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Musharraf admits secret Pak-US deal on drone attacks

April 12, 2013



The former president of Pakistan Gen. Pervez Musharraf admitted his government secretly signed off on U.S. drone strikes.

This is the first time a former senior Pakistani official has publicly acknowledged to such a deal with CIA, amid open challenges by Pakistani leaders for having no part in drone deal with the United States.

Despite Pakistan had no role to oversee the program or approve every attack however Musharraf's admission suggests that himself and others did play some role in drone strikes.

While speaking during an interview with the CNN, Musharraf insisted Pakistan's government signed off on strikes "only on a few occasions, when a target was absolutely isolated and no chance of collateral damage."

According to a nonpartisan public policy group New American Foundation, at least 1,990 people including civilians have been killed during the drone strikes in Pakistan.

Drone strikes for the first time were launched in 2004 during the leadership of Pervez Musharraf while he was serving as Pakistan president for five years term.

He said that Pakistani leaders would OK U.S. drone strikes after discussions involving military and intelligence units and only if “there was no time for our own ... military to act.”

Musharraf also confirmed that Nek Mohammad, a tribal leader accused of harboring al Qaeda militants in Pakistan’s western border region was killed in US drone attack.