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	DCP-00	NSAE-00	ISN-00	OIC-00	OIG-00	NIMA-00	EPAU-00
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 SECDEF FOR PA

E.O. 12958: N/A

TAGS: KMDR, KPAO, OIIP, OPRC, PGOV, PREL, PK

SUBJECT: MEDIA SUMMARY: JUNE 10-12, 2006

Summary: Press reports regarding a foreign aid bill cutting aid to

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF STATE  
 REVIEW AUTHORITY: JOHN L MILLS  
 DATE/CASE ID: 25 APR 2011 200908726

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Pakistan by the U.S. House of Representatives hit headlines over the weekend and continued loudly on Monday. "Congress pushes for democracy with aid cut," reports leading English daily, "Dawn" (para 1). "Pakistan expects U.S. to pay in full," writes "The News" (para 2). Opposition parties viewed the step as "Bush administration's no-trust in the policies being pursued by President Musharraf" (para 4). Almost all the major newspapers have penned editorials on the bill and termed it as a reflection of "U.S. displeasure with Pakistan" (para 19). English daily "The Nation" comments that the "U.S. logic behind the criticism must be too compelling to overlook" (para 24). Government officials tried to play down the news emanating from Washington as "not Pakistan-specific" but "an effort to cut down U.S. budget deficit."

Another subject touched upon by a number of editorial and opinion writers is the killing of Al Qaeda leader Abu Musab Al Zarqawi in Iraq. A couple of right-wing Urdu language dailies glorified the killing as 'martyrdom' (paras 27-36). The editorials seemed unanimous that the death of Al Zarqawi "is certainly not the end of Iraqi resistance" (paras 27,31 and 36).

Principal spokesman for the Government of Pakistan once again denied U.S. involvement in the ongoing military operation in the Waziristan tribal agency (para 10) against the backdrop of reports that tens of militants were killed in a fresh raid on a training camp in Waziristan (para 11). End Summary.

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 News Stories  
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1. "Congress Pushes For Democracy With Aid Cut" "Dawn" (cir. 65,000) (06/12) and "The Nation," (cir. 20,000) "Daily Times" (cir. 2,000), "Business Recorder" (cir. 25,000) (06/11)

"Expressing disappointment with the government for "failing to do enough" to improve democracy and human rights in Pakistan, the US House of Representatives has reduced aid to Islamabad in the current fiscal year to \$300 million. Last year, the House had approved \$550 million for Pakistan."

2. "Pakistan Expects US To Pay In Full" "The News" (cir. 55,000) (06/12)

"There is expectation in Islamabad that the US administration will reconsider the decision of the House of Representatives, which has slashed \$350 million in foreign aid to Pakistan, citing its poor human rights record and failure to do enough to improve democracy. "We are in touch with the US administration and there are expectations that the original sum of foreign aid to Pakistan would

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be fully restored", spokesperson at the Foreign Office told "The News."

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3. "US Military Aid To Pakistan Slashed By \$97 Million" "The Post" (cir. 5,000) (06/11)

"The US House of Representatives Committee on Appropriations Friday recommended a Foreign Military Financing (FMF) program of \$200 million for Pakistan, a decrease of \$100 million from the fiscal year 2007 request and a decrease of \$97 million from the fiscal year 2006 enacted level. However, the committee noted that Pakistan "has been a reliable ally of the United States in the war on terrorism and this reduction is not a reflection of a lessening of the committee's appreciation" for the country's support."

4. "US Aid Cut: Govt., Opposition Air Conflicting Views" "The Frontier Post" (cir. 7,000) (06/12)

"The government and the opposition Sunday offered conflicting views on the US House of Representatives' decision to slash aid to Pakistan. Downplaying the reduction in aid, the Foreign Ministry and the State Minister for information said the move was not Pakistan-specific but part of American efforts to cut down budget deficit. ARD and MMA, however, viewed the step as the Bush administration's no-trust in the policies being pursued by President Musharraf and a setback to the present government."

5. "Mukhtaran Mai Became The Reason For Reduction In U.S. Aid For Pakistan: Qudsia Lodhi, Punjab Minister For Special Education" "Express" (cir. 25,000) (06/12)

"Punjab Minister for Special Education Qudsia Lodhi has said that (rape victim) Mukhtaran Mai's campaign in the U.S. against Pakistan has led the U.S. to make allegations against Pakistan of human rights violations. She added that the role played by Mukhtaran Mai's baseless campaign cannot be ruled out in the U.S. decision to cut aid for Pakistan."

