

TALIBAN 2.0 IN PAKISTAN

BY HAIDER ALI HUSSEIN MULICK



THE TALIBAN IS ON the run in northern Pakistan. Thanks to the latest military campaign, by the end of summer the Islamists had lost territory, public support, and their firebrand leader, Baitullah Mehsud. The bickering group retreated to its stronghold in Waziristan, undefeated but contained. But even as the old guard is pushed out of the Swat Valley, a new force threatens Pakistan. **Another, more virulent Taliban faction is emerging in the country's volatile heartland,** and if left unchallenged it could destabilize this nuclear-armed state.

The old Pakistani Taliban, which made its debut in 2006, was made up of veterans of the 1980s Afghan war against the

Soviets and was augmented by fighters who fled the U.S. invasion of Afghanistan after 9/11. They focused on controlling Pakistan's neglected northern border region through administrative councils and Sharia courts. But their efforts failed, thanks to the government's targeted military strikes and locals' distaste for the Taliban's brutal tactics.

The new faction, according to Pakistani military and intelligence officials, is composed of disgruntled young hardliners and focused on Pakistan's south and center, with the aim of opening multiple fronts and relieving pressure on their northern comrades. Their new targets offer several advantages. Central provinces like Punjab and Baluchistan have fewer government troops than in the north and quickly eroding institutions, so locals are more likely to welcome the Taliban's administrative efforts. Meanwhile, alliances with southern drug cartels and kidnapping syndicates have ensured a steady supply of cash. And cunning partnerships with terrorist

groups like Lashkar-e-Taiba have provided the new faction with a ready-made network of radical madrassas and training camps, making it easier to recruit fighters and launch attacks on police stations. As a result, the situation in Pakistan's center and south is as fragile as the north was two years ago, right before the Taliban's big military gains.

To counter this onslaught, Islamabad recently doubled police salaries, and the Supreme Court is implementing judicial reforms that will help government courts compete with the Taliban's. The U.S. should also help by augmenting Pakistan's police budget and deploying U.S. Army police trainers, who have had significant success in Iraq and Afghanistan. A U.S.-Pakistani joint plan proposes creating a special force of 10,000 police officers for the north; that program should be expanded to include Pakistan's center and south. And this must all happen fast: the insurgents are poised to strike, so if the allies don't take charge, the new Taliban will.



Police help contain the northern Taliban.

FIGHTING DIRTY IN ISRAEL

BY DAN EPHRON



AS CHIEF PROSECUTOR of the International Criminal Court, Luis Moreno-Ocampo has so far steered clear of controversial cases. In doing so, he hoped to allay U.S. fears that the ICC would become a politicized tool for settling scores. Which is why it's so surprising that Moreno-Ocampo is

now considering an investigation into whether Reserve Lt. Col. David Benjamin, an officer in the Israeli military, authorized war crimes during the Gaza campaign earlier this year. Israel did not sign the treaty that created the ICC and thus is outside Moreno-Ocampo's jurisdiction, but thanks to a bit of legal sleight of hand, the prosecutor told NEWSWEEK he believes he has all the authority he needs to launch an inquiry: Benjamin holds dual citizenship in both Israel and South Africa, and the latter has signed the ICC's charter, bringing Benjamin into the court's orbit.

The case itself may be hard to sub-

stantiate; Benjamin told NEWSWEEK he was out of the country during most of the Gaza operation and had no role in its planning. Still, **the dual-citizenship issue could set a dangerous precedent for Israel and the United States, which also rejects ICC jurisdiction.** If the court can investigate an Israeli with South African citizenship, why not an American with Mexican citizenship? "The implications for the U.S. are potentially very troubling," says Michael Newton, an international-law professor at Vanderbilt University. But even more so for the fledgling court, which is still struggling to establish legitimacy.