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# Guerrilla war with Taliban a major shift for Canada; Artillery, air strikes reduced as enemy mixes with civilians

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**DATELINE:** KANDAHAR, AFGHANISTAN  
**BYLINE:** Tom Blackwell  
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KANDAHAR, AFGHANISTAN – Canadian Forces have been jolted in recent months by a dramatic shift in the Afghanistan conflict that has seen the Taliban melt into the civilian population and spread over a much wider area, a top officer said yesterday.

It has required a rapid "sea change" in tactics that used to be unheard of in the Forces, said Colonel Mike Cessford, second in command of the Canadian mission here.

Last year, troops fought largely in a 20–square–kilometre area west of Kandahar city, although Canada has responsibility for all Kandahar province. The combat was a conventional clash with large numbers of insurgents.

Now, Taliban fighters have dispersed among civilians and into a "multiplicity" of different districts, he said in a frank assessment of the operation.

The "battle space," as the military calls it, has broadened strikingly.

"This mission is evolving dynamically and dramatically," Col. Cessford said.

"We trained hard for a mission that we did not execute ... Here, you change on a dime, and you have to change on a dime."

Nevertheless, he is convinced NATO forces in southern Afghanistan have taken the initiative from the Taliban, attacking them before they could launch an expected spring offensive.

The security situation is improving for ordinary Afghans and more reconstruction is being carried out, he said.

The transformation of the conflict into a guerrilla war where combatants are often one with the civilians, however, has meant a major curb on Canadian firepower, even after several tanks were flown to their aid.

Soldiers are employing a "fraction" of the artillery and air strikes, and erring on the side of caution if they are not absolutely sure a potential target is a Taliban fighter. Meanwhile, they are relying more on intelligence.

Guerrilla war with Taliban a major shift for Canada; Artillery, air strikes reduced as enemy mixes with civilians

A few months ago, snipers at a forward operating base asked the commanding officer for permission to shoot an Afghan man digging a hole in the road, arguing he was likely an insurgent planting an improvised explosive device, Col. Cessford said.

The CO "couldn't bring himself " to give the go-ahead, and the suspected bomber walked away unscathed. It turned out he was a farmer draining water off the road.

"I would probably say there have been 90 or 100 similar incidents."

Last year, Canadian forces were concentrated in Panjwai district, west of Kandahar, where they fought several pitched battles with large groups of Taliban and lost several soldiers.

Training in Canada for the next rotation of soldiers was based on that experience, said Col. Cessford.

But when they arrived in Afghanistan, the troops found the war had changed. While much of the Canadian fighting lately has been in Zhari district, Canadian troops remain in Panjwai, Maiwand, Arghandab and Spin Boldak.

Canadians are making a push up into Shawali Kot, north of Kandahar city, for the first time in months to respond to an enemy "resurgence" there, said the colonel.

He also predicted Canadians will have an enduring presence in Afghanistan after the military force has left.

Asked if troops could be here for a decade, Col. Cessford, who has a PhD in history, pointed to the length of time Canada has had forces in former hot spots like Cyprus, where Canadian troops were deployed in significant numbers for almost three decades.

**KEYWORDS:** WAR; TERRORISM; FOREIGN AID; AFGHANISTAN; CANADA

# Afghan radio station owner murdered; Second woman journalist killed within past week

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**ILLUSTRATION:** Black & White Photo: Shah Marai, Afp, Getty Images /Relatives mourn Afghan journalist Zakia Zaki, who was shot dead in her home as she slept with her 20-month-old son. ;  
**DATELINE:** KABUL  
**SOURCE:** Agence France-Presse, with files from Reuters  
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KABUL – A leading female Afghan journalist was shot dead overnight, the Interior Ministry said yesterday, in the second such killing in a week but only the latest in a series of murders targeting women in the media.

Zakia Zaki, owner and manager of the U.S.-funded private Peace Radio in Jabal as Siraj, 60 kilometres north of the capital Kabul, was killed in her home late Tuesday.

The BBC reported that she was shot seven times in the chest as she slept with her 20-month-old son.

"Her family has not blamed anybody for the death of Zaki and police have started an intense investigation of the case," said Zemarai Bashary, a ministry spokesman.

Ms. Zaki, 35, was also the principal of a school and attended the 2003 meeting that drew up Afghanistan's post-Taliban constitution.

Media organizations said yesterday she had been openly critical of the warlords, who dominated Afghanistan during the years of civil war, and the hardline Taliban Islamists who followed them.

"She believed in freedom of expression -- that's why she was killed," said Rahimullah Samander, head of the Afghan Independent Journalists Association.

London-based Reporters Without Borders also expressed "deep shock" and said the woman had received several death threats.

"Whether this savage act was linked to her work as a journalist or her civic responsibilities, it is vital that those who responsible for this murder should be quickly identified and punished," it said.

The new killing came amid mounting anger over the murder in Kabul last Friday of Shakiba Sanga Amaj, a popular 22-year-old television news presenter, who was killed in her home.

Police have arrested a suspect for the killing of Ms. Amaj but the motive is still unclear. Some reports said her murder may have been related to her refusal to marry someone, while others said she had also been warned to stop working.

"Even if a family feud appears to be behind this cowardly killing, the authorities should not overlook the profession and renown of the young presenter," Reporters Without Borders said in a statement Tuesday.

The murder of Ms. Amaj has drawn parallels with the unsolved killing in May 2005 of Shaima Rezayee, a 24-year-old television presenter, also shot dead in her home.

The case, which some have claimed was a suicide, has been linked to disgruntlement in this conservative country over her modern appearance and manner.

In another incident reported recently, a television reporter was beaten up by security guards at the parliament building last week, the Afghan branch of the International Federation of Journalists said.

Independent media have flourished in Afghanistan since the fall of the Taliban in 2001. Dozens of radio stations and private television channels have opened.

Many channels run largely entertainment programs and some of their programs are seen as too modern in the deeply conservative Islamic nation where Western powers are trying to ensure democracy and respect for human rights.

More than five years since the Taliban were removed, many women, especially in the countryside, have no access to education, let alone employment, often because of traditional restrictions.

There are also concerns that attacks and threats on journalists will undermine advances in media freedom since the fall of the Taliban.

Afghanistan rates 130 on the 168-country media press freedom index compiled by Reporters Without Borders.

Critics point to a draft media law, still before parliament, which includes one article banning news items that "harm the physical, spiritual and moral wellbeing of people."

Last month, the country's lower house of parliament sacked an outspoken female member, well known for her criticism of factional commanders, after she said the house worse than a stable.

**KEYWORDS:** WAR; TERRORISM; JOURNALISTS



# A special thank-you for some special kids; Officers arrive in Sea King to recognize school's Afghanistan project

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**BYLINE:** Deborah Mensah-bonsu

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More than 400 energetic students, clad in patriotic red and white and wagging Canadian flags, anxiously peered into the sky and then cheered as a Sea King helicopter touched down in the field behind Portland Estates Elementary School on Wednesday.

The landing coincided with an assembly in the Dartmouth school to celebrate the efforts of the Power Play Kids, a group of 13 Grade 5 students who have been collecting school supplies for children in Afghanistan and writing letters to soldiers in Kandahar.

Teachers occasionally shushed the young audience as speakers, including Bill Karsten, regional councillor for Portland-East Woodlawn, and Lt. Ron Kronstein of army public affairs thanked the students for their kindness.

Lt. Kronstein organized the project with school principal Anna Marie Sarto and parent volunteer Jennifer Melanson.

Ms. Melanson, whose 10-year-old daughter Kaitlin is a member of the Power Play Kids, said this is the group's second year of activities and that its funding by the Capital district health authority has been doubled to \$1,000 for the coming year. The group's goal is to enhance "personal assets" in kids, like leadership, courage and compassion, she added.

"The kids spearheaded this whole event. They went around from class to class, encouraging the school to get involved and acting as role models."

Large bins and baskets filled with notebooks, crayons and other school supplies stood at the front of the gym where the assembly was held.

"I think the kids are really gonna like everything," said Kaitlin. "I'm also really excited to meet the soldier that I've been writing to."

A handful of soldiers are scheduled to meet the students face-to-face in the fall.

The school choir closed the assembly but excitement began to build as the kids eagerly shuffled outside to observe the landing of the Sea King circling above the school. Their admiration turned into mild hysteria as the helicopter descended and soldiers eased themselves onto the ground via a harness.

Eight-year-old Alexander threw his arms around his father, Lt.-Col. Jeff Tasseron, as the chopper's blades whirled up dust in the background.

A special thank-you for some special kids; Officers arrive in Sea King to recognize school's Afghanistan project

"I'm proud of my dad, he's awesome," he said. "The chopper is cool! And noisy too."

Lt.-Col. Tasseron, wing operations officer at 12 Wing Shearwater, organized the chopper's arrival.

He said he hopes the kids will think of the helicopter as part of Canada's presence in the rest of the world.

"I hope they'll at least think it's cool," he said with a laugh. "It's something we'd like to do more in the future."

A line of kids snaked its way across the field to get a closer look at the Sea King and talk to the soldiers.

"It's a phenomenal experience for the children," said Ms. Sarto. "It's something they'll remember forever."()

# Officers arrive in Sea King to thank school for Afghanistan project; Officers arrive in Sea King to thank school for Afghanistan project

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**PUBLICATION:** The Chronicle–Herald

**DATE:** 2007.06.07

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**BYLINE:** Deborah Mensah–bonsu

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# Canadian troops adapt to Afghan reality colonel; Change only constant in conflict

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KANDAHAR, Afghanistan – Canadian troops in Afghanistan are adapting to a rapidly–changing environment that came as a surprise as battle zones expanded and the enemy sought cover among civilians, the deputy Canadian commander said Wednesday.

Col. Mike Cessford said traditional planning for a well–organized enemy dissolved as soldiers adjusted to a dynamic reality in Afghanistan that has challenged the way the Canadian military usually works.

As a result, military decisions are being made much quicker. The brass is "getting it" when it comes to the realities on the ground, he said.

There has been a "sea–change" in the way Canadian troops operate as they fight elusive insurgents who cloaked among civilians in cities and towns.

"What changed for us is we found ourselves absolutely involved not so much in a quasi–regular conflict against well–trained and well–prepared enemy forces, we found ourselves actually conducting operations amongst the people ... we were very surprised how dynamically and dramatically things evolved."

The Canadians were also surprised by the "far wider" expanse of area that they have to work in, as well as the encouraging development in the capability of Afghan security forces, Cessford told reporters in a blunt assessment of the situation.

Cessford insisted the Canadian Forces are getting the desired results, forcing the Taliban to fight for survival.

"There are peaks and valleys, but we are seeing that we are maintaining pressure," Cessford said.

"Does that mean the places have been cleaned of the Taliban? Absolutely not."

"But it does mean that their ability to group, their ability to plan, their ability to develop capability to inflict significant harm on us is reduced. They are focused on survival as opposed to offensive operations, and we are having an impact."

Cessford said more often than not Canadian troops are "taking the fight" to insurgents.

That's paved the way for increased development aid efforts, Cessford said, pointing to polio vaccinations campaigns and education as two growing areas of activity.

Bubbles of resistance popping up further afield are an indication that heavy fighting in the Panjwaii district and around Kandahar City last fall have forced insurgents out of heavily–populated areas, he said.

This allows the troops to move into areas that haven't traditionally seen a strong Canadian presence.

Last year, Canadian troops focused on a 20–square–kilometre radius around Panjwaii. This season, however, will see the military and development projects move into an arc of districts north of Kandahar.

Cessford said no matter what political decision is made in Ottawa on whether Canada will extend its mission past February of 2009, the country will always have a presence in Afghanistan.

But as the clock ticks down towards the deadline, there is also the certainty that more sacrifices will be required.

"We are seeing movement, we will see setbacks," he said. "I think unfortunately we will continue to pay a price in blood and treasure for this mission."

# Canadian troops adapt to fast-changing realities in Afghanistan, says colonel

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# Our soldiers merit special dignity in death

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**COLUMN:** Political analysis

**BYLINE:** Don Martin

**DATELINE:** Ottawa

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A Sherman tank and pair of Howitzers guard the Canadian Armed Forces freebie nobody wants to collect. The only cost is your life.

A free burial plot, coffin interment and simple grey headstone with a carved black cross await any slain soldier whose family requests space surrounding a 24-tonne stone memorial in an Ottawa cemetery.

But in the wake of one family's very public disclosure on their struggle to cover a slain son's funeral costs, Chief of Defence Staff Gen. Rick Hillier told me he is exploring the idea of a cross-Canada network of military cemeteries for the fallen.

The burial decision for families given the dreaded call with news they're an Afghanistan casualty's next of kin is complicated by geography. They have to decide if the soldier will be buried near them or within the military fraternity. There is only one military option – and less than a third have accepted their rightful space in the National War Cemetery.

Hillier has ordered an investigation into ways to reduce or eliminate distance from a family's burial decision.

"I've asked the chief military personnel to consider the need for several military cemeteries across our country in the longer term. Perhaps one per region," Hillier said in an interview.

"Soldiers whose families live within driving distance of Ottawa are prone to have them buried here. The closer you live, the more you consider that option to put a soldier among other soldiers because you can still come visit his grave. Coming from British Columbia, for example, it's more difficult."

It only makes sense to have Canada's military casualties buried together in a suitably dignified setting that doesn't inconvenience their families. Locating them near or on the country's major military bases would not seem to be logistically complicated or expensive.

I visited the two tree-laced sections of land in the national historic site on a dull Monday morning in the capital.

A few students were planting geraniums, but there wasn't a visitor to be seen. Sod had not yet been rolled over the plots of the most recent casualties from Kandahar. A handful of newer graves were marked by a red rose in the mud, others with a Maple Leaf flag.

The most recent row of headstones is a grim rollcall of still-familiar names from the ramp, repatriation and funeral ceremonies of the last year. Nichola Goddard. Jason Warren. Francisco Gomez. Shane Stachnik. Robert Mitchell. Allan Stewart. Darcy Tedford.



But the most sobering sight is the line of headstones waiting to be expanded, an inevitability without a miraculous turn of events in Kandahar.

This is no Arlington, the national cemetery for America's war dead, which attracts four million visitors to a site with more than 300,000 graves, including former presidents, Supreme Court justices and astronauts.

That's good news. They bury 27 bodies a day in Arlington and the sprawling grassland reserved for the continuing carnage from Iraq and other conflicts stretches beyond the horizon. By contrast, the most recent addition in our eight-hectare National War Cemetery was a month ago.

But there are other steps Hillier plans to take to put the public relations disaster of the funeral expenses flap behind him, a serious black eye for a military-saluting government that could yet cost Defence Minister Gordon O'Connor his job for cumulative bad judgment.

A Hillier-launched fund to support families has \$500,000 in the bank even before it becomes operational.

He vows the government will now cover rental costs for any halls or arenas required for military funeral services where mourner demand exceeds church space.

He's also ordered all victim families to be revisited to ensure they weren't dealt with under outdated Treasury Board guidelines.

"As right as you can make something in arrears, we'll do it. We'll go back and check with all other families and make sure about the support they're getting," Hillier says. "If there is anywhere that demand exceeded supply, we cover it for them."

It all adds up to an impressive, albeit overdue, military operation of political damage control.

If the next step is to dedicate military burial space for the fallen yet to come, well, the public humiliation heaped on the government by one family will have done a service to our military.

They deserve special dignity in death. Canadian soldiers shouldn't just fade away as just another plot in a sprawling public cemetery. Don Martin writes for the Calgary Herald.

# Troops adapting, colonel says

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**PAGE:** B5

**SOURCE:** CP

**BYLINE:** Stephanie Levitz

**DATELINE:** Kandahar, Afghanistan

**ILLUSTRATION:** An Afghan policeman checks the properties of searched Afghanpassengers at a security checkpoint in Sangin district of Helmand province, south of Kabul, Afghanistan. – Photo by The Associated Press

**WORD COUNT:** 464

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"What changed for us is we found ourselves absolutely involved not so much in a quasi-regular conflict against well-trained and well-prepared enemy forces, we found ourselves actually conducting operations amongst the people ... we were very surprised how dynamically and dramatically things evolved."

The Canadians were also surprised by the "far wider" expanse of area that they have to work in, as well as the encouraging development in the capability of Afghan security forces, Cessford told reporters in a blunt assessment of the situation.

Cessford insisted the Canadian Forces are getting the desired results, forcing the Taliban to fight for survival.

"There are peaks and valleys, but we are seeing that we are maintaining pressure," Cessford said.

"Does that mean the places have been cleaned of the Taliban? Absolutely not.

"But it does mean that their ability to group, their ability to plan, their ability to develop capability to inflict significant harm on us is reduced. They are focused on survival as opposed to offensive operations, and we are having an impact."

Cessford said more often than not Canadian troops are "taking the fight" to insurgents.

That's paved the way for increased development aid efforts, Cessford said, pointing to polio vaccinations campaigns and education as two growing areas of activity.

Bubbles of resistance popping up further afield are an indication that heavy fighting in the Panjwaii district and around Kandahar City last fall have forced insurgents out of heavily populated areas, he said.

This allows the troops to move into areas that haven't traditionally seen a strong Canadian presence.

"Having established ourselves a presence among the people, we are prepared, where need be, to flex out from that development zone to allow us to disrupt and engage the Taliban before they come close to the people," he said.

"That is something we are certainly trying to achieve – to separate and shield the people from Taliban coercion." Though history books have few examples of victory over guerrilla-like tactics, Cessford, who has a doctorate in history, is adamant that a different outcome is possible for Afghanistan.

"The odds are on our side," he said.

"This is an insurgency against an elected democratic government that has significant support, that had significant support before the Taliban came to power ... people have already seen the Taliban ... and it wasn't particularly nice."

Cessford said no matter what political decision is made in Ottawa on whether Canada will extend its mission past February of 2009, the country will always have a presence in Afghanistan.

# Two more allegations of Afghan detainee abuse surface in Kandahar: MacKay

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**DATE:** 2007.06.06

**KEYWORDS:** DEFENCE INTERNATIONAL JUSTICE

**PUBLICATION:** cpw

**WORD COUNT:** 595

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OTTAWA (CP) \_ Two fresh allegations of torture involving suspected Taliban fighters have surfaced in the wake of Canada signing a revised prisoner transfer agreement with Afghanistan, a joint Commons committee was told Wednesday.

The additional claims bring to four the number of suspected cases of abuse involving detainees captured by Canadian troops but turned over to Afghan authorities.

The claims thus far are "unproven," Foreign Affairs Minister Peter MacKay said following a special meeting of the Commons defence and foreign affairs committee.

He conceded they were "serious allegations" but provided no details other than to say they were obtained directly from prison visits by Canadian Foreign Affairs officials in Kandahar.

MacKay says he's confident Afghan authorities will thoroughly investigate what's been reported.

"We have followed the steps in place, the process that is place, which is to notify directly Afghan authorities, which our ambassador did as recently as this morning," he said.

"We have to give them time to look into them and whether there's any basis for these allegations and of course we'll have expectations of the Afghan authorities."

The Afghan Independent Human Rights Commission and the International Red Cross were also asked to investigate, MacKay added.

In April, Public Safety Minister Stockwell Day revealed that two Corrections Canada officers working in Kandahar had heard complaints from a pair of prisoners in the notorious jails of the Afghan intelligence service that they had been tortured.

Those earlier claims could not be verified at the time as the officers saw no "physical evidence" of abuse, and Day raised the suggestion that the reports were fabrications dreamed up by hard-core Taliban prisoners who are trained to lie.

When the controversy erupted in earlier this spring, the allusion that it was some kind of insurgent propaganda stunt was often repeated by many in the Conservative government \_ from Prime Minister Stephen Harper on down.

Liberal foreign affairs critic Ujjal Dosanjh said he was offended that the government had returned to that line of defence.

"These ministers, the bunch that were here today, they believe in Afghanistan if you take detainees, we should be able to treat them differently, less than we will treat somebody else and that is absolutely despicable," he said.

Dosanjh wondered whether Afghan authorities can be counted on to properly investigate the abuse claims when it's reported that many in Kandahar don't see the alleged torture of Taliban captives as a big deal.

Published reports in late April said as many as 33 prisoners captured by Canadians and handed over to the Afghans may have been beaten. The claims set off two weeks of relentless opposition attacks and resulted in the Conservatives signing a revised transfer agreement with Afghanistan \_ one that allowed Canadian officials direct, private access where the condition of detainees could be checked.

A University of Ottawa law professor, who first raised concerns about the way Canada dealt with Taliban prisoners, says the latest revelations reinforce his argument that NATO should have its own detention facility in southern Afghanistan.

“What this says is the new agreement of a month ago is an absolute failure,” said Amir Attaran.

But MacKay says the fresh claims prove the new agreement is working.

Attempts by opposition parties to glean more information out of the five Conservatives who appeared for the unusual joint meeting ran into national security and statistical roadblocks.

