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Examiner

Pakistan openly harboring another Osama bin Laden

By Michael Hughes

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Pakistan is protecting one of the world's most wanted terrorists, just as they did Osama bin Laden, but this time around they aren't even trying to hide him.

Hafiz Saeed, founder of terrorist outfit Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT), is primarily responsible for the 2008 Mumbai attacks that killed 166 people, including six Americans. But he walks freely in Pakistan despite the fact the U.S. placed a \$10 million bounty on his head on Tuesday.

Saeed's bounty equals that of Taliban leader Mullah Omar and is second only to the \$25 million being offered for Al Qaeda leader Ayman al-Zawahiri.

Saeed enjoys armed protection, according to the Times of India, because he is reportedly helping Pakistan's government to "de-radicalize" wayward Muslims.

One of his colleagues claims Saeed promotes non-violence and was "one of the first religious leaders to denounce militancy and suicide bombings."

Saeed denounced the U.S. while flanked by anti-American Islamists at a press conference in Rawalpindi on Wednesday. On Friday Saeed told about 1,000 worshippers in a Lahore mosque to oppose the war in Afghanistan and said: "Jihad will continue until our mission of driving the Americans out of the region is complete."

Prime Minister Yousuf Raza Gilani called the bounty an “unfortunate” development that would hinder efforts to normalize U.S.-Pakistani relations.

“Such negative messages will increase the trust deficit at a time when the parliament was engaged in framing new rules of engagement with the U.S.,” Gilani said.

The U.S. decision comes at a time when its relationship with Islamabad is at an all-time low. U.S. Congressman Dana Rohrabacher slammed Pakistan for being a terrorist state and recently introduced a House bill which claimed that the people of Pakistan’s Balochistan province have an inherent right to self-determination.