Mona Kanwal Sheikh will share her experiences from a recent research trip to Islamabad and the North-West Frontier province of Pakistan, where she interviewed leaders, warriors and adherents of different movements engaged in militant jihad, including the Pakistani Taliban.

She also visited controversial madrassas that have often been accused of being terrorist factories since September 11 2001. These include Darul Uloom Haqqania where almost all of the Afghan Taliban leadership had studied, and the now demolished Jamia Hafsa (with its female activists) affiliated to the Red Mosque. Her interviews were directed toward justifications and motivations behind militant jihad and what sympathizers see as legitimate means in war, including their views on suicide bombing.

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