## Afghanistan: 12 Years of War & Occupation, What Now?

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The Washington Post

## As deadline nears, post-2014 security deal eludes U.S.

year-old negotiations on a deal. The accord is considered critical for the international community to continue funding the Afghan govemment and shoring cent security forces.

AFGHANISTAN FROM A1

Under the Bilatera Agreement, or BSA, t States plans to leave a stil fied number of troops -5,000 and 10,000, most pr in Afghanistan to train ar its security forces after t withdrawal of what an 52,000 combatandsupport

Karrai was enraged weeks ago, Afghan official: when U.S. forces forcibly too tody of a senior Pakistani Ta leader whom Afghan intellig was trying to recruit.

In the previously urreported cident, U.S. forces intercepted Afghan government convoy a seized Latif Mehsud iz Logar pro ince, Karrai spokesman Aima Faizi said. In doing so, Faizi added the Americans foiled a months long bid by the Afghan government to wean the Taliban commander from the bardefield and use him to help launch substantive

Paizi called the Mensud seizure a major breach of sovereignty. Although Karzai has not mentioned the case publicly, his private fluy has been reflected in recent suggestions that Afgharistan might forgo a bilateral pact.

In a separate incident, Pakistan last month freed a topAfghan Taliban official, Abdul Ghani Baradar, whom karzar sees as a possible interlocutor for his peace efforts and whose release he had long demanded.

This week, however, Pakistan again placed Baradar under house arrest in the port city of Karachi. Speaker: Specied and Line of the Control of the Con

Both the CLA and the Defense Department declined to comment

Karzai's concerns

etions to a plan for open an office in collapse of a nasal with the United ible prisoner extely preceded his on with Obama he administraestarting lowwhere Taliban eetingwith thapresofficial draw up e in the of U.S., German or Italian troops would mean closing the U.S. Consulate in Herat and scrapping abrupt and total wifereet Peu end of 2011, Afghanistan empressed

The official said would be no "magical event that occurs, that flips a switch," at the end of the month and that there was always a possibility that some level of accord could still be concluded, either with Karzai or with a new president to be elected in April. "But it does represent a point

ternational partners have said that they would also leave forces behind, including a German contingent in northern Afghanistan and Italian troops in the west. Together, they would allow the State De-

"War & Occupation in Afghanistan: Which Way Forward?"

has also pledged to spend at least \$4 billion a year after 2014 on equipping and otherwise assisting Afghan security forces, as well as an additional \$4 billion in

The October deadline was also seen as crucial to avoid letting the negotiations become an issue in the Afghan election camp which began last week.

Although much of the B complete, the remaining iss

against what it says are the depleted remnants of al-Qaeda. Afghanistan wants all intelligence shared.

But the most serious dispute is over Karzai's push for a pledge of U.S. defense against any outside Author of the book

Karzai as proof of U.S.-Pakistani

collusion at his expense. Similarly, officials said, Karzai views unilateral U.S. talks with

In Large North Hall 1150 Commercial Dr. at William St past year arrid a flurry of domestic and overseas crises.

"It appears our attention to Afghanistan is drifting, and if we don't do something soon, it may drift too far to recover," Sedney

One official noted that both

shifted to Syria and a growing al-Qaeda presence in Africa.

"If you lock at the threat matrix," this official said, "Afghanistan isn't blinking the brightest. Why invest more billions and more lives?

Mobilization Against War & Occupation