

Scenario 85

US - OSAMA BIN LADEN OPERATION - I:

On the evening of **26th September 2006**, Gen Musharraf walked into the **Comedy Central's 'Daily Show'** with J Stewart, who offered his guest some tea and cookies and played the perfect host by asking, *"Is it good?"* accompanied by a surprise: *"Where's Osama bin Laden?"* "I don't know," Gen Musharraf replied, as the audience enjoyed the rare sight of a strong leader apparently cornered. *"You know where he is?"* the General cracked back sarcastically, "You lead on; we'll follow you." Perhaps Gen Musharraf was being given a cogent hint.

Another scenario:

On **1st December 2009**, the US President Obama, while speaking to the US Army cadets in New York, had chalked out a plan for the US troops to be withdrawn from Afghanistan at the earliest. NATO countries were also pressing hard on US to speak about an exit strategy. An ex US Army General, who had left Afghanistan ten years earlier, told the Americans through his best selling book that:

'America cannot win this Afghan War even in hundred years'.

US economy went shattered due to this war and US owed Trillions of dollars to China alone as debt. 66% voters from Obama's own constituency told him categorically that he would not get their support in next elections [of 2012] due to Afghan war failure.

OPERATION GERONIMO LAUNCHED:

On 2nd May 2011, the US Navy SEALs attacked at a house in Abbottabad and killed Osama Bin Laden [OBL].

The whole Pakistani nation was confused that whether Osama Bin Laden was actually killed in an ambush launched by the American marines in Abbottabad area of Pakistan, about 90 km away from the capital Islamabad. The announcement of Osama's killing was made by the US President Obama himself in the early hours of that day. The entire US nation was delighted over this news. Worldwide, especially in the Western block and NATO member countries, this news was heard with joy and pleasure.

The military operation was carried out by the American SEALs themselves without any involvement of the Pakistan's Army or police [***but whether it was without the information or permission of Pakistan's Army, the ISI, or the Government - was not then ascertained***].

The Pakistani government made announcement for Osama's killing showing a relief that it was sole American operation and Pakistan ***had no information on its details***. This was the moment when the things started going wrong. The Opposition parties and their leaders tried to take the Pakistani government on horns by forwarding various theoretical and investigative hypothesis as, according to them Osama had earlier been killed seven times by America starting from their attack in 2001 on Tora Bora mountains in Afghanistan then why a need of killing him 8th time had suddenly cropped up.

[In American history the event is described as '**Battle of Tora Bora**' (Black Cave), fought from 12th December 2001 to 17th December 2001]

There were about one hundred more questions of investigative and legal nature concerning news about killing Osama Bin Laden but the Government of Pakistan had no answer; the US government had broken this news with only little details. The truth was in doldrums and the American people were more inquisitive than Pakistanis as they had paid enormous taxes to go with war option.

America had been investing in Afghanistan since eleven years till then; had been fighting a war which they were unable to win even after hundred years; had been receiving their dead bodies from Afghanistan and had been spending billions of dollars - just to get Osama, dead or alive. Mr Bush had initiated this menace and Mr Obama preferred to continue with Mr Bush's legacy through CIA and Pentagon before whom the Congress and Senate mostly remained helpless.

Pakistan's former military ruler, Gen Musharraf, gave an interview to a London based TV next day and said that:

'Killing of Osama is OK but the sovereignty of Pakistan has been interfered because the US marines have done this operation whereas the same could have been done by Pakistan Army's SSG (Special Commandoes) unit.'

The intelligentsia observed that *'as Osama is dead, the US troops should leave Afghanistan at the earliest now.'*

Tehreek e Taliban Pakistan (TTP) confirmed the killing of Osama Bin Laden but also issued a threat that TTP would take its revenge vowing that **'now Pakistani rulers are on our hit-list.'** Pakistan's government continued denying their involvement.

PAKISTAN KNEW IT WELL – A HARD FACT:

A BBC televised evening program categorically stated that the government of Pakistan was not told about the planned attack until the same was completed. But Pakistan's Federal Information Minister Dr Firdaus A Awan told the media that **'how such big operation could take place without the active help and knowledge of our army and intelligence agencies.'** Astonishingly till evening she had gone 180 angles opposite but her original statement was suspiciously correct.

GEO TV's live programs *'Aapis ki Baat with Najam Sethi'* of three next days [**dated 3rd - 5th May 2011**] had told the true story but the political leadership and military elite continued to make [false] statements that Pakistan had not known about the American intentions of Osama's killing.

In the first **TV address of the American President Obama on 2nd May 2011,** immediately after Osama's killing was clear when he said that **'....the success was not possible without the cogent help of Pakistani intelligence agencies; they have led us to the right place and we have succeeded'**.

The US president told his nation and the whole world proudly that the ISI's personnel had taken the SEAL team exactly upto Osama's residence and they made the marvellous achievement to keep the America and their global partners safe.

Secondly, it is still available on record that President Obama rang Mr Zardari immediately to convey congratulations over the success of the said Osama Operation. Same day the US Secretary Hilary Clinton had talked PM Gilani and the US Commander Mike Mullen had told the Army Chief Gen Kayani about the successful raid over Osama Bin Laden.

The most important factor was that the three top American figures had exchanged their good wishes and offered reciprocal congratulations to each other. Both parties were joyful and smiling amidst satisfaction over the development. None of the Pakistani statesmen took it as odd 'NEWS' or unexpected attack; none exclaimed with sorrow nor shown any worries whatsoever. The heads of both the countries talked just in normal way as it was a 'joint task' but accomplished by one party as had been worked out before.

An article in the **'Washington Post' dated 2nd May 2011** in the name of Mr Zardari [*said to be written by MNA Farahnaz Ispahani for Mr Zardari*] was sufficient to indicate that top Pakistani leadership knew about the operation; that was why the 'undated' article was placed with the said newspaper in reserve to publish it when the **'Operation Geronimo'** would be successfully completed.

Hussain Haqqani, Pakistan's ambassador in Washington, and Wajid Shamsul Hassan, Pakistani High Commissioner at London, both on the very next day of Osama's killing on 2nd May 2011, had categorically answered media questions on TV that **'Pakistan knew about the operation and it has been carried out as a joint operation of intelligence agencies of both the countries.'**

In this connection one can recall a live TV interview of the then US Secretary State Hillary Clinton in which she had clearly said that **'....many people in Pak-Army and ISI know that where are Osama and Mulla Omar hiding in Pakistan; we also know those people – but it is government of Pakistan's prerogative [to do the next appropriate job]'**.

