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## Hundreds of Afghans Attack Pakistan Embassy in Kabul

By DAVID ROHDE

KABUL, Afghanistan, July 8 — Hundreds of Afghans ransacked Pakistan's embassy in Kabul this morning, shattering windows, breaking down doors and setting the Pakistani flag on fire.

No one was injured in the rampage, but Pakistani officials bitterly accused the Afghan government of being unable to police its own capital, demanded compensation and said the embassy would remain closed until further notice.

"Where was the Afghan government?" Rustom Shah Mohmand, Pakistan's ambassador to Kabul, asked as he stood among shattered windows and overturned tables.

The tension between the countries stems from allegations that Pakistan is allowing Taliban fighters to use its territory to carry out attacks on American and Afghan forces in southeastern Afghanistan. There have also been reports of skirmishes between Afghan and Pakistani forces along the countries' lawless and disputed border.

Pakistani officials say they have posted 70,000 troops along the border to stop the incursions, the first time the army has entered the tribal areas. They say that they have arrested 500 suspected members of Al Qaeda and the Taliban, but that it is impossible to seal the mountainous border.

The embassy attack came a day after the Afghan president, Hamid Karzai, criticized comments made by President Pervez Musharraf of Pakistan, who said that Mr. Karzai's government has little control of the country outside Kabul.

The assault began when 500 protesters chanting "death to Pakistan" descended on the Pakistani Embassy. Afghan officials were aware of the protest, a Western diplomat said, but apparently assigned no extra policemen. The crowd quickly overwhelmed the 10 to 15 officers present. As hundreds of looters swarmed the compound, a dozen Pakistanis cowered in the basement. The ambassador was not there.

At the heart of the dispute are two divergent views of the situation in Afghanistan. Officials in Kabul say Afghan and American forces are making steady progress in countering a low-level insurgency in southeastern Afghanistan. But officials in Islamabad say lawlessness is spreading, ethnic Pashtuns resent the American presence and support for the Taliban's strict law-and-order governance is growing.

In a news conference this afternoon, Mr. Karzai apologized for the attack and condemned those who carried it out. He promised to call General Musharraf and apologize and to pay Pakistan compensation.

"Those who did this action today are not enemies of Pakistan," he said. "They are, in fact, enemies of Afghanistan."

The dispute began last week when General Musharraf said in Germany that a far larger international force was needed in Afghanistan, where warlords, not Mr. Karzai's government, controlled most of the country.

The Western diplomat said today that Mr. Karzai was "very incensed" by General Musharraf's comments.

Mr. Mohmand, the Pakistani ambassador, said General Musharraf was simply trying to help Afghanistan. Some Western diplomats pointed out that news reports routinely described Mr. Karzai as largely powerless outside Kabul.

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