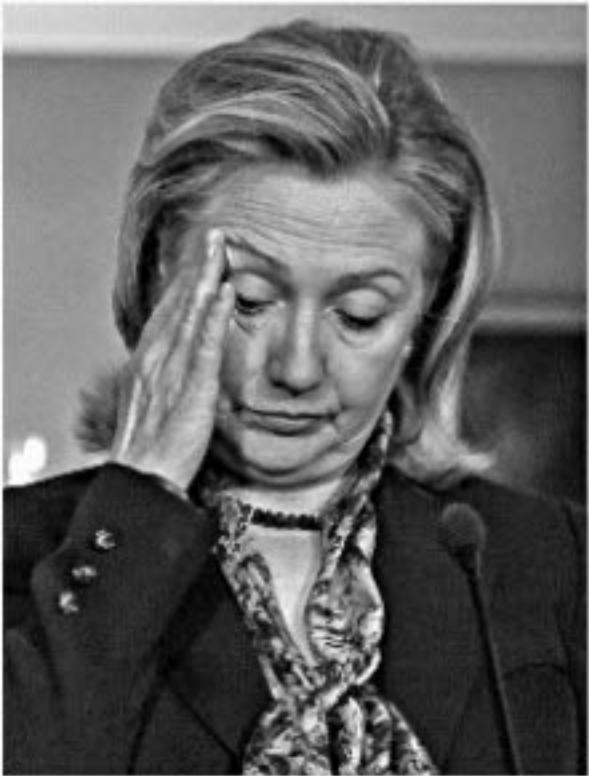


# Relationship with Pakistan 'productive'

Says Hillary



**REUTERS, Rome**  
The US relationship with Pakistan is not always easy but has been productive for both sides, Secretary of State Hillary Clinton said yesterday, after the killing of Osama bin Laden raised questions about the alliance.  
The discovery that the al-Qaeda leader was able to live for years in the military garrison town of Abbottabad, just north of the Pakistani capital, has raised doubt in the United States about whether Pakistan was a reliable ally against militants.  
Clinton acknowledged that Washington's relationship with Islamabad was awkward at times, but said it was still important.  
"It is not always an easy relationship, you know that," Clinton said, ahead of a meeting in Rome of a Nato-backed coalition against Libyan leader Muammar Gaddafi.  
"But on the other hand it is a productive one for both our countries and we are going to continue to cooperate between our governments, our militaries, our law-enforcement agencies but most importantly between the American and Pakistani people."  
Pakistani officials say they are committed to fighting extremism and Pakistan has suffered at the hands of militants as much as any country.

# Pakistan flatly denies al-Qaeda collusion

Obama visits Ground Zero, lays wreath

**AFP, Islamabad**  
Pakistan yesterday flatly denied colluding with al-Qaeda after the CIA said it refused to tell Islamabad about the raid on Osama bin Laden, fearing the terror kingpin might be tipped off.  
"It's easy to say that the Inter-Services Intelligence (ISI) or elements within the government were in cahoots with the al-Qaeda," the top civil servant at the foreign ministry, Salman Bashir, told a news conference.  
"This is a false hypothesis. This is a false charge. It cannot be validated on any account and it flies in the face of what Pakistanis and in particular the Inter-Services Intelligence has been able to accomplish."  
Bashir spoke at the first news conference by a senior Pakistani government official in the country since bin Laden was killed.  
Meanwhile, US President Barack Obama laid a wreath of red, white, and blue flowers at Ground Zero in New York yesterday, on a trip to bring closure to September 11 families.  
Obama solemnly bowed his head and observed a moment of silence after laying the wreath at a spot where the famed twin towers of the World Trade Centre stood.  
Obama later met relatives of victims of the

attacks and took time out to meet firefighters and police, to acknowledge their heavy losses on the day of the attacks.  
CIA director Leon Panetta said the Americans ruled out telling Islamabad about the planned raid against bin Laden's compound as they feared their Pakistani counterparts might alert the al-Qaeda chief.  
Bashir did not directly respond to comments from the White House that US President Barack Obama reserved the right to take action again in Pakistan, but said there were "a number of questions" about how the covert raid took place.  
A mainstream religious party, Jamaat-e-Islami, has called for protests Friday to denounce the US operation and Islamabad has to tread a fine line between its powerful ally in Washington and alienating its own people.  
However, the government in Islamabad stopped short of labelling Monday's helicopter raid as an illegal operation and insisted relations between Washington and Islamabad remain on course.  
Meanwhile, Pakistan yesterday said it wanted Washington to reduce its military personnel in the country and threatened to review cooperation in case of another raid similar to that which killed Osama bin Laden.

