

WE WERE CALLING OUT THE PAKISTANIS ON A LOT OF SECRETS IN EARLY 2011

One of my favorite ironies from the Greg Miller story on the Mullah Omar death – which doesn't really try to explain why we're just learning about a death that all sides likely knew about years ago – is that Mullah Omar, not Osama bin Laden, got hospitalized with kidney problems.

Omar was said to be afflicted with illnesses ranging from kidney failure to meningitis.

But I'm most interested in the timing of our confrontation of Pakistan that they were harboring in the kidney ward: early 2011, or around the same time we were planning our raid on Osama bin Laden (according to some accounts, with the involvement of top Pakistani officials).

In early 2011, then-CIA Director Leon Panetta confronted the president of Pakistan with a disturbing piece of intelligence. The spy agency had learned that Mohammad Omar, the Taliban leader who had become one of the world's most wanted fugitives after the Sept. 11, 2001, attacks, was being treated at a hospital in southern Pakistan.

The American spy chief even identified the facility – the Aga Khan University Hospital in Karachi – and said the CIA had “some raw intelligence on this” that would soon be shared with its Pakistani counterpart, according to diplomatic files that summarize the exchange.

I just find it odd that, given the Raymond Davis

confrontation and our plans – covert or not – to take out Osama bin Laden, we also had this confrontation.

My guess is one day we'll learn that all these confrontations were of a piece, and that we've long known who was and wasn't alive (including Ayman al-Zawahiri), but that the powers that be had reason to pretend these people weren't corpses yet.

Until such time as the next terrorist narrative starts and you have to end the previous one.

Heck. This story might even be coming out as the counter-Osama bin Laden narratives did: to pressure the US about the corrupt deals they've long been living under.