Defence Minister Gordon O'Connor refused to confirm how many prisoners have been captured by the Canadian army, invoking national security and saying that releasing even overall figures could be used by the Taliban for propaganda purposes.

But Dosanjh says he doesn't buy it and points out that the Americans post information about their prisoners in Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, on the Pentagon website.

Questions about human rights, particularly over the suspension of a female Afghan MP, were met with vague responses from International Development Minister Josee Verner and Helena Guergis, the foreign affairs parliamentary secretary.

Both of them talked in generalities about the accomplishments of Canadian development efforts.

# Taliban pledge to free 4 health workers after receiving body of slain leader

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**DATE:** 2007.06.06

**KEYWORDS:** INTERNATIONAL DEFENCE POLITICS JUSTICE

**PUBLICATION:** cpw

**WORD COUNT:** 283

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KANDAHAR, Afghanistan (AP) \_ The body of a slain top Taliban commander was retrieved by his family Thursday and in exchange militants will release four kidnapped Afghan medical workers, a purported Taliban spokesman said.

The beheaded body of a fifth kidnapped medical worker was in southern Helmand's Kajaki district, where his family could get it back, Shuhabuddin Athul, who claims to speak for the militants, said in a telephone call from an unknown location.

The militants killed the health worker Tuesday because the government hadn't handed over the body of commander Mullah Dadullah in time, said Athul, whose exact ties to the militant leadership are not known. The other four would be released Thursday, Athul said, without providing further details.

The militia had warned Tuesday one of the five hostages would be killed each day until authorities returned the body of the commander, who was killed during an operation in southern Afghanistan.

The health workers \_ a doctor, three nurses and a driver \_ were kidnapped by suspected Taliban militants in Kandahar's Zhari district on March 27 after they had administered vaccines and other treatment at a refugee camp, officials said. It was not immediately clear which of the five was killed.

The authorities were not immediately available for comment.

Afghan President Hamid Karzai ordered Monday that the body of Dadullah, who was killed in a military operation in Helmand province in May, be exchanged for the release of five Afghan health workers kidnapped in the country's south.

The decision followed an exchange demand from Dadullah Mansoor, the brother of the slain commander, who now heads the militant operations in southern Afghanistan.

Mullah Dadullah was the second top-tier Taliban field commander to die in six months, after a U.S. air strike killed Mullah Akhtar Mohammad Osmani in December.

# Two NATO soldiers killed in clashes with Taliban in southern Afghanistan

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**DATE:** 2007.06.06

**KEYWORDS:** INTERNATIONAL DEFENCE

**PUBLICATION:** cpw

**WORD COUNT:** 338

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KABUL (AP) \_ Two NATO soldiers, including one Briton, died battling militants in southern Afghanistan as escalating violence claimed the life of an Afghan woman who ran a radio station in the north, the second female journalist killed in a week.

The NATO soldiers died in "separate engagements with enemy fighters" in southern Afghanistan on Wednesday, a statement from NATO's International Security Assistance Force said, without providing any other details.

Britain's Defence Ministry later confirmed one of the two soldiers was British but would not reveal the nationality of the other. It said its soldier was taking part in an offensive patrol in the Upper Gereshk Valley area of Helmand province in southern Afghanistan when they came under attack.

"The company was moving forward to clear a Taliban compound when they came under fire and the soldier was shot," a ministry statement said.

The Canadian military in Kandahar said there are no Canadians among the latest casualties

Their deaths bring to 77 the number of international troops killed in Afghanistan this year, by an Associated Press count. Six have been killed in the last six days.

Both military and militant operations are intensifying, raising doubts about the prospects for stability more than five years after a U.S.-led invasion drove the Taliban from power.

Militant fatalities this month account for about 10 per cent of the estimated 2,000 insurgency-related deaths in Afghanistan this year, by an AP count based on figures by U.S., NATO and Afghan officials.

Elsewhere, U.S.-led coalition and Afghan troops backed by air strikes killed two militants and detained 19 others.

The increase in violence is also claiming the lives of civilians.

Zakia Zaki, owner and manager of Peace Radio, was gunned down in front of her eight-year-old son inside her home in northern Parwan province, provincial Gov. Abdul Jabar Takwa said. No motive was immediately known. Zaki had led the radio station since it opened after the fall of the Taliban in October 2001, Takwa said.

Another female reporter, Shokiba Sanga Amaaj, was shot inside her house in Kabul on Friday by two male relatives, said Gen. Ali Shah Paktiawal, the Kabul police director of criminal investigations. She was a newsreader for private Shamshad TV.

# U.S. House passes bill that would cut aid to Afghans tied to drug trade, terror

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**DATE:** 2007.06.06

**KEYWORDS:** INTERNATIONAL POLITICS DEFENCE

**PUBLICATION:** cpw

**WORD COUNT:** 473

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WASHINGTON (AP) \_ The U.S. House of Representatives passed legislation Wednesday that would cut off aid to local governments in Afghanistan with ties to drug dealers, criminals or terrorists, a standard the White House said is unrealistic.

The legislation was pushed strongly by U.S. Representative Ileana Ros-Lehtinen, who said not enough is being done to curb Afghanistan's growing opium market. Its passage marked increasing tension between the U.S. administration, which says it has sole province on foreign policy matters, and legislators who say Congress must have a role in overseeing assistance programs.

"The time has come for a clear and comprehensive and truly wide-reaching counter-narcotics strategy in Afghanistan," said Ros-Lehtinen, of Florida, the top Republican on the House foreign affairs committee.

The White House countered that the bill would tie the president's hands in responding to a complex situation.

"Besides setting an unrealistically high bar, which in fact could encourage the Taliban to promote corruption among local officials, the provision creates a serious barrier to assisting those areas with significant needs," an administration statement said.

The bill, passed by a 406-10 vote, would authorize US\$2.1 billion in humanitarian, economic and military assistance programs for the budget year 2008, which begins Oct. 1. Another \$4 billion would be spent through 2010.

Before the final vote, the House adopted by a vote of 419-1 an amendment that would allow the secretary of state to reward Afghan or Pakistani officials for information leading to the capture of high-profile terrorists operating inside Afghanistan.

A Senate companion bill is still under discussion.

The dispute over Afghanistan assistance comes as opium poppy cultivation is on the rise and as the U.S. administration struggles to make strides in Iraq. A House report on the bill said poppy cultivation grew by 59 per cent during the 2005-2006 growing season, producing more than 6,000 tonnes of opium.

"The Taliban is back, posing not only an insidious threat to the people of Afghanistan, but to America as well," said U.S. Representative Tom Lantos, chairman of the foreign affairs committee.

Lt.-Gen. Douglas Lute, nominated by President George W. Bush to manage the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan, said he agrees a "long-term, comprehensive approach" against the drug-trade in Afghanistan is necessary.

"If confirmed, I will consider the counter-drug aspect of the campaign in Afghanistan as one element leading to overall success and seek to improve its integration with the other pillars of the strategy," Lute wrote the Senate armed services committee in anticipation of his confirmation hearing Thursday.



The House legislation also requires Bush appoint a co-ordinator to oversee a counter-narcotics strategy in Afghanistan and establish a special envoy to encourage Afghanistan-Pakistan co-operation.

The White House said these provisions overstep Congress's bounds and interfere with the president's authority on foreign affairs.

The cumulative effect of the bill would be ``to divert the attention of those with key responsibilities to implement the diplomacy and programs that actually constitute the president's strategy and foreign policy with regard to Afghanistan and the region."

# Curses, optimism among troops watching Stanley Cup final in Afghanistan

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**DATE:** 2007.06.06

**KEYWORDS:** DEFENCE INTERNATIONAL SPORTS

**PUBLICATION:** cpw

**WORD COUNT:** 226

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KANDAHAR, Afghanistan (CP) \_ A steady stream of muttered curses were broken only by two loud cheers early Thursday morning in Kandahar as about two dozen Canadian soldiers gathered to watch the Ottawa Senators lose hockey's biggest prize to the Anaheim Ducks.

Most were self-confessed die-hard hockey fans who'd been up before the crack of dawn for all five games of the Stanley Cup playoffs, saying their love for hockey trumped the need for sleep.

"You've just gotta keep smiling," said one soldier at the end of the first period, with Ottawa trailing.

Squeezed into the old Canada House and spread out in the new one, the soldiers stamped their feet and cheered when Ottawa scored the only two goals of the game.

Attendance dwindled as the game clock ran on, with only a handful of soldiers left for the cringe-inducing third period.

When Antoine Vermette got a chance at a penalty shot, soldiers moved to their edge of their Ikea chairs and leather couches, only to slump back in dejection as he lost control of the puck.

And as the sixth goal by Anaheim was scored with minutes left, stamps of frustration echoed off the wooden floor.

"It sucks that Anaheim won but they played really good, it looks good on them," said Bombardier Stephen O'Brien from Cape Breton.

"It's not good that Ottawa lost but it's all fun."

Lt.-Col. John Woodgate from Halifax said he's been a Sens fan for 10 years and the disappointment of watching them lose was tempered by the fact that there's always next year.

"Hopefully they still get a good team, it was good to see them make it this far this year," he said.

"They're sure a lot better than Toronto, anyway you look at it."

# Afghan–Violence–Update (one of dead British)

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**DATE:** 2007.06.06

**KEYWORDS:** INTERNATIONAL DEFENCE

**PUBLICATION:** bnw

**WORD COUNT:** 87

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KABUL, Afghanistan — Two NATO soldiers were killed today in separate incidents in southern Afghanistan.

Britain's Defence Ministry confirms one of the soldiers was British but would not reveal the nationality of the other.

Canadian authorities say the other victim was not Canadian.

Meanwhile, U–S and Afghan troops — backed by air strikes — killed two militants and detained nine others in the central province of Uruzgan.

To the southeast, coalition and Afghan troops raided a suspected Taliban hideout in Zabul province, detaining 10 suspected fighters.

In eastern Paktika province, a local district chief was killed when the mine he was trying to remove from a road exploded.

(AP)

TA

# Harper–Paris

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**DATE:** 2007.06.06  
**KEYWORDS:** DEFENCE ENVIRONMENT INTERNATIONAL  
POLITICS  
**PUBLICATION:** bnw  
**WORD COUNT:** 126

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PARIS — On their first political date, Prime Minister Harper and French President Nicolas Sarkozy moved quickly to smooth over two potential threats to their relationship.

Yesterday in Paris, Sarkozy tried to reassure Harper that he has nothing to fear from Sarkozy's election promises on Afghanistan and climate change.

The newly elected Sarkozy pledged during the campaign that he would pull French troops out of Afghanistan and slap an import tax on goods from countries that didn't respect the Kyoto accord.

Both policies could cause trouble for Canada.

But Harper says these policies are not aimed at Canada.

In terms of reducing greenhouse gas emissions, Harper says France and Canada have the same goal — enforceable targets under an international protocol.

As for Afghanistan, Harper says he has no fear that France would suddenly pull out the one–thousand French troops stationed there as part of the international coalition.

(CP)

NMC

# Afghan–Violence

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**DATE:** 2007.06.06

**KEYWORDS:** INTERNATIONAL DEFENCE

**PUBLICATION:** bnw

**WORD COUNT:** 65

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KABUL — NATO says two of its soldiers died in battles with suspected Taliban militants in southern Afghanistan today.

The soldiers, from NATO's International Security Assistance Force, died in separate clashes.

ISAF has released no further details, including the soldiers' nationalities or where the combat took place.

Some 25–hundred Canadian soldiers are serving as part of the NATO force in Afghanistan's volatile southern Kandahar province, where Taliban militants have launched numerous attacks.

(AP)

# More Afghan prison abuse claims surface; Canadian officials hear complaints firsthand from detainees during jail visit, MacKay says

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**IDNUMBER** 200706070176  
**PUBLICATION:** The Toronto Star  
**DATE:** 2007.06.07  
**EDITION:** Met  
**SECTION:** News  
**PAGE:** A27  
**BYLINE:** bruce campion-smith  
**SOURCE:** Toronto Star  
**COPYRIGHT:** © 2007 Torstar Corporation  
**WORD COUNT:** 457

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The controversy over detainees in Afghanistan has flared again following the revelation that two more prisoners captured by Canadian soldiers say they've been abused in the custody of Afghan authorities.

"There are serious allegations," Foreign Affairs Minister Peter MacKay said yesterday.

Canadian officials heard the complaints firsthand during a visit to an Afghan detention centre, a visit made possible by recent changes to the prisoner transfer agreement that gives them access to prisons.

These two new cases are on the top of the two previous reports of abuse that Public Safety Minister Stockwell Day revealed in April. One complaint was made in Kandahar and three in Kabul, MacKay said.

But yesterday, both Day and MacKay – appearing before a Commons' committee – said Canadian officials saw no physical signs of abuse and heard no evidence to back up the claims.

"These allegations are pursued by Afghanistan authorities ... It's within their prisons that these allegations have arisen," MacKay said after the committee meeting. "We have to give them time to look into them and find out whether there is any basis for these allegations."

Still, the troubling reports prompted Canada's ambassador in Afghanistan Arif Lalani to meet with the Afghan defence chief to relay his concerns. As well, Canada has notified the International Committee of the Red Cross and the Afghan Independent Human Rights Commission, MacKay said.

It was a rare sight on Parliament Hill yesterday as five cabinet ministers appeared before a joint meeting of the Commons' foreign affairs and defence committees to talk about Canada's arrangements for handling detainees in Afghanistan.

Joining MacKay and Day were Defence Minister Gordon O'Connor, International Co-Operation Minister Josee Verner and Helena Guergis, secretary of state for foreign affairs.

They touted the features of the new detainee deal – signed under pressure from critics – that gives Canadian and local human rights officials "full, unrestricted and private" access to prisons to monitor the treatment of detainees transferred into Afghan custody by Canadian troops.

Since the deal was signed, Canadians have made five visits to detention centres. The new report of abuse shows the new arrangements are working, MacKay said.

"It is proof that the enhanced arrangement is working, that we are following up on our commitments," he said.

But the new reports of abuse should cause Ottawa to rethink whether it continues handing over prisoners to Afghan officials, Liberal MP Ujjal Dosanjh (Vancouver South) said.

"We should reconsider the issue of whether or not we should be transferring detainees to the Afghan forces if these kind of allegations continue to surface, " he said.

But Day said Afghan insurgents have been schooled to complain about torture, even when there hasn't been any.

"Detainees are not simply people who have jaywalked ... These are people who are suspected terrorists ... people who know no limits when it comes to the suicide killing of others," Day said.

He touted the progress that's been made in Afghan prisons, from an atmosphere of "brutal revenge" to "respecting our demand that even their enemies have human rights and need to be treated well."

# Canadians adapting, getting results; Taliban 'are focused on survival as opposed to offensive operations, and we are having an impact'

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**IDNUMBER** 200706070112  
**PUBLICATION:** The Toronto Star  
**DATE:** 2007.06.07  
**EDITION:** Ont  
**SECTION:** News  
**PAGE:** A27  
**ILLUSTRATION:** Ryan Remiorz CP Master Cpl. Mike Babin and a Canadian convoy move into a base in Spin Boldak, Afghanistan last month. ;  
**BYLINE:** Stephanie Levitz  
**SOURCE:** CANADIAN PRESS  
**COPYRIGHT:** © 2007 Torstar Corporation  
**WORD COUNT:** 290

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Canadian troops in Afghanistan are adapting to a rapidly-changing environment that has caught them by surprise as battle zones expanded and the enemy sought cover among civilians, the deputy Canadian commander said yesterday.

Col. Mike Cessford said traditional planning for a well-organized, well-trained enemy dissolved as soldiers confronted a dynamic, constantly evolving reality on the ground that's challenged the way the Canadian military works.

But he insisted the Canadian Forces are getting the desired results, arguing that the Taliban are now fighting for survival.

"There are peaks and valleys, but we are seeing that we are maintaining pressure," Cessford told reporters in Kandahar. "Does that mean the places have been cleaned of the Taliban? Absolutely not.

"But it does mean that their ability to group, their ability to plan, their ability to develop capability to inflict significant harm on us is reduced. They are focused on survival as opposed to offensive operations, and we are having an impact."

Bubbles of resistance popping up farther afield are an indication that heavy fighting in the Panjwaii district and around Kandahar city last fall has forced insurgents out of heavily-populated areas, he said.

This allows the troops to move into areas that haven't traditionally seen a strong Canadian presence.

"Having established ourselves a presence among the people, we are prepared . . . to flex out from that development zone to allow us to disrupt and engage the Taliban before they come close to the people," he said. "That is something we are certainly trying to achieve – to separate and shield the people from Taliban coercion."

In northern Afghanistan yesterday, a female radio station owner was gunned down at home in front of her 8-year-old son, while in the south, two NATO soldiers died in "separate engagements with enemy fighters" in southern Afghanistan, a military statement said.

Canadians adapting, getting results; Taliban 'are focused on survival as opposed to offensive operations, and we are having an impact'



With files from Associated Press

## Four detainees tortured: Ottawa

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**IDNUMBER** 200706070072  
**PUBLICATION:** The Leader-Post (Regina)  
**DATE:** 2007.06.07  
**EDITION:** Final  
**SECTION:** News  
**PAGE:** B10  
**DATELINE:** OTTAWA  
**BYLINE:** Juliet O'Neill  
**SOURCE:** CanWest News Service  
**WORD COUNT:** 472

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OTTAWA — Four Afghan detainees who were captured by Canadian Forces and transferred to prisons in Afghanistan have claimed to Canadian authorities that they were tortured while in detention, senior cabinet ministers told MPs Wednesday.

While citing this as evidence of the effectiveness of Canada's prisoner-monitoring procedures, Foreign Affairs Minister Peter MacKay and Public Safety Minister Stockwell Day also cautioned that Taliban and al-Qaida terrorists are trained to claim they have been tortured.

No physical evidence of torture was visible in any of the cases but all are being investigated by Afghan authorities, who will inform Canadian officials of the results, Day said. The ministers' information was based on five visits by Canadian authorities to detention facilities in Afghanistan.

The comments were made at an unusual joint meeting of the Commons committees on foreign affairs and international trade and national defence. Testimony was provided by the two ministers, along with Defence Minister Gordon O'Connor and two junior ministers.

"While these allegations are serious, it is true that the enhanced arrangement is working, that we are following up on our commitment," MacKay told reporters. "And that includes following up on these specific allegations with the Afghan authorities. In due time, we have to give them the opportunity to look into them and find out what exactly (occurred) and whether there is a basis for these allegations."

MacKay added that Canadians are not involved in any alleged abuse.

The handling of detainees was a hot partisan issue that dominated Parliament in late April. At the time, an embattled O'Connor surprised MacKay by announcing at a committee hearing that Canada had struck a new deal to monitor Afghan detainees.

With several ministers testifying together Wednesday, Liberal defence critic Denis Coderre scoffed at their effort as "Operation Save Gordon."

The two-hour hearing was marked by bickering over the cabinet ministers' repeated accusations that opposition MPs are maligning Canadian troops by raising questions about the treatment of prisoners. Opposition MPs also expressed frustration that, even with five ministers testifying, they did not get clear answers to some key questions.

For example, Liberals were unsuccessful in pressing O'Connor to reveal the number of detainees who were

captured by Canadians. To bolster their arguments, they cited a U.S. list of the names, birth dates and home countries of the hundreds of prisoners, mostly from Afghanistan, imprisoned at a U.S. military base in Cuba.

"There is no war going on there," O'Connor countered. By contrast, he said, revealing information about detainees in war-torn Afghanistan could threaten Canada's military operations overseas. "This is a military decision, not a political one," he said.

New Democratic MP Dawn Black was dissatisfied with answers to her questions about whether Canadian authorities are aware of the whereabouts of everyone they have captured. "You cannot get a straight answer from these ministers," she said afterwards.

MacKay said Afghans are helping, to the best of their ability, to inform Canadians on the whereabouts of detainees.

Ottawa Citizen

# PM aims to cool rhetoric in discussions with Putin; Russian leader has stirred talk of new Cold War

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**IDNUMBER** 200706070229

**PUBLICATION:** Calgary Herald

**DATE:** 2007.06.07

**EDITION:** Final

**SECTION:** News

**PAGE:** A9

**ILLUSTRATION:** Colour Photo: Andreas Rentz, Getty Images / Canadian Prime Minister Stephen Harper and his wife Laureen Harper arrive at the airport Wednesday in Rostock-Laage, Germany. ;

**KEYWORDS:** STRATEGIC DEFENCE INITIATIVE; FOREIGN RELATIONS; FOREIGNPOLICY; CANADA; UNITED STATES

**DATELINE:** KUHLLUNGSBORN, Germany

**BYLINE:** Andrew Mayeda

**SOURCE:** CanWest News Service

**WORD COUNT:** 393

---

Prime Minister Stephen Harper is expected to appeal for calm in a bilateral meeting with Russian President Vladimir Putin today at the G-8 summit, where Putin's sabre rattling has stirred unsettling talk of a new Cold War.

