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US Threatens Pakistan Over Times Square Bomb

By Jason Ditz

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Only two days ago top military brass, including Centcom Commander General David Petraeus, were openly calling Times Square bombing suspect Faisal Shahzad a "lone wolf" who had acted alone, and scoffing at any reports of Tehreek-e Taliban Pakistan (TTP) involvement.

Today Attorney General Eric Holder signaled a new official stance on the attack, declaring on multiple Sunday news shows that the US now has evidence that the TTP was behind the attempt, called "amateurish" by police.

Exactly where the Obama Administration goes from here is anyone's guess, but it is clear that at this point all eyes are on Pakistan and that the Obama Administration's <u>recent praise of Pakistan's internal policy</u> is over.

At the start of 2009 only tiny Bajaur was being attacked by Pakistan's military, after considerable US harranguing Pakistan now has ongoing offensives in half the tribal areas and lingering hostilities in Malakand, in the NWFP (Now Khyber-Pakhtoonwa), with some 200,000 troops committed along its northern frontier in US-demanded wars.

Once touted as proof of the floundering Zardari government's loyalty to the US, the offensives and the almost ridiculous lengths to which the military has suspended civil

<u>liberties in the tribal areas</u> are falling so short of American expectations that <u>Secretary of State Hillary Clinton yesterday threatened "very serious consequences" against Pakistan over the Times Square bombing and said she expected the Zardari government to do more against militants.</u>