

DECAPTIONED

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Talking Points

- We have long urged the Taliban to prevent acts of terrorism from being staged from Afghan soil. They gave us their word they would do so but have broken this promise.
- Bin Laden and his network continue to threaten U.S. interests and American lives. We have told the Taliban [redacted] in no uncertain terms that we hold the Taliban and its supporters responsible for such actions, for they are providing sanctuary to him and his network.
- We have exerted diplomatic pressure on the Taliban directly [redacted] to expel Bin Laden to a country where he will be brought to justice for his actions, but these diplomatic efforts have not yet been successful. We have attempted to enlist the [redacted] to continue exerting pressure on the Taliban [redacted]
- Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif's upcoming December 2 meeting with the President provides an opportunity to get this message across at the highest level in direct terms.

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- There are divisions within the Taliban on the desirability of providing sanctuary to Bin Laden, but UBL's close ties to key Taliban leaders, including Taliban supreme leader Mullah Omar, have preserved his position. Still, these fissures should be exploited.

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- Taliban desire for increased international contacts, particularly with the U.S., provide us some leverage and could, along with pressure from [redacted] [redacted] raise the pressure on the Taliban to what we hope are intolerable levels.
- [redacted] has queried us directly regarding incentives that we could provide the Taliban.
- We believe such an approach should be tried. It may not be fruitful but it is a low-cost strategy. We do not envisage rewarding the Taliban or offering a major quid pro quo for doing the right thing.
- Time for a diplomatic solution may be running out. Taliban brush-off of our indictment and other evidence may indicate movement from tolerance of UBL's presence to more active support.

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