The two leaders are expected to touch on U.S. plans to build a missile defence system based in the Czech Republic and Poland. Putin considers the system an escalation of the arms race and this week threatened to target nuclear missiles at Europe if the United States follows through with the plan.

Harper is also expected to talk about the progress of democratic reforms in Russia, another prickly issue.

But one of his goals will be to defuse tensions between Russia and its G-8 partners, who have been unnerved by Putin's authoritarian methods and increasing wealth and influence.

"We're trying to make sure the conversation stays open and the dialogue remains calm," Harper's director of communications, Sandra Buckler, told reporters Wednesday.

The Putin question was front and centre as the eight leaders arrived in the Baltic Sea resort of Heiligendamm for three days of talks.

U.S. President George W. Bush downplayed the threat of Russia attacking Europe, a day after he said "the Cold War is over."

But he stood by his position the U.S. missile shield is necessary. The U.S. says the system is designed to shoot down missiles fired by "rogue" states such as Iran and poses no threat to Russia.

"I think it's important to make sure we have a system to protect ourselves against the threats of the 21st century — the true threats," Bush said.

Harper supported that position this week. Putin said his delegation will be "open for discussion of any problems and intend to discuss them in a constructive manner."

A Kremlin spokesman added that Putin's comments were intended to be "hypothetical" rather than "threatening."

Bush and Putin will sit down Friday for the most closely watched bilateral meeting of the summit.

A senior government official said Harper and Putin are also expected to discuss topics such as the war in Afghanistan, energy co-operation and the independence of Kosovo, which the West supports but Russia staunchly opposes.

Meanwhile, negotiators were working overtime Wednesday to hammer out a compromise on climate change after the U.S. said it will not support any specific targets or timetables for reducing greenhouse gases believed to cause global warm.

German Chancellor Angela Merkel, the host of the summit, wants the G-8 to set a target of halving global emissions by 2050 compared with 1990 levels. But Bush's environmental adviser, James Connaughton, said the U.S. would not adopt the proposal.

Canada supports Merkel's global target, but the European Union wants the Canadian government to shoulder a greater burden in reaching it.

# U.S. approves spending plan for Afghanistan

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**PUBLICATION:** Calgary Herald  
**DATE:** 2007.06.07  
**EDITION:** Final  
**SECTION:** News  
**PAGE:** A18  
**KEYWORDS:** FOREIGN AID; DRUGS; WAR; FARMERS & FARMING  
**DATELINE:** WASHINGTON  
**SOURCE:** Agence France–Presse  
**WORD COUNT:** 236

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The U.S. House of Representatives Wednesday overwhelmingly passed a bill granting \$6.4 billion in development, economic and security aid to Afghanistan.

The Afghanistan Freedom and Security Support Act, passed by 406 votes to 10, also calls for the appointment of a U.S. government co-ordinator to work to counter the country's burgeoning narcotics trade. The bill provides \$6.4 billion for fiscal years 2008 through 2010. Just over \$2 billion of that will be available in 2008.

"The United States will not let Afghanistan fail," said Tom Lantos, chairman of the House Foreign Affairs Committee. "The world is watching us to see whether we have the resolve to fight the terrorist forces threatening Afghanistan, and help maintain that country's security and stability."

Under the legislation, President George W. Bush will be required to set out an expanded counter-narcotics and security strategy for Afghanistan, and report back to Congress on progress in a wide range of areas.

In a bid to crack down on Afghanistan's drugs trade, the bill also threatens to cut off U.S. aid to local or provincial governments if officials are found to be involved in the narcotics trade or terrorism. The bill also calls for the appointment of an anti-drugs co-ordinator for Afghanistan.

"It is the drug trade that allows our enemies in Afghanistan to purchase the weapons with which they kill our soldiers and corrupt the Afghan government, said Ileana Ros-Lehtinen, the top Republican on the Foreign Affairs committee.

# Commander's body swapped for hostages

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**PUBLICATION:** Calgary Herald  
**DATE:** 2007.06.07  
**EDITION:** Final  
**SECTION:** News  
**PAGE:** A19  
**KEYWORDS:** HOSTAGES; WAR; TERRORISM  
**DATELINE:** KANDAHAR, Afghanistan  
**SOURCE:** Agence France–Presse  
**WORD COUNT:** 152

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Afghanistan's Taliban said early today it had received the body of its top commander killed by troops last month and had in turn freed four hostages and the body of a beheaded doctor.

The extremist group announced Tuesday it had beheaded the doctor, captured late March with three nurses and a driver, because it had not been given the body of Mullah Dadullah.

"We received the body of Mullah Dadullah last night from the Kandahar government," spokesman Shahabudin Atal told AFP.

"We have released the three nurses and a driver and very soon they will be home," said Atal, spokesman for Dadullah's brother Mansoor, who has taken over as commander. Atal did not say where the hostages were freed.

Dadullah was killed three weeks ago in the armed forces' biggest success against the extremist Taliban, who launched an insurgency after being driven from government in 2001.

After his bullet–pierced and battered corpse was shown to the media, he was buried mid–May at a secret location in the southern province of Kandahar.

## Four Afghan detainees say they were tortured

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**PUBLICATION:** Calgary Herald  
**DATE:** 2007.06.07  
**EDITION:** Early  
**SECTION:** News  
**PAGE:** A19  
**KEYWORDS:** WAR; TERRORISM; PRISONERS OF WAR  
**DATELINE:** OTTAWA  
**BYLINE:** Juliet O'Neill  
**SOURCE:** CanWest News Service  
**WORD COUNT:** 155

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Four Afghan detainees who were captured by Canadian Forces and transferred to prisons in Afghanistan have claimed to Canadian authorities that they were tortured while in detention, senior cabinet ministers told MPs Wednesday.

While citing this as evidence of the effectiveness of Canada's prisoner-monitoring procedures, Foreign Affairs Minister Peter MacKay and Public Safety Minister Stockwell Day also cautioned that Taliban and al-Qaeda terrorists are trained to claim they have been tortured.

No physical evidence of torture was visible in any of the cases, but all are being investigated by Afghan authorities, who will inform Canada of the results, Day said. The ministers' information was based on five visits by Canadian authorities to detention facilities.

The comments were made at an unusual joint meeting of the Commons committees on foreign affairs and international trade and national defence. Testimony was provided by the two ministers, along with Defence Minister Gordon O'Connor and two junior ministers.



## Few feel mission will succeed: poll

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**IDNUMBER** 200706070207  
**PUBLICATION:** Calgary Herald  
**DATE:** 2007.06.07  
**EDITION:** Early  
**SECTION:** News  
**PAGE:** A19  
**KEYWORDS:** OPINION POLLS  
**DATELINE:** OTTAWA  
**BYLINE:** Jack Aubry  
**SOURCE:** CanWest News Service  
**WORD COUNT:** 238

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Whether they are for or against Canada's military mission in Afghanistan, Canadians are highly skeptical about its chances for success, a new poll shows.

"Canadians believe the mission in Afghanistan enhances our reputation in the world, but also believe it is a difficult and complex mission and are highly doubtful about the chances for success," said Nik Nanos, president of SES Research.

In a national survey conducted for Policy Options magazine, the company found only about one in four Canadians believes that the military mission or the efforts to promote the rule of law and human rights in the troubled Asian country have a strong probability of success. The sentiments were shared across the board, regardless of whether respondents felt Canada should be in Afghanistan at all.

"What I found interesting is that even among committed Conservative supporters, or the group that support the mission the most, only 26 per cent think there is a high chance of success," Nanos noted.

The poll found close to half of Canadians believe the mission is enhancing Canada's reputation on the world stage, while one-quarter believe it has had no impact or is diminishing the country's reputation.

The poll was conducted April 26 to May 1, after six Canadian soldiers died when a roadside bomb blew up their vehicle in the dangerous Kandahar province of southern Afghanistan. The results carry a margin of error of 3.1 percentage points, 19 times out of 20.

# Taliban tactics catch Canadians off guard; Enemy spreads among civilians over wider area

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**IDNUMBER** 200706070206

**PUBLICATION:** Calgary Herald

**DATE:** 2007.06.07

**EDITION:** Early

**SECTION:** News

**PAGE:** A19

**ILLUSTRATION:** Photo: Nicolas Asfour, Agence France–Presse, Getty Images /U.S. soldiers stand beside a hole in the ground they discovered was leading to tunnels during a foot patrol during an operation with Afghan soldiers and police officers in Ghazni Province on Wednesday. ;

**KEYWORDS:** WAR; TERRORISM

**DATELINE:** KANDAHAR, Afghanistan

**BYLINE:** Tom Blackwell

**SOURCE:** CanWest News Service

**WORD COUNT:** 517

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Canadian Forces have been jolted in recent months by a dramatic shift in the Afghanistan conflict that has seen the Taliban melt into the civilian population and spread over a much wider area, a top officer said Wednesday.

It has required a rapid "sea change" in tactics that used to be unheard of in the Forces, said Col. Mike Cessford, second in command of the Canadian mission here.

Last year, troops fought largely in a 20–square–kilometre area west of Kandahar city, although Canada has responsibility for all of Kandahar province. The bloody combat was a conventional clash with large numbers of insurgents.

Now, the Taliban have dispersed among the province's civilians and into a "multiplicity" of districts, Cessford said in a frank assessment of the operation. The "battle space," as the military calls it, has broadened strikingly, he said.

"This mission is evolving dynamically and dramatically," the commander told Canadian journalists. "We trained hard for a mission that we did not execute. . . . Here, you change on a dime, and you have to change on a dime."

Nevertheless, Cessford said he is convinced NATO forces in southern Afghanistan have taken the initiative from the Taliban, attacking them before they could launch an expected spring offensive. The security situation is improving for ordinary Afghans and more reconstruction is being carried out, he said.

The transformation of the conflict into a guerrilla war where combatants are often one with the civilians, however, has meant a major curb on Canadian firepower, even after several tanks were flown to their aid.

Soldiers are employing a "fraction" of the artillery and air strikes, and erring on the side of caution if they are not absolutely sure a potential target is a Taliban terrorist, said Cessford. Meanwhile, they are relying more on intelligence.

A few months ago, snipers at a forward–operating base asked the commanding officer for permission to shoot an Afghan man digging a hole in the road, arguing he was likely an insurgent planting an improvised explosive device, Cessford said.

The CO "couldn't bring himself" to give the go–ahead, and the suspected bomber walked away unscathed. It turned out, though, he was a farmer draining water off the road.

"I would probably say there have been 90 or 100 similar incidents."

Canadian forces last year were concentrated in Panjwai district to the west of Kandahar, where they fought several pitched battles with large groups of Taliban, and lost several soldiers.

Training in Canada for the next rotation of soldiers was based on that experience, said Cessford. But when they hit the ground in Afghanistan, the troops found the war had changed.

While much of the Canadian fighting lately has been in Zhari district, there are also Canadian troops still in Panjwai, as well as Maiwand, Arghandab and Spin Boldak, he said.

Canadians are making a push up into Shawali Kot, north of Kandahar city, for the first time in months to respond to an enemy "resurgence" there, said the colonel.

He also predicted Canadians will have an enduring presence in Afghanistan after the military force has left. Asked if troops could be here for a decade, Cessford, who has a PhD in history, pointed to the length of time Canada has had forces in former hot spots like Cyprus, where Canadian troops were on the ground in significant numbers for almost three decades.

# PM hopes to cool rhetoric in talks with Putin

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**IDNUMBER** 200706070137

**PUBLICATION:** Times Colonist (Victoria)

**DATE:** 2007.06.07

**EDITION:** Final

**SECTION:** News

**PAGE:** A3

**ILLUSTRATION:** Photo: Chris Wattie/Reuters / German Chancellor AngelaMerkel and her husband, Joachim Sauer, welcome Laureen and Stephen Harper before yesterday's official dinner in Hohen Luckow. ;

**DATELINE:** KUHLLUNGSBORN, Germany

**BYLINE:** Andrew Mayeda

**SOURCE:** CanWest News Service

**WORD COUNT:** 377

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KUHLLUNGSBORN, Germany -- Prime Minister Stephen Harper is expected to appeal for calm in a bilateral meeting with Russian President Vladimir Putin today at the G8 summit, where Putin's sabre-rattling has stirred unsettling talk of a new Cold War.

The two leaders are expected to touch on U.S. plans to build a missile-defence system based in the Czech Republic and Poland.

Putin considers the system an escalation of the arms race and this week threatened to aim nuclear missiles at Europe if the United States follows through with the plan.

Harper is also expected to talk about the progress of democratic reforms in Russia, another prickly issue.

But one of his goals will be to defuse growing tensions between Russia and its G8 partners, who have been unnerved by Putin's authoritarian methods and increasing wealth and influence.

"We're trying to make sure the conversation stays open and the dialogue remains calm," Harper's director of communications Sandra Buckler said.

The Putin question was front and centre as the eight leaders arrived in the Baltic Sea resort of Heiligendamm for three days of talks.

U.S. President George W. Bush downplayed the threat of Russia attacking Europe, a day after he said "the Cold War is over."

But he stood by his position that the U.S. missile shield is necessary. The U.S. says the system is designed to shoot down missiles fired by "rogue" states such as Iran and poses no threat to Russia.

"I think it's important to make sure we have a system to protect ourselves against the threats of the 21st century -- the true threats," Bush said.

Harper supported that position this week. Putin said his delegation will be "open for discussion of any problems and intends to discuss them in a constructive manner."

A Kremlin spokesman added that Putin's comments were intended to be "hypothetical" rather than "threatening."

Bush and Putin will sit down tomorrow for the most closely watched bilateral meeting of the summit.

A senior government official said Harper and Putin are also expected to discuss topics such as the war in Afghanistan, energy co-operation and the independence of Kosovo, which the West supports but Russia opposes.

Meanwhile, negotiators were working overtime last night in a bid to hammer out a compromise on climate change, after the U.S. said it will not support any specific targets or timetables for reducing greenhouse gases believed to cause global warming.

German Chancellor Angela Merkel, the host of the summit, wants the G8 to set a target of halving global emissions from 1990 levels by 2050.

But Bush's environmental adviser, James Connaughton, said the U.S. would not adopt the proposal.

Canada supports Merkel's global target, but the European Union wants the Canadian government to shoulder a greater burden in reaching it.

# Success in Afghanistan doubtful: poll

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**IDNUMBER** 200706070121  
**PUBLICATION:** Times Colonist (Victoria)  
**DATE:** 2007.06.07  
**EDITION:** Final  
**SECTION:** News  
**PAGE:** A10  
**BYLINE:** Jack Aubry  
**SOURCE:** CanWest News Service  
**WORD COUNT:** 364

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Whether they are for or against Canada's military mission in Afghanistan, Canadians are highly skeptical about its chances for success, a new poll shows.

"Canadians believe the mission in Afghanistan enhances our reputation in the world, but also believe it is a difficult and complex mission and are highly doubtful about the chances for success," said Nik Nanos, president of SES Research.

In a national survey conducted for Policy Options magazine, the company found that only about one in four Canadians believe that either the military mission or the efforts to promote the rule of law and human rights in the troubled Asian country have a strong probability of success.

"What I found interesting is that even among committed Conservative supporters, or the group that support the mission the most, only 26 per cent think there is a high chance of success," Nanos noted.

The poll found that close to half of Canadians believe the mission is enhancing Canada's reputation on the world stage, while one-quarter either believe it has had no impact or is diminishing the country's reputation.

In general, however, the humanitarian aspects of the mission enjoyed more support than the security efforts, with 38 per cent of respondents saying efforts to promote the rule of law and human rights were the most important reason for Canadian engagement in Afghanistan. About one-third felt rebuilding security and stability were the most compelling justifications.

"This may well have to do with Canadians' enduring self-perception of our country as a nation of peacekeepers, even though we are not really in that business anymore," said Nanos.

The poll was conducted April 26 to May 1, after six Canadian soldiers died when a roadside bomb blew up their vehicle in Kandahar province. The results carry a margin of error of 3.1 percentage points or 19 times out of 20.

Nanos said the poll should inform the government as it reflects on the criteria for gauging the mission's success.

"I wouldn't look at these numbers and think the government should be pulling out of Afghanistan or not. But what it does show is that maybe the government has set the bar so high that Canadians are looking at those things and saying these objectives are going to be pretty tough to achieve," said Nanos.

# Afghan torture claims investigated

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**IDNUMBER** 200706070119  
**PUBLICATION:** Times Colonist (Victoria)  
**DATE:** 2007.06.07  
**EDITION:** Final  
**SECTION:** News  
**PAGE:** A10  
**DATELINE:** OTTAWA  
**SOURCE:** Reuters  
**WORD COUNT:** 107

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OTTAWA (Reuters) — Four men who were captured in Afghanistan by Canadian soldiers have alleged they were tortured or abused after they were handed over to Afghan authorities, Canadian Foreign Minister Peter MacKay said yesterday.

"They are serious allegations, and they were received directly by Canadian officials [in Afghanistan]," MacKay told reporters.

Ottawa and Kabul agreed to new procedures under which Canadian officials would keep track of prisoners they have turned over to the Afghans.

MacKay said Canada's ambassador to Kabul asked the Afghan authorities yesterday to investigate the charges and to report back. He said this was proof that the new system is working.

The minister emphasized there were no allegations of any abuse by the Canadians themselves.

# Canadian military adapts to new Taliban tactics

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**IDNUMBER** 200706070118  
**PUBLICATION:** Times Colonist (Victoria)  
**DATE:** 2007.06.07  
**EDITION:** Final  
**SECTION:** News  
**PAGE:** A10  
**DATELINE:** KANDAHAR, Afghanistan  
**BYLINE:** Tom Blackwell  
**SOURCE:** CanWest News Service  
**WORD COUNT:** 331

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KANDAHAR, Afghanistan — Canadian Forces have been jolted in recent months by a dramatic shift in the Afghanistan conflict that has seen the Taliban melt into the civilian population and spread over a much wider area, a top officer said yesterday.

It has required a rapid "sea change" in tactics that used to be unheard of in the Forces, said Col. Mike Cessford, second in command of the Canadian mission here.

Last year, troops fought largely in a 20-square-kilometre area west of Kandahar city, although Canada has responsibility for all of Kandahar province. The bloody combat was a conventional clash with large numbers of insurgents.

Now, the Taliban have dispersed among the province's civilians and into a "multiplicity" of different districts, Cessford said in a frank assessment of the operation.

The "battle space," as the military calls it, has broadened strikingly, he said.

"This mission is evolving dynamically and dramatically," the commander told Canadian journalists. "We trained hard for a mission that we did not execute. Here, you change on a dime, and you have to change on a dime."

Nevertheless, Cessford said he is convinced NATO forces in southern Afghanistan have taken the initiative from the Taliban, attacking them before they could launch an expected spring offensive.

The transformation of the conflict into a guerrilla war where combatants are often one with the civilians, however, has meant a major curb on Canadian firepower, even after several tanks were flown to Afghanistan.

Soldiers are employing a "fraction" of the artillery and air strikes, and erring on the side of caution if they are not absolutely sure a potential target is a Taliban militant, said Cessford. Meanwhile, they are relying more on intelligence.

A few months ago, snipers at a forward-operating base asked the commanding officer for permission to shoot an Afghan man digging a hole in the road, arguing he was likely an insurgent planting an improvised explosive device, Cessford said.

The commanding officer "couldn't bring himself" to give the go-ahead, and the suspected bomber walked away unscathed. It turned out, though, he was a farmer draining water off the road.



"I would probably say there have been 90 or a 100 similar incidents."

# Taliban tactics catch Canadians 'by surprise'

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**IDNUMBER** 200706070016  
**PUBLICATION:** The StarPhoenix (Saskatoon)  
**DATE:** 2007.06.07  
**EDITION:** Final  
**SECTION:** World  
**PAGE:** C14  
**ILLUSTRATION:** Colour Photo: Cessford;  
**DATELINE:** KANDAHAR, Afghanistan  
**BYLINE:** Tom Blackwell  
**SOURCE:** CanWest News Service  
**WORD COUNT:** 329

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"I would probably say there have been 90 or a 100 similar incidents."

(National Post)

# Harper aims to ease Russian concerns; PM expected to discuss U.S. missile defence plan during meeting with Putin

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**IDNUMBER** 200706070005

**PUBLICATION:** The StarPhoenix (Saskatoon)

**DATE:** 2007.06.07

**EDITION:** Final

**SECTION:** World

**PAGE:** D7

**ILLUSTRATION:** Photo: Getty Images / German Chancellor Angela Merkel greets Prime Minister Stephen Harper Wednesday on the opening day of the G8 summit ;

**DATELINE:** KUHLLUNGSBORN, Germany

**BYLINE:** Andrew Mayeda

**SOURCE:** CanWest News Service

**WORD COUNT:** 304

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KUHLLUNGSBORN, Germany — Prime Minister Stephen Harper is expected to appeal for "calm" in a bilateral meeting with Russian President Vladimir Putin today at the G8 summit, where Putin's sabre rattling has stirred unsettling talk of a new Cold War.

