)]

The sordid saga of FC corruption

Abbas Nasir

The action ordered by the army chief against six officers for offences committed during their tenures in the Balochistan Frontier Corps generated considerable debate in Pakistan. Some commentators have lauded the military action while others have questioned why the offenders were allowed to keep their pensions, medical benefits and were not jailed. [[Dawn](#)]

Sharifovs in Wonderland

Ayaz Amir

Ayaz Amir gives his take on the recent Panama Paper leaks and their impact on Prime Minister Sharif and his family. [[TheNews](#)]

Muslim Scouts pursue an American tradition — in an America wary of Muslims

David Montgomery

The author explains how “being a Scout and a Muslim in the age of Trump has been like building a campsite on unsteady ground.” He showcases the Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts based at the All Dulles Area Muslim Society (ADAMS) Center, in Sterling, VA, who’ve pursued public service projects and earned badges amidst rising Islamophobia. [[WaPo](#)]

Is it science or theology?

Pervez Hoodbhoy

Dr. Hoodbhoy analyzes Pakistani science textbooks and curriculum and argues that matters of faith must be separated from matters of science for the country to prosper. [[Dawn](#)]

Memories of F-16s

Khurram Husain

“The recent refusal of Congress to sanction funds from the Foreign Military Financing (FMF) programme to help pay a large part of the cost of buying eight new F-16 fighter planes has stoked memories of the late 1980s.” However, it is important for the Pakistani government to recognize the “weak and narrow foundations” upon which it has built its relationship with the US. “Perhaps it is time to think about investing in other sources of strength besides military hardware.” [[Dawn](#)]

Nuclear Pakistan has destabilising effects: US expert

“Nuclear weapons in Pakistan’s hands have ‘corrosively destabilising’ effects in the region and provide a license for the country’s sub-conventional wars against India, a top American expert has said.” [[IndianExpress](#)]

How \$100m Muslim centre is building bridges in the US amid Islamophobic climate

Samanth Subramanian

“Even as Republican presidential candidates create acrimony towards Muslims, a new US\$100 million Islamic community centre – the largest in the United States – is trying to build stronger ties between people of different faiths.” [[TheNational](#)]

17 Interesting Things You Probably Didn’t Know About the Mughals

Mariam Saeed Khan

The author explores some interesting facts and stories one would be hard pressed to find in a history book. For one, many were well-regarded artists. [[MangoBaaz](#)]

Eight-year-old whizz-kid can solve class 10 math

Yusra Salim

The article tells Saadus Salam Khan’s story from battling a speech impairment to becoming a math prodigy. At the age of eight he has tested in the 98th percentile in an IQ test administered by the Institute of Clinical Psychology at Karachi University and can solve math problems well above his grade level. [[Tribune](#)]

9 Year Old Zymal Umer is the Youngest Social Entrepreneur from Pakistan

Aadil Shadman

This article charts a nine-year-old girl's journey to make Sargodha a greener and more eco-friendly city and how she inadvertently became the youngest social entrepreneur in Pakistan. "Despite being so young, she already has three years of social work experience. Zymal recently received the Prince Abdul Aziz Award for Children Pioneer / Ecopreneur Award in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia. She was also awarded TIE youngest entrepreneurship award and received a gold medal from the Federal Secretary of Education." [[ProPakistani](#)]

Science says parents of successful kids have these 13 things in common

Rachel Gillet and Drake Baer

The authors expand upon the ways parents can set their children up for future success. First on the list: make kids do chores. [[TechInsider](#)]

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.

Registration and tax-deductible donations can be made through our website: www.induspk.org



Copyright © 2016 INDUS - Mobilizing People's Power, All rights reserved.

[unsubscribe from this list](#) [update subscription preferences](#)

MailChimp