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Judiciary ...

Elsewhere in his remarks, the Judiciary chief said that abiding by the law should be a part of the nation's culture.

It is not possible to monitor everyone in society; rather, abiding by the law should become part of the culture, he observed.

Everyone should obey the law even if they think there are flaws in the law; otherwise, the situation will become chaos, the Judiciary chief noted.

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Iran ...

Phases 6, 7, and 8 of the South Pars gas field came on stream on October 21, 2008. They are producing 158,000 barrels of gas condensates, 4,700 tons of liquefied propane and butane, and 104 million cubic meters of gas daily.

The South Pars/North Dome field is a gas condensate field located in the Persian Gulf. It is the world's largest gas field and is shared by Iran and Qatar. The field's recoverable gas reserve is estimated to be equivalent to 215 billion barrels of oil. It also holds about 16 billion barrels of recoverable condensate.

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Car ...

The army, however, maintained it was launched from South Waziristan — where the military is preparing for what will likely be a long and bloody offensive against the major base of the Taliban along the frontier.

In advance of that offensive, the militants have launched a wave of attacks across the country.

In the latest strike, a suicide bomber detonated a car packed with explosives near an army vehicle in a market in the northwest Shangla district, provincial Information Minister Mian Iftikhar Hussain said. The attack killed 41, including six security officers, and wounded 45 other people, he said. There was no immediate claim of responsibility.

In a statement on the state-run news agency, President Asif Ali Zardari said the attacks would not undermine the government's resolve to eliminate the insurgent groups.

"Such attacks cannot deter us from the offensive against the militants," Hussain said. "We will continue our fight till the death of the last terrorist."

Shangla lies east of Swat, which has been the focus of an intense military operation against the Taliban. The army says it has largely cleared the valley of the insurgents, but the bombing demonstrated their continuing ability to mount deadly attacks there. Many Taliban are believed to have melted into the rural areas or gone to neighboring districts.

The recent string of bloody attacks began last week when a suicide bomber blew himself up inside a heavily guarded UN aid agency in the heart of the capital, Islamabad, killing five staffers. On Friday, a suspected militant detonated an explosives-laden car in the middle of a busy market in the northwestern city of Peshawar, killing 53 people.

Those attacks were followed by the raid on army headquarters in the city of Rawalpindi on Saturday that killed nine militants and 14 others. Military spokesman Maj. Gen. Athar Abbas said the militants were hoping to seize senior army officials and trade them for their jailed comrades.

"Their main focus was the release of their leaders," he said.

The attack was launched from South Waziristan and the assailants

were in contact with their handlers there during the assault, Abbas said.

The army also intercepted audio of deputy Taliban leader Waliur Rehman getting an update on the attack and telling a subordinate to pray for the assailants, Abbas said.

Abbas said the attacks were aimed at making the government reconsider its decision to go after the Taliban in their heartland on the Afghan border. However, the government had already decided in principle to launch the offensive, and the army will now decide how and when to carry it out.

Taliban spokesman Azam Tariq told The Associated Press the assault on army headquarters was only the first in a planned wave of strikes intended to avenge the killing of Pakistani Taliban chief Baitullah Mehsud in a CIA missile strike in August.

"This was our first small effort and a present to the Pakistani and American governments," he said.

He said the raid on army headquarters was carried out by the "Punjabi faction" of the militant group and it had given orders to militant branches in Pakistan's other provinces — Sindh, Baluchistan and the Northwest Frontier Province — to launch similar operations.

While membership of Pakistan's militant groups has always been overlapping, the prospect of them joining forces will alarm the government of the nuclear-armed nation as well as its Western allies, who need a stable Pakistan to defeat insurgents in neighboring Afghanistan.

The standoff at army headquarters followed warnings from police as early as July that militants from western border areas were joining those in the central Punjab province in plans for a bold attack on army headquarters.

The suspected ringleader in the raid, a Punjabi named Mohammad Aqeel — also known as Dr. Usman — was believed to have orchestrated an ambush on Sri Lanka's visiting cricket team in Lahore this year. Aqeel was a former member of the army medical corps, who deserted in 2004 to join the militants, Abbas said.

"His military knowledge had brought him close to the Taliban and al-Qaida leadership," said Zulfikar Hameed, a senior police investigator who led the team that investigated the attack on the Sri Lankan cricketers.

