

UN Rep Slams Pakistan Over Attacks

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By Ahmed Rashid/Kabul

The UN secretary general's special representative for Afghanistan has taken a parting shot at Pakistan for its failure to deal with residents carrying out cross-border attacks in Afghanistan. Members and supporters of the deposed Taliban regime residing in Pakistan have been blamed for the deaths of hundreds of Afghan soldiers, civilians and aid workers in southern and eastern Afghanistan. Afghanistan has accused the Pakistan military's Inter-Services Intelligence of supporting the Taliban. "Pakistanis are denying that the government or a government agency is involved," the UN's Lakhdar Brahimi told the Review in Kabul. "But I think there is a lot of anecdotal evidence that the people organizing these disruptive acts are moving freely in Pakistani territory, including in the main cities." Brahimi says that Pakistan needs to handle the problem. "We as the UN have been attacked. We do have serious indications that those who killed our colleague in Ghazni had contacts in Pakistan, and we are just in asking our Pakistani friends to make sure Pakistani territory is not used to make attacks on the UN. Pakistan is in the UN Security Council and helped craft the mandate given to the UN in Afghanistan. Therefore Pakistan is required to help the UN execute and fulfil the mandate they have helped craft." Brahimi, who oversaw the Bonn agreement that set out the road map for Afghanistan's return to stability and the creation of a legitimate government, is to step down after the current loya jirga, or grand assembly.

