**Type of Article:** Column

**Title:** Taliban will target Canadians if they sense political weakness

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**Synopsis:** The writer was informed by her Afghan guide/fixer that the Taliban had in-depth detailed information about the Canadian soldiers fighting in Afghanistan. The conclusion she drew was that the Taliban were more sophisticated than the international media would have its readers and viewers believe, that they perceive Canadians as easy targets.

She explores the disconnect between the military and the political establishment on this issue, particularly the anxiety on the part of the soldiers that the “lack of clarity” from Ottawa makes them even more vulnerable in the face of a wily and ruthless enemy.

The impression, created by the frequent destruction of their country, that the Afghans are primitive is, for Blatchford, a fallacy. Revealingly, she is irritated when her fixer informs her of the extent to which the Taliban are aware of the strengths and weaknesses of the Canadian troops. The irritation, in her own words, originates in the shattering of her preconceptions concerning the primitive nature of the enemy.

She also reveals that the Taliban today are more than just a group of religious zealots. They include, in her estimation, mercenaries drawn to battle by the financial hardships imposed on them through the breakdown of their country.

-I am glad you pulled this one out, because I am having difficulties with this journalist, some days (for instance for her article A soldier's story: 'Did we push her too much?' Saturday, Jun. 20, 2009), and here, she seems a little more sympathetic ☺

-I would like some quotes from the article, esp. if there is some examples of what would be these preconceptions, exactly, in what way do people find them “primitive”