

Trumpeting Hostility Toward Pakistan

By <u>Stephen Lendman</u> Global Research, January 03, 2018 Region: <u>Asia</u>, <u>USA</u> Theme: <u>Intelligence</u>, <u>US NATO War Agenda</u> In-depth Report: <u>PAKISTAN</u>

Featured image: Prime Minister Shahid Khaqan Abbasi (Source: India Today)

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Post-9/11, Bush/Cheney deputy secretary of state Richard Armitage warned then-Pakistani **president Musharraf** his country would be "bombed back to the stone age" if he didn't ally with Washington's imperial agenda – its war OF terror, not on it.

It was an offer he couldn't refuse, costing Pakistan threefold or more than it got in US aid, given solely to serve its imperial interests.

Assistance given should help both countries. One analyst called Washington's strategic relationship with Pakistan "muddled, deceptive, complicated and dangerous" – pre-and-post-9/11, especially in its aftermath.

Aid has gone largely to its military and Inter-Services Intelligence Directorate (ISI) to help America's war OF terror – massacring civilians and causing vast destruction on the phony pretext of combating terrorism.

The bilateral relationship harms Pakistan more than helping it. Straightaway in the new year, Trump tweeted:

"The United States has foolishly given Pakistan more than 33 billion dollars in aid over the last 15 years, and they have given us nothing but lies & deceit, thinking of our leaders as fools."

"They give safe haven to the terrorists we hunt in Afghanistan, with little help. No more!"

In response to Trump's insult, Pakistani **Prime Minister Shahid Khaqan Abbasi** convened an emergency cabinet meeting.

America's ambassador **David Hale** was summoned to explain Trump's hostile remarks. Last week, Pakistan's Senate passed a resolution, calling for Islamabad to demand compensation from Washington for slaughter and destruction caused by US drone attacks on its territory –

largely killing civilians.

PM Abbasi and other Pakistani officials are well aware of Trump's loosened combat restrictions, delegating authority to hawkish generals and field commanders, letting them operate unrestrained.

According to Reprieve human rights lawyer **Jen Gibson**, Pakistan is heavily pressured to served US interests. Pakistani **Defense Minister Khurram Dastagir** slammed Washington, saying US administrations "have given us nothing but invective and mistrust. They overlook cross-border safe havens of terrorists who murder Pakistanis."

In early December, Pakistan's air force chief **Marshal Sohail Aman** addressed the issue of his country's security, saying

"(w)e will protect the sovereignty of the country at any cost."

He warned Washington its drones operating in Pakistani airspace without permission will be shot down.

Senate Foreign Affairs Committee chairman **Nuzhat Sadiq** said

"(i)t is the policy of the government not to allow any more US drone strikes on our soil, and the air chief has effectively conveyed it to the Americans."

She indicated foreign policy changes in bilateral relations with Washington are coming.

Post-9/11, US drones killed thousands of Pakistani nationals, largely civilians, according to the Bureau of Investigative Journalism.

Retired General Talat Masood warned that

"the superpower is not going to digest this change in policy easily."

Foreign Minister Khawaja Asif slammed Trump, tweeting:

"We will reveal the truth to the entire world. We will separate fact from fiction."

He accused Washington of aiding terrorists, not combatting them.

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