In fact, after getting lead of a high value target's residence [*till then not sure of Osama Bin Laden's presence there*] in Abbottabad, the American intelligence had started working on the proposition that:

- Why this lonely house, and so big, suddenly built after 2005 without Municipal Authority's approval for building plans etc. Then it was virtually constructed in open fields.
- So big house but no car or jeep going in or coming out; no telephone cable going in and no mobile registered at this address.
- Why 18ft high walls outside; no windows towards the streets though there were two towards open fields.
- Within that big 18ft walled premises there was another house with 8 ft high walls [it was seen through satellite photography].
- No interaction of residents of that big house with anybody outside; seldom some person coming out or going in without any communication with anyone around.

The answers of above questions lead towards the conclusion that the residence was suspicious thus worth intensive surveillance.

An important question that **'why Pak-Army was not made part of the operation'**. It was because the script was written so. This was the only American [intelligence] operation in Pakistan which was accomplished without the active participation of the Pak-army. The Pak-army refrained and preferred to sit in the back to avoid the Taliban & Al Qaeda's possible revenge and strike backs.

Frequent denials from the Pakistani government and military top-heads, pretending having no prior knowledge of the US operation, were the replica of Pak-US compromise over the 'Drone Attack Policy' [*.....that the Pakistan leadership would stick with issuing press statements for denunciation and disapproval of drone attacks BUT the US government would continue to go by its plans*].

Even when 369 Pakistanis were handed over to the US intelligence & interrogation agencies [*though there was no extradition treaty or diplomatic protocol existing between the two countries*] in the name of WoT; when they were taken to Bagram Base in Afghanistan or to

Guantanamo Bay in Cuba; when most of them were killed at either place during interrogation; when the handed over lots also comprised of certain suspects who were ten years old – the Pak-army, ISI, IB & FIA and the American CIA and Pentagon were always seen hands in gloves. However, this time it was planned to be so - it was successfully played.

Then the next question: ***when did the leaderships of the two countries, Pakistan & the US, plan to do this operation.*** Simply check out the dates within two weeks prior to 2nd May 2011, when the two American war-lords, Gen Mike Mullen and Gen Petraeus, were together in Pakistan; one coming directly from Washington and the other through Afghanistan, holding one to one meetings with top civil and military leadership of Pakistan – but then smilingly left for the US without leaving any 'bullshit' note for Pakistan having '***Do More***' instructions.

One more aspect be kept in mind that Pakistan's military elite knew about American tradition or strategy that ***'they never try to catch their high value target alive – they are trained to kill that'***. Whereas the Pak-army people are trained otherwise so they did not opt to be part of that killing game.

Another question: ***'why the SEAL team preferred to put the dead body of Osama Bin Laden in the sea instead of burying it'***. Here one can believe that the suggestion might have come from the Pakistani leadership because they knew that Muslims and especially the Pakistanis are known for '***dead hero worship***', little matters how much controversial one would have been in his life; ZA Bhutto & Gen Ziaul Haq can both be quoted as examples.

After Osama Bin Laden's killing in Abbottabad, the world media started thinking that:

- Whether the US forces would quit from Afghanistan after declaring WoT over. OR
- The US would remain there, would intensify its operations, using Osama's presence in the region as an excuse.

The answer came immediately after as the very next day, the BBC released a list of 16 die-hard Al Qaeda members, all Arabic speaking, who were allegedly hiding themselves in the Pak-Afghan border region [North Waziristan] on whom similar operations were indicated. It was clearly conveyed to the world that more severe attacks would be launched over the suspected places. The plans were acted upon. Consequently, dozens of suspected hide outs of Haqqani group and Al Qaeda were drone attacked but with no considerable success; civilian women and children were mostly killed.

Daily '***Jang***' dated ***7th March 2012***, gave an account that Gen Musharraf knew about Osama's presence in Abbottabad; while quoting Gen Ziauddin But, the last DG ISI of PML(N) government in 1999. The same fact was corroborated by a well known media guest Gen Amjad Shoaib who had made it open in live TV talk show that during the night of 2nd May 2011, there had been a ***telephonic conversation between Gen Kayani and President Zardari and 'there exists a mention of it in the GHQ's log book'***.

The Pakistani people were found jubilant while saying that it was a moment of relief and respite for them because due to Osama's person they had continuously been suffering since eleven years at least. War on terror (WOT) was thrust upon Pakistan which brought drone and terrorist attacks for no fault of the poor people. Pakistan lost about 35000 innocent civilian lives of men, women and children during the last ten years of this 'unholy' war of interests.

'We were fighting other people's war on our lands for no fortune at all', the Pakistani people believed. Pakistan's army lost their 5000 officers and men on the Pak-Afghan border and tribal areas amidst world criticism and stern threats. Pakistan lost its economy worth 37.5 billion dollars and the estimated loss to their infrastructure escalated to about 67 billion dollars. Who would compensate Pakistan; no one was there to hear their cries.

Media reiterated loudly that Osama bin Laden was a fighter from Saudi Arabia which country had withdrawn their own nationality from this person declaring him an enemy of humanity.

He was an illegal migrant in Pakistan. Being a Muslim he might have appealed some but thousands of Muslims were killed in the name of his Al Qaeda in so many Muslim countries; thus why not your sympathies with the killed ones.

Thinking being nationalist; how many Muslim countries came up with help for Pakistani poor people who were suffering from miseries since a decade on account of Muslim 'brotherhood'; no one in fact. Even some Muslim countries refused supply of oil to Pakistan on credit due to his alleged presence there.

Now some material questions that why government of Pakistan was officially denying their hands in this operation. Why Osama's dead body was not shown to the public and was thrown in the sea waters. In a **TV program of DM Digital at Sky 802 dated 2nd May 2011**, the host lady [named Umm e Aadil] gave an opening sermon that Osama was '*shaheed*' (martyr) and the world should be sorry on killing of such a great Muslim. When she was questioned from tens of Pakistani callers that what good he had done for other Muslims or humanity at large or for Pakistan except killing about 40,000 men, she had no cogent answer. She had to quit her stance and then later the TV channel.

Osama's alleged attack on Twin Towers NY coining a 9/11 phrase, had defined the last 10 years history of hostility, chase and violence through the whole world. It shaped US foreign policy leading to two major wars, one of which was continuing till early 2013 on Pak-Afghan borders. It resulted in gross violations of human rights in the name of '**war on terror (WOT)**'. It transformed Pakistan and Afghanistan, dragging them into ideological divides and violence which **claimed thousands of lives, twenty times more than lost on 9/11**.

[Soon after fighting the Soviets in Afghanistan, around 1992, an Al Qaeda affiliate allegedly attacked American soldiers in Yemen, and in 1996 Osama declared war on America by blowing up US embassies in Africa but it was not until Twin Towers attack that the world had felt his presence. By then it was too late, and in the following years, organisations supported or inspired by him sprang up across the world, slaughtering both Muslims and non-Muslims in their anti-Americanism perspective.]

