

The Danish Institute for International Studies (DIIS) has the pleasure of inviting you to a public seminar on:

The Ongoing War in Afghanistan and Pakistan's
Tribal Areas: The Pakistani View
Monday, 14 June 2010, 13.00-15.00
Danish Institute for International Studies
Main Auditorium
Strandgade 71, ground floor, 1401 Copenhagen K

Background

With an insurgency in its tribal areas, a campaign of suicide attacks in its major cities, a history of unstable political and economic institutions, a population living largely in poverty, a difficult relationship with its immediate neighbours, and a strained security alliance with the United States, Pakistan is facing challenges on a momentous scale. Based on his experience as a general in the Pakistani army and director of several government institutions, Major General (retired) Sikandar Shami will comment on the battle against Islamic extremism from the point of view of Pakistan.

From the US-led 'Jihad' against the Soviet invasion of Afghanistan in the 1980s, through the American imposition of crippling sanctions during the 1990s, to the current 'alliance of necessity' in the battle against Al-Qaida and the Taliban, General Shami will firstly provide a historical perspective on the difficult relationship between the United States and Pakistan. He will outline the current distrust that continues to strain relations between the two allies and negatively affects their operations in the war: while Pakistan is wary of another abandonment of the region – as America did after its victory over the Soviets – America accuses Pakistan of playing a double game by continuing to protect its assets among the Afghan Taliban. Secondly, he will focus on the perception of Western involvement in the region, as seen by the people of Pakistan as well as the country's independent and often aggressive media. Whether right or wrong, they present Pakistan's challenges in a light greatly differing from that of the reports coming out of the New York Times or CNN, and if combined with an understanding of Pakistan's history, they can provide crucial insights into the country's current turmoil. In turn, this may offer the basis for a more effective engagement by Western leaders.

Speaker
Sikander Shami, Major General (R), Pakistan

Programme

More details about the seminar are available on our [website](#)

Practical Information

The seminar will be held in English.

Participation is free of charge, but registration is required. Please use our [online registration form](#) no later than Friday, 11 June 2010 at 12.00 noon.

Please await confirmation by e-mail from DIIS for participation.

Sincerely,

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Feel free to forward this invitation to others with a potential interest in the seminar.
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