# Pakistan's US lobbyists launch intense campaign

**REUTERS, Washington**  
Pakistan's Washington lobbyists have launched an intense campaign on Capitol Hill to counter accusations that Islamabad was complicit in giving refuge to Osama bin Laden.  
Mark Siegel, a partner in the Washington lobbying firm of Locke Lord Strategies -- which is paid \$75,000 a month by the Pak government -- told Reuters yesterday he had spoken twice to Zardari since the incident on Sunday, and "countless" times to the Pak ambassador in Washington.  
"They are certainly concerned," Siegel said, adding that suggestions the Pakistani government knew about bin Laden's whereabouts was nothing more than speculation.  
US lawmakers are demanding to cut off billions of dollars of US aid to Pakistan.

# BIN LADEN KILLING

## Geronimo code name angers Native Americans

**BBC ONLINE**  
An Apache tribe in the US has demanded an apology from President Obama for using the name of the warrior Geronimo as the code name for Osama Bin Laden.



Jeff Houser, Fort Sill Apache Tribal Chairman, said equating the legendary Apache to a mass murderer was painful and offensive to all Native Americans.  
The commando team that attacked and killed the al-Qaeda leader used the name Geronimo in its progress reports.

## Internal rift led to the killing: Saudi paper

**AFP, Riyadh**  
US troops were led to al-Qaeda leader Osama bin Laden by his own deputy, Ayman al-Zawahiri, because of a simmering internal power struggle, a Saudi newspaper reported yesterday.  
Al-Watan newspaper, quoting an unnamed "regional source," said the top two al-Qaeda men had differences and that a courier who led US forces to bin Laden was working for Zawahiri.

## Operation's 38 minutes 'most intense': Hillary

**AFP, Rome**  
US Secretary of State Hillary Clinton said yesterday that seeing the operation that killed Osama bin Laden was one of her "most intense" experiences, speaking on her first trip since the death.  
"Those were 38 of the most intense minutes," Clinton said at a press conference in Rome after being asked about a photograph of her with her hand over her mouth in the White House's Situation Room.

## US senators duped by fake photo

**AFP, Washington**  
Three US senators on Wednesday retracted their claims of having seen a graphic photograph of Osama bin Laden's corpse, apparently the victims of a fake picture of the slain al-Qaeda chief.  
Senator Saxby Chambliss, the top Republican on the Senate Intelligence Committee, had told reporters he had seen photos from the raid inside Pakistan during which the terrorist mastermind fell to US

# THE KILLING OF BIN LADEN: WAS IT LEGAL?



- ⇒ The administration says the mission leading to bin Laden's death was legal
- ⇒ Experts indicate the question of legality may come down to bin Laden's reaction to the raid
- ⇒ If bin Laden clearly tried to surrender, his killing may be illegal under international law
- ⇒ Experts are divided on the legality of the use of US troops in Pakistan.

Panetta said Tuesday during an interview with PBS. "But they (forces) had full authority to kill him."  
A number of experts have said the question of actual legality may come down to bin Laden's response at the moment US Navy SEALs burst into his room.  
"If a person has his hands in the air, you're not supposed to kill him," said Steven Groves, a fellow at the conservative Heritage Foundation. But he said that didn't happen.  
US officials have revised their account of what happened during the assault on the compound in Pakistan. Bin Laden was not armed during the 40-minute raid, they now say, but he put up resistance to US forces.  
Geoffrey Robertson, a human rights lawyer who has defended WikiLeaks founder Julian Assange among others, made clear that international law requires any killing to be done in self-defence. But given the changing White House account of the raid, "there needs to be an inquiry," he said.