On the first anniversary of Osama's killing [2nd May 2012], Pakistan's Federal Defence Minister Ahmed Mukhtar gave a serious press statement that '**the said American Operation was known by both the Pakistan government and army**'. The said statement alerted many concerned because the people were holding mixed opinions about Osama's killing.

An odd situation suddenly cropped up by Defence Minister's deliberations because the intelligentsia had known that the Pak-Army and the ISI had successfully cleared themselves in 13th May 2011's in-camera parliamentary session. However, the people still had in their minds the contents of afore-mentioned Mr Zardari's essay of 2nd May 2011 in American press media; many eye-brows were stunned.

OPERATION - ONLY US PLANNED IT:

In the backdrop of al-Qaeda's alleged attack on the World Trade Centre and the Pentagon on 11th September 2001, the most memorable one-liner came from an US expert Richard Clarke, who said, '**Your government failed you.**' On 15th February 2009, Michael Hayden, George W Bush's last CIA Director said that:

'When's the last time you really knew where he [Osama BL] was? My answer was Tora Bora (Afghanistan) in 2001.'

President Obama's first order to his new CIA boss Leon Panetta was:

'Make the killing or capture of OBL the top priority of the war against al-Qaeda; if we have Osama bin Laden in our sights and the Pakistani government is unable or unwilling to take him out, then we have to act and we will take him out. We will kill bin Laden; we will crush al-Qaeda. That has to be our biggest national-security priority.'

In fact the new capabilities mastered by the CIA & Pentagon after 9/11 gave Obama choices and weapons that were not available to previous Presidents. Had these been available to Bill Clinton in 1998 after al-Qaeda's attacks on US embassies in Africa or to Bush in 2001 when Osama was surrounded at Tora Bora, either chief could order an operation that would have killed bin Laden. Fifteen months after Obama's above 'Get bin Laden' order, Panetta returned to the White House in August 2010 with good news; the CIA had discovered that house in Abbottabad in which Osama's courier was living.

The US President had to work out: Firstly, when to act; Secondly, who would be called to join the decision-making process; and thirdly, how exactly to go ahead for 100% success. Choices were again:

- Firstly, of predator drones with missiles delivering 500-lb bombs (like those used five months later to kill Anwar al-Awlaki in Yemen);
- Secondly, of B-2 bombers with 2,000-lb laser-guided bombs (like those used in late 2011 against Col Gaddafi in Libya);
- Thirdly, of using special forces on the ground; and
- Fourthly, of a joint military operation in association with Pakistan, the host country. The officers knew Obama was 'betting his presidency' on that issue; if the operation failed, opponents would label him as a 2nd Jimmy Carter, recalling the failed attempt [of 1980] to rescue American hostages in Iran.

Going into details: the joint operation with Pakistan quickly fell off the menu when on 27th January 2011, a CIA contractor Raymond Davis was arrested in Lahore on murder charges; an incident that reminded the White House that its Pakistani allies could turn eyes any time.

Predator plan was shelved because firstly there were doubts whether 500-lb bombs could impact enough punch to guarantee a kill. Secondly Pakistan was unlikely to cooperate in sifting through that they had killed the right man. If al-Qaeda claimed Osama was still alive, how could the US prove otherwise? Thirdly, the US would lose the opportunity to capture valuable evidence from Osama's residence.

The option of B-2 strike [calling for dropping 2000-lb bombs] was thrown away because it would also kill about 20 women and children living with Osama and tens of occupants of neighbouring houses; possibility of escape of the real target was still there.

Thus President Obama was left with no option except to go for the most workable but risky choice of sending SEALs for direct attack. McRaven was directed **on 29th March 2011** to perform a 'full dress rehearsal' of the raid but the final orders were conveyed **on 29th April 2011**. Interestingly, CIA's Morell had reminded his fellow participants that:

'The circumstantial evidence for WMD in Iraq was stronger than the circumstantial evidence for the Abbotabad man's being bin Laden.'

However, Obama had full confidence in his team and was sure of success too. To cover the questions that if *'some one from within the Pak-army'* unknowingly obstructed the US forces en route or on the ground or took them hostage or if a chopper crashed etc; the team planned to take two more Chinook helicopters with 24 more SEALs for **'backup and fighting their way out.'**

The biggest surprise of the entire operation was that it was a real surprise. **Graham Allison** observed in the **'TIME' of 7th May 2012** that:

'In today's Washington, a week is a lifetime. Secrets are often published overnight, as Obama learned painfully in 2009 when he attempted to consider his options in Afghanistan. He found himself "jammed" when he asked his new Commander in Afghanistan, Gen McChrystal, to assess the situation.'

'When Obama received McChrystal's dire 66-page brief that warned of imminent defeat unless a major initiative was undertaken to "reverse the momentum," the President was shocked.'

Before he could meet with his national-security team to discuss his options, McChrystal's report appeared in the press.'

Eventually James Jones, Obama's National Security Adviser was sent aside and his deputy, Tom Donilon was given that top slot. The toughest choice they faced was the time to fire yet they waited five months after getting sure about Osama's hide out. The major issue was of informing, then sharing and lastly winning the confidence of Pakistan's civil and military leadership.

When the decision was taken, astonishingly his Vice President Joe Biden and the Secretary of Defence Robert Gates opposed the raid on the pretext that putting commandos on the ground could risk their being captured or killed; Joint Chiefs of Staff [JCS] Vice Chairman James Cartwright, preferred an air strike. CIA's Deputy Director Michael Morell gave Donilon and Brennan regular [and direct] intelligence updates keeping all others away. Till six months earlier, the CIA was 60% confident of the information about Osama's living in Abbotabad.

About 40 intelligence reviews from August 2010 to April 2011 were placed on record with varying questions and hostile propositions; most important that Osama should be arrested or killed and in the later case what to do with Osama's dead body *'if operation goes successful'*.

Out of six person's team of decision makers, Panetta and CIA's Morell were of the view to go ahead with paramilitary personnel to conduct the raid; it was a painful but realistic decision. Thus, with President Obama's approval, the circle was expanded to include two more players: McRaven and JCS Vice Chairman Cartwright. At this point, Cartwright's boss, JCS Chairman Mike Mullen; Secretary of State Hillary Clinton; Secretary Defence Gates, all were left aside.

At White House, five meetings of NSC members were held in the last six weeks to review all the options and the previous conclusions. Gates and Clinton were called in the meetings alone [without their deputies or staff] and that too after Donilon's personal approval.