Aqeel's history with the insurgents highlighted the complex ties between the nation's different militant groups.

He was initially recruited into Jaish-e-Mohammed and Lashkar-e-Janghvi, violent groups based in the Punjab province, Hameed said. Aqeel later joined the Taliban in Waziristan and helped recruit and train militants from Punjab, Hameed said.

Aqeel was also suspected of a failed attempt to shoot down then-President Pervez Musharraf's plane with an anti-aircraft gun and was involved in a suicide attack that killed the army surgeon general, Hameed said.

Also Monday, the Lahore High Court told police to toss out two criminal cases against a hard-line cleric India blames for the last year's deadly siege of Mumbai, an official said.

Police had accused Hafiz Saeed of illegally holding a public gathering and raising funds for a group they say was banned. The cases appeared designed to keep Saeed under some sort of detention while Pakistan probes his alleged role in the November attack that killed 166 people.

But government prosecutor Malik Abdul Aziz said the court found there was no proof the government ever technically banned the group, Jamaat-ud-Dawa. Saeed says Jamaat is a charity, but the UN has described it as a front for the militant group suspected in the siege, Lashkar-e-Taiba.

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The business ...

Obama told AIPAC, "... the bond between the United States and Israel is unbreakable today, tomorrow and forever." As long as Zionist subversives dictate to Obama, patriotic Americans will not make much headway in attempting a direct effort to change U.S. policy. Activists need to change tactics by focusing on the danger that the Israel Lobby represents to the American political system and by attacking the discourse on which the Israel Lobby stands.

The pro-Israel lobby operates on every level of American society. Holocaust propaganda serves to shield the most privileged group in America from just criticism of many of its members and of its collective conduct—especially in relation to the ongoing genocide of the Palestinian people and the destruction of America's Constitutional liberties.

The Anti-Defamation League (ADL) was one of the main proponents of the Patriot Act, which monitors the reading history of library patrons. Zionist organizations are heavily involved with Homeland Security and they use book banning and far worse methods to squelch criticism of Israel. While there is no limit to the amount of hate speech against Muslims or Christians that is tolerated now in the western world, the mere suggestion that Muslims and Christians should have equal rights with Jews in the Holy Land, or that the Hollywood version of the Holocaust is not entirely accurate, have in recent times resulted in the deportation, imprisonment, and even assassination of the speakers, writers, or publishers, and in the banning of their books or films because of Zionist pressure on western governments to abandon the principle of freedom of expression.

How about a turn-around in rhetoric? Instead of trying to make Americans care about Arabs-too hard—we need to increase their awareness that Jewish Lobby is undermining American democracy and costing taxpayers money. Since activists can destroy a movement if they dwell upon who the good guys are (there are various opinions), we should concentrate on what we can all agree on: The Lobby needs to be stopped. That's the only way to stop war and war taxes. The Israel Lobby is the enemy of all Americans. I would suggest a public rhetoric campaign against all Israel lobbyists suggesting prison. It should be social suicide to participate with Hillel or other pro-Israel organizations training future lobbyists.

There are plenty of ways to address this issue in town meetings, parent-teacher conferences, and other mundane ways. Causing a huge stir at a Martin Luther King school assembly or sending a mass mailing to all the high school students will create a lot more word-of-mouth grassroots pressure than a protest in DC, which doesn't even get discussed. We are at war because we allowed our country and our minds to be taken over by Zionists and other opportunists. We refused to take responsibility for our country or for our children's education.

Every town has a web of pro-Israel groups that work together to undermine American democracy to promote their personal interests. Pro-peace advocates need to identify the Zionist individuals who are pushing their agenda in the local school system. As soon as you start engaging in anti-Israel activism, all the Israel lobbyists will come crawling out of the woodwork to try and discredit or stop you.

Once you know who these individuals are, then you will be able to protest directly to the local leadership and law enforcement specifically about those who are personally responsible for pushing Americans to die for Israeli interests. You probably know where they live. If Americans started talking to

their neighbors we could probably stop this insanity.

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(Source: karinfriedemann.blogspot.com)

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Billionaire ...