**PHOTO: AFP**  
The Duke and Duchess of Cambridge, William and Kate, are to pay an official visit to the US this summer, a royal statement revealed yesterday.

**CNN ONLINE**  
Was the killing of Osama bin Laden legal under international law?  
US administration says yes, absolutely. Experts are unsure.  
Attorney General Eric Holder told members of the Senate Judiciary Committee on Wednesday that the US raid on bin Laden's compound was lawful "as an act of national self-defence."  
"He was the head of al-Qaeda, an organisation that had conducted the

attacks of September the 11th," Holder said. "It's lawful to target an enemy commander in the field."  
The raid on Obama's compound "was conducted in a manner fully consistent with the laws of war," White House Press Secretary Jay Carney told reporters.  
Presidents Bill Clinton, George W Bush and Barack Obama had all issued orders to kill or capture the al-Qaeda leader.  
"The authority (during the raid) was to kill bin Laden," CIA Director Leon

# Contact group agrees fund for Libya rebels

**AFP, Rome**  
An international meeting on Libya agreed yesterday on a new fund to aid Libya's rebels while recognition of four countries claim by rebels was denied by three of them.  
The fund will initially receive donations and loans from the international community, while the assets -- estimated at 30 billion dollars for the US alone -- will be used to finance it at a later date.  
France and Italy will take turns managing the fund and French Foreign Minister Alain Juppe said the new body could be up and running "within weeks" but added that the unblocking of assets "poses legal problems."  
Italian Foreign Minister Franco Frattini said 250 million dollars were already available -- far less than the figure of up to three billion dollars in desperately-needed credit wanted by the rebels.  
Britain meanwhile ruled out any contribution to the fund from its own pocket, with a spokesman for British Prime Minister David Cameron saying: "We think we have made a very substantial contribution to humanitarian assistance."  
Frattini said that the unblocking of assets was a "very serious problem."  
He said Italy and France had urged the European Union "to seek a solution," adding: "That money belongs to the Libyan people."  
Clinton said the United States had "decided to pursue legislation that would enable the US to tap some portion of those assets."

# Five mistakes the Obama administration made

**TIME ONLINE**  
The White House's brilliant conceptualization and execution of the plan to bring Osama bin Laden to justice has, in the last 48 hours, been complicated by mistakes.  
**THE MAJOR ERRORS SO FAR:**  
► **1. Not getting its story straight:** The administration deserves mountains of credit for its painstaking, conspicuous effort to brief the world on the mission, knowing a lot of information would have to be held back to protect sources, operatives, methods, and sensitive data. Which makes the carelessness of the errors somewhat surprising. This carelessness caused souring media coverage, made President on the wrong foot and the wild theories of global enemies and conspiracy seekers get a foothold.  
► **2. Not giving George W Bush enough credit:** Former President

Bush should have been given proper attention what he deserves. It would have been better for national unity and Obama's own political fortunes. His invitation to Bush to join the event yesterday at Ground Zero (an offer declined) was the right idea, but belated.  
► **3. Letting the photo debate get out of control:** The decision about whether to release images of a dead bin Laden is not an easy one. But the administration's conflicting statements and public agonizing has created an extended distraction.  
► **4. Letting the Afghan war debate get out of control:** There are signs that some of the president's advisers are looking to scale back the commitment in Afghanistan sooner rather than later. But by failing to go on the offensive in defining and defending whatever policy the President wants to pursue, the White House has allowed



those pressing for an end of the war.  
► **5. Letting the Pakistan debate get out of control:** The congressional and media demand for a radical change in America's relationship with Pakistan is burning like wildfire. The administration knows that a shift in policy is complicated and compromising, and not necessarily in the United States' interest. There should be and will be a debate about all this, but the administration's actions and inactions is making it less likely it will be on their terms.

# NEWS IN brief

## Egypt ex-minister jailed for 12 years

**AFP, Cairo**  
Egyptian former Interior Minister Habib al-Adly has been sentenced to 12 years in jail yesterday on charges of money-laundering and profiteering.  
As head of the country's security services, Adly was a key part of ex-President Hosni Mubarak's regime.

This is the first trial of an official from his regime. Adly faces separate charges of ordering troops to fire on demonstrators.