The two leaders are expected to touch on U.S. plans to build a missile defence system based in the Czech Republic and Poland. Putin considers the system an escalation of the arms race and this week threatened to target nuclear missiles at Europe if the United States follows through with the plan.

Harper is also expected to talk about the progress of democratic reforms in Russia, another prickly issue.

But one of his goals will be to defuse growing tensions between Russia and its G8 partners, who have been unnerved by Putin's authoritarian methods and increasing wealth and influence.

"We're trying to make sure the conversation stays open and the dialogue remains calm," Harper's director of communications Sandra Buckler told reporters Wednesday.

The Putin question was front and centre as the eight leaders arrived in the Baltic Sea resort of Heiligendamm for three days of talks.

U.S. President George W. Bush downplayed the threat of Russia attacking Europe, a day after he said "the Cold War is over."

But he stood by his position that the U.S. missile shield is necessary. The U.S. says the system is designed to shoot down missiles fired by "rogue" states such as Iran and poses no threat to Russia.

"I think it's important to make sure we have a system to protect ourselves against the threats of the 21st century — the true threats," Bush said.

Harper supported that position this week.

Putin said his delegation will be "open for discussion of any problems and intend to discuss them in a constructive manner."

A Kremlin spokesperson added that Putin's comments were intended to be "hypothetical" rather than "threatening."

Bush and Putin will sit down Friday for the most closely watched bilateral meeting of the summit.

A senior government official said Harper and Putin are also expected to discuss topics such as the war in Afghanistan, energy co-operation and the independence of Kosovo, which the West supports but Russia staunchly opposes.

# A mission of the heart CANUCK TROOPS HELP ORPHANED KIDS

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**SOURCETAG** 0706070632

**PUBLICATION:** The Toronto Sun

**DATE:** 2007.06.07

**EDITION:** Final

**SECTION:** News

**PAGE:** 30

**ILLUSTRATION:** 3 photos by Master Cpl. Robert Bottrill 1. Major Trevor McLeod holds a young girl from the orphanage located in Kinshasa, Democratic Republic of the Congo. Over the past few years, Canadian officers have volunteered their time and raised money for the orphanage. 2. Major Louis Xenos helps a boy unwrap a new toy during a visit to the orphanage. 3. Captain Jean-Francois Dufour and Colonel Larry Aitken hold some of the younger children during a celebration for one of the nun's birthdays.

**WORD COUNT:** 158

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Canada has more than 2,600 soldiers, sailors and air force personnel deployed overseas on operational missions.

Most are serving in Afghanistan, but small Canadian military contingents in Haiti, the Balkans, the Middle East and Africa are doing their part to make the world a safer place.

In the Democratic Republic of the Congo, eight Canadian officers are working with the UN mission overseeing the 1999 Lusaka Ceasefire Agreement, part of an ongoing process to end the death and disruption caused by decades of civil war.

As they do throughout the world, Canadian Forces personnel in the Congo give more of themselves to their mission than just their military expertise. The Canadians have developed a close relationship with an orphanage near their UN base in Kinshasa, volunteering their time and raising money.

The photos on this page were taken last weekend by Master Cpl. Robert Bottrill as Canadian officers visited with presents for the kids and cake to celebrate the birthday of one of the nuns running the orphanage.

KEYWORDS=WORLD

# Is PM killing our rep? Are Stephen Harper's international policies and priorities changing Canada's image -- and is it for good or bad?

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**SOURCETAG** 0706061597

**PUBLICATION:** The Toronto Sun

**DATE:** 2007.06.06

**EDITION:** Final

**SECTION:** Editorial/Opinion

**PAGE:** 18

**ILLUSTRATION:** file photo Brig. Gen. Tim Grant shows Canadian Prime Minister Stephen Harper the area of operation in Ma'Sum Ghar, Kandahar province, Afghanistan during a visit in May.

**BYLINE:** SHEILA COPPS AND LICIA CORBELLA, SUN MEDIA

**WORD COUNT:** 1528

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Is Prime Minister Stephen Harper doing a better job on the international stage for Canada than his Liberal predecessors? It all depends on who you ask. Former deputy PM Sheila Copps is unimpressed. Licia Corbella, editor of the Calgary Sun, is more charitable. Here is their exchange of often pointed e-mails.

**COPPS:** With only 16 months in office, Prime Minister Stephen Harper is making waves around the world. But the wrong kind of waves. Canada was always known internationally for our independence. We did not follow George W. Bush to Iraq and, despite some initial business moaning, it looks like Canada made the right choice. But the world is wondering what happened to Canada. Our cultural independence is on the block and so is our international cultural budget. The world is wondering whether Canada has jumped in bed with Bush and they wonder what happened to a proud independent country.

**CORBELLA:** Thanks Sheila, I actually got a belly laugh reading your e-mail. Coming from someone who sat on the front benches with Prime Minister Jean Chretien, the lover of despots and dictators, it's an almost delusional statement. Like you, however, I was very pleased Chretien didn't join the war in Iraq. Outside of that, Canada's international reputation plummeted during the 12-year Liberal reign of error. Remember how Chretien allowed Canadian citizens' rights to be trampled during the APEC summit in Vancouver to prevent "any embarrassment" to Indonesia's murderous leader, Suharto? Seeing Chretien mug for the camera with Zimbabwe's Robert Mugabe doesn't make it to the top of my most proud Canadian moments list. You say the "world is wondering what happened to Canada." Where's the evidence?

**COPPS:** You are mixing two agendas. Any prime minister should provide a safe welcome for leaders from other countries. Whether in Kananaskis, Halifax or on the campus of the University of British Columbia, good manners count. But it was not the cornerstone of our administration. Every time I turn around Prime Minister Harper is trying to convince an unconvinced country that Afghanistan is forever. His law-and-order agenda at home and abroad is reminiscent of Steve's friend George. I actually thought the PM was smart enough to promote a moderate agenda and be the progressive of his Conservative party. Alas, it was not to be and that's why he is perpetually stuck in minority territory.

**CORBELLA:** Who knew "good manners" includes pepper spraying peacefully protesting citizens to protect the murderous ego of Suharto from "any embarrassment?" The protesters had "good manners" -- your government didn't. Don't recall you being outraged about that violation of human rights. As for Afghanistan, just because Canadians aren't convinced of the mission's merits doesn't mean it doesn't have any. It was the Liberals who committed us to Afghanistan and thanks to Liberal PM Paul Martin's infamous inability to make

Is PM killing our rep? Are Stephen Harper's international policies and priorities changing Canada's image --

a decision, when it came time to decide what second mission our troops would take on he dithered so long, we got stuck with the heavy lifting in volatile Kandahar. Also, 2009 is hardly forever.

COPPS: Actually, when we committed to Afghanistan it was for a fixed rotation. The idea is to give sufficient notice so another country or group of countries can step in where we left off. When the prime minister hinted at extending the mission beyond 2009 he is obviously gambling it would be a good election issue. He is also ignoring a Parliament-approved deadline. Why would any ally want to step into that hornet's nest when Canada's commitment is unlimited? To me that sounds a lot like forever. Take heed of the views from Afghanistan's neighbours and other allies in the war on terror. Pakistan is suggesting we actually talk to the Taliban.

CORBELLA: Having been to Afghanistan, I know the vast majority of the people there, especially the women, want us there. More than seven million girls are now going to school thanks largely to our efforts. The people have hope again. As for Canada's independence, we led the way for the rest of the world after Hamas was elected by the Palestinian people to form a government. Harper declared while Canada would still fund humanitarian work there, it would no longer put Canadian dollars directly into government hands because Hamas vows to destroy Israel. The rest of the world followed Harper's lead, not the other way around. That includes Bush. While Chretien and Martin kissed up to China, the Conservatives refuse to play by their rules. China is now trying to tell Canada to stop sending government officials to Taiwan. The government is telling China it will go wherever it pleases. Sounds like independence to me.

COPPS: You have conveniently forgotten the original point about a never-ending commitment. There are many places around the world that would love to have Canada's help. Does Darfur come to mind? But obviously if we refuse to seek a non-military solution and we provide an open commitment past 2009, there is no incentive for anyone else to help. As for leadership, the prime minister sees the world in black and white while in reality it is far more nuanced. The rules for democracy are very different in many countries beyond our borders. Are we to defend them all? And where are our allies?

CORBELLA: Actually, the "original point" was, and I quote you, "The world is wondering . . . what happened to a proud independent country?" You conveniently forgot to answer what your proof is of that still-unsubstantiated claim. Also, now you ask where are our allies? Huh? In the same base where our soldiers are stationed in Kandahar, they are joined by British, Dutch, Italian, American, Spanish and other allied soldiers, all UN-sanctioned and NATO-run. As for a never-ending commitment, as Liberal Senator Colin Kenny points out, imagine what would have happened in the Second World War had Britain and Canada said, "We'll fight until 1941 and then we'll let our allies come in." We'd all be speaking German right now and our flag would have a swastika instead of a maple leaf.

COPPS: The war on terror is a very different matter than the Nazi occupation. In a sense, we are the referees in a civil war very similar to the role we could play in Darfur or other world trouble spots. If neighbouring Pakistan sees a benefit in talking to the Taliban, we have to heed their advice. They are allies who know Afghanistan better than anyone. As for Hamas, any person viewing Israeli foreign policy has deemed the Israeli incursion into Lebanon an utter failure. The most disappointed are Israeli citizens looking for peace. While Hezbollah and Hamas build their constituency, our foreign policy is certainly not leading in a positive direction. You keep asking, where is my proof? Spend a few days hanging around the UN, Brussels or the OECD and you should hear the scuttlebutt that our reputation as an agent for peace is a footnote in history. I guess the ultimate proof will come in the next election. Harper is gambling people will see this as a repeat of the Second World War. The new millennium brought a new type of terror and conventional warriors won't win.

CORBELLA: Pakistan sees a benefit in talking to the Taliban because the Taliban were schooled in and funded by Pakistan. Indeed, many Taliban are Pakistanis. Surely you know that. What's more, 99 per cent of Afghans hate the Taliban with a passion. I hope you know that, too. We do not "have to" take our marching



orders from Pakistan. I'm frankly shocked someone urging us to be more independent would suggest we do so. I realize the Liberals love Hamas and never wanted to declare it a terrorist organization, but the Conservatives tend to call a spade a spade. The rest of the world followed, including France and other countries practiced in the art of appeasement and sophistry. Canada is way more independent now than under the Liberals. Canada has re-established its sovereignty in the north over the objections of the U.S., Norway, Finland and others. What's more, PM Paul Martin was so afraid of Bush it took him 64 days to build up enough courage to telephone him after a NAFTA ruling in favour of Canada on softwood lumber tariffs. By then, another ruling had come down favouring the U.S. and Martin's dithering cost Canada valuable ground. By contrast, it took Harper just about two weeks longer to hammer out a resolution. That's leadership and independence.

# Two NATO soldiers die Nationalities not released

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**SOURCETAG** 0706070441  
**PUBLICATION:** The Edmonton Sun  
**DATE:** 2007.06.07  
**EDITION:** Final  
**SECTION:** News  
**PAGE:** 42  
**BYLINE:** AP  
**DATELINE:** KABUL, Afghanistan  
**WORD COUNT:** 200

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Two NATO soldiers died battling militants in southern Afghanistan yesterday, while U.S.-led and Afghan troops backed by air strikes killed two militants and detained nine others, officials said.

The two soldiers from NATO's International Security Assistance force died in "separate engagements with enemy fighters," an ISAF statement said.

ISAF did not release other details such as the soldiers' nationalities or where the combat took place.

In the central province of Uruzgan, militants attacked troops from the U.S.-led coalition and Afghan forces in the Khas Uruzgan district on Tuesday, a coalition statement said.

The guerrillas retreated into a compound that was later bombed by coalition aircraft, the statement added.

Two suspected militants were found dead after the clash and nine "enemy fighters" were detained, it said. Troops also recovered weapons and ammunition from the compound.

To the southeast, coalition and Afghan troops raided a suspected Taliban hideout in Zabul province yesterday, detaining 10 suspected fighters, the coalition said. Two of the 10 were apprehended while trying to flee.

Southern and eastern Afghanistan are at the centre of the Taliban-led insurgency against Afghan and foreign troops.

Both military and militant operations are intensifying, raising doubts about the prospects for stability more than five years after a U.S.-led invasion drove the Taliban from power.

In eastern Paktika province, a local district chief was killed in an explosion yesterday caused by a mine he tried to remove from a road, said Mohammad Akrem Akhpelwak, the provincial governor.

KEYWORDS=WORLD

# U.S. can deal with terror suspects without flouting its own laws

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**PUBLICATION:** Vancouver Sun

**DATE:** 2007.06.07

**EDITION:** Final

**SECTION:** Editorial

**PAGE:** A22

**KEYWORDS:** PRISONERS OF WAR; CANADIANS; INTERNATIONAL LAW; TERRORISM

**SOURCE:** Vancouver Sun

**WORD COUNT:** 569

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The facade of due process and respect for international law that United States President George W. Bush has tried to attach to the treatment of prisoners held in Guantanamo Bay slipped again this week.

The decision by a military judge to dismiss all charges against Omar Khadr will be a slight embarrassment for the Bush administration, since it was based on what appears to be a flaw in the law written specifically to prosecute prisoners held on the American base in Cuba. But it will make little difference to Khadr, at least in the short term. The 20-year-old Canadian has been held for the past five years in Guantanamo after being captured in Afghanistan where, at the age of 15, he allegedly killed an American soldier and wounded another with a grenade.

Before Khadr's trial began this week, a Bush administration spokesman made it clear that even if he were to be acquitted by the military tribunal, he would most likely continue to be held as enemy combatant for as long as the war on terror goes on.

That position is consistent with the way the Bush administration has handled prisoners -- euphemistically called detainees to imply that normal rules don't apply -- captured since the war on terror was launched. If one justification for ignoring a prisoner's rights failed, it turned to another.

In this case, although he was captured in combat in a country that had been invaded by the United States and its allies, Khadr was not considered to be a prisoner of war. Nor was he arrested for murder under either the laws of Afghanistan, where the death occurred, or the U.S.

Instead the administration made up its own rules, which allow prisoners to be held indefinitely without charge, to be tortured -- humanely, of course -- to be shipped around the world and to be denied basic legal protections given to the worst criminals in the U.S.

When the U.S. Supreme Court found in 2004 that the secret military tribunals the Bush administration planned to use, tribunals that would have had the power to hand down the death penalty, were unconstitutional, it created the current version. Now that too has foundered on what has been described as a technicality, but in fact should be a profound issue.

Congress created the tribunal to try "unlawful enemy combatants." The judge noted that Khadr, like the other 380 remaining prisoners at Guantanamo, is designated only as an "enemy combatant," and is thus not under the jurisdiction of the court.

The distinction underlines the central absurdity of the administration's position. Khadr and the other prisoners are being held at Guantanamo with no legal authority, yet they are presumed to be "unlawful."

Canadians are closely allied with our neighbours in the war on terror, so we should be able to say this as a friend. The flagrant disregard shown by the U.S. in establishing and maintaining the prison at Guantanamo Bay is an embarrassment to all freedom-loving people who believe in the rule of law.

The Bush administration should take the advice of the chief military defence lawyer for Guantanamo prisoners and use this ruling as signal to scrap the military tribunal system.

Canada can show its allegiance to the notion that we are all best served by respecting the rule of law by insisting that Khadr, a Canadian citizen, be given the treatment he deserves under existing laws and treaties.

# Robot Bear soldier's newest friend in a battle

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**PUBLICATION:** Vancouver Sun  
**DATE:** 2007.06.07  
**EDITION:** Final  
**SECTION:** News  
**PAGE:** A21  
**KEYWORDS:** WAR; IRAQ; ARMED FORCES; UNITED STATES  
**DATELINE:** LONDON  
**SOURCE:** Daily Telegraph  
**WORD COUNT:** 172

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LONDON — A robot could soon be a soldier's best friend on the battlefield under a proposal being developed by the Pentagon.

The mechanical warrior, called Bear, looks like an oversized toy with a teddy bear's face. However, it can squeeze through doorways while carrying a wounded serviceman.

The 1.8-metre-tall remote-controlled device can travel long distances over bumpy terrain and carry out the toughest assignments.

Bear, short for Battlefield Extraction-Assist Robot, is part of the new generation of "steel soldiers" being developed for Afghanistan and Iraq, reports New Scientist. The prototype torso made out of steel can lift a 131-kilogram man with one arm. Its creator, Vecna Technologies, is now improving its lower body.

In tests, Bear — equipped with cameras and microphones — has climbed up and down stairs carrying a human-size dummy. The robot, which is expected to be ready for testing in the field in five years, can also carry heavy loads over long distances.

When the Americans encountered tough resistance from the Taliban in their Afghan cave networks, the troops sent in Packbot robots to explore the corridors.

# Harper seeks 'calm' after sabre-rattling by Russia; PM and Russian president likely to discuss U.S. missile defence system

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**IDNUMBER** 200706070025

**PUBLICATION:** Vancouver Sun

**DATE:** 2007.06.07

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**SECTION:** News

**PAGE:** A15

**KEYWORDS:** STRATEGIC DEFENCE INITIATIVE; FOREIGN RELATIONS; FOREIGNPOLICY; CANADA; UNITED STATES

**DATELINE:** KUHLUNGSBORN, Germany

**BYLINE:** Andrew Mayeda

**SOURCE:** CanWest News Service

**WORD COUNT:** 298

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KUHLUNGSBORN, Germany — Prime Minister Stephen Harper is expected to appeal for "calm" in a bilateral meeting with Russian President Vladimir Putin today at the G-8 summit, where Putin's sabre-rattling has stirred unsettling talk of a new Cold War.

The two leaders are expected to touch on U.S. plans to build a missile defence system based in the Czech Republic and Poland. Putin considers the system an escalation of the arms race and this week threatened to target nuclear missiles at Europe if the United States follows through with the plan.

Harper is also expected to talk about the progress of democratic reforms in Russia, another prickly issue.

But one of his goals will be to defuse growing tensions between Russia and its G-8 partners, who have been unnerved by Putin's authoritarian methods and increasing wealth and influence.

"We're trying to make sure the conversation stays open and the dialogue remains calm," Harper's director of communications Sandra Buckler told reporters Wednesday.

The Putin question was front and centre as the eight leaders arrived in the Baltic Sea resort of Heiligendamm for three days of talks.

U.S. President George W. Bush played down the threat of Russia attacking Europe, a day after he said "the Cold War is over."

But he stood by his position that the U.S. missile shield is necessary. The U.S. says the system is designed to shoot down missiles fired by "rogue" states such as Iran and poses no threat to Russia.

"I think it's important to make sure we have a system to protect ourselves against the threats of the 21st century — the true threats," Bush said.

Harper supported that position this week.

Putin said his delegation will be "open for discussion of any problems and intend to discuss them in a constructive manner."

A Kremlin spokesman added that Putin's comments were intended to be "hypothetical" rather than "threatening."

Bush and Putin will sit down Friday for the most closely watched bilateral meeting of the summit.

A senior government official said Harper and Putin are also expected to discuss topics such as the war in Afghanistan, energy co-operation and the independence of Kosovo, which Russia staunchly opposes.

# MPs told of torture allegations; Canadian troops handed over detainees to Afghan authorities

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**IDNUMBER** 200706070144  
**PUBLICATION:** Edmonton Journal  
**DATE:** 2007.06.07  
**EDITION:** Final  
**SECTION:** News  
**PAGE:** A6  
**KEYWORDS:** WAR; TERRORISM  
**DATELINE:** OTTAWA  
**BYLINE:** Juliet O'Neill  
**SOURCE:** Ottawa Citizen; CanWest News Service  
**WORD COUNT:** 257

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OTTAWA – Four Afghan detainees who were captured by Canadian Forces and transferred to prisons in Afghanistan have claimed to Canadian authorities that they were tortured while in detention, senior cabinet ministers told MPs Wednesday.

While citing this as evidence of the effectiveness of Canada's prisoner-monitoring procedures, Foreign Affairs Minister Peter MacKay and Public Safety Minister Stockwell Day also cautioned that Taliban and al-Qaida terrorists are trained to claim they have been tortured.

No physical evidence of torture was visible in any of the cases but all are being investigated by Afghan authorities, who will inform Canadian officials of the results, Day said. The ministers' information was based on five visits by Canadian authorities to detention facilities in Afghanistan.

The comments were made at an unusual joint meeting of the Commons committees on foreign affairs and international trade and national defence. Testimony was provided by the two ministers, along with Defence Minister Gordon O'Connor and two junior ministers.

"While these allegations are serious, it is true that the enhanced arrangement is working, that we are following up on our commitment," MacKay told reporters. "And that includes following up on these specific allegations with the Afghan authorities. In due time, we have to give them the opportunity to look into them and find out what exactly (occurred) and whether there is a basis for these allegations."