OPERATION GERONIMO – MORE DETAILS:

On 2nd May 2011 [Pakistani time], a squad of trained US commandos based in Jalalabad (Afghanistan) had tripped their choppers low and fast through the mountains to launch an attack at Osama Bin Laden's residence in Bilal Town Abbotabad. What's in name: The Operation Geronimo or Operation Neptune's Spear but it went successful.

[Though the Americans wrote in their scripts and press briefings that the Operation Geronimo was launched from Jalalabad but subsequent evidence provided enough proof that the US Choppers flew from an army airbase near Tarbela in Pakistan and NOT from Jalalabad. It had also proved the earlier stance that Pakistani elite were part of the said operation.]

US Vice Admiral William McRaven, Commander of the Joint Special Operations Command (JSOC), was in-charge of that Operation having direct contacts with White House's Sit Room, with Leon Panetta's offices at the CIA headquarters and the Ops Centre in the Pentagon, where a team of some 30 officers was standing by to respond to any contingency.

In White House President Obama was heading the National Security Council members at that particular time of **Sunday 1st May 2011** [US time], however astonishingly, until 24 hours before that US Operation; a majority of those members of the NSC were still unaware of the exact time & *modus operandi* of the attack.

Navy SEAL team, consisting of 23 'operators', a trained dog and an interpreter, boarded two Black Hawk choppers which raised in air at 11.30 PM Abbotabad time carrying photos of Osama and his family members supposed to be there at home.

The MH-60s choppers, modified so as to remain undetected by Pakistani radar stations [though otherwise settled to remain in peacetime mode], flew dangerously low and very fast, only a few feet above the ground, driving over the riverbeds and avoiding trees, reached Ab-

botabad within 25 minutes whereas the distance was just 50 miles straight run in fact. From the White House Sit Room Brig Gen Marshall Brad Webb, Assistant Commanding General of JSOC was also feeding the choppers through an RQ-170 Sentinel stealth drone which was then flying more than two miles above Abbotabad.

When the helicopters reached their destination, the well planned operation started but the first chopper hit the outer wall while trying to land in Osama's courtyard; it suddenly lost altitude. The tail of the craft clipped one of the compound walls, breaking off the critical tail rotor whereas the SEALs were able to scramble out of the downed machine. Three of those SEALs ran across the small field, blasted the Iron Gate, and entered the garage where [Ibrahim] Kuwaiti had parked his jeep. The Kuwaiti surfaced his head out from behind that metal gate but was shot dead immediately and his wife got a shot in her right shoulder; the silenced weapons made little noise.

In his 3rd floor bedroom, Osama was awake, heard noise and blasts for fifteen minutes but could do nothing in dark. Dressed in *shalwar kameez* [local Pakistani dress], sewn into these were a few hundred euros and two cell-phone numbers but nothing else. The SEALs went from the Kuwaiti's garaged residence into the ground floor of the main house where they shot Abrar, the Kuwaiti's brother, and his wife Bushra, killing them both. As the SEALs ran up to the second floor, they encountered Osama's 23 years old son Khalid, whom they shot too on the staircase.

Over the sound of explosions inside home, Osama's 20 years aged daughter Maryam rushed upstairs to his 3rd-floor bedroom to ask what was going on; she was sent back unhurt.

Osama had got an AK-47 and a pistol in his room but why did not use them was astonishing. He opened the iron door, which could be opened only from the inside, and calmly tried to smell the disorder. Attending noise rushing into their room, a young lady Amal [Osama's youngest Yemeni wife] screamed and stood as shield to her husband; she was pushed aside. She was instructed by her husband 'not to turn on the light' but the electricity feeding transformer of the area had already gone off.

[The time of one hour power off at particular moment also indicated that the operation had carefully been worked out earlier by both Pakistani and US authorities – it was not a mystery as the media raised their eyebrows next day.]

It was a moonless night. Amal was then shot in the calf when she fell unconscious on the mattress. Osama offered no resistance when he was given double shots to the chest and left eye. Blood scattered all around on the wall and floor; the game was over.

The Americans had noticed that Osama had no escape plan and there was no secret passage out of his home. He rather died a peaceful death surrounded by his wives and children amidst scattered toys and medicine bottles and not the heap of guns, grenades, or suicide jackets etc.

Osama was leading a 'confined' life there since 2005 when the house was newly built. He was there with three of his wives [ranging from the 28 years aged Amal to the 62 years old Khairiah] and a dozen of his children and grandchildren. Osama had married Khairiah in 1985; she was Ph.D qualified teacher hailing from a wealthy and distinguished real Syed family of Saudi Arabia.

In 2001, Khairiah had fled to neighbouring Iran with her children and had re-joined Osama in 2010 at Abbotabad after harshly managing his journey through North Waziristan. Osama's 2nd wife named Siham bin Abdullah, a 54 years lady with a Ph.D in Koranic grammar was from Sudan; a poet and an intellectual otherwise. His youngest wife Amal was only 17 years aged when married in 2000-01; later bore Osama's five children, including two at Abbotabad.

Practically, Osama was inactive or retired during his whole stay there, certainly leading an unpleasant life. From his computer he used to advise other militant *jihadi* groups not to adopt al-Qaeda's name any more. On 7th August 2010, he wrote to the leader of ***al-Shabab*** militia

in Somalia urging that *'declaring itself part of al-Qaeda would only attract enemies and make it harder to raise money from rich Arabs'*.

In October 2010, as per US version, Osama allegedly sent [*how could he send it without internet or phone facility at home*] a long note to his field commanders that:

'The Americans had the worst year for them in Afghanistan since they invaded while deepening US budget crisis. But al-Qaeda's long-time sanctuary in Waziristan, in Pakistan's tribal areas, was now too dangerous because of US drone strikes. I am leaning toward getting most of our brothers out of the area.

Make sure to tell Hamza [Osama's 20 years aged son] that I am of the opinion he should get out of Waziristan ... He should move only when the clouds are heavy; [and preferably] to tiny, prosperous Persian Gulf kingdom of Qatar.

It would be nice if you could nominate one of the qualified brothers to be responsible for a large operation against the US. It would be nice if you would pick a number of the brothers not to exceed 10 and send them to their countries individually without any of them knowing the others to study aviation.'

[This was US official versions to make their people fool otherwise Osama had no connection with the outer world; neither via internet nor through cell-phones – there was no phone line connection at his residence.]

The fact remained that after 7th July 2005's alleged attacks on London Rail Network, al-Qaeda could never launch any successful attack anywhere. Osama's deputy Ayman al Zawahiri had openly conveyed back that *'it was much more realistic to attack American soldiers in Afghanistan than civilians in the US'*.

