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SOUTH ASIA: Indian Conventional Dominance Reaffirms Islamabad's Nuclear Deterrence Strategy; Promotes Instability.

Summary: New Delhi's significant conventional advantage over Islamabad will likely promote instability in the region by driving Islamabad's nuclear centric strategy. Based on open source research and GEOINT analysis, this assessment will explore how India's superior strategic depth, Missile coverage, and anti-access area denial (A2AD) allows it to threaten large portions of Pakistan's population and energy production

Key Intelligence Question

- How does the vulnerability of India and Pakistan's energy infrastructure and population affect the security dilemma in South Asia?

Key Assumptions

- This assessment excludes the use of nuclear weapons.
- This assessment excludes any foreign military, diplomatic, or economic intervention.
- This assessment assumes India and Pakistan are rational actors.
- This assessment assumes India and Pakistan will not use intermediate or long-range ballistic missiles for the delivery of conventional payloads.
- This assessment assumes India and Pakistan will use the following ballistic missiles:
 - India (SRBM): Prithvi-1, Prithvi 2
 - Pakistan (SRBM): Abdali, Ghaznavi

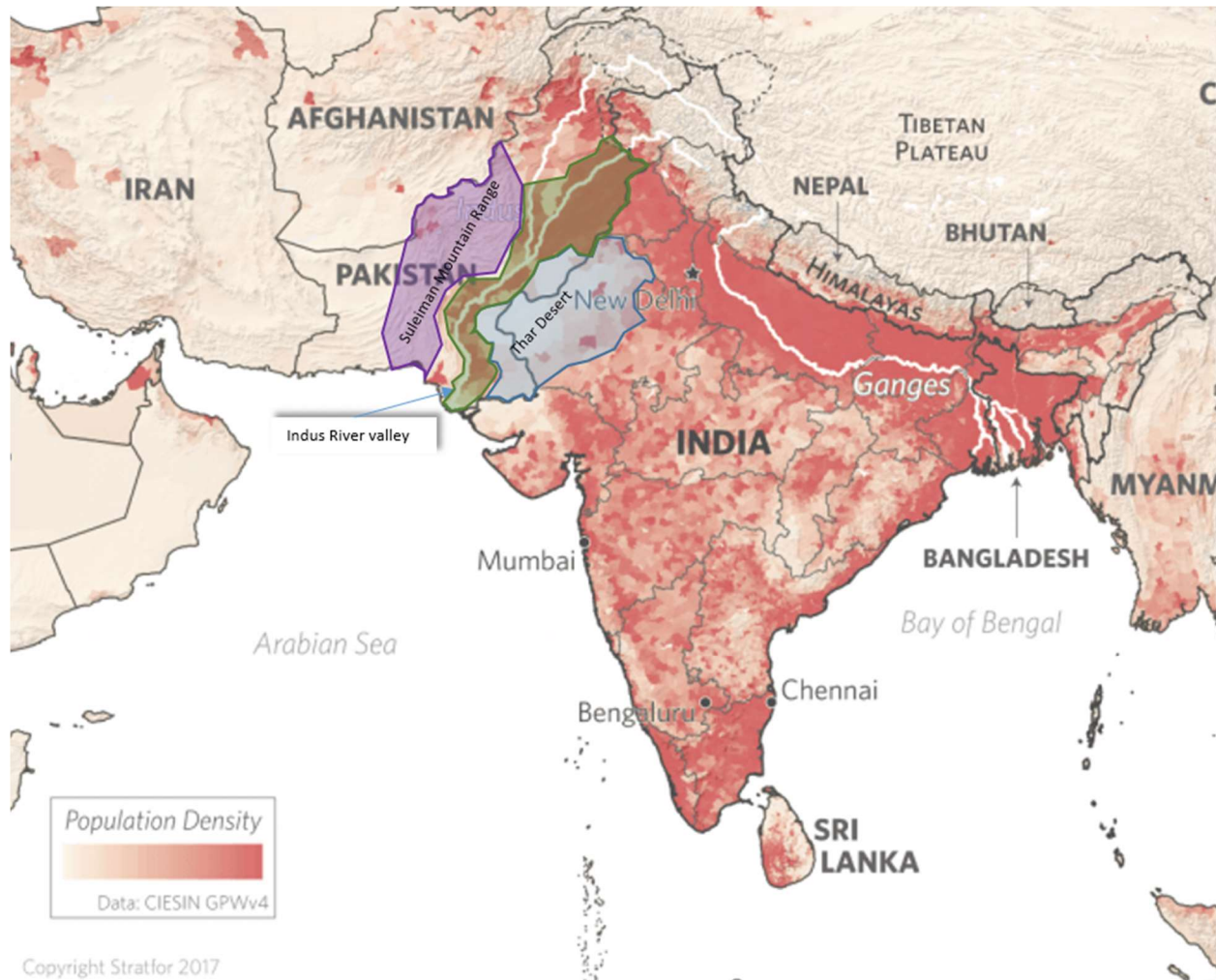
Key Terms

- SRBM: Short Range Ballistic Missiles
- GEOINT: Geospatial-Intelligence
- A2/AD: (Anti-access/Area Denial)
- MAD: Mutually Assured Destruction

Source Summary

