



EMBASSY of  
**THE ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF PAKISTAN**  
in WASHINGTON DC



### MESSAGE FROM AMBASSADOR JILANI

The year 2014 was an exciting and busy year for us. Pakistan-US relations continued to flourish after the historic meeting between Prime Minister Muhammad Nawaz Sharif and President Barack Obama that set the tone, agenda and direction for the Pakistan-US bilateral relationship. 2014 witnessed a realization of the resolve of both the leaders to build a strong, broad-based, long-term, and enduring relationship on a foundation of mutual interest and respect. Working Groups under the rubric of the Strategic Dialogue continued to contribute towards strengthening the bilateral cooperation and advancing

shared interests. The number of senior level exchanges, both political and military, is reflective of enhanced cooperation between the countries.

I am happy to share that despite many hurdles, positive strides were made in economic, energy and trade fields as a result of the focused and centered approach of the government.

Equally important was the resolve and achievement of the government in dealing with the menace of terrorism and extremism. Operation Zarb-e-Azb, to deal with the last militant stronghold, gained wide recognition and appreciation from all.

The year ended on a tragic note with the horrific terrorist attack on the Army Public School in Peshawar. Our hearts wept with the families of those who were martyred in the vicious massacre. This cowardly attack has, however, strengthened our resolve to eliminate terrorism and root out all terrorists from the soil of Pakistan.

I wish our resilient nation and all our readers a peaceful and prosperous 2015.

### PRESIDENT OBAMA CALLS PRIME MINISTER MUHAMMAD NAWAZ SHARIF AND OFFERS UNWAVERING SUPPORT AFTER PESHAWAR ATTACK

President Barack Obama spoke by phone with Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif to “express the United States’ deepest condolences and unwavering support for the Pakistani people in the aftermath of the horrific terrorist attack against Peshawar’s Army Public School,” the White House said in a statement. The President “underscored that the American people stand with Pakistan in the face of this tragedy,” White House Press Secretary said in a readout of the telephonic conversation. “The two leaders acknowledged the shared threat from terrorism and the President made clear that the United States will continue to support Pakistan in its fight against extremism.”

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## AMBASSADOR JALIL ABBAS JILANI MEETS WITH SENATOR JOHN MCCAIN

Ambassador Jalil Abbas Jilani met with Senator John McCain (R-AZ) member of the Senate Foreign Relations and Armed Services Committees. The Ambassador briefed the Senator on the recent developments in the bilateral relationship including several high level exchanges from the two sides. He also apprised the Senator on the gains made by the ongoing military operation in North Waziristan which was aimed at eliminating all the terrorists from Pakistani soil without any discrimination. Senator McCain recognised Pakistan's efforts in the war against terrorism and expressed the desire to work with the government of Pakistan to realize the common objectives of defeating terrorism and bringing peace and stability in the region. The regional situation including Afghanistan was also discussed in the meeting.



Ambassador Jilani with Senator John McCain (R-AZ)

Ambassador Jilani also held meetings with other prominent members of the congress in his efforts to promote Pakistan's stance and objectives.



Ambassador Jilani with Congresswoman Kay Granger (R-TX)



Ambassador Jilani with Congressman Ami Bera (D-CA)



Ambassador Jilani with Congressman Jim Langevin (D-RI)

## AMBASSADOR JILANI DELIVERS KEYNOTE SPEECH AT AN INTERFAITH EVENT ORGANIZED BY REACH OUT INTERNATIONAL (ROI)



Ambassador Jilani was the key-note speaker at an interfaith fundraiser for Reach Out International (ROI). He stressed his government's commitment to seek out and punish extremists who commit atrocities. He praised the work being done by ROI and other interfaith communities, and also made a donation to further the works of ROI. Money raised will fund training, job skills, and provide assistance to those in need, and will develop grass-root programs and opportunities for future young leaders.

