

# Taliban leader killed in Pakistan

4<sup>th</sup> November, 2013



The leader of the Taliban in Pakistan was killed in a drone attack on Friday. Hakimullah Mehsud was the most wanted man in Pakistan.

He died in the remote Waziristan region of north-western Pakistan. Three other people died in the drone strike. In 2010, the U.S. government said it would pay \$5 million for information about where Mr Mehsud lived. The U.S. wanted him for a deadly attack on one of its military bases in Afghanistan in 2009. Seven Americans and a Jordanian died in that attack. The Pakistan government told America that it "strongly condemns the U.S. drone strike". The Taliban said: "We confirm with great [sadness] that our [great] leader was martyred in a drone attack."

Hakimullah Mehsud became leader of the Pakistan Taliban in 2009, following the death of the previous leader in a drone attack. Mehsud showed how much damage he could create in Pakistan soon after he became leader. He was behind five terror attacks in a single day in three different Pakistani cities. Five days later, there were three different attacks in the city of Lahore. American intelligence officials say he was also behind a planned terror attack in New York's Times Square in 2010. Security sources say his death is a major blow to the Taliban in Pakistan. It might also be bad news for peace talks between the Pakistani government and the Taliban. The two sides had been talking for months.

Sources: CNN / The Himalaya Times / The News.com

## Writing

*The USA should stop using drones to kill people.*  
Discuss.

## Chat

Talk about these words from the article.

*drone attack / most wanted man / information / military base / condemns / martyred / previous leader / damage / terror attacks / security sources / major blow / peace talks*

## True / False

- The leader of Afghanistan's Taliban was killed in an attack in Pakistan. T / F
- The leader was not the only person killed in the attack. T / F
- The attack cost the USA \$5 million. T / F
- Pakistan is unhappy that the USA killed a Taliban leader. T / F
- Hakimullah Mehsud had been a Taliban leader for over 10 years. T / F
- The leader before him also died in a drone strike. T / F
- Mehsud carried out a terror attack in New York's Times Square. T / F
- Mehsud's death might be bad for peace talks in Pakistan. T / F

## Synonym Match

- |             |                    |
|-------------|--------------------|
| 1. leader   | a. responsible for |
| 2. remote   | b. organised       |
| 3. deadly   | c. sorrow          |
| 4. condemn  | d. far off         |
| 5. sadness  | e. shock           |
| 6. previous | f. lethal          |
| 7. behind   | g. former          |
| 8. single   | h. head            |
| 9. planned  | i. one             |
| 10. blow    | j. criticise       |

## Discussion – Student A

- What do you know about the Taliban?
- Will the death of Hakimullah Mehsud make the Taliban stronger?
- What's the best way for Pakistan to sort out its problems?
- What will Pakistan look like in 20 years from now?
- Has the attack on Hakimullah Mehsud damaged peace talks?
- Do you think the Taliban will ever be part of Pakistan's government?
- Should the United Nations enter Pakistan?
- What questions would you like to ask Pakistan's leader?

## Phrase Match

- |                                     |                                   |
|-------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| 1. the remote                       | a. strike                         |
| 2. drone                            | b. a planned terror attack        |
| 3. military                         | c. a drone attack                 |
| 4. it strongly                      | d. for peace                      |
| 5. martyred in                      | e. of the previous leader         |
| 6. following the death              | f. had been talking               |
| 7. officials say he was also behind | g. Waziristan region              |
| 8. a major                          | h. condemns the U.S. drone strike |
| 9. bad news                         | i. blow to the Taliban            |
| 10. The two sides                   | j. bases                          |

## Discussion – Student B

- What springs to mind when you hear the word 'Taliban'?
- What do the Taliban believe in?
- What do you think about the drone strike on Hakimullah Mehsud?
- Will Hakimullah Mehsud's death change anything in Pakistan?
- How will the Taliban react to Mehsud's death?
- Will the attack affect US-Pakistan relations?
- Why do so many men join the Taliban?
- What do you think of the use of drones to target people?

## Spelling

- the remote Waziristan eiognr of north-western Pakistan
- pay \$5 million for ioforannmit
- a ledday attack
- yimiratl bases
- it "strongly mesodncn the U.S. drone strike"
- mrdratye in a drone attack
- the death of the viuporse leader
- how much gamade
- three reeffnitd Pakistani cities
- intelligence csfailoif
- eyriucst sources
- a aojmr blow

### Answers – Synonym Match

1. h	2. d	3. f	4. j	5. c
6. g	7. a	8. i	9. b	10. e

## Role Play

### Role A – President Obama

You think drones are a necessary part of the war on terror. Tell the others three reasons why. You think drones are essential to target Taliban leaders. You will not listen to anyone else. Tell everyone that drones help the security of the whole world.

### Role B – Pacifist

You are shocked that the USA is using drones. Tell the others three reasons why. Drones kill innocent people. It is the same as murder. Tell everyone it was a mistake to kill Hakimullah Mehsud. He was talking to Pakistan about peace.

### Role C – Taliban boss

You think the USA made a huge mistake when it killed Hakimullah Mehsud. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell Barack Obama he must leave Pakistan alone. Tell everyone that only Pakistani people can help with Pakistan's problems.

### Role D – Pakistan Leader

You are very, very angry with Barack Obama. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell Obama he has no idea about how to bring peace to Pakistan. Ask him why the USA killed Hakimullah Mehsud when he was in talks with the Pakistan government.

## Speaking – Bring peace

Rank these and share your rankings with your partner. Put who / what can bring peace in Pakistan the quickest at the top. Change partners and share your rankings.

- |                     |                             |
|---------------------|-----------------------------|
| • The White House   | • Pakistan / Taliban talks  |
| • Regional leaders  | • The U.N. Security Council |
| • Pakistan's people | • The Taliban               |
| • Time              | • Pakistan's leader         |

### Answers – True False

a	F	b	T	c	F	d	T	e	F	f	T	g	F	h	T
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Answers to Phrase Match and Spelling are in the text.