The independent intelligentsia, however, believed that the whole 'long memo of 48 pages' referred by Peter Bergen in a later issue of **the 'TIME'** magazine might be coined and framed somewhere in CIA or Pentagon's corner room. Ponder into the facts that:

- There was no telephone or satellite connection available in Osama's premises then how the memo was communicated.
- How the Chief of Al Qaeda, hiding from the world since ten years, could take risk of sending such communications through open 48 pages letter on internet, e-mail or even by hand unto Somalian regions.
- Lastly, see one of the paragraphs: *'He [Osama] instructed his team that the 10th anniversary of the 9/11 attack is coming and due to the importance to this date, the time to start preparing is now. Please send me your suggestions on this.'*

[It was total mockery of realism. The 48-page memo was being written in October 2010 asking for suggestions on 9/11 event of a year after.]

Osama, himself hailing from one of the richest business family of Saudia, was in acute financial crunch throughout his stay at Abbotabad; as was evident from his living standard. His trusted bodyguard and courier Abu Ahmed Ibrahim al-Kuwaiti, courier's brother Abrar and their wives and children were also living in the compound in abject poverty; used to be paid Rs:12,000 a month each [£75] reflecting that *'al-Qaeda's coffers were actually empty'*.

'OPERATION GERONIMO' - MEDIA VERSIONS:

John Brennan, the President's Adviser told the American media that:

'This is different. This intelligence case is different. What we see in this compound is different than anything we've ever seen before. I was confident that we had the basis to take action.'

However, the options were limited as the compound was in a residential neighbourhood in another sovereign country. The American media reports of **3rd May 2011** told the official US version that:

'Before dawn, a pair of helicopters left the airbase.... The choppers entered Pakistani airspace using sophisticated technology..... Officially, it was a kill-or-capture mission.

... but shortly after.... one of the helicopters came crashing down. None of the SEALs was injured; the mission continued uninterrupted; with the CIA and White House monitoring the situation.

The SEALs secured then proceeded..... fire - fight ensued. Ahmed and his brother were killed; then, the SEALs killed bin Laden.... Using the call sign for his visual identification, one of the soldiers communicated that "Geronimo" had been killed.

Bin Laden's body... the US also conducted DNA testing that identified him with near 100% certainty. Photo analysis.... matching physical features.... height all helped confirm the identification. At the White House, there was no doubt.

US forces searched the compound and flew away with documents, hard drives and DVDs.... The operation took 40 minutes.

Bin Laden's body was flown to the USS Carl Vinson in the North Arabian sea. There, aboard a US warship, officials conducted a traditional Islamic burial ritual. Bin Laden's body was washed and placed in a white sheet. He was placed in a weighted bag that, after religious remarks by a military officer, was slipped into the sea.'

US officials maintained that Osama Bin Laden's body was treated with respect and buried at sea, but some Muslims argued there was no good reason for not burying it on land. However, dead Osama, while taking rest in a shrine, could have been more dangerous for the Americans. They did not take risk whatsoever.

Islamic tradition requires the dead to be buried as soon as possible, unless an autopsy is required. The US military took this requirement very seriously, burying the body within hours and the traditional procedures for Islamic burial were followed. On the deck of the US aircraft carrier, the USS Carl Vinson, the last rituals occurred at 0600GMT, approximately 12 hours after Osama was shot in the head. As per **ABC News 'The Blotter'**, after the first shot Osama was shot again, to make sure that he was dead – again no risk was taken.

Osama's dead body was first flown to Afghanistan and Bin Laden's identity was confirmed. Officials say a DNA sample was taken that matched that of several other family members [*hats off to Dr Afridi's fake vaccination campaign*]; facial recognition technology was also used. From Afghanistan, the body was flown to the USS Carl Vinson. **"A military officer read prepared religious remarks, which were translated into Arabic by a native speaker,"** a US defence official later told.

'I think we can all agree this is a good day for America', the President Obama had said.

Justice ® Javed Iqbal's Judicial Commission on 2nd May 2011 event had noted that there was found only one fired bullet mark in the whole campus; in Osama's bed room, where Osama was found dead. That bullet possibly passed through his skull and hit the wall, 8-9 ft above from the floor. It also pointed out that the invader had actually hit Osama from the crawling position.

After this **'Geronimo Operation'**, most intelligentsia believed that this would bring the US policy planners to start an honourable quit from Afghanistan. Every battle or war needs some turning point to make out a logical end; analyse any big event. Killing Osama at last was a shift in the American policy in the Afghan region in fact.

Many tax-payer Americans argued that OBL's death lacked significance because Al Qaeda's terrorist capability had already been zeroed; other organizations were active. Most officers associated with US National Security maintained that Osama's role in Al Qaeda at the time of his death was largely inspirational only; of no practical value being incapacitated since long. It seemed to be plausible because Osama himself was hiding since 2003 at various places without communication with the outer world.

ISI & PAK-ARMY KEPT AWAY:

According to Amal, Osama's third wife, as she told to CIA later that OBL and his family had left the tribal areas in 2003 to live in *Chak Shah Mohammad*, a settled area of Haripur on the highway to Abbotabad, from which place they moved in 2005; Abbotabad house was newly built then.

Osama was killed in Abbotabad but before this operation the Americans took months to confirm that Osama was living in the said compound near Kakul. The event raised a series of questions about the level of cooperation with Pakistani intelligence and the military. Were they taken into confidence? Subsequent official statements issued and interviews released by the US Pentagon and Foreign Office said; NO. Pakistani radars were allegedly dodged in operation but ISPR remained silent on the issue. The ambiguity persisted.

Osama was living in a large house surrounded by high walls topped with barbed wire in a garrison town housing Kakul Military Academy. The idea that the world's most wanted *Jihadi* was spending his days there unnoticed by Pakistani intelligence was never believed by the outsiders. If it was true then it was reflecting a massive failure on the part of many. The oversight was a matter of incompetence or wilful negligence, both needed attention if it was so.

Ten years earlier, Pakistani intelligence and police worked closely with the CIA to dig out a number of Al Qaeda leaders, almost all of whom were found in cities and not in the villages or tribal areas. This time the US got intelligence from Pak-army but no longer trusted Pakistan for a joint operation, because of the involvement of high-stake target.

The US missile strikes on Al Qaeda bases in Sudan in 1998 were launched after tracking a mobile phone of an Al Qaeda member. Since then Osama was not using mobile or even land line phones. Thus CIA planned to interrogate the detainees from Pakistan at Guantanamo Bay with a particular question in sight; to know about the courier in between Al Qaeda and Osama. By 2002, interrogators had sorted out a courier named Abu Ahmed al-Kuwaiti. Later perhaps in 2003, Khalid Sheikh Mohammed had also revealed under interrogation that he was acquainted with al-Kuwaiti.