6. "Seeds Invited To US Expected To Blossom Into Peace Plants" "Daily Times" (cir. 2,000) (06/10)

"Brian Heath, principal officer at the US Consulate in Lahore, hosted a reception in the honor of Pakistani schoolchildren selected to participate in the Seeds of Peace's (SoP) summer program in Maine (USA).... US Embassy Public Affairs Counselor Peter Kovach talked about the interaction between Indian and Pakistani schoolchildren at the camp. "You have a lot more in common than Arabia and Israel," he said, adding that the SoP had also arranged a program for Arab and Israeli children in the past. He said that children around the world

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were ambassadors of peace."

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7. "UN Desperate To Question A.Q. Khan" "The Nation" (cir. 20,000)  
(06/12)

"Washington has stepped up pressure on Pakistan to allow its nuclear scientist, A. Q. Khan, to be questioned by United Nations inspectors, after fresh traces of enriched uranium were found on equipment used at an Iranian military site."

8. "Efforts To Capture Usama Bin Laden Likely To Intensify" "Daily Times" (cir. 2,000) (06/10)

"With the killing of Abu Musab al-Zarqawi, Pakistan-assisted US efforts to capture or kill Usama Bin Laden and his deputy are likely to intensify.... The report said that the Waziristan tribal region is regarded as the most likely hiding place for Bin Laden and his top deputy, Ayman al-Zawahri. A senior Western diplomat in Islamabad told AP."

9. "NA Speaker Rejects Prayers For Zarqawi" "Daily Times" (cir. 2,000) (06/10)

"National Assembly Speaker Chaudhry Amir Hussain on Friday rejected a Muttahida Majlis-e-Amal (MMA) demand to offer 'prayers' for the soul of Abu Musab Al Zarqawi in the National Assembly."

10. "Durrani Denies US Involvement" "Daily Times" (cir. 2,000)  
(06/12)

"Federal Minister for Information and Broadcasting Mohammed Ali Durrani has denied US involvement in the ongoing military operation in the Waziristan tribal agency. Speaking to reporters.... Durrani said that the government would not allow foreign interference in the country's internal affairs."

11. "22 Of 30 Militants Killed In Waziristan Operation Were Foreigners" "Daily Times" (cir. 2,000) (06/12)

"The Pakistan Army on Sunday raised the number of militants killed in a raid on a training camp a day earlier to more than 30, mostly foreigners including Arabs, Uzbeks and local fighters who also took part in attacks inside Afghanistan. Twenty-two Arabs, three Uzbeks and seven local tribal militants linked with Al Qaeda and the Taliban were among those killed in the attack, a senior Pakistani security official said on condition of anonymity."

12. "Taliban Ban 'Un-Islamic' Activities" "Daily Times" (cir. 2,000) (06/12)

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"Local Taliban and religious leaders in North Waziristan on Sunday issued public notices warning people of "serious repercussions" if they do not shun "un-Islamic activities" like watching movies and listening to music. The announcement comes a day after the military bombed a militant hideout, killing up to 20 militants."

13. "MMA Will Continue Supporting Taliban" "Daily Times" (cir. 2,000) (06/10)

"The Muttahida Majlis-e-Amal (MMA) pledged on Friday that it would continue supporting a Taliban government in Afghanistan, as it did in the past."

14. "US Troops' Cutback In Afghanistan Regretted" "The Nation" (cir. 20,000) (06/12)

"Pakistan has expressed regrets as US troops reduce their presence in Afghanistan where the anti-Taliban operations are being handed over to a NATO force of mainly Canadian, British and Dutch troops in the face of the stepped up insurgent attacks on coalition forces. "Pakistan regrets the reduction of US forces in Afghanistan that may encourage the Taliban and other government opponents," Mansoor Suhail, Press Minister at the Pakistan Mission to the United Nations, said in a letter published in "The International Herald Tribune."

15. "Gas Supply To Five Districts Suspended After Blasts" "Dawn" (cir. 65,000) (06/11)

"Gas supply was suspended to Quetta and major cities and town of four other districts in Balochistan as two main underground transmission pipelines feeding gas from Sui were blown up in Dashat area in the early hours of Saturday."

