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Report: US Likely to Resume Pakistan Drone Strikes Soon

By Jason Ditz

January 9, 2012

Reports coming out of the Express Tribune tonight say that the United States is close to finalizing a secret deal with the Zardari government [which would allow them to resume drone strikes against Pakistan's tribal areas, but under new conditions.](#)

Under the deal, the US would resume the strikes but launch them less frequently, with officials saying that the frequency of the strikes was a big source of public opposition. The US halted all strikes after they attacked a Pakistani military base in November, killing 24 soldiers.

US officials have touted the strikes as a key part of their overall strategy, and a study today [revealed that they launched 75 attacks in 2011, killing 609 people.](#) The vast majority of the victims were never identified publicly, but only three were ever confirmed to be al-Qaeda "commanders."

This was actually a considerable drop-off from the number of attacks and killings in previous years, a result of multiple halts related to the crumbling US-Pakistani relationship.