

2 Leaders Trade Barbs Over Fight Against Taliban

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ISLAMABAD, [Pakistan](#), March 6 — President [Pervez Musharraf](#) lashed out Monday at President [Hamid Karzai](#) of [Afghanistan](#) for "bad-mouthing" Pakistan in recent weeks and casting doubt on its commitment to fight terrorism.

In a speech to Pakistani journalists in Rawalpindi that was broadcast on state television, Mr. Musharraf accused India of feeding false information to Afghan officials suggesting that the Pakistani intelligence agency was training terrorists.

He dismissed the allegation, and he described as "nonsense" a list of [Taliban](#) members, including the leader, Mullah [Muhammad Omar](#), who Mr. Karzai said were operating in Pakistan.

The comments, echoing a message Mr. Musharraf has delivered in recent interviews, point not just to a new low in relations between Afghanistan and Pakistan, but also to difficulties with the United States.

President Bush visited Afghanistan and Pakistan last week, and Mr. Musharraf said he had sought to discredit the Afghan allegations in his meeting with Mr. Bush.

"The bad-mouthing against Pakistan is a deliberate, articulated conspiracy," Mr. Musharraf said. The Karzai administration, after several years of careful diplomacy with Pakistan, has become increasingly outspoken as violence has increased, including suicide bombings, beheadings and roadside bombs. Mr. Karzai came to Islamabad two weeks ago, and handed over what he said were intelligence files on Taliban members and others who, he said, were operating in Pakistan.

Mr. Musharraf said much of that information was outdated or wrong. He said, for example, that Pakistani officials found "decent people" living at an address given for Mr. Omar.

Mr. Musharraf faces increasing international pressure to stem the infiltration of insurgents into Afghanistan and to prevent the recruitment and training of suicide bombers, which the Afghans say takes place in Pakistan, Western diplomats said.

President Musharraf's spokesman, Maj. Gen. Sahukat Sultan, said fierce fighting against militants in North Waziristan over the weekend was proof of Pakistan's commitment. More than 100 people, including five soldiers, have been killed.