16. "US Woman Jailed" "Daily Times" (cir. 2,000) (06/11)

"The Taftan judicial magistrate on Saturday awarded one-month imprisonment to an American national, Diana, for illegally crossing into Pakistan from Iran and sent her to a jail in Quetta."

17. "Suicides strengthen demand for closing Guantanamo" "Dawn" (cir. 65,000) (06/12)

"Human rights bodies on Sunday blamed prolonged and 'lawless' incarceration of prisoners as the cause of three suicide-deaths at the Guantanamo Bay prison camp and urged US authorities to end this practice. The US military, however, described the suicide of three detainees on Saturday as a 'public relations exercise' by committed Jihadis who were willing to do anything to attain 'martyrdom for

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their jihad.'"

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18. "Team To Be Sent To Guantanamo" "Dawn" (cir. 65,000) (06/12)

"Islamabad would send a delegation to Guantanamo Bay by the end of this month to get Pakistanis languishing in the prison facility released, a senior government official told "Dawn" on Sunday. He said Interior Ministry's National Crisis Management Cell (NCMC) Director-General Brig Javed Iqbal Cheema will lead the three-member team."

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Editorials/Opinions  
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19. "Reduction In U.S. Aid And Future Strategy" an editorial in the popular Islamabad-based Urdu daily, "Ausaf" (cir. 10,000) (06/12)

"It seems that the U.S. is unhappy with Pakistan's refusal to lend support in case of attack on Iran and its continuation of the gas pipeline project. The cut in aid is just to reflect its displeasure. The decision by the U.S. House of Representatives to slash down Pakistan's grant is also surprising in it that Pakistan is still an important ally of U.S. like the day one."

20. "Inappropriate U.S. Allegations On Pakistan, Saudi Arabia," an editorial in the Karachi-based, pro-Taliban/Jihad Urdu daily, "Islam" (cir. 15,000) (06/12)

"The U.S. congress while reducing Pakistan's grant by 350 million dollars has called upon the Government of Pakistan to improve the human rights and democracy situation in the country. Moreover, the U.S. House of Representatives has stopped aid given to Saudi Arabia for its failure in curtailing Al Qaeda. Both these news, do not require any commentary. It is reflective of the fact that the U.S. has crossed all limits of bias and shortsightedness. It is really surprising that this treatment is being meted out to those two countries of the Islamic World that are the closest U.S. allies. This shows that the U.S. is using these two countries only for its own interests."

21. "Is Pakistan A Daily-Wager For The U.S.?" an editorial note in the second largest Urdu daily, "Nawa-e-Waqt" (cir. 125,000) (06/12)

"Terming Pakistan's human rights and democracy record not up to the mark, U.S. has reduced Pakistan's aid by about \$350 million... The attitude the U.S. administration has adopted towards Pakistan makes it seem as if we are working for America as a daily-wager. Whenever it wants, it can twist our arm and get us to abide by its decisions. This is a good time to get rid of the U.S.; strengthen our

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sovereignty, independence and democracy. Let America fight its wars alone." UNCLASSIFIED

22. "Resolutions By The U.S. House Of Representative," an editorial in the popular Urdu daily, "Express" (cir. 25,000) (06/12)

"America's cold shoulder for Pakistan is not a new phenomenon; soon after the Soviet Union left Afghanistan, the U.S. stance towards Pakistan started changing as well. After Soviet troops withdrew, USAID offices in Pakistan were also closed down, there was a reduction in aid for Afghan refugees and Pressler and Symington Amendments were imposed.... U.S. and western criticism of Pakistan on democracy is based on two issues: President's uniform and the exile of Nawaz Sharif and Benazir Bhutto. If these were resolved, there would be no justification to criticize Pakistan."

23. "Cut In U.S. Aid For Pakistan And Dr. Qadeer's Issue," an editorial in the Lahore-based, populist Urdu daily, "Khabrain" (cir. 50,000) (06/12)

"Statements coming from the U.S. make this much clear: the Indian lobby in Washington is very strong, and the Pakistani lobby has failed miserably.... We hope that the government will keep national interests paramount while devising a strategy regarding the cut in U.S. aid and the issue of Dr. Qadeer Khan."