MacKay added that Canadians are not involved in any alleged abuse.

The two-hour hearing was marked by bickering over the cabinet ministers' repeated accusations that opposition MPs are maligning Canadian troops by raising questions about the treatment of prisoners.



# Canadians doubt Afghan mission will succeed; Objectives set by government and military too tough to reach, poll says

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**PUBLICATION:** Edmonton Journal  
**DATE:** 2007.06.07  
**EDITION:** Final  
**SECTION:** News  
**PAGE:** A12  
**KEYWORDS:** OPINION POLLS; TRADE MISSIONS  
**DATELINE:** OTTAWA  
**BYLINE:** Jack Aubry  
**SOURCE:** Ottawa Citizen; CanWest News Service  
**WORD COUNT:** 446

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OTTAWA – Whether they are for or against Canada's military mission in Afghanistan, Canadians are highly skeptical about its chances for success, a new poll shows.

"Canadians believe the mission in Afghanistan enhances our reputation in the world, but also believe it is a difficult and complex mission and are highly doubtful about the chances for success," said Nik Nanos, president of SES Research.

In a national survey conducted for Policy Options magazine, the company found that only about one in four Canadians believes that either the military mission or the efforts to promote the rule of law and human rights in the troubled Asian country have a strong probability of success.

"What I found interesting is that even among committed Conservative supporters, or the group that support the mission the most, only 26 per cent think there is a high chance of success," Nanos noted.

The poll found that close to half of Canadians believe the mission is enhancing Canada's reputation on the world stage, while one-quarter either believe it has had no impact or is diminishing the country's reputation.

In general, however, the humanitarian aspects of the mission enjoyed more support than the security efforts, with 38 per cent of respondents saying efforts to promote the rule of law and human rights were the most important reason for Canadian engagement in Afghanistan. About one-third felt rebuilding security and stability were the most compelling justifications, while one in five favoured initiatives on economic and social development.

"This may well have to do with Canadians' enduring self-perception of our country as a nation of peacekeepers, even though we are not really in that business anymore," said Nanos.

The poll was conducted April 26 to May 1, after six Canadian soldiers died when a roadside bomb blew up their vehicle in Kandahar province. The results carry a margin of error of 3.1 per cent, 19 times out of 20.

Nanos said the poll should inform the government as it reflects on the criteria for gauging the mission's success.

"I wouldn't look at these numbers and think the government should be pulling out of Afghanistan or not. But what it does show is that maybe the government has set the bar so high in regards to success, in regards to creating stability, fostering democracy, building an economy ... that Canadians are looking at those things and saying these objectives are going to be pretty tough to achieve," said Nanos.

The pollster concluded that somewhat "more realistic" goals could make the mission more acceptable to Canadians.

Quebecers' attitudes towards the mission differed from the rest of the country. For instance, the greatest number of skeptics were found in the province, with only about 16 per cent believing the mission is highly likely to achieve key goals.

# New torture allegations

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**SOURCETAG** 0706070324

**PUBLICATION:** The Calgary Sun

**DATE:** 2007.06.07

**EDITION:** Final

**SECTION:** News

**PAGE:** 32

**BYLINE:** CP

**DATELINE:** OTTAWA

**WORD COUNT:** 164

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Two new allegations of torture involving suspected Taliban have surfaced.

The accusations come in the wake of Canada signing a revised prisoner transfer agreement with Afghanistan, a joint Commons committee was told yesterday.

The additional claims bring to four the number of suspected cases of abuse involving detainees captured by Canadian troops, but turned over to Afghan authorities.

The claims thus far are "unproven," Foreign Affairs Minister Peter MacKay said following a special meeting of the Commons defence and foreign affairs committee.

He conceded they were "serious allegations" but provided no details other than to say they were obtained directly from prison visits by Canadian Foreign Affairs officials in Kandahar.

MacKay says he's confident Afghan authorities will thoroughly investigate what's been reported.

"We have followed the steps in place, the process that is place, which is to notify directly Afghan authorities, which our ambassador did as recently as this morning."

In April, Public Safety Minister Stockwell Day revealed Corrections Canada officers working in Kandahar had heard complaints from prisoners in the notorious jails of Afghan intelligence that they had been tortured.

Those earlier claims could not be verified as the officers saw no "physical evidence" of abuse, and Day suggested the reports were untrue. **KEYWORDS=NATIONAL**

# Al-Qaida vowing vengeance

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**PUBLICATION:** The Calgary Sun

**DATE:** 2007.06.07

**EDITION:** Final

**SECTION:** News

**PAGE:** 32

**BYLINE:** REUTERS

**DATELINE:** DUBAI

**WORD COUNT:** 106

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An al-Qaida leader threatened U.S.-led forces and their Afghan allies with a deadly summer of attacks in revenge for the killing of Taliban leader Mullah Dadullah.

"O worshippers of the cross and their apostate lackeys ! I bring you good tidings -- a summer like a sword that would split your heads open," Abu Yahya al-Libi said in a video statement posted on the Internet.

Dadullah's killing in May by U.S. forces was seen as the most serious blow to the Taliban insurgents since their government was removed from power in 2001 by a U.S.-led coalition.

"The soldiers of the Afghanistan Islamic state are well prepared with martyrdom seekers and other (tactics) to seek revenge ..." Libi said. KEYWORDS=WORLD

# THE WAR IN AFGHANISTAN Taliban in Kandahar off balance, colonel says Previous intensive gun battles, coupled with relentless Canadian patrols, cited for leaving fighters disorganized and dispersed

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**PUBLICATION:** GLOBE AND MAIL

**IDN:** 071580249

**DATE:** 2007.06.07

**PAGE:** A19

**BYLINE:** MURRAY CAMPBELL

**SECTION:** International News

**EDITION:** Metro

**DATELINE:** KANDAHAR, AFGHANISTAN

**WORDS:** 582

**WORD COUNT:** 592

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MURRAY CAMPBELL KANDAHAR, AFGHANISTAN Canadian forces have dramatically reduced the ability of the Taliban to mount a massive offensive, the deputy commander of the Canadian mission in Afghanistan says.

Insurgents can still inflict damage, Colonel Mike Cessford said yesterday, but they have lost a home base from which to launch large-scale attacks.

They are also finding it difficult to move through the countryside because of regular Canadian patrols, he added.

Acknowledging that predictions are "dangerous," Col. Cessford gave his assessment of the current military situation in Afghanistan in a wide-ranging 55-minute briefing with Canadian reporters at Kandahar Air Field. It marked one of the few times since the current rotation of troops arrived in February that a senior officer has publicly put into context the skirmishes in which Canadian soldiers routinely participate.

The military situation has changed dramatically since last summer, he said, when the Taliban and Canadian soldiers fought large-scale battles in a 20-square-kilometre section of the districts of Panjwai and Zhari west of Kandahar.

The current rotation of combat soldiers trained for a repeat of those confrontations, but were surprised to find instead that they are fighting an enemy that dispersed across the province of Kandahar.

Skirmishes remain routine in Panjwai and Zhari, he said, and other military officials confirm Canadians were involved in a fierce gun battle in the region at the beginning of the week. But Canadians are also increasingly involved farther afield in the districts of Maywand, Arghandab, Shah Vali Kowt and Spin Boldak.

"This mission is evolving dynamically and dramatically," he said.

"It changes on a dime." He estimated that there are fewer than 1,000 Taliban fighters in the province of Kandahar and that many of those are not "hard-core fanatics" but unemployed young men looking either for excitement or a pay packet. (At least that many are fighting in the adjacent province of Helmand, mainly

THE WAR IN AFGHANISTAN Taliban in Kandahar off balance, colonel says Previous intensive gun battles,

against British troops.) Canadian troops are not spread too thinly, he said, because they have been able to rely on the improved Afghan National Army.

"We are maintaining pressure," Col. Cessford said. "Does that mean the place has been cleaned of Taliban? Absolutely not. But it does mean that their ability to group, their ability to plan, their ability to develop capability to inflict significant harm on us is significantly reduced. They are focused on survival as opposed to offensive operations." The deputy commander said that ordinary Afghans have begun to feel more secure as the insurgency is dealt with. It is a statement that is difficult to verify – although the mission has just finished conducting an opinion poll, the results of which will be available in about three weeks. But an estimated 30,000 residents of Panjwai have moved back to the district in recent weeks after being displaced by last autumn's fierce fighting.

The situation remains somewhat tense in the city of Kandahar, which was hit by a series of suicide bombings three weeks ago. Canadian officials believe that Afghan government officials remain targets because Taliban leaders are angry that they have not been able to recover the body of one of their leaders who was killed last month.

"I am hopeful that we have seized the initiative as such that we can keep the Taliban off balance," he said, adding it is "virtually impossible" to protect against suicide attacks, assassinations or roadside bombs.

"I expect that we will continue to pay a price in blood and treasure in the months to come."

ADDED SEARCH TERMS:

GEOGRAPHIC NAME: Afghanistan; Canada

SUBJECT TERM: strife; defence; policy; statements

PERSONAL NAME: Mike Cessford

ORGANIZATION NAME: Taliban; Armed Forces

# A burgeoning media landscape

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**PUBLICATION:** GLOBE AND MAIL

**IDN:** 071580248

**DATE:** 2007.06.07

**PAGE:** A19 (ILLUS)

**BYLINE:**

**SECTION:** International News

**EDITION:** Metro

**DATELINE:**

**WORDS:** 60

**WORD COUNT:** 84

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The Afghan news media has grown enormously since the Taliban regime fell in December, 2001.

40:1 Number of radio stations now to the number in 2001.

8 Number of television stations now. There were none under the Taliban.

400 Estimated number of publications now.

2,000 Members of the Afghan Independent Journalists' Association Source: Afghan Independent Journalists' Association, BBC

ADDED SEARCH TERMS:

GEOGRAPHIC NAME: Afghanistan

SUBJECT TERM: media; statistics; list

# GRAVE RISKS IN A WAR ZONE Afghan journalist killed for giving voice to women

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**PUBLICATION:** GLOBE AND MAIL

**IDN:** 071580247

**DATE:** 2007.06.07

**PAGE:** A1

**BYLINE:** MARCUS GEE KABUL

**SECTION:** International News

**SOURCE:** STAFF AP REUT

**EDITION:** Metro

**DATELINE:**

**WORDS:** 634

**WORD COUNT:** 538

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MARCUS GEE KABUL With AP, Reuters and Guardian The murder of two female journalists in Afghanistan in the space of a week has brought home the risks that newswomen face in a country where women are not expected to ask questions.

Zakia Zaki, 35, was shot seven times as she slept in her bed with her young son late Tuesday. A respected journalist and human-rights activist in the province of Parwan just north of the capital, she headed the U.S.-funded Peace Radio. She was also the principal of a local school and ran for parliament in 2005.

Her killing came just days after the slaying in Kabul of Sanga Amach, a news presenter for a private television station. Both women reportedly received threats, warning them to stop reporting.

"This is a shocking thing to see," said Abdul Hai Warshan, a long-time reporter for Voice of America, who visited Ms. Zaki's house yesterday to report on the crime. "Journalism is always dangerous in this country, especially if you are a woman. The extremists do not like women who work." He saw Ms. Zaki's body, cleaned and dressed in fresh clothes for burial, laid out in the family bedroom as her husband and family grieved. She had six children, aged one to 15, said other journalists who knew her.

Mr. Warshan said it appears that two men came through the bedroom window, one armed with an automatic rifle and one with a pistol, and opened fire.

Abdul Hamid Mobarez, a freelance journalist who knew Ms. Zaki, said she was "very, very active" in her community.

She ran the radio station and the school and took on a variety of projects, such as raising money to get textbooks for local schoolchildren.

"It is a very great loss for us, but we are carrying on with our struggle for freedom of the press in Afghanistan," said Mr. Mobarez, president of the Press Commission of South Asia.

Ms. Zaki was "a great supporter of women's rights in Afghanistan," he said.

Female journalists, still a small minority in their craft, are particularly vulnerable because conservative forces see them as a visible symbol of women's emancipation.



One local journalist who came to cover a development conference in Kabul this week told foreign journalists that she had been threatened by her cab driver on the way to the hotel.

"Women should not be journalists," he told her. "Watch out or you might get shot." Some female journalists are victimized by their own families.

When a well-known female presenter was murdered in her home two years ago, male relatives became suspects.

Reports said they had killed her for besmirching the family name by brazenly appearing on television in a country where many still believe a woman should not show her face in public.

Some reports said Ms. Amach's murder may also have been a so-called honour killing.

The Afghan media flourished after the fall of the Taliban, which had allowed only one state-run propaganda broadcaster and several newspapers with religion as their main theme.

Today, there are eight television stations, 40 private radio stations and 300 newspapers and magazines.

Feisty editorials and columns question the government's decisions and female presenters appear on TV.

That may have angered both Muslim extremists and government authorities, who find themselves being challenged by a freer press.

Tolo TV, a well-produced, Western-style news and entertainment channel, has proved particularly irksome to authorities.

Afghanistan's Attorney-General sent police officers to the station and detained some staffers last month after it broadcast a report that displeased him.

The Taliban is another threat to Afghan journalists.

Taliban insurgents executed the media interpreter Ajmal Nakshbandi last month after the government struck a deal for the release of the Italian journalist who had employed him.

ADDED SEARCH TERMS:

GEOGRAPHIC NAME: Afghanistan

SUBJECT TERM: strife; murder; journalists; status of women; rights; biography

PERSONAL NAME: Zakia Zaki; Sanga Amach

# DEFENCE SPENDING: CHINOOKS ON ORDER New heavy copters won't be available before end of current Afghan mission

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**PUBLICATION:** GLOBE AND MAIL

**IDN:** 071580209

**DATE:** 2007.06.07

**PAGE:** A4

**BYLINE:** DANIEL LEBLANC

**SECTION:** National News

**EDITION:** Metro

**DATELINE:** Ottawa ONT

**WORDS:** 472

**WORD COUNT:** 447

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DANIEL LEBLANC OTTAWA Canada's new transport helicopters will not be battle ready until well into 2011, more than two years after the country's military mission in Afghanistan is scheduled to end and five years after the purchase was announced.

Federal government and industry officials said the contract for the 16 Chinook helicopters has been delayed and the installation of anti-missile and other defensive equipment will further put back their delivery.

Defence Minister Gordon O'Connor announced plans to acquire the helicopters last June as part of a major series of military purchases.

In a speech in Edmonton at the time, Mr. O'Connor gave the sense the Boeing-built helicopters would be used in Afghanistan, where dozens of soldiers have died after driving over explosive devices.

"Overseas, the helicopters will reduce our reliance on allies and protect our troops on dangerous missions. They will reduce cases in which our men and women in uniform must drive overland, exposing themselves to the risk of ambush, land mines and improvised bombs," Mr. O'Connor said of the helicopters capable of carrying a 30-troop platoon in full combat gear.

But federal officials said the contract for the new medium- and heavy-lift helicopters -- worth \$4.7-billion over 20 years -- has been delayed because of the complicated negotiations for the add-ons and is not expected to be signed until early next year.

The deal calls for the first Chinook to be delivered in early 2011, but officials said the aircraft will not be combat ready and will need upgrades before going overseas.

Chinook helicopters are big, noisy and vulnerable. Last week, a U.S. Chinook carrying seven NATO soldiers, including Master Corporal Darrell Jason Priede, a Canadian soldier based at CFB Gagetown, N.B., was shot down by the Taliban in southern Afghanistan.

Chinooks usually fly alongside attack helicopters, which provide protection, but the Canadian Forces do not have these escort aircraft.

As a result, Ottawa is negotiating with Boeing to add further defensive aids such as radar and infrared sensors on their Chinooks and extra gas tanks to carry the extra weight, which will take up to 12 months to install, sources said.

A defence official said the helicopters are not specifically geared toward the current military mission in Afghanistan.

"Afghanistan did not motivate this purchase," the official said.

"A medium- to heavy-lift helicopter capability will allow the Canadian Forces to reach remote locations in a wider range of geographic areas and challenging environments inaccessible by ground-based transport or fixed-wing aircraft, both at home and around the world." The Chinooks were one of five major acquisitions announced one year ago by the Conservative government. Overall, federal officials said the planned procurement of \$17-billion in military equipment is running smoothly, given the size and the complexity of the package.

ADDED SEARCH TERMS:

GEOGRAPHIC NAME: Canada; Afghanistan

SUBJECT TERM: defence contracts; helicopters; strife

PERSONAL NAME: Gordon O'Connor

ORGANIZATION NAME: Armed Forces

# Under the guise of self-defence, anything goes

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**PUBLICATION:** GLOBE AND MAIL

**IDN:** 071580188

**DATE:** 2007.06.07

**PAGE:** A25 (ILLUS)

**BYLINE:** LAWRENCE MARTIN

**SECTION:** Comment Column

**EDITION:** Metro

**DATELINE:**

**WORDS:** 742

**WORD COUNT:** 724

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LAWRENCE MARTIN Self-defence is a great weapon to have in your quiver. You can do anything in the name of self-defence. You can launch pre-emptive wars. You can ride roughshod over domestic liberties and flout international law. You can station missiles in Poland on the one-in-a-thousand chance that Iran might target Gdansk one day.

For anyone who dissents, you have the perfect enemy-at-the-gates rebuttal. Since the prospect of terror can never be fully eliminated, you can always use it as a rationale. When you have strategic interests everywhere, the whole world becomes your self-defence oyster.

But given the track record of the Bush administration, is it self-defence? Or is it something more akin to what Russian leader Vladimir Putin sees as confrontation – imperialism in disguise? The world, Canada included, divides between those tending toward the Bush confrontational approach and those who want a return to bridge-building. The dividing line distinguishes Republicans and Democrats to the south, Conservatives and Liberals here. It tells who is in the driver's seat for winning the next elections. It explains how the American reputation has tumbled around the world, and how Washington has squandered, post 9/11, its chance to be a unifying force.

In a weekend debate in New Hampshire, Barack Obama, a Democrat in the race for the presidency, pleaded for a new spirit of compromise.

"We can't simply lead with our military," he said.

The biggest mistake of the Bush administration, writes intelligence specialist James Bamford in Harper's Magazine, has been "to treat terrorism, not as a crime not to be solved by intelligence and law-enforcement agencies, but as an existential military threat to be confronted with tanks and Marines." Prime Minister Stephen Harper, currently at the G8 summit defending George W. Bush's self-defence missile initiative in Europe, is a tanks and Marines guy. No Canadian leader in decades has shown such an utter fondness for the uniform. To him, the military is almost above criticism.

Last week, Liberal Leader Stephane Dion, who shares Mr. Obama's passion for bridge-building, found this out when he went after Gordon O'Connor, the stumblebum Defence Minister, in Question Period. Citing Mr. O'Connor's military service, the Prime Minister, in an astounding Commons moment, said Mr. Dion had no right to criticize him.

"When the Leader of the Opposition is able to stand in uniform and serve his country, then I will care about his opinion of the performance of the Minister of National Defence." Many in Ottawa are still shaking their

heads at the demagoguery.

Had the Prime Minister not heard of the tradition of civilian oversight? Michael Ignatieff was quick to point out that Mr. Harper had never worn a military uniform himself. By the PM's standards, his own opinion wouldn't count, either.

The Harper outburst followed his release of yet more attack ads against Mr. Dion, his warning that our fighting in Afghanistan could go far beyond the 2009 deadline and yet more warring with the news media. He doesn't seem to realize that confrontation begets confrontation – from voters, from potential allies.

At the G8 summit, he and Mr. Bush, both former agnostics on the green file, have shown at least some evidence of bridge–building with their new approach to global warming.

On the issue of the placement of missiles in Europe, however, there is no sense of compromise. While it is hard to be sympathetic to the view of the democracy–shredding Mr. Putin, the missile gambit is a provocative gesture by Washington given the remote nature of the threat.

The Russian leader had made his opposition clear, asking how Washington would like it if Moscow put a missile system on its doorstep in Central America. But Mr. Bush went ahead anyway and, yesterday, Mr. Harper gave him his support before even sitting down with Mr.

Putin.

Provocation. Confrontation. Tanks. Marines. Missiles. The Bush–Cheney method has been tried. Results are in. But, under the guise of self–defence, their imperialist impulses get another pass.

The only way to escape the spiral is an attitudinal shift from confrontation to bridge–building. "The country I know and love," says Anne–Marie Slaughter, dean of the Woodrow Wilson School of Public and International Affairs at Princeton, "is the country that flies its flag alongside other nations, not above them."  
lmartin@globeandmail.com

ADDED SEARCH TERMS:

GEOGRAPHIC NAME: Canada; United States; Russia

SUBJECT TERM:foreign policy; defence; ballistic missiles; political; foreign relations

PERSONAL NAME: Barack Obama; Stephen Harper; Stephane Dion

# **SUDAN: HUMAN RIGHTS Eyes of the world focus on Darfur Satellite images posted online will help analysts determine whether villages in violence-plagued region have been attacked**

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**PUBLICATION:** GLOBE AND MAIL

**IDN:** 071580183

**DATE:** 2007.06.07

**PAGE:** A3 (ILLUS)

**BYLINE:** MICHELLE LOCKE

**SECTION:** International News

**SOURCE:** AP

**EDITION:** Metro

**DATELINE:** BERKELEY, CALIF.

**WORDS:** 960

**WORD COUNT:** 888

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MICHELLE LOCKE Associated Press BERKELEY, CALIF.