- Reporting draws mainly from open source, GEOINT data derived from energy provider websites, Google Earth imagery and ARCGIS processing.

Vulnerability of Population:



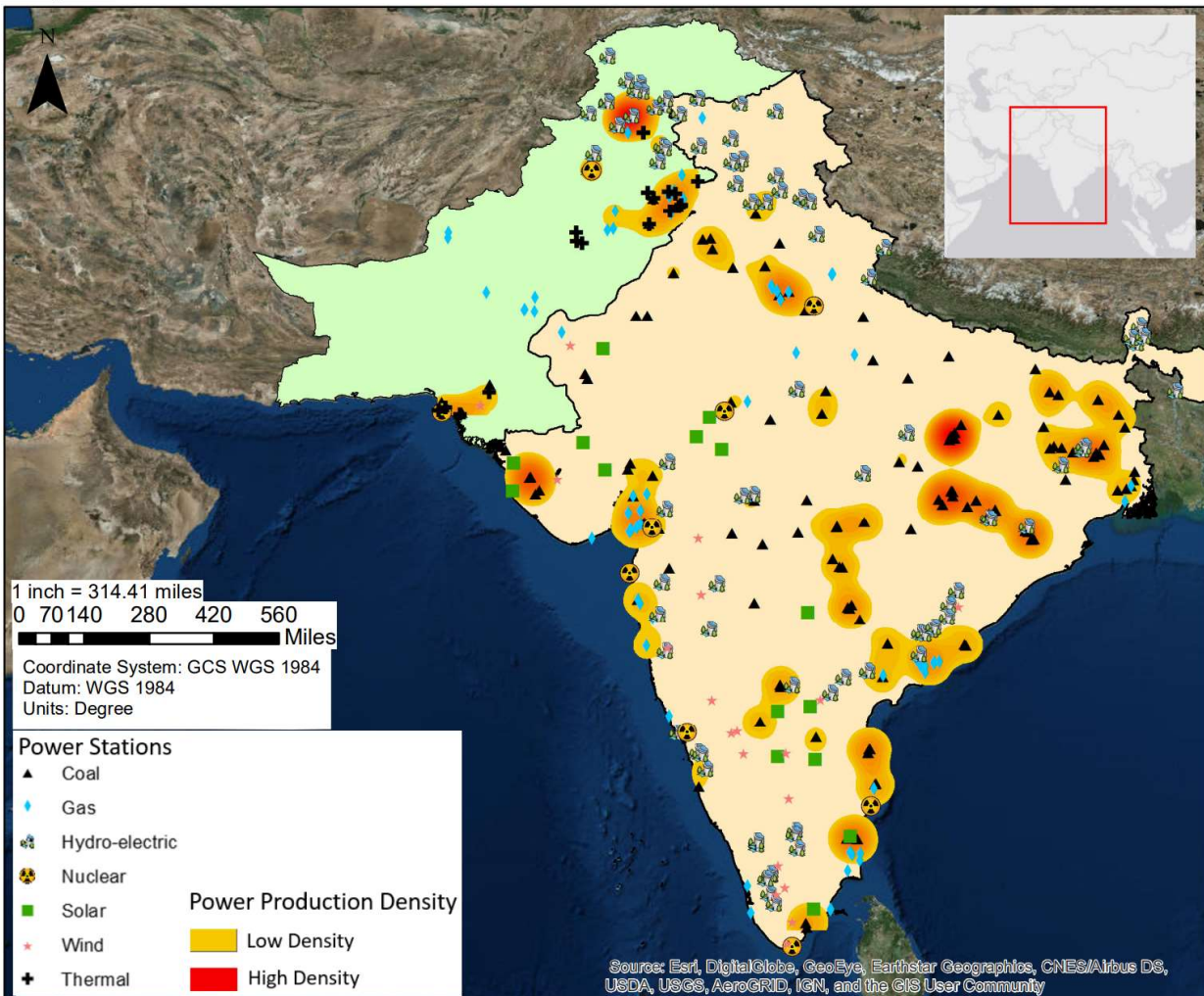
Geography contributes to India's strategic advantage over Pakistan. As seen on the map above, the Suleiman Mountain Range forces the majority of Pakistan's population to lie within the Indus River Valley which centralizes Pakistan's population in close proximity to India's border. Conversely, India's Ganges River Valley leaves its population spread across its northern border, largely out of reach of Islamabad. The Thar Desert indirectly creates a strategic buffer by preventing India from sustaining a large population along its border with Pakistan.

