

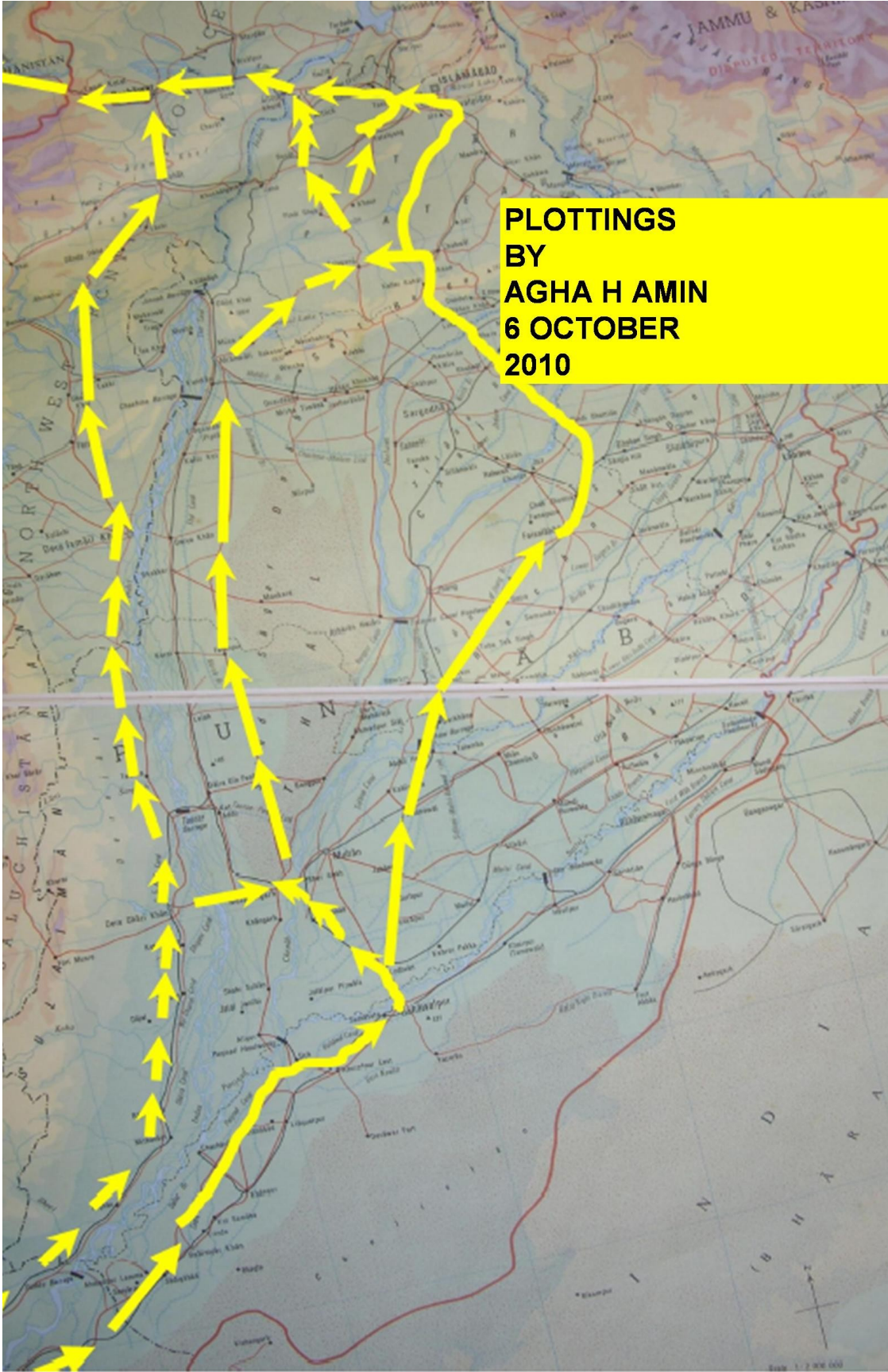
ATTACKS ON NATO OIL TANKERS

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Attacks on NATO oil tankers following NATO air attack on Pakistani para military border post in Parachinar are a major strategic turning point in Af pak region.

Following are salient points of the development :-

1. The attacks have occurred in areas which are high security zones like Islamabad and the main Grand Trunk Road at Khairabad and at Hazarganji area Quetta , all heavily guarded and patrolled areas.
2. The development hints towards state actors in the lead here rather than non state actors.
3. The attacks signify a change in Pakistani militarys posture vis a vis NATO and US.
4. It appears that the NATO attack on Pakistani para military post was viewed in Pakistani military command as a calculated NATO strategic probing attack and an entirely radical new military response adopted.
5. The attacks have not made any major strategic change in Afghanistan other than reinforcing the already prevalent idea in NATO and US military that reliance on fuel should be placed from Northern corridor i.e Turkmenistan Uzbekistan areas.This in turn means greater Russian strategic leverage in Afghanistan.
6. From international law point of view Pakistan has a treaty obligation to provide security to NATO supplies but NATO has lost credibility by repeated drone attacks in Pakistan and the Quixotic gunship helicopter attack.
7. Lastly NATO would be a misnomer as NATO in Afghanistan at least in real fighting terms means US forces only because other NATO countries participation is rather nominal.
8. With Obama in chair US conduct of strategy has become rather indecisive with increased reliance on drone attacks which is having a nominal impact on Afghan war and Taliban increasingly dominating Afghanistan.Thus the entire scene is primed with signs of greater future chaos and instability.



**PLOTTINGS
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