24. "What US Thinks About Us!," an editorial in the center-right national English daily, "The Nation" (cir. 20,000) (06/12)

"... The question is that if the US, which regards Pakistan as a key frontline ally in its War on Terror and desperately needs its assistance in bringing normal, peaceful conditions to Afghanistan, shows its displeasure in this manner, the logic behind the criticism must be too compelling to overlook.... Even if the Foreign Office spokesperson's reference that the US administration previously made up for the cut announced by Congress is taken to mean that it would act in a similar way this time as well and not let the proposed amount reduced, it would not wash away the stigma. For that, Pakistan would have to put its own house in order."

25. "US Aid Cut: an Eye-Opener," an editorial in the Islamabad rightist English daily, "Pakistan Observer" (cir. 5,000) (06/12)

"... Charges on account of democracy and human rights are lame excuses as no extraordinary situation has emerged in Pakistan. Human rights of all segments of the society including women, minorities and political opponents are as safe as elsewhere in the world. As for the democracy, Parliament is fully functional, all Opposition parties are taking active part in its proceedings and the press enjoys more freedom than the United States.... In fact, Americans

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want to pressurize Pakistan on its nuclear program on which there is national consensus." UNCLASSIFIED

26. "Why Did US Cut Aid To Pakistan," an op-ed by Jassim Taqui in the Islamabad rightist English daily, "Pakistan Observer" (cir. 5,000) (06/13)

"In yet another pressure tactic and a signal to the government, the United States has reduced aid to Pakistan in the current fiscal year to \$300 million on grounds that Islamabad has "failed to do enough" to improve democracy and human rights.... However, the reasons cited in the bill are not convincing. One would ask the esteemed US House of Representatives as why did it keep mum during the period 2001-2006.

27. "Far From An End," an editorial in the Lahore-based liberal English daily, "The Post" (cir. 5,000) (06/12)

"Although it is a setback for al Qaeda, the death of Abu Musab al-Zarqawi is certainly not the end of the Iraqi resistance. Zarqawi may have been killed, but there are many people to take his place. Neither will al Qaeda go away, nor will the insurgency come to an end. Arguably the situation will further worsen as there will be attempts to avenge Zarqawi's death, as well as to show the world that his death has not made a dent in their strategy."

28. "Bogged Down!," an editorial in the center-right national English daily, "The Nation" (cir. 20,000) (06/10)

"Hopes being expressed that with the death of Mr. Abu Musab Zarqawi Washington is nearer the goal of creating a stable system in Iraq under a pro-US establishment, are likely to prove unrealistic.... American and allied troops are bogged down in Iraq and Afghanistan where they find it difficult to stay and equally difficult to cut and run. The regimes set up in the two countries lack legitimacy in the eyes of the common man.... The US cannot win an unjust and immoral war, as Vietnam showed it."

29. "Zarqawi's Killing And Insurgency," an editorial in the Karachi-based center-left independent national English daily, "Dawn" (cir. 65,000) (06/10)

"... The future continues to be uncertain for Iraq. Abu al-Masari has been tipped as Zarqawi's successor, and Al Qaeda has sworn to carry on the work of 'prince Sheikh bin Laden.' To make matters worse, the Americans seem to provide a justification for Al Qaeda to continue its campaign."

30. "Covert Wars And A Bizarre Career In Violence," an editorial in

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the Lahore-based liberal English daily, "Daily Times" (cir. 2,000) UNCLASSIFIED  
(06/10)

"... His (Zarqawi) death has come as a relief to many people in Iraq and Jordan but as most analysts have pointed out, it is unlikely to have a major impact on insurgency in that country which continues for reasons beyond Al Zarqawi even though he took advantage of those factors to generate violence. Al Zarqawi's career provides an interesting and bizarre insight into how covert wars can throw up monsters."

31. "Will Resistance Fizzle Out In Iraq?," an editorial in the popular Islamabad-based Urdu daily, "Ausaf" (cir. 10,000) (06/10)

"No doubt the separation of individuals do have an affect on the national movements for independence, but these movements do not fully depend upon individuals. The martyrdom of Abu Musab al Zarqawi would momentarily affect the movement but it may also result in getting fresh vigor."

