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28 August, 22:59



Taliban trouble on the horizon for Karzai, Afghanistan



Panjshir Valley, Afghanistan.

Photo credit: iStockphoto\Thinkstock.

by **Kim Brown**

WASHINGTON (VOR)— Afghan President Hamid Karzai and his entire delegation have extended their current diplomatic mission to Pakistan so as to continue discussions with that government on how best to control the Taliban in Afghanistan.

Pakistan's government clearly has some influence over the Taliban, but

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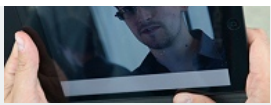
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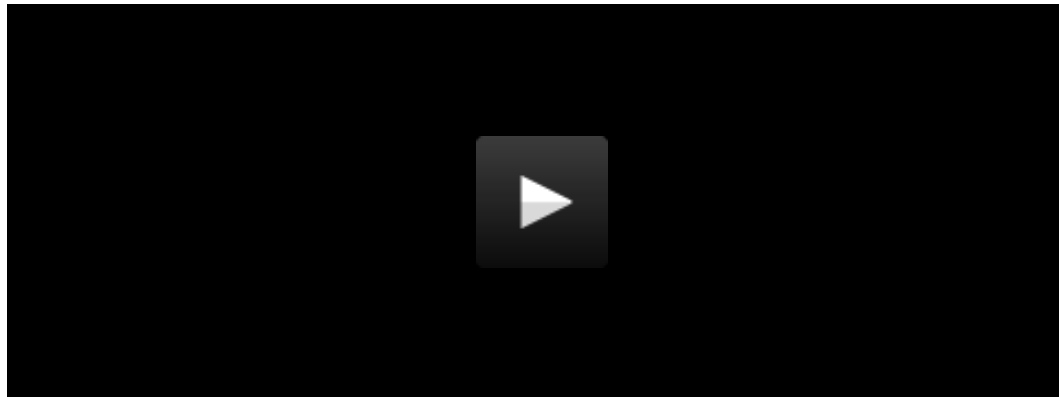
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Afghanistan likely overestimates Pakistan's degree of control. So argues Michael Semple, who is a fellow at both the Center for Conflict Transformation at Queen's University in Belfast, Ireland, and the Carr Center for Human Rights Policy at Harvard University's John F. Kennedy School of Government.

Semple explains that the Taliban has little interest in negotiating with Karzai, and is ready for a power struggle with Karzai once NATO leaves Afghanistan in 2014.

In Semple's opinion, core support for the Taliban in Afghanistan is quite light, but a fairly large swathe of the population is sympathetic to the movement, especially in light of the economic problems pertaining under the Karzai government.

VOR's Kim Brown spoke with Semple.



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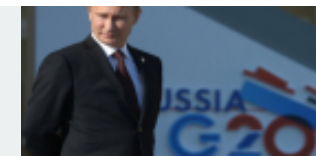
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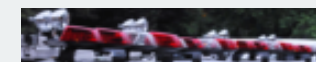
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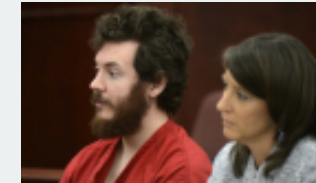
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