## AMBASSADOR JILANI SPEAKS AT THE AMERICAN UNIVERSITY, WASHINGTON, DC



Ambassador Jilani in a discussion with AU Dean Jim Goldgeier as part of the Dean's Discussion Series



Video: <http://youtu.be/4KfcGtesS7I>

## P.M. SHARIF ANNOUNCES ANTI-TERRORISM ACTION PLAN

In the wake of the terrorist attack on Army Public School, Peshawar, Prime Minister Muhammad Nawaz Sharif announced a 20-point anti-terrorism action plan.

1. The government has decided to enforce executions for terrorists sentenced to death. Implementation on this has begun.
2. To avoid criminals evading punishment due to weaknesses in the legal system, special trial courts have been established under military officers so such elements can be dealt with without delay. These courts will exist for two years.
3. No armed militant group or organization will be allowed to operate.
4. The anti-terrorism organization, NACTA, will be strengthened and activated.
5. Literature, newspapers and magazines that are spreading hate, violence, sectarianism, extremism and intolerance will be investigated and action taken against them.
6. All funding for terrorists and terrorist organizations will be eliminated.
7. Banned organizations will not be allowed to re-establish themselves under another name.
8. A special anti-terrorism force of 10,000 soldiers will be created.
9. Action is being taken to stop religious extremism and protect minorities.
10. The government will register and regulate all madrassahs.
11. Print and electronic media will be banned from glorifying the views of terrorists and terrorist organizations.
12. Reforms in FATA will be given priority to ensure the speedy return of internally displaced persons.
13. The communication networks of terrorists will be completely dismantled.
14. The government will take steps to stop the spread of terrorism and extremism on the Internet and social media.
15. There will be no space left for terrorism in any part of the country, including Punjab.
16. The ongoing operation in Karachi will continue until it accomplishes its goals.
17. For broader political consensus, stakeholders will work to empower the Balochistan government.
18. Decisive action will be taken against sectarian elements.
19. A comprehensive policy for the repatriation of Afghan refugees is being developed.
20. The government will focus on legislation to ensure provincial intelligence organizations get access to terrorists' communication networks and anti-terrorism organizations.

## PAKISTANI-AMERICANS HOLD CANDLELIGHT VIGIL IN WASHINGTON IN MEMORY OF SCHOOL VICTIMS

Hundreds of tearful Pakistani-Americans converged on Washington's Dupont Circle Fountain for a candlelight vigil to pay tribute to the memory of more than 140 schoolchildren and staff killed in a brutal terrorist siege of Peshawar's Army Public School. Mrs. Shaista Jilani also attended the vigil. Cd'A Dr. Asad M. Khan commented that the outpouring of support by Pakistanis, Americans and people of different faiths with flowers and candles represents that "we are all in it together." Pakistan, he said, is steadfastly trying to curb terrorism. "Pakistan is fighting the menace today, and many others have



Organisers of the DC Vigil addressing hundreds of Pakistan-Americans gathered at DuPont Circle, Washington, DC to pay tribute to the victims of the Peshawar Attack.

to fight tomorrow. So it is important that the world expresses solidarity with Pakistan and works together." Speaking on the occasion, human rights and political activists, and students expressed their shock and grief over the loss of lives and also recited poems. Candles, flowers, pictures of the victims and their families circled around the fountain as people observed a moment of silence to mourn the loss. The participants also held Pakistani flags and placards, expressing the country's determination to overcome the menace of terrorism.

## EVENTS AT THE EMBASSY...

### EMBASSY HOLDS A *QURAN KHAWANI* FOR THE VICTIMS OF THE ARMY PUBLIC SCHOOL, PESHAWAR.



# PESHAWAR ATTACK

Students from local schools visited the embassy to offer their condolences and pay homage to the children martyred in the Army Public School attack.



Messages of support from the visiting students can be viewed at

<https://www.flickr.com/photos/128529207@N08/sets/72157649795304010/>



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The Embassy of Pakistan welcomes your feedback.  
Please send your comments to [newsletter@embassyofpakistanusa.org](mailto:newsletter@embassyofpakistanusa.org)  
or visit [www.embassyofpakistanusa.org](http://www.embassyofpakistanusa.org)

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