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## Increasing ‘Indian Presence’ in Kabul Cause for Concern: Pakistan

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ISLAMABAD — Pakistan’s top civil and military leaders have reiterated their concerns over India’s increasing presence in Kabul to the United States seeking its intervention to dilute its adverse impact on the ‘war on terrorism’.

“Indian presence in Afghanistan would not help achieve objectives of the ‘war on terror’,” Chief of the Army Staff General Ashfaq Parvez Kayani was cited by a military spokesman as telling the US National Security Adviser General (retd) James Jones who called on him at GHQ on Friday.

The visiting US dignitary also held separate meetings with President Asif Ali Zardari, Prime Minister Yousuf Raza Gilani and Foreign Minister Shah Mehmood Qureshi.

The Army Chief also pointed out that Indian presence in Afghanistan might adversely impact the efforts seeking to woo moderate Taleban in Afghanistan. General Kayani apprised the US dignitary of operation Rah-e-Nijat being carried out against terrorists in South Waziristan Agency.

Earlier, Jones also called on President Zardari and discussed issues relating to Pakistan’s struggle against militancy, rehabilitation of internally displaced persons and early reimbursement of the arrears in coalition support fund (CSF).

When the US official called on Prime Minister Gilani, the PM underlined Pakistan’s concerns on the possible effects of surge in the US forces in Afghanistan, particularly in the bordering province of Helmand.

Gilani emphasised that crossing over of Afghan Taleban into Pakistan's territory must be factored in the new US policy.

Gilani also called for regular consultations and coordination between the two sides on deployment of the US forces in Afghanistan, strengthening of the mechanism of border coordination centres, fencing of Pakistan-Afghanistan border, introduction of telemetric system for stemming the supply of weapons and drugs, and stopping the crossover of undesirable elements from Afghanistan into Pakistan.

In Multan, talking to reporters at the airport, Prime Minister Gilani said he had spoken to his Indian counterpart on reports about Indian interference in Balochistan to bolster insurgency there.

“We will make public proofs of Indian activities at an appropriate time,” Gilani added.