

Pakistan's North West Frontier around the Khyber Pass has become a Taliban playground. They now control over 500Kms of frontier and its environs bordering Afghanistan following a series of disastrous "peace agreements" with the Pakistan Government. And what they don't control they influence.

The latest domino is Hangu. Seven days of operations by the Pakistan Army have finished with an agreement under which they will pay compensation and withdraw. The Taliban have agreed to recognise the government's authority, stop attacks on government security forces and refrain from running parallel government and legal systems. To date they have made such agreements in half a dozen other territories - and stuck to none of them.

The Taliban, al Qeda and allied terrorist groups have established over 100 terrorist training camps in the region, claim U S Intelligence sources. A few days ago Pakistan Prime Minister Syed Yusuf Gilani and his cabinet were told there are over 8,000 foreign fighters in the tribal areas.

This is the context in which it has been alleged strikes have been made inside Pakistan territory from unmanned planes.

The situation in these "badlands" is monitored by bloggers of The Long War - click on the link at the top right hand side to connect.