Human-rights activists are using high-resolution satellite cameras to keep watch over imperilled villages in the Darfur region of Sudan and posting the images online to enlist help preventing violence.

The new Amnesty International website, [www.eyesondarfur.org](http://www.eyesondarfur.org), was launched yesterday in conjunction with a conference at the University of California, Berkeley.

"We're hoping that by shining a light that we will deter the abuse from ever happening," said Ariela Blatter, director of the Crisis Prevention and Response Center for Amnesty International USA.

Satellite images have been used before to document destruction in Darfur and elsewhere. But the latest project offers clearer, more up-to-date images, allowing experts to better track developments, Ms. Blatter said.

The quality of the pictures is "very, very good," said Lars Bromley of the American Association for the Advancement of Science, an international non-profit group that publishes the journal *Science* and provided technical assistance for the project.

"We can see cows. We can see vehicles. We can certainly see houses and fences and other structures," Mr. Bromley said.

That is especially important in an area such as Darfur, which is too dangerous for most people, said Mr. Bromley, project director for the AAAS Science and Human Rights Program.

The region has been racked by violence since 2003, when ethnic African rebels and the pro-government militia known as janjaweed began fighting.

More than 200,000 people have been killed and 2.5 million forced to flee their homes.

Sending a ground mission would be next to impossible, "but the satellite image provides you another way to peek over the walls," Mr. Bromley said.

The images are being made by commercial satellites that have been rented by Amnesty International. They do not provide live pictures, but some photos may be posted in as little as one day, much faster than previously available, Ms. Blatter said.

Having up-to-date images means analysts can better determine whether a village has been attacked and the severity of the assault.

The satellites watching Darfur are the latest effort to use the Internet to monitor hot spots such as crime-ridden streets or rush-hour bottlenecks.

"This is the Web camera moved to outer space, basically," said Lee Rainie, director of the Pew Internet and American Life Project.

"It's an absolutely logical, expected extension of the stuff that's been going on in the Internet." Computer users have had access to remote images from their desktops for years, "and now this is being tied to political, economic and social activism in really interesting ways," he said.

The project, called Eyes on Darfur, is funded by the Save Darfur Coalition of humanitarian groups. It also includes archive images showing villages that have been destroyed since the conflict began.

Amnesty International organizers hope the pictures will increase pressure for change.

"The picture is worth a thousand words, but it's important that it's carried by a million voices," Ms. Blatter said.

Martha Saavedra, associate director for the Center for African Studies at UC Berkeley, cautioned that issues in the conflict are complicated.

"I think it is good that people are becoming aware. In general, I would say, 'Don't just look today at the satellite, but commit to some kind of long-term education of yourself,' " she said.

\*\*\*\*\* Eye in the sky Computer users have found myriad uses for the online satellite imaging technology, which became widely available with the release of Google Earth in 2005. These are a few examples: Escape: Iraqis are being encouraged to use Google Earth to draw up maps of their local area so they can work out escape routes and streets to block if militant death squads come to their neighbourhood.

Archeology: Using satellite images from Google Maps and Google Earth, an Italian computer programmer stumbled upon the remains of an ancient Roman villa after he noticed a prominent, oval, shaded form more than 500 metres long.

Environment: Amazon Indians are using online satellite images to watch for illegal gold mines and other destructive endeavours and protect endangered rain-forest ecosystems.

Early warning: Researchers in Alaska are using Google Earth to monitor volcanoes and assess the threats of eruptions.

Terrorism: Would-be terrorists arrested last week for plotting to attack New York's Kennedy airport used online satellite images in their preparations. Insurgents in Iraq and Afghanistan are said to use such technology for reconnaissance and to carry out attacks.

SUDAN: HUMAN RIGHTS Eyes of the world focus on Darfur Satellite images posted online will help analysts

Source: Staff \*\*\*\*\* On guard, online Humanitarian groups are using satellite cameras to keep watch over villages in the Darfur region of Sudan and posting the images online to encourage others to help prevent violence. Satellite images have been used before to document destruction in Darfur and elsewhere.

But the latest project offers clearer, more up-to-date images, allowing experts to better track developments.

The satellites watching Darfur are the latest effort to use the Internet to monitor hot spots around the world. The project, [www.eyesondarfur.org](http://www.eyesondarfur.org), uses images made by commercial satellites that have been rented by Amnesty International. The site will be updated regularly with new photographs, and will help it monitor 12 vulnerable villages, putting Khartoum on notice that these areas are being watched closely for signs of any further violence. It also includes archived images from the village of Donkey Dereis, which is shown in 2004 with hundreds of huts. Two years later, more than 1,000 homes were destroyed and the landscape is now overgrown with vegetation. More than 200,000 people have died and two million been driven from home since the conflict in western Sudan between ethnic African rebels and the government, backed by the Arab janjaweed militia, began in 2003.

Khartoum says 9,000 have died and rejects accusations of genocide.

ADDED SEARCH TERMS:

GEOGRAPHIC NAME: Sudan; Darfur

SUBJECT TERM: strife; human rights; satellites; internet; technology; electronic surveillance; list

ORGANIZATION NAME: Amnesty International



# PRISONERS IN AFGHANISTAN Four detainees allege they were abused Complaints made to Canadians after handover to Afghans, MacKay says

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**PUBLICATION:** GLOBE AND MAIL

**IDN:** 071580181

**DATE:** 2007.06.07

**PAGE:** A4

**BYLINE:** ALAN FREEMAN

**SECTION:** National News

**EDITION:** Metro

**DATELINE:** Ottawa ONT

**WORDS:** 417

**WORD COUNT:** 425

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ALAN FREEMAN OTTAWA Four Afghan detainees have complained to Canadian authorities since February that they allegedly suffered abuse after Canadian troops handed them over to Afghan authorities, according to Foreign Affairs Minister Peter MacKay.

"They are serious allegations and they were received directly by Canadian officials during visits we had sought," Mr. MacKay told reporters. The detainees are not accusing Canadian soldiers of wrongdoing, but are saying the mistreatment took place after they were handed over to Afghan officials.

Mr. MacKay said Afghan authorities are investigating the allegations under the new agreement signed by Canada on the treatment of detainees transferred to Afghan jails. The allegations come from detainees in Kabul and Kandahar.

Speaking after a meeting of the House of Commons Committee on National Defence, which heard from five government ministers on the Afghan mission, Mr. MacKay said that under the new agreement, Canadian officials have made five separate visits to Afghan jails and received full co-operation from the authorities.

"We have notified the Afghan Independent Human Rights Commission and the Red Cross to do their necessary checks and follow-ups and this process is now well under way," he said.

Public Security Minister Stockwell Day said the four prisoners making the allegations showed no visible signs of abuse and cautioned that the Taliban and al-Qaeda have been coached to allege mistreatment when they are asked.

Last month, the Canadian government reached a new agreement with Afghanistan allowing for unfettered access to detainees transferred by Canadian troops after allegations of abuse by 30 detainees were reported by The Globe and Mail. There are also separate Canadian investigations under way into three earlier cases of possible abuse of prisoners by Canadian soldiers.

Mr. MacKay said that nobody has yet produced any evidence to indicate that any Canadian soldier, diplomat or aid official has been complicit in anything remotely linked to torture.

Opposition MPs pressed National Defence Minister Gordon O'Connor for details on how many Taliban prisoners had been taken by Canadian troops and what had happened to them. Mr. O'Connor said he could not

PRISONERS IN AFGHANISTAN Four detainees allege they were abused Complaints made to Canadians a

disclose the information because he said it would be "detrimental to operational security." Liberal MP Ujjal Dosanjh said he didn't understand why the U.S.

Pentagon had managed to publish a complete list of its prisoners at Guantanamo Bay in Cuba while Canada was unable to do the same in Afghanistan. Mr. O'Connor responded that neither the Americans nor other NATO forces in Afghanistan are publishing lists of prisoners either.

ADDED SEARCH TERMS:

GEOGRAPHIC NAME: Afghanistan; Canada

SUBJECT TERM: strife; human rights; prisoners

PERSONAL NAME: Peter MacKay

# Harper hopes to placate Putin; PM to go one-on-one with Russian president, aiming to head off fears of renewed Cold War

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**PUBLICATION:** The Ottawa Citizen  
**DATE:** 2007.06.07  
**EDITION:** Final  
**SECTION:** News  
**PAGE:** A3

Colour Photo: Michael Dalder, Reuters / G8 summit: Leaders and their partners pose for photographers before an official dinner. Front row, from left: British Prime Minister Tony Blair, his wife Cherie, Joachim Sauer and his wife, German Chancellor Angela Merkel, French President Nicolas Sarkozy. Second row: Flavia Prodi and her husband, Italian

**ILLUSTRATION:** Prime Minister Romano Prodi, Russian President Vladimir Putin, his wife Lyudmila, European Commission President Jose Manuel Barroso, Mr. Sarkozy's wife, Cecilia. Third row: Laureen Harper, her husband, Prime Minister Stephen Harper, Laura Bush, her husband, U.S. President George W. Bush, Mr. Barroso's wife Margarida Sousa Uva, Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe and his wife Akie (obscured). ;

**DATELINE:** KUHLLUNGSBORN, Germany  
**BYLINE:** Andrew Mayeda  
**SOURCE:** The Ottawa Citizen  
**WORD COUNT:** 572

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KUHLLUNGSBORN, Germany – Prime Minister Stephen Harper is expected to appeal for "calm" in a bilateral meeting with Russian President Vladimir Putin today at the G8 summit, where Mr. Putin's sabre-rattling has stirred unsettling talk of a new Cold War.

The two leaders are expected to touch on U.S. plans to build a missile defence system based in the Czech Republic and Poland. Mr. Putin considers the system an escalation of the arms race and this week threatened to aim nuclear missiles at Europe if the United States follows through with the plan.

Mr. Harper is also expected to talk about the progress of democratic reforms in Russia, another prickly issue.

But one of his goals will be to defuse growing tensions between Russia and its G8 partners, who have been unnerved by Mr. Putin's authoritarian methods and increasing wealth and influence.

"We're trying to make sure the conversation stays open and the dialogue remains calm," Mr. Harper's director of communications, Sandra Buckler, told reporters yesterday.

The Putin question was front and centre as the eight leaders arrived in the Baltic Sea resort of Heiligendamm for three days of talks.

U.S. President George W. Bush downplayed the threat of Russia attacking Europe, a day after he said "the Cold War is over."

But he stood by his position that the U.S. missile shield is necessary. The U.S. says the system is designed to shoot down missiles fired by "rogue" states such as Iran and poses no threat to Russia.

Harper hopes to placate Putin; PM to go one-on-one with Russian president, aiming to head off fears of renewed Cold War

"I think it's important to make sure we have a system to protect ourselves against the threats of the 21st century — the true threats," Mr. Bush said.

Mr. Harper supported that position this week.

Mr. Putin said his delegation will be "open for discussion of any problems and intends to discuss them in a constructive manner."

A Kremlin spokesman added that Mr. Putin's comments were intended to be "hypothetical" rather than "threatening."

Mr. Bush and Mr. Putin will sit down tomorrow for the most closely watched bilateral meeting of the summit.

A senior government official said Mr. Harper and Mr. Putin are also expected to discuss topics such as the war in Afghanistan, energy co-operation and the independence of Kosovo, which the West supports but Russia staunchly opposes.

Meanwhile, negotiators were working overtime yesterday to hammer out a compromise on climate change after the U.S. said it will not support any specific targets or timetables for reducing greenhouse gases believed to cause global warming.

German Chancellor Angela Merkel, the host of the summit, wants the G8 to set a target of halving global emissions by 2050 compared with 1990 levels.

But Mr. Bush's environmental adviser, James Connaughton, said the U.S. would not adopt the proposal.

Canada supports Ms. Merkel's global target, but the European Union wants the Canadian government to shoulder a greater burden in reaching it.

The U.S. has also rejected Ms. Merkel's proposal to limit the rise in global temperatures this century to two degrees, the threshold beyond which many scientists believe catastrophic effects from climate change will begin to occur.

Mr. Connaughton said Canada, Japan and Russia also oppose the two-degree target, but a senior Canadian official close to the negotiations said the issue has not "featured in discussions for some time."

After lunching with Mr. Bush, Ms. Merkel conceded that "in some areas there remain a few things here and there that we still need to discuss."

Earlier in the day, Mr. Harper arrived at the port city of Rostock and was whisked away by helicopter to Heiligendaam.

Security at the resort is so tight that journalists have been located at a media centre roughly 10 kilometres away.

Organizers have erected a \$17-million, 11.6-kilometre barbed-wire fence around the resort. Roughly 16,000 police and soldiers have been deployed to secure the summit.

At least eight officers were injured yesterday in the nearby town of Bad Doberan during clashes with anti-globalization protesters who blockaded road, rail and even sea routes into the summit. Demonstrators hurled rocks at police, who responded with water cannons.

Harper hopes to placate Putin; PM to go one-on-one with Russian president, aiming to head off fears of re

The roughly 10,000 protesters were far fewer than the 100,000 organizers had predicted.

# New Taliban strategy forces Canadians to change tactics

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**IDNUMBER** 200706070149  
**PUBLICATION:** The Ottawa Citizen  
**DATE:** 2007.06.07  
**EDITION:** Final  
**SECTION:** News  
**PAGE:** A5  
**DATELINE:** KANDAHAR, Afghanistan  
**BYLINE:** Tom Blackwell  
**SOURCE:** National Post  
**WORD COUNT:** 189

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KANDAHAR, Afghanistan – Canadian Forces have been jolted in recent months by a dramatic shift in the Afghanistan conflict that has seen the Taliban melt into the civilian population and spread over a much wider area, a top officer said yesterday.

It has required a rapid "sea change" in tactics that used to be unheard of in the Forces, said Col. Mike Cessford, second in command of the Canadian mission here.

Last year, troops fought largely in a 20–square–kilometre area west of Kandahar city, although Canada has responsibility for all of Kandahar province. The bloody combat was a conventional clash with large numbers of insurgents. Now, the Taliban have dispersed among the province's civilians and into a "multiplicity" of different districts, Col. Cessford said in a frank assessment of the operation. The "battle space," as the military calls it, has broadened strikingly, he said.

"This mission is evolving dynamically and dramatically," the commander told Canadian journalists. "We trained hard for a mission that we did not execute. ... Here, you change on a dime, and you have to change on a dime."

# Canadians doubt success of Afghanistan mission: poll; Half say Canada's world reputation enhanced

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**PUBLICATION:** The Ottawa Citizen  
**DATE:** 2007.06.07  
**EDITION:** Final  
**SECTION:** News  
**PAGE:** A5  
**BYLINE:** Jack Aubry  
**SOURCE:** The Ottawa Citizen  
**WORD COUNT:** 357

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Whether they are for or against Canada's military mission in Afghanistan, Canadians are highly skeptical about its chances for success, a new poll shows.

"Canadians believe the mission in Afghanistan enhances our reputation in the world, but also believe it is a difficult and complex mission, and (they) are highly doubtful about the chances for success," said Nik Nanos, president of SES Research.

In a national survey conducted for Policy Options magazine, the company found that only about one in four Canadians believe that either the military mission or the efforts to promote the rule of law and human rights in the troubled Asian country have a strong probability of success. The sentiments were shared across the board, regardless of whether respondents felt Canada should be in Afghanistan at all.

"What I found interesting is that even among committed Conservative supporters, or the group that supports the mission the most, only 26 per cent think there is a high chance of success," Mr. Nanos said.

The poll found that close to half of Canadians believe the mission is enhancing Canada's reputation on the world stage, while one-quarter either believe it has had no impact or is diminishing the country's reputation.

In general, however, the humanitarian aspects of the mission enjoyed more support than the security efforts, with 38 per cent of respondents saying efforts to promote the rule of law and human rights were the most important reason for Canadian engagement in Afghanistan. About one-third felt rebuilding security and stability were the most compelling justifications, while one in five favoured initiatives that support economic and social development.

"This may well have to do with Canadians' enduring self-perception of our country as a nation of peacekeepers, even though we are not really in that business anymore," Mr. Nanos said.

The poll was conducted April 26 to May 1, after six Canadian soldiers died when a roadside bomb blew up their vehicle in the dangerous Kandahar province of southern Afghanistan. The results carry a margin of error of 3.1 percentage points, 19 times out of 20.

Mr. Nanos said the poll should inform the government as it reflects on the criteria for gauging the mission's success.

# Still inhumane

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**PUBLICATION:** The Ottawa Citizen  
**DATE:** 2007.06.07  
**EDITION:** Final  
**SECTION:** News  
**PAGE:** A13  
**PNAME:** Letters  
**BYLINE:** Steve Cornish  
**SOURCE:** The Ottawa Citizen  
**WORD COUNT:** 179

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With Afghanistan and Iraq still in flames in the name of spreading freedom and democracy, I was appalled that the pro–democracy–loving David Harris could find space in the Citizen to call for a continuation of the disastrous and discredited Bush doctrine of pre–emption against Iran.

Paying no heed to international humanitarian law or to the premises that constitute a "just war" and omitting any mention of the civilian deaths possibly into the hundred of thousands, Mr. Harris writes a diatribe to scare us into supporting an inhumane and ill–conceived military adventure into Iran -- a foray that some experts have pointed out could lead to conflict from Pakistan to Palestine and herald a Third World War.

His central thesis, that our democracy and security at home would somehow be enhanced by pre–emptively bombing Iran simply, does not hold up to scrutiny.

It also raises the question of how our supposedly moral democracies will be viewed if the only way we can spread our cultural values is through the barrel of a gun.

Steve Cornish,

Ottawa



# Our foreign aid security blanket

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**IDNUMBER** 200706070112  
**PUBLICATION:** The Ottawa Citizen  
**DATE:** 2007.06.07  
**EDITION:** Final  
**SECTION:** News  
**PAGE:** A14  
**PNAME:** Editorial  
**SOURCE:** Ottawa Citizen  
**WORD COUNT:** 509

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This G8 meeting is an opportune moment for Canada to show leadership in foreign aid, an issue that increasingly is linked not only to humanitarian imperatives but also to international security.

As one of the world's advanced democracies, Canada is on record having made important commitments to foreign aid, most notably at the Gleneagles G8 meeting in 2005. Now, however, at the current G8 meeting, Canada is accused of downplaying previous commitments and weakening the communique on Africa.

That communique could be an important one. There are reports from the negotiations in Germany that Canada is resisting strong targets for the fight against AIDS. Canada should be a champion of the prevention of health pandemics. The recent scare with drug-resistant TB demonstrated that where bacteria and viruses are concerned, borders are invisible. It should be stressing the need to kickstart microcredit programs in Africa — a simple, effective way for people to lift themselves out of poverty and put foreign aid out of business.

In overall aid, Canada is still not up to the OECD average, a standard Mr. Harper set for Canada in 2006. And that's a low bar: The OECD itself is nowhere near the more objective standard, supported by the Conservatives when they were in opposition, of 0.7 per cent of gross national income.

Canada might be able to clear the bar of doubling overall aid by 2010. But in terms of aid to Africa, foreign-aid watchers have argued that we are far behind. Sending big cheques is not an end in itself, of course. Development groups focus on the aid promises because, unlike many statements in G8 communiqués, they are quantifiable.

They allow us to hold the leaders to account, and to understand why diseases are still spreading and wells are still running dry.

Mr. Harper must either follow through or explain why he won't. But there are other ways to lead, too: He can apply his knowledge of economics to make Canada a master of effective aid.

One way to do that is to focus bilateral aid on those countries that can use it well — something Canada is already starting to do. There are many demands on Canada's budget, and Canadian taxpayers are right to oppose sending cash to corrupt countries.

Another is to specialize: Find something Canada does really well (distribution of antimalarial bednets, for example) and corner the market. If Canada were spending 0.7 per cent of its income on aid, and spending it effectively, it could cover Africa in bednets and save millions of lives — and millions of dollars in lost productivity.

The intervention in Afghanistan is a good example of the crossover between foreign aid and defence policy in the post–Cold–War world. Afghans themselves have asked for our help not just in building up their country — and that requires money — but our help in defending the gains. The same link between security and humanitarianism exists in Africa: desertification is a factor in the killing in Darfur; failed states such as Somalia become havens for terrorists. Foreign aid is in our interest.