Blair's commercial activities and links to key business figures such as Pinchuk will come under scrutiny in any campaign for the EU presidency. The details of the role and contract of employment for the presidency are expected to be discussed by Gordon Brown and other leaders this month.

Pinchuk founded Yalta European Strategy (YES) to campaign for Ukraine to join the EU. Byers, the former trade secretary, is chairman of the board. Blair attended the annual YES meeting in the Ukrainian city of Yalta last year, giving the main speech.

Blair also attended an event sponsored by Pinchuk at the Davos summit in Switzerland this year, along with Bill Gates, Sir Richard Branson and Bill Clinton. He was not paid for this event.

A spokesman for Blair confirmed he was not paid for the Davos event but would not comment on the Yalta appearance.

(Source: *The Sunday Times*)

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U.S. ...

But Feinstein, D-Calif., whose post gives her access to sensitive information about the war's progress, said Sunday that delaying the reinforcements also puts the forces already in Afghanistan at greater risk. She pointed to an Oct. 3 battle in northeastern Afghanistan in which eight U.S. soldiers were killed during an enemy attack on their remote outpost.

"We didn't have the ability to defend them, and now the base is closing, and effectively we're retreating away from it," she said.

The diverging opinions came as President Barack Obama and his war council wrestle with how many more troops might be needed in the 8-year-old Afghanistan conflict. Key to the deliberations are whether to focus the fighting more narrowly on al-Qaida or more broadly on Taliban insurgents.

Complicating Obama's decision are allegations of fraud in Afghanistan's August election, in which a preliminary tally showed President Hamid Karzai winning about 54 percent of the vote. Proclamation of a winner has been delayed pending a partial recount by the U.N.-backed Electoral Complaints Commission. On Monday, one of the two Afghans on the commission resigned, citing interference by foreigners on the commission.

The Obama administration and its international partners had hoped the vote — the first presidential election run by Afghans — would restore legitimacy to a government plagued by weakness and corruption. Instead, the widespread allegations of ballot-box stuffing have sullied Karzai's reputation.

Obama's military commanders are pressing him to escalate the war despite slipping U.S. support for the fight. Army Gen. Stanley McChrystal, the top U.S. commander in Afghanistan, is believed to have presented Obama with a range of options, from adding as few as 10,000 troops to — as many as 40,000. There are already about 68,000 American forces in Afghanistan.

Levin said a better blueprint for the way ahead in Afghanistan is even more important than additional personnel. He also said key points in McChrystal's 66-page assess-

ment of the situation in Afghanistan have been lost in the noisy debate over the right number of additional troops and how quickly they need to be sent.

"He also says deliberate," Levin said of McChrystal's review. "Take the right amount of time to think this thing through. And he also says that what is even more important than numbers is the resolve."

The eventual plan needs to include more U.S. trainers to make Afghan security forces more effective, Levin said. There also needs to be a way to persuade Taliban fighters to switch sides, he said, calling the current shortage of Afghan forces an "Achilles' heel."

Levin also said needed equipment needs to be moved from Iraq to Afghanistan.

Republicans argued that Obama would be making a major mistake if he doesn't quickly answer McChrystal's call for more troops.

Sen. John McCain, the top Republican on the Armed Services Committee, said it would be "an error of historic proportions" if Obama decides against a significantly larger U.S. presence.

Sen. Lindsey Graham, R-S.C., said Afghan national police are "getting slaughtered" and thousands more forces are needed to bring security and stability to the country.

Senate Minority Leader Mitch McConnell, R-Ky., said that a request by Obama for more troops in Afghanistan would have broad support from Senate Republicans. McConnell also acknowledged Afghanistan President Hamid Karzai's government is rife with corruption.

"There's no question that this is a flawed administration," McConnell said of Karzai's government. "But remember, this is about protecting the United States of America. We know that this has been a haven for terrorists in the past and we don't want to let it become a haven for terrorists again."

Feinstein appeared on ABC's "This Week." Levin and Graham spoke on NBC's "Meet the Press" while McConnell appeared on CBS' "Face the Nation." McCain appeared on CNN's "State of the Union" in an interview taped Friday.

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American ...

Ostrom, 76, and Williamson, 77, shared the 10 million kronor (\$1.4 million) economics prize for work that "advanced economic governance research from the fringe to the forefront of scientific attention," the Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences said.