In 2004, another prisoner named Hassan Gul [*an al-Qaeda agent and a member of Ansar al-Islam, keeping three passports from Yemen, Pakistan and Egypt; captured on 23rd January 2004 by Kurdish police forces at a checkpoint near Kalar, at the Iranian border*] not only confirmed al-Kuwaiti but also told the Americans about his successor Abu Faraj al-Libi who was captured in 2005 and transferred to Guantánamo in September 2006. Faraj guided the CIA interrogators towards one Maulvi Abdul Khaliq Jan also, a Pakistani by name but not by origin.

In August 2010, CIA's undercover operatives in Pakistan intercepted a wire-trap from which they located al-Kuwaiti and followed him back to Osama's Abbotabad compound.

On 25th April 2011, WikiLeaks leaked certain interrogation files and other classified material from Guantanamo, ***especially related with Al-Kuwaiti & Abu Faraj Al-Libi***, which appeared on the front page of the New York Times. One of the documents was carrying the identity of Osama's 'official courier' pointing towards Haripur - Abbotabad's old residence where OBL had moved in mid-2003.

Immediate notice was taken of that situation and **on 28th April 2011**, the team assembled at White House for issuance of green signal for the 1st May attack [as per US time]. Delay might have lost their target pushing all efforts and one year's labour in vain; Gates and Biden again voted no but 'go ahead' was released the next morning.

Pakistan's Army or ISI were not shared or consulted at that moment.

As per CIA claims, Al-Kuwaiti, along with his brother or a cousin, were also killed in 2nd May 2011 attack. The old ID cards found on their bodies told them as Pashtuns named Arshad Khan and Tariq Khan from village Khat Kuruna near Charsadda. Pakistani officials could not find record of the two in Charsadda's said village; however, in June 2011, they were identified by local police as Ibrahim Saeed Ahmed & Abrar Ahmed from Swat Valley, who and their families were living at Osama's compound as domestic servants.

On 7th May 2011, President Zardari, PM Gilani and COAS Gen Ashfaq Kayani met for the second time at Presidency since Osama's operation in Abbotabad and comprehensively reviewed the then prevailing situation in the perspective of Pakistan's national security and foreign policy. The three high ups held this meeting in the backdrop of pressure from the international community on the government to shed light on Osama's hiding near Kakul Military Academy. PML(N) and PPP's former foreign minister Shah Mahmood Qureshi also joined this orchestra.

Coming back; the irony of fate was that the US Attorney General Eric Holder, Secretary of Homeland Security Janet Napolitano, FBI Director Robert Mueller, special assistant to the President for Afghanistan and Pakistan Douglas Lute and many more were told of the perspective raid the same day [29th April 2011]. After the US helicopters escaped Pakistani airspace, Obama made his first calls to former Presidents Bush and Clinton to share the pleasure.

Referring to the '**TIME**' of **7th May 2012**:

'The most troubling lesson from this case is the dog that hasn't barked. In the aftermath of Abbotabad, we [the US] are left with two possibilities: either the Pakistanis knew that bin Laden was there, or they didn't.after intense review of the materials seized in the raid, the brute fact is that not a shred of evidence has been found to suggest anyone in the Pakistani military and intelligence hierarchy knew of bin Laden's whereabouts.

..... Could it be possible that a nation that is unaware that bin Laden lived within its borders for six years, moved five times with three wives and fathered four children (two born in local hospitals) is also a nation that is in control of some 100 nuclear bombs?'

ISI & PAF ADMITTED FAILURE:

The ISI admitted its failure [or made to admit] that this lack of knowledge brought embarrassment for them. The media was told that Osama's daughter aged 12 was taken in custody who had seen US troops shooting her father to death. There were about 18 people present in compound at the time of US raid. A US chopper crashed amid operation otherwise US marine commandos would have taken all the people in the compound, dead and alive, back to America.

Pakistan's Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MoFA) made fool of Pakistani nation while issuing a statement that the US helicopters had entered Pakistani airspace making use of blind spots in the radar coverage due to hilly terrain. Moreover, the ISPR release of 5th May 2011 remained silent on the issue of detection of US helicopters there entering and doing operation for forty minutes in Abbotabad.

Pakistan's Air Chief, Rao Suleman Qamar, very next day told open that their radars were not jammed; in fact they were not switched on for western borders due to obvious reasons of **'zero threat'** from that side.

[When Indians intended to raid Hafiz Saeed's complex near Muridke in the aftermath of the Bombay attacks in November 2008, they had to change their mind when they found that Pakistan's Air Force was ready to hit back the moment Indians crossed the border.]

Question arose that **'did really the American helicopters come from Afghanistan?'**

Some people doubted it. In their analysis the helicopters flew from the NATO base near Tarbela. From there, the air distance to Abbotabad was 10 kms, only a few minutes away. After returning from Abbotabad, the helicopters flew to Bagram, as normal flights from NATO base to Bagram.

Najam Sethi, in GEO's live program of the same night told that US helicopters flew from Tarbela *[though contradicted himself the next night, not because he was wrong but presumably, because the admission would have forced NATO to leave Tarbela on immediate basis.]*

The US official version given on 2nd May 2011 to the world media by John Brennan, the President's Adviser, however, reiterated that **'the US choppers flew from Jalalabad Afghanistan'**.

Did the helicopters remain unnoticed during the operation?

No. It was just not possible. There were four helicopters; their engines went running all the time during the 40-minute operation; making a lot of noise, even the Stealth type. Their lights were on due to the moonless night; the neighbours did notice them so did the authorities at 500 yards away in Kakul premises.

Were the US helicopters really invisible to our radars?

American helicopters were not invisible and, in fact, no helicopter could be. According to **'Aviation Week' dated 9th May 2011**, *'... it is believed that a helicopter cannot yet be made as radar-stealthy as a fixed-wing airplane, as helicopters generally operate at low altitude and against ground clutter.'*

Courageous PAF explained that the country was not expecting any aerial threat from Afghanistan. Air Commodore Tariq Yazdani had also confirmed that the air surveillance system had neither been jammed nor had it been inactive.

Often a question was raised that if **Osama was really killed in Abbotabad on that day**. The live video feed from the Abbotabad operation to CIA headquarters and then to the White House could also be given to CNN for the whole world to watch. However, no doubt that Osama was very much there with his family because it was inconceivable that he would leave them unprotected, without his own reliable guards being present. Osama would have allowed his wives and children to go to their home countries or Saudia if he believed they were not safe with him.