## Last WWI combat veteran dies aged 110

**BBC ONLINE**  
The world's last known combat veteran of World War I, Claude Choules, has died in Australia yesterday aged 110.  
Known to his comrades as Chuckles, British-born Choules joined the Royal Navy at 15 and went on to serve on HMS Revenge.  
He moved to Australia in the 1920s and served in the military until 1956.

## Mexico City rocked by 5.8 earthquake

**AFP, Mexico City**  
A magnitude 5.8 earthquake shook Mexico Thursday, causing buildings to sway in the capital some 300 kilometers (187 miles) away from the epicenter, an AFP correspondent and US seismologists said.  
The quake struck at 1324 GMT near the town of Ometepec in the state of Guerrero, at a depth of 10

## At least 25 dead in Guinea communal violence

**AFP, Conakry**  
At least 25 people have been killed in communal violence in the southeastern Guinean town of Galakpaye, police said yesterday.  
However other sources reached by telephone spoke of 36 dead.  
The violence pitting indigenous Kpeles against ethnic Malinkes hailing from other parts of Guinea erupted overnight Monday and raged on throughout

# Nasa probe shows Einstein theory correct

**AFP, Washington**  
Huge objects in the universe distort space and time with the force of their gravity, scientists said Wednesday after a Nasa probe confirmed two key parts of Albert Einstein's theory of general relativity.  
"Einstein survives," chuckled Francis Everitt, Stanford University physicist and principal investigator for Gravity Probe B (GP-B), one of the US space agency's longest running projects.  
The physics experiment was more than four decades in the making, and finally launched in 2004.  
"In Einstein's universe, space and time are warped by gravity. The Earth distorts the space around it very slightly by its gravity," he said, explaining the Jewish physicist's theory devised nearly 100 years ago, long before the technology



existed to test it.  
"Imagine the Earth as if it were immersed in honey. As the planet rotates, the honey around it would swirl, and it's the same with space and time," said Everitt.  
"GP-B confirmed two of the most profound predictions of Einstein's universe, having far-reaching implications across astrophysics research," he said, predicting the mission would "have a lasting legacy on Earth and in space."  
The satellite carried four advanced gyroscopes to measure geodetic effect, or the warping of space and time around a gravitational body, and frame-dragging, or how much a spinning object pulls space and time with it when it turns.  
If Einstein's theory were disproved, the "gyroscopes would point in the same direction forever while in orbit," Nasa said in a statement.

# Ouattara declared president of Ivory Coast

**AFP, Abidjan**  
Ivory Coast's Constitutional Council Thursday declared Alassane Ouattara the country's new president following the ousting of Laurent Gbagbo, whose refusal to step down after elections sparked a crisis.  
The declaration was made by council chairman Paul Yao N'Dre, who had triggered the five-month face-off by proclaiming Gbagbo the winner of the November elections despite evidence to the contrary.  
The electoral commission had awarded victory to Ouattara with a 54 percent majority.

# Iraq suicide car blast kills 21 police

**AFP, Hilla**  
A suicide attacker blew up a bomb-filled car at a police station south of Baghdad, killing 21 policemen yesterday, as Iraqi forces braced for Al-Qaeda revenge attacks after Osama bin Laden's death.  
The attack, which also wounded at least 75 policemen, was the worst in Iraq in more than a month, and pushed security chiefs to install new checkpoints, tighten access to key roads and restrict movement between provinces.  
The bombing left a two-metre (six-foot) crater and badly damaged the police station in the centre of the mainly Shiite city of Hilla, capital of Babil province, in addition to several nearby houses and shops, just days after US special forces killed bin Laden in Pakistan.  
"The suicide bomber took advantage of the police station's guards changing shifts to attack," said Haidar al-Zazour, head of the Babil provincial council security committee.  
"He managed to drive through the main gate and blew up his vehicle four metres (12 feet) inside the station's perimeter."  
The chief of Hilla's main surgical hospital put the toll from yesterday's suicide bombing at 21 dead and 75 wounded, all policemen. Of the wounded, 30 were in serious condition, the doctor said, speaking on condition of anonymity.  
The death toll was confirmed by a list of the fatalities posted inside the hospital.