Vulnerability of Power Production:



SOUTH ASIA: India and Pakistan Concentrate Power Production in the East.

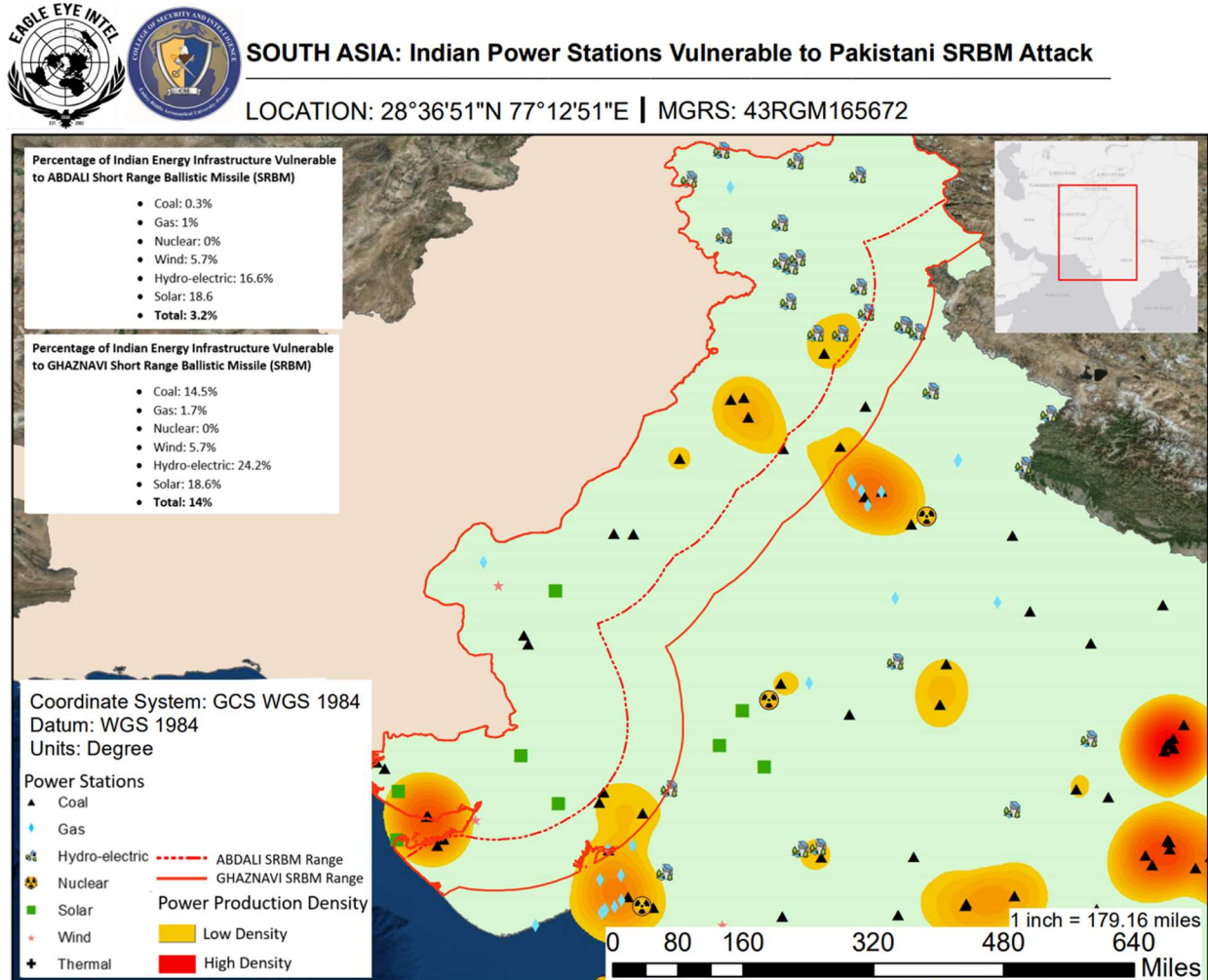
LOCATION: 24°22'N 76°39'E | MGRS: 43RFG673958



According to Hot Spot analysis of India and Pakistan's power production facilities, India's power production infrastructure is far more extensive and geographically dispersed. In total, India has an installed capacity of nearly 255,000 Megawatts to support its 1.3 billion citizens. To contrast, Pakistan is only capable of producing approximately 25,000 Megawatts for its 207 million people.

In the case of Pakistan, most of their power production, represented by the three areas of high production density, concentrate around three of Pakistan's largest Cities; Islamabad, Lahore, and Karachi. In contrast, India's power production exists in more than a dozen individual hotspots. Additionally, where Pakistan's areas of high production density are very close to the Indian

border, India’s production facilities are mostly concentrated in the east of the country. In this respect, Pakistan’s lack of strategic depth puts it at a severe disadvantage in the event of a conventional ballistic missile exchange with India.