Nevertheless, in Corps Commander's meeting of **5th May 2011**, Pakistan's army chief ordered an investigation into the intelligence failures that led to Osama's undetected presence, and why US personnel were able to enter Pakistani territory without notice. **The hard fact remains that their investigation report never surfaced up;** and it was not to come up because it was a joint operation [though limited].

In the words of Babar Sattar (ref: **'Dawn' of 7th May 2011**) that:

'..... We need to rationally approach the concept of sovereignty together with state responsibility to understand why the world views us suspiciously. We need a thorough re-examination of our existing national security doctrine to determine whether it is promoting or jeopardising our security.'

PAK-ARMY WENT SPLINTED; REALLY?

The media knew that two parallel factions had been working in Pakistan army and especially in the ISI. One faction with pure national interests just to think for Pakistan; COAS Gen Kayani was leading them. The other faction, continuously since two decades, was seeking enlightenment from ex ISI Chief Gen Hamid Gul, encouraged by Taliban's movement and activities in Afghanistan; Gen Zaheerul-Islam, Gen Aziz and partly Gen Mahmud of the then ISI were their silent supporters. From Generals down to ranks, the two philosophies went parallel but equally compelling, effective and strong enough. Thus it was unlikely that Osama was being hosted by Pakistan as a matter of policy.

The nation spends billions on ISI & MI in the name of security and not for spying or 'persuading' the politicians. ISI's fear for certain 'high ups' being chased & followed, taped, photographed, interrogated and coerced had created an impression among the nation that they were 'hawks'. Pakistan lost more civilians and soldiers to terror since 9/11 than all other countries of the world put together; but who thinks nationalism.

The people of Pakistan are simple. So simple that they were not able enough to grasp that if their ISI or MI were real hawks then why there were dreadful attacks on their SSG battalion near Tarbela; why there was an attack on GHQ Rawalpindi; why their 200 soldiers were once taken hostages in the tribal areas; why there prevailed a state of insurgency in Swat for about two years; why a bus full of Army officers was blown in R A Bazar Rawalpindi; why there was an attack on a mosque in Rawalpindi Cantt killing about 18 army officers during Friday prayers; why there were two attacks on two Navy buses in Karachi just a week before 2nd May episode and one after on Naval Base and there were numerous incidents telling attacks on army posts all over the northern part of Pakistan.

Who had caused the above atrocities; more or less their own *Jihadi* colleagues, of course, the Black-water & XE sponsored ones; they knew about Osama's presence or not, but there should have been no loss of lives at least. American authorities pressingly demanded Pakistan to launch an investigation to prove their own opinion, by saying that:

'We haven't seen evidence that the government knew about that. Despite the fugitive terror chief hiding for years in a three-storey house near the capital Islamabad, I've not seen evidence that would tell us that the political, the military, or the intelligence leadership had foreknowledge of bin Laden.'

Similarly, the US President Obama said in his first public comments on the issue that Osama had a support network in Pakistan but not clear if the Pakistani government was involved. Obama told the **CBS TV show '60 Minutes'** that:

'We think that there had to be some sort of support network for bin Laden inside of Pakistan, "But we don't know who or what that support network was. We don't know whether there might have been some people inside of government, people outside of government, and that's something that we have to investigate and, more importantly, the Pakistani government has to investigate.'

As per White House and CIA versions, the data gathered from the raid was the richest treasure trove on terrorism ever collected, the largest reserve of intelligence derived from the scene of any single terrorist hideout and about the size of a small college library. Mr Donilon of White House cautioned *'we can't declare al-Qaeda strategically defeated, they continue to be a threat to the United States, absolutely critical for us to remain vigilant as we continue to press this organization. Killing bin Laden was 'a real blow.'*

On home front, Munawar Hassan, Amir of JI urged, on TV & media, that:

'Pakistan Army earned disgrace and humiliation by the US operation in Abbotabad. The nation should reject those who exhibited negligence. That the likes of Osama would keep on coming until and unless unjust and discriminate attitude of the US and West would not change. The Abbotabad operation exposed the inefficiency of the institutions.'

In short, after this episode, there were processions and protests in various Pakistani cities including Karachi raising slogans of *Jihad* against the US that had entered Pakistan without permission [*how innocent the Pakistanis were*].

The other school of thought was also there to urge that ***Osama, being a Saudi national, had also entered Pakistan without permission, without visa, was also living here without notice; thus was unlawful & equally damaging for Pakistan.*** They maintained that due to his [OBL's] philosophy, Pakistan earned dissociation and hatred from the whole world even from Afghanistan for whom its Generals and political leaders bought poverty and embarrassment.

Pakistan army and government both failed; the people were severely battered; as the stories were true. They urged that the political elite should abandon begging loans and aids from America, IMF, World Bank and other consortiums because the same taken in the name of pseudo development projects or army's needs always made the personal accounts of Generals and politicians more baggy and bulky. The popular demands roared by the media included refusal of dollars to keep America away and push them out; but who bothers about the peoples' cries in Pakistan.

Starting with killing of Osama, America planned to take out their troops from Afghanistan as per White House's plan of December 2009. The US government chalked out their evacuating strategy while standing on Osama's dead body. ***Being a super power the US might not be admitting their defeat, but they deserved an honourable exit at least.***

A popular slogan was developed then: *'Let the Pakistani people live at their own, may be poor but gracefully, we would be better off.'*

FOREIGN PRESS STORIES:

Now the other side of the story; some media persons claimed 'actual':

The whole world including the citizens of Pakistan was told that the Abbotabad compound was not on army's radar. It was not the whole truth. It was on files that the ISI had raided this compound once in 2003 when it was under construction. Then the ISI believed that an al Qaeda operative, Abu Faraj al-Libi, was there. However:

{As per 'The Telegraph' dated 2nd May 2011, it was Khalid Sheikh Mohammad (KSM), who when repeatedly subjected to methods including "waterboarding" and stress positions, provided the CIA with the name of Osama's personal courier, Al-Libi.

In December 2009, the government of Tajikistan warned the US that efforts to catch Osama were being thwarted by corrupt Pakistani spies. Gen Abdullo Sadulloevich Nazarov, a senior Tajik counterterrorism official, told the Americans that "many" insider Pakistanis knew where bin Laden was.

In 2010, British PM David Cameron caused a diplomatic furore when he told Pakistan that it should not "look both ways" on terrorism. The Pakistani government issued a strongly-worded rebuttal.}

Referring to ***'the guardian' dated 3rd May 2011***, the US might have obtained a clue three years ago [*Ref: Guantanamo's File dated 10th September 2008*] that Osama was hiding in Abbotabad; according to information gathered by interrogators from Abu al-Libi at Guantánamo:

{Al-Libi had fled to Peshawar and was living there in 2003 when he was asked to become one of Bin Laden's messengers. In July 2003, detainee received a letter from [Osama's] designated courier, Maulawi Abd al-Khaliq Jan, requesting him to take on the responsibility of collecting donations, organising travel, and distributing funds for [Al Qaeda] families in Pakistan.

