



Weekly Report

Pakistan

Olivia Howard

**MARCH 28 – APRIL
3, 2014**

- 1** Pakistan's Opposition protest against blasphemy sentence
- 2** Is Pakistan aiding Syrian rebels?
- 3** Pakistan rejects accusation of involvement in Kabul attacks
- 4** Pakistan PM frees 16 Taliban prisoners in bid to revive peace talks
- 5** Musharraf survives assassination bomb attempt

Pakistan's Opposition protest against blasphemy sentence

- The two main opposition parties in Pakistan's National Assembly protested against the death sentence on Sawan Masih, a Christian accused of blasphemy. They complained about persecution of minorities through fraudulent blasphemy charges.

- Source: Business Standard

http://www.business-standard.com/article/news-ani/pakistan-s-opposition-protest-against-blasphemy-sentence-114032900549_1.html

Is Pakistan aiding Syrian rebels?

- Pakistan denies supporting, at Saudi Arabia's request, Pakistan-based Wahhabi militant groups fighting President Bashar al-Assad in Syria, such as al Qaeda and the Taliban.

- Source: Deutsche Welle

<http://www.dw.de/is-pakistan-aiding-syrian-rebels/a-17528187>

"[Pakistan has] the expertise, weapons and fighters for the Syrian war, and Saudi Arabia has the cash that Pakistan desperately needs right now."— Ghaffar Husain, London-based counter-terrorism expert

Pakistan rejects accusation of involvement in Kabul attacks

- Pakistan denied allegations that it was behind a recent attack on a hotel in Kabul ahead of the upcoming Afghan presidential elections.
- Source: Business Standard

http://www.business-standard.com/article/news-ians/pakistan-rejects-accusation-of-involvement-in-kabul-attacks-114040100084_1.html



Weekly Report

Pakistan PM frees 16 Taliban prisoners in bid to revive peace talks

- Pakistan has freed at least 16 Taliban prisoners in order to revive peace talks after a one-month truce ended. They are all non-combatant civilians. Another 100 prisoners will be released in a few days.
- The Taliban demanded the release of 800 prisoners and that Pakistan withdraw its army from some semi-autonomous tribal areas bordering Afghanistan. Pakistan's powerful military has been skeptical about the talks.
- Source: Live Mint

<http://www.livemint.com/Politics/f6kZGEtKxfAXFoSCfclczL/Pakistan-PM-frees-16-Taliban-prisoners-in-bid-to-revive-peac.html>

Musharraf survives assassination bomb attempt

- Former military leader and President of Pakistan Pervez Musharraf, currently on trial for treason, escaped an assassination attempt as a bomb went off on his route to his home. There were no casualties.
- No one has claimed responsibility for the attempt. The Taliban had previously vowed to kill him.
- Source: Live Mint

<http://www.livemint.com/Politics/1BsKkKvHmyGNErZgSDwbmN/Musharraf-survives-assassination-bomb-attempt.html>