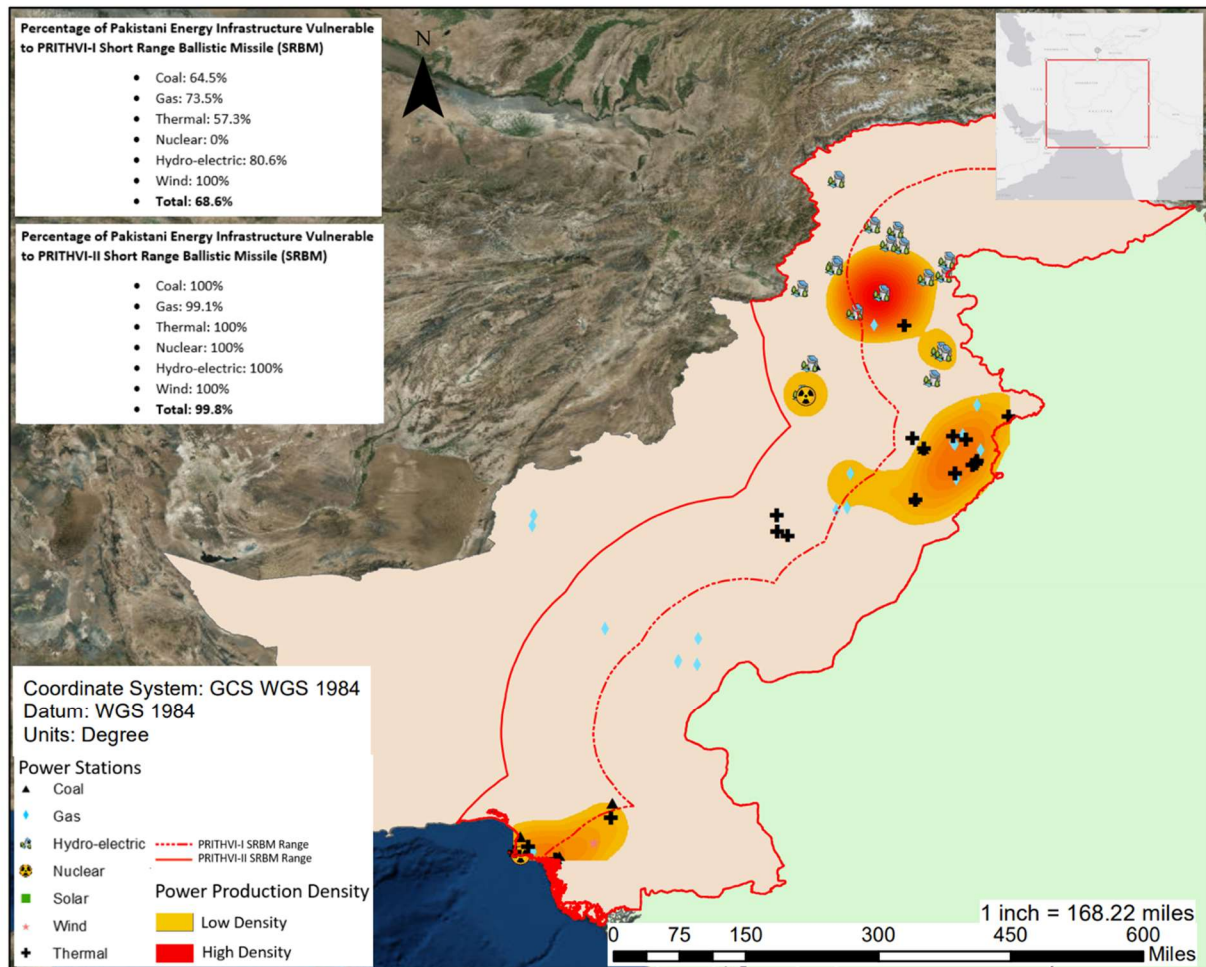


The above graphic displays the missile ranges for the Pakistani ABDALI and GHAZNAVI SRBMs with respect to India’s power production facilities. Through overlay analysis, we assess that Pakistan could threaten up to 14 percent of India’s energy production capability using the GHAZNAVI SRBM, and up to 3.2 percent using the ABDALI SRBM. However, due to Pakistan’s claims to Kashmir and its people, and the relatively severe humanitarian situation that would arise from destroying hydro-electric plants, it is unclear whether Islamabad would be willing to strike these plants in Kashmir, which constitute a significant portion of their available targets.



SOUTH ASIA: Pakistani Power Stations Vulnerable to Indian SRBM Attack

LOCATION: 33°41'41"N 73°06'40"E | MGRS: 43SCT249299



The above graphic displays the missile ranges for the Indian PRITHVI-I and PRITHVI-II SRBMs with respect to Pakistan's power production facilities. Through overlay analysis, we assess that India could threaten up to 99.8 percent of Pakistan's energy production capability using the PRITHVI-II, and up to 68.6 percent using the PRITHVI-I.