# New allegations in abuse of Taliban detainees

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**PUBLICATION:** The Hamilton Spectator  
**DATE:** 2007.06.07  
**EDITION:** Final  
**SECTION:** Canada/World  
**PAGE:** A3  
**DATELINE:** OTTAWA  
**SOURCE:** The Canadian Press  
**COPYRIGHT:** © 2007 Torstar Corporation  
**WORD COUNT:** 192

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Two fresh allegations of torture of suspected Taliban fighters have surfaced in the wake of Canada signing a revised prisoner transfer agreement with Afghanistan, a joint Commons committee was told yesterday.

The claims bring to four the number of suspected cases of abuse involving detainees captured by Canadian troops but turned over to Afghan authorities.

The claims thus far are "unproven," Foreign Affairs Minister Peter MacKay said following a special meeting of the Commons defence and foreign affairs committee.

He conceded they were "serious allegations" but provided no details other than to say they were obtained directly from prison visits by Canadian Foreign Affairs officials in Kandahar.

MacKay says he's confident Afghan authorities will thoroughly investigate what's been reported.

The Afghan Independent Human Rights Commission and the International Red Cross were also asked to investigate, MacKay added.

In April, Public Safety Minister Stockwell Day revealed that two Corrections Canada officers working in Kandahar had heard complaints from a pair of prisoners in the notorious jails of the Afghan intelligence service that they had been tortured.

Those earlier claims could not be verified as the officers saw no "physical evidence" of abuse, and Day raised the suggestion that the reports were fabrications by hard-core Taliban prisoners who are trained to lie.

# Dissent at home hampers Harper at summit

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**PUBLICATION:** The Hamilton Spectator  
**DATE:** 2007.06.07  
**EDITION:** Final  
**SECTION:** Opinion  
**PAGE:** A17  
**COLUMN:** National Affairs  
**DATELINE:** OTTAWA  
**BYLINE:** Chantal Hebert  
**SOURCE:** Torstar News Service; Toronto Star  
**COPYRIGHT:** © 2007 Torstar Corporation  
**WORD COUNT:** 482

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Prime Minister Stephen Harper and his strategists see this week's G-8 summit as an occasion to polish off his credentials on a larger stage, a chance to demonstrate that he has refined his international act after more than a full year in office.

But whether they like it or not, it is the increasingly unbridgeable gap between the prime minister's positions and the realities of his political situation that this week's European tour is also showcasing.

So great has the distance between the two become over the past 17 months that it begs the question of whether Harper speaks for himself or for Canada when he addresses other world leaders.

On some of the defining international issues of the day, that fact is that the prime minister is unable to put Parliament's money where his minority government's mouth is.

That disconnect was immediately apparent on Monday, the first full day of Harper's ongoing tour.

In front of a blue-ribbon audience in Berlin, the prime minister savaged Canada's environmental record under its previous Liberal government, showcasing himself as a bridge-builder between divergent approaches to global warming.

Meanwhile on Parliament Hill, the three opposition parties used up the bulk of question period to carpet-bomb Harper's positions, describing him as a saboteur of the international front to deal with climate change.

The relatively rare sight of a prime minister and its opposition at each other's throats across the expanse of an ocean is the culmination of a year that has seen the Conservative government isolate itself in the Commons and in public opinion on the top global issues on its plate.

At this time last year, Harper could boast that he had just secured parliamentary backing for extending the Afghan mission to 2009.

But now, a year later, he would hit a solid wall of opposition if he wanted to extend the deployment beyond that deadline.

That in turn makes it awkward for the prime minister to preach continued engagement in Afghanistan to his allies this week.

At this time last spring, the government was just setting out to put together its own plan to deal with the climate warming and the jury was still out on its environmental intentions.

A year, two environment ministers and two versions of a green plan later, Harper has to circumvent the Commons to implement his policies.

Even as he is telling other world leaders this week that there is a life as a champion of the environment outside of the Kyoto Protocol, his government is playing hide-and-seek in both houses of Parliament to avoid having the will of the opposition parties to have Canada fulfil its obligations under the treaty imposed upon it.

In the past, Canada has had prime ministers who have found solace, if not salvation, on the international scene at a time when their fortunes were much less promising than Harper's.

Pierre Trudeau, Brian Mulroney and Jean Chretien played undiminished roles as international power brokers even as they endured less than glowing reviews at home.

Chretien was already considered a lame duck leader when he dealt with the highly divisive issue of Iraq.

But this is different.

Harper is selling abroad a product he cannot get approved by Parliament and, so far, dare not test on his domestic election market.

Until he does, his capacity to play a leadership role on the international scene will, for obvious reasons, be more severely limited than that of his predecessors.

# Anchors aweigh: The navy in crisis

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**PUBLICATION:** The Windsor Star  
**DATE:** 2007.06.07  
**EDITION:** Final  
**SECTION:** Editorial/Opinion  
**PAGE:** A8  
**BYLINE:** Colin Kenny  
**SOURCE:** Special to The Windsor Star  
**WORD COUNT:** 946

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Canada's ports serve as gateways to more than 100 economies across the world. Twenty per cent of our trade with the United States goes by sea. Ninety-seven per cent of Canada's exports to all other countries flow across ocean trade routes.

Many of Canada's frontier oil reserves are offshore, and our fisheries still generate more than \$4 billion in export income annually.

Canadians have a vested interest in protecting our nation along our coasts and on the high seas. Yesterday, I made the case that Canada must have a robust navy, both to protect our territory and our interests abroad, but also to help forge relationships with like-minded countries advancing common interests around the world.

But that navy, which is an afterthought to most Canadians (and to most Canadian voters), is beginning to disintegrate in a number of vital areas.

Take frigates and destroyers.

Only frigates and destroyers are large enough to allow our navy to operate in Canada's most severe sea conditions. Beyond our waters, frigates and destroyers constitute the basic building blocks of the navies of medium-sized countries like Canada that sail in common cause in coalitions with allies. Only frigates and destroyers allow Canada to make meaningful contributions to multinational naval operations, and to take a leadership role in command and control when it's our turn.

To refit and replace such ships on a timely basis requires starting many years in advance of having them operational — this process can take well over a decade.

'RUST OUT'

Our three destroyers will "rust out" by 2012, when they will be 40 years old. That doesn't mean the navy won't keep sending them to sea, but it does mean that maintenance costs become prohibitive.

There are no approved plans to replace these destroyers. Such plans would naturally flow from an overall defence capability plan that has been due for more than a year now but that the government seems to have shunted aside as it focuses on surviving Afghanistan.

Without destroyers, Canada will lose its command-and-control capacity at sea, meaning the ability to co-ordinate the progress of two or more ships. This would assign us the role of perpetual followers of someone else's navy.

Even if Canada were to purchase destroyers from other countries, they would have to be reconfigured to fit into Canadian operational systems, and this would take time. Even if the government were to act quickly — which it has shown no signs of doing — a leaked draft of the defence capability plan suggests that the time to assure Canada's continued command-and-control capacity at sea has already passed, and that there will be a gap of five to eight years when the current destroyers become inoperable.

Canada has 12 frigates. They were commissioned between 1992 and 1996, which means the early ones are now due for their mid-life refits, and the later ones soon will be. These ships need to be modernized in order to make a useful military contribution during the second half of their lives.

The process of getting budgetary approvals, soliciting and examining bids and other procurement protocol takes time, which means that the process for refits should have been started by now. It hasn't been. The process for replacing these frigates should also be in the works. Again, it isn't.

If something isn't initiated soon, some future government is going to find itself without a frigate fleet. Naval sources predict the possibility of a future gap of several years without these essential vessels if re-ordering is not done immediately.

Which brings us to submarines. Submarines excel at defending and at surveillance and intelligence gathering. Even with modern technology, they are very difficult to detect. The mere presence of submarines defending our coasts is a deterrent to potentially hostile vessels.

Canada's four submarines, purchased from the British nine years ago, are in the process of being refitted so they can fire Canadian-designed torpedoes. By 2009, three of them should finally be ready. A fourth — the Chicoutimi — is supposed to gain this capacity at some later date. There will need to be orders in place to replace these subs by 2015, or Canada will lose its submarine capacity.

Tenuous state

On the whole, Canadian naval vessels are so old that in many cases spare parts are no longer available. Many ships are in such a tenuous state that every time one puts to sea, the navy must invest the time and energy in transferring parts from other ships remaining in port.

The one area where the government appears willing to make an investment is on smaller "Arctic patrol vessels," to conform to its promotion of the idea that it should be a navy priority to defend Canadian sovereignty in the North.

The truth is that issues of sovereignty are going to be decided politically or legally — Canada isn't going to blow any U.S. or British ships out of the water. Nevertheless, the government focus is on putting the navy into Arctic waters while our east and west coasts lie largely undefended.

Canadians need to understand what is happening here. At a time when emerging Asian countries are building up their navies, Canada is on the brink of allowing its navy to disintegrate.

The minister of defence is an army man. The chief of the defence staff is an army man, and so is his vice-chief. Perhaps that has something to do with the fact that government military purchases announced over the past year are so army-oriented.

Or perhaps it is simply panic that we will fail in Afghanistan.

The political consideration is that there is no immediate political payoff in rebuilding a country's navy. The benefits would accrue to Canadians long after the current government is gone.

Whatever the reason, Canadians should be paying attention. A maritime nation without a navy is like a king not wearing any clothes: sovereignty undressed.

Colin Kenny is chair of the Senate national security and defence committee.



# Harper hopes to cool Putin; Russian president, PM meet to discuss Cold War rhetoric

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**DATE:** 2007.06.07  
**EDITION:** Final  
**SECTION:** News  
**PAGE:** A11  
**ILLUSTRATION:** Colour Photo: Agence France–Presse / CLOSE ENCOUNTER:  
German Chancellor Angela Merkel greets Prime Minister Stephen Harper  
Wednesday prior to their dinner on the first day of the G8 summit. ;  
**DATELINE:** KUHLLUNGSBORN, Germany  
**BYLINE:** Andrew Mayeda  
**SOURCE:** CanWest News Service  
**WORD COUNT:** 470

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KUHLLUNGSBORN, Germany – Prime Minister Stephen Harper is expected to appeal for "calm" in a bilateral meeting with Russian President Vladimir Putin today at the G8 summit, where Putin's sabre rattling has stirred unsettling talk of a new Cold War.

The two leaders are expected to touch on U.S. plans to build a missile defence system based in the Czech Republic and Poland. Putin considers the system an escalation of the arms race and this week threatened to target nuclear missiles at Europe if the United States follows through with the plan.

Harper is also expected to talk about the progress of democratic reforms in Russia, another prickly issue.

But one of his goals will be to defuse growing tensions between Russia and its G8 partners, who have been unnerved by Putin's authoritarian methods and increasing wealth and influence.

"We're trying to make sure the conversation stays open and the dialogue remains calm," Harper's director of communications Sandra Buckler told reporters Wednesday.

The Putin question was front and centre as the eight leaders arrived in the Baltic Sea resort of Heiligendamm for three days of talks.

U.S. President George W. Bush downplayed the threat of Russia attacking Europe, a day after he said "the Cold War is over."

But he stood by his position that the U.S. missile shield is necessary. The U.S. says the system is designed to shoot down missiles fired by "rogue" states such as Iran and poses no threat to Russia.

"I think it's important to make sure we have a system to protect ourselves against the threats of the 21st century — the true threats," Bush said.

Harper supported that position this week.

Putin said his delegation will be "open for discussion of any problems and intend to discuss them in a

constructive manner."

A Kremlin spokesman added that Putin's comments were intended to be "hypothetical" rather than "threatening."

Bush and Putin will sit down Friday for the most closely watched bilateral meeting of the summit.

A senior government official said Harper and Putin are also expected to discuss topics such as the war in Afghanistan, energy co-operation and the independence of Kosovo, which the West supports but Russia staunchly opposes.

Meanwhile, negotiators were working overtime Wednesday to hammer out a compromise on climate change after the U.S. said it will not support any specific targets or timetables for reducing greenhouse gases believed to cause global warm.

German Chancellor Angela Merkel, the host of the summit, wants the G8 to set a target of halving global emissions by 2050 compared with 1990 levels.

But Bush's environmental adviser, James Connaughton, said the U.S. would not adopt the proposal.

Canada supports Merkel's global target, but the European Union wants the Canadian government to shoulder a greater burden in reaching it.

The U.S. has also rejected Merkel's proposal to limit the rise in global temperatures this century to two degrees, the threshold beyond which many scientists believe catastrophic effects from climate change will begin to occur.

Connaughton said Canada, Japan and Russia also oppose the two-degree target, but a senior Canadian official close to the negotiations said the issue has not "featured in discussions for some time."

Roughly 10,000 protesters — considerably less than the 100,000 that organizers had predicted — hurled rocks at police, who responded with water cannons.

At least eight peace officers were injured.

# Afghans claim torture; Detainees say they were brutalized while in detention

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**IDNUMBER** 200706070039  
**PUBLICATION:** The Windsor Star  
**DATE:** 2007.06.07  
**EDITION:** Final  
**SECTION:** News  
**PAGE:** C11  
**DATELINE:** OTTAWA  
**BYLINE:** Juliet O'Neill  
**SOURCE:** CanWest News Service  
**WORD COUNT:** 420

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OTTAWA – Four Afghan detainees who were captured by Canadian Forces and transferred to prisons in Afghanistan have claimed to Canadian authorities that they were tortured while in detention, senior cabinet ministers told MPs Wednesday.

While citing this as evidence of the effectiveness of Canada's prisoner-monitoring procedures, Foreign Affairs Minister Peter MacKay and Public Safety Minister Stockwell Day also cautioned that Taliban and al-Qaida terrorists are trained to claim they have been tortured.

No physical evidence of torture was visible in any of the cases but all are being investigated by Afghan authorities, who will inform Canadian officials of the results, Day said. The ministers' information was based on five visits by Canadian authorities to detention facilities in Afghanistan.

The comments were made at an unusual joint meeting of the Commons committees on foreign affairs and international trade and national defence. Testimony was provided by the two ministers, along with Defence Minister Gordon O'Connor and two junior ministers.

"While these allegations are serious, it is true that the enhanced arrangement is working, that we are following up on our commitment," MacKay told reporters. "And that includes following up on these specific allegations with the Afghan authorities. In due time, we have to give them the opportunity to look into them and find out what exactly (occurred) and whether there is a basis for these allegations."

MacKay added that Canadians are not involved in any alleged abuse.

The handling of detainees was a hot partisan issue that dominated Parliament in late April. At the time, an embattled O'Connor surprised MacKay by announcing at a committee hearing that Canada had struck a new deal to monitor Afghan detainees.

With several ministers testifying together Wednesday, Liberal defence critic Denis Coderre scoffed at their effort as "Operation Save Gordon."

The two-hour hearing was marked by bickering over the cabinet ministers' repeated accusations that opposition MPs are maligning Canadian troops by raising questions about the treatment of prisoners.

CANADIANS SKEPTICAL ABOUT MISSION

Whether they are for or against Canada's military mission in Afghanistan, Canadians are highly skeptical about its chances for success, a new poll shows.

"Canadians believe the mission in Afghanistan enhances our reputation in the world, but also believe it is a difficult and complex mission and are highly doubtful about the chances for success," said Nik Nanos, president of SES Research.

In a national survey conducted for Policy Options magazine, the company found that only about one in four Canadians believes that either the military mission or the efforts to promote the rule of law and human rights in the troubled Asian country have a strong probability of success.

# Harper gets chance to reach Putin; BILATERAL MEETING AT G8

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**IDNUMBER** 200706070200  
**PUBLICATION:** National Post  
**DATE:** 2007.06.07  
**EDITION:** National  
**SECTION:** News  
**PAGE:** A1  
**DATELINE:** KUEHLUNGSBORN, Germany  
**BYLINE:** Andrew Mayeda  
**SOURCE:** CanWest News Service  
**WORD COUNT:** 435

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KUEHLUNGSBORN, Germany – Stephen Harper, the Prime Minister, is expected to appeal for "calm" in a bilateral meeting with Vladimir Putin, the Russian President, today at the G8 summit, where Mr. Putin's sabre-rattling has stirred talk of a new Cold War.

Among the items to be discussed are U.S. plans to build a missile defence system based in the Czech Republic and Poland. Mr. Putin considers the system an escalation of the arms race and this week threatened to aim nuclear missiles at Europe if the United States follows through with the plan. Mr. Harper is also expected to talk about the progress of democratic reforms in Russia, another prickly issue.

But one of his goals will be to defuse growing tensions between Russia and its G8 partners, who have been unnerved by Mr. Putin's authoritarian methods and his country's increasing wealth and influence.

"We're trying to make sure the conversation stays open and the dialogue remains calm," said Sandra Buckler, Mr. Harper's director of communications.

The Putin question was front and centre as the eight leaders arrived in the Baltic Sea resort of Heiligendamm for three days of talks. George W. Bush, the U.S. President, downplayed the threat of Russia attacking Europe a day after he said, "the Cold War is over."

But he insisted the missile shield is necessary. The United States says it is designed to shoot down missiles fired by "rogue" states such as Iran and poses no threat to Russia.

"I think it's important to make sure we have a system to protect ourselves against the threats of the 21st century — the true threats," Mr. Bush said.

Mr. Harper supported that position this week. Mr. Putin said his delegation will be "open for discussion of any problems and intend to discuss them in a constructive manner."

A Kremlin spokesman added that the Russian leader's comments were intended to be "hypothetical" rather than "threatening."

Mr. Bush and Mr. Putin will sit down tomorrow for the most closely watched bilateral meeting of the summit.

A government official said Mr. Harper and Mr. Putin are also expected to discuss topics such as the war in

Afghanistan, energy cooperation and the independence of Kosovo, which the West supports but Russia opposes.

Officials are also involved in last-minute wrangling over commitments to fighting poverty in Africa, one of the priorities of Angela Merkel, the German Chancellor. Leaders will refer to pledges made at the 2005 summit in Gleneagles, Scotland, to double development aid by 2010.

But Canada and Italy are resisting concrete language in the communique on a pledge to lift overall annual aid by US\$50-billion by 2010 and, with Japan, blocking country-specific figures.

Security at the resort is so tight journalists have been located at a media centre about 10 kilometres away. Organizers have also erected a 11.6-kilometre barbed-wire fence around the resort.

**KEYWORDS:** STRATEGIC DEFENCE INITIATIVE; FOREIGN RELATIONS; FOREIGNPOLICY;  
CANADA; UNITED STATES

# Spying captures public attention at level not seen since Cold War, CSIS brief says

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**EDITION:** National

**SECTION:** Canada

**PAGE:** A5

**SOURCE:** National Post

**WORD COUNT:** 160

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Spying is back. "In 2006, espionage reached a level of prominence in the public eye that has not been witnessed since the Cold War," says a de-classified Canadian intelligence study released under the Access to Information Act. Some examples: – A Russian intelligence officer was arrested in Montreal on Nov. 14. He had been living in Canada for a decade, posing as "Paul William Hampel." – On Nov. 23, Aleksandr Litvinenko, a former Russian Federal Security Service officer died of plutonium poisoning. – In Iran, the government accused Canadian diplomats in Tehran of spying at the behest of the United States. – In December, an aide to the British NATO commander in Afghanistan was accused of passing secrets to Iran. Source: "Espionage Captured Global Attention in 2006," CSIS Intelligence Brief, Feb. 6, 2007. SECRET.

**KEYWORDS:** ESPIONAGE; SURVEILLANCE; SECURITY; ANNUAL REPORTS; INFORMERS

# Afghan detainees make torture claims; Tories trumpet success of prison monitoring

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**IDNUMBER** 200706070186  
**PUBLICATION:** National Post  
**DATE:** 2007.06.07  
**EDITION:** National  
**SECTION:** Canada  
**PAGE:** A8  
**DATELINE:** OTTAWA  
**BYLINE:** Juliet O'Neill  
**SOURCE:** CanWest News Service  
**WORD COUNT:** 340

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OTTAWA – Four Afghan detainees who were captured by Canadian Forces and transferred to prisons in Afghanistan have claimed to Canadian authorities that they were tortured while in detention, senior Cabinet ministers told MPs yesterday.

While citing this as evidence of the effectiveness of Canada's prisoner-monitoring procedures, Foreign Affairs Minister Peter MacKay and Public Safety Minister Stockwell Day also cautioned that Taliban and al-Qaeda terrorists are trained to claim they have been tortured.

No physical evidence of torture was visible in any of the cases but all are being investigated by Afghan authorities, who will inform Canadian officials of the results, Mr. Day said. The ministers' information was based on five visits by Canadian authorities to detention facilities in Afghanistan.

The comments were made at an unusual joint meeting of the Commons committees on foreign affairs and international development and national defence. Testimony was provided by the two ministers, along with Defence Minister Gordon O'Connor and two junior ministers.

"While these allegations are serious, it is true that the enhanced arrangement is working, that we are following up on our commitment," Mr. MacKay told reporters. "And that includes following up on these specific allegations with the Afghan authorities."

Mr. MacKay added that Canadians are not involved in any alleged abuse.

