
Current Intelligence Report Circular

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Report Topic: Saudi-Pakistan relations

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Saudi Interior Minister requests security support from Pakistan's Army chief in fight against Iran-aligned Houthi rebels in Yemen

On 07 FEB, Saudi Interior Minister, Prince Abdul Aziz Saud bin Naif, met with Pakistan's Interior Minister, Sheikh Rashid, and Prime Minister, Imran Khan, in Islamabad. The meeting aimed to "strengthen contacts between the two sides". Prime Minister Khan condemned the attacks by the Houthi militia in the Kingdom and stated Pakistan will give full support for Saudi Arabia's "security, sovereignty and territorial integrity". The two sides also conversed about the regional security situation in both countries, and agreed to enhance their co-operation and co-ordination between the two states. Sheikh Rashid thanked bin Naif for extending "greater hospitality and livelihood" to the two million Pakistanis working in Saudi Arabia. The two sides also agreed to implement a bilateral treaty for the release of Pakistanis jailed in the Kingdom. END

Notes by CMCD

Saudi-Pakistan relations are likely to further develop from this meeting. There is a clear alliance forming from this, both militarily and diplomatically. Despite Pakistan's traditional neutrality, the recent attack, by Iran-based Baloch separatists on a Pakistani military base, has fueled tensions between Iran and Pakistan. This attack has allowed Saudi Arabia to take advantage and attempt to gain a new ally in their fight against Iran and the Houthi rebels in the Yemen crisis. With unstable relations with the US still prevalent, since the withdrawal of missile support, and the fear of Pakistani Shias being recruited by Iran's Quds Force (a branch of Iran's Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps - IRGC), Pakistani military, diplomatic and strategic assistance would be a significant victory for the Kingdom. This would only build on the Kingdom's recent strengthening of ties with China. This meeting could possibly lead to the further deterioration of Pakistan-Iran relations. Pakistan is now likely to be one of the Kingdom's main sources of strategic support, but this will depend on the development of Iran's movements and motives in Pakistan, relating to the Baloch separatist militants.

Sources

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