Disparity in Missile Defense Capabilities:

The S-400 air defense system provides India with a significant strategic advantage over Pakistan. The S-400 is superior to all Pakistani A2/AD system variations which include the Chinese HQ-7, 9, and 16 models. Certain payloads for the S-400 specialize in targeting ballistic missiles whereas Pakistan's HQ models provide general area denial. The payload and firing rate of the S-400 also outperform Pakistan's HQ aerial defense variations. This disparity will likely leave the Pakistani population and power grid more vulnerable to attacks from SRBMs than that of India.

The deficiency of Pakistan's air defense assets will likely negate any defensive advantage that results from the concentration of Pakistan's population and energy infrastructure.

Outlooks and Implications:

India's strategic advantage over Pakistan will most likely result in a buildup of Islamabad's nuclear stockpile and further destabilize the South Asia region. New Delhi currently possesses numerous advantages including their strategic depth, better missile coverage, and A2/AD which results in India having a significant advantage in conventional conflict. Consequently, India could disable a large majority of Pakistan's power infrastructure while not risking much of their own, all without the use of nuclear weapons. These strategic and tactical advantages India currently holds have altered the balance of power in South Asia heavily in New Delhi's favor.

Pakistan's conventional disparity with India will likely drive Pakistan to increase production of nuclear material and weapons in an attempt to restore a balance of power in South Asia through nuclear deterrence. Islamabad's effort to increase production of both highly enriched uranium and plutonium has placed the state on a path to possibly possess the world's fifth largest nuclear arsenal within the next decade. Professional estimates suggest that Pakistan currently has 150 nuclear weapons. If this trend continues, experts expect Pakistan's 2025 nuclear arsenal to reach 250 nuclear weapons. This course of action taken by Islamabad to cope with its conventional limitations and insecurities may lead to an accelerated arms race between India and Pakistan, ultimately causing further instability in South Asia. Pakistan will also likely diversify and decentralize its power grid, further invest in A2/AD equipment, and increase and improve second strike capabilities in order to achieve parity with India.

BRITAIN: May's Brexit Deal Voted Down by Parliament

Summary: MPs decisively rejected May's Brexit deal, but her deal may become more popular as the Brexit deadline approaches.

Development: On 15 January, parliament defeated British Prime Minister Theresa May's Brexit deal 432 to 202, making it the largest defeat in the past century. Additionally, on 16 January, May won a vote of no confidence 325-306. May reached the deal with officials from the EU, however many predicted that the deal would not pass in the British Parliament. Some areas of contention include the transition period where Britain would remain bound by EU laws until 2020 and the requirement that Britain must pay the EU a \$50 billion fee.

Analysis: May's deal represents a compromise between the EU, those who want a hard Brexit, and those who want no Brexit. Despite the rejection of her deal, the result of the no confidence vote indicates some in parliament believe May can still lead effectively. Although, many members of May's party likely voted for her to remain in power because they may not remain in the majority party after a snap election. As the 29 March Brexit deadline approaches, the urgency to avoid a no deal Brexit will likely increase as will the popularity of May's deal. This coupled with the consequences of a no deal Brexit may serve as enough motivation for MPs to back May's deal rather than face the alternatives.

[Alli McIntyre and Zach Coffee]

SUDAN: Al-Bashir Accused of Utilizing a ‘Shadow Army’ to Target Protesters

Summary: Following the murder of a peaceful protester in Sudan, citizens accused the government of using a ‘shadow army’ to kill demonstrators, potentially igniting a new wave of violence.