Ostrom, a political scientist at Indiana University, showed how common resources — forests, fisheries, oil fields or grazing lands — can be managed successfully by the people who use them, rather than by governments or private companies.

Williamson, an economist at the University of California, Berkeley, focused on how firms and markets differ in the ways that they resolve conflicts. He found that companies are typically better able to resolve conflicts than markets when competition is limited, the citation said.

The academy did not specifically cite the global financial crisis, but many of the problems at the heart of the current upheaval — bonuses, executive compensation, risky and poorly understood securities — involve a perceived lack of regulatory oversight by government officials or by corporate boards. The Nobel awards on Monday were clearly a nod to the role of rules, institutions and regulations in making markets work.

"There has been a huge discussion how the big banks, the big investment banks have acted badly, with bosses who have misused their power, misused their shareholders' confidence, and that is in line with (Williamson's) theories," prize committee member Per Krusell said.

Ostrom, also the founding director of Arizona State University's Center for the Study of Institution-

al Diversity, devoted her career to studying the interaction of people and natural resources. One notable publication she wrote in 1990 examined both successful and unsuccessful ways of governing natural resources — forests, fisheries, oil fields, grazing lands and irrigation systems — that are used by individuals.

Ostrom's work challenged conventional wisdom, showing that common resources can be successfully managed without privatization or government regulation.

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Gandhi ...

kind my dad and Scowcroft loved. Those Nobel ninnies are so lulu left they make the UN look like a Fox jamboree. The rookie already got rewarded once for not being me when he got elected. Gosh, what would he do without me?

CLINTON: Fine, but you never expected to win this prize. You were the quote-unquote war president and proud of it. I had to put up with a gazillion hours of Arafat's insanity, but I guess that still wasn't enough for those Oslo ice queens. I guess ending ethnic cleansing in Bosnia wasn't enough, or bringing peace to Northern Ireland. And I guess my work with the Clinton Global Initiative saving lives in Africa and hanging with Bono and Barbra wasn't enough.

W.: Calm down, bro. You gotta take care of that ticker.

CLINTON: It was a case of premature adulation.

W.: Heh-heh-heh. Yeah, very pre-emptive, sort of like Cheney's pre-emptive war policy.

CLINTON: If they weren't going to give it to me, they should at least have given it to the Chinese human rights movement ... or AIDS workers in the Congo. Or even Bono.

W.: Yeah, man. Bono.

CLINTON: That would have helped make life better for the good guys and harder for the bad guys. Once again, action loses out to talk, just like with Hillary and Obama in the campaign. Nobel Prize for blah-blah-blah. Heck, I used to be considered a pretty good talker myself.

W.: It's aggravating, I agree. But look at it this way, 42. Everybody's laughing at La Bamba. He gets a Nobel for nada. Being loved by Europeans isn't gonna do him any good here in the U.S. of A. I whupped that Frenchy Kerry, didn't I?

CLINTON: The only peace Obama has made is bringing together the Taliban, Rush Limbaugh, the Palestinians and the Israelis to agree the guy is undeserving. It just confirms everyone's suspicion that all this dude knows how to do is dazzle.

W.: He doesn't want to be a Decider. He wants to be a Transformer. He transformed, all right — from Miss America to Miss Universe. He's a five-spiral crash, and getting the gold is just a reminder of all he hasn't done. He's going to have to look over and see that big medallion hanging up there in the Oval, mocking him as an empty suit, a pretty boy beloved by the Blame-America-First crowd, whenever he has to send more troops to Afghanistan, or the Taliban act up...

CLINTON: Maybe you're right, George. Some winners think the Nobel's the kiss of death. Any peace prize that goes to Henry Kissinger but not Gandhi ain't worth a can of Alpo. Heck, if Gandhi had known he was going to lose out to Henry the K, he could have had more time to eat french fries and chase girls.

W.: And finish getting dressed. Heh-heh-heh.

CLINTON: Barack's going to give that \$1.4 million away to charity. I got a charity. How 'bout he just signs it over to me? Speaking of money, we need to do another of those joint lecture things.

W.: I'm fairly footloose. This is the beginning of a beautiful friendship. Go choke on a herring, Norwegia!

(Source: *New York Times*)