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## Musharraf says Osama, Taliban were heroes for Pakistan

October 28, 2015



The former president and military ruler of Pakistan Pervez Musharraf has said that terrorists such as the deceased al-Qaeda leader Osama bin Laden and Taliban were heroes for Pakistan, according to India's CNN-IBN (Cable News Network–Indian Broadcasting Network) news channel.

“We trained Taliban and sent them to fight against Russia. Taliban, Haqqani, Osama Bin Laden and Zawahiri were our heroes then. Later they became villains,” Musharraf quoted by CNN-IBN as saying in an interview on Tuesday.

The report further states that Musharraf admitted in the interview that Pakistan supported and trained other militant groups like Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT) in 1990s to carry out militancy in Kashmir.

“In 1990s the freedom struggle began in Kashmir...At that time Lashkar-e-Toiba and 11 or 12 other organisations were formed. We supported them and trained them as they were fighting in Kashmir at the cost of their lives,” Musharraf quoted in the report as saying.

CNN-IBN report further states that other terrorists like LeT’s Saeed and Zakur Rehman Lkhvi, who have been blamed by India for attacks, were also heroes for Pakistan at one time.

“The Kashmiri freedom fighters including Hafiz Saeed and Lakhvi were our heroes at that time. Later on the religious militancy turned into terrorism. Now they (referring to terrorism in Pakistan) are killing their own people here and this should be controlled and stopped,” Mussarraf is quoted as saying.