Development: On 17 January, demonstrators in Sudan mourned the death of Doctor Abdel Hamid, who fell victim to an alleged ‘shadow army’ as he attempted to treat wounded protesters. On 21 January, Dr. Hamid’s death sparked claims that the Sudanese government utilizes a ‘shadow army’ to crack down on peaceful demonstrations. According to witnesses, a man in plain clothes aimed a gun into the home where Dr. Hamid was treating the wounded, with videos from a nearby demonstration show a similar scene. Dr. Hamid’s family and fellow activists believe these plain-clothed gunmen acted on behalf President Omar al-Bashir or others in the government to discourage further protests. Leaders of the demonstrations claimed to apprehend some ‘shadow army’ members, who confessed to acting on government orders to kill protesters. Protesters also accuse the police of breaking into homes and beating civilians suspected of hiding demonstrators, but the head of police and head of intelligence both deny any involvement.

Analysis: Though peaceful protests initially, more violence may ensue with the alleged use of a government ‘shadow army’ which may continue to raise tensions. As demonstrators become more violent, the alleged ‘shadow army’ will most likely respond with equal or aggrandized force, creating a cycle that will most likely result in further deaths on both sides. Additionally, as the protests escalate, the odds of bystander casualties will likely rise as well. As the police already break into homes and beat citizens on a mere suspicion of aiding protestors, if tensions escalate, the violence will likely also affect civilians. Even if allegations hold no backing and the ‘shadow army’ does not exist, the mere suggestion of it will almost certainly lead down the same path to further escalation. Rebellion leaders could use these allegations to spark a frenzy and utilize them as an excuse to escalate to more extreme measures. Though it does not appear that any opposition leaders have taken such action, it remains a possibility.

[Kaylee Coffman]

WESTERN SAHARA: EU AND US STANCES COULD DETER POLISARIO

Summary: EU and US stances on Western Sahara could turn the Polisario Front away from the table of peace talks despite recent advances in conflict resolution with Morocco.

Development: On 21 January, the Polisario Front of the Sahrawi Arab Democratic Republic (SADR) appealed to the European Court of Justice (ECJ) citing EU attempts to undermine ECJ decisions in EU-Morocco agreements made on 16 January. This Polisario Front appeal notes the EU's recognition of Western Sahara as Moroccan territory despite 2016 and 2018 ECJ rulings of SADR sovereignty over the land. The EU justified its decision, declaring the ECJ did not have authority over trade agreements. Like the EU, US Congress recognized Moroccan legitimacy over Western Sahara in its most recent budget bill draft, changing its previous drafts excluding Western Sahara from Moroccan territory. UN envoy, Horst Koehler, predicted another Western Sahara roundtable in the first quarter of 2019 after the 5 December 2018 peace talks.

Analysis: In the wake of initial efforts toward conflict resolution in Western Sahara, the recent EU and US decisions may make it less likely the Polisario Front will continue peace talks by April 2019. With the EU and US's stances on Western Sahara, the Polisario Front will likely fear UN-mediated negotiations will force it to make major concessions. Although the Polisario Front recognizes the need to compromise to make progress, it will likely not be willing to accept anything less than complete independence from Morocco and sovereignty over Western Sahara. Alternatively, Morocco and its allies will likely, at most, offer autonomy to the Polisario Front so that it may still exploit Western Saharan resources. As the Polisario Front most likely seeks control of its resources, it will view autonomy as insufficient. If the ECJ challenges EU decisions and charges the EU until it stands by ECJ recognition of SADR sovereignty, then the Polisario Front would likely return to negotiations. If the EU pro-Morocco stance remains the same, however, the Polisario Front may delay its return to peace talks as it likely anticipates facing a more pro-Morocco resolution.

[Caitlyn Aaron]

This is a global intelligence briefing prepared by the students of the Global Security and Intelligence Studies program at Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University in Prescott, Arizona. The views expressed in this briefing are those of the students, not the university.

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For questions or comments, contact Editor in Chief Zach Coffee at editorsee@gmail.com or Eagle Eye Faculty Advisor Dale Avery at (928) 777-4708