Then Al-Libi had moved his family to Abbotabad and worked between Abbotabad and Peshawar. He was captured in Pakistan in May 2005 and the CIA tracked Osama by tracing the network of couriers, one of whom (allegedly) died with him in the US raid of 2nd May 2011.

Very interesting situation cropped up. The Telegraph (referred above) said that ISI was helping the Al Qaeda and hiding OBL whereas the ISI and the Pakistan government issued a note of strong reaction. The western media also carried the details that **Wikileaks had made the whole matter open during the 2nd half of April 2010 as referred earlier.** That was why the said operation was planned in urgency.

Referring to **'the Daily Mail' dated 3rd May 2011:**

*'WikiLeaks may have triggered the killing of Osama Bin Laden, it was suggested last night. For although the CIA has thought since September [2010] that he [Osama BL] was in hiding in Abbotabad, special forces stormed his fortress only **days after the website published new secret documents.**'*

[One can salute the ISPR, Pakistan's media, MoFA, MoInfo, ISI, IB and all concerned in Pakistan; even then they could not take notes about OBL]

Very strange situation arises that all the three leading newspapers of UK depended upon the same Wikileaks documents released a week before 2nd May 2011 but each paper brewed different interpretations from those documents. More alarming situation it becomes that none of the official from Pakistan's Army, ISI or MoFA or media anchors had caught sight of those Wikileaks and nobody informed Osama to get lost from Abbotabad before operation.

In the backdrop of above discussion, it becomes a futile exercise to suggest that ISI or Pakistan government was kept aloof from 2nd May's operation; and also that whether the later people knew about Osama or not.

Now referring to **'Times of India' dated 24th December 2011;**

'Former DG ISI and the Army Chief [for two hours only] Gen Ziauddin Butt, speaking at Pakistan-US Relations Conference on 11th October 2011 said that despite denials, evidences emerge that some elements within Pakistan military harboured Osama Bin Laden with the knowledge of Gen Musharraf & DG IB Ijaz Shah.

The then DG IB, Brig (retd) Ijaz Shah, had kept Osama bin Laden in an Intelligence Bureau safe house in Abbotabad. Ijaz Shah was an all-powerful official in the government of Gen Musharraf; Gen Butt added.

*Gen Butt said in the same address that **the ISI had helped the CIA to track Osama down and kill him.**Gen Butt maintained that PM Nawaz Sharif had set up a special task force of 90 US-trained commandos to track down Osama in Afghanistan.'*

Though Gen Butt & Gen Musharraf were two diehard opponents to each other in Pak-Army since 1998 but the facts remained visible for all.

QUESTIONS ABOUT OSAMA BL:

There was much hue and cry in Pakistan over killing of Osama Bin Laden in one sided operation without involvement of the ISI though it was later pretended as attack on sovereignty of an independent nation.

MQM also vowed to get a general referendum over 17 questions to mark its score and replies from the public were sought till 17th May 2011. These questions were basically concerned with the post Abbotabad scenario in Pakistan and not with investigative intent. The people considered that America was trying to level the grounds for its next attack on Pakistan. Be-

fore that ugly moment the Pakistani people wanted their leadership to answer the following questions:

- Was Osama really active and controlling the Al Qaeda activities all over the world. If so how it was possible for him to control Al Qaeda from premises where there was no facility of telephone or internet available.
- If Osama was actually living in Abbotabad since six years, who used to monitor his residence. Who people monitored him and where were the monitoring reports or videos.
- Why his dead body was not shown to the Americans at least that Osama was really dead for whom they spent trillions of dollars and wasted tens of lives.
- Why Osama's wife and other family members were not taken along to US for further interrogation of hundreds of aspects related with Osama's daily and past activities.
- Why OBL's DNA test report was not made public.

Till late the intelligentsia was continuously briefed that Osama had no links with ISI or Pakistan Army. One can expect any kind of deliberate 'mistake' from Pakistani military institutions but the fact remains that ***'Osama had no faith in any Pakistani Intelligence group or bloc'***. He had in his knowledge that:

- Khalid Sheikh Mohammad was arrested from Rawalpindi.
- Abu Zubaidah was arrested from Faisalabad.
- Ramzi Ben Al-Shabih was arrested from Karachi.
- Abu Fraj Al-Labbi was arrested from Mardan.
- Abdul Salam Zaeef, the Taliban's Ambassador, was arrested from Islamabad.
- Dr Gairat Bher, Hikmatyar's son in law and former Afghan Ambassador was arrested from Islamabad.

All the above and many more were arrested by Pakistan's military agencies at their own and were handed over to the Americans; how Osama could have faith in the Pakistan's military spy agencies.

However, it surfaced as hard fact that the Americans could never reach Osama without 'internal' help from within Pakistan; it could either be some very deep military faction of retired ISI officials or might be the civil department depending upon the following coordinating points:

- President Obama's immediate address of 1st May 2011 [US date] to the American nation contained the phrase that *'Osama could not be reached without Pakistan's help and guidance'*.
- The US Secretary of State Hilary Clinton's media statement, given after her tele-conversation with PM Mr Gilani, contained the words of thanks for Pakistan.
- Gen Mike Mullen, the US Commander had issued a press statement after his tele-conversation with Gen Kayani in which there was no mention of any protest from Pakistan side.
- Even the ISPR or the ISI had not issued any formal statement carrying condemnation for the US forces for 2nd May's event if it was one-sided in fact.
- The then Chief of the CIA Leven Penta had given an interview to the CNN immediately after the Abbotabad event, but Pakistan was not criticized at all.
- President Zardari's essay appeared in the American media sharp on 2nd May 2011 NOT condemning US but hailing the attack.
- Wajid Shamsul Hasan, the Pakistani High Commissioner in London, and Hussain Haqqani, Pakistan's Ambassador in Washington, had issued repeated statements to the media that the said Osama Operation was a 'joint task' of America and Pakistan.
- America, without guidance or settled assurances from Pakistan, could not take risk of sending their 'stealth' choppers.
- **On 3rd May 2011**, the Chief Minister of Khyber PK Mr Hoti told the media that *'the concerned SHO of police was not allowed to go inside the premises to complete the*

required legal formalities'. This statement of the CM was run on all TV channels but only once. Afterwards it was got removed from the media record.

{Two essays published at www.criticalppp.com on 8th May 2011 & 14th May 2011 under the titles '**Osama's Episode**' & '**Questions About Osama**' are referred}