32. "Martyrdom Of Zarqawi: Which Way The Resistance Movement Would Go?," an editorial in the Karachi-based, pro-Taliban/Jihad Urdu daily, "Islam" (cir. 15,000) (06/10)

"After the martyrdom of Zarqawi, it is possible that U.S. President Bush and British Prime Minister maybe able to temporarily pacify his disheartened soldiers and public at large. But now if the movement gains momentum then non only the allied forces but also the people of the allied countries would be right in presuming that the continuing resistance in Iraq was not the result of the activities of a particular group but it is in fact an independence movement waged by the people of Iraq and which cannot be suppressed."

33. "America's Troubles Would End After Zarqawi?," an editorial in the Peshawar-based Urdu-language daily, "Mashriq" (cir. 55,000) (06/10)

"Wouldn't it be better and easy for the United States to review its policies that are detrimental to the global peace instead of wasting its energies in labeling such elements as terrorists and chasing them? As long as the mission for which Zarqawi lived, is alive there would be no dearth in his followers. And once the mission dies, then the birth of several Zarqawis or Osmas would not make any difference."

34. "An Established Mujahid Martyred by an Established Crusader," an editorial in the second largest Urdu daily "Nawa-e-Waqt" (cir. 125,000) (06/10)

"It is unfortunate that Pakistan [Foreign Office] has termed

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Zarqawi's martyrdom as an important development. Although Pakistan did not send troops to Iraq - out of respect for the Pakistani nation's sentiments -- but terming Zarqawi's martyrdom, a person who symbolized Iraqi resistance - as an important development is rubbing

salt on Iraqi wounds.... Only history will decide who was the victor and who the vanquished: Musab Zarqawi or crusading Bush?"

35. "The Death of Abu Musab Al Zarqawi," an editorial in Urdu daily "Express" (cir. 25,000) (06/10)

"Zarqawi's death can be termed a great success for the U.S. and Israel if it puts a damper on Iraqi resistance; but when their spirits are such that the Iraqi Al Qaeda issues a statement on the website that "Al Qaeda is proud of Zarqawi's martyrdom" it shows that the movement would now intensify to an unimaginable level. Hence, instead of rejoicing, the U.S. should ask what it has achieved by terming yesterday's Mujahideen as today's terrorists? America has acknowledged that it has made thousands of mistakes in Iraq. Is Zarqawi's death not another dangerous addition to that list of mistakes?"

36. "Zarqawi's Death and the Iraqi Resistance Movement," an editorial in the independent Urdu daily "Din" (cir. 10,000) (06/10)

"By killing Zarqawi, the U.S. should not expect the resistance movement to come to an end. Resistance will only end if the U.S. and British troops leave Iraq."

37. "Waziristan Killings," an editorial in the center-right national English daily, "The Nation" (cir. 20,000) (06/12)

"... Now that the government seems serious about engaging tribal leaders in dialogue it would be well advised to stop the troops operating in the region from launching attacks. At the same time instead of ignoring the recurring cross-border attacks it should also firmly take up this issue with the Bush Administration and obtain assurance from it that US-led coalition forces would strictly adhere to the principle of intelligence sharing."

38. "The 'Other' Failure In Afghanistan," an editorial in the Lahore-based liberal English daily, "Daily Times" (cir. 2,000) (06/12)

"... A part of Pakistan's policy that Washington may not like could belong to that area of state interest where there can be no negotiation. Pakistan has always the right to guard its self-interest inside "the coalition against terrorism", but what it must reconsider is the yardstick on which it judges this self-interest. If it sees India active in Afghanistan on the side of

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the Northern Alliance, it cannot afford to yield to the reflex of UNCLASSIFIED joining up with the Taliban simply to produce a counterforce against India. It must be able to perceive that its India policy in Afghanistan will go against its policy in Waziristan. The affairs of Balochistan too need deeper analysis. The presence of the Pushtun Taliban there may produce a counterforce against the rebellious Baloch sardars, but it will sow the seeds of an inter-ethnic civil war that Pakistan will not be able to handle."

39. "Suicide By Three Inmates At Guantanamo," an editorial note in Lahore-based Urdu daily, "Pakistan" (cir. 10,000) (06/12)

"This is the first instance of suicide at Guantanamo Bay. The question is how did the inmates get the chance to make nooses and hang themselves under such high security conditions? The facts will only surface when an independent tribunal investigates the events taking place in this prison." Crocker

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