

Drone attack 'detrimental' to bilateral ties: Pak army chief tells US

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Islamabad: The US drone attack on Pakistan's soil to kill Afghan Taliban chief Mullah Mansour is detrimental to bilateral ties, Pakistan army chief General Raheel Sharif said today.

Sharif told this to US ambassador David Hale who visited the military's General Headquarters in Rawalpindi, the army said, adding that the situation arising after US drone strike in Balochistan on May 22 came under discussion.

"While expressing his serious concerns over the said drone strike, the Chief of the Army Staff said such acts of sovereignty violations are detrimental to relations between both countries and are counter-productive for ongoing peace process for regional stability," army said.

It is for the first time that army has spoken on the issue.

Pakistan's interior minister Chaudhry Nisar Ali Khan had on Tuesday refused to confirm the death of Taliban chief Mullah Akhtar Mansour but said a DNA test will be done to establish the identity of a man killed in a US drone strike last week.

He had condemned the drone attack as violation of Pakistan's territory and said it may lead to serious implication for relations between Pakistan and US.

- PTI