The handling of detainees was a hot partisan issue that dominated Parliament in late April.

The two-hour hearing was marked by bickering over the cabinet ministers' repeated accusations that opposition MPs are maligning Canadian troops by raising questions about the treatment of prisoners. Opposition MPs also expressed frustration that, even with five ministers testifying, they did not get clear answers to some key questions.

For example, Liberals were unsuccessful in pressing Mr. O'Connor to reveal the number of detainees who were captured by Canadians. To bolster their arguments, they cited a U.S. list of the names, birth dates and home countries of the hundreds of prisoners, mostly from Afghanistan, imprisoned at a U.S. military base in Cuba.



"There is no war going on there," Mr. O'Connor countered. By contrast, he said, revealing information about detainees in war-torn Afghanistan could threaten Canada's military operations overseas.

"This is a military decision, not a political one," he said.

**KEYWORDS:** PRISONERS OF WAR; TERRORISM; WAR; INTERNATIONAL LAW;  
HUNGERSTRIKES

# Afghanistan is the new Africa; Canada's shift in funding reflects our AIDS apathy

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**IDNUMBER** 200706070165

**PUBLICATION:** National Post

**DATE:** 2007.06.07

**EDITION:** National

**SECTION:** World

**PAGE:** A21

**COLUMN:** Don Martin

**ILLUSTRATION:** Black & White Photo: Chris Wattie, Reuters / German Chancellor Angela Merkel welcomes Prime Minister Stephen Harper and his wife, Laureen, in Heiligendamm yesterday. Leaders from the world's major industrialized nations met in the Baltic resort town for the Group of Eight summit. ;

**DATELINE:** OTTAWA

**BYLINE:** Don Martin

**SOURCE:** National Post

**WORD COUNT:** 607

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She lives the tragedy of being an African aid failure — and perhaps reflects Canada's AIDS apathy as well.

Juliet Awuor lost her virginity and went HIV-positive the same night in a Kenyan slum.

Her infected boyfriend wooed Juliet using the lame line that he'd forever be her Romeo. The 17-year-old, who had only been exposed to abstinence-only promotions, didn't know how to use a condom — and the boyfriend wasn't inclined to deliver a quickie bedroom education.

Six months later, her Romeo gone, naive Juliet was diagnosed HIV-positive.

Now she's 23 and on a mission to spread the educational emphasis beyond an international no-sex message to a more practical safe-sex emphasis.

"If I'd known how to protect myself, I would've made a much better choice," she told me. "Abstinence is good and should be encouraged, but if they want to have real success they should try to show us how to protect ourselves."

Weakened but stable and helped by drugs partially funded through Canadian aid programs, Juliet works the slums to promote condom use among teenagers who, kids being kids, look at abstinence as a lousy second choice to the joys of getting it on.

But Canada's apathy was on display when she visited Ottawa last week to preview a nine-minute Population Action International documentary on her story.

All 308 MPs and 100 senators were invited to see how Canada could help fight AIDS ignorance in plague-infected Africa. Only one MP, Alexa McDonough, showed up.

This is not to tsk-tsk at no-show MPs, but the long route to reflecting how far the Africa agenda has fallen from view on Parliament Hill as Prime Minister Stephen Harper hits the G8 summit in Germany.

German Chancellor Angela Merkel's government has been making noise for months that the chair's primary focus will be on boosting support for Africa's development and funding to combat AIDS, not climate change.

There's a lot of deja vu in this priority push. Five years ago on the eve of the G8 summit in Alberta's Kananaskis, aid for Africa was all the rage on the federal scene.

OTTAWA –Former Prime Minister Jean Chretien was heading for retirement and promoting the New Partnership for African Development (unfortunately acronymed NEPAD) as his legacy initiative.

That \$500–million Chretien commitment would unspool to match progress on justice, health and human rights. But it has all but disappeared from view, except for glossy annual reports which talk in bureaucratic babble about permanently pending improvement.

Prime minister Paul Martin picked up the Chretien chant, promising to double African aid to \$2–billion by 2008 while facing the wrath of U2 front man Bono for failing to deliver foreign aid spending equalling 0.7% of gross domestic product, an elusive target first devised in the 1960s.

Now it's Prime Minister Harper's turn to be vilified by the usual star suspects — rocker Bob Geldof and perennial nag Bono — as Canada's pledge to help Africa languishes despite huge budget surpluses.

There's a bit of fun with figures going on in Ottawa, which makes it hard to decipher if the attack on Canada's waffling commitment is valid.

Canadian International Development Agency Minister Josee Verner is now telling the House of Commons that the African aid target in a two–year–old Liberal budget "contained errors" and that Canada's commitment to the continent is actually on track.

That seems too cute by half. It doesn't take two years to discover an oopsie in a budget unless it's convenient political revisionism. That means Canada could be shortchanging a Liberal commitment to Africa by about \$700–million.

That's not surprising. Canada's aid program priority has shifted to Afghanistan from Africa, a war zone where the government pledged \$139–million for development programs in the last budget year.

But the two should not be mutually exclusive and amid so much fiscal plenty there's a decent argument that now is the time to make serious progress toward meeting the goal of 0.7% of GDP.

Of course it's all too late to help Juliet now.

In a tragic case of modern life imitating Shakespearean art, her life will be shortened by a Romeo she should have avoided like the plague he was carrying.

dmartin@nationalpost.com

**KEYWORDS:** POLITICIANS; POLITICAL PARTIES; GOVERNMENT; CANADA

# Canada shifts to guerrilla war with Taliban; Tactics change as enemy mixes with civilians

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**PUBLICATION:** National Post  
**DATE:** 2007.06.07  
**EDITION:** National  
**SECTION:** World  
**PAGE:** A22  
**DATELINE:** KANDAHAR, Afghanistan  
**SOURCE:** National Post  
**WORD COUNT:** 445

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KANDAHAR, Afghanistan – Canadian Forces have been jolted in recent months by a dramatic shift in the Afghanistan conflict that has seen the Taliban melt into the civilian population and spread over a much wider area, a top officer said yesterday.

It has required a rapid "sea change" in tactics that used to be unheard of in the Forces, said Colonel Mike Cessford, second in command of the Canadian mission here.

Last year, troops fought largely in a 20–square–kilometre area west of Kandahar city, although Canada has responsibility for all Kandahar province. The combat was a conventional clash with large numbers of insurgents.

Now, Taliban fighters have dispersed among civilians and into a "multiplicity" of different districts, he said in a frank assessment of the operation.

The "battle space," as the military calls it, has broadened strikingly.

"This mission is evolving dynamically and dramatically," Col. Cessford said.

"We trained hard for a mission that we did not execute ... Here, you change on a dime, and you have to change on a dime."

Nevertheless, he is convinced NATO forces in southern Afghanistan have taken the initiative from the Taliban, attacking them before they could launch an expected spring offensive.

The security situation is improving for ordinary Afghans and more reconstruction is being carried out, he said.

The transformation of the conflict into a guerrilla war where combatants are often one with the civilians, however, has meant a major curb on Canadian firepower, even after several tanks were flown to their aid.

Soldiers are employing a "fraction" of the artillery and air strikes, and erring on the side of caution if they are not absolutely sure a potential target is a Taliban fighter.

Meanwhile, they are relying more on intelligence.

A few months ago, snipers at a forward operating base asked the commanding officer for permission to shoot an Afghan man digging a hole in the road, arguing he was likely an insurgent planting an improvised

explosive device, Col. Cessford said.

The CO "couldn't bring himself " to give the go-ahead, and the suspected bomber walked away unscathed. It turned out he was a farmer draining water off the road.

"I would probably say there have been 90 or 100 similar incidents."

Last year, Canadian forces were concentrated in Panjwai district, west of Kandahar, where they fought several pitched battles with large groups of Taliban and lost several soldiers.

Training in Canada for the next rotation of soldiers was based on that experience, said Col. Cessford.

But when they arrived in Afghanistan, the troops found the war had changed.

While much of the Canadian fighting lately has been in Zhari district, Canadian troops remain in Panjwai, Maiwand, Arghandab and Spin Boldak.

Canadians are making a push up into Shawali Kot, north of Kandahar city, for the first time in months to respond to an enemy "resurgence" there, said the colonel.

He also predicted Canadians will have an enduring presence in Afghanistan after the military force has left.

Asked if troops could be here for a decade, Col. Cessford, who has a PhD in history, pointed to the length of time Canada has had forces in former hot spots like Cyprus, where Canadian troops were deployed in significant numbers for almost three decades.

NATIONALPOST.COM

Get more news and insight from the war in Afghanistan on Tom Blackwell's blog at [nationalpost.com/afghanistan](http://nationalpost.com/afghanistan).

**KEYWORDS:** WAR; TERRORISM; FOREIGN AID; AFGHANISTAN; CANADA

# Female Afghan journalist murdered; Second killed within past week

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**DATE:** 2007.06.07  
**EDITION:** National  
**SECTION:** World  
**PAGE:** A22  
**ILLUSTRATION:** Color Photo: Shah Marai, AFP, Getty Images / Relatives mourn Afghan journalist Zakia Zaki, who was shot dead in her home. ;  
**DATELINE:** KABUL  
**SOURCE:** Agence France–Presse, with files from Reuters  
**WORD COUNT:** 287

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KABUL – A leading female Afghan journalist was shot dead overnight, the Interior Ministry said yesterday, in the second such killing in a week but only the latest in a series of murders targeting women in the media.

Zakia Zaki, owner and manager of the U.S.–funded private Peace Radio in Jabal as Siraj, 60 kilometres north of the capital Kabul, was killed in her home late Tuesday.

The BBC reported that she was shot seven times in the chest as she slept with her 20–month–old son.

"Her family has not blamed anybody for the death of Zaki and police have started an intense investigation of the case," said Zemarai Bashary, a ministry spokesman.

Ms. Zaki, 35, was also the principal of a school and attended the 2003 meeting that drew up Afghanistan's post–Taliban constitution.

Media organizations said yesterday she had been openly critical of the warlords, who dominated Afghanistan during the years of civil war, and the hardline Taliban Islamists who followed them.

"She believed in freedom of expression — that's why she was killed," said Rahimullah Samander, head of the Afghan Independent Journalists Association. Lon–don–based Reporters Without Borders also expressed "deep shock" and said the woman had received several death threats.

"Whether this savage act was linked to her work as a journalist or her civic responsibilities, it is vital that those who responsible for this murder should be quickly identified and punished," it said.

The new killing came amid mounting anger over the murder in Kabul last Friday of Shakiba Sanga Amaj, a popular 22–year–old television news presenter, who was killed in her home.

Police have arrested a suspect for the killing of Ms. Amaj but the motive is still unclear. Some reports said her murder may have been related to her refusal to marry someone, while others said she had also been warned to stop working.

The murder of Ms. Amaj has drawn parallels with the unsolved killing in May 2005 of Shaima Rezayee, a 24–year–old television presenter, also shot dead in her home.

**KEYWORDS:** WAR; TERRORISM

# Harper to use today's meeting with Putin to appeal for calm; Tension between U.S. and Russia clouds opening day of G8 summit

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**PUBLICATION:** Montreal Gazette

**DATE:** 2007.06.07

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**SECTION:** News

**PAGE:** A1 / FRONT

**KEYWORDS:** STRATEGIC DEFENCE INITIATIVE; FOREIGN RELATIONS; FOREIGNPOLICY; CANADA; UNITED STATES

**DATELINE:** KUHLLUNGSBORN, Germany

**BYLINE:** ANDREW MAYEDA

**SOURCE:** CanWest News Service

**WORD COUNT:** 523

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Prime Minister Stephen Harper is expected to appeal for calm in a bilateral meeting with Russian President Vladimir Putin today at the G8 summit, where Putin's sabre-rattling has stirred unsettling talk of a new Cold War.

The two leaders are expected to touch on U.S. plans to build a missile defence system based in the Czech Republic and Poland. Putin considers the system an escalation of the arms race, and he threatened this week to target nuclear missiles at Europe if the United States follows through with its plan. Harper is also expected to talk about the progress of democratic reforms in Russia.

But one of his goals will be to defuse growing tensions between Russia and its G8 partners, who have been unnerved by Putin's authoritarian methods and increasing wealth and influence.

"We're trying to make sure the conversation stays open and the dialogue remains calm," Harper's director of communications, Sandra Buckler, told reporters yesterday.

The Putin question was front and centre as the eight leaders arrived in the Baltic Sea resort of Heiligendamm for three days of talks.

One day after saying, "The Cold War is over," U.S. President George W. Bush played down the threat of Russia attacking Europe, but stood by his position the U.S. missile shield is necessary.

The United States maintains the system is designed to shoot down missiles fired by such "rogue" states as Iran and poses no threat to Russia.

"I think it's important to make sure we have a system to protect ourselves against the threats of the 21st century – the true threats," Bush said.

Harper supported that position this week.

Putin said his delegation will be "open for discussion of any problems and intends to discuss them in a constructive manner."

Harper to use today's meeting with Putin to appeal for calm; Tension between U.S. and Russia clouds opening day of G8 summit



A Kremlin spokesperson added Putin's comments were intended to be "hypothetical" rather than "threatening."

Bush and Putin will sit down tomorrow for the most closely watched bilateral meeting of the summit.

A senior government official said Harper and Putin are also expected to discuss such topics as the war in Afghanistan, energy co-operation and the independence of Kosovo, which the West supports but Russia opposes.

Meanwhile, negotiators were working overtime yesterday to hammer out a compromise on climate change after the U.S. said it will not support any specific targets or timetables for reducing greenhouse gases.

German Chancellor Angela Merkel, the host of the summit, wants the G8 to set a target of halving global emissions by 2050 compared with 1990 levels. But Bush's environmental adviser, James Connaughton, said the U.S. would not adopt the proposal.

Canada supports Merkel's global target, but the European Union wants the Canadian government to shoulder a greater burden in reaching it.

The United States also has rejected Merkel's proposal to limit the rise in global temperatures this century to two degrees Celsius, the threshold beyond which many scientists contend catastrophic effects from climate change will begin to occur.

Connaughton said Canada, Japan and Russia also oppose the two-degree target, but a senior Canadian official close to the negotiations said the issue has not "featured in discussions for some time."

After lunching with Bush, Merkel conceded "in some areas there remain a few things here and there that we still need to discuss."

Earlier in the day, Harper arrived at the port city of Rostock and was whisked away by helicopter to Heiligendamm.

Security at the resort is so tight journalists have been located at a media centre about 10 kilometres away. Organizers have erected a \$17-million, 11.6-kilometre barbed-wire fence around the resort. About 16,000 police and soldiers have been deployed to secure the summit.

Ottawa Citizen

# Only 26% see Afghan mission succeeding; Quebecers are even more skeptical. Nearly half think Canada's image boosted

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**EDITION:** Final  
**SECTION:** News  
**PAGE:** A14  
**KEYWORDS:** OPINION POLLS; TRADE MISSIONS  
**DATELINE:** OTTAWA  
**BYLINE:** JACK AUBRY  
**SOURCE:** CanWest News Service  
**WORD COUNT:** 368

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Whether for or against our military mission in Afghanistan, Canadians are highly skeptical about its chances for success, a new poll shows.

"Canadians believe the mission in Afghanistan enhances our reputation in the world, but also believe it is a difficult and complex mission and are highly doubtful about the chances for success," said Nik Nanos, president of SES Research.

In a national survey conducted for Policy Options magazine, the company found only about one in four Canadians believes either the military mission or the efforts to promote the rule of law and human rights in the troubled country have a strong probability of success. The sentiments were shared across the board, regardless of whether respondents felt Canada should be in Afghanistan at all.

"What I found interesting is that even among committed Conservative supporters, or the group that support the mission the most, only 26 per cent think there is a high chance of success," Nanos noted.

The poll found close to half of Canadians believe the mission is enhancing Canada's reputation on the world stage, while one-quarter either believe it has had no impact or is diminishing the country's reputation.

In general, however, the humanitarian aspects of the mission enjoyed more support than the security efforts, with 38 per cent of respondents saying efforts to promote the rule of law and human rights were the most important reason for Canadian engagement in Afghanistan.

About one-third felt rebuilding security and stability were the most compelling justifications, while one in five favoured initiatives that support economic and social development.

"This may well have to do with Canadians' enduring self-perception of our country as a nation of peacekeepers, even though we are not really in that business anymore," Nanos said.

The poll was conducted April 26 to May 1, after six Canadian soldiers died when a roadside bomb blew up their vehicle in Kandahar province. The results carry a margin of error of 3.1 per cent, 19 times out of 20.

Quebecers' attitudes differed from the rest of the country, with the greatest number of skeptics.

Only 26% see Afghan mission succeeding; Quebecers are even more skeptical. Nearly half think Canada's

Only about 16 per cent believe the mission is highly likely to achieve key goals. As for the most compelling justifications for involvement in Afghanistan, more Quebecers opted for enhancement of security and stability than promotion of law and human rights.

Ottawa Citizen

# Four detainees claim torture: ministers; Testify at joint House committee hearing

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**DATE:** 2007.06.07

**EDITION:** Final

**SECTION:** News

**PAGE:** A14

**KEYWORDS:** PRISONERS OF WAR; TERRORISM; INTERNATIONAL LAW

**DATELINE:** OTTAWA

**BYLINE:** JULIET O'NEILL, TOM BLACKWELL of the National Post contributed to this report

**SOURCE:** CanWest News Service; The National Post contributed to this report

**WORD COUNT:** 422

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Four Afghans captured by Canadian Forces and transferred to prisons in Afghanistan have claimed to Canadian authorities that they were tortured while in detention, senior cabinet ministers told MPs yesterday.

While citing this as evidence of the effectiveness of Canada's prisoner-monitoring procedures, Foreign Affairs Minister Peter MacKay and Public Safety Minister Stockwell Day also cautioned that Taliban and Al-Qa'ida terrorists are trained to claim they have been tortured.

No physical evidence of torture was visible in any of the cases, but all are being investigated by Afghan authorities, who will inform Canadian officials of the results, Day said.

The ministers' information was based on five visits by Canadian authorities to detention facilities in Afghanistan.

The comments were made at an unusual joint meeting of the Commons committees on foreign affairs and international trade and national defence. Testimony was provided by the two ministers, along with Defence Minister Gordon O'Connor and two junior ministers.

"While these allegations are serious, it is true that the enhanced arrangement is working, that we are following up on our commitment," MacKay told reporters. He added Canadians are not involved in any alleged abuse.

The handling of detainees dominated Parliament in late April. At the time, an embattled O'Connor surprised MacKay by announcing at a committee hearing that Canada had struck a new deal to monitor Afghan detainees. With several ministers testifying together yesterday, Liberal defence critic Denis Coderre scoffed at their effort as "Operation Save Gordon."

The two-hour hearing was marked by bickering over the cabinet ministers' repeated accusations that opposition MPs are maligning Canadian troops by raising questions about the treatment of prisoners. Opposition MPs also expressed frustration that, even with five ministers testifying, they did not get clear answers to some key questions.

For example, Liberals were unsuccessful in pressing O'Connor to reveal the number of detainees captured by Canadians. To bolster their arguments, they cited a U.S. list of the names, birth dates and home countries of the hundreds of prisoners, mostly from Afghanistan, held at a U.S. military base in Cuba.

"There is no war going on there," O'Connor countered. Revealing information about Afghan detainees could threaten military operations, he said.

In Kandahar, a top officer said yesterday that Canadian Forces have been jolted in recent months by a dramatic shift that has seen the Taliban melt into the civilian population and spread over a much wider area.

It has required a rapid "sea change" in Canadian tactics, said Col. Mike Cessford, second in command of the mission here.

Nevertheless, Cessford said he is convinced NATO forces in southern Afghanistan have taken the initiative from the Taliban, attacking them before they could launch a spring offensive.

Ottawa Citizen

# Bring Khadr home

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Re: "Bring Omar Khadr home to Canada" (Editorial, June 6).

Let the child-soldier Omar Khadr be tried in a Canadian courts. If British and Australian prisoners at Guantanamo could return home to be tried under their national laws, why make an exception for a Canadian?

After all, Khadr has already paid his dues by being wounded by U.S. soldiers in Afghanistan and festering in the notorious American Detention Centre in Cuba for more than five years. The best place for Omar Khadr to be tried is in Canada.

Jalal Hussain

Brossard

# Send him to Afghanistan

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"Bring Omar Khadr home to Canada" (Editorial, June 6).

Not one penny of Canadian taxpayers' money should be spent on Omar Khadr. His Canadian-in-name-only citizenship should be revoked and the Americans should send him back to Afghanistan when they see fit.

To espouse his human rights by arguing he was 15 years old and to compare him to children forced into combat is nothing but sophistry.

The whole Khadr clan is committed to the destruction of our way of life. His return to this country imprisoned or on his eventual release leads only to the continued recruitment to his death cult. This would impose a risk that frankly is not worth one drop of Canadian blood.

Gheri Celin

Montreal