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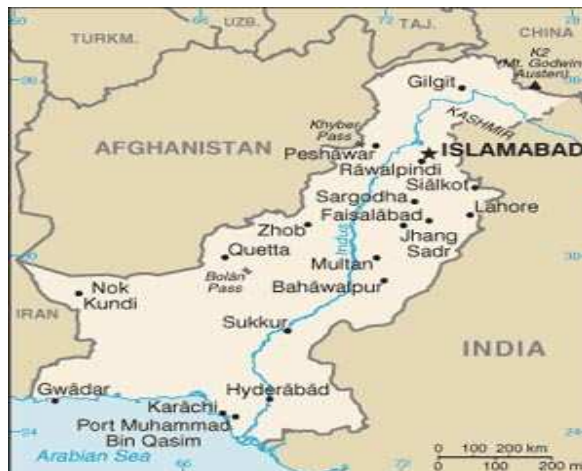
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## Pakistan Court Blocks Taliban Leaders' Extradition

By Jason Ditz

February 26, 2010

The Lahore High Court today ruled that the Pakistani government [cannot hand over detainee Mullah Baradar](#) or any of the “nearly 15” other Taliban detainees to the United States, Afghanistan, or any other nation pending a possible investigation into their legal status.



Baradar, an extremely high ranking member of the Taliban, has been held by Pakistan's Inter-Services Intelligence (ISI) agency for interrogation, and is [reportedly cooperating with officials](#) there. The [Afghan government has sought his extradition](#), however, and the CIA is reportedly keen to place him in Bagram for interrogation by the US.

Under Pakistani law, Baradar and the other [detainees should have been brought before a magisterial court within 24 hours](#) of their arrest to establish the reason for the detention. None of them have been brought before a court at all, however.

The counsel in the court insisted that the identities of the detainees and the cases against them needed to be independently verified, and [reportedly claimed that Blackwater had bribed rival militant groups for the information](#) that led to the captures, making the information suspect.